

# Suspected assassins murder Enugu 'prophet,' Nwoko

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- Police confirm cleric's death
- Linking us to his death, effort in futility - IPOB

**N**ews of murder of the self-styled Enugu-based prophet and social critic, Mr. Anthony Nwoko, by yet-to-be identified assassins, has been made public by the police.

Nwoko, who until his death has been a critic of every president in Nigeria since 1999, only recently turned his diatribes against the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), a pro-Biafra group, and its leader, Nnamdi Kanu, who he used to support.

Nwoko, believed to be in his late sixties, was reportedly found in the pool of his own blood in his house on Tuesday this week, fuelling suspicion of homicide.

He was not known to be with a wife or children, but believed to be an indigene of Abia State.

Nwoko, who claimed to be a spiritualist and cleric, lived in the United States of America for many years before relocating to Nigeria and settling in Enugu and once told journalists in his numerous press conferences that he had never visited his home state Abia for more than 40 years.

He was a well-known disparager of IPOB before his death, and was reportedly butchered in his Enugu residence, located around Ugbene II, Nike area of Enugu metropolis

by unknown killers as information has it that he was found slaughtered in his apartment by neighbours who promptly reported the incident to police.

But in a swift reaction, IPOB yesterday said that some media reports, which it claimed were sponsored to link the group to the reported demise of Nwoko was an effort in futility.

However, Enugu State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Ebere Ama-raizu, a Superintendent of Police (SP), confirmed the death in a statement made available to journalists in Enugu yesterday.

The PPRO said the command through its operatives had "commenced full scale investigations into the alleged death of a middle-aged man in his room in Enugu.

"The commissioner of police, Sulaiman Balarabe, on receipt of the report has directed the operatives of the homicide section of the state Criminal Investigations Department to carry out diligent investigations, unmasking those behind the dastardly act and motives as well as diligent prosecutions of suspects involved," he said.

According to the police spokesperson, "the deceased identified as one Anthony Nwoko was al-

legedly found dead in his room at Ezebungu Street of Ugbene 2, axis of trans Ekulu Enugu on 16/4/19."

He said the remains of the deceased had been deposited at Colliery Hospital mortuary while investigations were in top gear.

The late Nwoko in his last press conference allegedly told journalists in Enugu that the leader of IPOB had been compromised by the Presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, in the last general election.

"Nnamdi Kanu was working for the PDP that

was why the angels scuttled the election for them. Nnamdi Kanu was planning to come back to Nigeria to continue his dirty works had PDP won. That's why PDP lost completely. It is the handiwork of the angels," he had alleged.

The allegation was, however, denied by IPOB members.

Meanwhile, IPOB through its Media and Publicity Secretary, Comrade Emma Powerful, said that the manner in which some media publications indirectly used their stories to link Nwoko's death to the Pro-Biafra group shows

the stories were paid for and a calculated attempt to smear their image.

The statement reads: "IPOB is well aware that Nigerian government and her security agencies will go to any length to stain our unimpeachable reputation in the hope of using it as a cover to continue their ongoing unreported war against IPOB.

"The media should be mindful not to prejudice the uninvestigated circumstances surrounding the passing of Anthony Nwoko in order not to become unwitting agents of dark forces that wish to tarnish the image of IPOB at any given opportunity.

"Should independent autopsy confirm any foul play in the reported death of Anthony

Nwoko, then DSS and Army will be held accountable. Their recent spate of abductions and killings across Biafraland is proof, if any is needed, that they would commit whatever atrocity they can, in the hope of implicating IPOB.

"As a movement rooted in the principles of democratic values and all it entails, IPOB will always welcome criticisms from all quarters because the Biafra we are seeking to build will be an open tolerant society.

"We must however caution that Biafrans should be mindful of the opportunities their perceived hostility towards Biafra liberation might present to those seeking to exploit it for the benefit of the Fulani 'One Nigeria' caliphate agenda."



Across section of Children choir ministering, during the National Deeper Life Easter Retreat entitled: 'Plunge into the Resurrection Power', at the Deeper Life Regional Headquarters, in Suleja, Niger State.. yesterday  
PHOTO: NAN

## Court nullifies purported emergence of Nse Ntuen as A'Ibom Speaker

Tony Anichebe  
Uyo

He added that the sitting purported emergence was without the presence of unusual, unconventional, un-

was filed by Mr. Uyo-Obong Jumbo, counsel for