

Seven PDP men dead in road crashes

S EVEN members of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) died yesterday in two road crashes in Adamawa State.

Four were killed on the Numan-Yola road and the others on the Mubi-Yola road.

They were said to be on their way to the PDP con-

- Crisis at Ekiti congress
- Oyo defies court
- Kwara returns officers
- Division in Edo

From Chris Oji (Enugu), Festus Ogagah (Benin), Nwanosike Onu (Awka), Soji Adeniyi (Osogbo), Damisi Ojo (Akure), Dominic Adewole (Asaba) and Ernest Nwokolo (Abeokuta)

gress in Yola, the state capital, when the accidents occurred.

News of their death shook the congress.

More crises were recorded

at the congresses in various states. Two parallel Peoples Democratic Party state congresses were held in Enugu.

One group led by the former Governor Chimar-

oke Nnamani/Bernard Eze held its at the Macdevos Hotel, Awkunanaw near Enugu. The other faction, led by Governor Sullivan Chime, was at the Hotel Presidential, Enugu.

At the Nnamani group's congress, the former governor's candidate, Mr. Ray

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Seven PDP members killed in road crashes as crises deepen

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Nnaji, emerged chairman of the party.

Others elected include Augustine Ike Eneh, Secretary; R.K.N. Ochin, Deputy chairman; Nestor Ezema, legal adviser; Mrs. Chinwe Chukwuanyim, Treasurer; Mrs. Ngozi Agbo, Financial Secretary.

Also elected were Frank Anioma, organising secretary; Ernest Nweze, Vice Chairman Enugu West; Onwurah Eneh, Youth Leader Mrs. Kate Eneh, Women Leader and John Oyego, Publicity Secretary.

In Edo State, there were two congresses. One was led by Chief Tony Anenih, former Chairman Board of Trustees. The Governor, Senator Oserheimen Osunbor, led the other.

The Anenih group conducted its congress at the National Television Authority (NTA) Benin - City public field. The Governor's group was at the Dr. Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium.

The Anenih group's congress was supervised by former Speaker and now House of Representatives member, Hon. Friday Itulah.

The Congress was attended by two of the three Senators, Representatives, commissioners and some local Government Chairmen. They elected Chief Dan Ossi Orbih from Edo North Senatorial district as Chairman. Osunbor's group elected Mr Edward Sadoh Chairman. He is also from Edo North.

ENUGU

In Enugu, the Ebeano group led by former Governor Chimaroke Nnamani/Bernard Eze held its congress at the Macdevos Hotel, Awkunanaw near Enugu. The other faction led by Governor Sullivan Chime had its at the Hotel Presidential, Enugu.

At the end of the congresses, two parallel executives emerged.

Those elected include Augustine Ike Eneh, Secretary; R.K.N. Ochin, Deputy Chairman; Nestor Ezema, legal adviser; Mrs. Chinwe Chukwuanyim, Treasurer; Mrs. Ngozi Agbo, Financial Secretary.

Also elected were Frank Anioma, organising secretary; Ernest Nweze, VC

Enugu West; Onwurah Eneh, Youth leader Mrs. Kate Eneh, Woman leader and John Oyego, Publicity secretary.

The governor's group, elected Vita Abba as its chairman and Dons Ude, the Secretary.

Others elected were Eddy Ubosi, Financial secretary; Emeka Igwesi, Legal Adviser; Armsreong Agbo, Auditor.

The committee members appointed for the Special Congress by the National Secretariat of the party divided themselves. While the chairman of the committee, Mohammed Yunusa and three others, Johnson Akinsehinwa, Kayode Bankole and Mrs. Basheba Rikky moderated that of Ebeano group, only one member of the committee was at the governor's group.

The Ebeano group held its congress at the venue advertised and recognized by the national secretariat and in attendance were officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission, (INEC).

But the state Resident Electoral Commissioner, Abdul Bulama was at the venue of the governor's faction.

In Anambra State, the group loyal to former Governor Andy Uba, defied a court injunction to hold its congress.

But the second group led by the party's State Chairman, Comrade Tony Nwoye the court order and stopped its own congress at the jam-packed Women Development Centre in Awka.

At the Uba group's congress held at the White View Hotels Ifite-Awka, mobile policemen, led by the state commander of the mobile force, Mr. Benedict Duru, kept vigil.

The order was obtained by one of the chairmanship aspirants, Prince Kenneth Emeakayi.

At the end of the congress Mr. Bright Nebedum emerged Chairman with Chief Pandola Okwuosa as the Secretary, the leader of the Congress Committee from the PDP National Secretariat in Abuja, Otunba Odewale Idowu said he was satisfied with the exercise.

OSUN

At the Osogbo township

stadium, venue of the congress, some of the principal officers of the party were returned.

Alhaji Ademola Rasaq was re-elected chairman.

The late Deputy Chairman, Elder Lawrence Agbola was replaced by Sunday Ojo-Williams, a lawyer, Mr. Yinka Adejo was returned as the secretary and Mrs. Oke was elected the women leader to replace Mrs. Amope.

ONDO

In Ondo, Dr. Tayo Dairo and Sola Oludipe who were acting as Chairman and Secretary emerged unopposed. Mrs. Folake Akinjoko was unanimously elected women leader.

Governor Olusegun Agagu praised members of the party for conducting themselves in a peaceful and orderly manner, describing PDP as a party that recognized quality and hard work

DELTA

A 29-man consensus executive emerged in Delta, ending the crisis rocking the party in the state.

