

Four Killed In Osun's Obokun Local Govt

From Tunji Omofoye, Osogbo

THE House of Assembly election, aimed at electing representatives to fill the 26 seats in Osun State yesterday turned bloody, as four persons were shot in political violence, which occurred at Ilase, Obokun local government area of the state.

Ilase and Ikirun, headquarters of Ifelodun local council, are two flash points, where the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) have been having a running battle.

A community leader and candidate of the PDP in Osun East Senatorial District alleged that an APC leader in the area had harboured some persons suspected to be political thugs, who shot a male indigene of Ilase.

But a former Commissioner

of Finance alleged that the opposition shot some party chieftains in the community.

The PDP community leader alleged that acting on a tip off, anti-riot policemen later stormed a house in the town, where hoodlums, who were said to have engaged the security men in a shootout, allegedly stockpiled arms. In the process, three persons suspect-

ed to be political thugs were shot by the policemen.

He alleged that the APC leader, who also hails from the town, led thugs that shot sporadically into the air, a development he said allegedly scared many voters away from accreditation exercise, as well as scaring people away from ward 4 in Obokun council area. He alleged that the APC chieftain

in the place deliberately brought "state boys" to the area to terrorise and harass innocent citizens.

When *The Guardian* visited Ilase, some persons were seen ringing bells to draw out voters to come for accreditation at ward 4, while gunshots said to be fired by policemen drafted to the town, were also heard.

...Smooth Conduct At Units

IN Abeokuta, the Ogun State capital, voters started trooping to ballot centres as early as 7am. By 9:30am, long orderly queues could be seen at Ward 12, Unit 13, Kuto and Ward 12, Unit 19 at Isabo. Similar situations were recorded at the polling centres in Itoku, Oke-jeun and Totoro areas.

After getting accredited at his Ward 11, Polling Unit 22 yesterday, former President Olusegun Obasanjo commended Nigerians for their maturity in the last presidential election, which was peaceful with no post election violence recorded.

At most polling centres visited, there were security offi-

cers on ground. The Ogun State Commandant of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Akinwande Aboluwoye said the reports he got from his men across the state revealed that the process was running smoothly.