

# Medical student electrocuted, PHCN fracas claims 2

CHUKWUDI ACHIFE, Enugu

○ **T**RAGEDY struck in Enugu Thursday, when an 18-year-old medical student of Imo State University, Owerri got electrocuted in front of his house at 21, Ibiam Street, Uwani.

↓ The news of his electrocution followed the reported death of two persons and injury sustained by 12 others following a communal dispute in a village near Enugu over outrageous electricity bills.

○ • The tragic incident was

said to have occurred when the student, whose name was given as Uchenna Raphael Eke, touched the wall protecting a transformer recently installed by the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) near his residence shortly after he had finished washing clothes at about 7:00p.m that fateful day.

It was learnt that young Uchenna, who hailed from Urualla town in Ideato local government area of Imo State and was the only son among his father's four children, and had recently launched a literary work, got electrocuted

and immediately died before he was rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Neighbours who spoke to *Saturday Champion* said the electrocution might not be unconnected with the installation of pre-paid meters in the street by officials of the PHCN, which they claimed were not completed as at the time of the incident.

Father of the deceased, Mr. Eke Raphael, a trader at Kenyatta market, Enugu, described Uchenna's death as the worst thing that had befallen him, saying it had thrown him "off balance".

He said, "I cannot imagine myself staying alive to see my only son die in such a tragic manner. I am yet to understand what happened to my son. Where do I go from here".

In another development, two persons were feared dead in a communal clash at Orié Agboruo village in Amechi, Awkunanaw near Enugu over PHCN electricity bill.

Also, during the fracas, 12 persons including a customary court president were attacked by a group of youths suspected to be thugs.