

must Mob beats Venezuela lawmakers Torres extends Atletico

HOME METRO AND CRIME EXPLOSION: SON DIES, JOURNALIST, FOUR FAMILY MEMBERS HOSPITALISED



Explosion: Son dies, journalist, four family members hospitalised

...victims need N15m for surgeries

Five family members of the Vice President of Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN), South-South Zone, Comrade Eddie Bekon, are now in critical condition at the Plastic Surgery Department of Federal Teaching Hospital, Abakaliki (FETHA 2) after cooking gas explosion from a neighbour in their building at Ikom, Cross River State. Bekon's three-year-old boy has died following severe burns from the explosion.

The incident occurred on Sunday night. Bekon and his family members were sleeping in their apartment when their neighbour's gas cooker exploded.

The neighbour and his own family, who were still awake when the incident occurred, sustained injuries. But Bekon and his family were badly hit as they sustained severe burns. Bekon, who works with Ikom Broadcasting Corporation, and his family members, need N15 million for surgeries, according to FETHA management.

The bill is expected to rise as treatment of the victims progresses.

The two families affected by the disaster were taken to FETHA, Ebonyi State for medical attention on Monday after being resuscitated in a private hospital in Ikom. Speaking with our correspondent at FETHA, Bekon's brother, Ramsome Bekon, said he was told that the gas cooker exploded in his brother's neighbour's apartment. He said: "I am calling on government and public spirited individuals to come to my brother's aid because the hospital bill is too high. In this incident, my brother has already lost a child; remaining five of them.

"Each day in this hospital, they are charging N50,000 per victim. Even the one that died, they demanded N86,000 before

the corpse could be released to us.

The hospital management said that treatment of each of the victims will cost N1.5 million for now and that if they stay longer than they supposed to stay, it will increase.”

Ramsome said anyone wanted to assist could donate money into First Bank account – 2016562671 – opened in the name Bekon Peter. The FETHA Chief Medical Director, Dr. Emeka Onwe, who described the conditions of the victims as critical, called on government and public-spirited individuals to come to the aid of the victims.