

# 4 killed in police, motorbike operators' clash

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**F**OLLOWING the death of four persons including a policeman in the ongoing clash between the police and commercial motorcyclists "Alalok" in Calabar, Cross River State, governor Donald Duke has proscribed commercial motorcycle operations in the state.

Duke announced the ban, in Calabar, while commissioning a fleet of 50 taxi cabs meant to operate in Calabar, the state capital.

He said the ban became inevitable because of the resistance and noncompliance with government's mandatory payment of N13,850 registration fee by the operators.

Besides registering the motorbikes, the governor explained that the money was also meant for the procurement of helmets, reflective jackets as well as insurance cover for the cyclists.

Speaking further, Duke said the operators also con-

stituted themselves as nuisance on the road as most of them disobeyed traffic rules and regulations and often used their motorbikes for robbery including snatching of handsets and bags from members of the public.

"Though the ban would cause difficulties at the initial stage, Duke said that with the introduction of the 50 cabs into the various routes, the difficulties would not last", he said.

To ease the envisaged difficulties, governor said more than 150 other vehicles would be brought in before November this year.

Also speaking, the Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice Mr Eyo Ekpo said that those who desired to buy the vehicles, must primarily, be indigenes of Cross River State and should be able to deposit N500,000.

The commissioner stated that N202 million was spent in procuring all the 50 cars.