

INEC Chairman, Professor Maurice Iwu said the exercise is a

enable the candidates with fake or forged

questionable characters

# Oyo: Three Adedibu's Men Killed

By Sola Shittu Ibadan

Three men suspected to be thugs of the strong man of Ibadan politics, Alhaji Lamidi Adedibu, were reportedly killed yesterday during an assassination attempt on the Chairman of Ibadan South West Local Government, Mr.

Gbolagade Abiade.

The attack on the council boss which took place at his Odo Ona Loke residence was the third within 24 hours.

The State Governor, Rashidi Ladoja, the Reconciliation Committee Chairman, Senator Layi Balogun and the local government boss had earlier

been attacked on Thursday. Senator Balogun was beaten to a pulp at the premises of the State House of Assembly by thugs from Molete while on reconciliation mission to the 18 lawmakers loyal to Alhaji Lamidi

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Adedibu.

Not less than 12 persons including Senator Balogun and three security operatives attached to him sustained serious injuries in the incident before it was brought under control.

But yesterday Abiade, who rushed to the Governor's Office for security protection after the assassination attempt on his life, said the hoodlums that came to his house were not less than 35 and that they came in an unidentified commercial bus around 10.am in the morning.

However, the gun-totting hoodlums met stiff resistance from members of the Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC) who were providing security for the council boss.

Panting, fear written all over his face, Abiade begged Governor Ladoja to provide adequate security for him and his family if he wanted him to return home.

Speaking with journalists later at the Governor's Office, the Chairman said he had been receiving many threat calls from the camp of Adedibu who wanted him to come and pay homage to him at his Molete home.

"I know that the attack is from Molete because one Alhaji Adetunji called me immediately after the attack and threatened to deal with me for injuring one of their members during the gun duel.

"The Divisional Police Officer of Apata was with me when the call came in. The policemen were still there when he told me that Papa would soon reinforce his men to attack me," he said.

But Chief Adedibu who spoke through his close aide, Alhaji Yahaya Adetunji dismissed the claim.

"It is unfair that he accused us of attacking him when in

the actual fact, he was the one who led his supporters to attack our men. He ordered his men to shoot at our supporters, then he quickly called the attention of the police. Ask if he was actually in his house as he claimed to prove that he was the one who attacked our men, the incident happened by the roadside and not in his house. He is a liar. Chief Adedibu, as a reliable leader, when he was informed about the confusion sent men to find out from the chairman so as to resolve the issue," said Adetunji.

But Abiade insisted that he had already got the hint of the attack since Thursday because someone called him and advised him to go and reconcile with Adedibu immediately, else he would be attacked.

"But I told the person that there was no way I could go to him. The reason being that I was attacked by his loyalists and detained in 2005, so, I wasn't sure of my safety if I went to his house again" he said.

The Ibadan South West chairman was one of those that were immediately reinstated as soon as Governor Ladoja returned to office in December 11 last year.

The council boss claimed that since his reinstatement he had been receiving threats from Adedibu's men not to resume in his office. "Chief Adedibu masterminded my suspension accusing me of jubilating over the legal victory of Ladoja. He also fingered me as the person giving Ladoja information during his 11-month absence from power.

Confirming the attack which left one injured, the Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Olu Akinmoladun, said the chairman reported the incident to them.

"The man spoke to us on phone and we promptly responded by drafting our men to the scene to provide him security"