

## 80-yr-old woman dies in Benue morning inferno



...As fire engulfs Mandilas building in Lagos

By Evelyn Usman & Peter Duru

An 80-year-old woman has been reportedly burnt to death in an inferno that also razed over 50 houses and property worth millions of naira in Tse Agubor Gyarawa, Tsambee-Mbesev Council Ward of Gwer West Local Government Area of Benue State.

A source disclosed that the tragedy occurred, weekend, when some hunters set bushes on fire in the community while chasing after animals.

He said: "The fire became uncontrollable and spread fast to houses, huts and farmlands in the community. The 80-year-old woman could not escape from her home and nobody remembered or knew that she was trapped in the house.

"It was much later that the people realised that she was there, but it was already late. She died in the fire before help could reach her."

Confirming the development, the Village Head of the community, Ayatse Agubor, stated that the inferno took place at about 10 am when members of the village were on their farms.

**Fire engulfs Mandilas building in Lagos**

In a related incident, goods worth several millions of naira were razed by a fire that engulfed part of Mandilas building on Broad Street, Lagos Island, yesterday. However, no life was lost.

The fire, as gathered, started from one of the warehouses on the first floor of the 10-storey building. The cause of the inferno was yet to be ascertained at press time.

Vanguard gathered that efforts by some traders to put out the fire failed as it spread to other floors, with thick smoke billowing.

Director, Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service, Margaret Adeseye, informed that a distress call was received at about 3.15 pm. She said: "The fire started on the first floor and spread to the fourth floor. Ebute Elefun and Sari Iganmu Fire Stations were deployed to the scene."

