

# Polling agent killed in ANPP bye-election

**T**HE Bye-election into the House of Representatives in Osun State turned sour yesterday as a polling agent of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), Abdullahi Taofeek, was killed while several others sustained serious injuries.

The tragedy occurred at about 11:00 a.m. at the Isale-Ase polling booth in ward 09, Iree, Boripe local government area of the state during a free-for-all fight in which three voters registers and 15 ballot boxes were carted away.

Also, two female staff of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) were stripped naked and beaten to coma by some political thugs who invaded ward 10 and unleashed terror on voters.

The Nation learnt that Taofeek was killed with a native charm, while his corpse has been deposited at the Rainbow Hospital, Iree. The assailants were seen with guns, knives, charms and other dangerous weapon as

they invaded wards 09, 10 and 11 in the town.

Several vehicles among which is the official car of the State Secretary of the Peoples democratic Party (PDP), Mr Yinka Adejo were vandalized by the rampaging youths who were seen moving from one ward to the other.

It took the intervention of anti-riot police men who fired several canisters of tear gas before normalcy was restored to the town.

Speaking with reporters on the incident, the State Chairman of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), Chief Sule Alao, called for the cancellation of the election and accused the PDP of rigging the election.

"The PDP killed our agent. You can see that there is violence everywhere in Iree. They have hounded notable ANPP members out of the town. The young man resisted the attempt by the PDP to stuff the ballot box with voters' cards and it was during the ensuing fight that

he was struck with charm and he died," he said.

Buttressing his call for the cancellation of the election, Alao wondered how INEC want to collate the figures when some voters registered were stolen by the hoodlums.

Also, the Public Relations Officer of INEC, Mrs Nike Tadeso who confirmed the assault on the female staffers of the commission also hinted that the two female staff were resuscitated at the commission's headquarters in Osogbo.

Confirming the incident, the State Commissioner of Police, Mr Sulaimon Fakai, said that investigation into the case has started, adding that his command will leave no stone unturned in ensuring that those responsible for the mayhem were dealt with.

He used the occasion to warn politicians against violence, saying that anybody caught disturbing existing peace in the state will be brought to book.