the unifort the Devisional Public Officer (DPO), Buri Division that four persons have been killed. It is not a community crisis. It is the cultists that are doing all this. What they shi is that. when they attack, they run anto a nearby community. So, the other community will think that the other comstate policing, and restructormanity is flighting them. So, we are appealing to all the Austra, Delta State. communities to remain eatin until we identify the people enhance national unity, eqbedrind thin killing. nirs, Justice, and fair play

Spokesman for the Community Development Committee of the area, Golden Ninibakpa, who confirmed the incident to newsmen mostly crop farmers but also fast Monday, demanded to encourage animal farmers that a police station should to embrace modern ranching be built in the community: techniques'

Nwibakpo further said, Many women are in the forest. Our pain is that these four youths are not members of any cult. As I speak,

no death was recorded.

Justice Omereji, who

made the remark while re-

ceiving an award of Excel-

lent Performance given to

nim by the Rivers State Joint

outh Assembly in Port

larcourt recently, said that

was elated that the award

cettven, Chilleschem Newtoche had said governors of the Southern Stores deserve communication for their est-

Number of the second of the deputy speaker of the House of Representatives from 1999-2003, said this in an interview on Monday

The former federal law-

maker said, "The governors

deserve commendation for

taking a common position on

the vexed issues of grazing.

amongst the component

parts of Nigeria. They did not

only take this action to pro-

test their people who are

According to hom, this ection should be the next step in the quest to produce a national response to the growing insecurity across the na-

the northern region

He explained that from the

"Writed was properly like the arter

proves he first add near greatermore.

tweet governors of the acuth and their acuth and their acuthans acuthan acutha

He maintained that the governors, by virtue of their respective mandates as the chief executives of the component parts of our federation, are pivotal for initiat-

The late of the la pull our country back the current criats.

Nwuche equally commended the Delta State Governor, Heanyi Okowa, for his generosity and hospitality in playing best to the

Chairman of the Foundation.

Sir Eddie it Kaka, said the

successful insuguration of

the Board of Trustees of the

Foundation and award of

schularship to the first batch

of beneficiaries the scholar-

ship scheme was a dream

come true as it signalled a

journey of hope for expan-

sive educational growth and

development in Hane com-

union of agovern to the

tional Assembly to suggest the position of the governors in order to enhance Notional unity, reputy, justice, and peace of the country.

## Commits To Educational Dev Foundation ( will chose voids in their hearts.

a International non Agovernmental organ ing at their recent meeting in isstine, MK Foundation has This position will indeed restated its commitment towards the promotion of educational development in the society, particularly at the graxiroots.

Speaking during the insuguration of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation and award of scholarship to the first batch of beneficiaries of its scholarship scheme at Bane community in Khana Local Government Area of Rivers State, the chairman of the Board , El-

Tanch Beemene and shield them from deder Vincent Kaka, said the structive tendencies" In his remarks, the Vice

initiative was. promortalise and sontain the legacies of late filder Morrison Kakir, an assute community leader, who doring his life time contributed to educational development of his people through his moral advice and material commitments"

The Board's chairman assured that the Foundation would not rest on its oars in living up to its vision and goals, pointing out that, 'the engagement of youth

munity and the society at Kaka said the Foundation was registered to build partnership and network internationally to achieve set objec-

tives. Earlier, the Chairman of the event, Mr Keaniabarido Edoh, had described the initiative as a laudable project that will impact positively on

the youth. In his presentation, one of the discussants at the event, Mene Ikpobari Dumletam Senewo, said the vision of the MK Foundation which centred on educational development was commendable, and pointed out that, "building human capital is

of development prouters in the society". He arged the beneficia-

rice of the scholarship. scheme to make judicious use of the opportunities. Another discussint,

Emmanuel Ogburu, also emphasized on the importance of education in the society and organd the younger generation to embrace education as the only means of liberating their minds from the shackles of ignorance and social vices.

