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17 October 2008

Posted to the web 17 October 2008

Chidi Nkwopara
Owerri

A FOUR-year old nursery school pupil has been electrocuted at Umuoma Irete in the Owerri West Local Government Area of Imo State.

Vanguard investigations revealed that Uche Onyirioha wanted to join other children to fetch water from a nearby borehole for family use but was advised to go back home.

It was further gathered that apparently oblivious of a naked public power supply line lying at an electric pole near their house, Uche stepped on the electrified base of the pole.

An eye witness, who pleaded anonymity, lamented that he saw the little boy as he fell on the ground, writhing in pain and crying for help.

"The electrifying effect had firmly seized the little boy. He could not extricate himself from the firm grip, while his two feet were ablaze," the aggrieved man recounted.

He was particularly irked that despite several appeals to officials of Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) to fix the snapped wire, none of them cared to correct the damage.

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team was despatched to the scene.

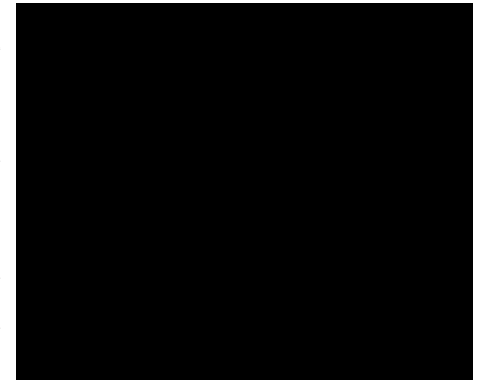
It was also gathered that the Owerri Business Office of PHCN only reacted to the sordid incident when a member of the Owerri West local council Transition Committee, Mr. Izu Duru, complained angrily and a technical

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