

Police Counts Loses in Anambra Mayhem

In a post-mortem of events of the recent onslaught between the police and miscreants in Anambra State within the past three months, the state police command yesterday said a total of 12 policemen were kidnapped and killed when government waged war on NARTO, MASSOB, Anambra Vigilante Service and Bakassi.

Commissioner of police, Mr Haruna John, who disclosed this yesterday, while briefing the new Assistant Inspector-General of Police (AIG) incharge of zone 9, Mr

From Emeka Osondu

in Awka

John Haruna Amodu, who paid also said five police stations were attacked and destroyed with ammunition carted away by the hoodlums.

He, however, said no less than 30 of the hoodlums and other criminals were killed by the police, while about 200 of them have been arrested and charged to court, adding that a reasonable percentage of their ammunitions, mainly stolen from police stations have been recovered by the command.

According to Haruna, "Police have made a sharp turn-around. Within the last three months, the Police killed no less than 20 robbery suspects, while more arrests had been made.

In his speech, Amodu commended the Anambra State Police Command for the achievement it has made within the short time. Haruna assumed office.

Meanwhile, the state Governor, Orji Uzor Kalu, has blamed political killings on bad governance.

Fielding questions from newsmen yesterday after a courtesy visit to Governor of Anambra State, Mr Peter Obi, at Government House, Awka, Kalu said killings in the political setup suggests that things are not getting on well in the country, arguing that were things to be well with the people, nobody would have the mind to kill anybody.

Kalu, who said he had earlier visited traders in the state's commercial centre, Onitsha to join them in their weekly prayers and propagate his campaign project, expressed regrets that despite the existence of police and other security agencies, none of those involved in the assassination of innocent Nigerians have been found.

He, therefore, promised that if he was voted into power as president in 2007, he would overhaul the Nigerian Police Force and make it more efficient and responsive in

'Agriculture'll Be My Priority'

Chief Godson Echegile, one of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)'s gubernatorial aspirants in Delta State, yesterday said the state will become a front-runner in agricultural transformation next year.

Echegile said this in an interactive session with agriculture experts in Asaba, adding that he will partner with local and foreign investors to trigger the oil palm sector into an engine of the economic growth through oil palm enhancement programme.

He highlighted core areas to include revamping of tree crop development, which will involve tree regeneration, rehabilitation, forestation and afforestation.

On palm, rubber, forest species and other perennial

participation will be done to guarantee market and income incentives for farmers.

He said there will be linkages between farmers and industries utilising agricultural produce such as maize and cassava, to ensure market diversification and stability.

There will also be a community land grant facility to encourage communities to oblige land for commercial farmers applying modern technology for commercial farming system of mutual benefits between them and the host local communities.

While commending the laudable efforts of Governor James Ibori, Echegile said his administration would encourage government private sector partnership and provide

environment based approach.

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