

Vanguard that the kidnappers abandoned Mark at Osisioma Ngwa area after they threatened to kill him several times.

The family associate could not confirm if any ransom was paid.

## ROBBERY: 6 set free over weak prosecution

By Bartholomew  
Madukwe

SIX persons have regained freedom after an Ikeja High Court in Lagos dismissed a robbery charge brought against them, following the prosecution's failure to provide witness.

The six persons include Ismaila Bankole, 34; Akeem Ganiu, 30; Abass Ayanniyi, 31; Lukman Jimoh, 33; Lateef Amodu, 28, and Oluwaseun Soneye, 25.

The six persons, who had pleaded not guilty, were arraigned by Lagos State government on a two-count charge of robbery and possession of firearms without license.

On March 25, presiding judge, Justice K. A. Jose, warned prosecution that failure to produce witness at the next adjournment would result in the charge being struck out.

At the resumed hearing, the prosecutor, Mrs Abiola Ajayi, informed the judge that she could not bring her witness to court.

Subsequently, Justice Jose dismissed the charge brought against the six persons and warned them not to return to commit robbery and be brought back to court.

# Lightning kills woman in C-River while sweeping church

By Emma Una

CALABAR—TWENTY-THREE years old Mrs Iyaji Yegwa was, weekend, struck dead by lightning at Okpoma, Yala Local Government Area of Cross River State while sweeping a local branch of RHEMA Church.

Vanguard gathered that the deceased, accompanied by the pastor of the church, whose name was given as Simon, went into the church on Saturday evening to sweep and get the place ready for the next day's service, when it began to rain.

The pastor was said to have handed his mobile phone to the deceased for safe-keeping, while he went back to his house for his clothes.

The pastor, a source said, was held back in his house by the rain. When he came back to the church, the woman was on the floor dead. He then raised alarm.

"There was a lot of thunder and lightning during the brief rain fall and unfortunately, Mrs Yegwa was struck dead by one of those fierce lightnings that hit the church," Tony, a source in the area, told Vanguard.

The church, which shares a fence with the edifice of Mr. John Odey, the former Minister of Environment, was pulled down by angry relatives of the woman, which stopped the church from holding services, yesterday.

The source said: "The relatives stormed the church soon after the incident and pulled it down. As I speak to

## ●Relatives pull down church building

you, there is no church service going on there today, Sunday." The Police Public Relations

Officer for Cross River State Command, Mr. Hogan Bassey, said he was yet to receive

reports of the incident from the Divisional Police Officer for the area.

PDP women leader driver  
in Igawa road accident

1 in Benin

pe  
Silabo road, in the outskirts of Benin, Vanguard learned, was founded by the International Christian Centre for Mission, ICCM, and had been providing food and shelter for the displaced persons since 2013.

The camp covers a large expanse of land and has several blocks of rooms and halls, most of which were made of wood,

One of the  
Philemon, said  
abducted by  
from her home  
Government

State, but escaped miraculously after several days of fasting.

The Overseer of ICCM, Solomon Folorunsho, told journalists that the IDPs were

Federal governments. We have had promises that the governor was coming.

"I think he has been busy because of the elections. Maybe he has plans for the centre."