

MIXED GRILL

Amaechi Slams Ateke's Arm Surrendering

...Says He Is Not Sincere

By
Chris Jonah

Following the acceptance of the amnesty offered by President Yar'Adua, to Niger Delta militants, in order to pave way for peace in the region, the leader of the Niger Delta Vigilante group (NDV), Ateke Tom, through his counsel, Barr. Ikenna Enekeizu's willingness to surrender arms to the Federal Government by his camp has been frowned at by Rivers State Government.

Although the President of Federal Republic of Nigeria and Commander-in-Chief of Nigeria Armed Forces President Yar'Adua, expressed happiness over Ateke Tom's acceptance of the amnesty and has fixed Thursday 25th June, 2009, to announce the conditions for the grant, the government of Rivers State has described Ateke's actions as insincere.

In a press statement by the acting Chief Press Secretary to Governor Amaechi, Mr. Blessing Wikina on Monday 15th June, Ateke was not sincere in his declaration to embrace the Presidential amnesty, describing it as diversionary.

"The militant leader Ateke should not be taken seriously in view of his several antics in the past which led to severe consequences on his people. Peace cannot be achieved by proxy", it is either he is committed to the process or he is not. He is not sincere and should not be listened to", Mr. Wikina said.

"If Ateke was serious about his commitment to the peace

process in the Niger Delta and the Federal Government amnesty, he should have come out of hiding with his loyalists and guns, rather than speaking through a proxy, the statement noted.

This is not the first time Ateke Tom has deceived the people with a promise to contribute to the peace in Okrika and me believe that it is a play to re-enter Okrika to unleash mayhem," puncturing Ateke's claim to contributes to the restoration of peace in Okrika.

The statement from the Acting Press Secretary to the Governor urged the people of the state to discountenance



Ateke Tom

Ateke's claim as they do not contain any atom of remorse over the series of the self confessed killings he masterminded in the state, adding "while the Rivers State government welcome every genuine effort at seeking Federal Government's amnesty, we believe that such persons must show genuine and remorseful commitment to the process'.

The Rivers State government therefore called on the people to be focused in their commitment towards peace and should not allow Ateke Tom's many antics to dissuade them into believing him in the quest for amnesty.

Meanwhile, Governor Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi has ordered all illegal occupants of quarters in government schools in Rivers State to quit or faces the wrath of the law.

Giving the seven day ultimatum, the governor said the directive had become imperative as the structures would be demolished to pave way for the construction of new model primary schools.

The Governor ordered the demolition of shops at Okoronodu community primary school in Obio/Akpor and directed Immanuel Anglican Church, Okoronodu to stop work on

Change Roofing Sheets To Aluminium RSG Tells Landlords In PHALGA, Obio/Akpor

The Rivers State Government has directed Landlords in Port Harcourt and its environs to change their roofing sheets to aluminum materials within one year from now.

Government has also directed that all private and public buildings within Port Harcourt and Obio/Akpor to be painted within six months.

These were part of the outcome of the maiden meeting of the reconstituted state executive council in Port Harcourt.

Briefing Government House correspondents in Port Harcourt, the Commissioner of Urban Development, Mr. Osima Ginah said the decision was

part of efforts to improve the environment as government observed that most buildings were dilapidating fast as a result of poor quality materials used for such buildings.

He said " from January 2010 any building within Port Harcourt and Obio/Akpor that is not painted, government would take serious action against owners of such buildings", as he hinted that the ministry of Urban Development has been directed to ensure that property owners complied with the directive.

The Ministry, the Commissioner said, has also been given the marching order to seal up any commercial property without enough parking

space for customers, especially along Aba Road.

Mr. Ginah further hinted that government frowned at the rowdiness and poor sanitary condition in some parts of the state capital and directed that all commercial activities in strictly residential areas like GRA be relocated within one year while residents should keep their surroundings clean at all times.

Speaking separately, the Head of Service Mrs. Esther Anucha and the Commissioner for Women Affairs said Exco also deliberated on the forth coming Civil Service Day billed for June 23rd 2009 and the International Widows' Day celebration equally scheduled for the same date.

THE BEAM NEWSPAPER

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