

## NEWS.

# Black Sallah in Ifo, as four die of electrocution at market square

Written by Gbenga Akinfenwa

Category: Metro Hits: 9 • Print



THE joyous celebration of the Eid-el-Fitri in the commercial city of Ifo, Ifo Local Council of Ogun State, turned sour last Sunday as four people were feared electrocuted and several others seriously injured.

The tragic event occurred around 3.00pm at the main market, when a high tension electric cable sparked

and fell from the electricity pole on the victims, who were transacting business, killing them instantly.

The unfortunate incident, which happened on the market day with a large number of people, heightened tension and confusion at the scene and beyond, as people ran helter-skelter to escape from the melee, which led to a stampede in which many people were injured.

Though the bodies of the victims have been evacuated by the Police as at the time The Guardian got to the scene of the incident, legs of the victims dangling from the back of the Police Hilux pick up van, as they were been conveyed to the morgue were very conspicuous.

The remnants of the cable, edible goods and other materials littered the entire place, in front of the Shopping Complex, as onlookers, sympathisers and traders converged in groups discussing the unfortunate incident.

The Guardian gathered that the electric fire sparked-off from the main town hall area, about 150 meters away due to high voltage power supply and traveled down to the affected pole.

A male victim was said to have come to the market in the company of his friend to buy clothes from one of the boutiques at the shopping complex when the incident happened.

While his friend went upstairs to choose clothes, he was downstairs directly under the cable wires, viewing the clothes displayed outside when the wire fell on him. He was reported to have been burnt to the waist due to the effect of the high-tension cable.

A boy, who was helping his mother to sell vegetables in front of the shopping complex, was also affected. Report has it that the boy was still alive and had been rushed to a hospital; his vegetable littered the whole place.

An old woman selling herbs and another person were also electrocuted.

There were, however, conflicting reports over the number of casualties. While some claimed that four people died, others said only two people died, while the others were rushed to the hospital.

According to an eyewitness, Mrs. Yetunde Busari, the incident was a rude shock to the traders because it was unexpected. She described it as unfortunate as the innocent victims died in such a terrible manner, while transacting business.

She noted that only three people died, while a boy that was also affected had been taken to hospital.

Another witness, who didn't want her name mentioned, disclosed that a similar incident had occurred sometime ago but no casualty was recorded.

She lamented that if the country has good leaders, such issue should not be swept under the carpet, because people who are in charge of distributing power in the area should be queried and punished for their carelessness.

When The Guardian visited the Distribution Company office in Ifo for comment on the cause of the incident, the office was locked due to the Sallah holiday.

When the State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Muyiwa Adejobi was contacted on phone, he noted that only two people died and their bodies have already been deposited in the morgue.

He promised that proper investigation would be carried out on the issue.