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# Four children electrocuted in Ondo

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**F**OUR children have been confirmed dead with two others receiving treatment at a hospital in Oke Igbo in Ile-Oluji/Oke-Igbo Local Government Area of Ondo State after a newly-installed power cable fell on a container being used as a shop.

It was gathered that the victims, including two siblings who visited their aunt for the Easter holiday, were playing inside the shop when the cable fell on the iron container-shop.

One of the survivors who identified herself as Blessing said, "We were playing

and suddenly, power was restored. So, we shouted 'Up NEPA, but we heard the sound of a spark inside the shop and we ran out, not knowing that the new cable had fallen on my mummy's container; the wire trapped our legs as we walked out and we could not walk again.

"So, I sat on a plank that was close to me, but the remaining children started shaking and vomiting blood. I shouted for help and people came to rescue us and we were rushed to the General Hospital, Ile-Oluji."

Speaking, the owner of the shop, Mrs Ronke Adebisi, said she was not around when the incident occurred.

She said she rushed back

to the shop to meet all the six children unconscious.

"I received a call that my shop was burning, so, I ran down to check on my children. On getting there, I saw people gathered and I kept asking about my children. Later, one of them, Blessing, ran out of the shop, but others were lying on the floor.

"They were rushed to the hospital, but there was no sufficient oxygen they could use for the five of them. So, four of them gave up the ghost, but the case of the sixth child was not critical as she could walk and talk.

"The remaining two were taken to the Trauma Centre in Ondo for treatment. One has been discharged, but the

second child has been referred to the OAU Teaching Hospital in Ile Ife. Two out of the four children are my sister's daughters. They came for holiday," she explained.

The lawmaker representing Ondo South in the National Assembly, Senator Nicholas Tofowomo, described the incident as unfortunate.

Tofowomo said he would ensure the parents of the victims get justice if the BEDC is found culpable in the tragedy.

The lawmaker, however, cautioned residents against erecting buildings or shops under high tension cables or any power supply line.

While speaking on the

incident, the Corporate Affairs Manager, BEDC Electricity Plc, Ondo State, Michael Barnabas, said: "Sadly, we received information about the electrocution of four children within our network in Ile-Oluji due to an 11KV line that snapped.

"As a company, we condole with the families of the children because life is very sacred and should not end prematurely this way.

"According to information available to us, the children were in an iron container shop that was directly under an 11KV line that snapped, which led to their electrocution when they had contact with the

wire.

"The deaths would have been avoidable if there had been nothing within the 11meters right of way statutorily required for such line.

"While we don't have the powers to relocate people directly living or trading under our electricity lines, we shall be very brutal in disconnecting such customers from the public power supply and ensure they never have access to it again, which would probably lead to them relocating voluntarily out of the harm's way. By this, we believe we can prevent future occurrence of similar sad incidents."