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HOME / COVER / ELECTION TRAGEDY: MAN ELECTROCUTED WHILE FIXING CAMPAIGN BANNER ON ELECTRIC POLE



Election tragedy: Man electrocuted while fixing campaign banner on electric pole

By GILBERT EKEZIE

Tragedy hit the campaign team of the All Progressives Congress, APC in Oriade Local Council Development Area of Lagos State last weekend following the electrocution of one of the party faithfuls, Mr Ishola Raji. Raji was fixing a campaign banner on an electric pole at Kirikiri town.

Raji, an Okada unionist woke up on that fateful day with the intention to do more for himself, family and his preferred candidate in the political contest, little did he

know that death was lurking in the corner. While the monthly environmental sanitation exercise was going on at about 8am, the deceased and other APC supporters seized the opportunity to place the campaign banner of one of the aspirants for the office of Council Chairman across the road at Mangbesa junction. After succeeding in tying one end of the banner, they decided to tie the other end of the rope, using an aluminum ladder on the concrete pole.

Investigations revealed that the first two people who climbed the ladder to tie the rope jumped down due to fear. It was Raji who summoned the courage without the premonition that he was embarking on a journey of no return. According to an eyewitness, when the victim, popularly known as Alfa climbed the ladder, his body touched an electric cable which resulted in a serious spark that threw him off the pole, smash against a nearby roof, before he eventually landed on the ground. He was said to have sustained injuries on his forehead, while he foamed in the mouth.

While he struggled with death, some of the on-lookers, including his co-party faithful fled the scene for fear of being affected by the shock. Later, they summoned courage and reappeared to revive him. A member of Owode -Ijere Youth Forum in Kirikiri town, Mr Monday Ebofese who witnessed the incident described it as a tragedy that could have been avoided.

Narrating the story, he said "No one envisaged what really happened to Alfa. While the sanitation exercise was going on, I was inside the Baba Jebu office and saw them trying to tie the banner on that pole. Shortly after, I heard a loud spark and rushed out. When I came out, I met him on the ground with bruises all over his body. Later, his fellow APC supporters who were with him tried to revive him. They even tore his cloth in the process, but all to no avail. It was then, one man brought his car and they took him away to the hospital."

Ebofese further claimed that Raji "was the one collecting money on behalf of the Okada Union at Kirikiri town. At the same time, he was also an APC supporter and was working for a chairmanship aspirant. The banner was in his hand before he died. After the incident, they abandoned the banner and the ladder at the spot for several hours."

Another eyewitness, Mr Adelomo Esele said that in the process of reviving the victim, the APC T-Shirt he wore was torn. He was thereafter, taken to two hospitals within the area, but was rejected, before he was finally taken to Gbagada General Hospital, where he died some hours later.

The Atoyose of Kirikiri town and Apapa, Chief Kayode Ewarawon described the incident as unfortunate and regretted that the deceased who lived adjacent to his house on No 2 Ilaje Street Kirikiri was a victim.

He gave account of how he saw some young men at the Karimu 2 transformer Junction before the incident and wanted to know why they should tie the banner on an electric pole, but they tried to convince him, saying there was no problem. "When I met them trying to tie the banner, they stopped, and removed it from the road, thinking that I wanted to pass. Then, I queried why they should place the banner on the transformer, but they said there was no problem, so, I left. Unfortunately, within 15 minutes, I heard a sound. And, when I rushed to the place, I saw him on the ground with injuries all over his body. Many people also gathered at the scene. Shortly, they brought two motorbikes, and a man identified as a Pastor brought his car and they took him to the hospital. I could identify that many of the young people there then were members of APC who wanted to place the political banner of a chairmanship aspirant."

A community leader in the area, Chief Anthony Elui explained that the news of Alfa's death was shocking. "I received the news immediately it happened and before I could get there, they had already taken him away to an undisclosed hospital. In fact, the incident was a big blow to the community. It should also serve as a lesson to others."

Elui expressed concern over the consequence of the incident, pointing out that since then, power has not been restored in the area, thereby putting the residents in total darkness. He therefore, called on EKO Distribution Company to come to their rescue. "The problem has made us to continue to be in darkness because immediately it occurred, power went off and it has not been restored since then. So, the authorities should do something about that."

Also, Chairperson of Kirikiri Landlords Association, Mrs Toju Onyeanywuna, in her reaction said what happened was painful and terrible. "What happened to the man was terrible and pathetic. We have been trying our best to educate people on the danger of electricity and climbing the poles, especially those who do not know anything about electricity. Yet, many of them refused to listen. Today, what we have been telling them about has come to reality. Though the transformer in question has been down for some time, but any literate person will know that there is always power in the high tension cables. I do not know what the APC supporters were doing with high tension pole. Must they ask their members to put banner on the high tension pole? In fact, what happened is an eye opener."

