

FROM ISMAIL OMIPIDAN, KADUNA

**H**e stole, yet he doesn't want to be called a thief. And when the neighbour he stole from exposed him, after he was discovered, Ashimu Lawal, 15, decided to set the neighbour ablaze, for "disgracing" him in the public.

Although, the incident occurred in Doka Danbala in Saminaka area of Lere Council of Kaduna State, he has since been arrested by the Kaduna State Police Command, and he is already telling the Police how and why he burnt his neighbour, Malam Nura Maishago, to death, days after breaking into the said neighbour's shop and carted away valuables, including a cell phone.

Lawal, who spoke at the Kaduna State

## Boy, 15, SETS NEIGHBOUR ABLAZE FOR CALLING HIM THIEF

Police Headquarters, said he decided to set the late Maishago to death, to protest his being called a thief in the public, insisting that, though he stole, the late neighbour should not have embarrassed him in the public, by calling him a thief.

Asked about the items he stole from the shop, when he broke into it, Lawal said he stole two handsets, N4, 500 cash and other things. He further disclosed that he left the properties with his paternal grandfather, whom he lied to that someone gave him (Lawal) for safe keeping.

Lawal, however, said he kept the cash.

While the items were with his grandfather, the late Maishago's wife came into the compound and saw one of the handsets with his uncle's wife and informed her husband about it.

"The late Maishago came to meet my grandfather and told him that the handset was part of the properties stolen from his shop and that he has been searching for the stolen items. My grandfather then brought out the other properties, which I gave him for safe keeping and Maishago

confirmed that they were his properties. My grandfather then returned everything to him.

"Later in the day, when I returned from farm, Maishago confronted me that the goods I stole from his shop has been returned to him by my grandfather, but said that the sum of N4,500, was still missing and he (Maishago) grabbed my cloth with other neighbours and removed N3,200 from my pocket. I was angry because