

Thunderstorm kills 13 in Rivers

By George Onah

PORT HARCOURT—NO fewer than 13 people have been reported dead, including male and female seafarers, when thunderstorm rumbled through Asarama, Unyeada, Ngo and Akaradi communities in Andoni Council of Rivers State.

Vanguard gathered that four bodies have since been recovered in the weekend disaster, from the surrounding river, few hours after the tornado also destroyed houses, de-roofing some of them as well as uprooting trees which crashed into premises and other property.

The deceaseds' communities could not be immediately ascertained, even as they have been deposited at Otaije mortuary, Iyong Oron Asaram. The storm also swept through Ebukum, Okoloile and Oyorokoto.

As a result of the disaster, scores of persons have been displaced in the affected communities while some have left their villages, particularly fishermen, for other hamlets in search of shelter and succour.

Attempts to speak with

Commissioner for Special Duties, Chief Davies Ikanya, who oversees emergency management department, failed, as his phone was said to have been switched off.

The council chairman could not be reached either, but a source in the community told *Vanguard* that the council boss, Emilia Nte, had

visited the troubled communities, providing necessary leadership and relief.

However, it was learnt that relief materials, including foodstuff and others were being assembled to be dispatched to the troubled communities by a government agency to ameliorate the effect of the the storm.

IYC urges FG to collect outstanding arms from militants

By Gabriel Enoghelase

BENIN—EDO, Delta and Ondo Vice-chairman of the Ijaw Youth Congress, IYC, Mr. Andrew Igiri, has advised the Federal Government against the refusal of the Committee on its amnesty programme to stop the collection of arms from militants who could not meet the deadline for the submission of arms, saying that it would be too dangerous to do so.

Also, the group called on the Edo State Governor,

Comrade Adams Oshiomhole, to unfold the blue print for the development of the Ijaw speaking areas of the state.

Speaking in an interview with *Vanguard* in Benin yesterday, Igiri said that the documentation of this set of militants and their engagement would go a long way in ensuring the successful implementation of the amnesty programme.

He contended that it would be too dangerous to the society to leave them with arms and ammunition.