

Islamic teacher, wife, 3 kids burnt to death

From **PAUL ORUDE**, Bauchi

AT first, the news sounded like a fictional literary work that deals with a tragic theme. However, what was thought to be an imaginary work became a reality when residents of Makara Huta quarters in Azare, Katagum Local Government Area of Bauchi State woke up to discover wrecked house of an Islamic religious teacher, Jamilu, was burnt to death along with his wife and three children. The victim, Mallam Jamilu Musa Zaria, his wife, Yusra, and their three children died while trying to escape from the fire that overwhelmed their house.

Daily Sun learnt that the large fire which burnt fiercely and uncontrollably also consumed property worth millions of naira. It was learnt that the fire started in the small hours of the morning of last Tuesday and took several hours for men of the state fire service to put out.

A neighbour, Malam Umaru Shehu, said Zaria had struggled to save his family from the inferno before the smoke that billowed from the room eventually over powered them. The cause of the fire is still not known as at the time of filing this report.

Shehu urged the state government to establish more fire-fighting stations and equip them with modern fire fighting vehicles and

gadgets to prevent losses during fire outbreaks.

In a related development, property worth thousands of naira had been destroyed in a fire disaster along old Kano road in Azare. Although no life was lost in the incident, lots of valuable property was destroyed.

Reports indicated that a house belonging to one Alhaji Aminu Ibrahim was completely razed by the fire, including all property in the house.

Ibrahim thanked Allah for sparing his life and that of his family in the fire, saying that it was the support of good Samaritans who heard his distress call and quickly responded that enabled him to successfully evacuate his family from the house to safety. He thanked all those who contributed in one way or the other towards saving the lives of his wife and other members of the family from the disaster.

Meanwhile, the Katagum Zonal Fire Officer of the State Fire Service, Alhaji Sagir Namama Shira, has confirmed the two fire incidences.

Shira explained that the cause of the fire which claimed five members of the same family had nothing to do with electric faults as the affected house's power supply was disconnected by the Jos Electricity Distribution Company (JED)