

news

Ogun midnight tanker fire kills monarch's wife, children

Segun Olatunji,
Abeokuta

THREE members of the family of the traditional ruler of Ago Egun in Ipokia Local Government, Ogun State, Chief Kolade Amosun, were on Wednesday burnt to death in a midnight fire ignited by a fallen petrol tanker at Idiroko.

Amosun lost his wife, Abosede; nine-year-old Joseph and seven-year-old Serah in the inferno that engulfed his home while they were all asleep.

Doctors at the hospital in Idiroko were battling to save the life of the four-year-old last child of the family, Israel, who suffered severe burns at the time of filling in this

report.

The Baale's home and personal effects were also reduced to ashes by the inferno.

Fifteen other persons also sustained injuries as the fire razed no fewer than 10 shops and six houses in the area.

It was learnt that the tanker laden with petrol fell along the Ago Sasa

Road, spilled its content and caught fire.

The source added that the tanker was on its way to a filling station to offload its contents when it fell.

Amosun said, "We had already gone to bed when it happened. A tanker was moving into a nearby filling station to offload its content when it fell

and spilled its content and caught fire."

The traditional ruler, who wept profusely, lamented that he had lost his family and all that he had worked for in life in the inferno, appealing to the state government for help.

Amosun said, "I was already asleep when I heard a persistent knocking at my brother's house and I woke up to know who could be knocking at that hour of the day. Everybody in the house was asleep.

"When I came out from my house to cross the street, I discovered that I was walking on wet ground and pool of liquid substance were flowing freely into the street as if it had rained. That same time, I heard that a tanker had fallen in

the street.

"So, a woman raised the alarm warning everybody to switch off the light and engine, so I walked back to my house, woke up my household - my wife, my three children and brothers - so that we could escape.

"But before we could step out of the house, I heard a deafening explosion, then huge balls of fire swept into my house and burnt it. My wife, my two children were burnt to death. My last born was also burnt but he is lying critically ill at the hospital. "All my earnings, my wife and two children have gone. Nigerians should come to my aid, I'm finished."

Confirming the incident, the Unit Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps in the area, Irunjoje Abiodun, alleged that the tanker belong to smugglers, who were trying to use it to ferry fuel across the country's border with Benin.

Abiodun added that the tanker, marked LAGOS AAA 36 XA, lost control around the area and in the process, rammed into two other tanker: summersaulted and caught fire.

Adebayo, ACN leaders endorse Fayemi for second term

Femi Makinde, Ado Ekiti

FORMER Ekiti State Governor Niyi Adebayo; Chairman of the Action Congress of Nigeria in the state, Chief Jide Awe; and some ACN leaders have asked Governor Kayode Fayemi to seek re-election in 2014.

The leaders, at a party at Adebayo's residence in Iyin Ekiti on Thursday, said Fayemi deserved a second term because he had performed well.

Other leaders, who backed Fayemi's re-election are the representative of Ekiti South Senatorial District at the Senate, Tony Adeniyi; a member of the House of Representatives, Dr. Ife Arowosoge, Speaker of the House of Assembly, Dr. Adewale Omirin; and Mr. Dapo Karounwi.

The rest are the Secretary

to the State Government Alhaji Ganiyu Owolabi, and Chief Ronke Okusanya.

The endorsement of Fayemi by Adebayo is expected to give the governor an advantage, especially at Iyin Ekiti, which is the hometown of Mr. Opeyemi Bamidele, who is being rumoured to be interested in the race.

Adebayo said, "The Kayode Fayemi administration has done a lot to move the state forward and his developmental strategies and strides are quite laudable. I also think he deserves a second term, just as our people are clamouring."

Awe said the commendations from the leaders of the party and other people in the state for Fayemi's performance were enough to endorse the

governor for a second term.

He said, "The people have spoken. The leaders of our party have spoken, the people in the streets have spoken and all they are saying is that the governor has performed and should be given a second term. I also endorse this position, because I can see the

difference that the Fayemi administration has made in the state."

Omirin said the state had witnessed progress under Fayemi. He added that the administration had given the people a taste of good governance, hence the need to allow him do a second term.

Ebonyi villagers give police ultimatum

Ozioma Ubabukoh,
Enugu

THREE villages in Ishiagu community of Ebonyi State have given a seven-day ultimatum to the police to rescue seven children allegedly kidnapped by gunmen in the area.

The villages are Ovumte, Ayaragu and Ekembe.

Our correspondent learnt that gunmen from December 23 to 24, 2012 raided the

villages, abducting the children.

The villagers on Thursday marched to Ivo Divisional Police Headquarters to tell the police to unmask those behind the act so as to avoid crisis in the area.

The protesters, in their hundreds, included aged women and youths. They warned the police and other security agencies not to take the matter seriously.

One of them said, "Our

villages are under siege; abductors have taken over our villages and we live in fear of the unknown.

"We are giving the police one week to uncover those behind the act. They should not hand this matter with levity but with utmost commitment."

A source close to the Ivo divisional police headquarters, who pleaded anonymity, told our correspondent that one person had been arrested in connection with the incident.