

# FG urged to redeploy Plateau police boss

MOSES EZULIKE, Jos

FEDERAL Government has been called upon to redeploy Plateau State Commissioner of Police, Richard Chime, following general insecurity in the state leading to the murder of a governorship aspirant, Chief Jesse Aruku, last weekend.

One-time minister of Agriculture and National Resources, Dr Jonah Madugu, who made the call in Jos, the State capital Tuesday said fears of general insecurity in the state is increasing by the day.

The unsettling security situation arising from the late Saturday night murder, has heightened apprehension and anxiety even with another chilling assassination of a Nigerian Television Authority

(NTA) Staff, Mr. Alex Atighir, whose body was also found dumped in a gutter last week, in the Tudun Wada Area of the state capital.

The two deaths, *Daily Champion* gathered, were recorded simultaneously over the weekend, just as the state government has sent a 'Save Our Soul' (SOS) message to the federal government to, as a matter of urgency come to its aid security wise, to avert further killings.

Speaking exclusively with *Daily Champion* in Jos, the former Agric Minister, declared: "I know how Ilozoike (former police commissioner) fought and got the crime rate reduced, but ever since his (Chime) tenure, the reverse has been the case.

"I am therefore aligning myself with those who have called for the removal of the state police commissioner, because we can not continue to lose the lives of innocent people in the state on a daily basis", the *Dan Masani Jos* stated.

Dr. Madugu's call is coming on the heels of a vote no confidence earlier passed on the police commissioner, by the Berom Youth Movement, which last week, accused Mr. Chime of doing little or nothing towards combating the crime rate in the state.

Their grouse was a recent attempted murder of another gubernatorial aspirant under the same Advanced Congress of Democrats (ACD), Architect Pam Dung Gyang,

who narrowly escaped bullets of suspected assassins in his Jos home.

Also reacting to the rising profile of crime in the state, elder statesman and leader of ACD, Ambassador Yahaya Kwande, accused opposition to the ACD of being responsible for the killings and the ceaseless violence.

Ambassador Kwande pleaded with both the Federal and Plateau State Governments as well as security agents to beef up security in the state.

Alhaji Kwande feared that the present spate of killings will be child's play when compared to what he said will happen in 2007, if the current orgy of violence in the polity was not effectively tackled.

Both Ambassador Kwande and Dr. Madugu believed that the violence being recorded in the state, was a ploy by the opposition party to not only intimidate or cow ACD's Supporters and members, but one designed to whittle down the party's popularity so as to deny it victory in 2007 elections.

"The threat is nothing, and we can not succumb to that ploy, because we are prepared to match force with force. The fact that the ACD is strongly rooted and very popular, is beginning to get some people jittery, but I can tell you that we can not be intimidated", Dr. Madugu stressed.

The Plateau State Youth Council (PYC) also expressed concern and shock over the recurring violence, which it is said, "has created and panic among the citizenry as well as paralyzed business activities".

## Enugu youths want Ogbu to join guber race

CHUKWUDI ACHIFE, Enugu

YOUTHS in Enugu State have invited the Chief Economic Adviser to the president, Chief Osita Ogbu, to join the governorship race.

Among the notable aspirants are two of Nnamani's opponents in the 2003 elections, Chief Ugochukwu Agballa of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) and Chief Fidel Ayogu of the All Nigerian Peoples Party (ANPP). Also in the race is Ms Lorreta Aniagoulu who ran in 2003 on the platform of the National Conscience Party (NCP). Others include Dr John Ameachina, Chief C.O.C Egumbe who was the pioneer chairman of the

of the state."

"As youths we have sorted through and across the nooks and crannies of our land to see if there is any one we could entrust our precious tomorrow, and we are glad to announce to the good people of our land, both home and in the Diaspora, that Chief Osita Ogbu, one of our own, whose intellectual prowess as the Chief Economic Adviser to the president has brought about the economic progress and achievement that the Obasanjo administration has celebrated," the youths said.

The communiqué signed by the National Coordinator, Comrade Chineme Onyeke and Nkanu-East local government Coordinator, Mr. Tony Nnaji,

stressed that the discovery of a man of an impeccable personality like Chief Ogbu "is the best thing that has happened to the state", adding that he was in a better position to jump-start the economy of the state when compared with others now clamouring for the high office.

"We are most aware of the philosophical and political ideology, which says that the economy of a state is the sub-structure that can only determine the other structures. Therefore, if anyone lead effectively, he must be a vibrant builder of the economy, so as to ensure a viable and solid structures in other spheres of the state and we believe Ogbu is in the right position to do this," it added.