

ABIODUN FELIX, Osogbo,

UNEASY calm Sunday enveloped the town of Iree, Boripe Local Government area of Osun State following Saturday's alleged killing of a party agent, Abdullahi Taofeek during the House of Representative Bye-election held in the area.

Taofeek, a Part One, Part Time student of Business Administration of the State Polytechnic Iree, was killed by suspected political thugs at Ward 9, Iree during the bye-election to fill the vacant seat of late Hon. Ranti Alabi of Boripe/Ifeodun/Odo-Otin Federal Constituency who died December 2006.

Also, two staff of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), are currently on danger list at the Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH) Teaching Hospital, Osogbo, following serious injuries sustained during the bloody clash.

The violence which took place at Boripe Local Government area of the state led to the death of 30year old Taofeek who was a party agent to the candidate of the All Nigerian peoples Party (ANPP) Chief Osuolale Bello.

The fracas also led to destruction of vehicles including that of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) secretary, Mr Yinka Adejo who hails from the town.

It was gathered that the bye election which commenced peacefully as early as 9.00 am throughout the three council areas turned bloody in Iree when thugs of one of the contesting political parties smashed the ballot box at ward 9 and attacked the polling agents.

When *Daily Champion* visited

Bye-election: Party agent killed in Oyo

the Rainbow Hospital, Iree where the body of the deceased was kept, the deceased was spotting a jeans trouser with no mark of bodily wound on him, thus fuelling speculations that he was hit by native Charm.

The body has since been deposited at the Ladoke Akintola University of Technology Teaching Hospital (LAUTECH) morgue in Osogbo after initial resistance by the parents of the deceased.

Speaking with newsmen on the crisis, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) secretary in the state, Mr Yinka Adejo alleged that both the ANPP and Action Congress (AC) brought thugs in several vehicles to the polling booth and smashed the box on the allegation that the PDP was rigging in the centre.

According to him, in the ensuing melee, two of his vehicles and one official car of the party with registration number Osun AM 555 GNN was smashed and damaged by the thugs of one of the aspirants.

But AC Director of Research and Publicity, Sunday Akere alleged that the ruling PDP attacked the ANPP agents when it dawned on them that the ANPP candidate was leading at the polls.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, David Omojola however confirmed the incident saying the police has commenced investigation.