

Soludo to gunmen: Your days numbered in Anambra

ANAMBRA State governor, Prof Chukwuma Soludo, yesterday, read the riot act to gunmen operating in the state. He warned the hoodlums to relocate to another place as their days are numbered in the state.

The governor issued the warning after the raid and destruction of an alleged kidnappers' den in Oba, Idemili South Local Government Area by security operatives.

Security operatives in the state had on Friday raided one of the hideouts of kidnappers at Oba, Idemili South Local Government Area where a building was destroyed.

Soludo said it had been established that the building demolished was being used as a hideout for criminal activities in the state.

The governor maintained that the government's policy does not allow any criminality to reign in the state.

He said, "henceforth, in line with the law, criminals will have no place in any part of Anambra state to hide."

"This government is fully determined to ensure that the state will be safe for everyone. The people will move freely around without fear or molestation."

He commended the cooperation of some people in the state who, according to him, have been volunteering information, adding that every stranger would be suspected until his or her job was confirmed to be legitimate.

Soludo said that any building being used for any criminal activities would be brought down and confiscated by the government.

"The hideout had earlier been

•Security men destroy suspected kidnappers' den; APGA youth leader killed

Nwanosike Onu, Awka

raided recently. Exhibits such as locally made pistol, shrine, charms, concoctions, Indian hemp, among other incriminating materials were recovered at the building with some arrests also made.

"However, it will be recalled that a gang of kidnappers were traced to the hideout by the Police, following an attack and subsequent kidnap of two persons at Oko, Orumba North Local Government Area, and another two persons in Ekwulobia, Aguata Local Government Area.

"The gunmen had entered Oko through Nanka for a kid-

nap operation and were on the verge of succeeding before the prompt intervention of the police special force acting on a tip-off subsequently engaged them in gunfire.

"One of them was killed, but others escaped with various degrees of injuries.

"The gunman killed at Oko, whose video went viral on some social handles, was identified as a former vigilante who was part of a four-man gang who have been involved in high profile killings and kidnappings within that vicinity.

The state Police Command Spokesman, DSP Tochukwu Ikenga, had explained that the command received distress call

about the kidnap of two persons at Oko, and while on their trail, they learnt that "the gang had kidnapped two more persons at Ekwulobia, and quickly pursued them and were able to track them down."

Meanwhile, gunmen struck again yesterday in the state, kidnapping and killing one of the youth leaders of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA).

A source identified the victim as Hon Emeka Alachobi. He was said to be an APGA youth leader in Nnewi South Local Government.

"He was kidnapped on Friday, while his body was found at Ufuh junction in Nnewi South Local Government Area

this morning," the source said.

Anambra State Police command spokesperson, Ikenga Tochukwu confirmed that a corpse was discovered in the area on Saturday, but was unable to ascertain the identity of the corpse.

He said: "When our operatives got to the scene, the corpse had been removed by some persons we are yet to identify, and we have also ascertained that the corpse is that of the youth leader."

Umahi slams betrayal by Southeast delegates at presidential primaries

•Says he's ashamed of Ohanaeze President

EBONYI State Governor David Umahi yesterday expressed disappointment at what he called the high level of betrayal by delegates from Abia, Anambra, Enugu and Imo states during the just concluded presidential primaries of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

But he singled out delegates from Ebonyi for making their state proud at both primaries by voting for aspirants from the Southeast.

Umahi spoke during the maiden matriculation ceremony of King David University of Medical Sciences, Uburu.

It was a big shame, he said, that Igbo delegates failed to make a statement with their votes despite the widespread clamour for power shift to the zone.

Umahi, who sought the presidential ticket of the APC, got only 38 votes.

His words: "Let me first deviate a little before I come to what we are doing today. Ebonyi people are wonderful people. It will not be good for me not to take out time to express my gratitude to you after the presidential primary election."

"The presidential election was an eye opener for Ebonyi

"They will come later to preach about Igbo unity and its agenda but henceforth, the only agenda I know is the Ebonyi agenda. This shows that even if we have equal number of local government areas and delegates such as other zones, we would still trade our votes."

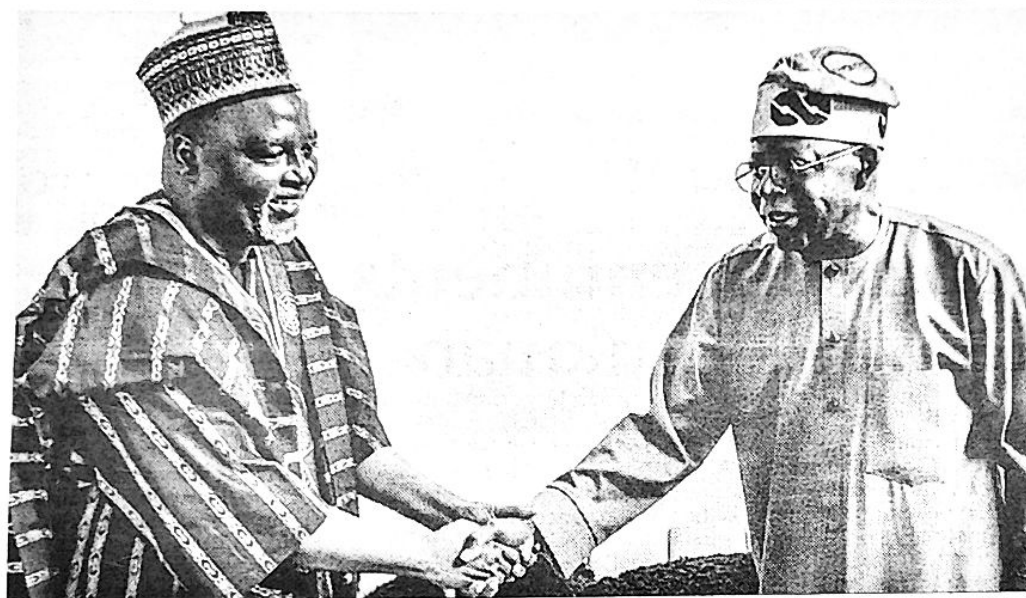
"We are currently regarded as people who can sell anything but they should remember that anyone who betrays his brother will lose the trust of those who gained from the betrayal."

"There was no sort of lobbying I did not receive, but I maintained that it was about bringing the marginalisation of the Igbo to the fore."

"You (Ebonyi delegates) have made yourselves reference points of steadfastness in the country and when people are seeking trustworthy people, they will come for you."

"I have lost total confidence in the leadership of the Ohanaeze Ndigbo socio-cultural organisation, and will openly confront anyone who challenges the Ebonyi agenda."

"I am ashamed of the President of Ohanaeze Ndigbo. He can no longer be my president. It is a very big shame every Igbo man should be weeping for himself. And let me warn the youths in Ebonyi State that



•Presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu in a handshake with the Deputy Speaker of the House of Reps, Ahmed Idris Wase, who was in his house on congratulatory visit yesterday.
Photo: Abayomi Fayese