

coming from Ekiti State.

political parties.

# Mob lynches suspected witch in Benin

**Emmanuel Obe, Benin**

A mob, on Wednesday, lynched a woman believed to be a witch at Second West Circular Road, Benin.

This happened a day after a midnight fire destroyed a building in the same area.

The victim of the lynching was said to have confessed to being on an astral journey when she ran short of energy.

She was beaten and taken to the popular Five Junction where she was stoned and burnt by the crowd which cheered as she burned.

Some of those who witnessed the killing said the woman claimed to be a native of Kwale in Delta State. No mention was made about her family in Benin City.

The incident came about a year after a young man who claimed to be on a similar journey was killed by a mob on Airport Road.

The burnt building housed furniture shops, a restaurant and a provision store. The entire building was brought down to ruins.

The Edo State Fire Service which came to the scene late, however, succeeded in preventing the fire from

spreading to nearby buildings.

The cause of the fire was yet to be ascertained. People in the neighbourhood ruled out electrical faults as they said public power supply was disconnected in the area the previous day.

## Harvest outbreaks

**Kunle Adeyemi**

BETWEEN December 29, 2006 and January 3 this year, no fewer than six fire disasters have been recorded in the Lagos metropolis.

On January 1, a storey building at Abule-Ira road, Ijanikin was on fire, killing the man believed to have ignited the fire.

It was learnt that the victim, Okwudeli Onwunene, a tenant in the building, was putting fuel into his generator when the fire erupted.

Onwunene was said to be the only victim of the fire incident, but the whole building was razed before help could come.

Similarly, a fire that started at about 2pm on Wednesday, consumed a part of the fish market at Ijora-Olopa.