

Police begin probe into death of former Onitsha Chamber of Commerce president

THE Anambra State Police Command said it had commenced investigations into the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr Okechukwu Akaneme, former president of the Onitsha Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (ONICGIMA).

The Public Relations Officer (PPRO) of the command, SP Tochukwulkenga, disclosed this in a statement on Saturday in Awka, the state capital.

Ikenga stated that the command was aware of a narrative currently circulating across public social media platforms concerning the death of Akaneme.

According to him, Akaneme allegedly sustained life-threatening injuries following an enforcement operation purportedly carried out by personnel of the Anambra State Waste Management Authority (ASWAMA) and allegedly accompanied by armed police officers.

"It was further alleged that this operation, in the

course of enforcing waste management compliance, resulted in Akaneme suffering spinal injuries from which he never fully recovered, ultimately leading to his reported death on July 10.

"The command expresses its deepest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of the late Mr Akaneme and recognises his significant contributions to the state's socio-economic development," Ikenga stated.

He explained that in response to the allegations, the command acknowledged that an internal inquiry was previously initiated surrounding the circumstances of the injury sustained by Akaneme in October 2024.

Ikenga further revealed that preliminary findings at the time suggested that the actions of some individuals involved in the said enforcement operation fell outside the standard operating procedures of law enforcement personnel.

NDF begins second phase registration