

Two killed in PDP stakeholder's talks

THE Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) stakeholders' meeting yesterday in Asaba, the Delta State capital, ended in fiasco as two persons were feared dead from gunshots.

The meeting which brainstormed on the recent political happenings in the state and country commenced at noon and ended as the police shot sporadically into the air, sending politicians and observers running helter skelter.

One of the victims was a driver to a party chieftain, Chief Mike Adiotomre, while the other victim's identity remained unknown as at press time.

Adiotomre wailed uncontrollably as his driver lay motionless inside the car. They had come from Abuja to attend the meeting.

Trouble started immediately after the reading of a communiqué by the Majority Leader of the House of Assembly, Hon. Ossai N. Ossai, who also moved a motion passing a vote of confidence on the leadership of the party in the state and the PDP governorship candidate, Dr Emmanuel Uduaghan.

The motion for the vote of confidence was seconded by the state chairman of the Association of Local Governments, of Nigeria (ALGON), Chief Tony Nwaka, while a member of the House of Representatives seconded the motion for the adoption of the end-of-the-meeting statement.

The 20-point communiqué which was later okayed by the stakeholders in attendance, stressed the resolve of the party to en-

From Harris-Okon Emmanuel, Asaba

sure enduring harmony so that the party could win the April elections.

But before they could finish the day's event, sporadic gunshots were fired into the premises of the party secretariat which sent attendees running for dear lives.

The state party chairman, Chief Emma Ogidi, was quickly whisked away to safety by security operatives.

The Police Commissioner, Prince Udom Ekpoudom was out of town on official assignment, but when contacted the police spokesperson, Miss Olabisi Okuwobi, an Assistant Superintendent (ASP), denied the report, saying one of the victims was one of those that robbed filling stations in Agbor and Asaba respectively.

Five Chinese hostages freed

FIVE Chinese working for an Abuja-based Telecommunications Firm taken hostage in Rumuakange, Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State some weeks back have been released by their captors.

Their freedom came through at the wee hours of yesterday. Unlike the previous incidences of release of hostages, usually done at Government House, Port Harcourt, *The Nation* gathered that the release took place at an SSS office around the old GRA, Port Harcourt.