

people," he said.

members as loan.

increased to 10.

Fire burns three-year-old boy to death, razes 25 rooms in Ebonyi

Uchenna Inya,
ABAKALIKI
WITH AGENCY REPORTS

A three-year-old boy, Destiny Edeh, was yesterday burnt to death and property worth millions destroyed in a fire disaster that razed down a residential building located at No 12 Ekwulobia Street Kpirikpiri, Abakaliki, Ebonyi State.

The fire incident which razed 25 rooms in the compound occurred in the night. It would have destroyed many buildings but for the courageous effort of youths in the area.

The father of the child, Mr. Christopher Edeh, said Destiny was sleeping inside their one bedroom apartment when the fire started.

He explained that on sighting the fire, he rushed into the room to evacuate Destiny but was overwhelmed by thick smoke that engulfed the entire building.

One of the youths, who fought the fire before the arrival of the men of the state fire service, Oliver Ejezie, explained that it would not have destroyed the entire building if the fire service men had responded on time.

● Only four died in multiple road accidents -FRSC

● Police probe woman's death in Enugu

A resident of the area, Prof. Clement Okonkwo, said it was not clear what caused the incident as there was no electricity supply to the area when the inferno started.

He called on the state government to reposition the state's Fire Service to adequately discharge its responsibility.

The Chief Fire Officer in the state, Mr. James Owo, however, claimed that his men were prompt in their response but suffered some setbacks, especially the damaging of their water pump by an unidentified person in the area.

Security operatives and the Chairman State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Ephraim Ononye, were on hand to ensure that there was no breakdown of law and order.

Similarly, the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Ebonyi State Command yesterday said only four persons died in the multiple road accidents that occurred on the Abakaliki/Enugu Expressway on Wednesday.

Three fatal accidents along the highway with over 10 passengers and a driver were said to have lost their lives

with 20 of them injured.

The accidents occurred at 135 Ezzamgbo in Ohaukwu Local Government Area of the state, Nkalagu and Ezillo in Ishielu Local Government Area of the state.

In the 135 Ezzamgbo auto crash, Prince Ogbonna, the SUN and New Telegraph distribution manager for the state was among those injured.

Ogbonna sustained head and eye injuries in the accident which involved three vehicles including Peace Mass Transit with registration numbers XU679 Enugu, MUS

78 XX Lagos and FST XX 324 DC, which occurred at Ezillo axis of the Enugu/Abakaliki expressway.

Ogbonna said the Peace Mass Transit vehicle carried 15 passengers but that only two passengers, including him survived the accident.

But the state's FRSC confirmed only four deaths and 23 injuries. Briefing journalists yesterday on the accidents, the commandant of the corps, Mr. Sunday Iyamah, said a passenger and driver died in the 135 Ezzamgbo auto crash while 14 others sustained various degrees of injuries.

Lagos Speaker, activists seek gender

Temitope Ogunbanke

The Speaker, Lagos State House of Assembly, Mudashiru Obasa and some human rights activists yesterday demanded for more women participation in politics, saying that women should not be left out in the decision making process that bothers even on their lives as a people.

Speaking at a stakeholders' meeting for women in politics

in Lagos State organised by Women Advocates Research and Documentation Centre (WARDC) and National Democratic Institute (NDI), Obasa and other rights activists said efforts should be intensified towards achieving gender equality in democratic governance, increase women participation and access to politics.

Obasa, who was represented by a member of the LSHA, Olusegun Olulade, said: "For development of any kind to be successful, a vantage position

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Also speaking representative of