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## Fireworks kill six-year-old boy in Delta

NOSA AKENZUA

A six-year-old boy was killed and eight others injured during a fireworks explosion on Friday in Delta state.

The incident, which happened in the Kwale community, Ndokwa West Local Government Area of the state, was as a result of some teenagers lighting up fireworks in celebration of the festive season.

The Police have placed a ban on fireworks in the state.

According to residents, the fireworks exploded and hit the six-year-old in the stomach. He was said to have died on the

spot. Meanwhile, other victims, who were injured, are currently responding to treatment at the Kwale General Hospital.

The remains of the boy have been buried.

One of the residents, Mrs. Mary Osakwe, who spoke to *SUNDAY PUNCH*, said, "The children disobeyed the directive by the Police that there should be no fireworks. They kept lighting theirs until one hit a group of people relaxing in front of their house including the six-year-old boy."

Confirming the incident, the state Police Public

Relations Officer, Mrs. Celestina Kalu, said 63 traders of fireworks, who are all women, have been arrested in Kwale, Ozoro, Ibusa, and Asaba.

"We have deployed detectives to all parts of the state to clamp down on sellers and users of fireworks during the festive period. Anyone arrested will be prosecuted in line with extant laws and those already arrested will face prosecution," she said.

She advised parents to watch over the activities of their children and restrain them from the use of fireworks throughout the festive period.

### TRAGEDY