

Aide dies as Akala's convoy crashes

DELE OGUNYEMI, Ibadan

BARELY one week after a securityman in the office of Oyo State governor suddenly slumped and died, another aide to the Governor lost his life on Wednesday while some five others suffered varied degrees of injuries in a ghastly auto crash involving Governor Christopher Adebayo Alao-Akala's convoy on Ibadan-Lagos expressway. The governor escaped unhurt.

The deceased simply identified as Baba Oloyo, was in one of the protocol vehicles of the governor when the accident occurred at a bad spot on the express road, following failed efforts by the driver to manoeuvre the vehicle when one of its tyres burst on hitting a big pot hole and an eventual summersault.

Eye witness accounts showed that the governor's convoy, which was en-route Lagos "to honour an important appointment," was on a very top speed when the accident occurred.

According to our sources, the Governor's convoy had run into a big pot-hole on the expressway, which the convoy could not notice on time in view of the top speed the convoy was moving.

Apart from the deceased, others who sustained serious injuries were taken to the University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan, and are responding to treatment.

Confirming the incident in an interview with journalists, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Communication and Strategy, Mr. Diran Odeyemi disclosed that the Governor escaped unhurt from the auto crash, adding however that those injured were fast recovering in the hospital.

Only last week Thursday, one Mr. Raphael Ekperekume, a security guard to the Governor, who was in his late 60s, slumped and died while awaiting the arrival of his breakfast at the Governor's visitors waiting room.

Raphael as reported, resumed duty hale and hearty at about 7.50 a.m. that day and was sighted moving in and around the Governor's office until around 8.55 a.m. when he sent one of his co-workers to buy food for him.

Trouble however started around 9 a.m. when his colleagues in the waiting room noticed that he was behaving strangely. After gasping for breathe, he suddenly slumped and died.

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Daramola as unfortunate, the Bauchi State governor advised Nigerians not to see the incidents as party issue but a national problem.

"The unfortunate incident is a serious problem. It has some unfortunate political connotation. It is unacceptable to us as Nigerians.

"The killings have nothing to do with our party. It is exceptionally

Political killings

Also commenting on his 2007 presidential ambition, the governor disclosed that he is still consulting with relevant stakeholders.

"I am still consulting. By the grace of God, whatever comes, we are working and as events unfold by the day. Due consultations are