

Assassins Invade PDP Reception Party, Kill Police Officer

FROM IFEDAYO SAYO,
ADO-EKITI

GALE of politically-motivated killings in Ekiti State appear not to be over as suspected assassins went on the prowl last Friday night, in search of some members of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the state.

A member of the House of Representatives, Samuel Adeyemi, escaped the hoodlums' gunshot as he ran into a nearby bush when the armed men

invaded a hotel in ADO-EKITI where a reception was planned for members of the PDP electoral committee in the state.

But the state PDP chairman, Ropo Adesanya was unlucky as the assassins descended on him and inflicted injuries on his head with the butt of their guns. The mobile police man attached to him was however, killed by the attackers.

The PDP boss, who is on admission at the state government house clinic, was

EKITI

visited yesterday by the state Sole Administrator, Brig. Gen. Tunji Olurin.

Other political leaders attacked by the hoodlums include a governorship aspirant of the Action

Congress (AC), Chief Dapo Alibalo and a governorship aspirant of the PDP, Prof. Adesegun Ojo, who was attacked at his country home, Itapa-Ekiti by the same seven-man gang.

They were, however, repelled by vigilance groups in the town.

Chairman of the National Universities Commission, Mrs. Abiola Ayomoke was also lucky as the hoodlums attacked only members of her campaign group.

Alibalo, who was attacked at about 11pm, was dispossessed of his

valuables, including the sum of N140, 000 in his room.

He told newsmen that the hoodlums said their mandate was to kill him, but they could not carry out their mission after the people in his neighborhood woke up.

Water For All Not Attainable In 2015, Says UNDP

BY ALABI WILLIAMS

ABUJA

EXPECTATIONS by Nigerians that come 2015, potable water would be available in every home may not be realisable going by the Human Development Report 2006, which was unveiled last Thursday in Abuja.

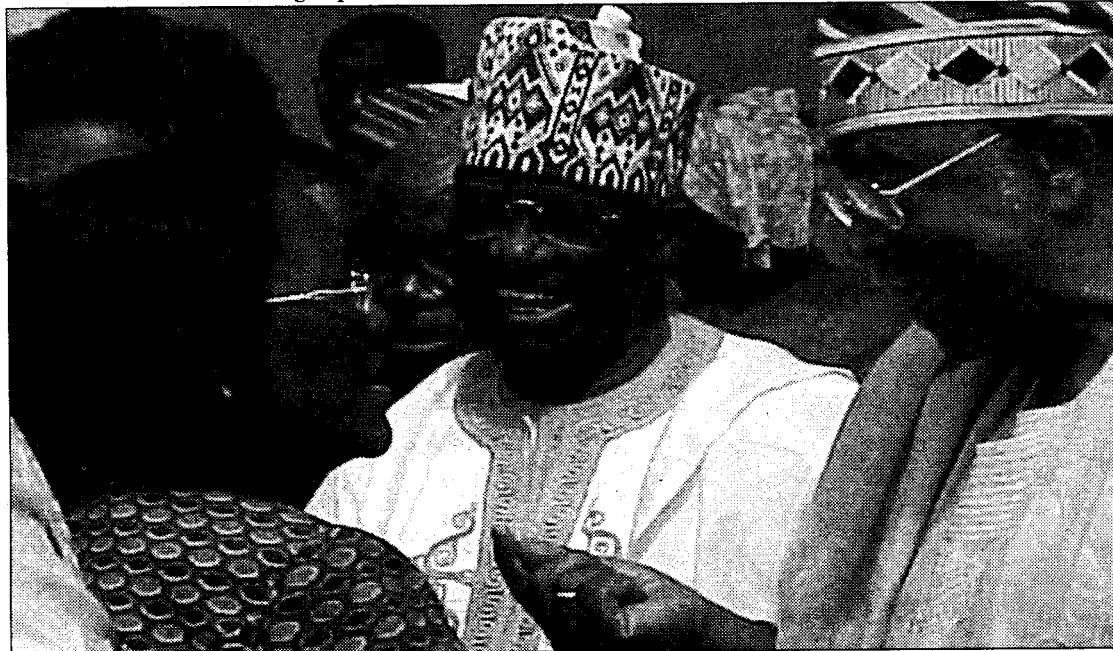
This year's report, titled "Beyond Scarcity: Power, Poverty and the Global Water Crisis" was, as usual, devoted to an investigation of the broad vision, set out in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which is the internationally agreed set time-bound goals for reducing extreme poverty, extending gender equality and advancing opportunities for health and education.

The report, which focused on water and sanitation, located 2046 as the possible earliest date for all Nigerians to have access to safe water at affordable cost and a safe environment.

In spite of this grim report, President Olusegun Obasanjo who launched the report said there is remarkable progress in the provision of water by his administration.

"Funding for the sector has steadily increased from less than N8 billion in 1998 to about N55 billion in 2006, in addition to 100 billion naira set aside from the debt relief gains in the 2006 budget in the MDGs key sectors, which include water resources development," he said. "This is clear evidence of our priority attention to the sector."

The UNDP Resident Representative, Alberic Kacou said despite the global consensus that water is absolutely important, close to 20 per cent of the world population does not have access to clean water.



Foreign Affairs Minister, Prof Joy Ogwu, Ambassador Hamzat Ahmadu and Ambassador Olujimi Jolasu after the inauguration of Ahmadu and Jolasu as members of the International Relations Club by President Obasanjo in Lagos...at the weekend

PHOTO: PAUL OLOKO

Ojukwu Gets APGA Presidential Ticket

FROM LAWRENCE
NJOKU, ENUGU

FOR the second time since 2003, the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) yesterday picked Dim Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu as its consensus Presidential flag bearer in the 2007 general elections.

