

Two-month baby, 3 others perish in midnight inferno

A two-month old baby, her mother and two undergraduate students of Adamawa State University, Mubi, have been confirmed dead in a fire incident that razed a building housing some staff of the higher institution of learning.

The building, a twin bungalow flat, reportedly caught fire at about 11.05 p.m. when the victims were sleeping, and the fire continued for over 12 hours before it was put out at about noon the following day.

According to an eyewitness, Alhaji Ahmed Sajo, one of the occupants of the building, the

fire started as a result of an electrical spark from a circuit in one of the flats on upper floor of the one-story building.

He told our correspondent that, of the eight people who occupied the top floor, four persons-Mrs. Aisha Ibrahim and her two-month old baby, Miss Maimuna A. Yakubu, 100 level student of biological science and Safiya Adamu, pre-degree student died in the incident, while four others, including himself, survived with various degrees of injuries.

Sajo said he managed to jump down before the fire got

out of hand and attributed the high rate of casualties to the fact that the fire started when they were already asleep.

He lamented that although the fire razed for over 12 hours, fire service men could not come to their rescue, despite repeated calls and entreaties by members of the public and the victims, adding that the absence of professional fire fighting equipment like ladders, fire-proof jackets, gas masks and helmets contributed to the high toll of casualties.

Meanwhile survivors of the incident are receiving medical

attention at Mubi General Hospital, while the two of deceased are yet to be buried.

Top public functionaries, including the Emir of Mubi, Alhaji Abubakar Isa Ahmadu, accompanied by Professor Emmanuel Kwagha, the Vice Chancellor of Adamawa State University, among others, have visited the scene of the incident to condole relations of the victims.

Meanwhile, the Adamawa House of Assembly has constituted an ad hoc committee headed by the Deputy Speaker, to visit the fire scene and to review the issue of fire safety and prevention in the state institution.