

Three OPC Men Die In Ghastly Auto Accident

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Gloom and disbelief were the order of the day on Tuesday at the venue of the 14th anniversary of the June 12 elections organised by the Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC) as news spread that three top shots of the organisation including the private secretary of the National Coordinator of the group, Lanre Banjoko, had died in a ghastly motor accident.

The sad development obviously explained the absence of the National Coordinator of the group, Gani Adams, at the venue of the event which had in attendance, notable dignitaries like Ambassador Segun Olusola, the founder and president of African Refugee Foundation, Rear Admiral Ndubuisi Kanu (rtd.), former military administrator of Imo State, Dr. Joe Okei-Odumakin, president of Campaign for Democracy, to mention but a few.

Daily Independent gathered that the accident occurred at Sapade, along Lagos-Ibadan expressway, while the deceased were returning to Lagos from Arigidi in Ondo State where they had spent the weekend with Adams.

A member of the group who spoke with the paper, gave the names of others who lost their lives in the accident as Bode Akeju, who had only few days ago been released from Alagbon after spending months behind bar and Lekan Fasan, a sibling of Adams' wife.

He said a trailer rammed into the car in which the deceased OPC members were traveling, killing them instantly.

Meanwhile, in an address read on his behalf at the venue of the annual remembrance of the June 12 elections by the national secretary of the group, Abdul Modiu, Adams said it is incredulous and worrisome that despite several instances in the history of this potentially great but often endangered country, and 14 years after the annulment of the best elections ever conducted, the Nigeria is still far from the reality of a civil democracy where elections could be conducted in a manner that could be adjudged and accepted as free and fair, not just by the international community, but also the masses of the country who stand to benefit or lose the most from the result of such elections.

On his part, Kanu, who chaired the occasion, told the audience that June 12 has not only become a symbolic event but also a desire for peace and unity in the country. He said all those who wish to forget June 12 are by their actions interested in forgetting the unity of the country.