

Richard Akinjide: Lekan Balogun replies George

- Ex-Senator: you're deficient in logic
- PDP chief: you're a failed politician

RATHER than thaw, the crisis generated after the attack on former President Olusegun Obasanjo by former Justice Minister Chief Richard Akinjide, has deepened.

A member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Senator Lekan Balogun has joined the fray by attacking the party's Deputy National Chairman (South), Chief Bode George.

He described George's comments on Akinjide as "deficient in rationality, logic and civility".

But George described Balogun as a "failed politician and I don't want to waste my time talking on a fellow like that."

Last week, Akinjide described Obasanjo's eight year administration as a failure.

George replied the fore-

most Ibadan indigene, saying his attack was unbecoming of an elder.

Yesterday, Balogun, another Ibadan indigene, who was in the Senate between 1999 and 2003, said George, rather than abuse his elder should "undertake a rationale inventory of a misguided regime and stop exhibiting the usual crude disposition and contemptuous disregard for the rights of opinion of others."

"Basket-mouth characteristic is most unbecoming of a supposed leader of his stature. It is more a characteristic associated with Molete ignoramuses and political touts."

Balogun said: "The recent comments of Chief Bode George in the media on Chief Richard Akinjide's



• Balogun

brief assessment of Obasanjo's eight-year rule are obviously deficient in rationality, logic and civility.

"Criticisms of government policies in a democratic environment are natural and functional and ordinarily should not attract such a verbal insult to an elder statesman like Chief Akinjide. Instead, a carefully balanced counter-argument based on Obasanjo's land-mark achievements in the areas of banking, debt relief and communications would have made a good representation of a contrary opinion."

When contacted, George said: "Who is that? That failed politician? That fellow who



• George

has been writing letter to some elders that he wants to be governor in 2011? I don't want to waste my time talking on a fellow like that."

"He is not worth responding to at all because I know he is confused."

Mark leaves for Geneva

SENATE President David Mark yesterday led a delegation to the 117th assembly of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Geneva, Switzerland.

According to a statement issued by the Chief Press Secretary to the Senate President, Paul Mume, the Senate President left aboard a British Airways plane via the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja at 8a.m yesterday.

Among the issues the Senate President is expected to raise, with other world leaders at the Assembly, are the propagation, sustenance and deepening of democracy through the legislature in Africa.

At the end of the encounter, he said, three of the bandits were killed. Four others escaped with injuries.

The Police chief said the injured suspected bandits would be apprehended soon, as his men would not relent in their efforts to combat crime in the Gateway State.

Inyang stated that the items recovered from the suspected robbers include fake police uniforms made with a black nylon bag, police beret, wooden gun, and some torchlight.

Three killed in Lagos road accident

THREE persons were killed and five others injured in an accident early yesterday on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

Mr Adei Abu, Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) FRSC Zonal Commanding Officer, Lagos, confirmed the incident.

He said the accident involved a luxury bus and a truck.

Abu said the bus ran into the truck which had broken down at about 4.30 am on the long bridge, 22km to Lagos.

He said the deceased were

the driver, his assistant and conductor of the bus.

The bus is owned by Chisco Transport Company.

The FRSC official said the bus was travelling to Lagos from the eastern part of the country.

The truck was coming from Ibadan.

The FRSC Unit commander, Mowe, near Lagos, Mr Uakhemen Ojeamiren, said the injured were receiving treatment at the Ikeja General Hospital, where the corpses had also been deposited.

From Augustine Ehikioya, Abuja

The IPU Assembly is also expected to address the issues of good governance, service delivery, welfare of the people and how to

achieve world peace.

On the trip with him are the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Babangida Nguroje, Senators Patrick Osakwe, Abdulaziz Usman, Umaru Dahiru and Grace Bent.

Suspected robbers killed in Ogun

- Four injured in gun duel

POLICE in Ogun State have killed three robbery suspects in a gun duel in Ewekoro area of the state.

Four others escaped with bullet wounds.

Ogun State Deputy Commissioner of Police, Bassey Inyang made this known when he paraded the bodies of the suspected robbers at Eleweran Police Headquarters in Abeokuta, the state capital.

Inyang said the suspected bandits, about seven, wore Police uniforms during the operations. They were armed with rifles.

He said the Police team

had received a distress call that the bandits were operating on the Lagos-Abeokuta road at about 11 pm.

Inyang, who was accompanied by the Police Public Relations Officer, Femi Awoyale, explained that on sighting the Police, the suspected robbers opened fire, before running into the bush.

According to him, the policemen, armed with sophisticated weapons pursued the robbers and opened fire on them.

THE NATION PUBLIC OPINION POLL THE ETTERGATE

With the indictment of House of Representatives Speaker, Mrs. Patricia Olubunmi Etteh by the nine-man panel that probed the N628 million contracts for the renovation of her official residence and that of her deputy, she should:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| A. Resign | B. Be pardoned |
| C. Be impeached | D. Don't care |

Your opinion is crucial. To participate, text POLLS, followed by your choice from A-D to 33146 on Glo, MTN, Celtel and Starcomms.

THE NATION SPECIAL FOCUS ON e-BANKING