

# Gunmen Attack Orji's Convoy, Kill One

By Ben Duru  
CORRESPONDENT, Umuahia

Dare-devil armed bandits on Tuesday morning attacked the convoy of Governor Theodore Orji of Abia State, leaving the vehicles riddled with bullets.

The attack, which occurred at

Ngwa Itiekwe in Ugwuagbo Local Government Area, was the second in recent times.

The convoy was at Port Harcourt International Airport to welcome Orji and his wife, who had been away in the United States for about two weeks.

It was the governor's first offi-

cial trip outside the shores of the nation since coming to power on May 27, last year.

Brandishing sophisticated weapons, including AK47 assault rifles, the bandits blocked the road in readiness for the approach of the governor's convoy.

During the shootout that sent the occupants of the convoy, scampering for safety, a middle-aged man was killed, while another person sustained serious bullet injuries.

Those in the convoy lost valu-

ables including video cameras, handsets and laptops to the bandits.

They succeeded in making away with the governor's official and backup Jeeps, which were later abandoned around Ogwe, in Ukwa West Local Government Area, several kilometers from the scene of the incident.

Orji, who was overwhelmed by the number of bullet holes on the vehicles, as well as the injuries sustained by his officials, could only

wonder at the rationale for the attack.

He, however, maintained that he was not afraid of death, asserting that he enjoys the support of the people of the state. He added that the mandate given him last year was divine and cannot be vitiated.

The governor maintained that those planning to assassinate him would not succeed, adding that he was confident that the plotters would reap what they sowed.

## EFCC Sues Jimoh Ibrahim Over Trade Bank

By Anthony Okoro  
and Francis Iwuchukwu, Lagos

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on Tuesday arraigned the Chairman and CEO of Global Fleet Oil and Gas Company Limited, Jimoh Ibrahim, before a Lagos High Court, Ikeja, presided over by Justice Olubunmi Joseph Oyewole, for improperly obtaining loans from the defunct Trade Bank Limited.

He is facing a six-count charge of forgery, impersonation, and obtaining money by false pretence.

However, the accused was not present in court when the case came up for hearing.

Counsel for the EFCC, A. A. Adetunji informed the court that the accused was expected to be in court and expressed surprise over his non-appearance.

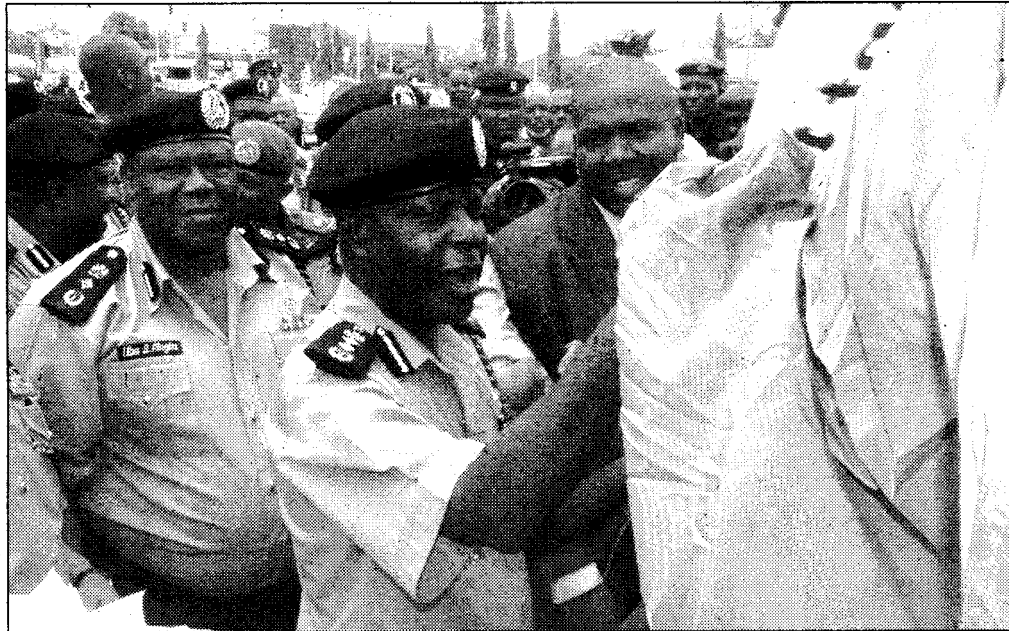
He prayed the court to grant a short adjournment to enable him find out reasons for his absence.

