

NEWS >>

Kwara: 2 killed as APC senate candidate escapes

From Romoke W. Ahmad, Ahmad, Ilorin

Two people have been killed while the APC senatorial candidate for Kwara South, Lola Ashiru, escaped alleged assassination attempt by political thugs.

The APC in the state, yesterday, alleged that two of its members were shot dead by suspected thugs during a senatorial campaign tour in Ojoku, Oyin Local Government Area of the state.

Oyin is the hometown of Senator Rafiu Ibrahim, who is also the PDP senatorial candidate of the Kwara South Senatorial district.

The attackers reportedly injured about eight APC members and vandalized about 20 vehicles belonging to the APC Kwara South senatorial candidate.

But the PDP has countered that APC thugs were the first to attack its members with no fewer than six persons sustaining bullet wounds.

Speaking on the attack, Senator Rafiu Ibrahim said the armed political thugs were purposely brought to Ojoku to attack PDP members and supporters ahead of the rescheduled polls.

He alleged that the thugs who were on the campaign trail of Lola Ashiru, first attacked PDP members by shooting at some of them. He said no fewer than 9 PDP members sustained gunshot injuries and were currently receiving treatment at different hospitals in town.

Addressing reporters in Ilorin, the APC chairman in the state, Hon. Bashir Bolarinwa said: "Tuesday, Feb. 19, the APC Senatorial candidate for Kwara South,

Lola Ashiru, took his electioneering campaign to Ojoku Ward. In line with tradition, he and his team paid a courtesy visit to the Olojoku of Ojoku in his palace.

"After the courtesy visit to the Kabiyesi, the team came out of the palace to proceed to the venue of the rally. They had barely come out of the palace when they were ambushed by PDP thugs who, apparently, have been lurking around the palace.

"The attackers who were armed with different weapons, started shooting at the APC members and supporters who accompanied our candidate to the palace.

"The policemen who accompanied our candidate's campaign train tried to repel the attackers, but they were massively overwhelmed.

Tinubu disowns leaked audio on campaign funding

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

APC national leader Asiwaju Ahmed Tinubu, yesterday, denied a leaked audio report on campaign funding associated to him, describing it as "fake and desperately illogical and evil."

A statement issued in Lagos by his media aide, Tunde Rahman, said Asiwaju addressed a meeting attended by hundreds of people. The meeting, according to him, was open to the public with the media present and visible.

"There can be no leak involved when a statement is publicly made and the media present. This misrepresentation of the audio as a "leak" is again part of a larger attempt to distort a normal speech to rally supporters prior to an election into something nefarious. As bad as this misleading description is, it is the least of the wrongs contained in these counterfeit reports," the statement said.

One of the issues Asiwaju

dwelt on in his address, Rahman stated, was the reward system for loyal party members and ardent supporters.

"He told party members that the APC has now devised a plan to compensate them for their hard work after they delivered victory to the party at the polls.

"In short, Asiwaju promised the party faithful, APC supporters and members a reward for their efforts to secure victory in the 2019 elections. He had previously stated the goal of getting three million people in Lagos to sufficiently believe in the vision of the APC and to vote for President Buhari and Vice President Osinbajo. This objective was again the crux of his Valentine Day statement," the statement said.

"Asiwaju also said he would not go to Alausa but would use his own funds for the present effort," he added.

He noted that it is common practice to give tokens of gratitude to party members for their work.

PDP because of APC PDP failure - Kaloma Mustapha