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Leadership (Abuja)

Nigeria: PDP Postpones National Assembly Congresses

5 January 2011

Recommander

Une personne recommande ça.

The National Working Committee (NWC) of the ruling Peoples' Democratic Party yesterday postponed by 24 hours the congresses for the election of candidates for the National Assembly elections.

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A terse statement issued by the National Organising Secretary of the party, Prince Uche Secondus said that the postponement was "owing to certain logistic problems".

Consequently, the party has fixed the House of Representatives congresses for January 6, 2011, while the Senate congresses hold on January 7, 2011.

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The National Organising Secretary said that the venues for the House and Senatorial congresses remain the federal constituencies and the senatorial constituencies respectively.

Meanwhile, reports from states where the party's state Assembly congresses held yesterday indicate that two persons lost their lives in Niger state, while another three persons sustained injuries from gunshots at the Edo state chapter of the exercise.

The exercise was also trailed by complaints and protest

in most states.

Niger

Two persons were feared dead in the primaries to elect House of Assembly candidates in the Niger state. They include the chairman of PDP Edati local government, Alhaji Ndagi kocila, and one unidentified youth, while three persons are in a critical condition.

LEADERSHIP gathered that trouble started when some youths claimed that the process was been manipulated by the party chairman to favour the incumbent, Hon Muhammed Tsowa Gamunu against their local zoning arrangement.

An eye witness told LEADERSHIP that the party supporter died as a result of severe beating in the hands of those who want the zoning arrangement of the party to be sustained.

According to a source, the party chairman was accused to allegedly playing to the gallery to favour the PDP state chairman, Alhaji Abdulrahman Enagi who is from the local government.

When contacted, the chairman of the local government council Alhaji Isah Kantigi apparently confirming the incident said in a telephone interview that he was under tension, saying, "please I am under tension. I can not say much now"

Also, the Police Public Relation Officer Richard Ogunche said they were yet to receive the report

LEADERSHIP however, observed that the congress did not take place early in some of the constituencies due to delay in arrival of materials for voting.

In Chanchaga constituency the accreditation of delegates started as early as 8:30 am and by 1 pm voting was concluded and counting began.

Also in Bosso, the accreditation of delegates started early and voting was concluded before 12:30 pm and the counting was started immediately.

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The story was however different in some of the constituencies that are far away from headquarter. At Mariga, accreditation and voting did not start until some few minutes before mid day.

LEADERSHIP observed that in Mokwa and Borgu the story was the same, as voting did not start until about mid day.

In Shiroro, Paiko, Bida Edati and Lavun, there were usual apprehension associated with among supporters of the candidate but the conduct was peaceful.

Leadership also observed that most if the incumbent were leading as at of the time of counting in almost all the constituencies.

It observed that all the centres the congresses were manned by combined team of security operatives tightly.

Edo

Crisis again has hit the the Edo state chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) primaries

into the state house of assembly, as there was heavy gunshots in Igarra, headquarters of Akoko-Edo local government council, where at least, three persons were reportedly injured.

One of the injured victims, identified as Aze Isah, who was hit by a stray bullet, is currently receiving treatment at the Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital.

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Trouble started shortly after the commencement of accreditation for the council's constituency I, when the party officials were said to have suspended the process, saying that they have to return to Benin for undisclosed reasons.

Supporters of one of the aspirants were said to have become furious and challenged the truncation of the process, as they believed that the process was going to be manipulated against their candidate and in the process, gunshots were fired openly, with some party

elders escaping with injuries.

In Ibillo where the primaries for Akoko-Edo Constituency II was conducted, one of the aspirants, Segun Bello who lost by one vote to Lazarus Akeredolu has petitioned the state leadership of the party, saying that the process was skewed to favour Akeredolu by the party officials and the House of Representatives Majority Leader, Tunde Akogun.

He said Akogun was not accredited to vote, "he was not there when accreditation was concluded. He was not there when voting started. He was not there when voting ended but myself and Akeredolu were tied at 46 when the whole process was suspended for Honourable Akogun to come and vote".

But in his reaction, Akogun told LEADERSHIP on phone yesterday that he was not the architect of

Bello's failure but only voted as a party member. "I am surprised, I was not there when voting started. I was in Igarra where there were some problems but when I came, I was the last to vote because my ward was to vote last and that was what happened".

Bello also alleged that some persons voted by proxy which was not allowed by law while some former councilors who were no longer in office were also allowed to vote.

Bello said he wanted the party to declare him winner by voiding the vote of Akogun, those who voted by proxy and those of the former councilors otherwise, he said the primaries should be repeated but in a neutral place "preferably outside the constituency".

Nasarawa

Series of protests have enveloped the Nasarawa state secretariat of the Peoples Democratic Party PDP, over the conduct of House of Assembly Primary election in the state as three incumbent members of the state assembly lost out in the primary election.

While the people of Azara in Awe South constituency are calling for fresh conduct of primaries, result from Keana local government area of the state showed that the incumbent member Dodo Yakubu has lost out to samson Orogu while in Toto LGA, Madaki Adda Goje defeated Adams Iyisana .

In Nasarawa central constituency of Nasarawa local government area of the state the Speaker Alh Musa Ahmed Mohammed was returned unopposed, Also in Gitata Panda constituency of Karu Local government Hon Bala Elang lost to another candidate of the party.

In Doma south, the home town of the state governor Alh Aliyu Akwe Doma serious crisis enveloped the conduct of the primaries, as agents of various aspirants are also seeking for fresh elections in the constituency alleging that elections were not conclusive in the constituency.

While In Akwanga local government, reports have it that the delegates abandoned the election in protest of interference by government officials, saying that government should

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appoint their desired candidate but would meet at the secondary elections.

When LEADERSHIP visited the state secretariat of the party along Jos road Lafia, delegates from Doma South and Awe South were seen insisting on fresh conduct of the primaries in their various constituencies.

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Officials of the party were not forth coming with ready answer to the reason why the delegates were kept in darkness to the issue of the fresh primaries

Jigawa

Losers of the just concluded Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) primary election for the Jigawa state House of Assembly have accused the party for being bias, alleging that as they were denied access to the nomination form, while others accused the state government for open supports to their opponents.

Also, the move by all members Jigawa state house of assembly under the Platform of People Democratic Party (PDP) to maintain their positions in the House failed as only 18 out of the 29 secured the party ticket for the forth coming 2011 general election.

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Recommander

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