

Police probe death of PDP man in Lagos

• Security strengthened at Apapa

THE Police in Lagos are investigating the killing of Mr Ibrahim Bakare, a Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chieftain who was shot on the Falomo Bridge in Ikoyi early Monday.

Police spokesman, Olubode Ojajuni, a Superintendent, said on telephone yesterday that "the police are not in a position to confirm if the killing of Bakare was a political assassination or a robbery incident."

"It is true we have an incident of the killing of one Mr Ibrahim Bakare, which the police are investigating."

Afenifere Publicity Secretary Mr Yinka Odumakin, yesterday regretted that "political assassinations continued in Nigeria because the police failed to apprehend culprits."

"If the killers of Bola Ige,

Funsho Williams and others were brought to book, it could have deterred other intending murderers," he said.

Odumakin urged the Presidency to be interested in the matter and give the police a specific time-frame within which the Inspector-General of Police and his men should unravel the mysteries surrounding the killings.

He described the development as a bad omen for the 2007 general elections.

The National Chairman of the Conference of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP), Dr. Olapade Agoro, lamented the absence of security, stressing that Nigerians had lost confidence in the police.

Agoro said that unless the spate of political killings

was stopped, the vision of a smooth transition in 2007 might not be feasible.

Alhaji Lateef Raji, a prominent member of the Action Congress (AC) and a former state secretary of the Alliance for Democracy (AD), urged the police to restore public confidence in the force.

He, however, enjoined the PDP to eschew rancour and play politics without bitterness.

Meanwhile, the Apapa area command has designed a new strategy to check armed robbery.

Mr Femi Oyeleye, the Assistant Commissioner in Charge of Area B, Apapa, said in Lagos that the strategy on information gathering would help to secure Apapa and other areas.

Oyeleye was speaking on the robbery that left three people dead at Apapa on Monday.

"We have tightened security and put in place a new security strategy to gather information."

"I have lectured the officers and men under my supervision this (yesterday) morning on plans to secure the entry and exit points of Apapa during and after the Yuletide season," he said.

Oyeleye said that the police foiled Monday's robbery because of the cooperation of members of the public who called as soon as they discovered strange movements of the suspected robbers.

He said the robbers opened fire on the police who returned fire. During

the exchange of fire, three innocent persons were killed by stray bullets. A police officer was injured.

However, some people at the gate of the Flour Mills of Nigeria, Apapa, said that five persons were killed by stray bullets.

One of them said that he was standing at the gate at about 7.25a.m when three buses carrying some men came to the gate and stopped, and then five of them started shooting.

"I ran to a nearby mosque to hide until they finished."

"I came out to see that five people, including Odigie, a member of Burham Cement Transporters Association, Rashidat, a telephone operator at the Flour Mills and a beggar had been killed by stray bullets," he said.

Oyeleye said that no arrest had been made.