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3 electrocuted on Easter Sunday in Benin

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NO fewer than three persons were electrocuted on Easter Sunday, at Andrew Wilson Housing Estate, on Sapele road in Benin City, the Edo state capital, following the explosion of a Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) transformer in the area.

Among persons reported killed were a pensioner, Mr. Isaac Ojor Legogie, a relation of former deputy Senate President, Albert Legogie, an 18-year-old girl simply identified as Miss Lizzy Adogamhe and a yet-to-be identified middle aged man.

Eldest son of the late Legogie, Mr. Benjamin Legogie, said on Monday, that there was pandemonium at the estate following the explosion of the PHCN transformer serving the estate

"There was explosion at the PHCN transformer in the estate and there was fire at the step-down and the transformer. We learnt that the circuit breakers that would have prevented the occurrence of fire were removed before now for no reasons by PHCN officials. The absence of the circuit breakers led to the re-direction of current to all houses in the estate.

"So, all the electrical appliances in all the houses in the area were on fire. There was pandemonium in the area and people were running helter scatter and my father in the process of going to assist a neighbor to put out the fire that engulfed his house ran into a pool of water and he was electrocuted.

"Apart from my father, an 18-year-old girl, simply identified as Lizzy Adogamhe, was electrocuted while trying to take something from the refrigerator in her house. The PHCN officials were called in and they simply came and remove the fuse in the transformers and left," Benjamin Legogie said.

According to him, "It is regrettable that until now no official of the PHCN has come to even commiserate with the families of those who either lost their lives nor claimed responsibility for what happened. We are demanding that PHCN should be held responsible for the deaths and must pay compensation to the family of the deceased in addition to offering a public apology to us."

Contacted, the Public Relations Officer of the Edo state Police Command, Mr. Peter Ogboi said that he was yet to be briefed by the Divisional Police Officer in charge of Etete Police station, the area where the explosion occurred, just as he promised to investigate the issue.

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