

From ALI MUHAMMAD

RABU, Ilorin

ONE person was confirmed dead and six others seriously injured in Ofia and Erin-Ile communities in Kwara State over boundary dispute while property worth millions of Naira got damaged by rampaging youth.

When *New Nigerian Weekly* visited the area in dispute on Wednesday youth armed with dangerous weapons including cutlasses axes guns and charms from both sides were seen mobilizing themselves for a show down.

All schools including the Federal Polytechnic Ofia and shops around the affected area hurriedly closed.

An eyewitness told *New Nigerian Weekly* that the crisis started when some rampaging youth armed with dangerous weapons reportedly attacked the popular *Aleganle* market, which also housed a sawmill and a mosque.

Armed mobile policemen were stationed at disputed boundary for enforcement and order at the time of this report.

It was learnt that the disputed area had become a subject of controversy between the two communities since time immemorial even though the Elerin of Erinle, Oba Ganiyu Ajibola Ibrahim Olusookun II claimed in an interview that the disputed area had been ceded to his community.

When contacted the Olofa of Ofia, Oba Mustapha Olawore Olanipekun, Anwaraye II, said the situation was under control, adding that he had appealed to the youth to remain calm.

However, the Commissioner for Environment and Tourism, Mr. Segun Olawoyin, who led government's delegation to inspect the affected area told journalists after a meeting with the Olofa that one person was killed in the crisis.

He also confirmed that six

others were in a critical condition at both the General Hospital, Ofia and the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital, Ilorin.

Olawoyin said government had since declared the disputed area as buffer zone, adding that the communities could only erect structures after a clearance from the government.

He, also assured that government would settle the dispute amicably between the communities.

But the Elerin of Erin-Ile, said his community was not in support of government stand on the area.

He also denied knowledge of any killing in the crisis.

He, however, indicated the Chairman of Ofia Local Government of hiring thugs to attack some workers in the disputed area.

The chairman of Ofia, led some thugs to his land and attacked those who were

working there and destroyed their tools and a vehicle.

He also alleged that the thugs pulled down the fence being erected on the land.

But the Chairman of Ofia local government, Mr. Aro Folaranmi denied that he led thugs to invade the area.

Folaranmi, who confirmed that

he packed the working tools at the site and handed them over to the police, blamed the Erin-Ile people for not abiding by the mutual agreement that nobody should trespass on the disputed area.

However, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Kwara State Command, Mr. Adeola Adeniyi, who was at the

One killed, 6 injured in communal clash

Osoba wants Option A5

By NYI OGUNGBOLA,

Abeokuta

THE former Governor of Ogun State, Chief Segun Osoba has said option A5 will be used to produce the next presidential flag bearer of their new party in 2007 after the Alliance for Democracy (AD), Advanced Congress of Democrats (ACD) and ANPP fuse together.

Chief Osoba said the mode of nomination will give equal opportunity to all the six geopolitical zones in the country to have input in the primaries and eventual election of the next nation's President.

Osoba who is also the former Managing Director of Daily Times PLC, gave this indication at Ewekoro Township during an interview with journalists

disputed area to assess the situation, said it was under control adding that no arrest had been made.

"We are still investigating the crisis; we are here on a fact-finding mission but we are yet to ascertain if there is any casualties," he added.

The name of the person killed was given as Deji R. from Ile-Iyan compound who was said to be a car wash and his body had been deposited at the General Hospital's morgue.

It was also gathered that three of those in a critical condition were students of the Federal Polytechnic Ofia

for party flagbearers

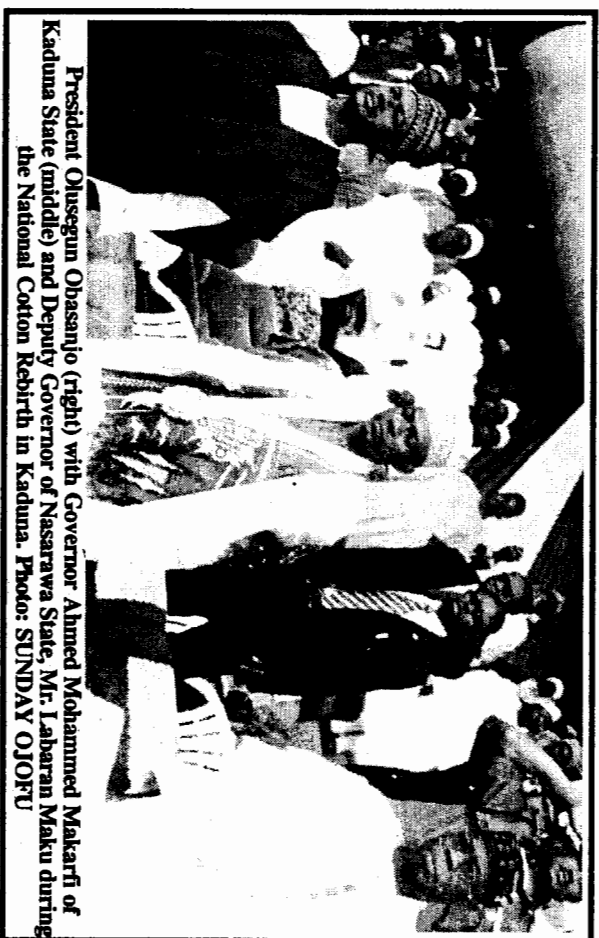
shortly after the Ogun Central meeting of the Alliance for Democracy (AD).

According to him, option A5 will allow all the six geopolitical zones to hold their congresses and Primaries at their respective zones to produce a presidential candidate of their choice.

"All the six political zones will present a candidate each while one will be picked to be the next president. The idea is that no zone will be left out including the south west," Chief Osoba explained.

Osoba, who is the *Akinrogun* of *Egbaland* said while option A5 is used at the federal, option A4 will be adopted at the state level, A3 at the zonal level, A2 at the local and option A1 will be used at the ward level.

Also speaking on the planned merger of ANPP, AD, ACD, Buhari organization, Turaki vanguard, and other



President Olusegun Obasanjo (right) with Governor Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi of Kaduna State (middle) and Deputy Governor of Nasarawa State, Mr. Labaran Maku during the National Cotton Rebirth in Kaduna. Photo: SUNDAY OJOJU

planning and that is what we are doing and I assure you that in the next four weeks we shall be through," he said.

On the crisis in the PDP, Chief Osoba said it was a welcome development, which is good for the PDP and for political development of the nation.

"PDP was involved in factionalizing all the political parties such as AD, ANPP and others, let them have the taste of the bitter game they had played in the past. We welcome it, let them also go through what we went through," Chief Osoba stated.

He therefore advised Governor Gbenga Daniel of Ogun State to prevent bloodshed in the forthcoming elections in the state.

According to him, "a statement was credited to (the) Governor some weeks ago that there will be bloodshed in Ogun State."