

# Two feared dead as thugs attack Gov Akala's convoy

It was like a drama in Ibadan on Tuesday as the convoy of Oyo state governor, Otunba Christopher Adebayo Alao-Akala was attacked by some hoodlums at Bodija-Iso-Pako area within the popular Bodija Market. No fewer than two people were feared dead in the ensuing commotion.

It all happened as Governor Alao-Akala was about to leave the venue of the rehabilitated Bodija-Iso-Pako road, which he had gone to commission, as part of activities marking his 100 days in office, while the suspected hoodlums carrying a big banner of Alhaji Lamidi Adedibu, the veteran politician and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chieftain, suddenly blocked the governor's convoy, demanding for ransom.

They expressed dissatisfaction that the governor had wanted to leave the occasion without giving them the mobilisation money they had earlier agreed with the organisers of the commissioning ceremony prior to storming the venue in large number.

Subsequently, the hoodlums resorted to throwing missiles at the governor's convoy.

The ugly development took place even as the striking civil servants in the state vowed not to call off the ongoing industrial action until Alao-Akala administration acceded to their demands for

From Yemi Bamidele,  
Ibadan

the N9,400 minimum wage across the board.

The state chairman of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Comrade Lamidi Basiru Apapa, told journalists that even the intervention of the National President of the NLC, Comrade Abdulwaheed Omar, would not make the

workers to call off the strike.

"The strike will continue for as long as government continue to remain recalcitrant," the state NLC chairman declared shortly after a general meeting of the striking workers just as he added that the decision of the National Industrial Court (NIC) in the matter was being anxiously awaited.

National President of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Mr. Ndagene Akwu also stormed the state secretariat of the Oyo state NLC yesterday to further boost the morale of the striking civil servants and declared that "all Nigerian journalists are solidly behind the workers since they are fighting a just cause."

## Security critical to tourism - Odey

By Benjamin Auta

The issue of security remained critical to the growth of tourism in Plateau state, the minister of Information and Communications, Mr John Odey, has said.

A statement by the chief press secretary to the minister, Mike Nwokoro, yesterday stated that the minister, who acknowledged the tourism potentials of Plateau state, maintained that the implementation of the seven-point agenda of the present administration would fast track development in the state.

The minister, who made the remarks when the deputy governor of Plateau state, Mrs Pauline Tallen, paid him a courtesy visit in Abuja, promised that areas of collaboration would be identified and vigorously implemented for the benefit of all Nigerians.

Also speaking, minister

of state for Information and Communications, Alhaji Ibrahim Dasuki Nakande, assured the deputy governor of the ministry's support to engender peace in the state as well as the nation at large.

He added that the Ministry would take advantage of the establishment of the Film Village in Mangu, Plateau state as well as the proposed hosting of the next National Council of Information and Communications in Jos.

In her remarks earlier, the Deputy Governor solicited for the ministry's support in the fight against corruption and HIV/AIDS pandemic ravaging the nation.

She said the ministry had a critical role to play in restoring the nation's image and lost values through proper information dissemination and management.

The deputy governor pledged her state commitment to partner with the ministry to overcome the trauma witnessed in the past eight years by people of the state.

## Yar'Adua's success

The National Harmonized Traders Union has taken a look at President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua's administration, describing the president as the messiah the country is praying for.

Making this known to newsmen in Kano at a press conference, the union's president, Dr. Bature Abdul-Azeez, said it was a well known fact that Yar'Adua had softly addressed issues that could have ordinarily plunged the country into chaos.

He stated that considering the country's vast landscape and population, the president had without recourse to tribal