

2 siblings killed, 15-room apartment razed by fire from candle light

By Chidi Nkwopara

OWERRI—ANGUISH was the lot of the people of Ulakwo, Owerri North Local Government Area of Imo State, following the death of two sons of the same parents, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Ishiguzo, in a fire disaster that reportedly began from a lit candle stick.

Vanguard investigations revealed that apart from the death of the duo, property worth millions of naira were also consumed in the raging inferno, which completely destroyed the

15-room building that housed the Ishiguzos and other tenants.

An aggrieved tenant, who identified herself as Miss Oluchi Echeibe, recalled that the fire started from a candle lit by the Ishiguzos in their room.

She said: "The fire was caused by a lighted candle stick. Our neighbour, Mr. and Mrs. Ishiguzo, lit a candle stick, locked up their five children in their room and went out.

"The candle burnt out and ignited the rug and other materials in the room."

According to the lady, while

three of the children were successfully rescued from the burning room, two of their siblings were burnt to death.

6-month old dead

While giving the ages of the two boys as three years and the other, six months, Miss Echeibe also lamented that "nobody knew when the room went up in flames because we had all retired to our respective rooms."

On how they got wind of the inferno, Echeibe said it was one of the children in the yard that heard the distress cries of the Ishiguzo kids inside the room and alerted the neighbourhood.

Echeibe lamented that she

Motor repairer stabs security man to death