

# Falling tree branch kills 8 in Aper Aku's village

By Peter Duru

**MAKURDI** — **MIKYOBO** Village in Ushongo Local Government Area of Benue State was a gory site yesterday morning when a broken branch of a large tree fell and instantly

crushed some eight persons to death while scores sustained injuries.

According to an eyewitness, the unfortunate incident occurred at about 10.a.m, at a market square in Ikyobo village when traders were busy displaying their wares.

He said those that were crushed by the falling tree branch gathered direct under the tree to display their ware and could not escape from the gigantic tree branch which came crushing down after a terrifying cracking noise that preceded its fall.

Our source told *Vanguard* that one of the villagers, Mr. Ayoo Awuapila, lost his two wives and a relation in the disaster, adding that the man was still in shock.

He also intimated that an octogenarian, Madam Mbagwen Nenge sustained serious injury as a result of the disaster but was responding to treatment at a local hospital in the village.

The eyewitness who explained that the large tree called *Genge* has over the years been a sit-out point for children and adults who gather underneath to play or

hold important discussions.

He noted that there was neither rainstorm nor wind which could have triggered the sudden falling off of the tree branch, adding that the development was still a mystery that is yet to be unravelled by the people of the community.

*Vanguard* further gathered that the injured in the disaster have been taken to hospitals in Lessel and Gboko while the remains of the dead have been deposited at the General Hospital at the council headquarters.

Expressing shock at the tragedy, our source explained that the community had never witnessed such magnitude of disaster in the history of the state.

Ikyobo village is the home town of late Aper Aku, the first civilian Governor of Benue State.

## ue varsity's ASUU strike

students of Benue State University to remain calm and law-abiding "while we await the outcome of the negotiation between ASUU and the university management.

"All students should remain calm, law-abiding, patriotic and resist any temptation to indulge in any act capable of truncating the security of the state and the peaceful resolution of the lingering crisis."

He noted that the students'

body would continue to resist any attempt by anyone to capitalize on the current face-off to unleash terror in the university community, advising that security agencies step up their surveillance in order to checkmate any form of security breach in Makurdi.

He declared support for the actions and policies of the state government which he noted were aimed at enhancing education in the state.