

# Mayhem in Anambra

ODOGWU EMEKA  
ODOGWU, Awka

## • 4 killed, village deserted

**O**SILE Village, Ogbunike in Oyi Local government area of Anambra State, is now a ghost of itself as residents have deserted it following fresh crisis in the area which led to the killing of four more persons and burning of 20 houses.

Also, the policemen and soldiers drafted to the troubled-community to save lives and property, were wounded in the violence yesterday by youths on the alleged instigation of the traditional ruler of the town, Igwe John Umenyiora, who is now in police custody in Awka, the state capital.

Miffed by this development the state Governor, Mr Peter Obi, has ordered the setting up of a probe panel to investigate the remote and immediate causes of the communal crisis that has consumed five lives and property worth several millions of naira, vowing that the culprits would be brought to book.

Speaking at the troubled Osile yesterday during his visit, Governor Obi who in company of the state police commissioner, Mr Haruna John, condemned the wanton destruction of lives and property in the community and challenged the state police boss to bring the situation to normalcy.

Governor Obi informed the villagers that it is regrettable that they are being misled to reject development when the policies of the government is development-driven especially Ogbunike that has been named an industrial site.

The State Commissioner of police assured the Governor that the police had beefed up security to bring the situation to normal describing the gruesome attack of the village youths on the military and police joint security team sent to restore normalcy in the community as uncalled for as police is for peace and not for war.

Haruna decried that efforts made by the police to avert the present situation in Osile community after the first incident was thwarted by enemies of peace. He assured that anybody who had hand in the crisis will be dealt with, charging them to be good citizens and law-abiding citizens even as he confirmed that some arrests have been made.

Responding, President-General, Osile Welfare League, Mr. Dennis Ofofiele, urged the state government and the Nigerian police to come to their rescue as lives and valuable property worth millions of naira are being wasted.

*Daily Champion* recalls that a fortnight ago, the youths had, in a violent to protest the building of a factory in their community land as allegedly instigated by their traditional ruler who confiscated communal land against the people's wish, killed one person and seven houses worth billions of naira torched by the demonstrating youths while five people, including two policemen, were wounded in the orgy of violence over 30 Acres of land. The community later sent save our soul to the Government and the police.

Osile Welfare League had in a petition to the state governor, called for a judicial commission of enquiry to be set-up to look into the immediate and remote causes of the crisis and problems in Ogbunike even as they alleged that the traditional ruler of the town, Igwe J. O. Umenyiora instigated the rioting.

Also, the management of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka led by the Pro Chancellor and the Governing Council Chairman of the institution; professor Greg Iwu, had petitioned Governor Obi to set up a panel of enquiry into the crisis to find out the causes of the problems as well as to save guard the university industry in the community.

**E**NCONIUMS flowed freely for Group Managing Director (GMD) of *Champion Newspapers*, Mr Emma Agu who yesterday celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Prominent Nigerians, his friends, family members and colleagues who were at the celebration described him as humble visionary and honourable optimist who has impacted positively on the Nigerian journalism terrain.

The event which commenced as 2.30pm with the celebrant, dressed in black suit and shoes to match, with his wife, son and daughter marching into the hall to the adoration of dignitaries and everybody present.

Chairman of the occasion, Dr Charles Amanze who is also the chairman of board of University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital (UNTH) Enugu, ignited the fire of encomiums in his opening remarks where he said that the celebrant has made monumental achievements which have kept reverbrating within and outside the country.

Amanze, who went down memory lane, recalling Agu's meteoric rise in journalism commended his (Agu) emotional attachment to *Champion Newspapers Limited (CNL)* where he has spent 19 years.

He described Agu as a very reliable man of rare humility, noting that these virtues have made the publisher of CNL, Chief (Dr) Emmanuel Iwuanyanwu to hand over all his businesses to him (Agu) to oversee.

Also speaking, Information