



• A woman begging for alms with her set of triplets in Ilorin, Kwara State.
Photo: Jide Oyekule

Teenager electrocuted in Minna

By Chinwendu Nnadozie
Senior Correspondent, Minna

NEMESIS caught up with one of the vandals who specialize in the vandalism of Power Holding Company (PHCN) transformers, as a boy lost his life trying to steal from a transformer across the flyover, near the Muslim burial ground, Kpakungu in Minna, Niger State.

The lifeless body of the boy, suspected to be between 17 and 20 years old was discovered right inside the transformer with his body already turned black.

Investigations by Daily Independent indicated that the boy whose mission was to steal copper from the transformer serving Supreme Water Factory and environs may have died about two days before his lifeless body was discovered by passers by.

The offensive odour oozing from the already decomposing body had been attracting flies,

and this prompted people in the neighbourhood to conduct a search of where and what could have caused the stench.

The search party, it was gathered, was shocked to behold the lifeless body of a teenage boy, with rubber slippers which he used to pad his two arms, apparently to avoid being electrocuted as he crawled through the transformer, one of the residents of the area said.

Some of the people who spoke to Daily Independent on the incident recalled how the vandals had made life unbearable for them as it was becoming a routine for the transformer to break down frequently due to the antics of the criminals.

"Every day is for the thief but one day is for the house owner. They have been coming to steal from the transformer but today God don catch them", one of the residents who craved for anonymity said.

"Vandalizing this transformer cables has become a routine thing", one of the residents said, arguing that, "it is as if the vandals are targeting our oga because every now and then he will be forced to buy whatever is needed for them to restore light because of his business."

According to him, "Every now and then our oga in order not to allow his business to suffer will be forced to replace the components whenever the vandals steal it. Each time we report to NEPA they will tell us that they don't have equipment".

People from the surrounding area and passers-by were still tramping in to catch a glimpse of the dead vandal whose identity could not be ascertained as at the time of filing this report.

Niger state Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Richard Oguche, could not be reached for comments on the incident.