

# Gunmen kill Enugu market leader, governor vows to apprehend perpetrators

From Lawrence Njoku, Enugu

**T**HE Enugu State Police Command has confirmed the murder of Stephen Aniagu, Chairman of the Ogbete Main Market Traders Association (OMATA), Enugu, by unknown gunmen.

Police operatives are on the trail of the assailants.

Aniagu was shot dead at Moses Ogbodo Junction near Topland Market in the Amaechi area of Enugu South Local Council at about 8:20 p.m. on Saturday, September 14.

The spokesperson of the command, DSP Daniel Ndukwe, said yesterday: "A preliminary investigation reveals that the unknown armed hoodlums, operating in a Toyota Corolla car, double-crossed and shot the victim, making off with his blue Toyota Corolla car.

"He was taken to the hospital

by police operatives who hastened to the scene but was confirmed dead by doctors. His body was deposited in the mortuary for preservation and further investigative actions.

"The Commissioner of Police, Kanayo Uzuegbu, has ordered tactical squads of the command who are on the trail of the assailants to deploy all the intelligence and operational resources at their disposal to hunt the criminals down. "He also ordered the Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of the state to conduct a discreet investigation to unravel the circumstances of the incident."

Kanayo assured the public that the police would leave no stone unturned in bringing the perpetrators of the act to book.

Meanwhile, Governor of Enugu State, Peter Mbah, has

given security agencies in the state 48 hours to fish out Aniagu's killers.

He vowed that no one would commit such heinous crime in the state under his watch and go scot-free.

Mbah also commiserated with the deceased's family and OMATA.

Reacting to the development, yesterday, Mbah said, "This is a sad loss, not only to OMATA as a body, but also to the entire state. In the meantime, I have directed security agencies in the state to produce his killers within 48 hours.

"As we have always maintained, and every merchant of death or criminal in the state ought to know by now, that we have demonstrated the capacity to bring them to book. We have the will, technology, and resources to pursue, track down, overtake,



Gov. Mbah

and defeat such workers of wickedness.

"Therefore, those who committed this atrocity have bitten more than they can chew. They have murdered sleep, hence neither they nor the government and security agencies will sleep until all the perpetrators are captured and justice served in accordance with the law sooner than later."