Ibrahim, who is also the Chairman of NICON Insurance, was charged by the anti-corruption agency, following a petition dated May 18, 2007 by the Managing Director/Chief Executive of Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC), G. A. Ogunleye, that Ibrahim was indebted to Trade Bank Plc.

According to the EFCC charge sheet signed by M. S. Hassan, Ibrahim allegedly forged a Board resolution of VGC Communications Ltd on September 26, 2005 to facilitate a loan of N1 billion from the now liquidated Trade Bank Plc.

Following an application by the EFCC counsel, Justice Oyewole adjourned the case to Wednesday, July 30, 2008.

In his reaction, Ibrahim stated that the EFCC was purportedly act-



Inspector-General of Police, Mike Okiro (2nd left), Deputy Inspector-General of Police, E-Department, Uba Ringim (left), and Consultant, Sublime Communication, Peter Osangbi, at the unveiling of star prize KIA Rio car, donated by Dana Motors for the MTN Police Marathon, in Abuja on Tuesday.

## Mbadinuju Asks Court To Quash Forgery Charge

By Joe Nwankwo  
SNR CORRESPONDENT, Abuja

Former Governor of Anambra State, Chinwoke Mbadinuju, on Tuesday asked an Abuja High Court to quash the charges of forgery against him, because the police did not follow due process in filing the charge.

Mbadinuju, through his counsel, Tochukwu Onwubufu (SAN) told the court, presided over by Justice Abubakar Talba, that the Police High Command did not follow due procedure to arraign him.

Onwubufu further told the court that the police did not attach relevant documents to prove that his client forged the said police report, which absolved him of complicity in the murder of the then Nigerian Bar Association Chairman (NBA), Onitsha branch, Barnabas Igwe and his wife, Abigail.

The police in its response, through Simon Lough, told the court that the application for the leave of court to arraign the accused person for forgery was properly processed and that the

signature of Solomon Arase on the document in 2003, varied with the one signed in his statement in 2007.

Lough, however, asked the court to discountenance the application seeking to quash the charges, as according to him, the points raised by the prosecution is for the trial proper and not for the leave of court to try him.

After hearing the arguments of both parties, Justice Abubakar Talba adjourned the matter to September 22 for ruling on the application to quash the charges.

## Good Distribution System'll Guarantee Quality Drugs -Akunyili

would ensure an audit trail on imported or manufactured drugs, in-

## Trainer Aircraft Crashes In Kaduna

By Sade Ayodele  
AVIATION CORRESPONDENT, Lagos

A trainer Tampico B9 aircraft with registration number 5TAV, on Tuesday crashed into the runway of the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT), Zaria, after a female trainee pilot lost control of the aircraft because of bad weather.

Media Assistant to the Director-General of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), Sam Adurogboye, said the pilot was on solo training flight when the incident occurred.

It was about 11 a.m. in Samaru, a sleepy community in Zaria, Kaduna State.

According to NCAA, the trainee did not however, sustain any injury.

He disclosed that the agency had informed the Accident Investigation Bureau (AIB), which has moved to the site of the incident.

The trainee, according to the NCAA, decided to bring down the aircraft due to severe weather, adding that her inability to land properly on the runway, forced the aircraft to swerve off, eventually crash landing into the airfield side of the runway.

A trainee pilot at the aviation college had recently crashed another Tampico trainer aircraft into a high wire tension wire around Zaria.

The aviation college had a few years ago acquired some Tampico aircraft, with which its trainee pilots carry out instrument flights around the Zaria airspace, for the abinitio 18 months flying course.

The airfield in Zaria is restricted to instrument flights, as it does not have state-of-the-art navigation and communication equipment, compared to other highly rated airports.