

He said although the state government is yet to ascertain the authenticity of the claim, it has however set aside N2 billion to service the inherited debt.

The state government, he said, would soon set up debt management department under the finance ministry which would be responsible for verifying such debts, while also devising mechanism for its servicing.

Agyina, who lamented the

debt, said the state government is yet to ascertain the authenticity of the claim, it has however set aside N2 billion to service the inherited debt.

He called on accounting officers of ministries and agencies, including tertiary institutions in the state to ensure that internally generated revenue targets are met and properly accounted for so as to facilitate the attainment of targets and objectives.

## Kogi State varsity now 100% accredited

From Sam Egwu, Lokoja

The Vice-Chancellor, Kogi State University (KSU), Anyigba Prof. Francis Idachaba, has disclosed that all the 29 academic programmes in the school have been accredited by the National Universities Commission (NUC).

He disclosed this when he was presenting the 100 percent accreditation score for the third consecutive time to the Executive Governor of Kogi State, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris, at Government House, Lokoja.

Prof Idachaba thanked the state governor for making funds available and approving recruitment of more Professors into the school to cover sound academic programmes.

He expressed joy that no

programme has been denied accreditation by the NUC and that KSU leads other states and private universities in the country in terms of structural and academic programmes.

He noted that "qualified academic staff hold the key to a first class University".

In his own speech, Governor Idris who was a visitor to the University hinted that "for the future of the youths to be guaranteed, there must be sound academic background", adding, "this informed the state government's decision to put all efforts at ensuring the improvement and the standard of the University".

## Police superintendent assassinated in Imo

From John Kennedy Uzoma, Owerri

A police mobile officer, Superintendent (SP) Ikechukwu Duru attached to Mopol 29 of the Nigeria Police, Akwa in Anambra state was yesterday assassinated by assassins.

Daily Trust learnt that the deceased was returning from his Ommumu home in Ehime Mbano local government area in Imo State with his wife, Mrs. Roseline Duru, when the ugly incident happened.

It was also gathered that the assassins on getting to Anara junction, blocked the deceased and his wife and eventually shot him to death

and escaped.

Duru who was rushed to the Federal Medical Centre, Owerri, by his wife could not survive as he later died in the process of reviving him.

The Imo State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Linus Nwaiwu, when contacted on telephone, confirmed the incident, saying the command has already started full investigations into the matter to ascertain the circumstances surrounding the incident.

commission to court in an effort to replace the party's governorship candidate, Chief

replace me - that is what I am bringing out the electoral act to them. We introduced and nurtured the Labour Party here,

Congress (AC) too spoke in the same vain, saying it would utilize the extra days for more vigorous

would take advantage of it to re-strategize and go ahead with his campaign.

## Benue communal clash claims 10 lives, over 100 houses destroyed

From Hir Joseph, Makurdi

Mr. Jinadu added that so far, the police invited

traditional rulers, elders and opinion leaders from the two communities for a peace meeting that ended with a

resolve that the eight youths who started trouble will be arrested and handed over for prosecution by the police.

The week long renewed communal clash between the peasant communities of Mbatange-Mbalagh in Gwer West local government area of Benue state and those of Kendev-Mbamar in the neighboring Konshisha local government area, has claimed not less than 10 lives.

Trouble started when one Mr. Wade who is said to be from the neighboring Kendev-Mbamar dug grave to bury his late brother in Mbatange where he has lived for several years. Mbatange is said to be Mr. Wade's maternal home where he has lived all his adult life.

But eight youths of Mbatange were alleged to have gone to the burial ceremony and disrupted the procession in order to stop Mr. Wade from burying his younger brother, since, according to them, the deceased did not hail from there.

The violent youths were said to have killed two people at the scene, a development which compelled the neighboring Kendev people to rise in reprisal attack. The ensuing clash which lasted one week now, according to unofficial sources, has claimed not less than 10 lives with over 100 houses burnt and farms as well as other property destroyed.

Benue State police command spokesman, Mr. Samuel Jinadu (ASP), confirmed the clash, but said the signal he received from the area put the death toll only at two.

The PPRO said the command had to react immediately by deploying a team of riot policemen to the flash point, and "our men are still there".



Minister of Culture, Tourism and National Orientation, Chief Adetokunbo Kayode (right) with the Governor of Kebbi State, Sa'idu Dakingari (left) and the Director-General, NTDC Otumba Olusegun Runsewe, at the commissioning of Fish House at the Fishing Village, Argungu, recently.

## FG budgets N1.8trillion for retirees

From Samson Ojo, Lagos

The Director General, National Pension Commission (PENCOM), Alhaji Muhammad Ahmad, has disclosed that the Federal Government would spend N1.8 trillion on retirees between 2007 and 2039.

Ahmad stated this in Lagos at a press briefing to mark the end of the verification and enrolment exercise of federal government employees retiring between 2008 and 2009, which the commission started in February.

The director general said the same exercise had earlier been

conducted in Abuja and Ibadan.

He said the above figure had been calculated based on the new scheme which would be paid by the government to all retirees in the federal civil service in accordance with the pension scheme.

"The least persons under the new scheme that have moved from the old scheme will retire in 2029, so in anticipation, some people will retire in 2007 under the new scheme", he explained.

The director general said on

an annual basis, the federal government would have taken about 35 per cent of a worker's total wage bill called a Retirement Benefit Projective Funds in accordance with pension reform act.

According to him, "as at March 2008 the federal government had contributed N59 billion to pay retirees and the account is managed by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), and as at December 2007, the commission had paid about N10 billion to civil servants who retired between July and December 2007," he said.

## Okah's secret trial 'll heighten tension in Niger Delta -Aturu warns FG

From Samson Ojo, Lagos

Lagos based human rights activist, Barister Bamidele Aturu, has warned the Federal Government against trying

therefore demanded that the secret trial should be stopped immediately.

war crimes are tried in the open. I do not believe the security consideration overrides the interest of the public to know what is going

prosecuted by late General Sani Abacha's dictatorial military regime "was tried in the open and the heavens did not fall".

While challenging the order of the Federal High Court granting the secret trial, Aturu said, "to begin with the circumstances surrounding

"I also hold the view that it is wrong for one judge to grant an ex parte order for secret trial before another judge as the proviso to section 36(4) of the Constitution that