

The Executive Governor of Rivers State, Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, decorated two police officers in Rivers State command for their contribution towards improving the security situation in the state.

Decorated are the

## Amaechi Decorates Police Officers, Saves Motorist

Commander of the Swift Operation Squad (SOS), Mr. Johnson Oni and the Mobile Police Service (MPS), Mr. Garba Baba Umar who were promoted to the ranks of Assistant Commissioners of Police (ACP).

Governor Amaechi recalled that the security situation in the state was worse than what it is today when the two decorated officers assumed duty in the state. He expressed delight in the achievements of the officers. The Commissioner of

By  
Chris Jonah

Police, Mr. Baba Hassan noted that the Inspector-General of Police decided to promote them to the ranks of Assistant Commissioners of Police in recognition of their efficiency, determination

and gallantry in service in which seven members of an armed robbery gang who snatched bullion vans in Abia and Imo States with millions of naira, and entered Rivers State were killed and the whole money recovered and sent to the banks.

In another development Gov. Amaechi saved a motorist from the hands of Rivers State Traffic wardens of the Ministry of Transport (MOT), who had arrested traffic, and also ordered the arrest of another driver and occupants of an 18-seater passenger bus along Rumuola-Umuokwuta Road for the same offence.

Gov. Amaechi had arrived the Bimkol Crescent by Obagi Street Junction with his convoy in New GRA, in the midst of face-off between the motorist and the MOT officials.

The Governor sought for explanation from the two parties and a woman who roasts corn on the street side. He urged the traffic wardens to forgive the motorist on the grounds that he pulled to a stop to buy the corn.

However, the other driver on sighting the Governor ran into a nearby compound and evacuated the passengers.

The Governor directed the bus to be impounded, while the search for the driver and occupants continued.

## Rivers Guber Tussle: Accept Realities On Ground

### Ekpeye Group Tells Soberekon

By  
Wilson Uchendu

The Concerned Ekpeye Group maintained that since the Supreme Court has made it clear that it is a political party that wins election and not a candidate who stands for the election, Soberekon no doubt should realize that Accord Party invariably participated and lost in the April 14, 2007 Governorship election.

Consequently argues the Group, the outcome of Soberekon's case at the Appeal Court is expected to toe the same line with that

of the Supreme Court since as an appellate court, it has no jurisdiction to overturn the decisions of the apex court.

The group further stressed that "Soberekon should not allow himself to be deceived by soothsayers, fake miracle performers, spiritualists, failed politicians who have lost out in the present political equation (as) PDP is firmly rooted in Rivers State in particular, and any assumption to the contrary that any other political party can win the governorship of

the state is a complete fallacy".

The group equally reiterated their unflinching support and loyalty to the Governor of Rivers State, Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi and urged him to continue with his numerous people-oriented policies and programmes, predicting that since his emergence and mandate are divine, God would allow him to constitutionally serve out his tenure so that the masses would enjoy unprecedented democratic dividends.

An organization under the aegis of Concerned Ekpeye Group rising from an emergency general meeting to x-ray and evaluate the impact of the Amaechi's administration on Ekpeye people and to respond accordingly on the much touted governorship re-run in Rivers State has asked the Accord Party gubernatorial candidate in the last April 2007 Election to not only accept the pronouncement of the Highest Court in the land, the Supreme Court concerning the governorship of Rivers State but also to join hands with the Amaechi led government in the development of the state.

In a communiqué issued at the end of the meeting and jointly signed by the Coordinator Hon. Dan Igbudu and Secretary, Eketu A, the Group categorically condemned the unnecessary dissipation of energy and hitting up the polity by the Gubernatorial Candidate of Accord Party instead of accepting "the realities on ground as a patriotic and true Rivers son". The statement went further that a "true politician is one who accepts defeat and re-strategize for another time with a view to mobilizing more support in the areas he performed abysmally in order to win resoundingly".

Therefore according to the Group, Soberekon should wait until 2011 if he wants to re-contest the Governorship of Rivers State.



## All Rivers Communities To Enjoy Electricity

All Rivers communities that hitherto were not in the grid for electricity consumption would soon heave a sigh of relief.

