



•The 3 bedroom flat where 5 of them died and the generator that killed them

Killer generator!

Man, lover, three children die from fumes

Tragedy struck in Lagos as a man, his lover and three children allegedly lost their lives to the fumes from a generator they had put on in the house while they slept

BLESSING BALOGUN

burglary on the windows. It shows that he did not open all the windows because of heat, but because of the generator.

"Despite the fact it was seen that they ate dinner in that house, some leftover loaves of bread, plates of food, bottles of beer were all seen there. That shows that they had merriment in that house up to the time that they all went to sleep and common sense will tell everybody that it is the woman and the man that slept last because they must have waited patiently for others to be in deep sleep before they could go naked to make love as it was seen and eventually fell asleep.

"The belief of some people is that the generator might have choked them. But when I got there, I saw it as a new generator which could not produce smoke but one reality that is clear that one must face is that despite the fact that it is a new generator which does not produce smoke, there is an exhaust pipe that passes out the waste gas and, if it is a low standard generator, the waste can poison the environment.

Respiratory poison

They might have died of respiratory poison and that can be attributed to carbon monoxide. There was no sign of smoke. The direction was very close to the wall, but they were in an environment with a machine that is using a gas system that is also a waste, so that can pollute the air and they all breathed in contaminated air. We cannot say that they died of generator smoke because the generator did not produce smoke and they didn't look choked. It is only old generators that bring out smoke but new ones do not produce smoke. One thing must be clear, no generator is supposed to be put inside the house, even when

generator rooms are built, it must be in such a way that the waste does not face the living room otherwise it can cause respiratory poison. But this is a corona case, the bodies must be admitted in the mortuary, and the pathologist must carry out a post-mortem to establish the cause of death.

"In the interest of the public, I want to emphasize that the public should not look at new generator that it can only kill when the smoke is inhaled. New generators are like new cars; you don't see smoke coming out of them except they are old and due for repair or replacement. It is the same situation we have here, the generator will not produce smoke because it is new but it will produce definitely a waste gas that can contaminate the air. The public should be aware that they should not under any circumstance put any category of generator inside the house, they are meant for outdoor use."

The director shed light on why the hospital refused to accept the corpses of the victims and any other corpse for that matter in its mortuary. He explained: "I am aware of the reason the hospital refuses corpses into the mortuary. It is because the mortuary building itself is in a dilapidated condition, it can collapse any time, no electricity, all the cooling systems are bad. It is government obligation to provide good mortuary for the people, it needs immediate attention. Despite the fact that it was the police that took the five corpses to Badagry mortuary, the attendants refused to accept them. The police had to drive back to their station exposing the corpses to the public, waiting for the relations to make some arrangement for them to be moved to Ikeja. Lagos State government and the commissioner for health should please take necessary steps to ensure the people are given good health facilities."

TUESDAY, April 22 would remain a dark day in Peace Estate, Oko Afo in Olorunda Local Development Council Area of Lagos State where five persons were found dead inside a new house as a result of fumes from a generating set. Only one person survived the incident but he was said to be in critical condition at an undisclosed hospital.

A neighbour of the victims narrated to *Sunday Vanguard* what happened. His words: "My name is Shehu Alabi. The name of my friend who died is Kabiru Yahaya. He was the chairman of Okada Riders Association at Okoko, he was almost 40 years old. He had two wives who lived in a rented apartment, but he himself lived in the family house at Cassidy Bus Stop Okoko. The woman he brought to the house was selling hot drinks known as paraga in local parlance at Okoko

Despite the fact that it was the police that took the five corpses to Badagry mortuary, the attendants refused to accept them

while the husband of the woman is a tipper driver at Okoko too.

"When Kabiru wanted to buy a plot of land, he came to me and I assisted him to get the land. He started developing it until the building was completed two weeks ago. He came into the house on Monday evening together with his lover, the woman selling paraga, her three children and Kabiru Tijani, the boy who normally took him around on motorcycle. I asked him why? He said, they were coming from a party and that they wanted to pass the night there.

He was rushed to hospital immediately. We called the police at Morogbo station who later took the corpses to the nearby hospital to confirm if they were actually dead. The police now took the corpses in their van to Badagry hospital mortuary."

The medical director of the hospital, Dr Olubukola Kuti, corroborated Alabi's story. He stated: "The man and woman with children ranging from 3-13 were rushed into the hospital. The man and woman were naked, and when I examined them, I found that they were dead. I now asked questions, "Why were they brought and what happened? I was told that the man recently packed into his three bedroom apartment and people were there to celebrate and congratulate him, until around 10p.m. when they all left, leaving the man, his

woman friend, her three children and a young man aged between 18 and 22 who is still in coma, all other people were found dead."

"There was no evidence of attack but I had information that they put on a generator in the room. This prompted me to make

further inquiry. I went there and on getting there I saw a generator inside a room but from the position, it was obvious that the man was aware of the implication. Looking at it from the smoke point, he placed it in a strategic manner that the exhaust would have faced the window. I also confirmed that anybody did not sleep in that room where the generator was placed. The man and the woman slept in the parlor and the three bedrooms in the house, none of them has door but there

is a main entrance door and outlet door.

"There were only two mattresses. The man slept in the parlor with the woman, the children and the young man slept in one of the rooms. The young man is responding to treatment but very slowly. We hope he will survive it so that we can ask him what really happened, whether he will be able to give any useful information. But since the incident happened while they were asleep, he may not be able to say much than how they moved in, ate, drank and slept. I feel that is all what he will be able to say because they died in their sleep and the boy was asleep in the house.

"I also gathered that the woman was not the wife of the man; the man has two wives but none of them was present there.

"With what I saw there, what I was able to put together was, it is not true that they had moved into the house but instead of the man going into an hotel with the woman since the woman is a girl friend or a woman friend, they chose to sleep in the house. But, from my view point, I asked a question, what will prompt a woman to go to another man's house with her three children just to sleep when the man is not the father of those children? It was confirmed reliably that the woman is not the man's wife.

"It was the boy who is lying critically ill here now that was said to have gone to buy the standing fan and the generator the previous night. But while they went to sleep, the man actually opened all the windows with a view that the smoke of the generator will pass out and to allow cross ventilation. It is convenient for him that way, there is no way anybody could gain access to the house with the