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BREAKING NEWS

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Councillor assassinated in Rivers

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BY JIMITOTA ONOYUME

PORT HARCOURT—A serving Councillor of Ward 2 in Akuku Toru Local Government Srea of Rivers state, Mr. Sotonye Georgewill, has been killed on Accra Street, Town area of Port Harcourt.

It is not clear if the late Sotonye decamped to the All Progressives Congress, APC, before the sad incident, though the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, in a statement on his death, maintained he was their member.

Meantime, eyewitnesses said the late Sotonye was hacked to death by his assailants, who came in a saloon car to his residence at 9.15p.m. on Sunday. They reportedly called him on phone, saying they were at his house waiting for him, the sympathiser said, adding that when Sotonye rushed to meet them, one of the assailants allegedly came down and hacked him to death.

Meantime, the state Police Commissioner, Mr Tunde Ogunsakin, has said the killing was cult related, adding that his men were working to arrest those behind it.

“We are aware of the incident and it was a sad thing. We have established that it was a cult-related case and I have ordered my men to identify and arrest all known cult leaders in the state immediately. We shall deal ruthlessly with anybody caught, regardless of his status,” he added.

The PDP, on its part, has condemned the killing, saying the late councillor was its member. State Chairman of the party, Mr. Felix Obuah, who spoke through his media aide, Mr. Jerry Needam blamed the death on opposition politicians, adding that it was part of a ploy to provoke crisis in the state.

The party said: “The killing coming few days after the kidnap of three stalwarts of the party, who are still being held captive, is nothing short of a calculated plot by political opponents to provoke the party and ignite crisis in the state.”

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