

[HOME](#)

*Participation Required

UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

Online Master Programmes

LEARN MORE!


[Site Français](#) [Site Guide](#) [Who We Are](#) [Content Providers](#) [Advertising](#) [My Account](#) [MyAfrica](#) [Biztech](#) [Sustainable](#) [Peace](#) [Mobile](#)

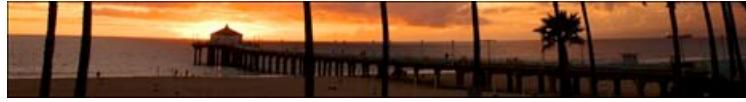
Relevant Links

West Africa

[Nigeria](#)
[Urban Issues and Habitation](#)
[Sustainable Development](#)

Topics

FREE EMAIL HEADLINES

[Special Reports & Briefings](#)
[Photo Essays](#)
[From allAfrica](#)
[Topical Focus Pages](#)
[Resources and Documents](#)
[RSS Feeds](#)
[BlogAfrica](#)
[Arts, Culture, Entertainment](#)
[Books](#)
[Book Reviews](#)
[Children & Youth](#)
[Conflict and Security](#)
[Crime and Corruption](#)
[Economy, Business, & Finance](#)
[Editorials](#)
[Education](#)
[Environment](#)
[Sustainable Development](#)
[Food, Agriculture and Rural Issues](#)
[Health](#)
[AIDS](#)
[Malaria](#)
[ICT and Telecom](#)
[Legal Affairs and Crime](#)
[Media](#)
[Music](#)
[Music Reviews](#)
[Religion](#)
[Refugees](#)
[Science and Biotech](#)
[Sport](#)
[Soccer](#)
[Travel](#)
[Women](#)
[U.S., Canada and Africa](#)
[Europe and Africa](#)
[Asia, Australia, and Africa](#)
[Middle East and Africa](#)
[Latin America and Africa](#)
[Internet Gateway](#)
[Content Providers](#)


VANGUARD

Nigeria: How Family of Five Perished in a Strange Fire

Evelyn Usman

12 May 2010

ANALYSIS

[Email](#) | [Print](#) | [Comment](#)

Share:



A Glance At the One storey building located at 9, Oloje Street in Papa Ajao area of Mushin, Lagos would not give a clue of any recent tragedy. Just last week what was considered a strange fire, engulfed a two-room bedroom flat located on the ground floor at the back of the building, consuming the entire members of the Madus family.

The fire, according to eye witnesses and residents of the area, was considered strange because only the Madus flat was affected. Aside this is the fact that only the sitting room which comprised a settee, television, two air conditioners and a rug were affected, leaving every other property in the bedrooms, kitchen and toilet intact.

Victoria Falls

Safaris,
accommodation,
adventures simple no-
fuss bookings
www.Zambezi.com



Vanguard Metro gathered that members of the family woke up that fateful morning without any premonition of the tragedy that later befell them. Members of the family comprising Mr Ike Madu whose age was put at 37; his wife, Mrs Josephine Madu who was still weaning her three months old baby; their seven-year old daughter and Mr Madu's 65-year-old mother-in-law, Mrs Sussan Asi, were as usual carrying out their respective household chores when they were confronted by the sight of fire in their living room.

An eye witness who spoke to Vanguard Metro said none of the other occupants of the building was at first aware of the fire until a lady whose identity was not disclosed saw the highly disturbed nursing mother carrying a bowl of water which she frantically poured inside the sitting room.

So hysterically-charged was the woman that she failed to respond to enquiries on what was going on. It was only when the inquisitive lady reportedly peeped through the sitting room that she sighted the fire.

The eye witness who simply gave his name as Ifeanyin said: "I was just standing outside when the lady ran out to call an old woman that sells fruits in front of the building. The old woman ran inside the compound and later came out shouting: Fire! fire!! That was how everybody ran inside and started calling on Mama Chidera but there was no response. One of the sympathizers asked them to try and open the door so that they would all escape. One of us peeped through and saw they had all moved to the kitchen side.

