

# Diri orders probe as gunmen kill Bayelsa APC chieftain

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Bayelsa State Governor, Douye Diri

Gunmen have killed a chieftain of the All Progressives Congress in Bayelsa State, Sunday Frank-Oputu.

*PUNCH Metro* gathered that he was shot by the assailants through the window of his house around Bay-Bridge Road in Yenagoa in the early hours of Wednesday.

Frank-Oputu, from Southern Ijaw Local Government Area, was a former state chairman of the Conference of Nigerian Political Parties.

He was also a founding member of the APC in Bayelsa.

He belonged to the APC faction in the state loyal to a former Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development, Senator Heineken Lokpobiri.

Before his murder, Frank-Oputu was said to be involved in political tussles and some intra-party litigations rocking the state chapter of the APC.

Last year, the slain politician and some of his associates were suspended over anti-party activities by the faction of the party loyal to the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Timipre Sylva.

A member of his family, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said his killers scaled the perimeter fence of his house and went straight to the window of his bedroom from where they fired several bullets into his body.

“They scaled the fence, went to the window area of his bedroom and shot at him a couple of times,” the source said.

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The state police command confirmed the incident in a statement by its spokesman, Asinim Butswat.

It stated that the “gunmen fired several shots at the honourable through the window of his bedroom and fatally injured him.”

Meanwhile, the state Governor, Douye Diri, has directed the police in the state to launch a manhunt and fish out the killers.

A statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr Daniel Alabrah, quoted him as calling on politicians to play politics devoid of violence.

He assured that those behind “the dastardly act” would be unmasked and made to face the wrath of the law.