

Ogun: Mother electrocuted, two children hospitalised

Uthman Salami and
Abdul-hafeez Fadehan

A mother of two, Ujunwa Okechukwuma, was electrocuted on Wednesday evening while her two children, identified simply as Louis and Onyinyechi, are currently battling for their lives in the hospital following a spark at an electric transformer located inside a market in the Mowe area of Ogun State.

Though some members of the community told *PUNCH Metro* correspondents who visited the market Thursday morning that three people died, including a pregnant woman, the state police command said only Okechukwuma was electrocuted and five others sustained injuries, including her two children.

PUNCH Metro reports that other victims of the electric incident include Shuaib Saheed, Zainab Babatunde, and Okiki Azeez, who sustained varying degrees of injury due to the spark



• The scene

at the transformer.

Our correspondent learnt from the locals that the officials of the Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company had warned shop owners of some electric cables that had fallen on the rooftops of some shops, not far from where an electric pole

was mounted due to a recent rainstorm, to steer clear of the location.

One of the traders who resides in the area and witnessed the sad event, Mrs Aina Oloponda, told our correspondent, "They (IBEDC officials) said the rainstorm had cut down a high-

tension cable, causing it to fall on the rooftop of some shops. They came to fix something on it about a few hours before the spark. About 30 minutes after they left the place, power was restored.

"We were surprised when the restored the power supply when some poles had fallen and all the cables were still wet. Not long after people raised this concern the spark occurred, people started to scream. Three people died, and many others are in the hospital."

Meanwhile, another eyewitness, Mrs Akinremi Bisi, said the IBEDC officials had advised the shop owners to desist from displaying their wares very close to the electric pole and advised them of the danger associated with placing an iron roof under the poles.

"They (IBEDC) officials came to our shops about three months ago to complain about the extension some shop owners were doing to the space allotted to them, which they said had extended to the body of the high-tension electric poles.

"They also warned about the possible dangers associated with the extension of traders' shops

to the high-tension electric pole. However, after Sunday's rainstorm, some of the cables fell on the roof of a shop. They came to fix it before the incident."

The state Public Relations Officer, Omolola Odutola, confirmed the incident to our correspondent on Thursday but stated that only one person was electrocuted while five others sustained injuries.

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Pupil dies 'while feeding' in Abuja school

Deborah Tolu-Kolawole

A TRAGEDY struck at BrickHall Schools located in the Cadastral Zone B11, Kaura in Abuja, on Wednesday, when a four-year-old pupil, Miguel Ovoke, died during the school's feeding hours.

According to the death certificate dated April 24, 2024, issued by Excel Specialist Hospital, Abuja, which was sighted by our correspondent, Ovoke was brought to the hospital by his teachers around 11 am in an unconscious state.

The medical report, signed by Dr. Akinwande Ajayi, on behalf of the medical director, indicated that he was brought in, "on account of aspiration on meat while feeding at school."

The hospital said upon examination, the medical team found that the boy's pupils

were fixed and dilated, with a nonreactive response to light.

His peripheral pulses were said to be "impalpable, blood pressure was unrecordable, and there was no cardiopulmonary activity or respiratory excursions," the report indicated, noting that all the efforts of the medical team to resuscitate the boy failed.

The report concluded that he was "Brought in Dead."

PUNCH Metro learnt that the parents of the deceased, suspecting foul play, had contacted a lawyer, Deji Adeyanju, to handle the case on their behalf.

Adeyanju confirmed the development to our correspondent on Thursday.

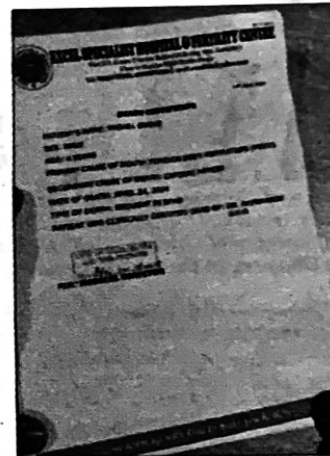
"We are writing a petition to the state Commissioner of Police on the matter," the lawyer said.

Miguel Ovoke was said to have been dropped off at school in

the morning, only for his mother to receive a call from her husband, said to be currently in Abuja for a business transaction, informing her that Miguel's school had called him to come, according to Adeyanju.

"So the wife quickly rushed to the school, only to find out that Miguel was dead. The school claimed that he had experienced a seizure and died, but she was told by other pupils who saw him dead in the toilet that they had informed the teachers he was having a seizure. However, the teachers told the four-year-old boy to go and 'sneeze it out' in the toilet, where he died."

"When the mother requested



• Death certificate

as it had yet to respond to an email sent to its known email address. Our correspondent also called