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Kerosene explosion kills girl, 13, in Abakaliki, injures two

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By Felix Uka*/Abakaliki*

Thirteen-year-old Miss lfeoma Nwofe was on Tuesday killed by a kerosene explosion.

The girl suffered the explosion at her parent's residence, Azuiyokwu area of Abakaliki and could not be saved as she could not receive treatment at the Federal Teaching Hospital, Abakaliki, where she was rushed to because of the on-going doctor's strike.

The other siblings of the late lfeoma, Linda, 8, and Chiemerie, 10, who were also victims of the accident, are in critical condition.

The explosion occurred as she was trying to light their lantern after the PHCN took light fuelling suspicion that the kerosene might have been adulterated.

The father of the victims, Simeon Nwofe, who hails from Izzi Local Government Area of the state, said that lfeoma just came back from school, which was observing its mid-term break.

"After hugging her younger ones who were elated due to her arrival, she decided to lit the lamp and the indent occurred.

He noted that her remains had been taken to their hometown for burial.

In his reaction, Special Adviser to the Ebonyi State Governor on Petroleum Products, Pricing and Distribution, Chief Ejem, lamented the development and promised to get to the root of the matter."

"We would conduct a thorough investigation into the incident and prosecute those culpable in the act.

"The state government has been doing its best to rid the state of fake petroleum products but this effort has been thwarted by unscrupulous elements who deal on such products," he said.