

3 killed as Ladoja's, Akala's supporters clash

BY ETAGHENE EDIRIN

NO fewer than three persons may have been killed in a free-for-all between supporters of Governor Rashidi Ladoja of Oyo State and his deputy, Chief Adebayo Alao-Akala, at the zonal rally of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) at Akure, Ondo State capital yesterday.

Our correspondent reports that two of the victims were seen lying at the entrance of the Akure Township Stadium, where the rally held.

It was also gathered that the fracas, which lasted for hours, occurred amid heavy presence of police personnel at the rally, including the Inspector General of the Police, Mr. Sunday Ehindero, also an indigene of the state.

Sunday Champion gathered that the fracas started shortly after the National Chairman of the party, Dr Ahmadu Alli presented the party's flag to Alao-Akala, as the governorship candidate of the PDP in Oyo State.

Alli also gave the party's flags to Otunba Gbenga Daniel of Ogun State, Segun Oni of Ekiti State, Musiliu Obanikoro to represent Lagos State, Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola of Osun State and Dr Olusegun Agagu of Ondo State.

An eyewitness told our correspondent that one of the dead, a female supporter of Obanikoro was hit by a stray bullet. The second victim, was in Alao-Akala's vest.

The pandemonium generated by the clash led to the smuggling out of Governor Ladoja from the venue of the rally to avoid being harmed just as a teenager, who was caught by a stray bullet was rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment.

At least 10 vehicles were vandalised in the fracas. Three of the buses were marked with the registration number of Ogbomoso, Oyo State, the home town of Akala.

There were conflicting reports as whose supporters started the fight.

Ondo State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Adeniran Aremu, could not be reached to confirm the incident. Several calls put across to his mobile phone were not answered.

Earlier, Agagu who flagged off his campaign promised to turn the state around if elected as the governor in the forthcoming polls.