

# Ancestors 'Kill' Chief Priest As Anti-Coronation Protests Rock Anambra

By **Chukwujekwu Ilozue** - December 8, 2017



*The protesters in Awka, Anambra State*

**Awka** – Awka, the Anambra State capital, on Thursday erupted in protests, following the coronation of a rival traditional ruler.

The protest occurred even as there were speculations that the oldest man in Awka, who was also the Chief Priest of Imo Awka deity, Chief Chukwurah Ikegbune, who crowned the rival traditional ruler, is dead.

Ikegbune may have been killed by his ancestors for performing a ritual he was not supposed to, since Awka Monarch, Eze Uzu II; Obi Gibson Nwosu is still alive, it was gathered.

Sources said the priest used his position as the eldest man in Awka to coronet the former traditional Prime Minister of Awka, Chief Austin Ndigwe.

Some of the placards carried by the protesters read: "Awka People Are Tired of Austin Ndigwe", "Austin Ndigwe Will Never Be King", "We Stand with Chief Obiano to Stop the Impending Danger", "Gibson Nwosu Remains the King of Awka".

An executive member of Ozo title holders from Ifite Awka clan, Ozo Emmanuel Chukwudi Muodozie, who spoke with newsmen, during the protest, recalled how the said Ndigwe had tried to bring him into this crisis but he refused.

"There is nothing he did not tell me in order to make me join his gang of conspirators, but I cannot be part of this abomination. People are trying to attract a deadly plague to this town and God will not allow that to happen"

"Obi Gibson Nwosu is the Eze Uzu II and the incumbent king of Awka town and anybody pretending or claiming to be the king would certainly face the wrath of the land"

Also speaking on the mysterious death of the priest, a member of the Awka ruling cabinet and a high chief of the town, Chief Benjamin Muorah, said the spiritual consequences of illegally crowning Ndigwe as monarch of the town claimed the life of the priest.

His words: "What happened in our town is a taboo and an abomination, as no one can crown a new king, while the old one is on the throne and the incumbent king has not done anything wrong for that to happen".

"This is just the beginning of the fallout to the crisis and we do not know what would happen next, or who would die next as a result of the taboo committed by Ndigwe and his cohorts."

However, Greg Obi, Anambra State Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, in his reaction said there was no going back with the position of the state government on the matter.

His words: "There cannot be two monarchs in a town. Eze Uzu II Obi Gibson Nwosu is the King of Awka town. He has our staff of office and certificate of recognition in the last 20 years".

"We do not know who Austin Ndigwe is and government wishes to warn that it would not take kindly to any act of illegality and impersonation by anyone", Obi said.

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