

# 3 family members die in fire

**IKEJA**—THREE members of a family died in a fire which engulfed their residence yesterday at Plot 564, Omole Phase II, Lagos.

Eyewitnesses said that the fire started at about 3 a.m. on the upper terrace of the four-bedroom duplex.

It took the intervention of neighbours and the fire service to rescue 15 other people, including the owner of the house, Mr Dotun Osiyemi.

Some relations of the deceased who witnessed the incident said that they had to break the walls and used a ladder to rescue the 15 people.

One of the relations said the family was set for the engagement of one of its daughters, scheduled for 11 a.m. yesterday in the same house.

Guests who arrived at the venue in the morning expressed shock over the incident.

Among the deceased was a woman who was on Christmas holiday from UK with her daughter. Another one was a young man in his 20s who was preparing to report for work as a new employee Monday after completing his NYSC programme.

A driver, simply called Akin, said he went for the firemen at Alausa, Ikeja, immediately the fire started. "It took two hours to put out the fire," he said.

Relations and sympathisers who besieged the house were seen wailing.

Family members described the fire as "mysterious" because they could not trace the cause as there was no electricity supply and the generator was not on at the time of the incident.

Mr Olatunji Afoke, the Director, Lagos State Fire Service, confirmed the incident, saying that he deployed two fire fighting machines to the house immediately he got the report.