

Ondo family tackles IBEDC over employee's electrocution

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 Map of Kwara State

The family of a staff member of Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company, Temidayo Adekuoroye, has demanded justice over his tragic death while working for the company in Kwara State.

The deceased was said to have been assigned alongside his colleagues on July 16, 2024, to fix a four-month power outage problem in the Igbonla area of the state.

He was said to have begun working on the faulty electric wire when power was suddenly restored and got him electrocuted in the process.

While narrating the incident, his father, Akinsanmi, told *PUNCH Metro* on Monday that he was informed of the incident by a friend of his son.

He said, “On July 16, 2024, at about 6 pm, I got information from one of the friends of my late son that he had passed on due to an accident. I called back the informant to get more details about the death, but he was not forthcoming. I later reached out to some of my son’s friends who informed me that he died as a result of electrocution in the course of his employment with the Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company.

“The details are that he went in a team of five personnel from the IBEDC Office at Ajase Ipo in Irepodun Local Government Area of Kwara State to a town known as Igbonla via Ajase Ipo. The assignment was to fix the electricity challenge in the town. At the point of departure, it was learnt that the control room shut down the electricity supply to successfully carry out the assignment. In the course of discharging his official assignment, my son was asked by the team to mount the electric pole after working on the challenged transformer. While at the zenith of the pole, there occurred a sudden supply of electricity which led to his immediate and sudden death. The deceased remains were moved to the Cottage Hospital, Ajase Ipo on the same day.”

Akinsanmi said some staff members of the IBEDC which included the Technical Engineer and Administrative officer thereafter paid him a condolence visit in Akure, Ondo State on July 18 while they assured him that the police were investigating the incident.

He however said details of why the light was restored at the point he was fixing the electricity problem were not disclosed by the officials.

The bereaved father who was shocked at the turn of events said he later discovered that no investigation had begun on Temidayo’s death.

He said the discovery followed a visit to the station by some family representatives who also confirmed that no official report was made regarding the incident.

“On a visit to the IBEDC Office in Ajase Ipo, Igbonla Town and Agbamu Police Station, our representatives were shocked to discover that there was no ongoing police investigation into the incident. The Officer in Charge of Igbonla at the Agbamu Police Station, Mr John Orelope, informed the visiting persons that there was no official report in respect of the incident; thus, no investigation had been launched into the incident by the police.

“We could not believe that an incident of such magnitude was not officially reported to the police by the IBEDC for investigation.”

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The deceased's sister, Omowunmi Olaleye, alleged that he had been receiving attacks in the office before his passing.

She also raised the alarm that the company had seized the phone of her late brother, while it also failed to reveal the identities of his colleagues who were with him at the scene of the incident.

This is as she further accused the electricity company of prevailing on the family to hastily bury him.

She said, "There was no electricity in Igbonla for more than four months before they went for the operation. Why would they switch on the electricity when the deceased was on it?

"When the staff visited the deceased's father in Akure, they came with the personal effects that were on him when he died, but they did not come with his phone, which was among the items they found on him. Initially, the staff members said he went for an unauthorised assignment, but later, they retracted it when they were confronted with contrary evidence. The IBEDC staff members are still holding onto the phone of the deceased. Also, the identities of the staff who went with him for the operation were hidden from us. Temidayo also said he had been receiving attacks in the office recently."

Omowunmi added that a subsequent call from an employee of the IBEDC after the visit was made from another number not belonging to the person, called for the immediate burial of the deceased.

"They have even decided on where to bury him without an authorisation from the deceased's father or the family," she added.

Meanwhile, the family said a petition was written to the Commissioner of Police, Kwara State Command.

Omowunmi who confirmed this however noted that the police had not shown seriousness in investigating the petition.

Reacting, the spokesperson for the IBEDC, Busolami Tunwase, said an investigation would be carried out to determine the cause of the incident adding that there were procedures that needed to be followed in a situation leading to an incident.

She said, “For cases like that, there are procedures that need to be followed. We need to know what happened because there is what we call standard operation for safety, so if a case like this happens, we must find out what and how it happened. So, an investigation has to be carried out because as a technical officer, you are not meant to go and open a feeder without ensuring a close-out on that line. So, an investigation must be carried out and the facts of the matter must be ascertained. Also, it is not in place for people you mentioned to reach out to such families. What I know will happen right now is that there will be a proper investigation.”