

# Labourer electrocuted in Rivers

**Chukwudi Akasike,  
Port Harcourt**

**B**ARELY three weeks after an electrician was electrocuted in Orije area of Port Harcourt, an unidentified man believed to be in his early 30s died on Saturday after being electrocuted by a Power Holding Company of Nigeria wire in the Rivers State capital.

The man, who was cutting the branches of a tree beside Navy Secondary School in Borikiri area of the city, died immediately he made contact with the wire.

Our correspondent learnt that the labourer, who was hired to trim the tree, was unaware that a PHCN cable was resting on one of its branches. Sympathisers, who rushed to the scene, could not hold back tears when they saw

the lifeless body.

The Public Affairs Officer, PHCN Borikiri Business Unit, Mr. John Onyi, confirmed the incident. He, however, added that the deceased was not an employee of PHCN.

Onyi disclosed that there was an outage at the time the labourer began the work at about 9am. He stated that a branch of the tree cut by the

deceased landed on one of the cables connected to the Borikiri 33KV line.

He said, "Power was eventually restored and the man was electrocuted as a branch of the tree came in contact with the cable."

When contacted, the spokesperson of the state police command, Mrs. Rita Inoma-Abbey, said she had not been briefed.

## PDP, Oshiomhole trade words over

**James Azania**

**E**DO State chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party has expressed worry over what it described as the state's rising debt profile, which it put at over N50bn within the 20 months of Governor Adams Oshiomhole's administration.

The party said it feared that the government lacked proper

means of re-paying the said loans and that the state's huge debt profile would be a burden on future governments in the state.

The PDP alleged that Oshiomhole flouted due process in the award of contracts, a development the PDP said was contrary to statutory provisions.

Edo PDP chairman, Chief Dan Orbih, said this on Saturday during a rally in Igarra, headquarters of