

Six-week-old baby, six others burnt to death

By Evelyn Usman &
Perpetua Igbozulike

...as fire guts six houses

LAGOS—SIX buildings in different parts of Lagos, weekend, went up in flames, leaving seven persons burnt to death. One of the victims was a six-week-old baby to death. The fate of two other victims who sustained high degree of burns, pres-

ently hangs in the balance as doctors are said to be battling to save their lives at the hospital.

Reports said one of the incidents in which five persons lost their lives, occurred at the early hours of Saturday morning in an apartment along Moshood Abi-

ola way, Ijora Badia.

The fire as gathered, occurred after a middle-aged man said to be insane allegedly set himself ablaze in one of the apartments occupied by four other persons who were at that time fast asleep. Waking up with a start, the in-

sane man's room mates reportedly shouted for help as they struggled to find their way out but were choked by thick smoke.

Sympathisers who throng the building to help put out the fire and also prevent it from spreading to other buildings, were said to have managed to rescue two persons from their separate rooms who suffered severe burns. They were said to be at the Trauma unit of the Orthopedic Hospital, Igbobi where doctors are battling to save their lives.

Same day, a six-week-old baby was burnt to death in a fire that gutted the first floor of a storey building located at number 2 Amusa street, in Mafoluku area of Lagos.

Cause of the fire said to have also destroyed property which monetary value are yet to be estimated could not be immediately ascertained but report said barely had the baby's mother said to be cooking on the balcony left to buy some ingredients than the fire started.

Confirming the incidents, the Police Public Relations Officer, Mr Frank Mba said the charred remains of the victims had been deposited at the public mortuary.

He said that four other buildings, one of them a company were also at the weekend razed by fire.

Randle: Police accused of persecution

By Innocent Anaba

LAGOS—COUNSEL to former President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) and foremost accountant, Bashorun J. K. Randle, Mr Tokunbo Ayanniyi, yesterday accused the police of persecuting his client (Randle)

Briefing newsmen in Lagos, Mr Ayanniyi said "this is abuse of power and authority of the highest order being perpetrated by the custodians of law and order with reckless abandon. All these violation of the basic tenets of civilised society and the protection of human rights were being per-

petrated at the behest of a former employee of Bashorun J. K. Randle".

"This employee had been rescued from destitution but had chosen to repay his benefactor with treachery, ingratitude, insolence and finally brazen brigandage and theft of over N30million for which he was duly charged to court by the same police but who have since been dragging their feet. It is self evident that the sudden and high-handed prosecution of Randle based on spurious allegations is a clever ploy of aggression, and intimidation - all in an effort to blackmail him into withdrawing the criminal charges against his

erstwhile employee who had abused the trust and confidence reposed in him".

"The point need to be made that since his retirement from KPMG, Randle has comport-ed himself with calm, dignity and endearing modesty. He has been rightly acclaimed for his unblemished integrity, international reputation and consummate professionalism".

According to him, "on January 17, 2008, Randle was invited for an interview by the Police over a malicious petition against him by his former employee. He was assured that he did not need to bring his lawyer along but this turned out to be a trap.

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