In his goodwill message, the Ghenemene Ken Khana, King Barile Deebom, expressed a deep sense of appreciation to initiators of the scholarship programme, noting that it will enhance educational reach and promote rapid economic growth in Bane community, Ogoni and the society in general.

Speaking on behalf of the five beneficiaries of the scholarship scheme, Miss Dugbor Queen Barilumene, thanked the Foundation for the opportunity, promising that they will make the best use of it.

various meetings they have been holding to strengthen the entire community is de-RSIEC Boss Praises God Over Death-Free

Nwuche also said, "North-

ern Governors equally de-

serve commendation for the

Chidi Enyie The chairman of Rivers came from the youths who State Independent Elechad recognised the achievetotal Commission (RSIEC), ment recorded by RSIEC Hon. Justice George Omereji leadership. (rtd), has expressed grati-The RSIEC boss dedicated tude to God for enabling him the award to his team, who to conduct a free and fair election in the state where

had worked tirelessly with him to make the election a huge success. He attributed the success

recorded by his team to strict adherence to due process in the conduct of the election.

Justice Omereji, who also expressed gratitude to the group for the honour done

him, advised Rivers youths to shun crimes in order to reposition themselves for leadership of the nation.

He explained that service was synonymous with leadership and urged all those who wanted to lead to be ready to serve.

The RSIEC boss said he was able to rise to the peak of his profession through hard work and patience and urged the youths to emulate the virtues.

Speaking earlier, the leader of the group, Comrade Election

Gershion Bob Anchor said the award was given in order to celebrate an erudite scholar, who had contributed immensely to the development of Rivers State and Nigeria in general.

He said Justice Omereji had distinguished himself as an upright judge while he served in the bench as a judicial officer and had replicated the same feat as RSIEC's chairman.

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Harrison, Liebert Vallegies, -checked 6th pints, net Wes the amenimisation by were ngs for retermina. Speaking duri community, Chanch

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## · NIGER DELTA · Bayelsa, NMA Partner Against Quackery

Obaseki Tasks Edo

On Oath Of Office



Newly imaggarated 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.

## That is the legacy that for voting massively for us is the fast guaranteely for us is the fast guaranteely for the is transform the judiciary system to a very stronger institution, he said. Retired Teachers' Next-Of-Kin, Widows Protest **Unpaid Entitlements** promises over the years. All Coalition of Widows

retirement of Edgin, who con May 17, by prescribed ent in the Aand 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

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The protesters, who converged close to the government house gate around 9:30am and were there till about 6:15pm vowed not not everyone in that category to leave the gate until their has been paid. So, today we 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.

20 under the rain, the Secretary of the Coalition, Mr Benjamin Benson, said the State government was not sincere enough in keeping its promises even though it has commenced payment to some widows, adding that out of the total of 2000 widows screened and verified, less than 100 have been paid.

He noted that government had not paid all the 1990 and 2000 category.

According to Benson, "We it sincere enough to keep its out of it. He said he is also a

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 Jess 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 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 Speaking with journalists 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 re here today because you was so provocative because at now that this government is a point he tried to make fun 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 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.

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.

## Police Smash Drug-Peddling Gang In C'River

he Cross River State Police Command has smashed a drug-peddling gang

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

Friday Nwagbara, Calabar arrested in connection with illicit drugs.

Meanwhile, unspecified numbers of hoodlums were shot dead, while others sustained bullet wounds.

Some were said to have been arrested when the state security outfit, Operation Akpakwu, ambushed suspected arm robbers in Akpabuyo area of Cross River

It was gathered that Operation Akpakwa ambushed the hoodlums after persistent armed robbery incidents, kidnappings and other crime-related operations in Akpabuyo in the area.

It was further learnt that the hoodlums for the past few weeks had made life in the local government unbearable. They inflicted injuries, destroyed property and killed innocent people.

In a chat, the head of them," he stated.

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 awing 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