

Peterside raises alarm over killing of APC members

From Victor Edozie, Port Harcourt

Governorship candidate of the All Progressive Congress (APC) in Rivers State, Dakuku Peterside, has raised the alarm over what he called the continuous killing of members of the party.

Peterside, who spoke through his campaign organization's director of communication, Mrs Ibim Seminitari, in a statement issued in Port Harcourt yesterday demanded an immediate end to the act, warning of spiral effects if it is not stopped. While calling for proactive steps by security agencies to check the development, he said, "they killed APC members during the election, but why have they continued to kill after the polls."

He named Ahoada-East, Okrika and other local government areas in the state where APC members have either been killed or abducted as examples, adding that the killings raise concerns about the calibre of men and women declared winners of elections in the estate.

"The unabated killing of APC members in Rivers State raise concerns about the mental status of the men and women INEC declared winners of the recent elections in the state. We are afraid that killers and sundry criminals have been imposed on the state by INEC, and if we are right, then, worse days lay ahead for our people," he said.

He lamented that in Ahoada-East Local Government Area, several gory killings have been recorded since the April 11 elections.

"Since the discredited governorship and House of Assembly elections in Rivers State, killers have swarmed on Ahoada East, hitting their targets. Recently, Messrs Chigba Apollos and Chiezule German, both members of APC in the area, were shot dead in Ibarikpo town by unknown gunmen. Ibarikpo is in Ahoada-East, Ward 13. Apart from the killings, kidnappers are also on the prowl targeting only APC members," he added.

"Apart from Ikegbidi who was kidnapped last Friday, April 18, Mr. Suleiman Atago from Ideoha in Ward 5, and Chidi Oji from Ihuowo Ward 10, respectively, were also abducted by heavily armed gunmen reportedly dressed in military uniform. In Okrika, more bizarre killings of known APC members have taken place. On Tuesday, March 24, ahead of the

presidential election, Miebaka Opuogulaya from Abam-Ama (Abam community) was not only killed but his body was taken away by his killers. In similar bizarre manner, on Thursday, April 15, Mr. Saturday Wakama was killed and his corpse was carried away. Wakama, a popular APC member in Okrika, was a member of the Ijaw Youth Council (IYC) and had championed campaigns for a riverine governor in Rivers State," he said.

He called on security agents to arrest those behind the killings and bring them to justice.

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as **MOHAMMED FATIMA DOKOCHI**, and now wish to be known and called as **MRS SHEHU FATIMA DOKOCHI**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and the general public should please take note.