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## Abia baby factory horror! • Fresh bodies exhumed • Suspect runs private mortuary, cemetery

By LAMBERT TYEM, Abuja

Startling revelation of how Mrs Lillian Achomba, the woman who was arrested by the police for harbouring 42 pregnant teenagers, ran the home where she trains under-aged boys and girls in sexual acts emerged at the weekend with the police fingering some highly-placed Nigerians of collusion.

The X-Squad Unit of the Nigeria Police Force last week arrested Mrs Achomba on allegations of trafficking in pregnant girls whose ages range between 13 and 18 years. The arrest of the woman followed a tip-off from the people of Umunkpeyi Nvosi village in Isiala Ngwa South Local Government Area of Abia State where she resides.

Speaking exclusively with Sunday Sun in Abuja, the Commissioner of Police in-charge of X-Squad said that the team of detectives dispatched to the woman's alleged training camp found out that she ran a private mortuary and cemetery where those who die during training are preserved and buried.

According to CP Okorie, when the police operatives visited the cemetery and dug up one of the graves, they discovered a fresh body of an infant lying with its mother. "We also discovered that the woman is using one private clinic called Mercy Maternity Clinic, Umukpeyi Nvosi, Isiala Ngwa South Council. When we investigated the clinic from the state government, we discovered (it) is not registered," he said. The CP also said that the woman camped the girls and young men and fed them at her expense, adding, "she fed the men with Indian hemp to serve as enhancement for them to sleep with the girls in order to get them pregnant.

"When any of them delivers, the baby is sold for N150,000 and the children whose HIV status is negative are offered at prices from N200,000 and above depending on the sex of the child," the CP explained. Okorie said the police once raided the camp and ordered its closure but that a couple of months after, the woman reopened the camp.

"This woman is so rich that she bought over all the security agencies in the state as well as having a high connection in the state," the police chief added. He said the woman, who hails from Isiala Ngwa South in Abia State, is now threatening the police authorities to pay her N2million compensation for interfering with what she called her business and her fundamental human right via an Abia High Court.

But he said the police would soon arraign Mrs Achomba, Ukandu Achomba and Uzoma Oluabunwa as prime suspects in the case.

He also frowned at the way lawyers were rallying round the suspects to get them off the hook.

According to him, 30 girls were rescued last week from the illegal camp and that 28 of them are pregnant while one of them, who was delivered of a baby on Tuesday, lost the child a few hours later.

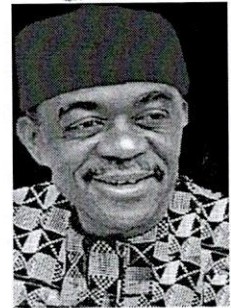
Okorie disclosed that because of the condition of the ladies, the police resolved to return the girls to the Abia State government on Thursday to allow the social welfare in the state take care of them.

Source: Sun, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

## NAFDAC warns Abia traders

Written by ANAYO OKOLI

Umuahia—Deputy Director of National Agency for Food and Drugs, Administration and Control (NAFDAC), in Abia state, Mr. Kehinde Mamudu, has warned that the agency would not hesitate to apply strict punitive actions against any market that obstructs its



Chief Theodore Orji  
Onye isi ochichi  
Ndi-Abia State

### Abia State

know as  
"God's Own State"

Population  
Approximately 4.3 million

### Languages

Although English is the Nigeria Official Language, almost 85% speak and hear English or pidgin English. The Official local language is Igbo which around 95% of the population speak.

### Religious Belief

Abia State is dominantly a Christian State; roughly 85% of the people are Christians whereas 10% are traditional believers, although about 2% are Muslims.

Capital  
Umuahia

Local Government Areas  
Aba North, Aba South,  
Arochuku, Bende,  
Ikwuano, Isiala-Ngwa North,  
Isiala-Ngwa South,  
Isuikwuato, Item, Mgboko,  
Nbwasi, Obehie, Obingwa,  
Ohafia, Omoba, Osisioma  
Ngwa, Ugwunagbo, Ukwa  
East, Ukwa West, Umuahia  
North, Umuahia South,  
Umu-Neochi

Contact Office  
Abia State Government  
Liaison Office,  
T. Y. Danjuma Street,  
Asokoro, Abuja, Nigeria

officials from carrying out their duties.

