



L-R: The President of Just Friends Club of Nigeria, Chief Jerome Green-Amakwe, presenting gifts to the founder of Mother Teresa Children's Home, Gwairimpa, Abuja, Yeye Bolanle Dare, during the club's visit to the orphanage. With them is Mr. Fred Ohwahuwa, the club's vice president.

Why EFCC raided Dikko's home

■ N3.5b Internet project, untraced containers expose ex-Customs chief

FROM IKENNA EMEWU, ABUJA

Petitions against the former Comptroller General of Nigerian Customs, Abdullahi Inde Dikko to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Offences Commission (ICPC) by a pressure group might have been the reason the EFCC swooped on the home of the former Customs boss yesterday.

The EFCC drafted about seven of its operatives as early as 7am to the home of Dikko on No. 6, Ahmed Musa Street, Jabi, Abuja, possibly for his arrest.

But because the former Customs chief was not at home during the visit, the operatives including armed policemen took time to search every apartment and corner of his home for hours.

Towards the end of Dikko's tenure in office, there were allegations of improperly against him by bodies alleging that he did not manage the Customs transparently.

One of the bodies, the Nigerian Cus-

toms Transparency Initiative (NCTI) had sent a written complaint to the ICPC and the EFCC, alleging abuse of office against Dikko and also that some containers disappeared from some port terminals without trace.

Moreover, NCTI claimed that the conditions on which the Customs under Dikko's supervision spent N3.5b to upgrade the Service's Internet facilities were not clean and must be probed.

According to a member of Dikko's family, Mohammed Usman, "EFCC called very early in the morning and the man they were there to catch was not at home."

"Until noon, the EFCC operatives that swooped on the former Customs chief were still lurking around with some armed policemen possibly to avoid an altercation as customs men also guard Dikko's premises."

"They were about seven EFCC operatives that visited Dikko's home for a possible arrest but they later resorted to searching his premises for anything of value to their mission."

Another report source indicated that: "A team of about seven operatives of the

EFCC in company with some armed policemen arrived at the residence at 7am and have been in the house in the past five hours. One of his family members found at the premises however claimed that the EFCC men and police never showed any order for either search or his arrest."

"They did not show us any order either from the court or otherwise for the search, and they had access to everywhere including the rooms in Dikko's absence."

The family member also noted that the search would not have been lawful as the team never showed any document empowering them to raid Dikko's home and even when he was not around.

While Dikko was about ending his tenure last year, the former Customs boss who was associated with major reforms and increased revenue to the Federal Government came under heavy scrutiny over how he managed the office.

At a point after the presidential election in April, Dikko was rumoured to have paid a botched visit to the president-elect in Daura, Katsina State.

Mind your utterances, Bende elders tell politicians

A cross-section of leaders of thoughts from Old Bende area of Abia State on Thursday called on politicians in the zone to mind their utterances before, during and after the forth-coming re-run election in Abia North Senatorial District.

According to a statement signed by Chief Daniel Akwari (Osu Uzo) and made available to the press shortly after the meeting held at his Ilem residence, the peace and unity in the region will not be jeopardised because of political sentiments as the common good of the zone is paramount and above individual interests, adding that politicians and political parties must adhere to the rules

of the game.

He said, "just recently the Court of Appeal sitting in Owerri ordered the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to conduct a fresh poll in Abia North due to widespread irregularities that characterised the 2015 poll in the region."

"We gathered from reliable sources that some politicians and their agents are planning to disrupt the peace we have been enjoying over the years in order to perpetuate electoral fraud."

"We are using this medium to advise stakeholders, including political parties, security agencies and voters to maintain law and order as we will not tolerate what transpired at the last elec-

tion, where there was social unrest due to manipulation of results in favour of an unpopular candidate."

"This is a new opportunity for the people's will to prevail. We must uphold the doctrine of one man, one vote."

