

Man electrocuted while trimming trees on church premises in Benue

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A young man identified as Lortim Richard was electrocuted in Gboko on Monday while cutting down branches of a mango tree.

The incident, according to an eyewitness, occurred on the premises of a church known as The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints located at Kontien, Gboko South Area of Benue State.

An eyewitness who simply identified himself as Lubem told the **Nigerian Tribune** that the man climbed the mango tree after the resident pastor had asked him to trim a branch of the tree and was electrocuted.

He said: "This man just returned from an errand to the bank for the resident pastor of the church, and he was asked to trim the mango tree

from the top.

"I learnt he initially felt reluctant but since it was an order from the resident pastor, he had no other choice than to obey.

"So, he was trimming a tree and accidentally hit a power line and got electrocuted and hung on the tree until they brought his corpse down."

Lubem said the death of the young man could have triggered crisis, but for the prompt intervention of policemen.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, DSP, Catherine Anene, confirmed the incident.

"Incident confirmed. Victim was said to have climbed a tree within the church premises to cut down some tree branches when he got electrocuted. Investigation is in progress," Anene said in a terse statement.