

#EndSARS protesters kill 2 cops in Abia, raze Police station • Ikpeazu imposes 24-hr curfew

By Ugochukwu Alaribe

UMUAHIA — The #EndSARS protests that have raged across the country for days, took a dangerous dimension in Aba, Abia State yesterday as protesters killed a policeman and burnt a police station.

Following the development, Governor Okezie Ikpeazu has imposed a 24 hours curfew in the state.

The protest which saw thousands of youths on the streets of Aba, came barely 24 hours a similar protest took place

in Umuahia, with some renowned musical and Nollywood actors joining to lend their voices to the #EndSARS call.

The protest turned violent when the protesters burnt a police station housing the Dragon unit of the State police command and reportedly killed a policeman.

Information had it that when the protesters got to the Aba area command, they were addressed by some senior police officers and they left to Ezima police station where they were equally addressed by some officers.

However, it was gathered that when the protesters got to

Dragon Squad, policemen shot in the air to scare the protesters and this was said to have angered the protesting youths who then burnt the station popularly known as Zone 6.

Two policemen were said to have been killed in the process. A policeman who escaped the ire of the protesters by whiskers, said: "I was in the office when I heard noise from the protesters and rushed outside to know what the matter was all about. Before you could know what was happening, everywhere was on fire and two of my colleagues died in the melee."

The protesters after setting the

police station ablaze, blocked the Aba/Ikot Ekpenne Highway, causing gridlock in most parts of the city as traffic moved at snail pace, with commuters and other road users stranded

Ikpeazu imposes 24-hour curfew

Reacting to the development, Governor Ikpeazu has imposed a 24 hour- curfew in the state.

In a statement by the Commissioner for Information, Chief John Okiyi Kalu, the government said: "After detailed review and assessment of the general security situation, including reports of armed cultists and hoodlums sneaking into the state from different parts of the country in large numbers, the burning down of at least two police stations, reported killing of two policemen in the last two days as well as leaked plans to unleash more violence on innocent citizens, Governor Ikpeazu has directed security agents to ensure the immediate arrest and prosecution of the hoodlums, pursue a swift and complete recovery of the stolen arms and ammunition with the necessary vigour, and ensure the cultists are comprehensively flushed out.

"To ensure the continued security of lives and property of law abiding citizens, the governor has also directed the imposition of a 24-hour curfew on Aba and Umuahia from 6pm today till further notice."

make up Cluster 1 in OML 26, including the President-General

any property was a punishable offence that attract terms of

of their quest for gas as it is not within the company's licence.