The leaders, while cautioning the embattled Senator of Abia North, Mr. Mao Okunabunwa, over his negative comments on Dr. Oji Kalu, noted that there should be decorum in politics. The meeting had in attendance prominent indigenes of the region including Dr. Mbaoma Okereke, Chief Emeka Onwuka, Chief Kalu Uduma, Engr. Onuoha Ukpabi, Hon. Chibuike Jones, Barrister Benjamin Kalu and Chief Masoot Kalu among others.

Anenih undergoes heart surgery

Former Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Tony Anenih underwent an open-heart surgery in a UK hospital last month.

A member of the family confirmed this development to The Cable and said it was "only God" that saved the life of the 82-year old politician. Anenih marked his 82nd birthday on August 4, 2015.

The heart condition was accidentally discovered when the former minister of Works and Housing was preparing to return to Nigeria after a visit to the UK. He was said to have complained of irregular heartbeat, prompting a family member to make an

emergency call for an ambulance.

"The ambulance arrived within five minutes and he was taken out on a stretcher, with paramedics giving him oxygen support."

It was at the hospital that it was discovered that he had some heart issues, which he had not experienced before," the source said. The operation however turned out successful and he has returned to the country.

Anenih is regarded as one of the most powerful politicians in Nigeria between 1999 and 2015 when the PDP controlled power. He was very close to Presidents Olusegun Obasanjo, Umaru Musa Yar'Adua and Goodluck Jonathan while they were in power.

Abia guber election: Court of Appeal judgment 'fundamentally flawed' - Ozekhome

A human rights activist and constitutional lawyer, Mr. Mike Ozekhome, has described the Court of Appeal judgment on the Abia State Election Petition Appeal as, "fundamentally flawed" and full of errors in law.

Mr. Ozekhome, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), who was speaking at a *Channels TV Breakfast* programme yesterday pointed out that the Court of Appeal was wrong in nullifying the election of Abia State governor, Dr. Okezie Ikpeazu and declaring the candidate of the All Progressives Grand Alliance, Mr. Alex Oti as the winner of the election.

The constitutional lawyer noted that the Court of Appeal erred in law by granting the appeal of Mr. Oti who could not adopt his own written statement on oath at the Tribunal and also by admitting in evidence, the Card Reader Report from a witness who was not the maker of the document.

He also wondered how the Court of Appeal could give credence to the evidence of the APGA star witness, Mr. Ahandi Nwike, who was only a collation centre agent and could not have been at the polling units where elections

Shite members in S'West want Zakzakzy released FROM OLUSEYE OJO, IBADAN

The South West members of Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN), popularly known as Shites, on Friday in Ibadan, Oyo State, demanded unconditional release of their leader, Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzakzy. The sect's leader is now under arrest in connection

were alleged not to have held. The Senior Advocate reasoned that, on the facts of the case before the Court of Appeal, it was fundamentally wrong for them to have declared Mr. Alex Oti as the winner of the elections and ordered his swearing-in.

He noted that considering the fact that even going by the calculations of the Appeal Court justices, the difference between the votes allocated to Oti and Ikpeazu was 48,000 while the total number of registered voters in the three local government areas of Obinla, Oshosoma and Isialangwa North, where they cancelled the elections are over 250,000 and as such, going by the Electoral Act, the very worst the Court of Appeal should have ordered a re-run election in those three local government areas, where they cancelled elections to decide the eventual winner.

He equally faulted the Court of Appeal for relying only on the Card Reader to determine the issue of over-voting and wondered why they discounted the manual accreditation done in those local government areas considering the fact that the INEC Guidelines allowed for manual accreditation, where Card Readers fail.

with an alleged attempt by the IMN members to assassinate the Chief of Army Staff, Lt-Gen Tukur Buratai, in Kaduna State late last year.

Mallam Mufau Zakarkyah, who spoke on behalf of the sect during a press conference in Ibadan, demanded compensation for all members of the movement who lost their lives during the encounter with the convoy of the Nigerian Army.