

Mayhem In Oyo, 10 Killed Over LG Polls

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Ten people died across Oyo State on Thursday as Governor Rashidi Ladoja conducted elections into all the 33 councils amid muscle flexing by his political rival, Lamidi Adedibu, a member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Three of the casualties were reported in Oyo city, five in Saki and one in Ibadan, where there was total anarchy as the two camps squabbling over the ballot took the law into their hands.

Thugs of the PDP overran ma-

jor areas of Ibadan with guns and machetes.

Ladoja cast his vote at his ward on Ondo Street at 12.30 p.m. and expressed satisfaction with the turn out.

But social and economic activities were paralysed as hoodlums had taken over the streets by 8.00 a.m. They fired gun shots into the air

to scare people away from voting. There was tension in every nook and cranny.

Homes of loyalists of Ladoja, where balloting was allegedly taking place, were attacked. Cars were set ablaze at the residence of Information Commissioner, Bayo Lawal.

Two council caretaker committee chairmen recently appointed by Ladoja were abducted by the

agents of opposing camps and ferried to Adedibu's Molete home, where about 50 students recruited by the state Electoral Commission (OYSIEC) from the The Polytechnic, Ibadan, were also held hostage.

Thumb-printed ballot papers and other election materials were recovered from those captured and interro-

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gated by the Adedibu men.

Names of 10 political parties, excluding the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), were on the ballot paper.

The parties are Action Alliance (AA), Action Congress (AC), Alliance for Democracy (AD), All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), Democratic Peoples Alliance (DPA), Democratic Peoples Party (DPP), Labour Party (LP), National Democratic Party

(NDP), Progressive Peoples Alliance (PPA), and United Nigeria Peoples Party (UNPP).

Adedibu, however, told journalists that "there is no election, and there can never be any election today. The people of Oyo State have given Adebayo Alao-Akala their mandate (to become Governor).

"How would somebody leaving office next week Tuesday say he wants to conduct elections to all the 33 Local Gov-

ernment Areas of the state today? If Akala is sworn-in next week, he will revisit all the actions taken by Ladoja, including contracts awarded.

"Ladoja is no more a member of the PDP. We are just tolerating him. We know him. We know what he can do. He said he would use the state owned radio and television stations to announce the result of the election

"We won't do more than

what we have done. The station which would have been used for the announcement of the results has already been shut down. We have been to Radio Nigeria and NTA (Nigerian Television Authority) to warn them not to allow their stations to be used for the purpose.

"Ladoja wants to destabilise us. That is why we are teaching him a lesson. He agreed last week, after an emergency security meeting, that he would

postpone the elections until the court case is settled."

But Ladoja countered that the controversy surrounding the polls is part of the beauty of democracy.

He said security personnel were absent because their presence was not necessary.

Police Commissioner, Jonathan Johnson, had stated on Wednesday that he was not aware of the plan to hold the elections.