

Police probe killing of Abia lawmaker's orderly by gunmen

Sunday Nwakanma, Umuahia

THE Nigeria Police in Abia has begun an investigation into the killing of an officer by some gunmen on Sunday night at Ubakala, near Umuahia, the Abia State capital, even as the state government has vowed that promoters of violence and insecurity in the state will pay a heavy price.

This came barely four days after three soldiers were gunned down at Ekenobizi in Umuahia South LGA.

PUNCH Metro gathered that the incident happened at a road bump at the Dr Okezie Ikpeazu Shopping Plaza located at the gate of the council headquarters, Apumiri Ubakala of Umuahia South LGA and barely 10 metres away from the Ubakala Police Station.

According to an eyewitness around the scene, bullets rained as if it was a war engagement, while all around there scamped for safety, leaving their homes and shops abandoned.

Confirming the incident, the state Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Maureen C Chinaka, on behalf of the state Commissioner Of Police, CP Danladi Isa, said, "On 17/11/2024, at about 20:30hrs, two police officers, from the Special Protection Unit Base 4, Makurdi, Inspector Dunna Jatau and Inspector Bala Mohammed, assigned to a member of the House of Representatives representing the Isiala Ngwa North/South constituency, Ginger Onwusibe, were ambushed by armed assailants while on official



•Abia PPRO Chinaka

duty in Umuahia.

"The officers were in a Police Toyota Hilux vehicle after accompanying and dropping off the lawmaker in Umuahia. On their way, near Umuahia South Local Government Area Secretariat in Ubakala, their vehicle was intercepted by armed men dressed in black attire, operating in a Toyota Corolla with tinted windows. The assailants blocked the path of the police vehicle and opened fire. Tragically, Inspector Bala Mohammed sustained multiple gunshot wounds and died at the scene. Inspector Dunna Jatau and the driver escaped the attack.

"The area was immediately combed by officers of the command as a comprehensive search operation was launched to locate the attackers. Tactical teams have been deployed to track down the fleeing suspects. Investigation into the incident is ongoing.

"The Abia State Police Command is committed to bringing the perpetrators to justice. We urge the public to remain calm, stay security conscious, go about their activities and report any suspicious persons or vehicles to the nearest police station."

In its immediate reaction, the Abia State Government, in a statement by the Special Adviser to the Governor, (Media and Publicity), Ferdinand Ekeoma, said, "Following a series of tip-offs from patriotic citizens and reliable intelligence, it has been firmly established that some unpatriotic politicians, in connivance with some external parties, are behind the current wave of violence and crime in the state since the end of May.

Multiple collisions

the road. Also, excessive speed, and impatient by the Sino truck driver loaded with granites hit the Sienna from the rear which affected the other mentioned vehicles.

The TRACE boss noted that 32 persons were involved in the accident including 20 adult males and 12 adult females.

He identified the vehicles Involved as "a Ford jeep (KTU 980 FP), a Nissan jeep (GGE 440XP), a Sienna (AAA 609 LA), a Toyota Highlander (WDE 831AAA), and a Mazda bus (GNN 860 XB).

Continued on www.punchng.com

Continued on www.punchng.com