

**I'm leader of PDP
splinter group — Lar**

From SUNDAY ODE, Abuja

PIONEER national chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chief Solomon Lar yesterday laid to rest speculations over whether or not he is the leader of the splinter group of the party.

The elder states- See Page 2 Col 1

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**100 days of carbon
clean-up in UK — Page 23**

**NDA Post-Graduate Admission
Forms for 2006/2007 session
are out. See page 6 for details.**

Sports:

**Babayaro floats football
club — Page 31**

**PDP rejects
planned
interim govt**

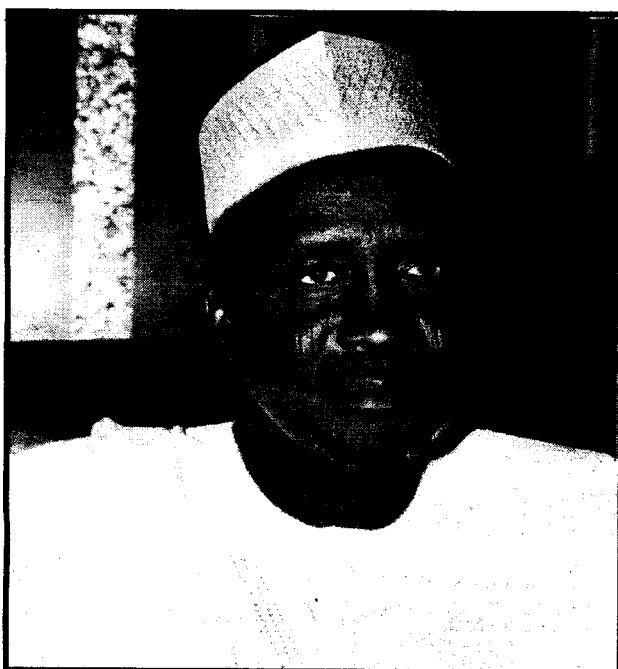
From SUNDAY ODE, Abuja
THE ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) yesterday expressed concern over the current clamour for an interim government to succeed the government of President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Rising from its National Working Committee (NWC) regular weekly meeting in Abuja, the party condemned the clamour and vowed that it would not accept anything short of a democratically elected government in 2007.

Accordingly, "the party urges all political parties, INEC and other relevant bodies concerned with the electoral process to put their acts together and commence in earnest the process of electioneering to ensure the realization of this democratic goal," a statement by the National Publicity Secretary, Mr. John Odey, said.

Former governor of old
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LAWMAKERS MOVE TO IMPEACH SHEKARAU



MALAM IBRAHIM SHEKARAU ...Kano State Governor

*From LAMARA GARBA
AZARE, Kano*

ONLY 24 hours after Kano State Local Government Commissioner Alhaji Sani Abdullahi Rogo resigned over the 2.4 billion Naira fertilizer scam, some

**Vote for
credible
politicians
— Anyaoku**

CHIEF Emeka Anyaoku, Commonwealth's former secretary general, has urged Nigerians to vote for only "dedicated politicians" in the 2007 elections.

"As we approach 2007, the electorate should identify aspirants with good and bad records; this will enable them to know the people they should elect into offices," he said at the maiden NTA lecture series in Lagos yesterday.

The lecture, entitled: "The Niger-Delta: Bridging the Gap", was jointly organised by the
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members of the state House of Assembly have endorsed a move to impeach Governor Ibrahim Shekarau.

The lawmakers, numbering about 24, are only short of four persons to attain the mandatory two-third majority to accomplish the task.

Secretary of the state All Nigeria People Party (ANPP) Alhaji Rabiul Bako, who confirmed the move to impeach the governor, told newsmen in Kano yesterday that already "a clandestine meeting of the pro-impeachment lawmakers was held in a neighbouring state, where strategies were mapped out on how to

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NASS to legislate on EFCC, ICPC merger

*From SALISU IBRAHIM,
Abuja*

THE House of Representatives would revisit the laws that set up the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) for possible merger, a

member of the House, Alhaji Bashir Idris Nadabo said in Abuja yesterday.

"As soon as we resume from our six-week recess, we will mobilize our colleagues to look into the laws that set up EFCC

and ICPC in order to avoid duplication of duties," Nadabo said.

The lawmaker, who featured on the House Press corps weekly programme *Hot Seat*,
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Lagos PDP guber aspirant assassinated

...LASG offers ₦10m reward for clue

*From RAYMOND
TEDUNJAYE, Lagos*

ONE of the leading gubernatorial aspirants in Lagos State on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party

(PDP) Engr. Funsho Williams was yesterday murdered by suspected assassins in his residence at Dolphin Estate, Ikoyi.

Though details of the incident were still sketchy as at

press time, conflicting reports have however continue to trail how the dastardly act occurred.

