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Pregnant woman, 4-yr-old son die in Bayelsa fire

From FEMI FOLARANMI, Yenagoa

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

A late Sunday evening inferno has killed two people and destroyed property worth over N100 million in Onopa, Yenagoa Bayelsa State.

The people who died in the fire incident were a pregnant woman and her four-year-old son.

The deceased were said to have been trapped inside the house and could not open the door till the fire consumed the entire house.

The fire, which was still on as at Monday, rendered no fewer than 50 families homeless.

It was gathered the fire started from one of the shanties in the area where a woman was trying to refuel her generator without putting it off.

Investigation revealed that the fire was intense because of some residents who were into selling adulterated fuel and this it was gathered helped the fire spread fast.

The residents and shop owners in the area made frantic efforts to save their property while some rushed to the fire service station for help.

However, all efforts failed as the fire consumed all their property because of the inability of the fire service vehicle to access the area.



Photo: Sun News publishing
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One of the victims of the fire incident, Daniel blamed the fire service officials for showing insensitivity towards the plight of the people.

He explained that it took a while before the fire service people could agree to come and when they eventually came they came with empty truck.

Another victim, Ekene who said he lost close to N20 million worth of clothes in his boutique, pleaded with the Bayelsa State government to assist the people.

Governor Timipre Sylva, who visited the area to condole with those who lost their loved ones and their property, noted that accessibility to the area was difficult.

He said the fire incident had again brought to the fore the twin problems of dealing with adulterated petrol and lack of proper building plans confronting the state government.

Sylva promised that his government would do its best to ensure to assist those who were affected.

He immediately asked his chief of protocol to supervise the compilation of the names of the 50 families, who lost property so that machinery could be put in motion to alleviate their suffering for the meantime.

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