

Cable thief electrocuted in Abuja

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A suspected cable thief was electrocuted yesterday while attempting to vandalise a transformer in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja.

Witnesses said the middle-aged man, whose identity was still unknown at press time, had hardly accessed the transformer, when he got electrocuted.

The incident occurred on Kalabari Road in Karu, a satellite town in Abuja.

One of the witnesses, who gave his name simply as Dave, said the suspect ascended the transformer about 4a.m. yesterday, during power outage in the area.

Luck ran out on him when, shortly after climbing the transformer, power was restored, leading to his death.

"I leave a few metres from the scene. I can tell you that this thing happened about 4a.m.

"What attracted my attention to this place was the loud noise, which followed the act of sabotage by the man, who is now lying stone dead.

"He took advantage of power outage around the area, to carry out the wicked act, which ended up consuming him.

"The current from the high-tension wires, just dried him up as soon as he was hit," Dave said.

Another witness, who refused to give his name, said officials of the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC), whose office is located less than 500 metres from the scene, brought down the body.

They went to the scene with some policemen from Karu Division.

"The man came to steal transformer cables, when there was no light, but power was suddenly restored.

"AEDC officials came here with policemen to take his body to the police station," the witness said.

A police officer, who spoke with our correspondent on the development, confirmed that the charred remains were brought to the station.

"The body is in our station right now. He climbed the pole in the morning, and was electrocuted," the inspector said.

Efforts to get official reaction from the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Police

Command failed, as its spokesperson, DSP Anjuguri Manza, ignored several calls put through to his phone.

He was yet to reply to a message sent to his mobile line.



The man's body.
PHOTO: NAN