Mamudu gave the warning at an interactive session with the executive members of Eziukwu Road Market Union, in Aba, as part of the agency's ongoing sensitisation/enlightenment campaign.

Mamudu noted that some markets in other parts of the country, including Ariaria and Onitsha drug markets, had been closed down in the past due to the resistance by the traders against enforcement exercise by the agency.

He urged the market union leaders to assist the agency in the fight against the sale of fake and adulterated products in the country, geared toward the protection of the health of the nation.

Mamudu also frowned at the attitude of some task force members who, he said, were demanding gratifications from the agency before they could collaborate with it, especially during market inspections and enforcement exercises.  
Source: Vanguard, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

State House  
Government House, Umuahia,  
Abia State, Nigeria.

### **Orji sacks boards of Abia firms, agencies**

From Gordi Udejah, Umuahia

ONE week after Abia State Governor Theodore Orji dissolved his cabinet, body of advisers and personal assistants, he has ordered the dissolution of boards of all government's companies and agencies.

He exempted the State Civil Service Commission, Local Government Service Commission, State Universal Basic Education and the State Environmental Sanitation Agency.

The governor followed the sack yesterday with the recognition of 13 traditional rulers of 13 autonomous communities to whom he presented staff of offices in Umuahia, the state capital.

Speaking at the ceremony, he explained that the new monarchs were those selected by their communities to replace those that died, adding that it was also to ensure that vacuums do not exist in the headship of such communities in the state.

The governor reiterated that his government would not create new communities and that it would not play any role in the emergence of communities' traditional rulers.

He added that government recognises the strategic roles played by traditional rulers in governance and customary arbitration, hence its move to ensure that a traditional ruler presides over a community at any point in time.

Source: The Guardian, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

### **Council Chairman Arraigned For Attempted Murder**

From Gordi Udejah, Umuahia

Chairman of Ukwa West Council, Abia state, Chief Sylvernus Nwaji aged 46, on Wednesday pleaded not guilty to the two count charge of attempting to kill one Mr. Chimezie Nwauju by shooting him with pump action gun, and that he (Nwaji) and one Confidence Nwogwugwu and one Victor with unknown surname, who is said to be at large, had on 28th February 2009, conspired among themselves to commit felony and murder, thereby committing a punishable offence.

Nwogwugwu was additionally charged for unlawfully assaulting the same Nwauju by hitting him with the butt of pump action gun on his face, causing him grievous harm, and thereby committed a punishable offence in accordance with relevant laws of the land.

He, like Nwaji, pleaded not guilty to the charges when both of them were arraigned by the state Commissioner of Police before an Umuahia Chief Magistrate Court, Presided over by Mr. Onuma K. Onuma.

The matter had come up for hearing and after mention and following the bail plea by their joint Lawyer, Mr. Chukwuemeka Nwaogu, they were granted bails in the sum of N1 million and a Surety each, while the case was adjourned to Thursday, 26th March, 2009.

Reacting to the matter, Nwaji accused his political detractors for framing him up since he declared his interest to contest the 2011 House of Representative seat for Ukwu Constituency, describing his claimed frame up as politically motivated.  
Source: The Guardian, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

### **Abia gov dissolves cabinet, Assembly to probe council boss**

*From Gordi Udeajah, Umuahia*

GOVERNOR Theodore Orji of Abia State at the weekend dissolved his cabinet. The cabinet reshuffle affected his advisers and special assistants.

But the changes, which came barely one month after Orji's election was ratified by the Court of Appeal, did not affect the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Donatus Okorie, his Chief of Staff, Mr. Mascot Uzor Kalu and the Deputy Chief of Staff attached to the Office of the Deputy Governor, Charles Ogbonna.

Orji dissolved his cabinet after the Speaker of the House of Assembly, Agwu U. Agwu, constituted a five-man panel to investigate the allegations of official misconduct levelled by the councillors in Ukwu East against their chairman, Glory Kanu, with a view to impeaching him.

The governor had invited the sacked appointees to a dinner at the Government House Banquet Hall on Sunday and announced their sack before the dinner commenced.

Giving reasons for doing so, he said that some of them had served the state government for a long time in different capacities while the loyalty of others to him were in doubt.

