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Politics

**2011: Zoning will
destroy PDP – Kere**

I joined the PDP because in 1998 when parties were established, I discovered that those who formed it were those who fought against military rule and those that formed APP were those supporting military rule. By the time I came back, after finishing my work at NAFCON, I discovered that my area was full of APP, I single-handedly worked for PDP.

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Business

House of Reps aspirant shot dead in Benin

- Obasanjo denies death rumour
- Says he is hale and hearty

By Francis Onoiribholo (Benin)
and Segun Adeleye (Abeokuta)

IN ABEOKUTA, former President Olusegun Obasanjo, 73, moved quickly on Monday to announce that he is still alive and well, on the back of the death in Benin of Oghogho Omorogbe, 34,

I'm not under pressure to rig 2011
ballot, Jonathan replies CPC «PAGE 10

a House of Representatives aspirant murdered at the weekend.

Five gunmen shot Omorogbe dead in his residence in

Ughor four days after he launched his campaign.

The incident has shattered the peace and tranquility in the political firmament of

Edo State.

Omorogbe, who studied engineering at the University of Benin (UNIBEN), told journalists in Benin last Tues-

day of his desire to contest on the platform of the Action Congress (AC).

He held a rally in Umagbai on the Benin-Ehor Road on Saturday where he formally declared his ambition.

Moments after he returned

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News



Turkey sought a fight on ship, Netanyahu testifies

Israel's prime minister defended the deadly commando raid on an international flotilla protesting the Gaza blockade in opening testimony before an internal inquiry commission Monday, and suggested Turkey had sought the violent confrontation on board.

House of Reps aspirant shot dead in Benin

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home, apparently trailed from the rally, the gunmen murdered him at about 8.30 p.m, despite pleas from his wife and brother for them to spare his life.

They shot him several times at close range.

Omorogbe was taken to hospital where he was confirmed dead.

Police Public Relations Officer, Peter Ogboi, confirmed the incident but said he did not have the details.

Omorogbe declared to journalists on Tuesday that

he was offering himself and his conscience to serve the people of Uhumwode and Orhionmwon Federal Constituency, describing it as a divine calling he could not ignore.

He knocked past and present representatives of the constituency who he said gave "unfulfilled promises."

Omorogbe was until his death a member of the board of Edo Broadcasting Service inaugurated last week by Governor Adams Oshiomhole.

He left behind his wife and

their one-month-old baby.

To quash the rumour of his own death on Monday, which sent shivers down the spines of many, especially the South West, Obasanjo reacted in a telephone interview, saying first in Yoruba: "Nkankan o semi, kokoko lara mile bi ibon; ab'oo wa bami memu."

Translated into English, it means: "I'm hale and hearty; nothing untoward has happened to me; will you come over and have a mug of palm wine with me."

He then switched into Eng-

lish, adding: "I think you can recognise my voice, I am at Agbeloba, in Abeokuta here, I have heard the rumour too."

"Thank you for taking the trouble to find out. I understand that some of you have called Alhaji (his chief de-tail)."

Obasanjo, a retired General aged 73, prides himself on good health, boosted by regular exercise.

"I dey kampe," (I am as fit as a fiddle) was his refrain whenever anyone asked if he was healthy enough when he was in Aso Rock.

He had given out one of his daughters in marriage on Saturday, 24 hours before the rumour spread like harmattan fire.

Lekan Togunwa, a lecturer at the Moshood Abiola Polytechnic, Abeokuta, a native of Abeokuta North Council like Obasanjo, was among those who called *Daily Independent* to enquire about his death.

"What did you hear of Obasanjo, have you heard the rumour?" he asked.

The old man is fine, Togunwa was told.

News



THE WORLD IN BRIEF

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