

## 3 dead as traditional tree wreaks havoc in Nsukka

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**ENUGU**—At least three persons were confirmed dead, at Obolloafor Market square in Udenu Local Government Area of Enugu State, following heavy rainfall which fell a tree reportedly used as a deity by the community.

The market, situated along Enugu-Makurdi Expressway, where the tree, known as Ukwuakpa fell, was said to be an outlet for Akatakpa masquerades during festive period, even as residents have cried out over the nefarious activities of masquerades in the area who maim, rob, kidnap unsuspecting victims under its cloak.

An eyewitness told *Vanguard* that prayers had been said severally at the traditional shrine which the tree symbolises, following incessant attacks of masquerades on hapless residents.

Confirming the incident, Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Enugu Police Command, Mr. Ebere Amaraizu, DSP, said the victims affected were a mother, daughter and mechanic.

“The incident occurred during a rainfall which killed a woman and her little baby, identified as Ijeoma Ojobor, and Chibueze Ojobor as well as a mechanic, also identified as Eze Romanus.

“The mechanic was taking his lunch in one of the shops around the tree when the tree fell. Some persons like one Obeta Ikechukwu was seriously injured and was rushed by sympathizers to the hospital at Obolloafor where he is being treated,” the police spokesperson revealed.