

Family of four perishes in Niger inferno

•Governor saddened

■ Justina ASISHANA, Minna ■

A FIRE incident caused by a surge in electric current has claimed a family of four in Kontagora, Niger State.

The incident, which occurred at about 2:30 am on Thursday, trapped the family of Mallam Mohammed Abdulrahman, his wife, Shefinat, their two-year-old daughter and 47-day-old son in their one-bedroom apartment at Angwar Bunu in Kontagora, it emerged.

Efforts by neighbours to rescue the family failed as onlookers watched them burn to death for lack of access to the affected building.

In a condolence message to the family of the victims, Niger State governor, Alhaji Abubakar Sani Bello, expressed determination to overhaul the state Fire Service and re-position it for greater relevance in urban settings.

He also prayed for the repose of the souls of the victims of the sad incident in the message. "I commiserate with the family of the victims of the Kontagora fire incident. The death of Mallam Mohammed Sani Abdulrahman, his wife, Shefinat and their two children in the early hours of Tuesday at their Angwar Bunu residence in Kontagora must have devastated the family.

"Their death and especially that of their 47-day-old Mohammed Nafirs Abdulrahman and two-year-old daughter was not only gruesome but heart-rending. It is my fervent prayer that Allah (SWT) will console the family of the deceased, particularly the aged parents the late Abdulrahman."

The governor expressed concern about the devastation that fire incidents have wreaked on lives and property in the state and the attendant effect on the economy of both the state and her citizens in recent times.

"With the rate of fire incident in the state, we have to overhaul and re-position the State Fire Service. A city like Minna deserves a minimum of four fire stations as well as other major cities and towns in the state," he said.

