

NOUN staff member burnt to death in Lagos fire

OLALEKAN OLABULO - LAGOS

A woman who was simply identified as a member of staff of the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) was early Wednesday burnt to death as fire ravaged a building in Ketu area of Lagos.

The fire incident occurred at 7 Jemigbon Street, Apollo Estate off Elebiju, Ketu at about 3:00a.m., when residents were fast asleep.

The director of the Lagos

State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA), Tiamiyu Akindele, confirmed the incident to **Metro**.

The inferno was said have started from power surge from one of the mini-flats in the building and quickly spread to other flats.

Metro gathered that the woman was trapped in the fire, while others scampered out into safety.

It was further gathered that the charred remains of the woman were later recovered from one of the burnt apartments by a combined team of emergency workers from the Lagos State Fire Service, LASEMA and Lagos State Environmental Health Monitoring Unit.

A resident of the area told **Metro** that "the building was formerly a duplex before it was converted to smaller apartments with many occupants."

The LASEMA boss confirmed the incident, saying that the agency got information about it at about 3:10a.m.

Tiamiyu added that preliminary investigation conducted by the agency revealed that the fire outbreak was as a result of power surge from one of the mini-flats on the first floor of the building which then escalated to other flats in the building.

He stated further that the body was recovered by the agency and handed over to the state environmen-

personnel

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f the Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr Steve Ayorinde, disclosed this in a statement made available to **Metro** on Thursday, saying that the governor had already directed Owoseni to move decisively and promptly to arrest the kidnappers.

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for his In the charge sheet, the sittings. accused persons allegedly committed the offence at police Valentino area of Ondo town, in front Ondo State. the court

s, who The offences committed he court were said to be contrary to and punishable under sections 516(1), 419, 390(9), were charge 467, 484, 171 and 125A(a) ny, ob- of the Criminal Code Cap 37 er false Vol.1 Laws of Ondo State of