

# Kogi PDP leaders meet, condemn mayhem over aspirant's death

CALM is gradually returning to Yagba-West Local Council after the crisis that greeted the mysterious death of an aspirant to the House of Representatives in Kogi State, Mr. Samuel Bangudu, a fortnight ago.

During the incident, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Secretariat in Odo-Ere, headquarters of the council, was set ablaze. The campaign office of one of the opponents of the late aspirant was also burnt.

The return of peace to the area was facilitated at an emergency meeting of the stakeholders of the party in the area. A state

*From Ralph Agbana,  
Lokoja*

leader of the PDP, Mr. Funsho Owoyemi, who hosted the meeting at his residence in Odo-Eri, told *The Guardian* that a panel had been raised to handle the matter.

Owoyemi, who also chaired the meeting explained that the PDP leaders at the talks, mandated the 15-man committee to, among other efforts aimed at dousing tension, commiserate with the family of the deceased politician and the monarch of Odo-Ere, Oba Titus Makanjuola.

According to him, the meeting, which was attended by political office holders and aspirants from the affected council, condemned the "spontaneous" reactions of the youths from Odo-Ere, which resulted in the destruction of property.

He also dismissed insinuations that the development might affect the chances of the party in the area in the next elections.

"It is a spontaneous thing that left no effect of any kind on the party. PDP is waxing stronger and you can see that from the response that we got at the meeting. It (Bangudu's death) was really an unfortunate thing. People with the kind of capacity he possessed are needed to join hands for the development of the community. For such a young and promising gentleman to die is quite puzzling but God knows best", he said.

Owoyemi added that the party was aware of the result of the post-mortem test carried out

to ascertain what led to his sudden death. He, however, declined to comment on the post-mortem test when he was asked to disclose the content.

The late Bangudu slumped and died in Abuja last month about 48 hours after a campaign tour.

One of his opponents for the seat in House of Representatives race of Yagba-West/Yagba East/Mopamuro Federal Constituency, Mr. Samuel Aro's campaign office was torched during the melee.

Aro told *The Guardian* that he was outside the country during Bangudu's death, describing the incident as unfortunate.

According to him, his campaign had been that of rendering services to the people to the point that he pledged not to receive salary while in office.

He said he had good rapport with Bangudu during the few times they met, describing him as a brother and a gentleman.

## p candidates task killings

The politician said anybody suspected to be nurturing such evil acts should be interrogated with human dignity and if found guilty, prosecuted within the context of law.

Bobzon, who plans to contest the race on the platform of the PDP, stressed the need to edu-

cal association in Delta North Senatorial District, observed that though it was not convenient to move about with police escort, the situation in Nigeria had necessitated it.

The IG, a fortnight ago, noted that though such demands for escorts by politicians were real, the police lacked the personnel to provide the