Call Nigeria - 9.5¢/min

The world's lowest
rates to Nigeria Try

At that moment, we were battling to put out the fire. We used detergent and water to pour inside the sitting room. Some even pulled down the burglary proof when we realised that the sole entrance and exit door was that of the sitting

SELECT -- Regions/Countries --

SELECT -- Topics --

SEARCH

www.BlackBBWSingles.com

Ads

BRIEFING: AFRICA'S ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

Climate advocates take part in
'Global Day of Action' in



IMF Chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn
pictured visiting Grassroots Summit
says he...



AllAfrica's Charlayne Hunter
poses questions from readers
IMF Managing Director.

www.BlackBBWSingles.com

Ads

Most Active Stories: Nigeria

Most Read | Most Commented | Most Emailed

1. [President Opens Facebook Account](#)
2. [IBB - Obasanjo Was a Failure](#)

Now - First Call Free!

www.Rebtel.com/Nigeria



Ads by Google

room door where the fire was burning".

Continuing, he said one of them suddenly shouted that there was an alternative route of escape through a door which demarcated the

Madu's flat from a barbing salon. "We all rushed to the barbing salon from where we tried to open the door which we eventually did. But we were confronted by a container that was used to block the door.

This we again succeeded in putting out of the way before we eventually gained entry into the flat where to our shock, we met Mr Madu, his mother in-law and two children all on the floor. We quickly carried them out and rushed them to the hospital where they were unfortunately certified dead. But Mrs Josephine was said to still be alive and was immediately admitted in the intensive unit of the Lagos State University teaching Hospital(LUTH)"

The nursing mother as gathered, was in a coma for two days before she regained consciousness. But unfortunately, she passed on at about 5pm on Sunday, thereby dashing growing hope of survival.

[South Africa Hotels](#)

Special Offer On 200 Hotels Find and Compare our Great Rates

[Hotel-South-Africa.WanderWizz](#)

Ads by Google



[Hotels in Lagos, Nigeria](#)

Get reviews & make reservations Find best deals!

AllTravelLanes.com

[Femmes Africaines](#)

Rencontrez Des Femmes Africaines À La Recherche De L'Âme Soeur!

www.AfroIntroductions.com

[Villas Lagos](#)

[Algarve](#)

Villas Lagos Algarve book your Algarve villa online or call us. www.villaholidaycentre.com

[African BBW Dating In EU](#)

Meet Black BBW's Near You Today. View Profiles 100% Free. Join Now!

www.BlackBBWSingles.com

[The Westcliff Hotel](#)

Luxury Hotel of Johannesburg offering

Weeping, lamentation in Mushin

When news of the death of the nursing mother filtered into the neighbourhood later, the entire area was thrown into renewed mourning.



Ads by Google

When Vanguard Metro visited the affected flat, some persons were seen in a group discussing the tragedy, wondering what could be the possible cause of the fire. One of them , a woman asked: "What could the man be doing at home by that time?" And in response another said: "They said they saw him that morning come out to pick something from his car and then went back. I guess he was preparing to leave for his place of business".

In an emotion-laden tone, the first woman said: "Oh , I really pity the old woman. Just to think she was billed to travel back to the village in a few days time after taking care of her daughter who just put to bed. Ah, it is so sad".

Relevant Links
West Africa
Nigeria
Urban Issues
Sustainable Development

For now, the Police said they were yet to ascertain the exact cause of the fire, as investigation was still ongoing. Police sources said the only person who could have helped in this regard was the late Mrs Josephine. However, they added that they were still exploring other means to ascertain the cause.

Investigation meanwhile is geared at ascertaining the possible cause of the death of the five, except Mrs Josephine, who were carried out of the scene without evidence of having been burnt. They were said to have been discovered in a still position in one of the rooms .

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr Frank Mba said although investigation was still ongoing, he suspected that the victims could have been choked by smoke.