

NEWS

ALL PROGRESSIVES CONGRESS MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

One killed as thugs attack registration centres in Rivers

SUSPECTED thugs, believed to be members of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), yesterday in Degema Local Government Area of Rivers State killed a member of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Prince Andy.

The deceased was allegedly killed when the hoodlums stormed the party's registration centres in some wards in the local government.

The attacks started at Degema Ward 5, where Andy was killed.

Gunmen also attacked the home of Mr Ben Orugbani,

From Precious Dikewoha,
Port Harcourt

Degema Supervisory Registration Committee chairman. The building, in the old Bakana Woji Ward 6 in Obio/Apor Local Government Area, was riddled with bullets.

It was learnt that Orugbani was not hurt in the attack.

Two other wards in Okrika were also attacked.

Orugbani condemned the killing of Prince Andy, saying it was barbaric.

A resident of the ward, Ebeleme Michael, identified the body of the deceased.

Efforts by our reporter to get details on the late Andy

- PDP: perpetrators not our members
- No word from police

were unsuccessful last night.

Police spokesman Ahmad Mohammed, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), did not answer the calls to his mobile phone last night. He also did not reply to the messages.

A resident of Adoni Ward 9, unit 5 in Adoni Local Government Area, David Nataniel, was shot in his right hand. The bullet injury affected his right eye.

An eyewitness and resident of Adoni, Premowei Briggs,

said many members of APC were injured when the attackers attempted to hijack the membership registration forms.

Briggs said: "We were registering at the unit when we saw masked men. They entered the centre and disrupted our activities. The intruders ordered us to leave. They carted away the registration materials. We don't like what is happening not only in Okrika but in other parts of the state where registration is going

on."

The APC State Interim Chairman, Dr Davies Ibiamu Ikanya, who monitored the exercise in Port Harcourt, Obio-Akpor, Eleme and Ikwere local government areas, was happy with the large turnout of people.

He urged the registration officers not to fear.

The APC interim chairman urged the police to protect the party members and other innocent residents, who wish to register with APC, from hoodlums.

Ibiamu said: "With what I saw today, the PDP is truly dead in Rivers State. The rev-

olution started by Governor Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi in the state will surely be sustained, even after he leaves office in 2015 by the APC administration."

But the Media Assistant to the state PDP Chairman, Jerry Needam, said the allegations that the party's members attacked APC members were false.

He said: "APC should stop lying against the PDP. APC is an ethnic group and an Islamic party. Rivers people cannot register in an ethnic party and religious party. Any party that belongs to one religion doesn't promote the unity of Rivers State and Nigeria."

Atiku's defection to APC