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Fire kills eight in Akwa Ibom

Posted By: Uyoatta Eshiet on: April 11, 2016 In: News No Comments

•Family seeks governor's, others' help

Eight members of a family have died in a fire in Akwa Ibom State.

Other members of the family have sought financial help from Governor Udom Emmanuel, his wife, Martha, Deputy Governor Moses Ekpo as well as other individuals and groups to pay the mortuary fees and bury their dead.

Madam Happiness Thomas Akpan (64), three grand-children and three others, whose ages could not be ascertained last night, died in the fire that engulfed their small apartment at 33 Ntia Street, Ekpri Nsukara area in Uyo, the state capital, at 2a.m on Saturday.

The eighth person was reportedly rushed to a hospital that night but died in the morning.

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Policemen from Ewet Housing Estate were said to have conveyed the dead to Etanekak Mortuary, a private morgue on the Atiku Abubakar Avenue in Uyo.

Madam Akpan's daughter Mrs Regina Usen Ibanga said she got a call at 2 am on Saturday, when she was out of town on the fire.

The distraught woman said she called her husband, Mr Usen James Ibanga, to authenticate the incident, since he was in Uyo.

She said: "I got there past 3 a.m that night to find the police and the others on the ground. Seven of them had died before the arrival of the fire service while the eighth person died in the hospital on Saturday, making eight the number of the dead.

"The fire service saved the other houses but my mother-in-law and the others had died before they arrive."

An officer of the fire service, who declined to give his name, said the police called them at 2 a.m and the firemen arrived on the scene within five minutes.

He said the firemen were alerted a little late.

The landlady Mrs Monica Effiong Nsa said she suspected foul play.

She said there was a dispute between the family and another on a farm.

According to her, the matter was reported to the police at Zone 6, Ikot Akpan Abia and another police station.

Mrs Nsa said: "I was just helping them; they had no money to pay. I was even planning to move them to another location but see what has happened now."

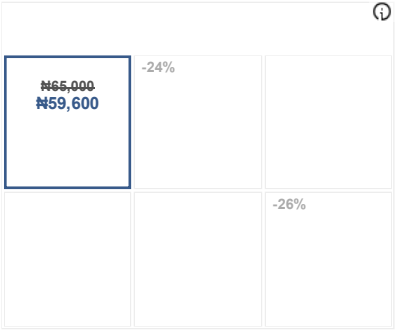
Her son, Ime Effiong Nsa, corroborated his mother's story.

They gave their contact address as: 77 Ekpri Nsukara Road, Uyo, with mobile numbers: 07068630562 and 08023923562.

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