

# News

## Two Feared Dead As DESOPADEC Workers Protest In Warri

By Harris-Okon Emmanuel,  
Correspondent, Warri

**HUNDREDS** of staff of Delta State Oil Producing Areas Commission (DESOPADEC) on Tuesday marched in Warri over alleged unpaid salaries and furniture allowances.

But the peaceful protest turned unsavoury as trigger-happy mobile policemen called in to prevent breakdown of law and order allegedly shot two staff of the state's intervention agency.

The staff wore black T-shirts signifying their grief and frustration.

Eyewitness told *Daily Independent* that the policemen opened fire on the protesting workers, who only carried fresh leaves while chanting solidarity songs.

The commission had been embroiled in crisis in recent times over alleged maladministration leveled against the board.

Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan during a recent town hall meeting in Effurun, lambasted the board over bloated staff, inflated contract sums and other sundry offences.

Head, Corporate Affairs of DESOPADEC, James Akporero, who spoke with reporters on phone, denied that policemen allegedly killed two staff, describing the claim as baseless and unfounded.