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## Generator fume kills 12 in Imo

Written by Chidi Nkwopara  
Wednesday, 31 December 2008

OWERRI — IT was a black Monday in Obile community, Ohaji/Egbema local government area of Imo State, when 12 persons sadly suffocated from the fume generated by a standby electric generating set used by the unfortunate family.

Similarly, four of the surviving inmates of the house, who were in a state of coma at the time the house was broken into by anxious villagers, have been rushed to Umezurike Hospital, Owerri, where the medical personnel are currently battling to save their lives.

The identities of the deceased persons could not be ascertained by Vanguard at press time, but it was feared that an entire family and their relations died in the unfortunate incident.

A female villager, who spoke on grounds of anonymity, said “the community was alarmed when no member of the ill-fated family came out from the house to sweep the surrounding, as was their usual practice every morning”.

According to the lady, “the family started their electric generating set when Power Holding Company of Nigeria decided to cut off their supply in the community and that is just the story anybody can tell about the incident for now”.

Continuing, the lady said that “it must have been the carbon monoxide coming from the combustion engine that suffocated the 12 citizens and this has thrown the entire village into serious mourning”.

Efforts made to reach the traditional ruler of the community failed as he was said to be away at the time of the visit and no member of the palace was prepared to speak on the issue. When contacted on his mobile phone, the State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Linus Nwaiwu, expressed regrets that he had been briefed on the incident but promised that he would quickly get in touch with the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of Ohaji/Egbema Division for an update on the ugly incident.

Meanwhile, the remains of the deceased have been deposited in the mortuary for autopsy.

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