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Generator fume kills four in P'Harcourt

By Ibanga Isine

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Residents of Enugu waterfront in Port Harcourt, the capital of Rivers State, were thrown into mourning on Thursday, when a family of four in the neighbourhood were recovered dead in their house.

The incident happened three days after they had been reportedly locked-up in their rooms.

Some of the neighbours, who spoke to our correspondent, said the affected persons included a father, his two children and a lady visitor.

The man, whose name was given as Amos Abaku, had gone to bed with his family while a small generator was running inside the room.

Neighbours suspected that consistent smoke from the generator, which was placed in the passage of the house, suffocated the family members to death.

Their corpses were, however, recovered when his estranged wife came to the compound to see her children, but discovered that the rooms were locked as at late in the afternoon.

From the stench that was oozing out of the house, the woman suspected that something was amiss and she raised the alarm to attract neighbours.

A source said, "The former wife of the man was the one, who drew the attention of neighbours to what happened.

This was after attempts at waking up her family through consistent knocking at the doors and windows failed.

But those who broke into the house said they saw the corpse of the owner of the house at the kitchen lying face down, his lady friend was seen lying on the bed, while his son whose name was given as Lawrence, was found the front of the door, while the daughter, Iyaye, was seen dead at the passage.

Late Abaku was said to be a former staff of Michelin Nigeria Limited, who

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was recently laid-off from service when the Port-Harcourt factory of the tyre production company was closed down.

The Public Relations Officer of the Rivers State Police Command, Mrs. Ireju Barasua confirmed the incident.

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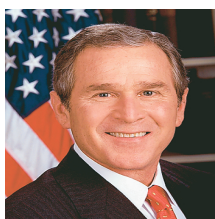
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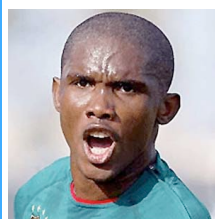
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