

News

**N384bn
benefit:
Labour
alleges 12
PHCN staff
kidnapped**

BY VICTOR AHU-
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ORGANISED Labour in the nation's power sector weekend in Abuja, raised alarm that no fewer than four workers of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria, PHCN, have been killed while 12 others have been kidnapped, with several others injured in less than two weeks after the Federal Government announced the release and payment of N384billion alleged workers' terminal benefits.

The union under the umbrella of the National Union of Electricity Employees, NUEE, claimed the said amount was not only fictitious, but used to deceive investors that labour issues had been resolved for them to sign agreement with government.

At a briefing on the outcome of the union's National Executive Council, NEC, meeting, the union handed down a two-week ultimatum to the Federal Government to among others, withdraw the announcement of what the union called N384billion terminal benefits, including the use of "sacked workers" to describe PHCN staff failing which the sector will be shut down from March 15, 2013.

Speaking on behalf of the union, its General Secretary,

Man, 30, beheads father in Ebonyi

● Over alleged prophesy from a pastor

BY PETER OKUTU

ABAKALIKI—EBONYI State Police command, weekend, said it had arrested a middle-aged farmer, Okechukwu Ogbonna, who allegedly severed the head of his 60-year-old father, Ogbonnaya Okereke over alleged mystic issues.

Vanguard gathered that the incident which took place around 5:30 pm last Saturday at Isundiede village in Izzi Local Government Area of the state saw the 30-year-old suspect, who returned from Church, brought out a machete and proceeded to attack his defenceless father in their residence.

Okechukwu, it was learnt, carried out the attack following a prophesy he received from the Pastor of a Pentecostal church (name withheld) who allegedly told him that his father was spiritually manipulating his destiny, thereby making it impossible for him to make progress in life like his mates.

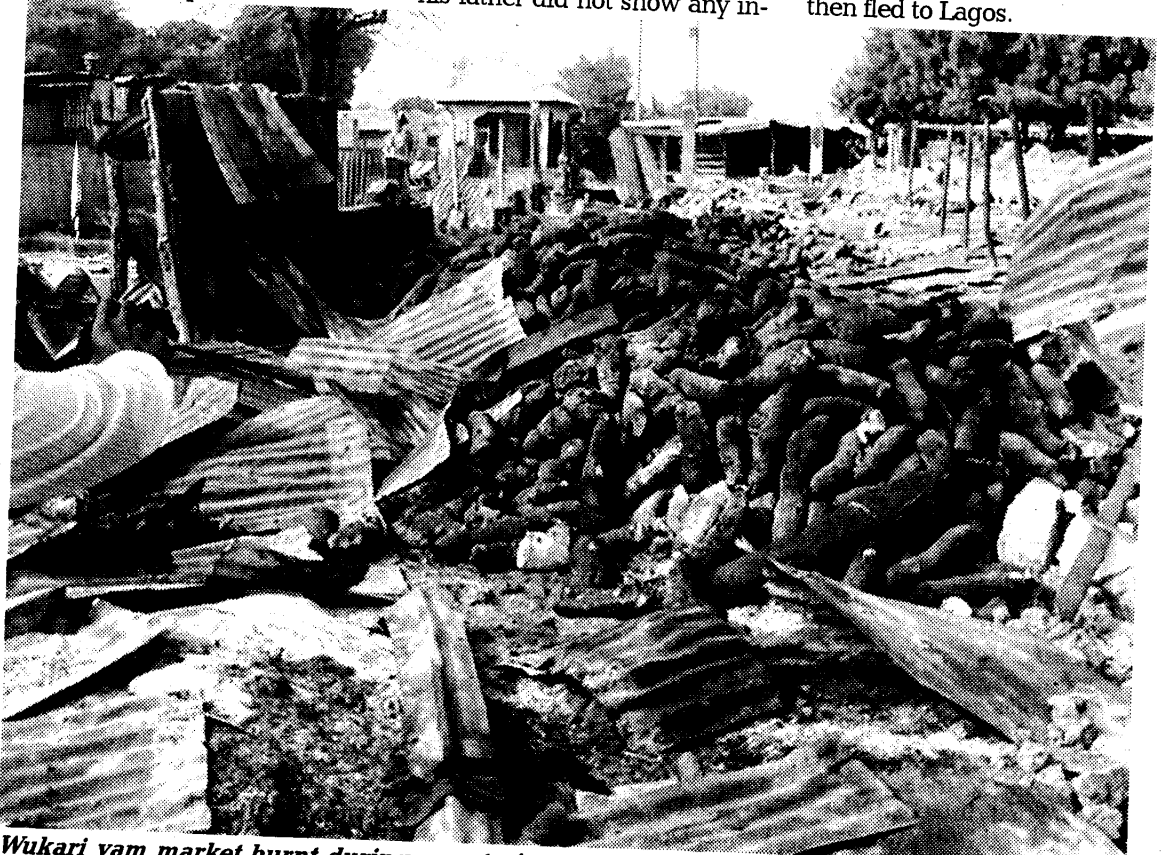
However, sources close to the family revealed that the suspect before committing the dastardly act had displayed animosity against his father for not sending him to school or showing any interest in his future.

Confirming the arrest of the suspect, Ebonyi State Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Sylvester Igbo, stated that the body of the deceased had since been deposited at a mortuary while investigations were on to unravel the identity of the pastor.

"When the suspect was arrested he said he took the action because of the prophesy he received from a pastor that his father was manipulating his destiny and that the reason he also committed the act was because his father did not show any in-

terest in training him in school."

It was also gathered that barely two weeks ago at 1 Elias Street, Abakaliki, a middle-aged woman and a school teacher, Mrs. Joy Uchaji allegedly killed her two children with a machete then fled to Lagos.



Wukari yam market burnt during a sectarian crisis in Taraba State. Photo: NAN.

Police arrest 70 over murder of LASU student, Damoche

BY IFEANYI OKOLIE &
DONALD ARJI

Consequently, students of more students, stated that the