The party also restored the position of National Leader

as well as Chairman of the Board of Trustees to him.

Also elected at the National Convention of the party, held in Enugu, were Chief Victor Umeh as the National Chairman and Alhaji Sani Shinkafi as the National Secretary.

The convention also ratified the expulsion of the Enugu State governorship candidate of the party in the

ENUGU

2003 election, Chief Ugochukwu Agballah and House of Representatives member from Imo State, Uche Onyeagocha.

Ojukwu, who flew the party's flag in the 2003 presidential election, was picked unanimously by the delegates.

To shouts of "Ezeigboghburugburu", Ojukwu, who was decked in a colored long sleeve shirt and cap to match, promised to provide a leadership that would provide Nigerians choices, insisting that Nigerians were suffering because the leadership had failed to provide alternatives to their problems.

PRIMARIES

One Killed, Several Wounded

FROM SIMEON
NWAKAUDU, MAKURDI

TRAGEDY struck Friday night when the prolonged crisis within the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Benue State took a violent turn with the murder of the council chairman of Gboko Local Government and House of Assembly aspirant, Ageba Uttah by unknown gunmen.

Uttah, a top contender for the Gboko South Constituency seat, was trailed by gunmen from the venue of a meeting with some delegates to the primaries, which was botched due to the non release of election materials.

The gunmen, according to a source, later trailed the late council chairman to his residence, where they pulled him out of his vehicle and hacked him to death.

They also shot sporadically into the air to scare away members of the public who were attracted by the cries of the politician. Shortly after killing him, the gunmen drove to another part of Gboko where they reportedly clashed with the support

BENUE

ers of a leading politician. However, supporters of the politician, a House of Representatives aspirant, successfully repelled the gunmen. Several persons

sustained gunshot wounds in the gun duel.

The majority leader of the Benue State House of Assembly, Timothy Iorchor confirmed the killing of Uttah.

Public Relations Officer of Benue State Police

Command, Samuel Jinadu, said that an arrest had been made.

The Benue PDP is yet to successfully hold any primaries in the state since the commencement of the exercise.

Disagreement Mars Exercise

ABIODUN FAGBEMI
ILORIN

AN aspirant in the Kwara North Senatorial district boycotted yesterday's primaries, alleging 'importation of foreign delegates' into the scene.

The exercise slated for Omu-Aran was reportedly disrupted.

Two aspirants, Senator Muhammad and Yinusa Yahaya and their counterparts in the south, Senator Sule Ajibola and Bode Oyedipo could not reach a consensus, thereby prompting preparation for keen contests.

At Bode-Saadu, more than 50 fully armed policemen were at strategic spots, when the Governor Bukola Saraki visited the venue at about 12:30pm.

Not even the alleged series of meetings of

KWARA

peace" convened by the maverick politician of the state, Dr Olusola Saraki, could resolve the logjam between Mohammed and Yinusa.

Yinusa, who boycotted the congress, cited alleged "foreign importation of delegate" into the venue.

At Omu-Aran, violence

led to the disruption of the congress when supporters of both Ajibola and Oyedipo, disagreed on the modalities for the congress.

The Governor, while reacting, said what happened at the Kwara North could be a case of "stepping dawn" and not a boycott, adding "but try and cross check though."

Two Senators Fail Bid

FROM SEUN ADEOYE,
OSOGBO

IT was certain, yesterday, after the PDP primaries, that two of the current Senators from Osun State would not return to the National Assembly, under the umbrella of the party, by May 29 next year.

Only Otunba, Iyiola Omisore, a former deputy

OSOGBO

governor of the state, representing Osun East, got the nod of the party in the state to seek re-election under the PDP. Two others, Senators Felix Ogunwale and Olasunkanmi Akinlabi could not contest the party's senatorial primaries as their seats have been

Adedibu's Son, In-Law A Son Win Senatorial Seats

FROM IYABO LALAW
and KAYODE FALADE,
IBADAN

VIOLENCE, protests and irregularities yesterday characterized the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Senatorial primaries in Oyo state.

The intimidating presence of controversial politician, Alhaji Lamidi Adedibu at the congress venues did not help matters as perceived opponents were sidelined.

At the end of the crisis ridden congress, Adedibu's son clinched the party ticket to contest Oyo South Senatorial seat while incumbent Senator Teslim Folarin and Adedibu's in-law, Gbenga Babalola won

OYO

in Oyo Central and North.

In all the venues visited, aspirants protested alleged irregularities and electoral fraud perpetrated by loyalists of Alhaji Adedibu and called for the immediate cancellation of the primaries.

Aggrieved aspirants from Oyo central, including son of the second Republic Minister, Abayomi Akinjide; Chief Oyebisi Ilaka

Iyabo Obas

FORMER Commissioner for Health and daughter of President Obasanjo, Mrs Iyabo Bello-Obasanjo yesterday defeated three other contestants to win the Ogun Central Senatorial

allocated to other members of the party.

Ogunwale is contesting the governorship race with the incumbent governor, Olagunsoye Oyinlola, on the same party platform. Simeon Oduoye, a retired Assistant Inspector General of Police and former military Administrator of Niger and Ebonyi states was picked as a consensus

candidate by the party to replace Ogunwale.

Akinlabi, the Senator representing Osun West had been campaigning for re-election until yesterday when he suddenly announced his withdrawal from the race. The State's first executive governor, Isiake Adeleke is the beneficiary of his withdrawal.