

# Kerosene explosion kills 2 in Rivers

— *5th December 2017*

• 7 in critical condition

From Tony John, Port Harcourt

**Two** persons have been confirmed dead and seven others in a critical condition after a kerosene explosion in Diobu axis of Port Harcourt City Local Government Area of Rivers State.

The incident occurred at the weekend at No. 32 Emenike Street, Mile One Diobu, in the state capital.

Daily Sun gathered that at about 5:00am, a female resident was about to light her stove when, suddenly, it exploded on her.

Sources said the woman, who was on fire, immediately raised the alarm for help and attracted the attention of co-tenants. An eyewitness, simply identified as Mama Gift, said some of the co-tenants, who went to rescue her also became victims.

According to the eyewitness, one of the male tenants, in an effort to put out the fire, mistakenly carried a jerry can of adulterated kerosene, popularly called 'Kpofire' and poured on the flames, thus, escalating the fire.

She said the fire burnt eight other persons who were on rescue mission.

"One Chima, a male tenant, who tried to put out the fire, mistakenly carried a jerry can filled with "Kpofire" kerosene and poured on the already burning flames. The fire spread and burnt all the people that came to rescue the female tenant.

"As I am talking to you now, Chima and one other male teenager in the compound, have been confirmed dead at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, Choba. One other man named Ifeanyi is in a critical condition.

"We gathered that he has been transferred from the private hospital, where he was first admitted, to a government hospital. The other six persons, including the female victim, are lying critically in the hospital because they sustained high degrees burn," she said.