

# 2 dead, one goes dumb after eating 'forbidden' fish in Ebonyi

By Peter Okutu

**A**BAKALIKI—TWO persons, yesterday, reportedly lost their lives at Ezillo in Ishielu Local Government Area of Ebonyi State after eating fresh fish allegedly forbidden in the area.

Another person, who also ate the said fish, was said to have become dumb.

The victims (names withheld) are labourers hired by one Mr. Alieze for a construction work.

An eyewitness, who gave his name as Mrs. Odoh Onyinyechi, told *Vanguard* that the victims, who took a break from work at the site,

went to the near-by stream where they harvested the said fish, which specie is forbidden by the community.

She said: "A man from our community went to the town and brought people to work for him. The people later went to the stream to fetch water and came back with some fish.

## 'We warned them'

"We told them that these fishes are forbidden in our area because we do not consume them and if you must eat them, you must remove the scale. But I do not think they listened to our advice.

"Before we knew it, two of the labourers died, while one of them could not speak any

more.

"We do not eat this particular fish for any reason and we always tell anyone found with it to prepare it properly, if they must eat it."

Another resident of the area who preferred anonymity, said he saw the victims harvesting the fish in the stream and warned them not to eat it.

He said: "Those people were busy harvesting fishes in our stream and I went closer to them and saw the fish.

"I told them not to eat one of the species which were among the ones they had harvested. I told them to ensure they remove the scales before preparing it because they are very dangerous."