

suspect said.

ran towards where he was

Expressing joy over Yusufu's arrest, the be-

(SCID) in Ibadan, Yaba Lagos Mainland.

# Agony as fire kills woman, sister

By Jude Isiguzo

**T**WO weeks after a mother of seven and her younger sister lost their lives in a fire incident at Iyana-Ejigbo, a Lagos suburb, their family is yet to recover from the trauma.

The fire was allegedly ignited following the activities of "black market" fuel dealers in their bid to make quick money during the recent fuel crisis in the country. The tragedy took place on March 19.

It was gathered that the deceased, Mrs Evelyn Akpan and her younger sister, who was simply identified as Comfort, were doing their frying and selling bean cake at the junction a fortnight ago, when death came calling.

Eyewitness told *The Nation* that the mother of seven and her sister met their untimely death when a tricycle, popu-

larly known as *Keke Marwa*, loaded with gallons of fuel, ran into a nearby pot-hole and lost control.

*The Nation* learnt that one of the gallons containing the fuel fell on the road and was smashed by an oncoming vehicle. The fuel spilled and attracted fire from the local stove that Madam Akpan was using to fry her bean cake.

The late Madam Akpan and Comfort sustained first-degree burns from the ensuing inferno, but they later died a few days later in the hospital.

Her husband, Anthony Akpan, said his wife and her sister would have survived if there was money to procure the best of medical treatment for them.

Akpan, who hails from Ebonyi State, also said: "On March 19, my wife was hale and hearty while leaving for her shop at Iyana-Ejigbo. There was no premonition that death was lurking around. Before I got to the scene of the incident, some Good Samaritans had rushed my wife and her sister to a private hospital. When I got to the hospital, seeing the level of the burns, I wept."

"I noticed that the treatment they were given was not okay; I took them to the Gen-

eral Hospital, Isolo, from where we were referred to the National Orthopaedic Hospital, Igbobi, Yaba. They were treated but unfortunately, as in the first hospital, I was asked to also deposit N500,000 on each of them. When I could not raise the money, I was referred to the Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH), Idi-Araba, Mushin, where my wife gave up the ghost.

"As I speak, my wife is lying at a mortuary in Ebonyi State, where we took her body. Since her death, things have not been easy for me and my children because she would take care of our home, even when I did not give her money for the upkeep of our children - two boys and five girls," he said.

Urging fellow Nigerians to come to his aid on the children, he added: "My wife's death is a big loss for me and my children because the burden she left behind for me is too much to bear. I love my wife so much that I would still marry again if given a second chance."

One of his daughters, Nneka, said her mother's death came to her and her siblings as a surprise. "We never expected her to die in that manner," she said.



•The late Sikiru

partment (SCID), Eleweran in Abeokuta; Force CID, Alagbon in Ikoyi and the Force CID XQUAD, Area 10 Garki, Abuja," Afolabi said.

He expressed dissatisfaction with the way some police officers have been han-

## n's killers ter me'

## ther urges police sure justice

By Basirat Braimah

me that he was brought home by my elder brother, Akanbi Ali, who found him in a state of coma at Odo Kekere village area of Ogun State, where he was dumped. We took him to the General Hospital, Ikorodu, where it was discovered that he had broken his spinal cord." In the presence of a policeman attached to the Ogoji Police Station, where the case was reported, Sikiru, before he eventually