Man electrocuted in Ebonyi

A middle-aged-man whose identity is yet to be ascertained was electrocuted in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, on Tuesday, an eyewitness has told the **News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)**.

The eyewitness said the incident occurred along the Abakaliki/Enugu expressway about 12:00 noon.

The witness, who identified himself as Mr Silas Nwakpu, said that the victim was a labourer who was digging a channel for an underground cable for one of the mobile telecommunication companies.

According to him, the deceased climbed a tree to cut some leaves to cover his water container from heat, but the cutlass mistakenly came in contact with the tree branches lying on a high-tension cable.

"The man is one of the daily-paid labourers engaged by one of the mobile telecommunication companies laying underground cable in Abakaliki.

"He climbed the tree to cut some of its leaves to cover his container of water, but unknown to him, some of the branches were touching the high-tension wire close to the tree.

"The man was electrocuted; his body has been deposited at a hospital mortuary," Nwakpu said.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mrs Loveth Odah, confirmed the incident.

She, however, added that her office was yet to receive an official report of the incident.

"I got a phone call on this incident, but before I could get there, the road safety officials had evacuated the corpse and deposited it at the mortuary.

"For now, my office is yet to be officially briefed on the matter; it is a very sad and unfortunate incident," Odah said.