

Gunmen kill Benue ANPP guber candidate's aide

THE electoral violence spreading across Benue State over the governorship and House of Assembly elections took a dangerous dimension yesterday afternoon as four gunmen stormed the Makurdi residence of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) governorship candidate, Professor Daniel Saror, killing one of his aides.

The *Guardian* gathered that the gunmen had arrived a few minutes to noon and were sighted by the ANPP candidate's gatemen, who were suspicious of their movement as they drove around the high brow area.

The gunmen were said to have taken advantage of the arrival of one of the drivers of Saror to enter the premises.

The driver had hardly driven into the gate, when the gunmen rushed into the residence. One of them then opened fire on a group of people standing within the compound, hitting Saror's aide identified as Samuel Yongo in the stomach.

But luck ran out on the gunmen as they were later overpowered by the eight mobile policemen attached to the ANPP candidate.

It was at this point that the gunmen who identified themselves as Corporal Mageni Theophilus, PC John Audu, Corporal Isaac Ogasheko and Sergeant

*From
Simeon Nwakaudu,
Makurdi*

Joseph Ver claimed that they were after a group of youths who had gone to burn down the home of a state commissioner where electoral malpractice was allegedly taking place.

Upon hearing the gunshot at the home of the ANPP governorship candidate, his neighbours rushed to town with the news, while hundreds of his supporters moved to the area in buses and motor bikes.

The supporters staged a peaceful protest around the area, declaring that the

state would be rendered ungovernable if Saror was murdered by his political opponents.

The disarmed policemen were detained in the residence of the governorship candidate for one hour as youths threatened to lynch them. The ANPP candidate restrained the youths and insisted that the assailants be handed over to the zonal police headquarters.

ANPP officials reported the matter to the Zone 4 Police Headquarters, where the Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG) detailed a team of senior officers, led by DSP Joseph Tyoger to arrest the four policemen.

Contacted, the Zonal Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Toki Olumide (ASP), confirmed the shooting in Saror's residence. He said the erring policemen had been arrested, while investigations had commenced on the ugly incident.

At Saror's residence, police officers were seen interrogating those present during the attack.

Commenting on the attack on his House, Saror said that he suspected that some persons were planning to eliminate him for demanding that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) release results as they come in.

Labour vows to reject false polls

*From Collins Olayinka,
Abuja*

Omar, and the General Secretary, John Odah.

The congress declared: "Any flawed elections will not be acceptable to the working people. It condemned in strong terms the rising tide of politically motivated violence, including the resort to assassination. Congress warned the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), the Police and other agencies of government to remain neutral and place the collective interest of the people above those of political parties, politicians and the government of the day. The NLC has resolved to hold these bodies accountable if the

elections are compromised in any way."

The NLC reiterated its stance against state congress supporting any candidate or party without recourse to its National Executive Council (NEC) for clearance.

The central labour body observed that last week's holiday declared by the Presidency helped to disenfranchise voters as they were literally forced to go to their community where they did not register in the first place, noting that the development may cast serious doubt on the eventual result of the election.

"NEC is of the view that the two days public holidays on Thursday, April 12 and Friday, April 13, 2007, declared by the Presidency in the

THE Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) has declared that any electoral result that does not reflect the wishes of the Nigerian people, especially the working class, will be rejected in its totality.

Rising from its first National Executive Council (NEC) meeting at its Labour House in Abuja at the weekend, the labour council stated its resolve to protect the sanctity of the elections.

It declared that it would subsequently hold the police, security agents, politicians and government responsible for any breach of the Nigerians' collective electoral decision.

This is contained in a statement signed by the NLC President, Abdulwahed