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## **NEWS HEADLINES**

## Logistics, confusion trail Ogun APC LG congresses •One feared killed in Lagos



IN Ogun State, the local government congresses of the All Progressives Congress (APC) were trailed with late arrival of election materials, parallel congresses in all the three senatorial districts as monitored by Sunday Tribune.

The development further exposed the crisis within the party in the state, as the factions loyal to the state governor, Senator Ibikunle Amosun and former governor of the state, Chief Olusegun Osoba, held separate congresses at different venues.

Findings conducted by Sunday Tribune revealed that many National Assembly members elected on the platform of the party boycotted the exercise.

Speaking with newsmen at Owode City Hall, Amosun, described the exercise as all inclusive, maintaining that there were no cases of parallel congresses in the 20 council areas of the state.

The governor said he would give room for dissenting and divergent views within the party, regardless of their political views, adding that he had provided all the aspirants the opportunity to exercise their membership rights to contest for any elective position within the party.

He described the congresses as peaceful and promised to use his office to unite all factions within the party ahead of the 2015 general elections.

In Abeokuta South Local Government, the congress was held at the Centenary Hall, Ake, while another one was held at Ifeoluwa Cooperative Hall, Idi-Aba, Abeokuta, while that of Abeokuta North was held at Akin-Olugbade Social Centre and that of Abeokuta North Local Government held at the Primary School, Imala.

At Ijebu-ode, Ijebu-North and Ijebu East local government councils in Ogun East Senatorial District, the election was held at the local government secretariat, Itoro, while another congress was held at a recreation centre along stadium road, Ijebu-Ode.

Party members, who converged on the local government secretariat were full of rage, protesting the alleged imposition of candidates by a faction loyal to the governor.

The protesting APC members bore placards with various inscriptions such as, "No to Anti-Party Leaders", "All we Want is for the Congress to Hold" and "Aremu is our Choice, not Ladi."

Speaking with journalists, an aggrieved member, who identified herself as Shakirat Giwa, from Ward 4, threatened that if the people's wish was not respected, most party members would defect to the Labour Party.

"We reject imposition. Our leaders must learn to respect the will of the masses. Let's do things the right way for our party to

stand firmly in the political terrain," she said.

Meanwhile, a life was reportedly lost at the weekend as Lagos State chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC) conducted its local government congress which ended with consensus option.

The deceased reportedly known as "Ewe" was allegedly killed following fracas at Sanya Secondary School where Coker/Aguda Local Development Authority had its congress.

The move for consensus reportedly sparked a crisis that allegedly took his life.

Sunday Tribune visit to Sanya Bus-Stop, along Mile 2, where Ewe was reportedly lying yielded no confirmation as nothing of such was sighted there, though bad blood among party faithful was confirmed.

It was learnt that his body was moved to the police station, but the claim could also not be independently verified.

When party's spokesperson in the state, Joe Igbokwe, was contacted about the incident, he replied that, "It may not be true. Please, do proper investigation on the matter."

Efforts to get spokesperson for the state police command, Ngozi Braide, were also unsuccessful as calls to her mobile lines did not go through.

The exercise in places like Ikeja, Ifako Ijaiye and few other few areas monitored by our correspondents, was, however, peaceful.

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