

Lightning kills 3 students, injures 6 in Anambra

LIGHTNING has killed three Senior Secondary School, SS3, students in Awka South Local Government Area of Anambra State, on Saturday, according to the News Agency of Nigeria, NAN.

An eye witness said that the lightning struck nine male students who were playing football with their peers on the school's pitch barefooted.

"The students were practicing on the football pitch with their coach in preparation for a football tournament.

"The coach had ended the training session before the rain started, but some of the students stayed behind to continue playing football.

"Lightning, accompanied by claps of thunderstorm suddenly enveloped the area and the boys were struck in the process.

"A teacher heard the students screaming and running. He ran to the field and saw at least nine students trembling and jerking on the turf.

"That was when he raised the alarm and people gathered to help. The boys were immediately rushed to the school clinic, from where they were taken to a hospital in Awka.

"Six of the nine boys were resuscitated and are currently receiving treatment, but three did not survive. Their parents have been contacted," the witness told NAN.

A resident, Mrs Hope Egwu, told NAN that the news of the accident went around on Sunday and everyone had been

held spellbound.

At the hospital in Awka, parents and sympathizers trooped into the ward where the survivors were receiving treatment.

A doctor, who requested anonymity, told NAN that three out of the nine boys were brought into the hospital dead, but six others were revived.

"As of now, the parents of two of the dead boys have taken the corpses away, while one is still in

the mortuary.

"It is sad that they were playing on the field barefooted. If they had boots on, the impact of the lightning would probably have been minimised," he said.

When contacted, a police spokesman in Anambra, DSP Tochukwu Ikenga, said the incident had not been reported to the police.

Speaking on the incident, Prof. Chukwudi Okani, Consultant

Pathologist at the Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Teaching Hospital, Awka, said it was a natural disaster and not spiritual.

Okani said lightning could kill by electrocution through direct strike, side splash, or ground current strike.

He advised that people should install thunder arrestors in their buildings to stave off electrical currents in the event of lightning.

Politicians leaving PDP worked against guber election —Chairman

By Peter Okutu

ABAKALIKI—EBONYI State chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, yesterday, alleged that its members, who recently decamped to the All Progressives Congress, APC, were individuals who worked against the interests of the PDP during the last governorship election in the state.

Disclosing this in a statement, the Chairman of PDP, Ebonyi State, Dr. Augustine Nwazunku, stated that the decamping of PDP members to APC was of no consequence to the party, describing their action as "good riddance."

According to him: "We condemn this politics of crass opportunism founded on the proverbial stomach infrastructure. For Nigerian democratic politics to grow and develop, the dangerous

tendencies represented by the likes of Ogba and their social prostitute types must be exposed and decimated."

Reacting, Mr. Godfrey Chikwere, the media Aide to Senator Obinna Ogba, noted that "Any response any Journalist or political party is looking for from Senator Ogba on his resignation as a member of PDP is contained in his resignation letter dated 27th, October 2023.

Continuing, the PDP Chairman added: "The attention of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Ebonyi State has been drawn to the latest ignoble campaign of calumny mounted by a few political renegades who betrayed the party during the last 2023 general elections.

"These elements, led by one Sen. Obinna Ogba have since then capitalized on their shameless treacherous capitulation to embark on a series

of endless opportunistic activities to make themselves appear important.

"Ogba is indulging in politics of wilful cynicism devoid of moral considerations. To them, honesty of purpose is old-fashioned. He is committed to hedonistic political behaviour based on Pharaonic self-love.

"His decision to leave PDP for APC is because he failed to win the PDP GUBER primaries in 2022. This is a concrete manifestation of wilful political anarchism, syndicalism, individualism, and personality cultism.

"We in the PDP had decided to forge ahead without the distractions of these planted fifth-columnists but they are making the process of leaving PDP for the APC become an endless programme of stage-managed noise-making."

"A few months ago, when Sen. Obinna Ogba opened his private radio station in Abakaliki, he invited APC big wigs including