

MOTHER, DAUGHTER SUFFOCATED TO DEATH

From, UCHENNA
NWAFOR, Yenagoa

A SIXTY-YEAR old mother, and her daughter, aged 28 were at the weekend in Etekwei community of Yenagoa town in Bayelsa State suffocated to death by fumes from a power generating set switched on at night following a power outage experienced for some days in some parts of the state.

Five other members of the family, however, remained unconscious for some hours before the rescue efforts of neighbours and treatment at the state Federal Medical Centre ensured their recovery.

New Nigerian in Yenagoa gathered that the incident, which occurred in the early hours of Friday, threw the town into mourning mood and nearly provoked violent protests by residents of the

community who claimed the failure of the state government to fulfil its promises on providing power caused such death from power generating set.

It was further gathered that the family of seven headed by the divorcee daughter switched on the power generating set around 10.00pm on Thursday night but later brought it into the living room to avoid its being stolen.

An eyewitness, who spoke under condition of anonymity told our correspondent that the neighbours became worried on Friday when none of the occupants of the one room apartment were seen doing their usual early morning chores. It was at this stage that an alarm was raised and the door of the room was pulled down and the unconscious bodies of the aged mother, Madam Elizabeth Tumugha and her daughter, Ms. Timipreye Tumugha with the grandchildren were discovered.

While the five children were treated and regained consciousness, the aged mother and her daughter were confirmed dead by doctors at the Federal Medical Centre, Yenagoa, even as one of them was treated and discharged by the doctors.

Confirming the incident to our correspondent, the State Police Public Relations Officer, Ibokette Iniobong (DSP) said though the family of those affected had not reported the incident officially, the police deemed it fit to check out the report and discovered that it was true.

KTSG reiterates commitment to pilgrims' welfare

From SULAIMAN

AHMED MISAU, Katsina

KATSINA State Acting Governor, Alhaji Abdullahi Garba Aminchi has expressed government's commitment and determination to ensure the welfare of the state pilgrims.

Alhaji Abdullahi Aminchi made the pledge when he received the 2007 Hajj report at Government House, Katsina.

He promised that government would look into the problems of inadequate drugs and transportation problems faced

by the pilgrims.

Alhaji Abdullahi Aminchi noted that though no Hajj operation was performed without any problem, government he explained, would ensure that only competent guides are recruited to assist pilgrims in the future.

The acting governor also promised that government would study the report and recommendations for implementation.

Earlier, the *Amirul Hajj* for 2007 hajj operation in Katsina State, the state Grand Khadi Alhaji Isa Mohammed Dodo commended the state government for securing decent accommodation for the pilgrims during the last hajj exercise.

Alhaji Isa Mohammed Dodo also urged the state pilgrims' welfare board and all relevant agencies responsible for hajj operation to plan ahead on the next hajj exercise.

MP high

Alhaji Muhammadu Kabir Usman informed the team leader that Katsina emirate council was fully aware of the contributions of LEEMP to the socio-economic progress of the rural people and urged it to continue.