

Teachers sacked over 70 oil protests

by Tom Moses

ABOUT 200 primary school teachers of Akwa Ibom origin sacked from service of Cross River State in the wake of the closure of 6 oil wells, yesterday, over the alleged refusal of Governor Godswill Akpabio to meet them.

Accompanied by placards of protest inscriptions, the teachers recalled how the Governor of Cross River State, Donald Duke, sacked them over the alleged ceding of oil rights to Cross River State to Akwa Ibom State.

The teachers, who marched along Abington Bassey Way, Government House, Ibadan, expressed their grievances to the Governor, where Governor Duke was expected to meet Akwa Ibom people on the 54th independence day.

Along with journalists, at the protest, Mr. Elijah Okeke, said they had taken the matter up with the Government, since they were sacked from Cross River State in the middle of the oil crisis, to no avail.

He called that key government functionaries, the deputy governor, Mrs. Valerie Ebe, Head Teacher, Mrs. Cecilia Eke and managers of the Universal Basic

Education, SUBEB, were notified of the matter but with no commensurate action to address their plights.

He said: "They have interviewed us for more than 20 times on this matter and each time, they will tell us that the

case was on the governor's table, that we should go and wait for directives.

"We have been waiting since 2006 and many of us have died while waiting for the government to make good its promise to absorb us."

Two suspected armed robbers shot dead in Edo

By Simon Ebegbulem

BENIN—TWO suspected armed robbers were, Tuesday, shot dead in Benin after a gun duel with policemen.

While one of the robbers was shot dead along Uromi-Agbor Road as his gang waylaid a Delta Line commercial bus, the other was killed in another operation on Tuesday night along Okhoro Road as his 10-member gang robbed houses in the area.

Members of the gang that laid ambush for the commercial bus were said to have, on sighting the police, opened fire, but were overpowered by the policemen who stormed the scene of the robbery, following a distress call.

One of them was killed, while another escaped into the bush.

The other gang was said to have stormed Okhoro Road, shooting sporadically as they robbed from one house to another, until they were accosted by the police, who

killed one of them.

Edo State Police spokesman, DSP Noble Uwoh, who confirmed the development, said: "The robbers accosted the commercial bus along Uromi-Agbor Road and during the exchange of fire one of the robbers was shot dead.

"One pump action rifle with No. TS 810-131627 and seven live cartridges recovered from him, while other members of the gang fled into the nearby bush with bullet wounds.

"The occupants of the vehicle and other road users already held hostage were rescued unhurt. Efforts are ongoing to track down the fleeing gunmen.

"Another gang, numbering over 10, went to a street around Okhoro Road, robbing houses around the area.

"After a distress call, our men stormed the place and the robbers opened fire. One was shot dead while we are on the trail of others that escaped. Our men recovered the stolen items, including over 50 handsets."