

# Gunmen abduct NASS member, Azubugo, kill driver, set police station ablaze

**Two policemen killed —CP**

Michael Ovat | Awka

**A** three-term member of the House of Representatives, representing Nnewi North and South Federal Constituency in Anambra State, Chris Azubogu, was on Thursday kidnapped and his driver killed by gunmen at Nnewi.

Also, some gunmen invaded the Ajali police station in Orumba North Local Government Area of the state and set it ablaze.

It was learnt that some gunmen had stormed a funeral ceremony at Ukpo in Nnewi South Local Government Area, where they collected arms from security operatives at the ceremony and headed to Nnewi town, where they abducted the lawmaker.

Following the develop-

ment, gubernatorial candidates in the forthcoming November governorship election in the state, *Nigerian Tribune* learnt, have gone into hiding.

Also, banners, campaign billboards and other campaign materials, *Nigerian Tribune* further observed, were being pulled down, while branded campaign vehicles, especially those with wrap-around campaign messages, have disappeared from the streets of the state, as well as vehicles bearing government number plates.

Meanwhile, there was heavy police presence in the state on Thursday evening, as the Police Special Squad Commando, with over 30 Armoured Personnel Carriers (APC), was seen taking over major flash points at the River Niger bridge head, Upper Iweka,

Nkpor, Abagana, Amawbia bye pass to the Enugu-Onitsha expressway, as well as Oba junction on the Onitsha-Owerri expressway.

In the case of Agbasimelo, a source in the party said the candidate's disappearance had fuelled speculations among party supporters in the state.

*Nigerian Tribune* gathered that the emergence of Agbasimelo as the party's governorship candidate in the November 6 governorship election in Anambra brought about crisis in the party.

The crisis threw up a faction in the party, while one of the leading aspirants at the beginning of the governorship race, Nnamdi Nnoruka, was allegedly kidnapped by unknown persons and forced to withdraw from the contest.

The state police PPRO, DSP Ikenga Tochukwu, when contacted, said he was yet

to be fully briefed on the incidents.

However, confirming the incidents, the Commissioner of Police in the state, Tony Olofu, said two policemen were killed.

Olofu said the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Ikenga Tochukwu, would give the details later.

The police boss said: "Wait for detailed statement from the PPRO. As of now, I can confirm to you that two policemen were killed in the incident."

