

of Kaduna State.

PHOTO: NAN

Ex-UI lecturer dies in fire outbreak

•Varsity dismisses insinuations of suicide, commiserates with bereaved family

A FORMER lecturer at the University of Ibadan, Mr. Aminu Zubair, yesterday died in mysterious circumstances on the campus with some people alleging suicide.

But the authorities of the institution dismissed such insinuations.

Early reports of his death yesterday suggested that he might have set the building he was living in on the campus on fire following a bout of depression.

But the university's Director of Communication, Mr Olatunji Oladejo said Zubair was merely

trapped in the inferno.

"It wasn't a suicide attempt as he was caught up in the inferno at Philipson Road, where he resided, and couldn't escape," Oladejo told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN).

He said that only the timely intervention of the school's fire service saved the whole building from being razed.

Oladejo added: "he was a staff in the Department of Mathematics and had resigned before the ugly incident happened. If not for our Fire Service men, who got there at the right time the whole building would have been engulfed in fire

completely.

"It was only that particular room that was badly affected, he could not get out and he died out of suffocation from the fumes of the fire.

"He worked in the Department of Mathematics before his exit; he was a lecturer but had resigned and was no more in the service of the University of Ibadan.

"However, he was given a place on compassionate grounds pending the time he would move out.

"There are documents that he had resigned; he was no longer in the service of the

university before the ugly incident, which is quite unfortunate.

"The management commiserates with the family on the unfortunate death of Mr Zubair," Oladejo stated.

In a telephone interview with NAN, the Police Public Relations Officer, Oyo State command, SP Olugbenga Fadeyi, said the police was not aware of the incident.

Unconfirmed report said that Zubair had been on a PhD programme for 22 years and that some of the students he supervised had since graduated, thus fuelling suspicion that it could have led to his committing suicide.