

NSCDC commences investigation as gas explosion kills 5 in Imo

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OWERRI—THE Imo State Command of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, NSCDC, yesterday, said that it has commenced investigation into the gas explosion at Umuoma Nekede in Owerri West local government which was said to have killed five persons.

The command's state Public Relations Officer, PRO, Chimesiri Lowell confirmed this to *Vanguard* in

Owerri, adding that based on preliminary investigation, the explosion occurred during the discharging of gas products of Tiengo Gas plant last week.

The PRO said the NSCDC commandant, Raji Ibrahim, had visited the scene where they got a report based on which they are now carrying out their investigation to ascertain the actual number of those affected.

This is as community sources told *Vanguard* that five persons died but

NSCDC said it was told that four people died.

The PRO also said they discovered that the owner of the gas station is now at large and at the time of the visit, nobody was seen at the gas plant.

According to NSCDC: "A source we met on ground said that four people died in the explosion.

"They were discharging gas and in the process, there was leakage and incidentally there was fire and it exploded to the neighboring houses. When

we got there, we could not find anybody.

"The deputy governor, Placid Njoku had visited the place and even condemned the citing of the gas plant in a residential area. He condemned it completely.

"On our side, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, NSCDC, investigation has commenced. We are trying to get the owner of the gas plant because so many of the staff are at large. Our investigation among other things is to know what really caused the incident."

Court declines to stay