

SOUTH-EAST

PHCN staff electrocuted in Imo

By Chidi Nkwopara

OWERRI—WORKERS of Mbaïse Business Unit of Power Holden Company of Nigeria, PHCN, were, Monday evening, thrown into deep mourning as one of their colleagues who was working on a high tension wire at Obeama Enyogugu was electrocuted.

Vanguard investigations revealed that the deceased PHCN staff was already on top of the high tension pole and working to rectify a fault when suddenly public power was restored.

The deceased, whose identity could not be ascertained at press time, was rushed to a nearby private hospital in Mbaïse but died same evening.

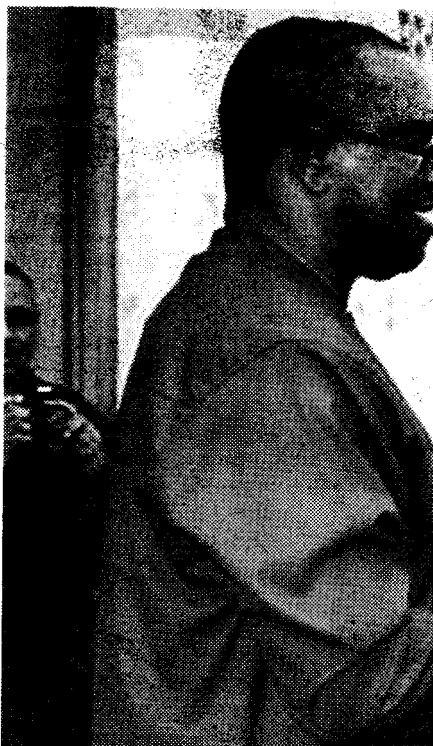
Sympathisers at the scene, who spoke to *Vanguard* on strict grounds of anonymity, reasoned that another PHCN staff that was not aware of the scheduled work may have turned on power.

When contacted on his mobile telephone, Public Relations Manager of Owerri Business Unit, Mr. Ositadinma Ugwuafor, referred *Vanguard* to the Mbaïse Business Unit where the staff was posted before his death.

Reacting to the sad event, the Manager, Mbaïse Business Unit, Mr. Jude Oguadinma, said the deceased took all the necessary precautions before embarking on the job.

“He had his hand gloves and shoes on. He used the plastic ladder given to us by headquarters. I really don’t know what happened,” Oguadinma said.

Affirming that his body was not burnt as in cases of electrocution, the Mbaïse PHCN boss also said that he had already informed members of the late man’s family.



TOURISM: Governor Peter Obi of Anambra State (2nd right) during a courtesy call to the Governor of Imo State, Nicholas Oko.

Chieftaincy 5

By Tony Edike

ENUGU—THE traditional ruler of Amechi Idodo in Nkanu East Local Government Area of Enugu State, Igwe Joseph Ngene, and five other natives of the community, have been arrested over the chieftaincy tussle that led to a bloody clash which claimed one life and property worth millions of Naira yesterday.

The victim, whose identity could not be ascertained at press time, was allegedly killed by supporters of the royal father during a fight with some natives opposed to his selection as Igwe of the autonomous community.

The emergence of Ngene, a.k.a Warmonger, who is said to be a retired personnel of Nigerian Navy, as traditional ruler of Amechi Idodo al-

legedly won the support of the entire community, has been causing various groups to protest.

Protests

Hundreds of people in the community staged a protest against the Government, urging Governor Chime to look into the matter and annul the appointment of Igwe Ngene to the position. The protest was allegedly violent and led to the death of one person.

Death, burial of Igwe's father

Sources in the community said that the death of Igwe's father, who was a traditional ruler, led to a power struggle between different factions. The death of the father was a significant event in the community, and it led to a series of protests and clashes.