

Workers shut Edo Coca-cola plant over colleague's death

FROM TONY OSAUZO,
BENIN

Casual workers of the Nigeria Bottling Company on Friday shut the company's plant at Eyan in Uhumwode Local Government Area of Edo State following the death of one of their colleagues, Jerry Ayo.

Joined by relatives of the deceased, the protesters alleged that 21-year old Jerry died as a result of electrocution while at work. They barricaded the company's gate and set-up bonfires.

The protesters also prevented other workers from gaining access into the building and vowed to continue the protest until the company issued a statement on what happened to Jerry.

They said they had complained severally about electric leakages at the plant, but the management simply told them to go if they were tired of working.

Jerry was reportedly em-

ployed as casual worker at the Coca-Cola plant on the 20th of last month.

According to his uncle, Michael, Jerry left home healthy but was brought back dead.

"His friends told us the production factory has leakages of electricity. They took the boy to their clinic without the consent of the family", he said.

One of Jerry's colleagues, Goodluck Osawe, said the deceased did not know there were electric leakages in the plant, adding "he was in coma and they did not tell us".

Confirming Jerry's death in a statement, Head, Public Affairs and Communications of the company, Uzo Odenigbo, said he died on the way to the hospital after having seizure while at work.

He expressed the company's sympathy to the family and said investigation as to the cause of the incident has commenced.