

Medical Student Electrocuted In Enugu

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An 18-year-old Medical Student, Raphael Uchenna Ekeh Jr. was electrocuted under circumstances linked to ongoing installation of Pre-Paid Meters in Enugu metropolis by Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) Plc.

According to witness account, Ekeh who until his untimely death was a student of Imo State University was electrocuted on Thursday night in front of No. 21 Ibiarn Street, Enugu where he lived with his parents, when he touched a protector on the wall of the compound, not knowing that the wall has been electrified.

The inflow of current into the

wall located very close to a 33 KVA transformer was allegedly caused by power surges that arose from improper installation of pre-paid meters in buildings in that area by a firm contracted by PHCN on Thursday.

The installation according to residents was shabbily done, a development that caused several power surges and explosions in the transformer all through the night when Raphael, the only son of Mr. Raphael Ekeh was electrocuted. Household appliances worth thousands of naira were destroyed during the incident, it was learnt.

His grieving father told Saturday Independent that his son was waiting for one of his siblings that went to collect

something from a nearby neighbour when the incident occurred.

Ekeh said that he was inside the House when he heard people shouting and dashed out only to see that his son had been electrocuted, while efforts to save the dying young man proved futile.

Neighbours showed our correspondent electric cables left open by PHCN contractors who were said to have hastily installed the meters. It was said to be the same in all the buildings around that area.

"From what I witnessed, the contractors are using students to install the pre-paid meters," Mr. Oranye, a resident said.

It was gathered that the parents of the deceased have already written to the Zonal office of PHCN while the police has already commenced investigation into the death of Raphael with a view to ascertaining the immediate cause of his death.

Divisional Crime Officer (DCO) Uwani Police Station, Mr. Stephen Osaghae confirmed the incident but said that he was not in a position to say whether it was in connection with pre-paid meters or not.

When contacted public relations officer (PRO) of PHCN Enugu zone, Chief Esemé Udoh, said that he was not aware of the incident.