

Death on eve of primaries

PDP's primaries for House of Assembly may have come and gone but the sour taste left behind in Gboko Local Government lingers.

The immediate past Gboko Council Caretaker Committee chair, Late Hon. Ageba, met his death in the hands of assassins on the eve of the primaries. UJA EMMANUEL reports.

GBOKO town, the ancestral headquarters of the Tiv people of Benue State, was thrown into mourning following the brutal killing of the immediate past chairman of Gboko local government care-taker committee,

Hon. Ageba Uta on the eve of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) primaries.

Hon. Uta, who was also an aspirant for the Gboko East House of Assembly seat was due to participate in the primaries which took place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday across Benue State.

His brother, Mr. John Akpusu, said the former council boss returned to his Federal Low Cost Housing Estate residence along New Round in Gboko town between 11pm and 12 midnight in his chauffeur-driven Honda Accord, and stopped at the gate. His driver horned for the gateman

to open the gate.

After waiting for 15 minutes without any sign that the gateman was around, the driver came down and went through the back door to open the gate.

"He was immediately surrounded by two men who held him at gun point and demanded the whereabouts of his boss John which he immediately revealed, saying *Oga dey for back seat*.

According to him, the gunmen who were joined by two others moved to where the car was parked, smashed the windscreen and shot the House of Assembly aspirant several times point-blank on his head and chest to be sure they silenced him and then seized the handset of the driver whom was not harmed and ran away.

However, luck ran out of the assassins as in the opposite di-



The late Ageba

rection, someone was watching and he immediately gave them a hot chase. Two of them were arrested.

Mr. Akpusu told *The Nation* that the killing of Hon. Uta is a big blow to the entire family.

Investigations revealed that the late Hon. Uta, who was appointed caretaker committee chair of Gboko local government, resigned to contest the House of Assembly seat on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and was highly favoured to pick the ticket until he was killed last Friday night.

Meanwhile, a former Gboko

local government chairman has been arrested in connection with the murder. Uta hailed from Mbatyerev District in Gboko local government.

The suspect, who is also running for the same House of Assembly seat, was allegedly arrested based on confessional statement made by the two suspects arrested in connection with the killing.

Speaking with *The Nation* on phone, the Benue State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Ibe Aghanya, confirmed the incident and said an investigation has commenced to determine whether the killing was political or a case of armed robbery.

I'll offer visionary leadership, says Duke