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Five-year old girl electrocuted

A FIVE-year-old child has been allegedly electrocuted in Benin City.

The victim, identified as Agbonmwane Vincent, popularly known in her neighbourhood as 'Orobor,' was found stone-dead beside a barbing saloon at 13, Amuamwosa Street, off Airport Road, Oko, Benin City at about 11.25 a.m. yesterday.

From, Osemwengie Ben Ogbemudia, Benin

Though, the actual source of electrocution remained unknown, a naked wire allegedly connected illegally by the barber was noticed near the corpse.

While some residents alleged that the electrocution came from a well-connected iron strip used to properly affix a concrete pole with the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) high tension cables, others, however, believed that the child may have accidentally held the wire that supplies current from the barber's small generator to his saloon as he may have forgotten to hang the loose wire when PHCN restored electricity to the area on the fateful day.

When our reporter visited the scene, sympathizers besieged the spot as the barber was said to have immediately locked his saloon and escaped.

A police patrol van with the inscription 'Airport Division' and marked "NPF 6208C, with four policemen were seen taking the re-

mains of the little child away.

A lady in the street blamed the mother of the girl for negligence as the victim and her siblings were famous for wandering in the neighbourhood.

A visit to the victim's residence, about four

houses away from the scene of death, revealed that the parents had gone to the police to report.

Her elder sister, Adesuwa, who bemoaned the death of her sibling, disclosed that her mother did not know when she left home.

Be more open over ailments, Nigerian leaders

By Sam Egburunu

FIRST Lady, Dame Patience Jonathan's recent admission that contrary to official denials, she was sick and underwent nine surgeries in Germany last year, has continued to attract reactions, from concerned Nigerians.

Reacting to the development, Dr. Dozie Ikedife, a medical practitioner and former National President of Ohanaeze Ndigbo, frowned at the attitude of our leaders over their ailments.

He told *The Nation* in a telephone chat, "It does not make sense for our leaders to continue to lie over their ailment. Yes, every individual has a right to keep his health challenges as some-

thing personal, that is speaking medically, but these are leaders and as public figures, they are not expected to keep such a thing secret. This is so because if they come open, it will help to stop unhealthy and wild speculations that will further create tension in the polity.

"We should change our attitude about illness. There is nothing wrong about a human being being ill. We should be able to say look, I have headache, tommy ache, radiculopathy and so forth. When the former Military President, General Ibrahim Babangida, had this leg challenge, he said so, went and got it treated. There is no big

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