

# Agagu's CSO killed

## ■ Governor offers N10m for information on killers

**G**OVERNOR Olusegun Agagu's Chief Security Officer (CSO), Mr Tunde Awanebi, was shot dead by unknown gunmen on Wednesday night in Akure, the Ondo State capital, it was learnt yesterday.

The gunmen, who rode on a motorcycle, were believed to have trailed Awanebi from the Government House to a supermarket around Jide Mark Shopping Complex, Ijora Quarters, where he had stopped by to shop.

The incident came barely 24 hours after a leader of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Mr Bode Alonge, was shot dead by a two-man gang riding on a motorcycle in Akure.

Alonge was killed around Ijapo in the state capital on Tuesday.

Eye witnesses said the assailants followed Awanebi into the supermarket at about 9.30p.m. and ordered everyone, including the owner of the supermarket, to lie face down.

Thereafter, they approached Awanebi who they shot several times.

The assailants were said to have left the supermarket after the 10-minute operation, without picking any item or injuring any one else.

From Babatope Okeowo, Akure

In grief, Governor Agagu offered a N10 million reward for anyone who could volunteer information on the assailants.

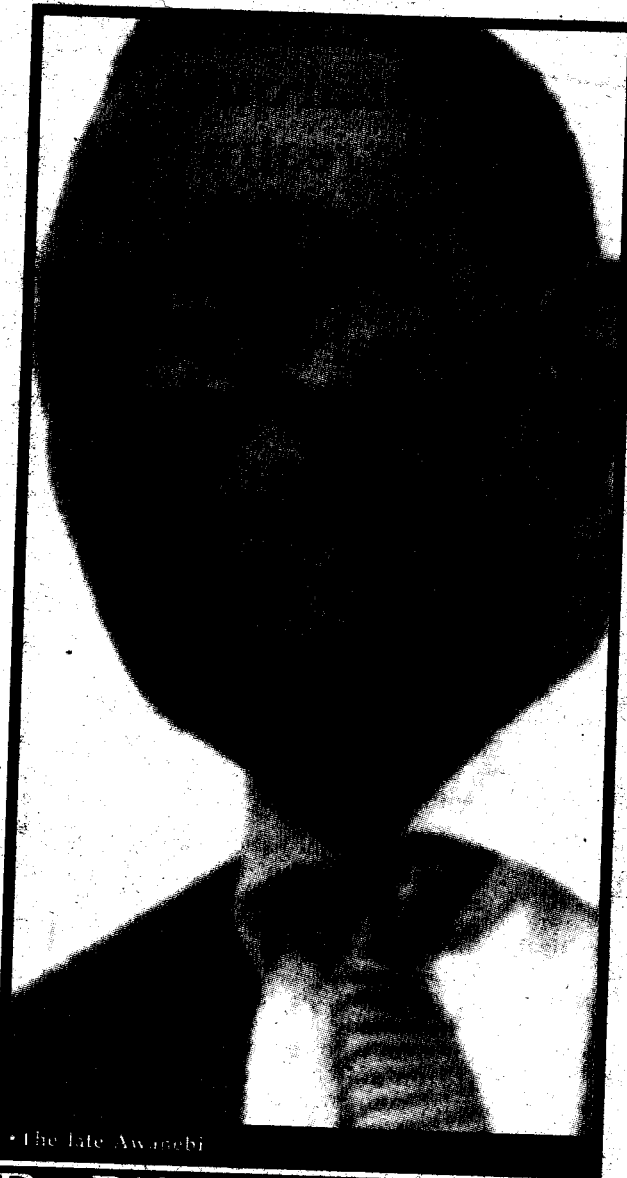
The owner of the shop was said to have picked Awanebi's mobile telephone, called the last dialled number and informed the receiver of the call that the owner of the phone had been rushed to the hospital after sustaining gunshot injuries.

Police Commissioner Mr. Innocent Ilozuoke confirmed the incident, saying the command had started investigations to unmask the killers, whose motive remained unclear - as of last night.

The Chairman of Agagu Campaign Committee, Prof Olu Agbi, said Awanebi's murder had brought to the fore the new wave of violence in the state.

His words: "We are indeed very worried by the spate of unchecked violence which has unfortunately stalked our hitherto peaceful state in the last few months. While we are not pre-empting police investigations into these heinous crimes, we also would like to remind the people of

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• The late Awanebi

## Anti-HIV/AIDS battle costs N7b

**T**HE fight against HIV/AIDS is digging a big hole in the purse of the Federal Government, taking not less than N7 billion this year, an amount which has been described as the highest in the nation's history.

Three million Nigerians would have died of HIV/AIDS by 2010 as the scourge continues to ravage the land. About one million Nigerians require anti-retroviral drugs for survival against the scourge.

These facts were revealed in Ado-Ekiti, the Ekiti State capital during the AIDS Week which was commemo-

From Odunayo Ogunmola, Ado-Ekiti

rated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other humanitarian bodies united by the combat against the pandemic.

According to the South-West Coordinator of the Global AIDS Week of Action, Falana Martin-Mary, donor-agencies across the country have also committed over N1 billion dollars to efforts to combat HIV/AIDS.

He regretted that the total commitment of campaigners against the pandemic had not been enough to meet the required standards.

## South-East pushes for House Speaker

**T**HE last may not have been heard about the zoning of principal offices among the geo-political regions by the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Igbo lawmakers at the National Assembly are protesting the zoning of the senate presidency to the North-Central, the Speaker of the House of Representatives to the South-West,

deputy senate presidency to the South-East and the Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN) to the North-Central.

President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua and his deputy Dr Goodluck Jonathan and are from the North-West and South-South. The chairmanship of the PDP Board of Trustees is zoned to the South-West and Secretary to the Government of the Fed-

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## Gunmen kill Agagu's CSO

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Ondo State that we should not forget those who introduced violence into our political canvass."

Although Agbi did not specifically finger the rival Labour Party (LP) as the brain behind the murder, he said the party had introduced violence into the politics of the state since its inception some six months ago.

Said Agbi: "Since the entry of the Labour Party into the political space in Ondo State, our state seems to have lost its innocence. It started with their rallies and campaigns where hoodlums shot into the air to scare and intimidate people.

"While this was going on across the state, we raised the alarm on the need for law enforcement agencies to curb the menace that was just gathering momentum. Nobody listened to us. Today,

we are all witnesses to the orgy of violence and total conflagration that have been visited on our people.

"Each time we drew public attention to the looming danger posed by the Labour Party's bizarre style of politics, it appeared we were raising false alarm.

"Now, two people have been shot dead in less than 30 hours in the state capital. Who can tell what happens next?"

Agbi urged law enforcement agents to leave no stone unturned in their bid to bring the perpetrators of the act to book.

But the state chapter of the LP washed its hands of insinuations that it was behind the spate of violence, just as it denied any link with Awanebi's murder.

Mr Kola Olabisi, LP Director of Press, placed the series of violence on the doorstep of the PDP.

His words: "LP had, in the past four months through the media, and series of letters to the security operatives in the state, alerted the people of plans by the PDP government to unleash terror on the people of the state.

"On the death of Mr Awanebi, the death of the former CSO was no doubt done by the PDP, ostensibly to cover up some of their nefarious activities at the last polls in which the late CSO was an active participant.

"How come that the very day in which the CSO was dropped, he was shot dead? Who wants him dead other than those who felt that he might spill the beans now that he has been unceremoniously eased out after being used for their dirty job? These are questions that the PDP must answer instead of pointing accusing fingers at the wrong direction."

term badly says Wabara