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New Year eve fire kills 8-month-old baby

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BY OUR REPORTER ON JANUARY 3, 2015

TRENDING

FROM TONY OSAUZO, BENIN

The New Year began on a tragic note for residents of Ewemade Street, off Benin-Sapele road, Benin, following the outbreak of fire in a building which reportedly claimed the life of an eight-month-old baby.

The tragedy was said to have struck at 11pm on New Year eve, when most of the residents had gone to church to attend the crossover service.

Though the cause of the fire could not be ascertained, an eyewitness who owns a shop in the affected building said that the fire spread rapidly and also destroyed property worth millions of naira.

"It happened around 11pm yesterday (Wednesday) after everyone had gone to church.

"Few minutes after power was restored, because there was no light, we were about to leave the shop when we heard people shouting, 'fire! fire!'

"Before we knew it, it spread to other parts of the building, as if petrol was added to it," the witness told journalists.

It was learnt that fire officers who arrived the scene were prevented from gaining access to the building by angry residents, who blamed them for their late arrival.

A source however disclosed that the body of the baby, had been deposited at an undisclosed mortuary.

When contacted, an official of the Edo State Fire Service, Mr. Anthony Osadolor, said that the fire service did not receive any call in connection with the fire.

He attributed the delay in response to inadequate fire trucks to cater for areas within the state capital.

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“From the record I have here, there were fire incidents reported at Akpakpava and Sapele road. But I can't confirm that someone died in the incident because they did not allow us to even get down from our truck; they said we came late.

“It maybe that there were other fire occurrences at the same time they called. It is not our fault that we did not get there on time,” he said.

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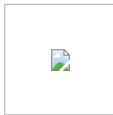
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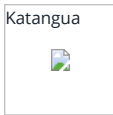
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