

# News

## Ashafa mourns Sen Zanna, describes death rude shock

By Olasunkanmi Akoni

**SENATOR** GBENGA Ashafa, who represents Lagos East senatorial district, has described the death of Senator Ahmed Zanna as a rude shock.

Ashafa, in a condolence message, said he received the news of the sudden demise of Zanna with a heavy heart, adding that he still could not believe that the cold hands of death had snatched away a patriotic citizen so soon.

He said: "It will be difficult to forget Senator Zanna because of his important role and influence in the National Assembly.

"He was a good friend with whom I embarked on series of oversight functions as a member of Gas Committee of the 7th National Assembly.

"No doubt, he would be missed greatly by the 7th National Assembly, I wish his family strength and comfort from Almighty Allah to bear the irreparable loss."

## Police arrest 8 suspected cultists in Enugu . Vigilante nabbed for selling arms, ammunition

By Francis Igata

**ENUGU**—NO fewer than eight suspected members of the Vikings Confraternity have been arrested by the operatives of Special Anti Robbery Squad, SARS, Enugu Police command on May 17, after a raid at their hide-out over cult related killings and other heinous crimes.

The suspects, who gave their names as Ifeanyi Emeka, Chinonso Ugwu, aka Labista; Darlington Chukwuebuka, Nnaji Kelechi, Ebuka Nnaji, aka Shawolin, were arrested at an uncompleted building at Ibagwa-Nike, Enugu-East Local Government Area in the middle of an operation, following a tip-off.

Among the suspects were two females, identified as Maryanne Arum and Uzor MaryJane, who served as the gangs' cooks and baited victims to hide-outs for execution.

According to police spokesperson, Mr. Ebere Amaraizu, DSP, the gang had terrorised residents of Abakpa-Nike, leaving in their wake trails of tears and anguish.

"We have received reports of their activities within the area. Our operatives have been on surveillance. Their surveillance efforts paid off when they raided

their hide-out at Ibagwa-Nike and arrested the suspects.

"The girls have made useful statements, confessing their relationship with the gang while pleading for forgiveness," the spokesperson said.

Similarly, one Chukwu Emmanuel, who claimed to be a member of Enugu Neighbourhood Watch Group

attached to Nkwubor, Emene, in Enugu-East Local Government Area, has been nabbed by SARS operatives for allegedly selling arms and ammunition to hoodlums.

The suspect was apprehended on May 17, at Nkwubor, Emene in company of his accomplices, who gave their names as Chukwu Chidiebere and Chidiebere Odo.

It was gathered that the

suspects had been on the wanted list of the operatives over sale of arms and ammunition to hoodlums who had been arrested by the police but mentioned their names during investigations.

Recovered from the hoodlums are bullet proof vests, an automatic pump action gun, 13 rounds of live cartridges and two wraps of weed suspected to be Indian hemp.

## Police, family tango over death of son

By Chidi Nkwopara

**OWERRI**—PALPABLE tension has gripped the people of Okwu, Emekuku, in Owerri North Local Government Area of Imo State, following the alleged death of their son, Omeni Ajaero, in police custody.

Some concerned natives of the community, who spoke to Vanguard on strict grounds of anonymity, traced the sad incident to internal family squabble arising from a bitter tussle over family property.

"Late J. N. Ajaero married three wives and since he died, the family has never known peace because of the scramble for the property left behind by their father.

"The bad blood created by this scramble was very deep and has degenerated to what has just

happened," a villager claimed.

Giving a graphic account of how Omeni Ajaero died, his younger brother, Uwaoma Ajaero, recalled how his elder brother and himself willingly reported themselves to the State Police Headquarters, Owerri, in full compliance with a police invitation.

He said: "On arrival at the State Police Headquarters, Owerri, we were told that Thaddeus Ajaero and Edwin Ajaero, the sons of my late father's first wife had proceeded to Zone 9 Headquarters, Umuahia.

"We were also informed that police officers from Zone 9 were already waiting to take us to Umuahia.

"We were arrested, handcuffed, and whisked away to Zone 9, Umuahia, where the two of us made statements and were detained."

He also recalled that on May 5, 2015, the investigative police officer, IPO, and one of his colleagues came to the cell where they were detained, called out his brother and took him away.

"About two hours later, the IPO and his colleague called me out of the cell and ordered me to fill the bail bonds for myself and my yet-to-be-seen brother. Upon inquiry about the whereabouts of my brother, the IPO said that he was outside," Uwaoma said.

He also recalled that after completing the formalities for the bail bond, the IPO took him to where his vehicle was parked and he saw his brother in the vehicle, foaming from his mouth and groaning, as he could no longer talk.

Uwaoma said that not being quite sure of what he was seeing, he sought to know what went wrong, adding that the IPO replied that midway into the interrogation, Omeni started behaving in a manner he could not understand.

"The opinion of the IPO was that Omeni may be reacting to the injection administered on him," Uwaoma recalled with grief.

"The IPO said he took him to the nearby police hospital, where he was given an injection and later referred to Emekuku mission hospital.

"He was also referred to the Federal Medical Centre, Owerri, where he died May 7, 2015, when all efforts to revive him failed," Uwaoma said.

## Monarch cautions Abia gov-elect over sycophants, as Soludo commends vision

By Anayo Okoli

**UMUAHIA**—A prominent traditional ruler in Abia State, King Larry Ogbonnaya Agwu, has cautioned the governor-elect, Dr. Okezie Ikpeazu, to beware of sycophants, if he must succeed.

This came as former governor of Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, Professor Chukwuma Soludo, described the governor-elect, Dr. Okezie Ikpeazu, as somebody with the capacity to reposition

Abia State and help make Igbo land great again.

King Agwu also charged Ikpeazu to mete out stiff punishment to any contractor who failed to adhere to the stipulation of the contract, noting that contractors were part of those who created problems for governors.

Agwu, who spoke at his Eze Onyeoruru Palace, in Ajatanigu autonomous community, Oboro in Ikwuano council of the state, lamented cases of substandard jobs

Agwu said the activities of people he described as fake or half-baked contractors nearly messed up the good intention of the outgoing Governor Theodore Orji.

He said: "That Governor Orji is not a good administrator as alleged by some Aba people, was caused by the activities of bad contractors.

"The sycophants that were close to him, those people he believes, those people he trusted, put him in this mess."

Meanwhile, former governor of Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, Professor Chukwuma Soludo, has described Dr. Okezie Ikpeazu as somebody with the capacity to reposition Abia State and help to make Igbo land great again.

Prof. Soludo, who spoke Monday in his Enugu residence when Ikpeazu visited him, described Ikpeazu as a man with clarity of vision, particularly his plans to turn around Aba, the commercial capital of the state.