She also expressed concern that officials of EKO Distribution company have refused to respond to their call. "No official of Eko Distribution Company came throughout the period of the incident. I called their PRO so that they could come and remove the ladder from the pole to avoid more deaths but her line was not through. I also called the maintenance manger and he refused to pick the calls. I also called those working with the Maintenance Manager, but none of them picked their calls. As a result, I became confused. Later when the Maintenance Manager picked my call through the DPO of Kirikiri, he told us that no official would attend to us. He snapped that if more people decided to die in the process, they were free to do so."

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Six suspected hijackers who siezed an oil tanker of the coast of Cote d Indigenou have been arrested by Nlgerian Navy

personnel. Details later... 1c.1.64.mobile-gws-hp



Nigerians pay highest tariff per kilowatt in Africa'

By Adewale Sanyaolu CONSUMER Rights Advancement Organisation (CRADO) has raised the alarm over the recent hike in electricity tariff, lamenting that Nigerians pay the highest tariff per kilowatt in Africa. A statement signed by CRADO's President, Mr. Adeolu Ogunbanjo, made available to Daily Sun, observed that before the latest hike in electricity tariff, Nigerians had...



PDP: Wabara, Juta, others demand Sheriff's resignation

•Borno backs new chairman From Taiwo Amodu, Abuja and Timothy Olanrewaju, Maiduguri FORMER Senate President, Adolphus Wabara, Ambassador Wilberforce Juta, leading a pressure group in the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), the PDP Rescue Group, has called for the resignation of National Chairman, Senator Ali Modu Sheriff. The new national chairman was appointed last week by...



Dasukigate: Metuh wants Jonathan as witness

•PDP chieftain files no case submission From Godwin Tsa, Abuja NATIONAL Publicity Secretary of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Chief Olisa Metuh, has told a Federal High Court that the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) cannot prosecute him without interrogating former President Goodluck Jonathan regarding the source of the N400 million alleged to be...



Harsh economy: Fayose urges Buhari to devalue naira

... Says FG's forex policy short-changing Nigerians, breeding corruption EKITI State Governor, Ayodele Fayose, has urged President Muhammadu Buhari to devalue the nation's currency. Fayose said: "With the gap between the official rate of N199 and open market rate of over N400 to one dollar, the naira has already been devalued." He said President Buhari...



Ayade pays February salary 10 days to month end

IN keeping with his promise to pay civil servants' monthly salaries promptly, Cross River Governor, Ben Ayade, last Friday paid February salary to workers in the state. In December 2015, salaries of workers were paid on the 15th of the month and last month's salary equally paid on the same date. This prompted some civil...

Apugo bombs TA Orji again

•Says ex-governor raped Abia By Iheanacho Nwosu ELDER statesman and member Board of Trustees (BoT) of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Chief Benjamin Benedict Apugo yesterday descended heavily on former governor of Abia State, Theodore Orji describing him as "an unrepentant liar who raped Abia state." Apugo said it was surprising that the Economic and...

Another Boko Haram kingpin arrested

• 2 intercepted at IDP camp THE military has arrested two men for sneaking into Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camp in Borno State. Lately, suicide bombers hit IDPs camps, leading to the loss of lives. This is even as a Boko Haram kingpin was arrested by Civilian JTF. In one of such explosions on February...

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Manufacturers want Trade, Investment Ministry separated

By Louis Iba LOCAL manufacturers are seeking an end to the merger of the real sector with the Trade and Investment Ministry manned by a cabinet minister. According to the manufacturers, the circumstances that led to the merger on the orders of former President Goodluck Jonathan was to allow a harmonious and mutually beneficial relationship...



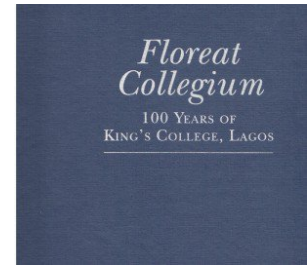
Nanka agog as natives celebrate last Ofala for monarch

It was a mini-carnival of sorts recently as the people of Nanka in Orumba North Local Government Area of Anambra State celebrated the last Ofala for their late traditional ruler, Igwe Gilbert Nwabueze Ofomata.



I didn't expect to be king –Oba Odunayo Ajayi, Elerinmo of Erinmo-Ijesa

By Yinka Fabowale King Michael Odunayo Ajayi is the Elerinmo of Erinmo-Ijesa, Osun State. Until two years ago when he was drafted by his people to ascend the throne of his forbearers, he was an industrialist based in Ghana. In this interview, the first class monarch reflects on his journey to the throne, stressing...



Floreat Collegium: Chronicles of King's College, Lagos

Floreat Collegium: 100 Years of King's College, Lagos, is the title of a book produced by the King's College Old Boys' Association (KCOBA). Published by Third Millenium, the 240-page, book in the colour of the college and with a high picture quality, was published to mark 100 years of the establishment of King's College (KC)...

EDUCATION REVIEW



Mid-session transfer of teachers professionally wrong, says Lagos NUT Chairman

Mr Segun Raheem, Chairman, Lagos Wing of the Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT), on Sunday described the recent mid-session transfer of secondary school teachers by the Lagos State Government as "professionally wrong". Raheem told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Lagos that the mid-session transfer was against the ethics of teaching. He said the...

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