The reason for this is that the able Governor of Rivers State Rt. Hon. Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi has said that all rural communities would soon be provided with electricity. The Senior Special Assistant on Media and Publicity David Iyofor communicated to newsmen regarding the administrations intentions on power generation in the state saying that there are 391 power projects in the state and this will cover about 350 communities.

Quoting the Media and Publicity Assistant, "a lot of the communities are rurally based and have not been connected to the national power grid. The 391 power projects will include the installation of high tension, low tension, sub stations, extension and others in the communities.

"The power projects have been advertised for bidding and the bidding process completed. It has gone to the Due Process Bureau for due diligence. Once it goes through Due Process which we expect to be very soon, we will be electrifying all communities in the state without electricity. We hope that by December, we would have provided power to all communities in the

By  
Paschal Agbada

state. Governor Amaechi strongly believes that all Rivers communities should have regular power no matter how difficult and impossible the terrain is".

The Media Assistant was not done as he went ahead to intimate of the Amaechi administrations plans to commence work soon on a 300 megawatts Independent Power Project (IPP) intended to power the new Greater Port Harcourt City.

The Media buff said "this fits into the Amaechi's administration policy to provide power to the people of Rivers State.

Presently, we are about completing a 100 megawatts and a 75 megawatts power projects that were started by a previous administration. The second Eleme Gas Turbine we hope to complete next year. Our target is to have a total of 255 megawatts of power by next year. If you add that to the 300 megawatts that we would be building for the new city, we would have roughly 600 megawatts of power. That would make Rivers State very self-sufficient with power, if you consider that Port Harcourt presently needs between 350 to 400 megawatts of power.

Mr. Iyofor remarked that transmission of the power to

### ~ Amaechi

be generated would not pose a problem noting that Rivers State is the only state enjoying independent transmission line.

"We are talking with the Federal Government on how we can handle the distribution of power generated from one IPP.

Already, this administration is building seven power sub-stations all over the state. Shneider is doing it".

Mr. Iyofor concluded by stating that the power projects are strictly enshrined in Amaechi's policies intended to rebuild Rivers state into a unique model state.



IGP Okiro

## PDP In Rivers Is Not Divided

By  
Wilson Uchendu

Governor Amaechi and himself were passionately welcomed by Dr. Odili during the last PDP convention in Abuja.

Chief Ake said: "Nobody has come to say I've left PDP and nobody has equally come to allege that I have problem with anybody.

I'm the Chairman of the Party, I should be aware if there is anybody that has a problem in the party".

The state PDP boss also added that he even ate in the house of the former Governor and urged all individuals who make unguarded statements concerning crisis in the state to desist from such actions since

### ~G.U. Ake

according to him such comments are not the true representation of the reality on ground.



G.U. Ake

# Abia Council Chairman Escapes Lynching

## ...As Angry Mob Chase Him Over Staff's Death

In their characteristic manner, an angry mob in Aba moved after the Aba South Local Government Chairman Hon Clement Okezie Erondu last week over the sudden death of one of his staff on duty identified as Madam Ochulor.

It took the combined team of anti-riot policemen and ordinary police to disperse the angry mob that rushed after the Council Chairman and his executives as soon as the news of the woman's death broke out, as they had felt that what killed her was executive highhandedness and callousness on the part of the leaders.

According to eye witness account, the female staff who has been battling with a terminal disease for

sometime now approached her employers for a loan or salary advance to enable her take care of her health but was turned down severally.

The late civil servant whom we learnt has been pining under the economic crunch like every other civil servant in Abia State for the past six (6) months was complaining aloud for help but non came her way.

"The late Mama was requesting for at least N5,000 to buy some recommended drugs to hold down the sickness but the authorities felt adamant" one of her colleagues cried.

But as soon as she dropped

dead on her desk, we learnt that money was made available to take the corpse to the mortuary a development which irked sympathizers who later turned into a mob as the traders and touts joined in the protest.

As soon as the mob approached the office of the executive, Chairman, our source disclosed that the

By **Joe Kalu**

council boss sneaked out from the back door, while other staff made frantic efforts to contact the police.

"What is most pathetic was the fact that the woman's husband got blind sometime ago in course of a sickness making it impossible for the man to hustle for his family's upkeep, and

transferring all the burden unto the late woman who had no other source of livelihood.

