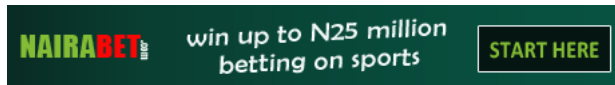


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Rivers early morning fire razes houses in Nembe Waterfront (/rivers-early-morning-fire-razes-houses-nembe-waterfront)

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Written by: uduakabasi patrick-port harcourt



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Residents of Nembe Waterfront area of Port Harcourt watched helplessly as an early morning inferno razed down many buildings and destroyed other property, last Friday.

Eyewitnesses told Community News that the fire started around 6.00 a.m. when a woman started cooking with a bad kerosene stove that exploded, having been ignited by fuel stored in drums in the area.

Speaking on the issue, one of the eyewitnesses, Gloria Jack, said: "It was carelessness on the part of the woman because she knew that the drums close to the house were filled with petrol, but she still went ahead to use the bad stove."

According to her, the fire, which, fortunately, did not lead to loss of life, was so strong that the firemen could not douse it, having exhausted the water with which they came to quench the fire.

Also speaking, a cleric whose church is located in the area, Pastor Ujay Sustenus Osera, attributed the incident to an explosion aided by the stored fuel and lamented that his church building was affected.

"I have property here and most times, our programmes take place here. When I came early this morning (Friday), I saw that the place has been razed down. Some people stored fuel here; if you look around you will see drums of fuel," he said.

Community News gathered that a similar incident occurred in the area in June, claiming one life.

"There was fire outbreak here on June 3 when a man was baking with a leaking gas. The gas exploded and a lady lost her baby, while properties worth millions of naira were also destroyed," a source said.

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