

Three policemen killed as gunmen attack checkpoint in Abia

Michael Ovat | Awka

THREE police personnel identified as Inspector Austin Ugwu, Inspector Longinus Ugochukwu and Constable Ama Ifeanyi were on Monday killed by gunmen in Abiriba and Ohafia Local Government Area of Abia State.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that the officers were ambushed at Agu Eze

Amaogudu community at about 8:30 a.m., killed and their two rifles carted away by the gunmen.

It was gathered that the three officers were serving at the Abiriba Police Division, where they came from on Monday morning.

The attack caused panic and tension in the area, which prompted the state governor, Dr Okezie Ikpeazu, to send his deputy, Sir Ude Oko Chukwu, to the commu-

nity.

The deputy governor assured the people of Abiriba that the government would deploy all necessary resources available to protect residents of the state.

Oko Chukwu also visited the Divisional Police Headquarters in Abiriba, where he sympathised with the colleagues, friends and families of the deceased, just as he prayed to God to grant them the fortitude to bear their

loss.

The deputy governor called for community vigilance and support for security agencies to ensure that the perpetrators are quickly identified and brought to justice.

He said: "The government is saddened by the unfortunate attack which led to the loss of lives of police officers at Agu Eze checkpoint.

"My boss, Governor Ikpeazu, on receiving the news, asked me to come

here and assure you that we will do everything possible to apprehend the perpetrators of the dastardly act and protect Ndi Abiriba and all law-abiding people in the state.

"We call on you to maintain vigilance in order to fish out criminals and hoodlums who may want to come here to attack innocent people as they go about their legitimate businesses.

"Government will give you

all the necessary support and we have spoken to the security authorities to avoid indiscriminate arrests, but ensure a painstaking investigation that will ensure that only those responsible for the dastardly act are brought to justice as quickly as possible."

Oko Chukwu also visited traditional rulers of the community and assured them of government's support to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to book.