

Dele Ogunyemi and
Gbenga Odogun

Many feared dead as

AN explosion on Monday rocked a popular cooking gas plant located along Effurun/Sapele Road in Uvwie Local Government Area of Delta State.

PUNCH Metro gathered that the fire at the gas station identified as NELMIC Gas Plant, located opposite the Effurun Post Office, started at about 10.30pm on Monday.

The cause of the explosion could not be immediately ascertained.

Witnesses told **PUNCH Metro** that a loud sound heralded the fire which destroyed the gas plant completely.

It was also gathered that the raging fire was fast spreading to neighbouring residential buildings and a popular church in the area before the intervention of men of the fire service.

The number of casualties could not be ascertained as it was gathered that an unspecified number of persons were feared dead while several others



•Scene of Delta explosion

sustained injuries.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Bright Edafe, could not be reached for comments on the incident as of the time of filing this report.

Kogi explosion

Also, the Kogi State Police Command confirmed an

explosion that rocked the administrative office of the Okehi Local Government Area of the state.

The explosion was said to have occurred on Monday evening.

The state PPRO, SP William Aya, confirmed the incident to **PUNCH Metro**

on Tuesday in Lokoja.

It was gathered that some gunmen stormed the secretariat around 5pm and caused an explosion that damaged the administrative block of the secretariat.

Aya, however, said officers have been deployed to the area to ascertain the extent of the damage.

Also confirming the explosion, the state Security Adviser, Jerry Omadara, said the incident was traced to saboteurs who wanted to cause panic ahead of the elections to prevent people from coming out to vote.

The state Commissioner for Information and Communications, Kingsley Fanwo, in a statement on Tuesday, said the state government was on top of the situation and had put in place measures to keep the people safe before, during and after the elections.

"This is our responsibility to all *Kogites* irrespective of their political affiliations

explosion rocks Delta, Kogi

Those behind this would be fished out and severely dealt with to serve as a deterrent

to others in their league," Fanwo said.

He also called on residents

of the local government to remain calm, while urging parents to properly guide

their wards against being used as political thugs in the forthcoming elections.

Pollution: Ogun community moves against recycling firm

Segun Adewole

THE Unity Araromi Community Development Association, Ganun, Ifo Local Government Area has petitioned the Ogun State Government for allowing the operation of a recycling firm within the residential area.

The petition signed by the Chairman of the CDA, Mr Taiwo Saidi and the Secretary, Mr Dokun Alkinwalire, was received by the state Environmental Protection Agency on November 7, 2022.

In the petition, a copy of which was also received by the Federal Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency, Abuja, the residents accused the firm, Roramb Nigeria Limited, of polluting the environment with industrial wastes and indiscriminate noise.



•The community

The residents also alleged that the factory was built on a canal and had since blocked the flow of water in the community, leading to flooding.

They complained of noise pollution, which had since made it difficult for residents to have sound sleep, resulting in ill health.

When our correspondent visited the area, he observed that the factory was sited at the heart of the residential area.

Speaking on their efforts to stop the operation of the factory, the CDA chairman, Saidi said the residents had approached the state and Federal Government agencies to no avail.

He said officials of FESTREA

pollution has started to tell on our children and aged people now. They fall sick easily. The factory works both day and night. We need the government to enforce the order to move this factory away from here," he said.

But the company's Chief Executive, Alhaji Isiaka Ambali, who spoke to our correspondent on the telephone, said necessary government officials had visited the place and asked him to continue with his operation.

He said he had complied with all environmental regulations as ordered by the government and the community.

"The traditional ruler of Ganun and the Community Development Committee of the area had resolved the matter while the government has also given its nod that I should continue with my business, so I don't know why a particular man is still giving me problem," Ambali said.