

Council poll: Three feared killed as rival parties clash in Delta

THREE persons, including a primary school headmaster were feared dead in Uwheru town, Ughelli North Local Government Area of Delta State, following clashes in Saturday's local government election.

The deceased were believed to be victims of the clashes between suspected supporters of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the Labour Party (LP) in Uwheru.

Besides, unconfirmed re-

ed Govt

Delta State on April 12 with his American guests who were filming update to a documentary, *Sweet Crude*, by troops of the JTF. He was whisked to Abuja, where they were detained until their release on 16 April. The case has been slated for hearing on May 15.

bil's relocation

He said the delay in investing in the housing projects was caused by land owners, who according to him, devised different tricks including building of tombstones, shrines and other makeshift structures to attract huge compensation.

Speaking on the government's vision for the state, Akpan pointed out the drive to open up the state for both local and international investors, especially rural and urban roads which had gulped over N83 billion.

According to him, road infrastructure was the key driver of industrialisation, the more reason government focus has been on the sector in the last 10 months.

From Shola O'Neil, Warri

ports in Udu Local Government Area, indicated that the Chairmanship candidate of the Action Congress (AC), Mr. David Chibore, was allegedly abducted from his home by men claiming to be security operatives hours before the election.

The whereabouts of Chibore could not be ascertained at press time yesterday.

A source close to Mr. Harvest Igben (AC), representing the council in the Delta State House of Assembly, told our correspondent that Chibore was abducted by unknown persons on the eve of the election.

Meanwhile some voters and party's supporters are in various hospitals in Ughelli, headquarters of Ughelli North council following the bloody clash.

It was gathered that trouble broke out between the PDP and LP supporters in Agadama area of Uwheru while supporters of both parties were awaiting election materials.

"While we were awaiting the results of the election, one candidate started celebrating that he had been declared winner of the poll by the election body. That was why his opponents brought out guns and started shooting randomly," our source said.

Following reports that there could be breakdown of law and order, officials of the Delta State Independent Electoral Commission (DSIEC) allegedly stayed away. However, there were conflicting reports on who killed the party faithful in Uwheru Saturday after-

noon. A version of the account alleged that security men deployed to the town opened fire on thugs armed with sophisticated weapons.

Independent investigation however revealed that a member of the PDP was shot by LP supporters at Agadama-Uwheru in retaliation for the killing of their party members.

Meanwhile, tension has

gripped parts of the state, especially Uvwie and Ughelli North councils, where the Accord Party (AP) and LP candidates contested against PDP flag-bearers.

But the three Warri councils were relative calm and peaceful, as the PDP had very little or not opposition in Warri North, South and South-West LGAs.

Deputy governor flays govt

AKWA Ibom State Deputy Governor Patrick Ekpotu yesterday said the problem of the Niger Delta should be blamed on the Federal Government.

"I want to see the problem of the Niger Delta as one that was created by the Federal Government. The problem didn't just start. It came bit by bit. The problem in the Niger Delta has assumed all the dimensions a problem needs to assume for it to become traumatic. We have been talking of 419 scam giving us bad image, but this one has come to

By Olukorede Yishau
be wider than the 419 scam.

"I get much worried because it has led to a complete loss of values, that within the region you hardly can have an elderly person tell a younger one you ought not to have done this. He won't listen, it is the younger ones who would rather want the elders to consult them before taking decisions on matters that affect them and there is no society where you find things like this that is heading anywhere other than doom," Ekpotu told reporters in Lagos.

Party raises alarm

THE National Secretary of the Action Congress (AC), Dr. Usman Bugaje, has alleged that the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is planning to "mobilise some faceless persons" who claim to be AC to decamp to the PDP.

Besides, he alleged that money had been released for the arrangee project to take place in Abuja.

Dr. Bugaje, who spoke in Benin City at the weekend, at the AC Secretariat, on his way to Bayelsa State, said the people involved were not actu-

From John Mayaki,
Benin

ally members of the AC but they claimed to be.

"They are just hired as mercenaries and we are ready for them. At the moment, the only hope for this country is the Action Congress. We have refused to join the PDP led Government of National Unity (GNU). I am here to congratulate you in Edo State on your victory and I want you to use that to build the party to take over the whole country.

AC is the only party standing on its own and it is a thorn