

80-yr-old woman killed in Abia storm

JAYNE UCHE-UKONNE,
Aba

AN eighty-year-old woman, **Madam Keziah Nwambu,** was last Friday killed inside **her house by wind storm** that ravaged her community, **Umuokpara in Owaza, Ukwa** **West Local Government Area,** Abia State during a heavy rain in the area.

The wind storm also destroyed over fifty houses in the community, including two churches and one classroom block built by the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in one of the primary schools.

Some of the houses, including the one where the aged woman died, were completely pulled down, while others had their roofs blown off or parts of the houses damaged.

When *Daily Champion* visited the community Sunday afternoon, members of the community had just completed the burial of the aged woman beside her collapsed house that killed her.

Her son, Mr. Cyprain Nwambu told *Daily Champion* that he returned from a burial ceremony he attended at a nearby village to find their house pulled down by the wind storm and that when he looked around he saw his mother trapped down the collapsed house dead.

He explained that his late mother, probably due to old age, could not run out when the wind storm started and others ran out from their houses as the storm was pulling down houses.

Traditional ruler of the

community, Eze Young Wogu, lamented the disaster that befell them, adding that this was the first time such would happen in their area.

As the affected persons now squat with their relatives, one of them, a widow, Mrs. Helen Nwogu, aged about seventy,

has appealed to Abia State Government, organizations and public spirited persons to come to her aid and that of her six daughters.

Mrs. Nwogu said she was making the appeal because she has nobody to assist her and her children with a place to lay their heads.

Cleric offers recipe for peaceful transition

DELE OGUNYEMI, Ibadan

AN Islamic cleric and the Aare Adeen Tijaniyyat of Yorubaland, Prophet Usman Sabitu has called on all Nigerians to repent from their sins and adopt positive attitude to the polity saying it is the major panacea to a peaceful and benevolent transition as the April general elections draw near.

Addressing journalists in Ibadan over the weekend, the Islamic priest predicted that "if Nigerians could repent from their sins and also hearken to the commandments of God Almighty, the nation is destined to become a holy land for pilgrimage like Saudi Arabia and Israel."

According to him, the Lord had made some revelations to him in a vision recently that He would soon change the fortunes of the country for the better only if the nationals repent from their sins and follow His path.

While maintaining that the root cause of the woes of the country is idol worship which he traced to FESTAC 77, the Islamic cleric posited that Allah abhors idol worshipping saying that "Allah

is angry because His intention is to make Nigeria a holy land. He wants people all over the world to come to Nigeria and worship Him, both Christians and Moslems."

He declared: "That is the command from the Almighty Allah. If we obey this commandment, there will be abundant blessings in this country. The blessings that will come to this country because of our obedience and repentance will now attract people from all over the world to come and worship in our holy mosques and churches. By this action, our country will attract foreigners who will be seeking repentance and blessings from Almighty Allah.

"The influx of foreigners will be so much that the country will soon turn to another holy land for pilgrimage. The money we will realize from the venture will soon overtake the oil money in this country. The Almighty Allah is giving us this blessing because our oil will soon dry up. So, the message Almighty Allah sent me to our leaders is to warn them to repent and follow the path laid down. Without repentance, we cannot move forward and our problems and woes will multiply."