

Imo drainage explosion kills 2 metal scavengers

27 June 2026 3:06 am WAT



By Stanley Uzoaru

Follow Us on Google



From Stanley Uzoaru, Owerri

Two suspected scrap metal scavengers died on Thursday night after an explosion ripped through a drainage tunnel in Nekede, Owerri West Local Government Area, the Imo State Police Command has confirmed.

The incident occurred at about 9:15 p.m. on June 25 inside a large drainage channel at No. 1 Old Nekede Road, opposite Lakeside Hotel, according to a statement signed by the Command's Police Public Relations Officer, Henry Okoye.



OLYMP TRADE

**Lagos Woman Exposes
Her ₦759,328,450 Secret**

[LEARN MORE >](#)

Police said operatives immediately mobilised to the scene, cordoned off the area, and deployed the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Unit to sweep and secure the location. The area has since been declared safe.

Preliminary investigations identified the deceased as Hyginus Akalonu, 32, of Umulumu, Ehime Mbano LGA, Imo State, and Victor Egwu, 22, of Agba, Ishielu LGA, Ebonyi State. Both men were reportedly inside the tunnel scavenging for metal when the blast occurred.

Other News

[Cultural festivals can transform Nigeria's economy -Rector, Nekede Poly](#)

[Onuachu begins Health Centre Project in Amakohia](#)

[500 students volunteer for HIV test in Imo](#)

They sustained severe burns and were rushed to the Federal University of Technology Teaching Hospital, Owerri, where they were confirmed dead.

The EOD Unit has commenced a comprehensive investigation to determine the cause and circumstances surrounding the explosion. Okoye said further updates would be

communicated as the probe progresses.

Meanwhile, the State Commissioner of Police, Garba Bosso, said the command is fully on top of the situation and assured residents that there is no cause for panic.

He urged members of the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious objects or activities to the nearest police station or via the command's emergency lines.