

NEWS

Edo ACN chides PDP

AN Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) chieftain in Edo State, Collins Sanni, yesterday chided the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and its Chairman, Dan Orbih. He said they should learn how to appreciate achievements, irrespective of political affiliation.

Sanni, who was reacting to Orbih's assessment of Governor Adams Oshiomhole's three years in office, also urged PDP chieftains to learn participatory democracy.

He said: "If politics is all about deception, thuggery, suppressing the truth and under-representation of the people, then Adams Oshiomhole would have nothing doing in politics."

Sanni also reminded Orbih that Oshiomhole had in 2008 talked of how he was pressurised to collect N2.5 billion to drop his election petition case at the tribunal.

"It is either these PDP chieftains have no sense of history or that they forget things so easily or that they deliberately peddle wrong information to massage their leaders' ego."

"This campaign of calumny against the governor would not stand because the people already know his character and integrity."

10 die in road accident

From Osagie Otabor, Benin

TEN persons were yesterday killed in a road accident on the Ovia River Bridge along the Benin-Lagos Expressway.

Survivors said 15 others were injured in the crash which involved two commercial buses. The buses collided on the bridge.

It was learnt that one of the buses, marked XU 638 NKE, was heading to Ibadan from Port-Harcourt; the other, a Toyota Siena marked XY 382 AGL was heading to the East from Lagos.

An official of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), who pleaded anonymity, said the 15 persons rescued have been taken to the University of Benin Teaching Hospital.

He said the bodies were deposited at the mortuary.

Uduaghan advises scholars

Ex-CPP governorship candidate killed by police

•He was shot in the leg, says CP

From Shola O'Neil,
Polycap Orosevwotu, Warri

THE candidate of Citizen Popular Party (CPP) in the January 6 governorship re-run election in Delta State, Ogbe Onokpite, is dead.

He was shot dead by detectives of the Delta State Police Command at the weekend.

The late Onokpite, a key player in the local politics of Uvwie Local Government, was killed in a popular hotel in Udu, Udu Local Government.

It was gathered that Onokpite was killed shortly after one of his aides was arrested with two AK-47 rifles and 60 rounds of live ammunition.

Commissioner of Police Ibrahim Tsafe said he was shot while evading arrest.

But supporters of the former Canada-based politician blamed it all on his opponents.

Tsafe said: "Actually, there was an attempt to escape and he was shot in the leg and he died as a result of hemorrhage while (we were) rushing him to the hospital."

"According to medical reports, he was shot in the leg

and not in the stomach.

"When the medical report comes, I will make them available to you."

The commissioner said the move to arrest Onokpite followed the arrest of a suspect with two guns.

He said the 33-year-old suspect was caught driving a vehicle belonging to Onokpite.

Tsafe said: "The suspect told us that he was sent by the late Ogbe to deliver two rifles to Collins Egbara, Chairman of Agaga Community, who is now on the run."

The commissioner, who addressed reporters at the Warri Area Commander's office, said the driver who gave him name as Malik Okorokporo, was intercepted in a vehicle (AM 258 JRT).

When searched two AK 47 rifles with No. 20613 and 13702 and over 60 rounds of live ammunition were recovered from him.

Okorokporo claimed that he sometimes worked for Onokpite during election, adding that he was called by the deceased on Saturday to deliver the guns to Egbara at Enerhen Junction, Warri.

He said: "Onokpite called me to come and meet him at the Beeland Hotel and when I got there he told me to go and buy food for him."

"When I came back, I saw him (Ogbe) with two men. He asked me if I know how to drive and I said 'yes'."

"He said we should take the car to Collins in Enerhen Junction so that we could give him these things (guns)."

"As I was coming from the hotel, I saw policemen who flagged me down. And I was saying *Oga*, what

is happening.

"They said I should lie down and they asked me where I was taking the car to. I told them that the car belonged to Ogbe."

Tsafe said the late Onokpite has a record of criminal activities as all their investigations have pointed to him as the mastermind of many crimes in the area.

"I do not have his political history. I see him as a person who has criminal tendencies and all what we have here is leading to him."

"All the investigations we have here are leading to him and I would not want to divulge our information now."

"But, if people are feeling that it has a political undertone, I personally do not have that impression about him. He is a mastermind of many other crimes around Warri. Investigations will reveal more," he said.