

• *Burning building in Lagos.*

How Lagos recorded 10 fire incidents in 4 days

• **16 families rendered homeless, destroys 45 vehicles**

Almost at the same time, another distress call on fire was said to have been received. This time, 60-year-old man identified as Mr. Solomon Olukwumu lost his life in the inferno.

The deceased who was apparently sleeping, was said to have shut the door behind him, inside one of the rooms of the 3-bedroom apartment located at 21/23 Idowu Rafiu Street, in Aboru part of Lagos, while other members of his family went to church.

Consequent upon observing smoke from the roof top of his room, concerned neighbours battled to put out the fire, as well as preventing it from spreading.

However, when members of his family returned from the new-year eve church service in high spirit, they were shocked by the unprecedented crowd in front

of their flat. Out of curiosity, the door of the room was forced open, and lo and behold, Olokwumu's was

found stone dead. He was suspected to have died of suffocation.

Other fire incidents occurred at Ikoyi, Iba Housing Estate, Isolo, Iju Shaga, Ijora, Ojodu Berger, and Amukoko areas of Lagos, where some families were rendered homeless.

Among the affected buildings was that located in Alaba area of Lagos, where 16 families were rendered homeless, Sunday, even as a mechanic workshop in Ebutte-Metta area was gutted by fire, destroying over 45 vehicles which were under repair the same day.

Against the backdrop of the cases of fire incidents, Lagos State Director of Fire Service, Mr. Rasaq Fadipe assured that there was no need to panic, stating that all that needed to be done was caution on the part of members of the public.

Attributing the spate of fire incidents to the current weather, Fadipe said: "Incidents of fire tend to be on the increase during dry season. That is why people have to be more careful with the way they handle electrical appliances, particularly in dry season. So far between January 1 and January 4, we have responded to ten distress calls. That is just the ones that we know."

Commercial building

"In one of the incidents, a four-storey building at 224 Bourdillon Street went up in flames at about 5pm on Sunday. We however arrived the scene and succeeded in containing it. The building in question was a commercial building where you have different companies including banks and only the first floor was affected."

"Members of the public should be mindful of how they use candle. If it must be used, it must be placed on a metal stand and never must it be left without checks. Also gas cylinders should be kept outside the apartment and not inside the kitchen. This is to allow us have access and facilitate fire fighting because cylinders are combusive in nature," appealed Fadipe.

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