

Police confirm four deaths in tank farm explosion

Kindly share this story:



By Dele Ogunyemi

12th July 2022



Two students of the Petroleum Training Institute, Effurun, Delta State, have been reportedly killed in an explosion at Matrix Energy Tank Farm, Ifiekporo, in the Warri South Local Government Area of the state.

PUNCH Metro gathered that the two students, Omare Sunny of Mechanical Engineering Department, and Godstime Chuks of Petroleum Engineering Department, were working as interns in the facility when the explosion occurred on Friday night.

The President of the institution's Students Union Government, Esharedoro Efe, in a statement, faulted the management of the oil firm for insisting that there was no casualty in the night fire at the facility.

He revealed that the incident claimed three lives on the spot, including two PTI students.

The statement, which was also copied to the Delta State Government, Department of State Services and the PTI management, among others, read in part, "Our attention has been drawn to a communiqué from Matrix Energy Limited stating that no casualty was recorded in the explosion that occurred on July 8, 2022.

"It is on record that two National Diploma graduates of the Petroleum Training Institute, who were undergoing their Industrial Training, Comr. Omare Sunny and Comr. Godstime Chuks, from Mechanical Engineering Department and Petroleum Engineering Department, respectively, lost their lives to the cold hands of death due to that explosion. Such information is misguided, inhuman, unfair and evil.

"We frown at this occurrence and blame the management for not putting all necessary safety precautions in place which led to the death of two young and vibrant students preparing for Higher National Diploma at their early prime.

Related News

Tank farm explosion: Firm denies wrongdoing in worker's death

How illegal fuel scooping led to explosion at Calabar tank farm

DPR to probe Calabar tank farm inferno

“It is based on this we are calling on the management of Matrix Energy Limited to, as a matter of urgency, debunk that information as it is capable of causing chaos in the student community and as such reach out to the families of the deceased with immediate effect.

“Failure to do this within the next 24 hours and we shall be left with no other option than to mobilise our students in full force to shut down all forms of operations in that company.”

Meanwhile, our correspondent gathered that the remains of five other victims were recovered from the river bank by local divers on Sunday.

The discovery is coming after a delegation of the Delta State Government claimed that no life was lost to the inferno.

The delegation, however, certified 12 persons injured in the incident.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Bright Edefe, on Monday, confirmed the death of four victims, whose corpses were recovered from the riverside.

The PPRO, however, told our correspondent that the command could not identify any of the recovered bodies.