

I lost two siblings, mum's hand to be amputated after power surge, electrocution – Benue lady

In these interviews with JOHN CHARLES, residents of Wadata area of Makurdi, Benue State capital, tell sad tales following a power surge on the morning of Thursday, February 24, 2022, that claimed the lives of no fewer than seven persons in the neighbourhood

WHAT is your name and age?

My name is Vivian Nkemba. I am 21 years old.

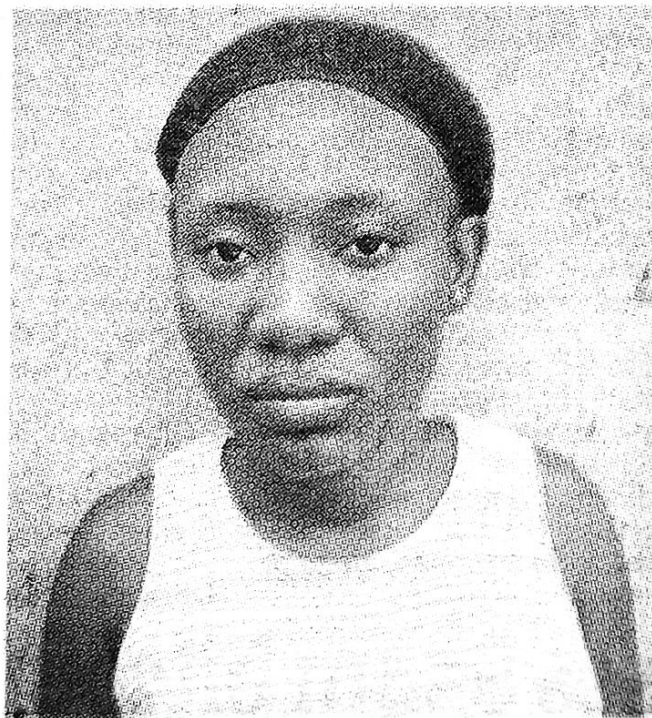
Is it true that you lost two siblings to the recent power surge in this area?

It is true. I lost my elder sister, Joy Ijeoma Nkemba, and brother, Victor Emunuke Nkemba. Joy was 30 years old. She was the breadwinner of the family because we lost our father about six years ago. Victor he was 23 years old. Joy was a hairdresser while Victor was an apprentice tailor.

How did the power surge lead to their death?

The tragic incident happened about few minutes before 8am. There was a blackout throughout the night. Myself and my five siblings were in the house with our mother and her three grandchildren. My mom was standing close to the fridge. We were chatting, playing and cracking jokes in the

room. Suddenly we saw electric sparks under the fridge and my mom, who was close to the fridge, suddenly fell down.



My brother immediately stepped forward to disconnect the fridge from the electric socket but he got electrocuted. I shouted and rushed out of the room to call for help. By the time I ran back inside I saw my sister also on the floor. I discovered that the whole floor felt like it was electrified. I still don't know how my other siblings and the grandchildren escaped it. It was a gory experience.

What about your mother?

Our mother is presently at the Federal Medical Centre at Apir, where she is receiving treatment. She sustained serious injuries to her body. The hospital said her hand may be amputated.

How is she taking the death of your siblings?

She doesn't know yet; we have not told her. Their remains are at the morgue. Our dad is no more alive; he died about seven years ago.

Has officials of Jos Electricity Distribution Company visited you?

One man, who identified himself as the company's Managing Director from Jos, came here and promised that the Makurdi Regional Manager would come to see us but we haven't seen anyone.