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TWO female pupils have died from an early morning inferno in a dormitory at Mercy High School, Eleme, Rivers State on Sunday. Twenty-five others were injured.

Sources said the fire started from an explosion from a kerosine lamp, belonging to one of the deceased.

The inferno also gutted a hostel and destroyed property worth millions, including text books, money, boxes, shoes, mattresses and other items.

The Divisional Police Officer at Eleme, Aliyu Garuba, confirmed the incident. He said the quick response of his men saved what would have been a major disaster.

The state's emergency health services assisted in putting out the fire and conveying the casualties to the hospital.

The paramount ruler of Aleto Community, Eleme, Philip Osaro Obele said it was "unfortunate and painful considering that it happened to young people who were in their prime."

The lawmaker representing the area and Chief Whip of the Assembly, Hon. Isaac Kamalu, visited the hospitals where the pupils were admitted. He condoled with the management of the school and parents of the pupils."

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