

# Man dies during Passion of Christ rehearsal in Cross River



**By Emma Una**

**A Mass Communication graduate, Michael Obeten, a Passion of Christ actor, died on Good Friday while teaching youths how to act the part, when a local firework meant for effect malfunctioned and shot him dead.**

**The tragic incident occurred at Holy Cross Catholic Church Ugep, in Ugep Local Government Area, Cross River State. Obeten is a dedicated member of the church.**

**Obeten, who had played Jesus Christ in 2023 and 2024, was coaching young actors during the passion play this year when the incident happened.**

**At station 12, where Jesus dies on the cross, a local bomb known as “oginigbo”, meant to create a thunder effect malfunctioned. Its sharp iron struck Obeten’s head.**

**He fell, and despite initial thoughts that he was acting, blood gushing from his head, nose, and mouth revealed the severity of the situation.**

**Obeten, wearing a black shirt, black trousers, and a baseball cap, was assisting actors with microphones, paint, and other needs when the accident occurred.**

**The incident left the clergy, church members and the entire community in mourning throughout the Easter period.**

**The Rev Father incharge Holy Cross Catholic Church said he had nothing to say about the incident. "It has happened. God knows best," he said.**