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of the Ikwerre Consultative Forum, Mr.
t, has denied calling for power shift to
Rivers State.

an interview in the politics section of

art of the interview created the impres-
ng for power shift to the upland where
out 16 years.

terview was, however, clear that the
s for power to leave the upland for the

emplate retaining power among the up-
uninterrupted years is not only unfair
riminal. Therefore, power must shift to
rs in the riverine."

Rivers council chair slumps, dies

• Amaechi orders
autopsy

From Bisi Olaniyi,
Port Harcourt

THE Caretaker Chair-
man of the Port Har-
court City Local Gov-
ernment Area of Rivers State,
Mr. Charles Paul Ejekwu,
slumped and died yesterday.

He vomited blood and was
taken to a private hospital in
D-Line, Port Harcourt. He
spoke before he died.

His body has been deposit-
ed at the morgue of the Rivers
State Government-owned
Braithwaite Memorial Spe-
cialist Hospital (BMSH), near
the Government House, Port
Harcourt.

Rivers State Governor Roti-
mi Amaechi has cancelled tour
of wards in Obio/Akpor Lo-
cal Government. He visited
the deceased's family yester-
day and ordered an autopsy
to ascertain the cause of his
death.

Foul play was suspected in
Ejekwu's death, following the
cold war between him and
some leaders of the All Pro-
gressives Congress (APC) in
the council.

A source alleged that he
might have been poisoned.

It was learnt that at a meet-
ing of the 23 council chairmen
with Amaechi in the Govern-
ment House, Port Harcourt on
Monday evening, the gover-
nor pronounced Ejekwu as the
leader of the APC in the local
government, which some
leaders of the APC were not
happy about.

It was gathered that at the
meeting, Amaechi hailed the
deceased for his brilliant per-
formance in just two months
in office, which should be
emulated by others.

The Nation learnt that at the
Tuesday's meeting between
the governor and the council
chairmen, also in the Govern-
ment House, Port Harcourt,
Ejekwu was full of life, as he
ate and drank with others.

In a telephone interview last
night, the council press secre-
tary, Bolingo Elenwo, said
Ejekwu popularly called
Mayor slumped and died
about 3 am in his home on
Peter Odili Road, Trans-Ama-
di Residential Layout, Port
Harcourt.

He said funeral arrange-
ments were yet to be made,
since the family was yet to
meet.

Elenwo described the sud-
den death of the caretaker
chairman as shocking and pa-
thetic.

Ejekwu was sworn in about
two months ago with 20 other
caretaker chairmen, excluding
the chairmen of Degema
(Kalabari) and Ogba/Egbe-
ma/Ndoni councils, who are
yet to finish their tenure.