

BORNO SOUTH: How I escaped death as assassins killed two policemen in my convoy — Idris Mamman

•Explains why he defected from APC to PDP

By Ndahi Marama,
Maiduguri

Borno State chieftain of the ruling All Progressives Congress, APC, who was also gubernatorial aspirant in 2019, Idris Gatumtumba Mamman, has defected to the opposition Peoples Democratic Party, PDP. Mamman, fondly known as Idris Durkwa, had recently aspired to contest for the senatorial primary of the APC in Southern Borno which he alleged was a charade as it was characterized by irregularities and imposition that favoured incumbent Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume.

He also narrated how he escaped death but two policemen killed in an assassination attempt on his convoy.

In 2018 he had contested in the APC governorship primary that produced Babagana Zulum as governor in 2019 after he emerged as candidate.

Durkwa claimed that non-compliance with the 2022 Electoral Act provisions by the powers-that-be in the Borno APC culminated into dictatorial tendencies during the House of Assembly and senatorial primaries, particularly in Southern Borno where, according to him, many delegates as well as teeming APC supporters were disenfranchised, saying this was part of the reasons for his defection.

He stressed that, contrary to the Electoral Act 2022 which provides for a Special Congress in the senatorial district with delegates voting for aspirants of their choice in a designated centre, the exercise held separately in each of the nine local government areas under the supervision of officials appointed by Borno State government with high degree of impunity and without the presence of electoral committee.

He explained that political narratives in Southern Borno need urgent change for constituents to feel dividends of democracy.

"As a democrat, a time has come for me and my teeming supporters to join forces with the major opposition party (PDP) which is determined to wrest power come 2023, especially in Southern Borno", he said.

"Most of our people in the constituency are glaringly clamoring for change in view of the poor representation by their lawmaker at

the National Assembly in the past decade, and that is what informed my decision", he said.

"I had the privilege and also had an interface with many people from the nine local government areas that constituted Southern Borno especially during my tour and consultations with delegates, stakeholders and teeming APC members.

"I saw tears on their faces as a result of lack of quality education, healthcare, decay in social infrastructures such as boreholes, electricity, increasing poverty and joblessness amongst youths and the womenfolk.

"All these can be attributed to lack of proper representation by leaders. In fact these narratives have to change.

"I left sinking APC and I have since been issued with

PDP membership card number 012 and INEC Voters' Identity Number, VIN: A25622408 in Shafafa Ward, Hawul Local Government Area of Borno.

"PDP is the opposition party to beat come 2023 general elections. I didn't join the PDP alone. I moved with all my teeming supporters across the 27 local government areas of Borno.

"I and my teeming supporters are going to contribute in a way to ensure that the our presidential candidate, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, and indeed all our candidates vying for various political positions win come 2023".

He recalled the ambush on his convoy along Maiduguri-Damaturu Road by yet to be identified gunmen who killed two policemen and left many others in-

jured.

His words: "As I prepared to set in motion and mobilize my teeming supporters, political associates and friends for the campaign proper prior to the day of the primary in Borno South, an assassination attempt was carried out on my entourage on Sunday, May 22, 2022 at about 9am by yet to be identified gunmen along Maiduguri-Damaturu Road.

"In that ambush, two policemen in the convoy were gunned down while several others sustained gunshot injuries.

"My personal vehicle was shattered with bullets even as the attackers set ablaze one of the vehicles in the convoy. "Although, these killers are yet to be fished out by security agencies, I thank God and pray for the repose of the souls of the deceased police officers, and may Allah comfort their families."

'STINGY MAN' COMMENT: Catholic Church moves against Mbaka, shuts down Adoration Ministry

By Dennis Agbo

The Catholic Diocese of Enugu has suspended the operation of Adoration Ministry officiated by Rev. Fr. Ejike Mbaka in Emene, Enugu.

A pastoral injunction issued by the Bishop of the diocese, Most Rev Dr. Callistus Onaga, said Mbaka violated all laid down tenets of Catholicism after several corrections.

He, therefore, banned all religious and lay faithful from attending religious and liturgical activities of the Adoration Ministry "until the due canonical process initiated by the Diocese are concluded."

The Bishop's letter reads: "In the light of the happenings in the Catholic Adoration Ministry Chaplaincy Enugu, capable of undermining the Catholic faith and teachings; and after several fraternal corrections and admonitions to Fr. Camillus Ejike Mbaka, the Chaplain of the Ministry.

"And after having given him pastoral directives and guidelines for the Ministry Chaplaincy, which he persistently violated, in fulfilment of my pastoral duties as the Chief Shepherd with the obligation to promote and safeguard the Catholic faith and morals in Enugu Diocese, I hereby prohibit

all Catholics (clergy, religious and lay faithful) henceforth from attending all religious and liturgical activities of the Adoration Ministry until the due canonical process initiated by the Diocese is concluded.

"My decision is based on the fact that some of the teachings and utterances of Fr Camillus Ejike Mbaka at the Catholic Adoration Ministry are not consistent with the teachings and faith of the Catholic Church.

"I enjoin all the Christian Faithful to keep praying for Fr. Mbaka and the Catholic Diocese of Enu-

gu as I entrust him and the Diocese to the maternal care and protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the Apostles."

Mbaka had recently stirred up the hornets' nest when he accused the presidential candidate of Labour Party, LP, Mr. Peter Obi, of being stingy, saying he will not win the presidency for that reason.

He also said the presidential hopeful must apologise to him for being "stingy" if he must win the presidency.

The remarks have continued to attract criticisms across the country, with many berating the cleric.

Awaritoma Is Dead

Pioneer Chairman of Ethiope LGA in Delta State. Chief Benjamin Owhuow Awaritoma, has died in Abraka after a brief illness, aged 92.

A statement by the eldest daughter, Mrs Juliet Okpalefe, on behalf of the family, said Awaritoma, a British trained civil and structural engineer, was a high chief in Abraka Kingdom, a devoted Christian and Pioneer Chairman of Ethiope local government area, from 1979-1982.

Funeral arrangement will be announced by the family.



•The late Awaritoma