He added that there was need to give others the opportunity to render service to the state.

The governor directed them to hand over all government property in their possession, especially their official cars, which he said, should be used by their in-coming successors as the government "cannot afford to procure new ones".

The governor thanked those he adjudged to have served meritoriously, wishing all of them success in their subsequent endeavours.

Reacting on behalf of the former political office holders, the affected state Attorney General /Justice Commissioner, Okey Amaechi, thanked the governor for the opportunity he gave them to serve the state. He lauded Orji for his various achievements in all sectors, wishing him more success in the remaining period of his tenure.

Amaechi appealed to the governor to reconsider allowing those who do not have cars or cannot afford to buy to go with theirs.

He pointed out that where this is not done, some former top officials of the government would either be trekking and or ridding on motorcycles after serving the state. He said this may discourage some people from accepting government's political appointments in the state.

The probe panel, which will be inaugurated today to commence its assignment, has two Abia State-based practising journalists as members.

They are Mr. Allison Obiajunwa of the state-owned Radio/Television and Mr. Uche Ajah, publisher of the Newsbearer Magazine.

Source: The Guardian, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

### **Abia Denies Alleged Money Laundering**

*By Samson Ezea*

THE Abia State government yesterday denied the allegation of money laundering recently made against Governor Theodore Orji by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)

Addressing journalists at the Abia Liason office Lagos, Senior Special Assistant to the governor on Legal matters, Chief Umeh Kalu denied a report in the media that the

governor, while serving as Chief of Staff to his predecessor Chief Orji Uzor Kalu, assisted the latter in laundering N5 billion belonging to the state into his company's account.

He said the case involving the governor before Justice Tijani Abubakar of Federal High Court Lagos Division was withdrawn by EFCC when the governor was sworn-in and that he was not a party to the case pending against his predecessor before Justice Adamu Bello of Federal High Court Abuja.

"The media reports of February 25 on the Abuja Federal High court proceedings before Justice Adamu Bello in suit No. FHC/ABJ/CR/56/2007 between Federal Republic of Nigeria and Orji Uzor Kalu and two others is obviously an exercise in misinformation, blackmail and publication of falsehood. The reports which we now know was syndicated to media houses by a cabal to achieve cheap political points and bring Governor T.A to public odium for purpose of cutting short his joy over his recent victory and potraying Abia in bad light ostensibly evolved out of the proceeding of Abuja High Court on February 24, before Justice Bello," Kalu said.

On Onyema Ugochukwu's alleged plan to the head for the Supreme Court over the Appeal Court verdict, Kalu advised him to the accept the verdict of the court in good faith because his move would fail.

"Appeal Court is the final arbiter in this matter. Nobody has criticized the judgment except Ugochukwu and his loyalists. We can't stop him but we can only advise him not to waste his time because judicial precedents on the issue are very clear," he said.

Source: The Guardian, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

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Source: The Guardian, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

### **ABA STATE: An Age-long Demand**

*FROM Gordi Udeajah - Umuahia*

THERE is agitation for the creation of a new state called Aba State out of the existing Abia state. The proposed new state is to comprise Nine of the 17 LGAs of the state namely: Aba North, Aba South, Ukwu East, Ukwu West, Ugwunagbo, Osisioma Ngwa, Obingwa, Isiala Ngwa North and Isiala Ngwa South.

All the Councils areas in the Abia South Senatorial zone are included in the proposed new state whose proposed capital is designated for a virgin area between Rivers state and the present Abia state.

Although the agitation/demand was said to have spanned over many decades beginning in 1915, it was renewed in 1954 and in 1980 to 1983 when it was taken to both Houses of the National Assembly.

According to the Leader of the Aba State Creation Movement, Elder Emmanuel Adaelu, it was in 1980-1983 specifically on 16th June 1983, that the National Assembly gave approval for a referendum for the creation of Aba state

The creation of Aba State has the full support of the Abia State government, all the elected representatives of the area at national, state and council levels including their traditional rulers and community leaders and even non indigenes resident there.

