

# Benue transformer vandal electrocuted

4th September 2024

By John Charles

A middle-aged man, whose identity is yet to be established, was electrocuted early on Tuesday while attempting to vandalise a transformer and cables belonging to the Jos Electricity Distribution Company.

The incident occurred opposite the Queens Hotel, located at Ankpa Ward in Makurdi, the Benue State capital.

Residents awoke to find the vandal's lifeless body hanging between two poles connecting the cables to the transformer.

One of the residents, who identified himself as Terkula, told our correspondent that the victim took advantage of power outages in the area to commit the act.

He added that the man likely met his end when power was unexpectedly restored.

He said, "We woke up this morning at about 5 am and discovered that electricity had been restored in some areas and streets close to ours. So, a few of our neighbours went to check the transformer. When we arrived at the site, we found that all the cables and other installations had been removed, and we saw a lifeless body on the pole.

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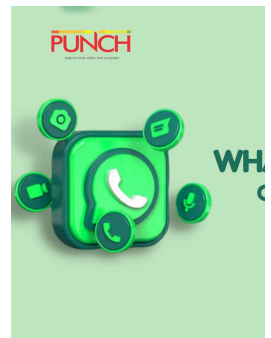
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"We promptly informed the 'D' Division Police Station, and they came to remove the body."

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When contacted, the Head of Corporate Communications at JED, Dr Adakole Elijah, confirmed the incident and condemned the activities of vandals in Benue State despite tight security around JED installations.

He said, “It has become impossible for the company to protect these assets single-handedly. That is why we are pleading with communities to take ownership of electricity facilities in their areas, as it is them that the facility serves.

“Each time our facilities are vandalised, we spend significant amounts of money to restore services, only for them to be vandalised again. While the assets belong to the company, the communities are the end users.

“Vandalism of these facilities puts communities at risk in terms of security, social, and economic benefits. We continue to plead with people, especially community policing and vigilantes, to assist in safeguarding these assets.”

The state Police Public Relations Officer, SP Catherine Anene, also confirmed the incident, saying, “I am aware that someone was electrocuted in Wadata while attempting to vandalise a transformer. I received a report about that.”

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