

Kids' electrocution: Families sue AEDC, demand N300m compensation in Niger

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FAMILIES of a two-month-old baby and four other victims, as well as a two-year-old girl, said to have been electrocuted in 2016 in Gwada community, Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger state, have sued the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC) in a state high court, sitting in Minna, the state capital, demanding for N300 million as

compensation.

In a writ of summons filed at the high court, the bereaved families, represented by Abdullahi Idris Kutu and Mohammed Abdullah, averred that the girl's mother, Mrs. Kande Salihu, Mrs. Adama Tanko and an officer of the Federal Road Safety Corps, Idris Bala, were also killed in the incident which occurred on April 5, 2016.

The plaintiff argued that AEDC was responsible for

the upsurge in electricity supply due to faulty cables which made the five persons to be electrocuted, while many others were injured and several property destroyed in the process.

According to the families, "the defendants in their perpetual negligence also caused another power surge at various houses in Kuta, Shiroro Local Government Area of the state on April 20 this year, during which elec-

tronics and electrical equipment were destroyed."

They prayed the court for "an order to the defendant to pay the sum of N200 million as compensation to the families of the deceased persons who were killed as a result of electrocution, in addition to N50 million as general damages and another N50 million as cost of litigation."

The plaintiffs were also seeking for an order of the court for perpetual injunc-

tion restraining AEDC agents from further harassment and disconnecting affected communities' power supply on account of indebtedness relating to the issue pending the determination of the court.

In their statement of claim, the plaintiffs stated that discussions on the issue of compensation for victims of the incident had been allegedly stalled by AEDC after a conclusive meeting between the company and the representatives of the deceased

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