The Abia State governor Dr Theodore Orji had also in a letter dated September, 22, 2008 to the Deputy Senate President, Ike Ekweremadu, Chairman of the Constitution Review Committee stated thus; "I wish to submit to you our request for the creation of ABA STATE out of the existing Abia state in line with Section 8 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. May I also convey to you my absolute support for this bid in line with the request of our people".

The latest demand was made to the current Senate President Mr David Mark on January, 27, 2009 and in the address the movement Leader Adaelu presented to Mark, what he recalled was the approval given by both Houses of the National Assembly on 16th June, 1983 for a Referendum for the creation of Aba State to be conducted, stressing that this directive has not been reversed.

He said, " the National Assembly approved the creation of thirty new states to bring the number of states in Nigeria to fifty. The incontrovertible argument was that for Nigeria to develop evenly, fifty states or more should be created and that each of the six geo-political Zones should consist of at least eight states, for Equity and Justice. The approved states by the National Assembly were referred to referendum. While the people of the proposed states including Aba were waiting for the conduct of the referendum in each state as directed by the National Assembly, the arm struck again and aborted the process".

He added that although the defunct Midwest State was the only one created through democratic means during the First Republic, the military later created 16 states out of the thirty, bringing the total number of states created by military fiat to the present 36 states.

Adaelu who listed Adamawa, Jigawa, Katsina, Kogi, Taraba, Enugu, Aba as some of the states approved for creation by the then National Assembly said all of them were created except Aba. he described Aba as the oldest state being demanded for creation in Nigeria.

On why the area qualifies for a state Adaelu told The Guardian on Thursday that before the National Assembly arrived at its decision for referendum for Aba State creation, it looked at the following factors that have either remained the same or improved with time. These he listed as persistent demand, appropriate population of over three million, geographical contiguity, available resources, Land area, even development and bringing of government to the grassroots.

According to him, the proposed new state is larger and bigger than some existing states while the benefits that will follow its creation are inexhaustible and is part of the Niger Delta Region with over 68 Oil wells.

Source: The Guardian, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2009.

### **Philanthropist Donates x41.7m Projects To Abia**

*By Bankole Adeshina*

AS part of his contributions to the development of fatherland, a philanthropist and America-based Nigerian businessman, Chief Imo Uma Ikeogu, has executed various projects worth N47.7 million for the people of Abia State.

According to a statement made available to The Guardian yesterday, the projects include N10million classroom blocks at Ukpacha Primary School; N12 million street electrification and dedicated 100KVA generating set; N5.2 million Duplex vestry for The Brethren's Church of Nigeria; N2.5million fully equipped Diagnostic Laboratory at the

Presbyterian Church of Nigeria, N2.5million fully equipped Diagnostic Laboratory at the ANIA Health Centre, and N7million modern public toilet for Amafor-Ozu (all in Akanu-Ukwu Community; and a four-classroom block valued at about seven million Naira at Abia Ohafia community.

Source: The Guardian, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009.

### **Abia Has Suffered Collective Loss – Ugochukwu**

From Emmanuel Ugwu in Umuahia

Candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the long-drawn tussle for the governorship of Abia state, Chief Onyema Ugochukwu, yesterday declared that the people of Abia had suffered "a collective loss" because the change they had yearned for would now be delayed following the appeal court verdict which affirmed Chief Theodore Orji as governor.

He expressed this view at a post-appeal judgment press conference held at his Umule Ohuhu Umuahia country home, saying that the movement in Abia was not about him and his deputy but about change which Abians worked for and prayed for.

"Unfortunately that change has been delayed by the (Appeal Court) judgment given on the 11th of February, 2009," he said, adding that "the people have been mourning since the unfortunate verdict."

Reviewing the 20-month long battle for change in Abia Ugochukwu, who was flanked by his running mate, Chinwe Nwanganga and top officials of his campaign team said that "we have fought a good fight even with a government using enormous resources belonging to the people, to buy justice."

The PDP flag bearer in the contentious April 14, 2007 gubernatorial poll expressed disappointment at the outcome of the appeal court battle, saying that the way and manner the judgment was packaged and delivered left much to be desired.

"It is strange that this appeal panel that gave notice of judgment for two weeks came to the court with handwritten judgment delivered incoherently," he said, adding that "as at today (Friday) when his counsel went yet again to get a copy of the judgment the chairman of the appeal panel, Justice Saka Ibiyeye Xwas still writing his judgment."

