



Generator Fume, Tanker Explosion Kill Six

From Ahamefula Ogbu in Port Harcourt, 08.31.2007

No fewer than six persons died, with goods running into millions of naira destroyed in two separate tragedies yesterday, in Nchia Eleme and Enugu Waterside, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, from exhaust fumes of a generator and a petrol tanker accident.

While the generator exhaust killed four, two persons were burnt beyond recognition in circumstances that suggested illegal siphoning of fuel, at Nchia Eleme where a loaded truck exploded.

On the generator tragedy, residents of Enugu waterfront, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, marked for demolition woke up yesterday morning, to the tragedy of the death of about four people, a family of three and a female visitor, owing to what may have been suffocation by carbon monoxide from exhaust fumes of a generator.

One Amos Abaku, a former staff of Michelin who lost his job when the factory closed in Nigeria, was allegedly with his two children, Lawrence (14) and Iyaye (11), when they were joined by his female friend whose identity is still unknown. They were said to have left the generator in the passage and went to bed.

The tragedy was however, not noticed until the former wife and mother of the two children came to see them the next day, and on getting to the house, there was no sign of life while there was evidence that their doors were locked from inside.

She raised an alarm which attracted other residents who said for over 74 hours, they had not seen any of the occupants of the apartment. When all attempts to open the door failed, it was forced open with the gory sight found inside. Eye-witness accounts said the lady friend was seen on the bed, Lawrence's at the front door and Iyayi at the passage close to the generator, while Abaku's corpse was found at the kitchen lying face down.

