

# Fresh PDP, LP Clash Claims Seven In Ibadan

By Sola Shittu  
Reporter, Ibadan

At least seven persons were feared dead, while 20 others were injured in a fresh outbreak of violence at Moniya and Oke-Ado areas of Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, when the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Labour Party (LP) supporters clashed at separate rallies.

Witnesses alleged that PDP supporters armed with guns and cutlasses descended on members of LP at the Moniya venue of the rallies on Tuesday and five persons allegedly lost their lives.

According to the Chairman, Caretaker Committee of Akinyele Council, Solomon Adeniran, the party was waiting for the arrival of invited guests when the incident happened: "We were to have a campaign at Moniya Round about waiting for some prominent members of the party to come and mount the podium. We were singing and dancing. Suddenly, some hoodlums loaded in a trailer arrived the scene, brandishing dangerous weapons."

He added that the hoodlums barricaded all the roads leading to Moniya to prevent any intrusion.

"I just received a phone call now that I should not come to Moniya where the headquarters of my local government is," the chairman said.

A member of the caretaker committee, Joshua Oyebarji, confirmed the casualty figure. He said the attackers wore T-shirt with the inscription of PDP. He added that he had reported the case to the police

in Moniya.

Similarly, at Oke-Ado, a group of armed thugs also pounced on Labour Party supporters. They killed two people.

Eyewitness said thugs arrived the scene of the rally shooting indiscriminately at the people and attacking them with cutlasses.

An LP member said two of their supporters were shot dead while 20 were injured.

He said most of the victims were armless people who were just at the rally to hear what their candidate had to say.

But the state Secretary of the PDP, Alhaji Tunde Olayiwola, dismissed

the allegation that some of their supporters carried out the attack.

He added that they were somewhere else holding campaign when the incident occurred.

"Though I have not got the details of what happened, I am sure that our supporters are law-abiding people who would not do such a thing," he said.

The state Deputy Commissioner of Police, Olatunji Caulcrick, and Public Relations Officer, Olu Akinmoladun, confirmed the incident. But Caulcrick said he only knew that three people died.

"We are going to make some arrest soon," he promised.

## Ngige, Etiaba, Others Protest Plot To Rig Guber Polls

By Okey Maduforo (Awka) and Chukwujekwu Ilozue (Onitsha)

Eleven governorship candidates on Tuesday protested alleged plot by the police, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to rig the polls in Anambra State.

The protesters were Dr Chris Ngige of the Action Congress (AC), Prince Nicholas Ukachukwu of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), Dame Virgy Etiaba of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), Mr Alex Obiobolu of African Political System (APS), and Mrs Njideka Anyadike of the African Democratic Congress (ADC).

Others included Prince Osita Ezenwa of the Democratic Peoples Party (DPP), Arthur Nwandu of Peoples Mandate Party (PMP), Chief Uche Onyebuchi of the Labour Party (LP), and Emeka Okafor of Peoples Progressive Alliance (PPA).

The candidates marched to the state headquarters of INEC and the state Police Command, Amawbia, where they held a meeting with the Deputy Police Commissioner, Mr Amusa Bello. The meeting lasted about an hour.

When the candidates attempted to speak with reporters, police officers at the command refused, saying they were not allowed to grant interviews within their premises.

They, however, later met elsewhere and mandated Obiogbolu, Anyadike, and Ezenwa to speak to reporters.

Obiogbolu denied stories that the candidates have agreed on a consensus candidate to confront PDP. He said their alliance was aimed at ensuring that the polls are not rigged.

In two letters to the Inspector General of Police, Sunday Ehindero, and INEC Chairman, Prof. Maurice Iwu, the candidates accused the police and the commission of working to rig the elections.



Chairman, Honeywell Group, Oba Otudeko (right), and Inspector-General of Police, Sunday Ehindero, during President Olusegun Obasanjo's meeting with stakeholders on the nation's economy in Abuja ... on Tuesday. Photo: State House

## Non-Display Of Voters' Register Worries Lagos Residents

By Austin Oboh  
Reporter, Lagos

Residents of Lagos have expressed concern over failure of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to display voters' register a few days to the polls.

