

# Father, wards found dead at home

By Jimitota Onoyume

**PORT HARCOURT** — THE lifeless bodies of a family of three and a guest were found in their apartment on Enugu Street, Wednesday afternoon. Some of the neighbors of late Amos Abaku, head of the family who spoke to the *Vanguard* said he was last seen Monday night.

According to them, they said his estranged wife visited on Wednesday only to find that all the doors and windows of the house were firmly locked.

Her instinct reportedly told her all was not well particularly when nobody could tell the whereabouts of the husband and their two children.

The neighbours said she later made some effort to peep into the house and in the process she perceived a very strong stench of decomposed corpses and immediately raised alarm. Those around who also got close and perceived the odour mobilized to pull down the doors. And alas what they saw were

shocking and gruesome. The corpse of the husband was said to be lying face down by the kitchen end of the apartment while his lady guest was lying lifeless on the bed. That of his two children, Lawrence and Iyaye were lying by the front door and the passage of the building respectively. The boy was said to be fourteen years while the girl was eleven.

It could not be confirmed if the family died of poison. But some of the neighbours said

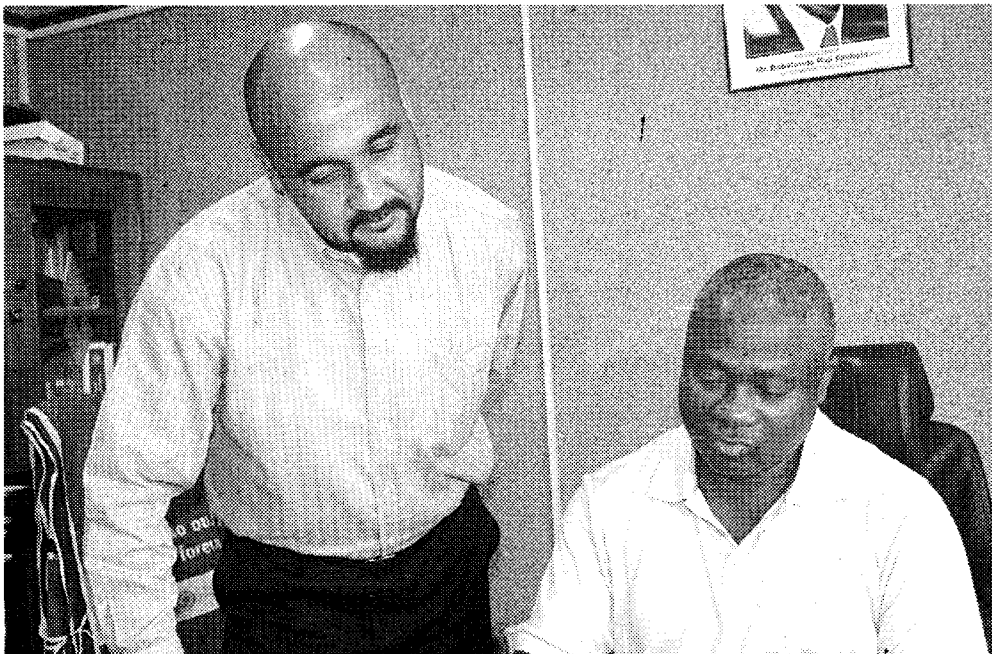
the sad development might have emanated from the fumes of a small generator they kept on that night. The gasoline generator was seen at the corridor of the building.

According to neighbours the late Amos was among those recently laid off by *Mitchelin* in the state when the tyre company was to pack up. They said he used part of his pay off to build the house and also buy a car. They said he had been having running battles with the wife in recent time, which caused the woman to temporarily relocate. But none of them could speak on the nature of the problem. They said it was very likely the guest that died along side other members of the family was his female friend.

At press time, their corpses had been deposited in a morgue.

In a related development, two persons reportedly lost their lives in an inferno Wednesday night in Eleme. Also consumed in the fire were three tankers. The cause of the fire could not be ascertained at the time of filling in the story but sources said it would not be unconnected with the activities of black marketers of petroleum products.

The fire, which started at about 9pm sources, said spread to some residential houses. A Coca-Cola depot in the area was also reportedly consumed in the inferno. It took the combine effort of fire fighters and the neighbours to put out the fire.



Commissioner for Health, Dr Jide Idris (right), and Perm Sec. Lagos State Ministry of Health, Dr. Deremi Desalu during a press briefing on the Governor Fashola Eye Cataract Operation Begain at Alausa Ikeja Lagos. Photo: Kehinde Gbadamosi.