

Protesting C'River science teachers lament colleague's death

Ada Wodu, Calabar

PROTESTING sacked science teachers in Cross River State said they had lost one of their colleagues to malaria and typhoid because he could not afford medication.

The 500 teachers, who had on November 5 protested over the removal of their names from the payroll, returned to the gate of the Governor's Office in Calabar on Tuesday with mats and wrappers and prevented vehicles from entering or leaving the premises.

One of the female teachers who spoke on condition of anonymity, lamented that the non payment of their September and October salaries had already started taking tolls on them.

"A lot of us have gone through many tragedies. For example, we just lost a colleague who was buried last week because of non payment of salaries. He didn't even have money to go to hospital. We lost him. He was sick. They said he had malaria and typhoid.

"Another colleague of ours also lost her two children. She had domestic fire incident. As she took them to a private hospital, they asked her to

bring some money. She said she didn't have money. That's how she lost the two kids last week," she said.

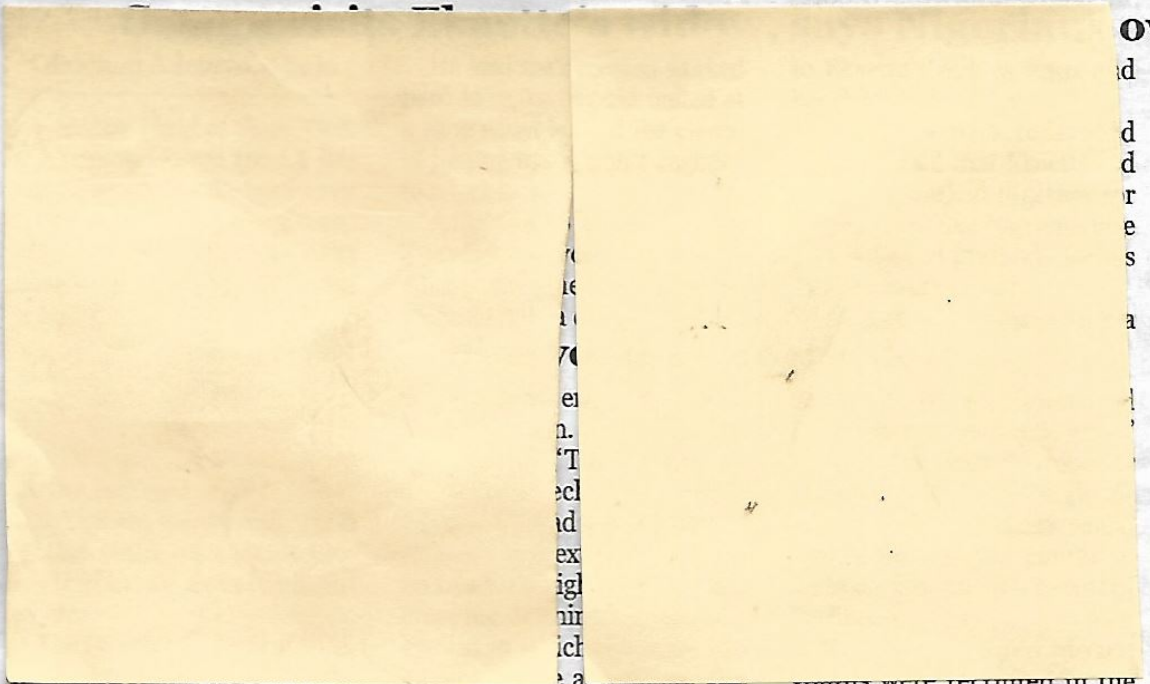
She added that landlords were threatening to evict them for failing to pay their house rents.

Their spokesman, Kenneth Bisong said, "We were employed

in 2015 and were surprised that our names were removed from the payroll in September without any reason or any letter disengaging us. We want our names reinstated in the payroll and our September and October salaries paid."

Unlike last week when a top

government official, Sir Alfred Mboto, Permanent Secretary in charge of security in the Governor's Office, addressed the protesting teachers and promised to convey their complaints to the governor, nobody attended to them until they got tired and left after several hours.



inauguration of the training, tagged, '2019 Sustainable Agricultural Development Training Scheme, said the programme was in line with Federal Government's policy on

Rural Employment Promotion Department of NDE is considering a paradigm shift from the usual Rural Agricultural Development Training Scheme training to a more robust

youths were recruited in the three senatorial districts for the training structured to include major areas of modern agricultural production, marketing, and agripreneurial training.