

THE WORLD NEWS II

Man, 20, electrocuted at Mararaba

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A 20-year-old man was allegedly electrocuted recently at Kabayi, Mararaba in Karu Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

Findings showed that the man, Mr. Ifeanyi Uka, had gone to a nearby shop to make some purchases but met his tragic death when he touched the burglar proof at the entrance and got a fatal shock suspected to be electric current.

Investigations revealed that the victim, who was flung to the ground by the shock, was later taken to a clinic to be resuscitated but eventually died before medical attention could get to him.

Our reporter learnt that the incident was reported to the police, who came to evacuate the corpse and deposited it at the mortuary.

Meanwhile, mystery still surrounds the incident as residents told our reporter that for about two months, there has been no power supply in that area of Kabayi, and that no generator was running in that building at the time of the alleged electrocution.

However, some residents believe that even as there has been power outage in the area for some time now, one of the naked low tension cables was touching the zinc of the building where the incident occurred and it may be carrying electric current.

But an electrical engineer with Abuja Electricity Distribution Company at the Nyanya Gwandara office in charge of Mararaba, who pleaded anonymity, told our reporter that it was not possible for the said cable to carry current as the transformer feeding that area has been vandalised since about two months now.

"The cables feeding the transformer have been stolen and we are trying to replace them. How can the transformer without cables be energized?" he queried. "We will take you there to see it yourself," the engineer told City News.

However, other residents accused some retired or dismissed PHCN workers and touts who posed as electricity workers of vandalisation of transformers and illegal/wrong connections thereby causing problems in the area, including the recent electrocution incident.

A resident simply called Lady Rose, who spoke with our reporter, maintained that electricity touts and vandals could have tampered with the transformer while trying to do some illegal connections as there is no security and that could energize it and put people at risk of electric shock.

It was gathered that prior to the electrocution incident, the shop owner had complained to neighbours that the burglar proof was electrified but that his worry was discountenanced when some of them touched it and was not shocked. But the following morning after rainfall in the night before, the victim met his untimely death when he touched the same burglar proof.

A police officer at the 'A' Division Police Station, Mararaba, who would not want to be named, confirmed the incident, and told our reporter that the case is being investigated to unravel the cause of the electrocution.