



## **NIGERIAN ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**NERC/DIRECTIVE/166**

### **COMMISSION'S DIRECTIVE ON THE ISSUE OF THE ELECTROCUTION OF**

### **MRS. BLESSING OKANLAWON AT OKE-IRA LAGOS**

To:

The Managing Director,  
Ikeja Electricity Distribution Plc (IKEDC),  
Obafemi Awolowo Way,  
Alausa, Ikeja  
Lagos State.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Pursuant to Section 62 (7) and 75 of the Electric Power Sector Reform (EPSR) Act 2005 and Regulations 5, 6, 7 (7) and 11 of the NERC Electricity Industry (Enforcement) Regulations 2014, the Commission commenced an investigation into the electrocution of Mrs. Blessing Okanlawon at Shokoya Street, off Dapson Street, Oke – Ira, Lagos on October 18, 2016, which is under the jurisdiction of Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company (IKEDC) Plc, for non compliance with the provisions of the EPSR Act, 2005, the Terms and Conditions of IKEDC's Distribution Licence, Nigerian Electricity Supply and Installation Standards (NESIS) Regulation, 2015, Nigerian Electricity Health and safety Code, 2014, and other Regulatory Instruments of the Commission.

#### **SUMMARY OF FACTS/FINDINGS**

1. On October 5, 2016, the Commission received a notification from Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company (IKEDC), of an accident that occurred on October 5, 2016,

at No. 9 Shokoya Street, off Dapson Street, Oke – Ira, Lagos, which led to the electrocution of a woman later identified as Mrs. Blessing Okanlawon.

2. The Commission's Investigation Team commenced an investigation into the incidence on October 18, 2016.
3. The investigation revealed that Customers at Shokoya Street observed an electrical spark from the 50kVA pole mounted Transformer and the 11kV Jumper snapped, which caused the D Fuse at the Substation to shatter.
4. The four houses affected by the spark had bare Conductors used for earthing of the channel iron, which was directly linked to the earthing of the Distribution Substation Equipment (Transformer and Feeder Pillar) through a common earth rod, thereby sending High Voltage through the Low Tension (LT) network to homes of several electricity consumers in the area.
5. This led to multiple sparks at the Customers end, thereby sending inhabitants into panic. In an attempt to switch off appliances, the victim got in contact with induced 11kV on 415/240V Low Tension, in the process of trying to unplug her Refrigerator from the wall socket and got electrocuted.
6. The deceased's son, Master Taiwo Okanlawon received Electric shock in an attempt to rescue his mother, Mrs. blessing Okanlawon. He was rushed to the Hospital for medical treatment, and was subsequently discharged.
7. The Commission's Investigation Team concluded that the incident of October 5, 2016 was a clear manifestation of the combination of:
  - a) Over –Voltage as a result of snapped Neutral of the Service Cable.
  - b) Long period of sustained arcing due to lack of fault protective Switchgear which would have operated to isolate the supply.



- c) The Service Cable (16mm<sup>2</sup> Recline) had multiple joints that reduced its integrity – It snapped and made contact with a leaking Metal Water Pipe.
- d) Lack of proper protection and earthing of all the buildings fed by the 50kVA Transformer.
8. The Investigation also found that, the accident could have been averted or minimised had the building occupied by the victim been properly protected and earthed.
9. The accident could have been averted if the Service cables supplying electricity to the building did not have multiple joints, which impacted on its integrity.
10. When the Neutral link snapped and made contact with the metal water pipe in the building; it bridged other phases and caused serious arcing thereby burning electronic gadgets and part of the building the deceased occupies, as well as some of her neighbours in No. 4, 6, 7 and 9 of Shokoya Street, off Dapson Street, Oke – Ira, Lagos.
11. The combination of all the above factors, led to the death of late Mrs. Blessing Okanlawon.

#### **VIOLATIONS:**

The following are the violations/infractions:

- **Section 5.4.2.5 of the Nigerian Electricity Supply and Installation Standards (NESIS) Regulation, 2015** which stipulates that; Licensee shall be responsible for all electric lines and apparatus placed by them on the premises of a consumer, either belonging to the Licensee or under its control (whether forming the whole or part of the consumer installation or not). Being installed and mentioned in a safe condition and suitable for the respective purposes, and being so fixed and protected, as to prevent leakage to any adjacent metal.



**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

In view of the above findings, the Commission is convinced that IKEDC is in clear violation of the provisions enumerated above, and hereby directs as follows:

- a. IKEDC shall ensure that all houses fed by the Transformer are properly wired, using certified personnel and in line with the provisions of Chapter 11, of the NESIS Regulations, 2015.
- b. IKEDC should ensure that Networks monitoring effort is increased and effective, to identify problem areas within its Networks, to avoid any future reoccurrence.
- c. IKEDC shall make efforts to identify the families of late Mrs. Blessing Okanlawon with a view to paying adequate compensation to the family, under the Third Party Insurance provisions of Part V Section 5.2 of the Nigerian Health and Safety Code.
- d. IKEDC shall notify the Commission of its compliance with this Directive, within thirty (30) days from the date of this Directive.
- e. **Take Note that this Directive is without prejudice to other enforcement powers of the Commission, as contained in its extant Laws, Rules and Regulations.**

**THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE COMMISSION IS HEREBY AFFIXED**

**BY THE DIRECTIVE OF THE COMMISSION**

**Dated 1<sup>st</sup> Day of February, 2017**



**Dr. Anthony Akah, mni  
Chairman/CEO**



**Mrs. Olufunke Dinneh  
General Manager  
Legal, Licensing & Enforcement**

