

NEWS

Two feared killed in Oyo fracas

•SDP candidate calls for probe

From Bode Durojaiye,

Oyo

VIOLENCE erupted in Oyo town yesterday during the visit of Social Democratic Party (SDP) candidate Seyi Makinde to the ancient town to campaign.

The rally held at Ode-Aremo open space close to the Alaafin's palace was underway when some hoodlums arrived, hurling stones at those at the rally prompting supporters to scamper for safety, according to eye-witness.

Sources said no fewer than two people were killed. Security men rescued Makinde.

As a result of the fracas, the ancient Akesan market was deserted. Traders ran for dear lives.

Some of the angry residents moved to the palace to express their disgust at the violence.

A statement yesterday by the Makinde Campaign Organisation said: "Following the violence that trailed the electioneering campaign of the Oyo State Social Democratic Party (SDP) governorship candidate, Seyi Makinde in Oyo town yesterday, the police in the state has been called upon to do thorough investigation and ensure that the culprits were brought to justice.

"Shortly after his successful campaign rally at the outer frontage of the palace of Alaafin in the ancient town, suspected hoodlums attacked the mammoth crowd with stones and other dangerous weapons and in the ensuing melee, some people sustained various degree of injuries."

Makinde expressed sadness that some people were encouraging violence.

He said: "I find it difficult to understand and explain the rationale behind the dastardly act because we are known for our non-violent disposition and we do not pretend to be what we are not.

"We are committed to our resolve to bring about a new order in our politics and there is no amount of provocation that can derail us from our chosen path of peace? which we are sure our people have already fallen in line with.

"While we are condemning the incident in its entirety, we are asking the state police command to unravel those behind incessant attacks on our campaign as we recall that some yet to be identified hoodlums did similar thing to our public declaration in Ibadan last January.

"In this latest attack, we were told that one of our branded vehicles was burnt without no justifiable cause because, there was nothing to warrant the open confrontation which is why we are calling on the police to help us fish the culprits out and bring them to justice."



•All Progressive branch in Port

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