

## NEWS

# Catholic Priest's Murder: Enugu Directs Air Surveillance as Clerics, IPOB Protest

● *IGP deploys special squads, orders manhunt for killers*

**Christopher Isiguzo, Gideon Arinze** in Enugu and **David-Chyddy Eleke** in Awka

Enugu State Government, security agencies and church leaders in the state yesterday rose from an emergency meeting over the killing of a Catholic Priest, Fr. Paul Offu, in charge of St. James the Greater Parish Catholic Church Ugbawka in Enugu State and resolved to establish air surveillance as a way of dealing with the challenge of insecurity in the state.

The killing drew the ire of priests in Enugu and Anambra States as well as Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) who protested the killing and rising insecurity in the region which they blamed on herdsmen.

This is as Inspector General of Police, Mohammed Adamu, has ordered massive manhunt for the killers of Rev. Father Offu and consequently deployed crack detectives from the IGP-Intelligence Response Unit (IRT), the Forensic and Homicide sections of the Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID) to Enugu State to complement efforts at apprehending the killers.

In addition, according to a statement by Force Public Relations Officer, DCP Frank Mba, the AIG in charge of Zone 9 Headquarters had been directed to mobilise more units of Police Mobile Force (PMF) personnel to black spots in Enugu State.

In a communiqué issued at the end of the meeting and read by

the State Commissioner of Police, CP Balarabe Suleiman, the air surveillance will take care of all the forests where incessant cases of killing had been taking place.

Suleiman said that immediately after the surveillance, the security agencies would embark on rigorous joint operations from Monday, August 5th and in addition to that, the security architecture around those areas would be reviewed with immediate effect.

He also noted that the State Government had observed the proliferation of small and light weapons in the hands of people who should not possess them, adding that anybody found in possession of arms illegally would be dealt with in accordance with the law.

"To that effect, the government has set up a committee comprising security agencies, LG chairmen and officers of the state to mop up these weapons that are in the hands of people illegally," he said.

He further stated that the state government would partner with security agencies and communities to ensure that the ugly incidence did not repeat itself and that the state continued to maintain its peace status.

According to him, the state Governor and the people of the state in conjunction with all the security agencies condemn in totality, the killing of Fr. Offu, while restating the resolve of the police command and other security agencies to fish out the perpetrators.