





• NIGER DELTA •

Bayelsa, NMA Partner Against Quackery

Bayelsa State Government has signed regulatory agreements with the health sector, including the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), to take the fight against quackery and other unwholesome practices to new heights.

At the signing ceremony, Governor Abba Budur, in a statement to his Special Assistant in Health, Mr. Ekechukwu, said the agreement will ensure that the health sector is free from unwholesome practices that could cause avoidable deaths to the state.

The agreement covers the licensing of medical practitioners who claim to have cure for every ailment and called on the responsible parties to be vigilant in the health sector of the state.

The state governor stated that the state government would work closely with a regulatory body to check advertisements and sale of unwholesome medicines and products to protect lives.

According to him, the health of government is to keep the people of the state healthy enough to enjoy the prospects it is working hard to create.

On the issue of multiple medical training schools, Senator Ekechukwu described the establishment of the Bayelsa Medical University (BMU) and other health institutions as part of efforts to provide the much-needed services to the health sector of the state.

Ayade Unveils Housing Scheme For Civil Servants

The Cross River State Governor, Peter Abia, has introduced a housing scheme for civil servants in the state.

This was disclosed by the Cross River State Head of Service, Mrs. Geraldine Akpan, in a meeting with all Directors/Heads of Department in the Civil Service.

According to her, the aim is to enable the State Government gather the needed data for take-off, ascertain the number of people to be accommodated, and to determine the number of units to be completed.

Mrs. Akpan further stated that the housing scheme which would include One Bedroom, Two Bedrooms, Three and Four Bedrooms, Flats are to be situated in Yala and Obudu for the Northern Senatorial District, Ikam and Yakur for the Central Senatorial District, as well as Tinapa Road and Jonathan By Pass for the Southern Senatorial District.

Obaseki Tasks Edo On Oath Of Office

Edo State Governor, Obaseki, has sworn in his cabinet members and urged them to work for the betterment of the state.

That is the legacy this government owes the people for voting massively for us at the last governorship election. Our goal is to help you transform the judiciary system to a very stronger institution," he said.

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He noted that government had not paid all the 1990 and 2000 category. According to Benson, "We are here today because you now that this government is not sincere enough to keep its

Unveils Housing Scheme For Civil Servants

Introduced Civil Servants are to enjoy State Home Ownership Schemes in their various MDAs.



Newly inaugurated board members of MK Foundation, presenting scholarship award to Mr Jim Beabubari Marshal in Bane Community in Khana Local Government Area of Rivers State, last Sunday.

Retired Teachers' Next-Of-Kin, Widows Protest Unpaid Entitlements

A Coalition of Widows and Next of kin of retired Primary school teachers in Akwa Ibom State on Monday defied heavy downpour and protested to express their grievances over non-payment of their entitlements totalling over N5billion.

The protesters, who converged close to the government house gate around 9:30am and were there till about 6:15pm vowed not to leave the gate until their demands were met.

They also came with drums and mats, an indication that they were not in a hurry to leave the place even as police officers were around the area to ensure the maintenance of law and order.

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He noted that government had not paid all the 1990 and 2000 category. According to Benson, "We are here today because you now that this government is not sincere enough to keep its

promises over the years. All the verification exercises that they have carried out and up till today, only few people have been paid.

"The total number of people verified and screened so far is close to 2000 but they have paid less than 100 and we know if they are starting like this, it may take the life of this administration. The category of people they have paid so far is between 1990 and 2000 and not everyone in that category has been paid. So, today we decided to come and press further our demands".

Reacting to Governor Emmanuel's statement that payment of entitlements of retired Primary school teachers is not the responsibility of the state government, Benson asked what happened to the deductions they have been making from local government allocations over the years?

"Over time, this government has told us that they are deducting money from the local government allocations for this purpose, how much have they deducted so far? Why are they bringing out less than one percent after the verification exercise?

"What the governor said was so provocative because at a point he tried to make fun out of it. He said he is also a

next-of-kin and he should be leading the protest. This is different from what he told us when he was campaigning for the governorship position in 2015.

"This government said payment will be in batches, we expect the government to commit some money but what it has done so far, we cannot even call that first batch because if you have about 2000 people and you are

Police Smash Drug-Peddling Gang In C'River

The Cross River State Police Command has smashed a drug-peddling gang in Calabar.

The State Commissioner of Police, Sikiru Akande who was said to have led the team to smash the syndicate, said they took the suspected drug peddlers by surprise and it took place at the popular Watt Market in Calabar.

At the end of the operation, 14 suspects were arrested with various illicit substances suspected to be hard drugs.

The state Police Command Public Relations Officer, DSP Irene Ugbo, confirmed the raid and according to her, "the CP followed some of our men to arrest some boys where they were selling some drugs in a hideout at Watt Market.

"Fourteen of them were arrested with drugs" and some of the suspects paraded recently by the command were

paying less than 100 and you want us to think that that is the first batch?"

Also speaking, a former leader of the Coalition, Mr Idongesit Akpan, described the situation as tensed, adding that the state government has been promising retired teachers but failing to fulfil its promises.

Friday Nwaghara, Calabar

Operation Akpakwu, Henry Okokon, who is the State Security Adviser to Governor Ayade, condemned the actions of the hoodlums.

He said, "I told you last time that I am going to swing into action, and I went there on Friday and saw them, it is not cult-related.

"They are just armed robbers, numbering between 18 and 20. They blocked the roads every evening from 7:30pm and started robbing, shooting sporadically, robbing motorcycles, and shooting directly at residents.

"We have to ambush them, many of them have been arrested while others, during fire exchange with security agencies, have lost their lives.

"The incident occurred at Ikot Ene Edem, we urge all communities to have vigilante team, the security operative, Operation Akpakwu will assist them," he stated.

"The situation is tensed because all that government has been promising retired teachers have not been fulfilled if government has promised, let it fulfil its promises," he said.

Meanwhile, Udom Emmanuel has ordered the reopening of Akwa Ibom State University.

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In a chat, the head of