When our reporter called at the Council nobody was willing to touch the matter even with a long spoon. Those who managed to speak did so pleading for cover. They appealed to the outside world to come to their aid because according to them the government of

Chief Theodore Orji is really suffocating the people with his Bakassi Vigilante Security Outfit and ubiquitous taskforce that intimidate them on empty stomach.

Meanwhile we further learnt that the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees, NULGE Aba South Chapter is warming up for a show down with the authority.

## GSM Tariffs Must Be Reduced

Professor Dora Akunyili the Information Minister has vowed to reduce the tariffs charged by Telecommunications Operators in the country.

She stated this last weekend in Markurdi Benue State during the 40<sup>th</sup> National Council on Information and Communication meeting where she also lampooned the operators for poor quality services emphasizing that they must improve on their services and start off on number portability.

The Minister who was vexed at the limited services being rendered by Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) in the country noted that while the operators charged exorbitant tariffs, poor quality services remained. She therefore insisted that number portability which is a service that allows phone users to migrate within amongst other mobile networks without necessarily changing sim cards has become long over due.

Emphasizing that operators should improve on services while at the same time following the proper

ethics of operation she said "We will monitor activities in the telecoms industry and various developments with the aim of sanitizing the industry and ensuring a strict compliance to Nigerian laws and international standards.

"I intend to deliver on my promise in the area of tariff reduction, dropped calls and number portability and my commitment is irrevocable".

According to the Minister, the impunity with which the telecom operators violate Nigerian laws and international standards in Nigeria is no longer acceptable.

The tough-talking former Director-General of NAFDAC stressed that her Ministry would set plans in motion to create a working synergy between NCC, NBC and other notable players in the telecoms industry to make sure customers to the industry get quality service and good competitive pricing.

~ Dora Akunyili

By **Paschal Agbada**

The minister who pointed out that interest access remained a challenge as the world had become a global village saying that right now about 10 million Nigerians have access to the net but definitely the number would double or even triple.

She expressed joy at the fact that Nigeria was one of the growing fastest markets for telecoms in the globe.

Having moved from below 400,000 telephone services in 2001 to more than 69 million currently emphasizing however that operators in the industry has attracted a lot of complaints ranging from high tariff, drop calls, and lack of regard to customers.

According to reports from the African Development Bank (ADB), the telecoms industry in Nigeria has attracted foreign direct

investment (FDI) to the tune of \$12 billion dollars since its inception while the NCC has on its own made not less than \$2.5 billion through licensing of operators alone.



Akunyili



Gov. Orji

## Former Council Chairman On The Run Over Missing Money

Former Caretaker Committee Chairman of Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State Hon. Harcourt Whyte is now on the run over missing money belonging to the council.

We gathered that the former Chairman who served under the illegal government of Sir Celestine Omehia was recently invited by the Obio/Akpor legislative arms to account for the 98 million naira belonging to

the Council during his tenure.

Meanwhile, the Obio/Akpor legislative arms has declared the former Chairman wanted for failure to honour several invitations by the House.

Beam Checks however gathered that the former Council Chairman allegedly diverted the money meant for the development of the area into his private account as we also learnt that the 98 million Naira was shared

between him and his godfathers in the area.

An indigene of the area who spoke to our reporter on conditions of anonymity appealed to the Chairman of the Council Timothy Nsirim and the legislators to soft pedal and toe the line of the state Governor Rt. Hon. Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi who inspite of calls and persuasions to probe both the Odili and Omehia's rather appealed to all to join hands with his government to move the state forward.

## Commissioners:

### Do not Delay Appointments

~Rivers People Urge Amaechi

By **Okechukwu Geoffrey**

Politicians and non politicians alike in the state have called on the state Governor Rt. Hon. Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi not to delay in the appointment of the remaining commissioners as further delay may slow the pace of development in state.

As a Speaker of the State House of Assembly for eight concrete years the people said the governor does not need any prophet to tell him who can deliver and who cannot and wondered why the delay especially now that the state is beginning to witness unprecedented turn-around in all spheres of life. They appealed to

him to recall those that have performed and put behind him those who by all standards performed below expectation.

The people who hailed the re-appointment of the eight commissioners into the State Executive Council by Governor Amaechi implored them to put extra efforts in ensuring that the best is achieved in this administration considering the untold hardship meted out to the people over the years.

The Concerned Group who did not want their names mentioned said should the governor bring back any of the

commissioners who did not do well then he should be prepared to expect total failure in such ministries.

