

# Boy, 16, dies of snake bite in Bayelsa

THE Agbia Community in Gbarain in Yenagoa Local Government Area of Bayelsa was thrown into mourning yesterday following the death of a 16 year-old boy from snake bite.

A witness told newsmen that the deceased, simply identified as Saviour, in company of four others, went to the forest to hunt for snails on Sunday night as that was one of late Saviour's means of raising money. It was gathered that it was while in the bush that he trampled on the head of a snake that bit him. The witness said it was

his scream that attracted his colleagues, who rushed to the scene and carried him home.

It was further learnt that Saviour was immediately rushed to the Niger Delta University Teaching Hospital for treatment and discharged from the hospital the next day, but later died at home.

Many residents of the community blamed the hospital for Saviour's death, accusing it of poor treatment.

The late Saviour was an Senior Secondary School III student, who usually assisted

himself in school with proceeds from fishing and snail hunting.

Some persons, who spoke to newsmen, attributed the death of the boy to the poor handling of the case and inadequate medical care facilities, and called on government to equip hospitals to avert such incidents in the future.

The correspondent, who visited the boy's mother, Mrs Nengyefa Wilcox, reports that she could not speak because of trauma, and that she was being monitored by relatives who came to sympathise with her. (NAN)