

Igangan killings: policemen deployed to forestall reprisal

APC, Accord Party tackle Makinde, PDP

From Bisi Oladele and Yinka Adeniran, Ibadan

THE Oyo State Police Command has confirmed the death of some people in Igangan, Ibarapa North Local Government Area.

Some hoodlums were said to have attacked locals after Tuesday's campaign rally by Governor Seyi Makinde.

A source said some youths blocked the road to extort motorists, most of who accompanied the governor to the rally, but hoodlums who accompanied Makinde to the town rebuffed their move, which led to a brawl.

Commissioner of Police Adebawale William confirmed yesterday that some people were killed in the melee, but that investigations were yet to confirm the actual number of deaths and the injured.

He said: "Yes, some people were killed. Initial confrontation led to the death of one person. Some others were waylaid by hoodlums while others were attacked, leading to deaths. The incident happened after the governor had left Igangan. His campaign went peacefully."

William however said normalcy had returned to the community as men of the command had been drafted there to forestall a backlash.

"We have stabilised the situation. We deployed mobile men and tactical team while engaging stakeholders in the community. All of them will make statements that will help us identify who played what role in the attack," he added.

William said no arrest has been made yet.

THE All Progressives Congress (APC) and Accord Party have berated the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for 'its involvement in the fracas'.

A statement by the APC Publicity Secretary, Olawale Sadare, reads: "It is regrettable that a governor elected to function as the Chief Security Officer of the state has turned out to be a harbinger of sadness and sorrow, in view of incessant reports of mindless attacks and invasion by known faces who work for the government of the day."

"The Tuesday violence in Igangan stands condemned, and we urge the global community to speak out in the interest of justice and humanity."

The Accord Party, in a statement by the Bayo Adelabu Campaign Organisation (BACO), reads: "We have always warned that Governor Makinde is empowering thugs to unleash mayhem on the citizens and the opposition in the build up to the election... This latest attack has further confirmed our fears about the intention of Governor Makinde with the creation and use of the PMS..."

But the Media Committee of the Governor 'Seyi Makinde Campaign Council said the crisis was an attack on the governor's campaign train. It insisted that the violence was perpetrated by suspected thugs of opposition parties, adding that the attacks were premeditated and orchestrated by some opposition elements, 'who hired street urchins to waylay the governor's convoy to give him a bad image'.