

# Building owned by one of Ibadan clerics arrested for alleged murder set ablaze

By Oluwatoyin Malik

THE residence of Ramoni Opeyemi a.k.a. Alubarika, one of the clerics arrested for allegedly killing one Tunde and cutting off his head and other body parts, was set ablaze by unknown persons at Alapata community, Apete, in Ido Local Government Area of Oyo State.

It was learnt that the fire was noticed at about 7:30 p.m. on Monday.

Police officers from Apete Division, led by the Divisional Police Officer, Adegoke Rufus Akanle, were seen at the scene with two patrol vehicles, manning the area to prevent any untoward happening.

A resident of the area who

craved anonymity said he was in his house when he and neighbours heard a loud noise.

"As we came out to know what was happening, we saw fiercely burning fire emanating from Alubarika's house. It was already dark then.

"At first, we all ran away from the sound coming from the fire.

"We also noticed a huge crowd watching the inferno from a distance to the building. That was when we called the Apete division to notify them of the development," the resident explained.

When the *Nigerian Tribune* got to the scene at about 8:50p.m., it could be seen that the intensity of the fire had reduced, as it had started

raining.

It was also gathered that officials of the Oyo State Fire Service could not get to the scene of the incident due to a slight brush with a car while trying to manoeuvre through traffic congestion on Apete Road.

Angry with the driver of the fire service truck on emergency duty, a passenger in a Toyota Camry car, allegedly attacked him on the steering wheel, forcing his foot off the brake.

The passenger was also reported to have removed the key of the truck from the ignition in anger.

The truck reportedly slid back uncontrollably and hit a Kia vehicle.

This resulted in the smashing of the car's windscreen,

while its bonnet, wipers and other parts were damaged.

Irked by the passenger's act, the mob reportedly pounced on him, hitting him with sticks.

He was however rescued by the Apete Division police who took him into custody for safety.

After receiving the call about the accident, the DPO, two Divisional Crime Officers (DCOs) and some other police personnel were seen leaving the fire incident scene to attend to the situation, while other officers stayed back to keep watch.

As of the time of leaving the scene at 9:45p.m., the fire had yet to be put out, though already substantially reduced by the continuous rainfall.