On the on-going projects in the state, they thanked the Governor for a job well done but decried the lackadaisical attitudes of some of the contractors whom they accused of delaying certain jobs especially road construction.

In the same vein, motorists plying the Port Harcourt/Airport Road are appealing to the state government to do some repair works on that road as it is now a death trap to both motorists and their passengers.

## Enugu: LG Chairmen Panic As Probe Commences

There is palpable fear hovering around the premises of various headquarters of Enugu State Local Government Areas as the State House of Assembly Committee on Local

Government, Public Accounts and Anti-corruption probes into their finances.

Beam Checks gathered at the weakened that the House of Assembly is mainly

By  
**Wilson Uchendu**  
concerned with contracts awarded, projects executed, relationship between council executive and legislative arms as well as

how council chairmen deal with Administrators of Development Areas.

The State House of Assembly Committee Chairman, Cletus Enebe led other members on a visit of

14 out of the 17 LGAs of the state. Hon. Enebe told journalists that their findings would be made public once his committee reports back to the Assembly and proper deliberations conducted.

Also, our reporter noticed during a visit to some LGAs that most council chairmen who are already guests of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, (EFCC) are agitated as findings reveal that the LGAs since January 2009 has received over N50 billion from Federation Account including their shares from the Excess Crude Account.

The Assembly members were said to be stunned by some of their findings in some councils visited. For instance in Igbo Eze South LGA, it was allegedly revealed that the chairman paid millions of naira to his wife in form of allowances and imprest but refused to do the same to the Deputy Chairman's wife.

A similar discovery was made in Nsukka LGA where some councillors told journalists that the chairman has already embezzled over N2 billion and the only

project to show for it is a medium size fish pond.

In Nkanu East, the Assembly members were said to be perplexed to their marrow when they discovered that Akpugo-Oruku Bridge slated to have gulped over N400 million has reached only 5 percent completion.

It was equally discovered that some council chairmen refused to pay the statutory N500,000 monthly imprest to Development Area Administrators while others only allegedly paid just half of that amount.

Hon. Enebe said "We are looking at issues like funds, projects executed, human capital development including the relationship between the executive and legislative arms of the council and whether the Chairmen are adhering to laws guiding councils."

He continued "this is one issue that we are taking seriously. We want to be furnished with details of all contracts awarded. We want to know the agreement with contractors and how much that was paid and how much that is remaining."

## Kidnapping In Abia: Govt. Positions For Action

Governor Theodore Orji of Abia State has expressed the readiness of his government to solve the kidnapping and armed robbery crimes in the state by dealing with those he described as the enemies of his administration. In a state television and radio broadcast last week, the Governor said it has become imperative to X-ray the security situation in the state and efforts government is making to arrest the situation. He noted that kidnapping has assumed intolerable level in recent times, in spite of huge resources government has expended in check-mating the scourge.

"In my second year anniversary speech, I promised to take steps to tackle the menace of kidnapping and other social-ills that are affecting our development. The recent events showed that there is deliberate plot by some unscrupulous elements, to rubbish modest achievements, we have made in our administration for the past two years by fueling acts of insecurity in the state. It is not in doubt that enemies of government engaged in sponsoring criminals activities in the state to discredit this administration's achievements.

"This is coupled with a pack of criminals dislodged from Niger Delta region who have been operating in Abia State. These criminals have assumed pandemic in the past six months, despite the dedicated efforts of the government to tame them. Government has done everything security wise to attack investors despite the infamous activities of the criminals.

Gov. Orji said the challenge facing his administration was kidnapping for ransom as armed robbery has been curbed significantly. "As a responsible and responsive government, we partner with the organized private sectors particularly, the banks to provide logistic support to the menace in terms of patrol vans, telecommunication equipment and cash for security personnel. This had produced hefty result which had helped to promote law and order", he expressed.

Further move, he said, "some of the steps we've taken to maintain law and order was the banning of motorcycle operation after 6.00p.m. This option was taking after of discovering that most of crimes are committed with motor bikes "Government has warned okada riders that any kidnapping or armed robbery

By  
**Chris Jonah**

committed by the aid of motorcycle, will end in total banning of okada in urban areas of the state".

