

administration is labour-intensive, the FIRS staff have been undergoing constant training and re-training, stating that as an apostle of the Federal Government's reform agenda, the FIRS commenced the initiative for the first time in its history and as a deterrence to tax evasion.

In his speech, controller of the Sapele Integrated Tax Office, Mr Nicholas Obiajunwa, explained that the current reform programme of the Federal Government also affected the tax administration of the government.

He pointed out that despite the benefits of the tax collected to the public, the FIRS still finds it difficult for some key beneficiaries to comply with provisions of the tax law.

Obiajunwa appealed to chairman of the Sapele Council to assist the FIRS spread the news of the establishment of the Integrated Tax Office (ITO) to the various contractors, restaurants, supermarkets, cyber cafés, and other taxable persons and organisations for them to render their monthly VAT returns, annual companies income tax returns, withholding taxes, VAT registration and obtaining of tax clearance certificates.

One Killed, Houses Destroyed In Ogoni Cult Clash

By Ubokikwan Gabriel
REPORTER, Port Harcourt

A member of the notorious De-Gbam cult group in Rivers State, whose name was given as Sunu-Omue Suanu, was reportedly killed in a fatal clash with a rival group, De-Well, in Kpong, an Ogoni community in the Nyokana district of Khana Local Government Area of the state.

The clash also left several members of both groups injured and no fewer than six houses destroyed, including the shrine of the Ateeh deity.

We gathered that trouble started when one Mr Dormu,

an indigene of Kpong, invited the police to arrest the Ateeh and Taa chief priests, claiming that they destroyed his property.

Sources said after their arrest and subsequent release, Dormu reportedly discovered that the chief priests were members of the Dewell cult group, who defected to De-Gbam after offending their former members, and sought the protection of the leader, one Yiinu Sergeant aka Umaru Dikko.

We also learnt that because of the community's paramount ruler's interest in the De-Well group, he

succeeded in sending Sergeant and few of his men on exile.

But while in exile, Sergeant was said to have mobilised and got support from neighbouring communities of Beeri, Zaakpon, Okwali and others and launched a reprisal attack on Kpong community.

According to sources, after the clash, several groups were said to have intervened to ensure calm returned, notable among which is the Academic Associates PeaceWorks (AAPW) in Bori.

The group's Project Officer, Mr Lucky Duumaa, said the

community's elite had met with both parties and that those concerned have agreed to sheathe their swords.

He, however, lamented that lack of funds was hampering the arrangement to cater for the displaced members of the community and called on the state government to intervene.

Speaking on the matter, one Linus Kpabari, a community leader, appealed to the elite in the community to see the crisis as a challenge and find a way of resolving it amicably.

He also commended the effort of the AAPW for its interest in finding a solution to the crisis.

husbands and wives, and another match between Gatherers Football Club of Calabar and Fortune Football Club, Uyo, at the Calabar Municipal Council field.

Eze informed that by 6pm at the church headquarters, there will be an anniversary lecture entitled: "Pentecostalism In Nigeria: So far, How far?"

He said the celebration would climax with a special anniversary thanksgiving service at the Abraham Ordia Stadium, University of Calabar, on Sunday, May 6, 2007, and would feature the immediate past president of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria, Bishop Mike Okonkwo.

Besides, a book: "The 21st Century Radical Evangelism" would be launched and awards presented to personalities and institutions.

Warri NUPENG Threatens Strike Over Chevron's Policy

By Francis Onoiribhola
CORRESPONDENT, Warri

Warri zonal council of the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG) has threatened to embark on industrial action this week if Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL) does not meet its demand for harmonisation of the pay structure of all its contract workers.

Other decisions taken at the end of the union's meeting in

Warri include harmonising the lingering Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) negotiation of Jocene and Pat Onosen with the CBA of other contract group.

The communiqué, which was signed by Comrade John Ossai (National Vice President), Comrade Williams Akporeha (Zonal Chairman), Comrade Bernard Ugbi (Assistant General Secretary) and Comrade Edmond Ofudje (Zonal Secretary), also said that

the management of Polmaz and other authorities concerned should recognise the workers already granted recognition by NUPENG and that their salaries be paid before the end of every month.

According to the union, a situation where workers are paid in the middle of the preceding month would no longer be tolerated just as it frowned at the discriminatory and anti-worker contract employment in the oil and gas

industry, and demanded an end to the practice.

The union advised politicians to adhere to the rules of the game and allow peace to reign in the land.

"The council warns that any attempt by any group of persons or politicians to scuttle our nascent democracy shall not be tolerated and will be vehemently resisted, as in the case of June 12, 1993 democratic struggle.

"In (line with) the foregoing,

the Warri Zonal Council in session affirms the resolution adopted on Monday, March 26, 2007 and hereby directs the Chevron family to commence whatever actions that might be directed by the Zonal Executive to ensure speedy resolution of the Jocene/Pat Onosen negotiations from Monday, April 16, 2007. If by Wednesday, April 18, 2007, the issues are not resolved, the entire zone should commence solidarity action," it stated.

Rivers Police Kill Three Robbery Suspects, Arrest Cultists

By Ubokikwan Gabriel
REPORTER, Port Harcourt

Rivers State Police Command has said it gunned down at least three men suspected to be involved in robbery operations in the Port Harcourt metropolis in the last few weeks.

Two of the robbery suspects, according to a release issued by the force's Public Relations

Officer in the state, Mrs Ireju Barasua, were gunned down a week ago following a tip-off that they were operating on a Qlink motorcycle with registration number QT237 PHC along the Stadium Road, close to the Air Force junction.

The suspects were said to have robbed a victim of her Nokia handset worth six thousand naira.

The police were said to have moved in to the area, which led to the gunning down of the suspects as they attempted to escape.

A revolver pistol, one live ammunition and a Qlink motorcycle were among items allegedly recovered from the suspects.

Similarly, a few days after about 2.10 p.m, another robbery

suspect was also shot dead during an exchange of gunfire, after the police got information that a five-man gang was operating at a supermarket in Rainbow Town, Port Harcourt.

While four members of the gang escaped, the police reportedly recovered one locally made revolver pistol, two rounds of 9mm live ammunition and one

expended bullet shell at the scene.

The command also disclosed that another robbery suspect was arrested along the Aba-Port Harcourt expressway after his gang's gun duel with a police team on surveillance. The suspect's name was given as Ubong Amos, 23 years, and a male.

It said one locally made

revolver, three live 9mm ammunition and one Qlink 150-model motorcycle with registration number BY 3405B were recovered from the gang.

The force a cultist, named Frank Ogbomuna, was arrested at Timber Street, Mile 1, Diobu, as well as another Inye Amachree (male), associated with the De-Well cult group.