

SOUTH-EAST

Nwodo, Abia PDP fight over exco dissolution

By Henry Umoru

ABUJA—FOLLOWING Wednesday's dissolution of the Executive Committee of Abia State chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, by the party's National Chairman, Dr. Okwesilieze Nwodo, members of the party in the state yesterday described his action as illegal and a breach of court orders.

Addressing journalists in Abuja yesterday, Chief Ndidi Okereke and leaders of the party in Abia State who disagreed with Nwodo with reasons he gave for sacking the Executive Committee of the party, stressed that there was no truth in the allegation made by the national leadership of the party.

"The purported dissolution is ill-informed, scandalous, totally unacceptable and without legal or moral basis," Okereke said.

The sacked state chairman warned that if the action was not reversed, then the national leadership of the party would be inviting anarchy into the PDP fold in the state, which they had worked hard to keep together.

He said: "It is on record that our National Chairman, Dr. Okwesilieze Nwodo, has painstakingly outlined very laudable objectives which he hopes will form the hallmark of his tenure. Amongst these are the promises of respect for due process, rule of law and the entrenchment of internal democracy.

"We therefore urge Dr.



BRIEFING: From left; Miss Adeyemi Oluwaseun, Co-ordinator, Yoruba Youth Congress, Lagos, the National Co-ordinator, Mr. Oloposi Oginnin, and Mr Wahab Oba, Chairman, Nigerian Union of Journalists, NUJ, Lagos Chapter, during a briefing calling for truce over alleged recent fracas during the commissioning of Sango-Ota bridge between Ogun State governor, Otunba Gbenga Daniel, House of Representatives Speaker, Hon Dimeji Bankole and Senator Sanusi Daggash, Minister of Works, in Lagos, yesterday. Photo: Joe Akintola, Photo Editor.

Police kill 3 suspected kidnappers Abia

By Anayo Okoli

UMUAHIA—ABIA State police command said yesterday that its men killed three suspected kidnappers at Umuibe village in Obingwa LGA in a shootout.

According to the Deputy Police Commissioner, Mr. Kings Omire, the slain suspects were members of a kidnap syndicate terrorizing residents of the area.

Omire said the police got information about the movement of the gang which operated in a bus at Umuibe village in the wee hours of Tuesday, and quickly deployed anti-terrorist squad

who laid ambush at different locations around the area.

According to him, the kidnappers were about to intercept an on-coming car, ostensibly to abduct the occupants, when the police crack team closed in on them.

On seeing the police, Omire said, the suspects numbering about seven, abandoned their target and were about to flee when the police cordoned off the area, adding that on sensing danger, the suspects opened fire at the police who after a gun dual subdued them.

"Our men were encouraged by the bullet proof vest they were putting on, and they also allowed the crimi-

nals to exhaust their bullets," Omire said.

According to him, after the gun battle, two bodies of the suspects were later discovered in a nearby bush, while one of them, believed to be the driver, was gunned down as he attempted to jump out of the L300 Mitsubishi bus, marked Ebonyi XA 761 BKL, with which they operated.

Omire disclosed that his men found a military rifle and two magazines with seven live ammunition as well as hundreds of expended am-

munition when they combed the bush.

Meanwhile, the command has paraded five suspected kidnappers and armed robbers said to be terrorizing residents of the state. One of the suspects was said to be a final year student of Abia State University, Uturu, while his accomplice, Mr. Ndiinyemma Joseph Okonjo, was said to be a business centre operator in Umuahia and hails from Obehie in Ukwa West local government area.

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