

# Ebonyi Govt Decries Havoc By Adulterated Kerosene.

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Ebonyi State Government is unhappy about the spate of havoc caused by adulterated petroleum products, especially kerosene in the state, saying its casualty rate was alarming.

Special Adviser to the State Governor on Solid Minerals, Dr. Ifeanyi Ike, told *Daily Independent*, at the weekend that no less than three deaths had been recorded as a result, while many others were languishing in various hospitals.

Apart from the adulteration of petroleum products, Ike lamented that many of the petroleum product dealers in the state were involved in unholy adjustment of their pumps, pointing out that during investigation, he discovered that out of all those he visited, only one filling sta-

tion had normal gauge.

"We have been crying out about adulteration of the petroleum products by the marketers, we got reports that some of them were mixing kerosene with petrol to maximise profit, but we didn't know it had gotten to this alarming proportion leading to the deaths of unsuspecting people in Ebonyi State," he stated.

Ike, who also served in the same portfolio under ex-Governor Sam Egwu-led administration, stated that the government would not allow such dastardly acts to continue. "In the first case, a third year student of Ebonyi State University, in Applied Sciences department died as a result of kerosene explosion. "This

weekend, we got reports from some members of the State House of Assembly, who collaborate the efforts of my office. They invited me to come to their constituencies to see the havoc kerosene adulteration had done. So, I went in the company of Hon. Aja Onu to Uburu, also with Hon. Kennedy Oga of Ohaukwu. At Uburu Joint Presbyterian Hospital, we saw Mrs Uzo Nwaeze, her situation was too bad.

"Nobody could stand the sight of another victim of the kerosene explosion at Ohaukwu. 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 kerosene explosion arising from adulterated kerosene," he said.

He said that the royal father had narrated to him how his daughters had purchased kerosene and were trying to light the lantern, but suddenly heard a loud explosion, like a lightening, as if to say that NEPA brought light and immediately took it adding that they were immediately rushed to the hospital, where one of them died due to the serious burns they got from the explosion.

Dr. Ike explained that his office had gotten devices to detect adulterated products and that they would soon embark on sensitisation of the populace on how to avoid buying fake products.