



Father cries for compensation over son's electrocution

Posted By: JOHN OFIKHENUA on: November 28, 2015 In: News 1 Comment



The father of Ayodele Samuel, a seven-year-old boy electrocuted by live electricity cable belonging to the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC) in Kabusa area of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) has appealed to the power firm, Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) and the Consumer Protection Council (CPC) for urgent compensation to avoid litigation, reports JOHN OFIKHENUA.

MR Tade Ayodele, a spray painter left in grief by his seven-year-old son, Samuel Ayodele's electrocution at Kabusa in FCT during the week told The Nation that AEDC has refused to act after the fateful incident of November 9, 2015.

Speaking with The Nation, the father of the deceased complained that after petitioning NERC and CPC, neither of the organisations had addressed the situation with necessary compensation.

The visibly shaken parent, who had accepted the irreversibility of death, noted that he would not hesitate to take the power company, CPC and NERC to court should they refuse to act appropriately and in record time.

He said: "It is clear that there is nothing one can do to revive Samuel. But the company and all the government agencies I wrote the petition to have refused to act. They should do the right thing by paying compensation, but if they refuse to do that nothing will stop me from going to court."



According to copies of the petition which the trio of NERC, CPC and AEDC received on November 12, the power firm appeared reluctant to act when the community informed it of the looming danger of the fallen and exposed cable.

The petition with the heading "Electrocution and Death of My 7 Year Old Son By AEDC Cable at Kabusa, Abuja," reads in part: "On Monday, November 9, 2015, around 6:00 a.m, an electric cable belonging to the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC) fell down from the pole at the Old Pantaker Area of Kabusa, Abuja.

"Electricity supply was on when this cable fell down, and seeing the danger to lives of the people living in the area, the AEDC was called on phone and the fallen cable reported to them. They were begged to take action by cutting off power supply to the area and coming to remove the fallen cable. They

promised they would come but almost throughout the day, from that 6:00 a.m. till late afternoon, they

did not come.

“Around 2.30 p.m. while I was at my place of work at Gudu District, my 7 year-old son, Samuel Ayodele was going to throw refuse away. As he tried to cross a gutter, his foot slipped and he fell down on the electric cable and was electrocuted. Some neighbours used a dry plank to remove the cable from him and he was rushed to the Shadalafiya Primary Health Centre, Sherreti Road, Kabusa.

“He was received at the health centre by Dr H. Dabagal and Dr Andrew Bayero who battled unsuccessfully to save his life. My son died around 6:30 p.m. that same day. Please find attached the Medical Report and Death Certificate of my late son as issued by Dr. Dabagal and Dr. Bayero. Sir, you can imagine how I feel as a father.

“The death of my son is an irreparable and irreplaceable loss, and I am begging you in the name of God Almighty to seek redress for me and sanction the AEDC accordingly to prevent further negligence and nonchalant approach to duty for which the AEDC has become well-known.

“Sir, please I cry for justice and appeal to you to use your good office to ensure I get redress for this unbearable loss. I look forward to your usual prompt response, Sir.”

Asked to respond to the allegation on the telephone, the AEDC Head of Corporate Communications and Community Relations, Mr. Oyeboade Fadipe, noted that on receiving the petition, the company mobilised its team to investigate the matter.

“We are also aware that the father has written to NERC. And you know NERC is the regulatory agency in this sector, and even we on our own have informed NERC on what has happened as it is expected of us. And that is exactly what we have done. We are expected to bring it to the attention of the regulatory agency and we have done exactly that. The father of the deceased has also done that. It means that we have submitted to the authority of the regulatory agency. Even we have, on our part, conducted investigation to see the circumstances surrounding that.

“But you know we cannot be a judge in our own case. And for our own purpose too we need the investigation so that we can prevent such occurrences in future and make sure that our customers are safe. It is NERC that is handling the situation as it is now. Both parties have submitted to NERC. It is NERC that has the prerogative to take the matter beyond where we have taken it to.”

Asked whether the company would compensate the family which acknowledged the impossibility of replacing life, the spokesman admitted that one could truly not replace life.

He said: “What do we know that we can do that is adequate to the circumstance that people will not say how did they arrived at what they did. That is why you need the legitimate arbiter in this circumstance, and that is NERC.”

He added that as a firm, it is looking forwarding to NERC’s directive to know how to compensate the family.

NERC chairman, Dr Sam Amadi, who spoke to The Nation on the telephone said that he was going to ask for pending mails to see whether the petition was among them. He said: “When did it happen? Was it today? I have some mails here. I will check because if it comes they will first send it to Engineering. We use the outcome to prescribe sanction. Let me check and see if it will come within the week.”

He said he would immediately sanction AEDC accordingly as soon as he received the petition.

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