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## Man, 52 dies of electrocution in Ebonyi

Our Reporter

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From JEFF AMECHI AGBODO, Abakaliki

Tragedy struck yesterday in Abakaliki when a 52-year old beggar was electrocuted by a fallen naked cable of the defunct Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN). The deceased met his untimely death while trying to evacuate the fallen cable opposite St. Theresa's Catholic Church, Abakaliki with a stick.

According to an eyewitness, the tragedy occurred opposite the gate of the St. Theresa's Catholic Cathedral as the victim attempted to remove the cable so that he could make a meal.

"Beggars camp opposite this Catholic Cathedral gate and as you can see, the place where they occupy has a transformer installed on it. One of the naked cable fell off the pole and the authorities are yet to fix it after several reports were made to them."

"This death was caused by negligence and lack of rapid response by the company's field operation department," a source stated.

He said the deceased whose name was yet to be ascertained was a native of Ohaozara Local Government Area and recently relocated from Onitsha, to Abakaliki before his sudden death.

The source further advised officials of the electricity distribution company to always ensure that fallen cables either from their low or high tension poles were properly fixed to avoid loss of innocent lives.

The Police Public Relations Officer, (PPRO) Mr. Chris Anyanwu an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), who confirmed the incident said the corpse of the victim has been evacuated, while investigation into his death was still on.

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An official of the PHCN, Mr. Onwudiwe said officials of the company had been dispatched to the area to fix back the fallen cable.

According to him, "It is very unfortunate that the life of an innocent Nigerian is involved in this incident. Management sympathises with the family of the deceased and also wishing the dead peaceful repose. As we talk now, a team of our field workers have been sent to the area to fix the fallen cable," he stated.

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