

State in the past six months, Chief Obiano declared that his belief in Nigeria's chances of survival of her many challenges is re-enforced by the changing story of Anambra State.

"For years, Anambra State suffered untold hardship in the

has started reaping the fruits of a more friendly business climate. "Ndi Anambra now sleep with two eyes closed and we are currently leading the charge for the return of Ndigbo as an economic power-block in Nigeria," he maintained.

across the commercial city of Onitsha, were yesterday, shut down, as part of activities marking this year's 54<sup>th</sup> Independence anniversary celebration, even as there was visible fanfare in the commercial city.

Major parks and relaxation centres across the city were filled to capacity by tourists mainly traders and their families, all dressed in Green, White and Green. Some of the traders said they closed

# Kidnappers kill 2 in Abia

From OKEY SAMPSON,  
Aba

**F**ear has enveloped the residents of Aba, Abia State as three persons met their untimely death at the weekend. They were killed at different locations of the city and a suburb by gunmen suspected to be kidnappers.

It was gathered that at about

8.30p.m. on Sunday, <sup>1</sup>gunmen operating in a Siena bus, blocked a Toyota Highlander Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) along Okigwe/Akalana Street, Aba, in an attempt to kidnap the owner of the vehicle whose identity could not be ascertained as at press time. In the process, the hoodlums shot him and a stray bullet hit a passenger in a nearby tricycle popularly known as 'Keke Napep.'

A source said the two persons were rushed to a nearby hospital where they were confirmed dead.

Also, at about 3.30p.m. on <sup>2</sup>the same day, at Osusu village in Isiala Ngwa North Local Government Area, a man identified as Prince, stabbed one Ibe Emmanuel who hailed from Amaku Nvosi village, in the same council area. The victim was said to have been rushed

to Central Hospital, Mbawsi, where he died the following day. The suspect was said to have fled the area after the incident. The state command's Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) could not be reached for comments but a senior police officer confirmed the incidents, saying the police in the state were doing everything possible to arrest the suspects.