

2 Four children who died after taking 'suya' buried amidst tears in Abia

Nnanna Nwogu | Umuahia

THE four children who died after eating suya (roasted meat) and drinking fruit juice in Umuahia, Abia State, were on Saturday buried amidst tears.

The four children, who lost their lives on August 25, after the meal, were of the same parents.

They are Kelechi (12), Sunday (10), Oluomachi (eight) and Kingsley (three), the children of Mr and Mrs Chibuzor Ikwunze of Umukaonu Umuagu, Ohuhu in Umuahia North Local Government Area of the state.

The funeral ceremony was conducted by the Bishop of Goodnews Pentecostal Church, Umuahia, Bishop Ugochukwu Ogbonna, who urged the grieving parents to take heart, just as he noted that "life does not lie in the hands of man."

In his remarks, the president-general of Ohuhu, Chief Obi Aguocha, urged the parents and relatives of the deceased to take heart, noting, "It is painful to wake up one day and lose the entire family; people lose one or two, but not four. It should not happen again."

Speaking further, Aguocha said: "The children are sup-

posed to bury their parents, but their father is giving back to God what He gave to him."

He disclosed that Ohuhu clan had given the family N4.8 million "and something else for the children to come afterwards."

Also speaking, the member representing Ikwuano/Umuahia Federal Constituency, Honourable Ifeanyi Sam Onuigbo, who was represented by Mr Henry Eleogu, assured that he would stand by the family, just as he prayed to God to grant them the fortitude to bear the loss.

Speaking, father of the de-

ceased, Chibuzo Ikwunze, said the autopsy carried out on the deceased would be out in the next two weeks, adding that it would enable them to be sure what killed the children,

He thanked the people for supporting the family since the incident occurred.

Apart from the fact that it was suspected that the suya the children consumed led to their death, there are also speculations that they might have died after inhaling generator fume, which was in use near their apartment on the day of the incident.