

Man trimming tree in Benue church electrocuted, police avert unrest

John Charles 24 August 2021

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A young man was on Monday electrocuted while trying to trim a branch of a mango tree at a church in Gboko, Benue State.

According to a source, the young man, identified as Iortim Richard, climbed the mango tree following the plea of the resident pastor of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints located at Kontien, Gboko South, and was electrocuted.

However, no one from the church was ready to volunteer information about the incident when our correspondent called.

But an eyewitness, who simply identified himself as Lubem, said, "The man climbed the mango tree following the plea of the resident pastor to trim a branch of the tree and he was electrocuted.

"The man just returned from an errand to the bank for the church's resident pastor and he was asked to trim the mango tree from the top.

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

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

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The eyewitness added that the prompt arrival of policemen stopped unrest by youths, who were said to have expressed anger with the leaders of the church.

When contacted, the spokesperson for the Benue State Police Command, DSP Catherine Anene, confirmed the incident.

"The incident is confirmed. The victim was said to have climbed a tree within the church premises to cut down some branches when he got electrocuted. Investigation is in progress," she stated.

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