

Ebonyi records two deaths from kerosene explosion

A STUDENT of Ebonyi State University has died from an explosion believed to have been caused by adulterated kerosene.

In a separate incident, two daughters of a monarch in the state were burnt when they attempted to light a lantern believed to contain the fake product. One of them later died in a hospital while the second is now under intensive care.

Special Adviser to the Governor on Solid Minerals, Dr. Ifeanyi Ike, who dropped the hint, disclosed that the situation had got to such an alarming rate that "government can no longer fold its hands and watch criminally-minded businessmen decimate the country's population".

Ike, who served in the same capacity under the previous administration, said: "In the first instance, a third year student in the Department of Applied Sciences, Ebonyi State University, died as a result of kerosene explosion".

The governor's aide said he visited the scenes of the explosion with some members of the House of Assembly after receiving reports of the havoc of the kerosene adulteration.

"I went in the company of Aja Onu to Uburu, also

*From Leo Sobechi,
Abakaliki*

with Kennedy Ogba of Ohaukwu (lawmakers). At Uburu Joint Presbyterian Hospital, we saw Mrs. Uzo Nwaeze, her situation was too bad.

"At Ohaukwu, nobody could stand the sight of another victim of the kerosene explosion. We went to the house of the traditional ruler of Izchia in Ohaukwu, Chief Odoro, the man lamented what happened to him with two of his daughters being victims of explosion arising from adulterated kerosene", he said.

According to Ike, the monarch narrated the incident thus: "My daughters purchased kerosene and were trying to light the lantern. Suddenly, I heard a loud explosion, it was like a lightning, as if Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) brought light and immediately took it. They were seriously burnt, were rushed to the hospital where one of them died".

Ike said that a lawmaker in the team (Ogba) donated the sum of N80 million to the two victims, who are still in various hospitals, adding that his office had acquired devices to detect the fake products.