

## Pensioner Slumps, Dies In Benue Over Unpaid Entitlements

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Barely four months after two members of the Nigeria Union of Pensioners (NUP), slumped close to the office of Benue State Governor, Samuel Ortom, during a protest to press home their eleven months' unpaid entitlements, another member of the association identified simply as Mr. Kombo yesterday slumped and died in the state.

Kombo, who was among hundreds of protesters, collapsed at a meeting of Concerned Pensioners at its secretariat in Makurdi. He was, however rushed to the hospital where doctors confirmed him dead.

Chairman of Concerned Pensioners, Mr. Peter Ikyado, who disclosed this to New Telegraph, said due to the insensitivity of the state government to their plight, members had been taxed to pay N100 each to meet the burial obligations of their departed colleague.

Ikyado lamented the plight of the retirees, saying they were living at the mercy of God as their financial situation had denied them the basic needs of life including food, shelter, clothing and medication.

“As you can see, we can no longer afford to pay our children’s school fees, pay rent, buy food to feed our families or even buy drugs, the situation is terrible and the government is not doing anything.

We protested to Government House, met with the governor himself, but we don’t know what

is happening, it's really painful.”

While calling for increase in pensioners' allowances that have not been harmonised since 2001, Ikyado appealed to the state government to urgently look into their plight to save their lives.