

# One feared dead as violence, protest trail APC House of Reps primaries

• Speaker Gbajabiamila, Akpatason get return tickets

By Nsa Gill, Calabar    On May 28, 2022



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The House of Representatives primaries of the All Progressive Congress (APC) turned violent in several states yesterday, including Cross River where one person was killed.

The victim was allegedly shot dead by the anti-cultism police team while trying to disperse an unruly crowd in Calabar.

Voting was disrupted in Akure, Ondo State after thugs fired gunshots to scare party supporters away, while the shadow election in Ekiti Central was declared inconclusive on account of disruption.

Tension had risen among party members over alleged diversion and hoarding of election materials at the Cultural Centre Complex where delegates and officials had gathered for the APC primaries for the Calabar South/Bakassi/Akpabuyo constituency. When the situation appeared to be spiraling out of control, the police stepped in and in the process fired some shots, one of which hit the victim.

He was identified as Emman, a youth leader at Ward 7, Calabar South Local Government Area. He was said to be moving towards his car when he was shot.

But the police in the state said the victim was a hoodlum.

The Police Public Relation Officer of the State Command, DSP Irene Ugbo, when contacted on the development, responded with a forwarded message which claimed that Emman was one of the hoodlums that stormed the Cultural Centre upon the conclusion of the primaries for unknown reasons, adding that they should have gone to the party secretariat or INEC if they felt aggrieved by the conduct of the exercise. The PPRO however said investigation into the matter had commenced.

There were also protests during the primaries for Calabar Municipality/Odukpani constituency.

# Osun APC members protest ‘manipulation’

Members of All Progressives Congress (APC), Osun State yesterday stormed the residence of the state chairman of the party, Prince Gboyega Famodun in Osogbo, protesting what they called manipulation of the process for the emergence of the party’s candidates for the House of Representatives election.

The protesters were however dispersed with tear gas by the police.

Special Adviser to Governor Oyetola on political matters, Sunday Akere, condemned the protest at the party chairman’s house.

He said: “It is too early to protest over the primaries; the result is not yet ready.”

Supporters of a former House of Reps member, Rotimi Makinde, and former Osun State deputy speaker, Nike Omoworare, were also said to have engaged in a gun battle during the primaries in Ile Ife.

## Akure lawmaker loses re-election bid

There was heavy shooting at Ade Supa Hotel venue of the Akure Federal Constituency primaries where incumbent lawmaker, Alade Mayorkun, lost to Derin Adesida. Mayorkun was elected to the House of Representatives in March this year in a by-election following the death of Hon Omolafe Adedayo.

He got 38 votes while Adesida scored 68 votes. Some thugs stationed outside the venue, however, attempted to disrupt the process to stop announcement of the results. The political thugs forcibly gained entrance into the hall and pounced on security operatives after which they snatched the ballot box from the agents.

Some delegates were beaten by the thugs for voting against their preferred aspirant. Delegates and journalists had to scamper into safety while the security personnel drove the thugs away.

Adesida was subsequently declared winner by the returning officer, Adeyemi Akola. Results of the Ifedore/Idanre Federal Constituency was not announced as tension enveloped the venue of the election in Igbara-Oke, Ifedore Local Government Area. The main contestants were Speaker of the Ondo State House of Assembly, Bamidele Oleyelogun, and Hon Tajudeen Adefisoye. It was remaining 15 votes when crisis erupted as Speaker Oleyelogun raised the alarm over alleged threat to his life. The crisis escalated when a delegate was accused of snapping her ballot paper and it resulted in a clash between supporters of Oleyelogun and Hon Adefisoye.

After several hours of stalemate, the election was put on hold.

The lawmaker representing Derin Adesida, Timehin Adelegbe, defeated Dr. Abiola Oshodi with 101 votes to 9 votes.

In Ondo West/East Federal Constituency, Hon. Abiola Makinde won with 96 votes. Elections were yet to be concluded in many other constituencies.

## Ekiti central primaries declared inconclusive

Delegates scampered into safety yesterday as men suspected to be thugs snatched ballot boxes as voting got underway to pick the APC House of Representatives candidate for Ekiti Central.

The thugs beat up one of the officials supervising the primaries, Akin Alebiosu.

The process was subsequently declared inconclusive. The incumbent Rep for the area, who is seeking a return ticket, Wumi Ogunlola, accused an aide of Governor Kayode Fayemi of sponsoring the thugs.

She claimed that the thugs were led by a personal assistant to the governor’s aide.

“The exercise was inconclusive so it is normal we have to go all over again. My appeal to the party is that they should conduct primary for the constituency because we have limited time,” she told reporters at Aramoko-Ekiti.

However, two serving House of Representatives lawmakers on the platform of the APC, Femi Bamisile and Sola Fatoba, yesterday won reelection in the state to serve second terms.

Bamisile garnered a total of 160 votes to defeat a serving Ekiti State House of Assembly member representing Emure constituency, Hon Bummi Adelugba.

Fatoba, who represents Ekiti Central Federal Constituency 1, polled 114 votes to defeat the trio of Opeyemi Ogunsakin, Oluyemi Esan and Sunday Ola, who polled 2, 3 and 0 respectively.

In the same fashion, Mr Akin Rotimi, the Senior Special Assistant on Strategic Communications to Fayemi, won the primary in Ekiti North Federal Constituency 1. A businessman, Mr Akinlayo Kolawole, trounced a serving House of Representatives member, Barrister Ibrahim Olanrewaju in Ekiti North Federal Constituency 1.

## Gbajabiamila gets 6th term bid unopposed

House of Representatives Speaker Femi Gbajabiamila was returned unopposed by the APC to contest in Surulere Constituency I (Lagos State). Mr Ganiyu Adeyinka, the representative of the Independent National Electoral Commission, declared Gbajabiamila winner with 30 votes as the sole contestant for the ticket.

## Deputy Chief Whip gets fourth term ticket

The Deputy Chief Whip of the House of Representatives, Peter Akpatason, also emerged as the APC candidate for Akoko Edo (Edo State).

He defeated Mrs Adetutu Owolabi with 48 votes to one.

In Owan federal constituency, the incumbent member, Prof. Julius Ihonvbere, emerged victorious, while Dennis Idahosa was returned unopposed in Ovia federal constituency.

A former Chairman of Oredo Local Government Council in Benin, Osaro Obazee, emerged as the candidate for Oredo federal constituency while Crosby Eribo got the nod to fly the flag of the party in Egor/Ikpoba-Okha.

## Kogi Speaker Kolawole wins APC House of Reps primary

The Speaker of the Kogi State House of Assembly, Prince Matthew Kolawole, was declared winner of the APC primaries for Kabba-Bunu/Tjumu.

He scored 69 votes to defeat other contestants in the primaries.

# Obaseki’s supporters emerge as LP candidates for Edo House of Assembly in Plan B

Supporters of Edo State Governor Godwin Obaseki in the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) have moved to the Labour Party (LP), securing the party’s tickets for election into the State House of Assembly.

This followed the judgment of a high court which declared the PDP faction led by the party’s National Vice Chairman, Southsouth, and the immediate past Edo Chairman of the party, Chief Dan Orbih, as the authentic PDP in the state.

The LP primaries were coordinated from Government House, Benin, by an ally of Obaseki in what was described yesterday as the governor’s Plan B against Orbih.

The governor’s supporters are expected to return to the PDP if they win the 2023 election.

The Secretary to Edo State Government (SSG), Osarodion Ogie; the state’s Commissioner for Communication and Orientation, Andrew Emwanta; and Obaseki’s Special Adviser on Media Projects, Crusoe Osagie; could not be reached at press time for their reactions.