

Two feared dead in bloody rally at Ogbomoso

By Oladele Ogunsola
Correspondent, Ibadan.

THE RALLY by the opposition within Oyo State chapter of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Ogbomoso, the home town of Governor Adebayo Alao-Akala on Friday turned bloody leaving two people dead and several others injured.

Leaders of the opposing coalition, comprising Lekan Balogun, Rashid Ladoja former senator and governor respectively, PDP Implementation Committee Chairman, Yunus Akintunde, Sharafadeen Alli among many top politicians in the group, against unfavourable security report made a triumphant entry into the ancient town where they were received by several thousands of party faithful and supporters of the party in the state.

However, it was not a bed of roses as armed youths, touts and hoodlums who are sympathetic to the cause of Alao-Akala, took to the streets, making bonfires and shooting sporadically unchallenged for at least five hours.

The fierce-looking hoodlums numbering over two hundred and wearing assorted charms and amulets were also armed with guns, machetes, battle axes, swords,

daggers and other dangerous weapons to dislodge people from the streets.

As early as 7.0'clock in the morning they had gathered at Taki [border area] of the town and positioned themselves strategically at Taki, Idi-Abeye, Oja'gbo, Isale-Ora, frontage of Soun's Palace where the visitors largely from Ibadan were billed to pass and pay homage to the paramount ruler of the town, the Soun of Ogbomoso, Oba Jimoh Oyewumi Ajagungbade III.

Driving dangerously around the town, in a convoy of 10 buses, including the newly acquired vehicles

for President Goodluck Jonathan/Akala's 2011 aspirations, the youth also forced many residents indoors while traders and shop owners who had opened for the day had to hurriedly closed shops.

While the hoodlums held people hostage for several hours, the advanced team of the people from Ibadanland, confronted them and in the process two people were reportedly feared dead while three others who were shot in the legs were writhing in pains when reporters visited the area before they were later taken to undisclosed hospitals.

Jonathan flags off trade fair, reaffirm support for private sector

By Sylvester Enoghase
Senior Correspondent

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan Friday declared the Federal Government will use the ongoing economic reform to fast track the growth of the organized private sector.

He was speaking at the opening of the 2010 Lagos International Trade Fair.

The President also declared that the efforts of government at implementing banking reforms and the ongoing campaign for made-in-Nigeria products are parts of the initiatives to strengthen the economic development of the country.

Jonathan, who was represented by the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Jubril Martins Kuye said, "I want to re-affirm Federal Government ongoing economic reform as part of the new initiatives to fast track the growth of the organised private sector, being the engine of the nation's economic growth drive.

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