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NEWS UPDATE:

Headlines:

Unknown gunmen kill Mubi PDP chairman

Friday, 17 December 2010 04:30

Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, Yola



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The Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Mubi North Local Government Area of Adamawa State was Wednesday shot dead in his home by suspected assassins.

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Alhaji Tafida Umar, who was said to be in his 70s, was killed less than 24 hours after he attended the governorship declaration of retired Brigadier General Buba Marwa, the former Lagos State military administrator who has joined the Adamawa State governorship race. Marwa had on Wednesday afternoon in an elaborate ceremony declared his intention to challenge Governor Murtala Nyako for the PDP governorship ticket in the state. Late Tafida Umar was among the dignitaries who travelled from Mubi, Marwa's senatorial zone, to attend the launch in Yola, the state capital.

Hours after his return home on the same day, suspected assassins stormed the house in Mubi town and pumped several bullets into his body, sources told Daily Trust yesterday. There was no suggestion that he was shot specifically because of attending that rally, but the sources believed that his killing was politically motivated. "It was clearly a political killing, it wasn't armed robbery or anything of such. They demanded nothing from him and took nothing from the house," one of the sources said. "The assassins, three of them, came on a Bajaj motorcycle with their gun in the night. One of them stood outside the house with the motorcycle while the others entered the house and shot him," he said. "They then drove away without taking anything", he added. Tafida was rushed to Mubi General Hospital where about seven bullet wounds were reportedly identified before he was quickly referred to Maiduguri Teaching Hospital, another source told Daily Trust. "It was on the way to Maiduguri around Michika area that he died," the source said, adding that he was buried yesterday after funeral prayers. Police spokeswoman Altine Daniel confirmed the killing but gave no further details. She, however, said that investigation was on to track down the killers. The state chairman of the PDP Alhaji Umaru Mijinyawa Kugama expressed sadness over the killing.

"It is so sad and frightening. I really don't know what is happening. We cannot make comments now until after investigations and security meetings," he said. Many people contacted on phone in Mubi town expressed outrage over the incident appealing for quick action from the authorities to identify the killers.

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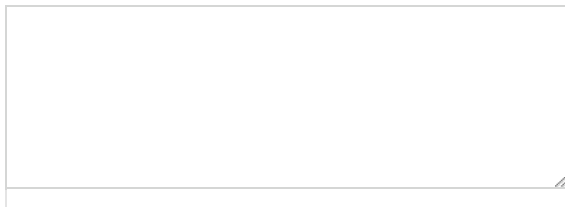
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