

BEDC Transformer Fire Disaster Kills One, Burn 10 Houses

SUNDAY APAH

UGHELLI

1. Joseph Iloloje, a middle-aged security man, working for the General Overseer of a pentecostal church at Ugboroke, Effurun in Uvwie Council Area of Delta State, has been electrocuted by a malfunctioning transformer.

It was gathered that several shops and business premises were also reduced to ashes, leading to money running into millions of naira when the transformer, belonging to Benin Electricity Distribution Company (BEDC), installed at Atamakolomi, in Enerhen community of the state caught fire.

David Oghounu, Chairman of Atamakolomi community, lamented that "prior reports and complaints to BEDC officials of constant erratic fluctuation of power volt-

age were ignored."

According to him, "the September 26 tragedy that killed the security man and burnt houses and properties, occurred at about 4:00a.m, when the 33 KVA transmission cable of the transformer began to burn, following a disconnection, which lead to a massive spark, before the outbreak of fire."

But, Akpovi & Co, counsel to the affected victims, on September 28, 2017, petitioned the Managing Director of BEDC, through its Business Manager in Warri and copied the Division Police Officer of Enerhen Police Station.

In the petition, Akpovi and Co avowed that the havoc was caused by the negligence of BEDC and therefore demanded full and immediate reparation and restoration of losses suffered, insisting that adequate compensation be paid to the family of the bereaved.