

# Imo royal father killed, body set ablaze

By Chidi Nkwopara

Two men, including a the traditional ruler of Orsu Obodo autonomous community, Oguta local government area of Imo State, Eze Victor Ijioma, were Thursday evening, killed by unknown gunmen.

According to reports emanating from the area, the second victim of the rampaging armed hoodlums, was the Traditional Prime Minister of Mgbele community, in the same Oguta local council area of the state.

Vanguard gathered that the slain citizens, were killed in separate operations, carried out by the gunmen, in different locations, within the local council area, on the same Thursday.

An Orsu Obodo villager, who spoke anonymously to Vanguard yesterday, recalled that the armed men accosted their royal father at Umuamaka Junction, in the neighbouring Izombe community and killed him in his car.

His words: "Our respected monarch was reportedly waylaid at Umuamaka Junction in Izombe, which is a neighbouring community from ours.

"What pained us most was that he was not only killed, but not being satisfied with his gruesome murder, the armed hoodlums went a step further to set his corpse ablaze, inside his car."

Although stories surrounding the murder of the Traditional Prime Minister of Mgbele community was sketchy at press time, villagers confirmed that he was

killed by unknown gunmen.

Vanguard gathered that soon after the killing of the two citizens went viral, security personnel were moved into the affected communities.

People were seen in groups, yesterday, talking in hushed tones at some points in

Izombe community, when Vanguard visited.

Lucky (not real name), confirmed that: "Soldiers and other security personnel, have increased their presence in Izombe and the neighbouring communities, possibly, to arrest the perpetrators and get them

to account for their dastardly acts.

"With what has just happened, it appears that the unknown gunmen have changed their operational tactics and resorted to hit and run. The security operatives are stridently combing the villages, in

search of the hoodlums."

Efforts made to reach the State Police Command's Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Mr. Henry Okoye, for comments, before going to press, proved abortive, because he could not be reached on his mobile line.

## \$1.2bn Zungeru Hydro begins 700MW supply to National Grid — Power Minister

By Obas Esiedesa, Abuja

The 700 Megawatts capacity Zungeru Hydro Power plant which was constructed at the cost of \$1.2 billion has been connected to the National Grid System, the Minister of Power, Engr Abubakar Aliyu has disclosed.

Engr. Aliyu disclosed at a valedictory session organised for him and the Minister of State for Power, Mr. Goddy Jedy-Agba, after two days of test run, that the plant has begun supply to the grid.

While expressing optimism that the power is primed for growth, he pointed out that a solid structure has been laid by the outgoing Buhari's administration.

He noted that progress has been made, adding: "today the Zungeru Hydro Electric Power Plant has become a reality. We have today joined the grid with 700MW. The testing started last night and the information reaching us is that the 700MW has gone on the grid.

"The Kashimbilla Electric project which is a joint project with the Ministry of Water

Resources has also been completed. The line bringing electricity to Yende in Benue State, over 240km is also completed and commissioned".

On the Siemens Power Project, the Minister said significant progress has been made with the installation of two mega transformers ongoing.

He observed that when he

arrived at the Ministry in 2021, he met the Siemens project "almost at standstill and so with the collaboration of other players, we were able to get it moving again. Today one of the transformers is in Ajah, Lagos. We have just cleared the mobile substation, which is a massive infrastructure. We have ten of them".

While calling for patience, he noted that building up of power infrastructures takes

a lot of time, including going through a stringent procurement process.

He said that working with the Minister of State, they have been able to streamline activities in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry, NESI, compared to the disjointed process they met.

On his part, the Mr. Jedy-Agba noted that the industry is better placed for growth, adding that a lot of industrial disputes have been re-

## FG must create innovative financing the entertainment industry — LCCI

By Vera Anyagafu

The Federal Government has been tasked to create an innovative financing for the entertainment industry to thrive through the Bank of Industry (BOI).

This was the submission of the Director General, Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chinyere Almona, at the 8th edition of the Pan Africa music fashion runway and game changer Africa acknowledgement awards in the state.

The annual event under the theme, "fashion forward: a call

to action for a green and sustainable continent", featured national and international designers and runway models.

Speaking during the event, Almona, urged the federal government to focus on entertainment industry by creating an enabling environment for business creation and growth.

According to her, "The federal government needs to collaborate with the private sector to address the long-term effects of the coronavirus pandemic on the sector and leverage development financial institutions like Bank of Indus-

try (BOI) to support the sector through innovative financing.

"Private sector players need to keep their focus and creativity, as the greatest asset in the industry is the peculiar human instinct Nigerian youth possess."

While commending NVM management limited, organisers of the event for their vision towards making Nigeria a global leader in the entertainment sector, she added that the nation's cultural heritage in fashion, design, arts, film and music presently has great impact on the industry.