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Damisi Ojo, Akure and Sulaiman Salawudeen, Ado-Ekiti 17/03/2011 00:00:00

A man was killed in a clash between supporters of the Labour Party (LP) and the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) yesterday in Ose Local Government Area of Ondo State.

The deceased, simply identified as Baba Tayo, was killed by a stray bullet.

Three ACN supporters, Ayeni Clement, Tunde Olorunfemi and Oshati Idowu, were injured.

An ACN House of Assembly candidate for Ose Constituency, Olatunji Oshati (a.k.a. Maxima), said he narrowly escaped death.

Oshati said: "I was leading a convoy of three cars. We were about getting to Afo for a meeting when somebody called me that the last vehicle in the convoy had been attacked and I should come back. But another person warned that it wasn't safe to go back.

"I ran to Ifon Police Station to lodge complaints, but while I was with the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), we heard gunshots outside.

"It was then I realised they were after my life. I was surprised that the hoodlums were bold enough to attack a police station."

Oshati, who recently defected from LP to ACN, alleged that members of the LP were after his life.

He alleged that the hoodlums who attacked him were in the convoy of Commissioner for Information Ranti Akerele, LP House of Assembly candidate in Ose Mrs. Fola Olasehinde (a.k.a. Yeye Oge), and LP House of Representatives candidate in Owo/Ose Eniolorunda Omosule, among others.

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Akerele denied the allegation, saying ACN members attacked his campaign train.

He said: "Those behind the attack are people who lost out in the party primaries and thought politics is a do-or-die affair.

"These people, who have brought violence into Ose politics, are former LP members. They are aggrieved members, who can best be described as political neophytes."

Akerele said the party reported the case to the police.

Also yesterday, a policeman was shot in a fracas between loyalists of the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Aramoko, Ekiti State.

An eye-witness said about 10 other persons were injured in the clash.

The policeman was reportedly hit in the head by a stray bullet fired by suspected thugs who disrupted the rally of the PDP House of Representatives candidate in Ekiti Central, Kehinde Odebunmi.

Police spokesman Mohammed Jimoh confirmed the incident.

He said the victim was receiving treatment at an undisclosed hospital.

Jimoh said the timely intervention of the police curtailed the activities of the thugs.

Odebunmi said two of his vehicles, a Toyota Hiace bus and a black Toyota Camry, were vandalised.

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