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How my wife died in kerosene explosion in Enugu

— Husband

By Ikechukwu Odu

NSUKKA—A 42-year-old man, Jude Ezugwu, of Eha-Alumona in Nsukka Local Government Area of Enugu State, yesterday, narrated how his late wife, Rachael, had woken his household for morning prayers before she lost her life to kerosene explosion.

Ezugwu, a father of two, explained that his deceased wife had tried to lit a kerosene lantern in readiness for the prayers when the suspected adulterated product exploded, snuffing life out of her in the process.

He noted that for their timely

responses, the whole household would have been consumed in the inferno, adding that his sister-in-law, identified as Chinonye, who was also severely burnt by the explosion, nearly lost her life too.

Ezugwu explained that the explosion reduced all his property to ashes, adding that he was also burnt while he tried to save his late wife from the incident.

In an interview with *Vanguard*, he said: "I bought kerosene from a petrol station few days before the incident at Nsukka town. We didn't use it the day it was bought because we had electric light.

"However, there was no light on that fateful day, July 23, 2021, and my wife reached for the kerosene to fill the lantern in readiness for our morning

prayers.

"Before then, she had woken everybody up for the prayers. This happened around 5 am. However, in the process of lighting the lantern, it exploded, causing her severe bodily injuries, which eventually took her dear life.

"In the state of confusion, I immediately rolled her out of the parlour while also trying to rescue my two daughters and my sister-in-law, who was newly married and was attending the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, UNN, from my house.

"I raised the alarm, which attracted the attention of neighbours and they helped me in moving my household to the Bishop Shanahan Hospital in Nsukka metropolis, from where we were referred to Enugu urban where

my wife eventually died.

"I lost everything to the incident because my property was burnt to ashes."

It would be recalled that some families in Aku, Igbo-Etiti Local Government Area of the state were also affected by the explosions caused by the suspected adulterated kerosene. The incident at Aku has already resulted in two deaths while at least four victims are still receiving medical attention at various hospitals at Enugu metropolis.

This development has prompted the state governor, Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi, to charge the Department of Petroleum Resource, DPR, and other relevant government agencies to investigate and determine those responsible for bringing the harmful kerosene into the state for prosecution.

Court recommended