While Ugochukwu reasoned that there was no need to congratulate Governor Orji for emerging victorious, alleging that he came to power through fraudulent means, he nonetheless wished the government of Abia State good luck, saying: "We pray that they would now govern this place with honesty and transparency."

Source: This Day, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

### **Orji Tells Political Leaders To Shun Corruption**

Oliver Ndife, Umuahia

The governor of Abia State, Dr. Theodore Orji, has urged other governors, local government chairmen and political office holders in the country to shun all forms of corrupt tendencies in order to avoid embarrassment.

Speaking in Umuahia when he received in audience the 17 local government chairmen in the state, Orji noted that all elected officers across the state are always under the searchlight of the anti-corruption agencies and the entire electorates.

He said, "In Nigerian politics, governors, local government chairmen and other politically elected officers always come under the searchlight of the anti-corruption agencies and the electorates which should make us to always sit up."

He explained that the current economic meltdown going on in the world has made the state to loose about N1.2 billion from the Federation Account from this month till when things will improve.

The governor said that the shortfall in the financial allocation would also affect the council areas, even as he called on the council chairmen to let their people know about the economic position to avoid rumour mongering.

Orji noted that the shortfall in the allocation would also affect all tiers of government in their rate of developmental efforts, and urged citizens of the state to bear with the government till the economy improves, while they should endeavour to pay their taxes promptly to help government.

He recalled that it was on February 11, 2007 that EFCC locked him away in Lagos till May 27, 2007 when the Court of Appeal sitting in Lagos released him and that it was the same court now sitting in Port Harcourt that restored his mandate on February 11, 2009.

Earlier in his speech, the leader of the forum of council chairmen and chairman of Ikwuano local government area, Stanley Ojigbo said that they came to see the governor and to congratulate him over his victory at the appeal court.

Ojigbo acknowledged that the governor has brought development and revolution to the corners of the state, pointing out that they are duplicating the same at all the 17 local government areas of the state.

Source: Leadership, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

### **Orji: From Prison To Government House**

SAMSON EZZA traces the relationship between former governor of Abia State, Dr. Orji Uzor Kalu and former President Olusegun Obasanjo and how their political difference led to the formation of Progressive Peoples Alliance (PPA), the choice of Governor Theodore Orji as its governorship candidate, his arrest and incarceration and how he won election from detention, as well as his legal battles to reclaim his mandate.

DURING the formation of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in 1998, former Abia State governor, Dr. Orji Uzor Kalu, along with former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, was one of its major financiers. Hence securing the party's governorship ticket was a smooth sail, as was his eventual election.

When Chief Olusegun Obasanjo emerged as the party's presidential candidate, Kalu threw his weight behind him, financially and morally, a claim Obasanjo denied at peak of their political differences.

They had a rosy relationship, to the extent that Obasanjo's first state visit was to Abia, where he declared Kalu the 'action governor.'

Before the end of their first term in office, the relationship became sour due to political differences, resulting from Kalu alleged role, along some other governors, in the attempted to truncate Obasanjo's second term.

In a bid to emasculate Orji politically, Obasanjo started aligning with the likes of Prince Vincent Ogbulafor, now PDP national chairman, former Senate President Adolphus Wabara, Chief Onyema Ugochukwu, Chief B.B Apugo and others. But Kalu was able to surmount all the odds and was re-elected for a second term in 2003.

Kalu's differences with Obasanjo deepened at the peak of the Anambra crisis between then governor, Dr. Chris Ngige and his estranged political godfather, Chief Chris Uba, when Kalu pitched tent with Ngige against Uba, who was allegedly supported by Obasanjo.

During the botched third term bid, which beclouded the constitution amendment, Kalu, alongside Atiku and others, mobilised other Nigerians against the plot. At several occasions, he boasted that he would make Nigeria ungovernable for Obasanjo even if he got a third term.

This development widened the animosity between the duo, as every effort by the former President to use the anti-graft agency, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to deal with Kalu proved abortive.

As 2007 election approached, Kalu saw the handwriting on the wall that PDP will not be a safe haven for him and his loyalists in the state. So he formed Progressives Peoples Alliance (PPA) with his loyalists, as alternative platform.

