



Student dies in Anambra seminary school hostel fire

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Spokesman, Anambra State Police Command, DSP Tochukwu Ikenga

By Ikenna Obianeri

One student died and several properties damaged when a fire incident occurred at the Bishop Crowther Memorial Seminary School, Awka, Anambra State capital.

The cause of the fire has yet to be ascertained, but it was gathered that the incident occurred at about 11:30 pm on Saturday.

Our correspondent also gathered that the fire damaged the school's hostel, including mattresses and other students' belongings therein, and the victim, a student, who died in the incident was said to have been taken to a mortuary.

Confirming the incident via a statement from the Media Unit of Anambra State Fire Service, late on Sunday, the state Fire Service Chief, Mr Chukwudi Chiketa, said firefighters and a fire truck were deployed immediately to the scene of the incident and the fire was contained.



According to the statement, the fire chief had visited the school on Sunday for an inspection, where the principal narrated how the fire affected a part of the school's hostel.

The statement is titled, 'Update on the incident that occurred in Bishop Crowther Seminary, Awka.

It read in part, "The Anambra State Fire Service Chief arrived at Bishop Crowther Memorial Seminary School, Awka at 10:55 am, on Sunday, for a firsthand inspection and assessment of the level of damage caused by the fire that occurred on Saturday night in the school.

"Recall that Anambra State Fire Service received a distress call at 11:30 pm, on Saturday, May 18, 2024, which reported a fire incident in one of the school's hostels. Our firefighters and one of the fire trucks were deployed immediately to the scene of the incident and the fire was contained.

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"The cause of this fire is still unknown but, it's confirmed that one of the students died at the scene and has been taken to a mortuary.

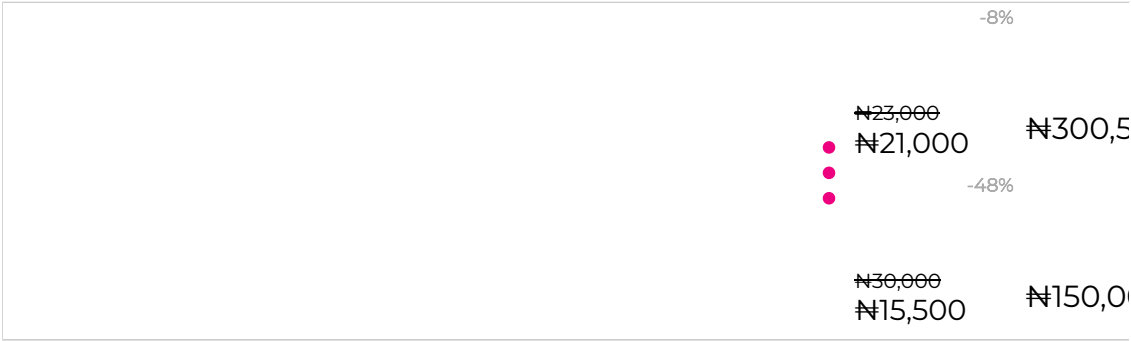
"The school Principal, Ven. Dr Emendu, who received the fire chief, narrated how the fire affected a part of the school's hostel, damaged everything, including mattresses and other students' belongings therein, and left one dead. According to the principal, there was no other casualty, no injury recorded."

The statement noted that the state fire service operatives arrived on time as soon as they were called and prevented the raging fire from further escalation to other parts of the building.

"The Fire Chief sympathised with the school management and the entire students of Bishop Crowther Memorial Seminary School, urging them to take heart as God will console them in his way.

"He also commiserated with the family of the deceased who at the time of the visit were still on their way to the school, stating that it's always painful and heartbreaking to lose a child, let alone in such a situation... He prayed God to give them the fortitude to bear the loss."

Advising the general public, the Fire Chief reiterated that fire kills but it can be controlled.



He urged the people to always be safety conscious, and also, be careful in all that they do.

Ikenna Obianeri

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