While a source informed that he was strangled to death,

it was gathered from another that the politician was killed in his bedroom by yet to be identified killers.

Another source also in-
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**Signed:
MANAGEMENT**

News

Shekarau

From Front Page Col 6
execute the plot."

The ANPP scribe also alleged that some chieftains of the opposition party were also part of the meeting and they even made contribution of some huge amount of money for the successful execution of the project.

He, however, described the action as a futile attempt that would not be successful since the state governor is enjoying the backing of the people.

"They are just dreaming and we are waiting for their next line of action especially given the fact that the Local Government Affairs commissioner had resigned. We want to know

how they will go about it," he stated.

Speaking further, Bako said "we are aware of a meeting held Wednesday night in Kaduna where a former state governor was in attendance and all that transpired," saying they will expose the identity of all those involved for every one to see.

Reacting to the allegation, Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for Kano State Alhaji Jibril El-Mas'ud Doguwa denied his party's being involved in the impeachment plot. He said the crisis is the internal affairs of the ANPP and that PDP has no hand in it as claimed.

PDP splinter group

From Front Page Col 6
man, who broke his silence in Abuja on the raging controversy, said the splinter group is the authentic PDP because of its disposition to what the party stands for.

He said there is no argument on the genuineness of the faction, as it is peopled by those that helped to produce President Olusegun Obasanjo during his first tenure in 1999.

Chief Lar, who was bed-ridden when the faction announced its emergence three months ago, described the Ahmadu Ali-led National Working Committee (NWC) as fake, just as he accused the NWC of penchant for disobeying court orders.

He said, "for any organization to be real, that organization must work according to the rule of law; that organization must respect court orders; when court gives a ruling, it is obeyed; then that organization is authentic. That organization also respects rights of human dignity; if you call on these, you are authentic. Anything short of that, you are not authentic. That is all!

"And all these people here, the lady and the gentlemen (pointing to Oyedokun and Safana) helped to produce the president during the first tenure. All these people here have really been authentic."

Pointing at Oyedokun again, Chief Lar said, "this is the

deputy national chairman of the party. When you see people like this, then you know that they are the authentic PDP.

"And, we want the party to follow the rules of the party. You see if you don't follow the rules of the game, then you are asking for problem, and that is why PDP is in problem because they don't follow the rules of the game."

Citing instances of executive recklessness by the Ali-led NWC, the faction leader lamented that "a governor was investigated by PDP and the matter referred to the party's Board of Trustees (BOT) which exonerated the governor; yet the party foisted a suspension on him."

Present at the press briefing by Lar were all the leaders of the faction, including Alhaji Oyedokun, Alhaji Ibrahim Safana, Chief Emmanuel Ibeshi, Barrister Nwafor-Orizu and Mr. Bode Ojomo.

The raging factional crisis in the PDP is traceable to a court judgment obtained by some disenchanted members of the party which pronounced the Ali-led NWC as illegal in view of the fact that it was appointed, not elected as prescribed by the party's constitution.

The Lar faction is presently in the court asking an Abuja High Court to declare illegal the party's NWC as presently constituted.

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formed that he was shot to death by two strange gunmen who gained access into his bedroom.

Sources at his residence informed our correspondent that he was found dead in his bedroom at the early hours of yesterday by some members of his campaign team who had come to his house.

At the time of the incident, his police orderlies numbering four were said to be nowhere to be found, paving way for the killers to gain an easy access into the bedroom.

They were said to have surfaced two hours after the heinous act had been perpetrated.

It was also gathered that the late politician had attended a political meeting the previous night which dragged to 3 am before he retired to the bedroom.

Some members of his campaign team, who had come to visit him, were said to have been prevented from gaining access into his room by one of his aides, identified as Frank Ozugbuna on the excuse that the late politician was dressing up.

Williams' lifeless body was said to have been discovered by a female cook, who forced herself into the room for her master to come and have his breakfast, having waited patiently for hours.

But a member of the family, who spoke with our correspondent in an unstable mood,

Guber aspirant assassinated

said the politician was killed between 6 am to 10 am, "because his excellency just came in at about 3 am from PDP meeting".

"At about 8 am this morning, his cook came to call him that his food was ready, but one Frank a member of his campaign organization, said the cook should not worry and that Funsho is upstairs dressing up.

"After 30 minutes and he did not come down, we then decided to go up and see him. It is then we found his mutilated body in his bedroom," he narrated.

Unofficial report informed our correspondent that two of his police aides, two other private security aides and Frank Ozugbuna have been placed under arrest by the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Emmanuel Adebayo, who visited the residence in company of other senior policemen.

Worried by the circumstances surrounding the death, chieftains of the party including family members prevented any member of the public including journalists to enter the premises, only the Commissioner of Police, Emmanuel Adebayo was allowed in.

