

## Mountain eruption kills one in Benue

Ozioma Ubabukoh, Enugu

A mountain eruption in Mkom District of Kwande in Benue State has led to the death of one person, while several others were injured and many property destroyed.

Residents of the community said on Friday that they were attending the annual thanksgiving service of the local church when they started witnessing vibrations across the area, located at the Cameroon boundary.

An eyewitness, Mr. Jeremiah Yashi, a civil servant, said after vibrations were heard, lava flowed from the mountain, covering wells, streams, trees and houses in the area.

Yashi said when the vibrations were intense, with people scampering to safety, a young boy, who wanted to feel the lava, was killed instantly.

He stated that villagers, who struggled to save him, barely escaped alive as the lava spewed into the village, forcing the residents to flee.

Our correspondent gathered that most of the villagers had fled Mkomon district for fear of further volcanic emissions from the mountain.

The Chief Press Secretary to Governor Gabriel Suswam, Mr. Cletus Akwaya, said he

lacked the competence to make comments on the matter.

Akwaya said, "I have not even seen a volcanic eruption in my life. It is a scientific issue, which I don't have adequate knowledge of.

## Councillors endorse Oshiomhole's move on LGs

The Councillors Forum in Edo State has commended the State Governor, Comrade Adams Oshiomhole, for allowing the councillors to complete their tenure.

But the forum asked for the payment of the members' entitlements.

Rising from a meeting in Benin City on Friday, the forum, in a communiqué signed by the chairman, Mr. Ehidiemen Andrew Young, and the secretary, Mr. Steve Okougbo, maintained that based on the dissolution of the councils, the local governments should pay their severance gratuities.

"The governor has taken advantage of the local government council law to dissolve the councils. Therefore, let us also exploit the law as it favours us because we are qualified for severance benefits after spending two years," they added.

The councillors from the 18 local governments faulted the Association of Local Government of Nigeria for going ahead with negotiations with the

"However, when I return to Benue tomorrow (Saturday), we will see how experts could come in to trace what might have caused it; then we seek a way out."

As at the time of filing

this report, the Executive Secretary of Benue State Emergency Management Agency, Mr. Adikpo Agbatse, was said to have led other officials to the site for on-the-spot assessment of the situation.

government without carrying them along.

They demanded for the payment of their three months salaries, spanning October to December 2010, saying the legislative grants of the three months should be paid without delay.

"The councils that have not paid leave and transport grants to councillors in their respective councils should do so without delay," they

## Banker arraigned over N.6m fraud

Tunde Odesola, Osogbo

A 25-year-old female banker, Kikelomo Rahaman, was arraigned before an Osogbo Magistrate's Court on Friday over an allegation that she defrauded the customers of Olubasiri Micro Finance Bank, Osogbo, of N655,939.00.

The suspect, as an official of the bank, allegedly collected the amount from the bank's customers and converted

added.

The councillors forum expressed appreciation for the prompt attendance of members at the meeting, noting that they would adopt "consultation, consolidation and if necessary confrontation" to get their entitlements.

The forum said, "ALGON has gone ahead with negotiation without carrying the councillors along since the dissolution

it to her personal use –an offence contrary to section 390(6) of the Osun State Criminal Law.

The charge sheet accused the suspect of collecting daily monetary contributions from 43 customers but refused to remit the collections to the bank.

According to the charge sheet, the accused person committed the offences between 2007 and February 2010.

The suspect, however, pleaded not guilty to the

as laid down under the Federal High Court Civil Procedure Rules 2009."

He asked the court to strike out the suit, saying that the originating summons brought by the plaintiffs was inappropriate as there were contentious issues to be addressed before the court.

The court has adjourned the matter till December 1.

of the councils. That is why we are appealing to the Comrade Governor to prevail on the local government to give us our entitlements."

The councillors noted that the issue of severance benefits should not be restricted to members of a particular political party, saying the interest of all the councillors elected in 2007 should be taken into consideration.

three-count charge against her.

Police prosecutor, Mr. Isiaka Ajadi, did not oppose the suspect's request for bail, saying it was at the discretion of the court to admit her to bail.

The presiding magistrate, Mr. Olalekan Ijiyode, thereafter admitted the accused person to bail in the sum of N200,000 with two sureties.

He adjourned the matter till December 11, 2010 for further hearing.

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