

Oro festival: 4 feared killed in Kogi

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FOUR persons were yesterday feared dead during this year's Oro festival usually celebrated among Kabba people living in the Western Senatorial District of Kogi State to foster unity among themselves.

In the violence that broke out during the festival, over 10 houses belonging to the supporters of both the Action Congress (AC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) were torch

and six vehicles were also set on fire by suspected thugs loyal to both the AC and PDP.

Businesses told our correspondent that the festival was going on peacefully until politicians hijacked it, using the advantage of the large turn-out of the people who witnessed the age-long festival to campaigning for their candidates for the re-run Kabba/Bunu House of Assembly constituency election.

It would be recalled that the Court of Appeal had upheld the verdict of the State Election Petitions Tribunal that nullified the election which

the candidate of the PDP was declared the winner.

The court noted that the election was marred by violence and irregularities and ruled in the favour of the AC candidate and ordering INEC to conduct a fresh election.

Sources alleged that agents of the politicians hired praise singers to sing in the favour of their candidates, which resulted in the singers using abusive words to justify the money collected from their paymasters.

In the process, supporters of the candidates engaged themselves in a free for all, using various weapons including charms against one another.

As at the time of filing this report, the festival which is supposed to last for one week had been suspended by the paramount ruler of the town, the Obaro of Kabba, Oba Michael Olobayo.

Oba Olobayo who expressed his sadness on the incident warned that the gods of the land will punish any of the politicians found to be involved in the criminal act.