Prior to his assassination, there had been series of attacks by political thugs in some of the rallies held last weekend in Lagos in which no fewer than four persons were shot dead.

Investigations revealed that the party's National Vice Chairman (South), Chief Olabode George, had to put off the rally that was to be held as a result of the incident.

Arrangement by his fellow politicians to move out the corpse into a waiting ambulance at exactly 3.50 pm was however halted following the large crowd of sympathizers at the residence.

Engineer Funsho Williams had on two occasions contested for the exalted seat in Lagos and lost with the latest being 2003 general elections which he contested on the platform of the party.

Meanwhile, the Advanced Congress of Democrats (ACD) condemned in very strong terms the brutal murder of Engr. Williams.

A statement by Chairman of the party's Media and Publicity Committee Lai Mohammed said the murder brought once again to the front burner the issue of politically motivated violence which has engulfed the nation in the last couple of months, especially the murder of Chief Jesse Aruku, the late gubernatorial aspirant of the ACD in Plateau State and the orgy of intra-party violence that changed the political landscape in Lagos State last weekend.

"This is not the kind of democracy we stand for," he said.

Kano commissioner for Local Govt Affairs quits

From LAMARA GARBA
AZARE, Kano

THE misunderstanding between Kano State House of Assembly and the executive over the alleged 2.4 billion Naira fertilizer scam took a new dimension Tuesday, with the Commissioner for Local Government Affairs, Alhaji Sani Abdullahi Rogo, resigning his appointment.

EFCC, ICPC merger

From Front Page Col 6
said the powers proposed to be conferred on EFCC are unconstitutional and the House would resist them.

"EFCC has no constitutional powers to bar anybody from contesting any election," the lawmaker said, adding that "most of what the commission does fall within the powers of ICPC and that is what we are going to look at."

Nadabo also said although President Olusegun Obasanjo

"I wish to re-affirm that my resignation was done in good faith and as a personal sacrifice I have to make for the continuity of public spirited and morally inclined government in its efforts to carter for the aspirations of our people. Consequently, his excellency acceded to my request. From this moment on I have resigned my appointment as a commis-

has been demonstrating interest at fighting corruption, what the country has so far experienced is witch-hunting by EFCC of some perceived enemies of government.

On the Constitutional Amendment Bill that was killed by the National Assembly, Nadabo regretted that some good issues that would have positively affect the lives of Nigerians have also been thrown out with the ill-fated third term clause.

"What we would have done

sioner in the state", he said.

Rogo, who tendered his resignation at a press conference in his office Tuesday night, said his action was based on personal discretion predicated on trends of events recently in which the Kano State House of Assembly seems to be pitched against the government.

"I believe members of the press are very much aware of events at the state House of Assembly culminating into a resolution seeking for my removal from office. Having carefully analysed the unfolding situation, I have indicated my intention to voluntarily resign my appointment as a commissioner with the Kano State Government", he said.

He said as a responsible person and someone who wholeheartedly believe in the lofty ideals and vision of the administration, "I feel morally inclined to avoid any setback that can derail or retard this worthy drive of government."

He said the opposition to his position is a long standing effort directed at ruining his image and political career for rea-

"At the Advanced Congress of Democrats, we are in contest and not in conflict with other political parties, and we believe that no level of disagreement, whether intra or inter-party should degenerate to the level of assassination," the statement said.

While commiserating with the family and political associates of late Engr. Williams, the ACD called on the Federal Government to ensure that assassination of Engr. Williams does not join the list of unresolved politically motivated murders in the land.

Also reacting to the incident, Lagos State Government yesterday offered a 10 million Naira reward to any individual, group, corporate body or institution that can provide information that can lead to the arrest of the killers of Engr. Williams.

The state Governor, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, who announced the reward in a reaction to the incident, also placed a two-week ban on political campaign in the state.

Stating that the police have been directed to dig thoroughly into the matter to unravel the perpetrators of the heinous crime, Tinubu vowed that his government would do everything possible to ensure that the state is not turned into a war zone for the spilling of blood for political purposes.

Shekarau, expressed readiness to support the regime to achieve its desired goals even outside government.

He explained that contrary to insinuation from certain quarters that, he embezzled about 2.6 billion Naira for fertilizer procurement, only 496.5 million Naira was approved for the commodity by the same House.

"As records bear me out, the whole amount approved for the purchase of fertilizer for this year for all the 44 local government areas for 2006 is just 496.5 million Naira, but the House said the Ministry for Local Government Affairs has collected the sum of 2.4 billion Naira. How can the House reconcile this?" he asked.

He said he is ever ready to face any probe for whatever thing he did from his appointment to the point he resigned, alleging that the House was being used by some elements. "In my own case I have now stepped aside leaving the stage for posterity to judge me and the state assembly, but since the noble pursuit of the gov-