According to the Governor, Abia State House of Assembly has passed bill into law permitting the formation of vigilante under the supervision of the Nigeria Police Force and they have been making an impact in the fight against crime in the state.

He added that reversed criminal proceeding law has been passed and signed which makes kidnapping a capital offence in the state and.

Equally explained that the summary execution affects the accomplices of kidnapers.

He noted that 60 patrol vans, Insurance Scheme for security operatives, two new police

formation (Mopol 55 squared at Nsulu and anti-terrorism squared at Obi-Ngwa), armoured vehicles and N1m reward for informants that would led to the arrest of kidnapers is on ground.

"In spite of these efforts, kidnapping are still going on in high level the deserved result have not be achieved. I wondered how one would plan to kidnap another person for ransom. It is not only against the society but against peace, stability and development. The government cannot fold hands and watch criminals and hoodlum hold our people hostage.

"We want to reassure the people of the state that we are doing everything possible to terminate and deal with kidnapping and kidnapers. We are aware with the security

report that criminals dislodged from Niger Delta had found their way to Abia State he opined.

The Chief Executive, however, noted with the renewed fight on kidnapping the constitution of special anti-kidnap squad, and the activities of the Joint Military Taskforce, (JTF), kidnapping would be reduced to the barest minimum.

"I'm sure; very soon, the state would be restored to its status as Nigerians' most peaceful state. As part of government plan to empower the youths and other category in various degrees of unemployment, we have put in place machineries for skill acquisition programme to accommodate more persons and more courses, and create more jobs and human development" he said.

## AKULGA Chairman Risks Sack

State House of Assembly members from the area, Hon Onari Brown and Hon. Iboroma Kitchner, as well as the former Commissioner for Local Government, Chieftaincy and Community Affairs Dr. Tammy Danagogo with a view at resolving the crisis, our findings revealed that Danagogo had offered to mediate but all efforts to assuage the Chairman failed.

Another questionable project was the construction of 40,000 litre tank boreholes running on 5 taps at the staggering cost of N11 million each.

Four of such boreholes were constructed at the total sum of N44 million. Strictly speaking the councilors stressed, these projects obviously were over-inflated and painfully have not been functional though already commissioned.

The Motor Park claimed to have been done by Awoyesuku was constructed during Danagogo's administration and was financed by Shell B.P. Also, the Legislative Assembly which had its picture published by Awoyesuku as one of his projects was built by Danagogo.

Awoyesuku was said to have bought tables, chairs and public address system to the tune of N5.5m

Another interesting project of the Awoyesuku administration is the construction of miniature modern toilets at the cost of N5.2 million each. Incidentally the Chairman appears to be a master in crafting all styles to line his

pockets with public funds. Quoting the leader, Hon. Bob-

**AKUKU-TORU LOCAL GOVERNMENT**  
Rivers State of Nigeria

OFFICE  
Council Secretariat  
P.M.B. 1  
Akuku-Toru, Rivers State

DATE: 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2009

The Leader,  
Akuku-Toru Legislative Assembly  
Akulga.

Sir,

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO SECURE A LOAN FACILITY FOR THE EXECUTION OF SOME PROJECTS**

I write to inform the Akuku-Toru Local Government Legislative Assembly of the intention of the Local Government Council to secure a Loan facility of Two Hundred Million Naira (N200, 000,000.00) only from the First Bank of Nigeria (Main Branch) Plc (Lagos).

It has become necessary to seek your approval to secure a loan facility in view of the need to execute some projects for the well being of the people of the L.G.A via the past monthly subvention from the Federal Government.

The projects earmarked for execution include:

1. Construction of a New Council Secretariat Block Building
2. Renovation of the Old Council Secretariat Block Building
3. Renovation of Vice-Chairman/Secretary Office Block Building
4. Renovation of two (2) Bedroom Office Block "A" Building
5. Renovation of two (2) Bedroom Office Block "B" Building
6. Renovation of two (2) Bedroom Office Block "C" Building

It is my firm belief that the Legislative Council will accord this request for approval the consideration it deserves.

Looking forward to receiving your approval.

Yours faithfully,  
**For: Akuku-Toru Local Government**

**Hon. Barr. Paul Awoyesuku**  
Executive Chairman

Attached is the letter written by the chairman requesting the legislators to approve a N200m loan facility from First Bank