

NEWS

Three family members die in Benue fire

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MAKURDI

Three siblings have been roasted to death in an early morning inferno in Otukpo Local Government Area, Benue State.

The incident which reportedly started at about 1:00 am occurred at a two bedroom Jesus College Otukpo Quarters home of the father of the victims Mr. Ochoche Ode, Friday.

This was just as gunmen, same day, laid ambush on

● As gunmen ambush, kill father, two children in Ado LGA

three other family members in Ado Local Government Area of the state, leaving them dead.

Speaking of the fire disaster, Ode, whose children were consumed in the fire, said it was noticed at about 1:00 am by his wife's younger sister who perceived the smell of something burning while the three kids were asleep.

Ode, a teaching staff of Jesus College, was in the other room of the house with his wife when they were alerted.

He said: "Just when I was about to find out what was going on, the fire surged covering the whole room where the kids were sleeping and in an attempt to force myself into the room to rescue the children my face got badly burnt."

Ode, who wept profusely said all attempts by neighbours to quell the fire failed and all the three children were burnt to death.

When contacted the Otukpo Local Government Chairman, George Ali confirmed the accident.

He described it as unfortunate and sad and called on

residents of the town to take serious precautions in the safety of their environment against the danger of fire.

The charred remains of the siblings had since been buried in Otukpo.

Meanwhile, no fewer than three persons including a man and two of his sons were ambushed and killed by unknown gunmen at Ore Community along Ore Egbeba road of Apa-Agila council ward, in Ado Local Government Area of Benue State, Thursday.

Speaking on the matter, Chairman of Ado Local Government Area, Chief

James Oche, confirmed the incident in a telephone chat with newsmen in Makurdi.

The council chairman said he received the news of the gruesome murder of the three family members with great shock, disclosing further that the council had made contact with security agents who had commenced trailing of the perpetrators.

The Chairman, who described the incident as condemnable and barbaric, charged security agencies to bring the perpetrators to book.

He condoled with the fam-

ily of the deceased and said a few suspects have been arrested in connection with the murder, adding that the suspects would help in further investigation.

"I want to urge the people of the area to remain calm and law abiding. I can reassure you that my administration is committed to protecting the lives and property of the good people of Ado. We will not rest on our oars in ensuring peace and development in our area".

Benue State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO, DSP) Sewuese Anene, confirmed the incident, saying there was such an act in Ado Local Government Area.

COAS urges new recruits to discharge duties effectively

The Chief of Army Staff ing those of you passing out