This, they said, has further compounded the uncertainties surrounding the general elections.

The voters' register, according to

electoral regulations, was supposed to be displayed in designated centres at least 30 days to polling day to enable eligible voters make claims and objections concerning omissions or wrong entry of personal data.

Majority of those who were interviewed wondered if the elections would still hold.

A man from Isheri-Osun area of Alimosho, who identified himself as Adeyemi, said there was no presence of INEC or the voters' register.

Dele Adegbolu, who lives in Ogba, said there was no indication that voting would actually hold on Saturday.

Friday Ogiddi, from Ifako area of Ogba, confirmed Adegbolu's words. He said he had not heard of the display of voters' register either in Ifako or any other area of Ogba. There has neither been any sign of INEC's presence in Oluwole Estate, also in Ogba, according to Tunde Ajibola, a resident.

## Police Arrest 12 AC Leaders In Lagos

By Tunde Abatan  
Associate Editor

Police in Lagos have intensified their clampdown on the Action Congress (AC) ahead the Saturday governorship and state assembly elections.

On Monday evening, the police arrested 12 chieftains of the party.

Sources said the AC members have been sent to different parts of the country, obviously to get them out of circulation during the elections.

But the state Police Public Relations Officer, Olubode Ojajuni, denied the arrest.

This development is, however, coming at a time the Secre-

tary of the party in Lagos, Joe Igboke, alleged that the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) had deployed a naval team and 10 police commanders to help in its bid to rig the elections in the state.

He levelled the allegation in a statement on Tuesday.

He said the PDP targeted riverine communities and some designated constituencies for the deployment of the naval and police personnel.

He stated that a few days ago, a naval team from Bayelsa State and 10 police commanders were deployed to the state under the guise of providing security during the elections.

Igboke said the aim of the deployment is to ensure massive rig-

ging in seven riverine communities, which he said from record barely witness election-related violence to warrant such deployment.

Among those arrested, according to sources, are Taiwo Folami who was taken to Kano and Semilat Dosunmu.

Igboke added that 20 top police officers have also been brought into the state and are being trained in Alimosho Council to perfect the art of changing ballot boxes.

He said each of the police commanders would be assisted by 100 policemen "who are currently undergoing drilling at a location around the state to make their assignment easy and thorough".

## Six Kano ANPP Supporters Die In Auto-crash

By Augustine Madu-West  
Senior Correspondent, Kano

Six members of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) died in a motor accident involving the campaign train of Kano State Governor Ibrahim Shekarau.

The incident occurred during Easter when the governor's campaign team was going to Wudil local government for a rally.

The identities of the victims could not be ascertained as at press time but witnesses said one of the buses conveying party members and supporters somersaulted after veering off the road.

They disclosed that the six people died on the spot while several others were rushed to the Wudil General Hospital.

Government House sources said Shekarau decided to put off his campaign, which was billed for Monday and Tuesday, as a mark of respect for the departed party members.

The governor confirmed in an interview with journalists that some of his supporters died in the accident. He said the party was in mourning and as such could not continue the campaign.

He prayed for the repose of the souls of the deceased who have been buried according to Islamic rites.

Meanwhile, non-indigenes have been moving out of Kano State ahead of the Saturday elections.

They are fleeing the state for fear that the elections may not be violence-free.

## Teachers' Attitude To Work Worries WAEC

By Fabian Ozor  
Senior Correspondent, Lagos

West African Examinations Council (WAEC) has expressed worry over lack of dedication of teachers to their duties. This, it said, has led to poor performance of candidates in public examinations.

The council, however, said it could be traced to poor remuneration of teachers, which hitherto made them not to be excited about their job.

It called on government and private providers of education to improve on welfare packages for teachers.

The council called for the provision of adequate facilities in schools, particularly examination halls, in order to ensure the proper

## Troop Deployment, Rigging Tactics, Says LIAD

By Rafiu Ajakaye

Buhari of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) cannot do better if