

Two pupils drown, others rescued

From PATRICK TITUS,
Uyo

—A/Ibom Govt bans corporal punishment

He directed the School Management to use quality materials in constructing the soak away which was undergoing reconstruction at the time of the visit and instructed

the Inspectorate Division of the Ministry to revisit the school to ensure compliance.

On the corporal punishment, the commissioner counseled the principals

and teachers that it was unethical to be involved in the administration of corporal punishment on students pointing out that offenders would be disciplined.

Meanwhile the proprie-

tor of the school and the teacher who administered the corporal punishment that resulted in the death of the student had been arrested and detained by the police in the area.

AKWA Ibom state government has abolished corporal punishment in both public and private schools in the state, while it closed down two in Eket for reason of negligence and nonchalant attitude.

Government's action followed the death of two pupils named Priscilla Victor Okereke and Ada Eso Okereke of Saintly Nursery and Primary School who drowned after fallen into an open septic tank belonging to their School, while two were rescued at Roseland Nursery/ Primary School also in Eket by staff who rushed in following their screams for safety.

Another was the incidence at the Secondary Commercial School, Ikot Etok Udo where a female JS2 student, Miss Idara Udo Ibanga was reported dead as a result of receiving three strokes of the cane from a school master.

Commissioner for Education in the state, Dr. NseAbasi Akpan who made the announcement while undertaking inspection of the drowning scene at Saintly Nursery/ Primary School, blamed the death of the two pupils to poor facilities as well as negligence and non challant attitude of the School Authorities towards the welfare of the children.

The Commissioner who frowned at the decay of facilities in most private schools warned that henceforth the State Ministry of Education would embark on a comprehensive inspection of private Nursery and Secondary Schools to ascertain the quality of infrastructure in such schools and appealed to parents to desist from sending their children to schools without prescribed facilities.

Akpan who also announced the withdrawal of Authority to operate the school directed the Divisional Police Officer of Eket who was in his entourage alongside with the team of education officials to seal up the school premises, condoled with the parents of the late pupils who were present at the school during the Commissioner's visit.



Group of successful contestants in the 12 Nigeria Ambassadors reality show held at Nikon Luxury Hotel, Abuja
Photo: AUSTINE BABA

Ekiti NMA carpets Oni over teaching hospital's condition

From OLADELE
ADEDAYO, Ado-Ekiti

THE Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), Ekiti State Chapter said accused the State Governor, Mr. Segun Oni of running a glorify University Teaching Hospital in the state capital, Ado-Ekiti.

The State Chairman of NMA, Dr. Idowu Pius Ade-Ojo who made the accusation at a news conference to mark the Association's 2009 annual general meeting held at its State Secretariat in Ado-Ekiti, yesterday lamented that the Teaching Hospital had remained what it used to be without any improvement, a year after it was established.

The NMA boss also stated that the Teaching Hospital was just existing in the name and increase in the number of personnel without equipment and the infrastructural facilities that could hasten the develop-

ment of the Health institution.

According to him, "the Teaching Hospital after one year of its existence, no single structure has been added to it different from what it inherited from the Specialist Hospital".

"If this continues, the dream of having a good teaching hospital will be a mirage and the College of Medicine

will be dwarfed" he stated.

Dr. Ade-Ojo lamented that there are more patients in the Hospital than the number of qualified Doctors, while necessary surgical equipment were also lacking.

He therefore called on the State Governor, Mr. Segun Oni to pay more attention to the development of the Teaching Hospital so that it would

not continue to be a teaching hospital on the pages of Newspapers.

Speaking on the poor state of Nigerian health Sector, the NMA State Chairman however attributed the development to the long years of Military rule in the country which he posited had had negative effect on the growth of health system in the country.

He said that the civilian rule in the country since ten years ago has not made an appreciable impact to change the trend.

Meanwhile, the NMA boss alerted the Federal Government of his association's move to soon embark on industrial action should the later failed to honour agreement reached with the body after the July 18 expiration of an ultimatum given to the government.

He explained that the Association has deliberately allowed peaceful dialogue to continue in order to avert a further worsening of bad health indices in the country.

DITV management explains closure

TECHNICAL problems bogging down Desmaris Independent Television Station (DITV), occasioned by persistent power failure and the on-going process of installing cutting edge technology, have been the factors responsible, for the temporary closure of the station.

This was disclosed by Alhaji Mahmood Baba-Ahmed, Chairman and Chief Executive of the Television and Radio station while addressing the staff

of the company to acquaint them with the constructive measures being undertaken by the Board and the Management to reposition and refocus the T.V. and Radio operations for improved service delivery. Baba-Ahmed then appealed to the stations' clients, advertisers and the general public to bear with the brief inconvenience and await its transformation along with the package of far-reaching changes that will follow.