

# Fire destroys Koforidua zongo house

From Haruna Yussif Wunpini, KOFORIDUA

**A** 75-YEAR-OLD woman escaped death narrowly after she was trapped in her room when the house she lives in at Koforidua Zongo in the New Juaben South Municipality of the Eastern Region caught fire last Saturday evening.

The woman, Madam Bushira Inusah, who realised that she was in danger from the strong smell of smoke, was rescued by neighbours before the fire gutted the property and in the process destroyed all the four one-bedroom apartments.

The cause of the fire, said to have started around 5:30p.m. destroyed personal belongings and rendered four families homeless.

The items which got burnt included television sets, home theatres, mattresses, fridges, sound systems, clothings and other personal effect, the cost of which runs into thousands of cedis.

## Property destroyed

Although the cause of the fire is yet to be known, the landlord, Alhaji Basiru Inusah, told the *Daily Graphic* that he could not say what might have caused the fire as he was not at home when it started.

"I was not at home but when I rushed to the house after I had been informed about the incident, I saw smoke billowing into the sky.

"Initially, I thought it was just one room that had caught fire, but when I got closer, I realised it was coming out from my own house, then I started shouting for help", he said.

"When I arrived, my auntie had also just been rescued

from the room, as she was indoors when the fire started. She was traumatised and could hardly speak. I thank Allah for the timely intervention from the neighbours to rescue her," Alhaji Inusah said.

He said the fire spread quickly and people in the neighbourhood came in to help before personnel of the Ghana National Fire Service (GNFS) arrived and brought the situation under control.

Alhaji Inusah said unfortunately, the fire was so intense that it destroyed his own apartment, and the adjoining four apartments comprising one-bedroom each, with very little to be retrieved.

## Fire Service

Confirming the incident, the GNFS said officers received a distress call around 5:30p.m. and were quickly deployed to the scene.

An Officer of the GNFS, Mr Ebenezer Danso, said when they arrived, people were trying to bring the fire under control with water, so they quickly moved in to take over and worked hard to bring the situation under control.

Mr Danso said the cause of the fire was yet to be established.

## Scene

When the *Daily Graphic* visited the scene last Sunday, it

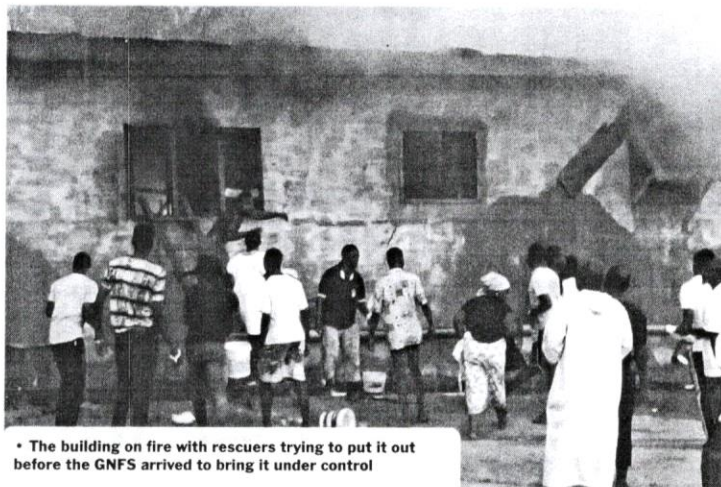
observed that victims of the fire were at the scene trying to salvage what was left of their property.

As they searched through the debris, they, unfortunately, realised that there was very little they could retrieve, a situation that left them devastated, making some burst into uncontrollable tears.

A woman, who is a resident, said she had lost everything to the fire.

"I returned from the market and just put my bag down to go and pray only for me to return moments later to find the house on fire.

"My husband and I have lost everything," she said amid tears.



• The building on fire with rescuers trying to put it out before the GNFS arrived to bring it under control