

Hardship: Police deny report of protests in parts of Port Harcourt

As hoodlums kill inspector

Amaechi Okonkwo |
Port Harcourt

AS protests spread across parts of the country over increasing economic hardship on the populace, the Rivers State police command has denied reports doing the rounds about disturbances at Lagos and Port Johnson areas of Port Harcourt.

A statement signed by the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Grace Iringe-Koko, said the Commissioner of Police, Olatunji Disu, categorically refuted the report, asserting that no such incidents occurred in the state.

The Police emphasised that Rivers State remains peaceful and secure, "urging individuals to refrain from spreading false information that could disrupt the peace and harmony of the state."

Disu then warned that those found spreading rumours through social media platforms would face consequences.

Meanwhile, the command also announced an attack on some of its men attached to Operation Sting on February 21 during which an inspector was killed.

Iringe-Koko said: "At approximately 9:45p.m., while conducting routine stop-and-search at Elioza flyover, the

officers were ambushed by hoodlums operating in a Sienna bus with tinted glasses.

"The assailants drove in from Rumuodumaya axis, opened fire on the police team, resulting in the tragic loss of one inspector who valiantly gave his life in the line of duty. Undeterred, the police team responded with bravery, engaging the attackers and managing to neutralize [kill] one of them with mask on his face, while the others managed to escape, potentially sustaining gunshot wounds."

She said the command had launched thorough investigation into the incident and already identified the group responsible, assuring that the police would relentlessly pursue the criminals and bring them to justice.

The PPRO said: "No amount of intimidation will hinder our officers' unwavering commitment to safeguarding the lives and property of residents.

"It is important to emphasise that such acts of aggression against security forces detrimentally impact the safety and security of our entire society. The Rivers State police command remains resolute in its duty to maintain peace and protect the well-being of the populace."