Chief Peter Nwoboshi, a foundation member of the party and a one-time Commissioner for Agriculture and Political Adviser to former Governor James Ibori, emerged chairman. Chief Ighoyota Amori, Vice chairman and Chief Solomon Ogba, Secretary.

OGUN

In Ogun where former Deputy Senate President Ibrahim Mantu oversaw the congress, Chief Joju Fadairo was returned as chairman.

Mantu, condemned what he called "muscle politics" that dogged that year's elections.

He said it was an indictment to the PDP that today, the courts are voiding the victories of its members at the last general elections, 'not necessarily because of election rigging but because the internal processes that threw up such persons for elections were flawed, leading the courts to declare it as inconsistent with the party's own constitution'.

EKITI

A group which styles itself as the Ekiti Progressives rejected what it called the illegal and unconstitutional

emergence of the new executive.

It said contrary to the will and the decision of the majority of the party to have a proper election, Speaker Femi Bamisile suddenly assumed the position of the returning officer and went ahead to announce a set of government anointed candidates. It is noted by the progressives in the PDP that delegates from the 16 local governments were still going through accreditation when the speaker hijacked the microphone to announce the government list.

Delegates were not allowed to vote for candidates of their choice, it said.

In a statement by its leader Chief Sesan Fatoba, the group appealed to the PDP National Executive Council, the PDP National Convention committee and the PDP Board of Trustees to reject the government candidates who would not be potent to make the PDP in the state viable, attractive and popular among Ekiti people.

RIVERS

In Rivers State, former National Vice Chairman,

South-South, Mr Godspower Ake emerged chairman after Henry Odili and Elemchukwu Ogbowu stepped down for him.

Adokye Oruwaro was elected secretary.

BAYELSA

In Bayelsa, parallel congresses was championed by Dr George Fente, special adviser to the governor on political affairs. The other was led by the outgoing chairman Chief Fred Agbedi.

GOMBE

In Gombe, 28 members executive emerged by consensus.

All but one member of the former executive were returned unopposed.

Other executive members include Malam Abubakar Gabdo, Deputy Chairman, Mr Zakari Musa, Secretary, and Malam Muniru Adamu, Treasurer.

Also elected were Mr Abubakar Muntari, Financial Secretary, Mr Adamu Gadam, Publicity Secretary, Mr Jacob Lawan, Legal Adviser, and Mrs Halima Todo, Women Leader.

OYO

In Oyo where the party defied court order to hold

its congress the incumbent chairman Dejo Afolabi who is on pilgrimage to Jerusalem was returned unopposed.

TARABA

The PDP chairman in Taraba, Alhaji Abdulmumini Vakki, returned unopposed for a second term.

Similarly, all executive members were also returned based on a consensus reached by party stakeholders and elders.

KWARA

At a peaceful congress in Ilorin, a new executive emerged for the party in Kwara State. The executives are led by Alhaji Yusuf Aiyedun (Chairman) and Hon. Issa Bawa, Vice Chairman, Alhaji Yekini Ilobu (Ilorin West) and Hajia Mushmat Ibrahim retained their seats as Secretary and Women Leader.

Alhaji Mariam Al-Hassan (Edu), the former Public Relations officer is now elected the New Youth Leader, Alhaji Isiaka Dan Mairomu, Public Relations Officer, Alhaji Aliyu Mohammed Auditor and Hajia Ramatu Ibrahim, elected as Financial Secretary.

Fresh plot against Bankole

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House of doing the bidding of the Executive arm. They claimed that the leadership has not been carrying members along on the recurrent vote for the House Services Committee unlike the case in the Senate.

"They also complained that there is so much disparity in the allowances of a senator and a member of the House of Representatives.

"But the Speaker explained that he had never voted any money for his office. He said he had been spending funds left by ex-Speaker Patricia Etteh.

"Bankole told us that he was ready to defend every decision and money voted for his office. He denied smuggling or inserting any N60billion into the budget.

"The Speaker insisted that the legislative business had to change from what it used to be. He said there would now be benchmark for oversight functions."

Although most members were convinced of Bankole's transparency, those behind the plot are not giving up.

As at press time yesterday, it was gathered that those bankrolling the plot against Bankole had told their supporters to make the House ungovernable for the Speaker.

Another member said: "I think the grand plot is part of the build-up to the National Convention of the party. These party stalwarts want a divided National Assembly at the convention because they know that Bankole commands "large following."

He added: "You should know the arrowheads. Since he emerged as the Speaker, the opposing camp has not stopped planning against him."

Bankole's camp is believed to have launched a counter-move against the opposition.

A source in the camp said:

"We know their game-plan but we are proud that we have a capable and honest Speaker in Bankole. They cannot succeed."

The Special Adviser (Media) to the Speaker, Mr. Kayode Akinmade, said his boss had nothing to hide.

He said: "It is just a rumour and unfounded. Nevertheless, the Speaker, looking at the way he emerged is the people's Speaker. He has brought integrity, honour and dignity to the House."

"The leadership of the House saved the nation over N450billion unspent fund that was returned to treasury. This is unprecedented. The Nigerian budget, about 10 years ago, was equal to the money recovered and about 18 per cent of the current budget.

"I can say authoritatively that the Speaker is enjoying tremendous support from all members of the House. The allegations are unfounded."