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Countryman

OSHODHOLE COMPLETES  
TENURE AS NLC BOSS  
—NEWS



## AC wants Osun bomb blast probed

Mansur Oladunjoye

The South West caucus of the Action Congress (AC) has called for a special investigation panel to probe the recent bomb blast in Osun State as six people reportedly lost their lives.

Rising from a one-day conference in Lagos yesterday, the party also passed a vote of no confidence on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), calling for its immediate dissolution over poor handling of the April general elections.

The party also called for the immediate and unconditional transfer of the Osun state commissioner of Police, accusing him of partisan politics.

The special panel according to AC, should investigate the death of the Chief Security Officer (CSO) to Governor Olusegun Agagu of Ondo state as well as several reported threat on the lives of lawmakers in Ekiti and Osun states.

Chieftains of the party who attended the conference included Lagos state governor, Mr. Raji Fashola (SAN), former governors of Ogun and Oyo states; Olusegun Osoba and Lam Adesina, the party's governorship candidates in Ekiti, Osun and Ogun states; Kayode Fayemi, Rauf Aregbesola and Dipo Dina respectively, 13 lawmakers from Ekiti states and another six from Osun state.

Chaired by the party's zonal vice chairman, Alhaji Tajudeen Olusi, the AC leaders faulted the last elections saying they were characterized by large scale fraud, leading to the emergence of illegitimate regimes in the south west states with the exception of Lagos state.

A two-page communiqué issued at the end of the deliberation that was well attended by party faithfuls including past and aspiring Local Government chairmen in Lagos state, stressed the need for Electoral and Political reforms which it said could only be achieved with the dissolution of the present INEC.

"There must be both electoral and political reforms in our match through democratic governance; we hereby call for genuine and correct open secret ballot system and immediate dissolution of INEC.

"We call for the immediate transfer of the commissioner of Police of Osun state who is more PDP than PDP leaders themselves, an example is a situation in which a PDP chairman in Ilesha who was charged with murder is walking on the street as a free citizen while Senator Salami, an innocent citizen is languishing in Ile-Ife prison," the communiqué read.

However, the party distanced itself from its governorship candidate in Ondo state, Hon. Ademola Adegroye, and at the same time adopted the party's executive decision to suspend him.

Addressing delegates earlier, governor Fashola promised to provide the platform for all

legitimate struggles, agitation for the emancipation of the people from oppression, imposition and bad governance, using the instrumentality of the law.

According to him, "If our democracy is to thrive and survive, if the rule of law and the constitution must be the grand norms, if we must avoid anarchy and the dictatorship of a one party state, then pluralism which is the beauty of democracy, alternative views must be accommodated."

He described democracy as the only antidote to the emancipation of people's interests, saying, "democracy therefore remains the only system of government through which the interest of the electorate and indeed the citizenry are best protected; it is the system which confers true legitimacy and political powers on the elected representatives of the people."

He however condemned the use of violence, intimidation, harassment of oppositions, saying it would only slow down the country's progress and paralyse its achievements, Quoting the former premier of the defunct south west region, late Chief Obafemi Awolowo, the Lagos governor said, "power flows from leadership which is sustained by the will and approval of the people, freely articulated and given".

The governor advised the ruling People's Democratic Party [PDP] to retrace its steps and halt the persecution of AC faithful in Ekiti and Osun states, describing the persecution as a direct assault on the people, "The PDP leadership must retrace their steps back to constitutionalism and rule of law even as they lose their acceptance and unrepentantly march towards extinction from our political landscape", he said.

Olusegun Osoba, Dipo Dina and Kayode Fayemi who spoke in turns assured the delegates of the brighter prospect of the party in winning lodged cases at the various election petition tribunals in the south west states, saying, "We shall soon reclaim our stolen mandates."