

Generator fume kills man, 2 sons, 2 nieces at Iba New town

■ Doctors revived wife, daughter after four days in coma

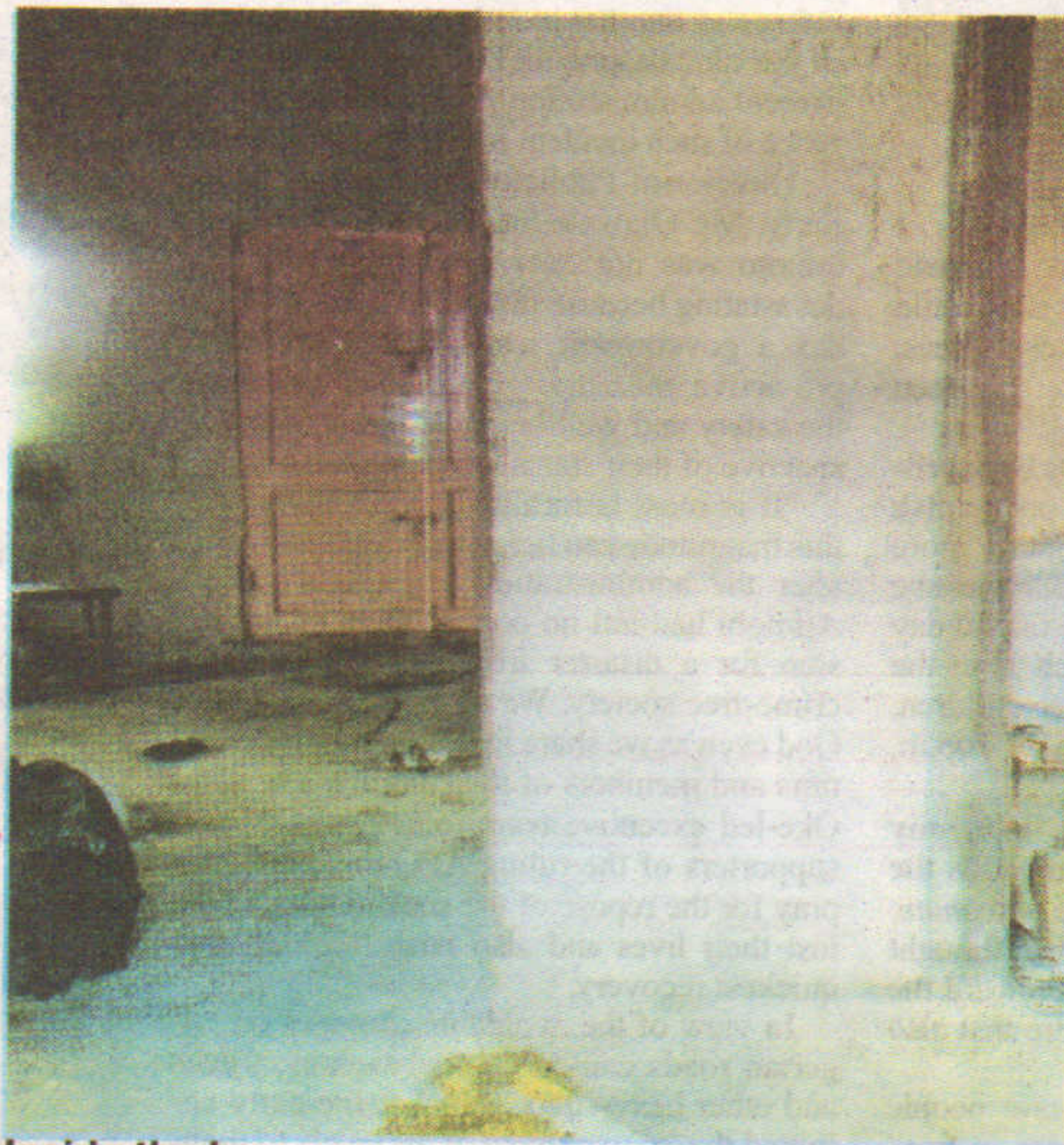
BY GABRIEL DIKE

Residents of Agelete/Ikoyi in Iba Local Council Development Area in Lagos State were on Sunday thrown into mourning when generator fumes killed a man, his two sons and two of his wife's sister's daughters.

Two other family members (wife and daughter), who slept in the house but were rescued in critical conditions, have been revived by doctors who battled to save their lives. *Saturday Sun* gathered that four days after the tragedy, the woman has not been informed of the death of her husband and kids.

The man, a plank seller whose age is between 32 and 35 years, was identified as Ibrahim or Baba Malik and they have been buried according to Muslim rites. The two sons, who died alongside their father, are aged 10 years (Malik) and eight years, while neighbours put the age of the wife sister's daughters at 15 and 13.

Investigations revealed that when Baba Malik put on the generator on Saturday evening, he left it inside the house and that the windows were locked, fuelling speculation that they may have died from inhaling Carbon-monoxide. Their dead bodies were found inside the sitting room with foams in their mouths.



Inside the house

Saturday Sun gathered from Chief Kola Idowu, the Aro of Agelete/Ikoyi that the family slept on Saturday with the generator running till next day and that around noon when neighbours did not see any of the family members, they became worried and peeped

through the window and saw them lying lifeless on the floor before raising the alarm.

Chief Idowu, who led operation to rescue the family alongside the chairman, Community Development Association (CDA) of Ikoyi Estate, Pastor Emeka Am-

araegbu and Chief Emma Okwu, Babalaje of Agelete/Ikoyi, told *Saturday Sun* that he was on his way out of the community when two women rushed to inform him of the tragedy.

According to him, when he arrived the scene, he saw seven persons lying on the floor through the window and that neighbours had to force their way into the house and met the woman and her daughter still gasping for breath.

The Aro of Agelete said he first rushed the mother and daughter to Amazing Grace Hospital, Iba and later hired a boat to carry the dead bodies for burial after the police in the area had granted the family the greenlight to bury the dead.

He confirmed that doctors had revived mother and daughter and that for first time since Sunday, the woman spoke to her today (Thursday) but said she and the daughter had not fully recovered from the incident.

Chief Idowu, however, revealed that the survivors have not been told that the husband, two sons and her sister's daughters did not make it.

"The woman and her daughter were on conscious for four days. I visited the hospital on Sunday to monitor their progress. She has started eating and talking. She does not know what has happened. This is the first time we are



Chief Idowu



Pastor Amaraegbu

experiencing this type of tragedy in our community", he explained.

Chief Owu and Pastor Amaraegbu described the incident as tragic for the entire community, stressing that residents of Agelete/Ikoyi have not overcome the tragedy and are praying against a recurrence.

The CDA chairman said it was the community that invited the police to the scene, adding: "This is the first time we are losing five persons at the same time".

At Iba Police Station, an officer, who craved anonymity, confirmed the incident and that a report of the tragedy has been sent to the state police command at Ikeja.