With this development, the coast became clear for Obasanjo's men, who were in control of PDP in the state. During the PDP primaries, Chief Onyema Ugochukwu, with the support of Obasanjo, emerged winner, to the disenchantment and surprise of many party stalwarts.

Mr. Amah Abraham told The Guardian that Obasanjo's imposition of Ugochukwu created a lot of problems in the party, but many kept quiet at that point because they could help it.

"You know that Ugochukwu was not among the contestants. At several occasions, he denied having interest, only to be imposed two weeks to the election. That was why major stakeholders in the party withdrew support from him.

"As window dressing, Chief Ojo Maduekwe, some days to the election, issued a press release, urging party members in the state to support Ugochukwu," Amah said.

To counter Ugochukwu's candidature, PPA nominated Governor Theodore Orji, former Chief of Staff to Kalu, from the same Umuahia axis as its governorship candidate, thereby unsettling the Ugochukwu and PDP camps.

It was alleged that to make the coast clear for Ugochukwu to win the election, Obasanjo instigated EFCC to arrest Orji and incarcerate him on trumped up charges of stealing and money laundering. That was how Orji was arrested some months to the election.

His incarceration did not prevent him and his party from featuring in the April 14 governorship poll. It was a big shock to PDP members to notice that Orji and his party were listed in ballot papers.

After the election, Abia result was the first to be declared and Orji was declared the winner, and there were jubiliations across the state and oppositions were in disarray.

Securing Orji's bail became a hard nut to crack, as every efforts was allegedly frustrated by the Mallam Nuhu Ribadu-led EFCC, in connivance with the powers-that-be. But this did not discourage PPA and Orji's supporters.

Just about one week to the swearing-in, Orji was granted bail and sworn-in as governor, making him the second Nigerian to win election from the prison, after Senator Iyiola Omisore.

With the outcome of the election, Ugochukwu went to the election tribunal challenging the election of Orji on the grounds that he is a secret cult member and did not resign his appointment as Chief of Staff before contesting the election.

The tribunal ruled that though Orji won the majority of votes cast, he remained disqualified for being a secret cult member and failing to resign his position before contesting the election.

Orji appealed the judgment at the Port Harcourt Division of the Court of Appeal. The parties closed their submissions late last year, but the atmosphere at home remained tense, and the PDP in the state was engulfed in a crisis.

During the official visit of Vice President Goodluck Jonathan two weeks ago, many PDP members in the state were there in solidarity with Orji, ostensibly an indication of what was to come.

It was gathered that the emergence of Chief Vincent Ogbulafor, who was disgraced out of office as the party's national secretary by Obasanjo, as national chairman, despite initially being schemed out in the primaries added salt to Ugochukwu's injury. His loyalists almost mobbed the Senator Jim Nwobodo-led Southeast Reconciliation Committee at Umuahia before Ogbulafor ordered them to suspend the Abia matter till after last Wednesday's Appeal Court ruling. Before Wednesday, there were allegations and counter allegation among PDP members in the state for working to undermine Ugochukwu's effort.

Even Ogbulafor was not spared, as he was accused of working against the interest of Ugochukwu by the party's national vice chairman, Southeast, Chief Olisa Metuh, an allegation Ogbulafor strongly denied.

Along the line, Ugochukwu's supporters pointed accusing fingers at the state government for fanning the crisis in the party.

To that, Orji said: "I don't have hand in the crisis rocking their party. They are confused and God is exposing them. What am I gaining causing crisis in their party? I am more focused on my government and I don't need PDP distraction and antics."

The greatest losers in the saga are Ugochukwu and PDP. Perhaps Ugochukwu's greatest undoing was the circumstance surrounding his emergence. Now the battle shifts to the control of the party in the state. With Ogbulafor's alignment with President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua and others major stakeholders in the state, Ugochukwu's control of party's structure might soon be a thing of the past.



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The winners include the people of the state, who had experienced tension and anxiety due to prolonged legal battle by Ugochukwu and PDP, which distracted the government for almost two years.

Orji and his party remain the greatest winners, having reclaimed their mandate.

Days ahead would be interesting, as there is likely to be serious battle for the soul of PDP in preparation for 2011.

Source: Guardian, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

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