

Generator fire kills three brothers, razes home in C' River

FROM JUDEX OKORO, CALABAR

Tragedy befell Mr. John Abong of Ohong community in Obudu Local Government Area of Cross River State last Friday when his generator caught fire, killed his three sons and razed his residence. The incident was coming two weeks after a family of eight was wiped out by mudslide in Calabar, the state capital. Abong, *Daily Sun* learnt, however, escaped death but suffered severe burns in his attempt to rescue his sons from the raging fire.

An eyewitness who does not want his

name mentioned, said the victims, aged between 12 and 21 met their untimely death on Friday night while pouring fuel into a generating set kept at the frontage of their residence. According to the account, one of the Abong brothers had gone to buy fuel for the generator and on his return, the boy called his two brothers to bring one of their mobile handsets with torch light to enable them see as they poured the fuel into the generating set.

"Of course, one of the brothers brought the mobile phone which torch light was used by one of the boys to

assist his two brothers to empty the 10 litres of fuel. Suddenly, there was a spark from the handset, followed with an explosion and fire which caught the three brothers and the building." Their father, Mr. Abong, who suffered severe burns in his futile attempt to rescue his children, is currently receiving treatment in a hospital in the area.

Speaking to *Daily Sun* on phone, Abong, said, "My condition very critical, I have lost virtually everything including my beloved three children and my only house. All their certificates and other important documents were

completely torched by the fire."

Bemoaning his fate, a distraught Abong asked, "What type of tragedy is this that befell me? What is the purpose of my remaining alive now without anything to fall back on?"

Meanwhile, Akong has appealed to Governor Liyel Imoke, the Obudu LGA chairman, State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and other well-meaning individuals to come to his aid.

One of the neighbours, who gave his name simply as Agaba said that they succeeded in preventing the fire from spreading to other buildings.