

ACN Faults Jona

By Olawunmi Ojo

OPPPOSITION Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) has warned President Goodluck Jonathan not to walk in self-delusion that the party cannot pull a surprise in the 2011 polls.

It said yesterday that it was the height of wishful thinking for Jonathan to assert in a statement credited to him that the opposition has conceded the Presidency to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) ahead of the 2011 general elections.

In a statement issued in Lagos yesterday by its spokesman, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, ACN said the President might have mistaken the parties that joined the PDP in its so-called Government of National Unity (GNU) for the real opposition, "hence the overly-exultant statement."

"In any case, while the ACN may have been in opposition till a few months ago, we have since moved on to become a government in waiting, ready to take Nigeria on a journey to glory and prosperity with the full consent of the people in 2011," Mohammed said.

The party also dispelled the notion that the opposition

was 'spearheading' the debate, saying intervention on the zoning issue to governance, especially governance had been affected by the debate.

"What we and a thinking groups of individuals have said is that the current zoning d



L-R: Deji of Akure, Obi of Akure, Governor's Office in A

12 Die, 5,000 Displaced In Benue Land Disputes

From Simeon Nwakaodu, Makurdi

IN one week, 12 persons have been killed in rural communities in Benue State in three land disputes occurring in four local councils and another 5,000 displaced.

The councils where fighting has been raging over arable land in the last week are Vandeikya, Konshisha, Gwer and Kwande Local Councils. Farmers in the areas have been neck-deep in the struggle to take over stretches of fertile land.

As at Thursday, four persons were feared dead in a renewed land crisis between Kendev community in Konshisha Local Council and Mbatsenge community in Gwer Local Council after days of fighting over the control of border farmlands between the two councils.

Fighting broke out last Monday after a farmer from one of the communities allegedly planted crops in a disputed farmland. The farmer died from an attack by members of the neighbouring community.

The incident sparked off hostilities between the two communities, leading to the death of three other persons on Wednesday evening, when news of the fighting filtered into Makurdi, the state capital. Several houses in the two feuding communities have been razed while over 200 residents have fled the areas.

The Chief Press Secretary to the Speaker of the Benue State House of Assembly, Mr. Samuel Zaka, told The Guardian on Thursday that the legislature would meet with the chairmen of Konshisha and Gwer councils to find lasting solution to the recurring land crisis.

When contacted, the Commissioner of Police, Ibrahim Mohammed, said the command was yet to receive the details of the conflict and the casualties recorded.

Five persons were feared dead in a land crisis involving two communities in Vandeikya council after fighters from two communities used sophisticated weapons and mercenaries to boost their chances of taking over the stretch of land.

Mimiko Kingn

From Niyi Bello, Akure

GOVERNOR

Mimiko, has new Deji of Akure Adesida, to unite and assist the ad to build a new sta

Mimiko, who p instrument of Adesida yesterd administration d fere in the selectic ruler because "as cally-elected gove made sure the who have the resp picking a new kin level playing grou "We insisted that must be followed underhand dealir allowed. And we that the choice makers tallied wit tations of the

SSS Uncc Priest O

From Njadvara Musa, I Charles Ogugbuaja, O

THE State Secur (SSS) in Yobe uncovered an att Governor Ibrahim

Already, it has a suspects with six i wooden slates a graphs of the shrouded in white be buried at a g Damaturu, the stat

Other materials f suspects included on how to execute nation plot at a gu Damaturu.

In another deve Imo State, tension ed over the deten Catholic priest, Okorie by SSS Owerri over alleg tion of the convoy Ikedi Ohakim.

The Archbishop Ecclesiastic Pro Anthony Obinna, demned the dete