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in an exclusive interview with *Daily Independent* that former Power Ministers, like the late Bola Ige, could not fulfil their promise to solve the problem within six months "because there was no plan in place."

He said President Goodluck Jonathan, who even

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Another PDP chieftain murdered in Akwa Ibom

• Mega party threatens protest

By Aniefiok Macauley (Uyo)
and Akinwunmi King (Lagos)

IN AKWA Ibom State, another member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Daniel Ekanem, was shot dead on Saturday by unknown assailants, as the murder of Paul Inyang is still being investigated by the police.

Ekanem reportedly received a telephone call on Saturday morning urging him to meet some visitors and was gunned down immediately he stepped out of his home.

Ekanem, who hailed from Ikot Ukana, was the PDP Chairman in Ibesikpo Council when Victor Attah was Governor.

His death has heightened

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Ohanaeze endorsed Jonathan to scuttle Northern Presidency – Uwechue

• Saraki seeks level playing field

By Emmanuel Nzomiwu (Enugu) and Dele Moses (Ilorin)

OHANAEZE President General, Ralph Uwechue, disclosed at the weekend that the Igbo socio-cultural organisation endorsed the ambition of Goodluck Jonathan's run for President in 2011 in order to scuttle the alliance between the North and some South East leaders to shift power to the North.

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Another PDP chieftain murdered in Akwa Ibom

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tension in Akwa Ibom, especially among the political elite, who now refuse to pick strange calls and avoid some public functions.

This latest killing brings to three the number of assassinated top politicians in the PDP from Ibesikpo.

Early in the year, Imo Udonwa, a former lawmaker from the area, was murdered between two police check points at his petrol station on the Uyo-Nnung Udoo Road.

About three months ago, the life of Inyang was snuffed out in cold blood while attending a service at St. Ebenezer's Anglican Church, Mbierbe Akpaw

in Ibesikpo.

Police Commissioner Walter Rugbere, said he is yet to be briefed on the latest murder.

However, the Social Democratic Mega Party (SDMP) has urged President Goodluck Jonathan to take urgent steps to stop the "politics of elimination and abduction" in Akwa Ibom.

SDMP National Secretary, Sadiq Abubakar, made the call in Abuja at the weekend in reaction to the trauma of Comfort, wife of former Military Administrator of Ogun and Rivers States, Sam Ewang, at the hand of her abductors.

The SDMP also decried assassination attempts and

the hounding of opposition figures like James Akpan-Udoedehe, a Governorship aspirant of the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN), among others.

It lamented that Ewang and Akpan-Udoedehe, both of who recently declared their runs for Governor in Akwa Ibom, have become targets of attacks.

Abubakar said if the attacks persist, progressives and democracy activists will stage a mass protest in Abuja to demand a level playing field as well as protection for opposition leaders.

"We are perturbed by the strange silence of the Federal Government over the

ongoing political genocide in Akwa Ibom State," he added.

"Unlike the prompt action taken in the Abia case where Federal Government quickly moved into action, we have uncovered a grand conspiracy in the Akwa Ibom situation for reasons best known to the Presidency.

"We are therefore compelled to adduce government's inaction in this matter to the general belief in political circles that Governor Godswill Akpabio is a major financier of the Goodluck/Sambo 2011 Campaign and may be too influential for the Presidency to call to order."