

...Early morning fire kills one

AN early morning fire at Mararaba, Nasarawa State, razed dozens of shanties housing businesses and commercial sex workers, killing one of them, eyewitnesses said on Thursday.

The witnesses told the *News Agency of Nigeria* that the cause of the fire, which started at about 2am, was not immediately known.

They said the charred and shrunk body of the woman, said to be in her early 20s, had been taken away for burial.

The witnesses said the inferno destroyed all the businesses valued at millions of naira in the area called "mammy market" and frequented by fun-seekers.

One of the sex workers, who gave her name as Blessing, said she came to the mammy market to ply her trade just four months ago.

Blessing said she was woken up by a fire alarm raised by residents, adding that the deceased, who was said to be a Tiv, was staying in an apartment behind hers.

She claimed to have heard the deceased calling for help but no one could rescue her.