

## 2-yr-old boy electrocuted in Osun

YETUNDE OLADEJO, *Osogbo*

THE prompt intervention of the men of 'A' Divisional Police Headquarters, Ilesa, Osun State has averted a violent clash that would have

ensued between some indigenes of Ilesa and staff of Power Holding Company of Nigeria, PHCN, over the death of a two-year-old boy, Hassan Olaularami Badamosi, who was allegedly electrocuted by PHCN cables.

Our correspondent gathered that one Madam Temilade Obembe of No 5A, Ibala road, Ilesa had reported a case of a naked live wire which fell on the ground inside her compound to a staff of PHCN.

Obembe was said to have reported the case to one Taofeek, a staff of marketing department of Ilesa branch of the company, but refused to take action.

The woman, who stated that she knows the danger involved, said Taofeek asked her to look for someone to fold the live wire pending the time PHCN would react to the matter.

While waiting for the response of the PHCN, Obembe, who was deeply into her business activities at her Timber shop, was called to rush down home, only to discover that her two-year-old grandson has been sent to his early grave.

Eyewitness accounts said the late Hassan had playfully touched the live naked wire and died immediately.

But when the news of Hassan's death rend the air, some irate youths majority of who are residents of Ibala area of Ilesa, gathered to attack the PHCN control room in Ilesa, obviously to avenge the death of the young lad.

The people said if the PHCN staff had promptly yielded to the call of the woman, such unfortunate incident would not have occurred. They lamented the ugly scenario that surrounds the death of the young promising Nigerian whose death was said to have been caused by negligence of duties by PHCN staff.

## Soldiers invade abattoir in Benin

### • As crisis deepens

EBOJELE AKHERE PATRICK, *Benin*

TENSION was heightened yesterday at the premises of the Edo State Butchers Union situated at the Ikpoba slope when persons suspected to be soldiers stormed the premises firing gun shots sporadically into the air causing panic for several hours as butchers took to their heels for their dear lives.

It was, however, gathered that the security operatives on patrol were said to have rushed to the scene of the crisis to forestall loss of lives and property.

Contacted, Captain Roseline Managbe, Public Relations Officer of 4 Brigade, said she was just returning from Warri where she had gone for an official assignment.

She told our reporter, however, that when she confirmed the true position, it will be made known.

But narrating the ugly

incident to newsmen, the State Chairman of Edo Butchers Union, Comrade Bright Ojo, alleged that trouble started when the former State Chairman of the Union, Comrade Sunny Omokaro, in company of his cohort, brought in soldiers to unleash mayhem on members, thereby disrupting activities at Afro Sisters abattoir yesterday.

"I was at the slaughter slab this morning to carry out our legitimate duties when Sunny Omokaro stormed the abattoir in company of armed soldiers, shooting into air and harassing our members. So, we had to run to the Police to lodge complaint and we contacted Ekenwan Army Barracks' authorities but they denied sending any of their men on such duty at the slaughter houses", Ojo said.

When contacted, Comrade Sunny Omokaro, who denied being at the abattoir during the crisis, said the soldiers

in company of some policemen in uniform, were on their daily routine patrol when they heard the sporadic shooting at the abattoir.

He said having relinquished power after three years tenure, he decided to register with a private abattoir when all of a sudden the Union came harassing and demanding illegal fees for every cow slaughtered.

"Three days ago, they came in their hundreds, invaded the place and threatening to eject us. But we insisted that as a free tax-paying citizen of the state, we have a choice to decide which association to belong to", he stated.

On the alleged embezzlement of the association's fund, the former Butchers Association Chairman said the only legacies bequeathed to him by the past chairman was seven cases in Court, adding that he offset all the outstanding debts incurred by his predecessor.