



SENATOR MRS. UCHE EKWUNIFE (IYOM)
(ADAUGO-IGBO, ANYANWU-NRI KINGDOM)
CHAIRMAN, SENATE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

13th January, 2023

HRM Igwe Sir Ralph Ekpeh,
Okpalanakana-Ukabia IV,
Eze Enugwu-Ukwu na Igwe Umunri.

Your Majesty,

PETITION AGAINST HON. DOZIE NWANKWO

Your majesty, may your reign be long!

May I use this medium to congratulate you on the successful Igu Aro ceremony held last Saturday at the Obu Umunri, Enugwu-Ukwu.

I write to draw your attention to the several attacks on my supporters as well as the destruction of my campaign signposts by thugs hired by the Senatorial candidate of the All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA), Hon. Dozie Nwankwo.

Your Majesty, in the morning of 12th January, 2023, I received a phone call from your prominent son, Chief Arthur Obi Nwandu of Avowu village Enugwu-Ukwu that the billboard he erected in my stead in front of his house has been defaced and destroyed by thugs acting on Hon Nwankwo's instructions.

This uncalled, condemnable and uncharitable act was following the unprovoked and utterly shameful display of thuggery by Dozie Nwankwo at the 65th Igu Aro of your community, which you witnessed. During the said ceremony, his supporters disrespectfully and violently made entrance into the arena in total disregard of protocol. It will be recalled that my supporters who adhered to the directives were harassed by Dozie Nwankwo's thugs, and if not for my displayed maturity, the fracas would have escalated. I maintained calm because of my resolve to ensure peace in my Senatorial District and the respect I have for your throne and Enugwu-Ukwu traditional institution.

There are several other instances where Hon Nwankwo and his thugs unleashed violence on my supporters and campaign materials. These instances include:

1. The destruction and burning of my campaign signpost in Enuagu village, Enugwu-Ukwu.
2. The removal of a similar signpost in Urunnebo village, Enugwu-Ukwu.

3. The burning and destruction of another of my signpost at Orji/Avomimi village, Enugwu-Ukwu.

4. Specifically on 12th January 2023, one of my supporters erecting my banner was brutalized and beaten up by Dozie Nwankwo's thugs with several weapons, leaving him bleeding from several parts of his body.

5. Another sad and unfortunate incident, which occurred a few weeks ago was the harassment of construction workers who I engaged to rehabilitate the road opposite Obu Umunri palace beside Nkwo Enugwu-Ukwu market. On this incident, Hon Nwankwo hired thugs to chase away the workers on site and take over the project. It was by the special grace of God that the workers who scampered for safety escaped unhurt.

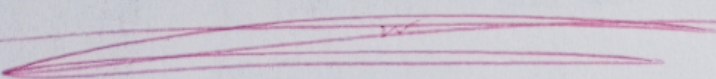
Your Majesty, as we move forward into the more crucial days of this electioneering campaign, I wish to appeal to you to call Hon Dozie Nwankwo to order, not out of cowardice because I am not a politician who succumbs to intimidation. I have the capacity to resist every attempt to stifle my campaign in Enugwu-Ukwu or any other community in the Senatorial District, however, in line with my personal resolve to abide by the principles of peaceful campaign, I decided to tow the path of peace and I enjoin the community to call him to order immediately. It has taken me so much effort, time and very firm and consistent persuasion to stop my raging supporters from resisting and containing the assailants of Hon Dozie Nwankwo. I took this path in order to ensure that the people of my Senatorial District remain unhurt by the violence orchestrated by Hon. Nwankwo.

In his usual trend, Hon. Nwankwo had after I won against him in 2011, mobilized thugs and assassins who invaded my country home, attacked my security man with machets and left him half dead, broke into my house only to realize no one was inside and then destroyed my properties.

Both Hon Nwankwo and I are serving lawmakers. We both have the responsibility of keeping the laws we make, but unfortunately, Hon Nwankwo has always tutored and instigated his supporters to be law breakers. This is sad and unfortunate.

If Dozie Nwankwo is not ready for a healthy competition, he may as well throw in the towel and opt out of the race as I am determined to stop him from attacking the people of our Senatorial District, who unfortunately are the same people he seeks to represent. I will therefore take very stringent actions to ensure order in our Senatorial District if there is any further attack by Hon. Dozie Nwankwo and his thugs whether in Enugwu-Ukwu or any other community

Thank you, your Majesty. Please accept the assurances of my highest regards. I once again reiterate my commitment to use the instrumentality of legislation to the development of Enugwu-Ukwu community.


Senator Uche Ekwunife, PhD (IYOM)