

Emir of Lafia escapes death, loses 4 guards in road mishap

Youths sack traditional ruler from palace

FROM ADEMOLA ADEGBITE
AND JOHNSON BABAJIDE

THE Emir of Lafia and Chairman, Traditional Council in Nasarawa State, Alhaji Isah Mustapha Agwai 1, on Friday, narrowly escaped death, while four of his palace guards were unlucky, as they lost their lives in a road accident on Babale road in Jos, Plateau State.

The sad incident, which happened at Babale, about 68 kilometers to Toro Local Government Area of Bauchi State, occurred around 9:28 a.m, when one of the Emir's vehicles had a head-on collision with an oncoming one, thereby, resulting in a fatal accident that claimed their lives forthwith.

While confirming the incident to the *Sunday Tribune* in Lafia, the state capital, the Secretary of the Emirate Council, Alhaji Hudu Aliyu Mailafiya, said the Emir of Lafia was on his way to Bauchi to console with the state governor, Dr Isah Yuguda, over the death of his mother.

According to him, "In our quest to be at Bauchi to console the governor of Bauchi State, Mr Isah Yuguda and the entire people of the state over the demise of his mother, one of our vehicles which conveyed the traditional bodyguards of the Emir of Lafia had a head-on collision with an oncoming vehicle, which was coming on a high speed and overtook another vehicle on the opposite direction, which resulted in the death of four palace guards.

"All the drivers were going on a speed kilometer of 100 and not on a high speed, as being speculated by some rumour mongers in the state," he stated emphatically.

Governor Umaru Tanko Al-Makura of the state was among the set of sympathizers on Saturday morning to register his condolences to the emirate council over the unfortunate incident.

The governor advised the Emir to take the incident as an act of God, praying Almighty Allah to give him the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss.

Meanwhile, irate youths invaded the palace of the traditional ruler of Makurdi, Ter Makurdi, Chief Sule Abenga, where they visited the perceived sin of one of his children on the palace, torching part of the palace and destroying six cars.

Sunday Tribune reliably gathered from eye witnesses that the youths in their tens, early yester-

day, stormed the palace which is located along the ever busy Makurdi-Otukpo highway, about 9am, protesting the alleged involvement of one of the traditional ruler's sons in series of alleged criminal activities in the town.

The eyewitness added that the protesting youths also barricaded the highway and

demanding that the paramount ruler should produce the said son (name withheld) whom they insisted must explain his alleged involvement in rising crime waves in the town.

According to the eyewitness, when it was becoming obvious that the royal father and his family were shielding him from them,

they became infuriated.

"It was at that point that they decided to move into the palace to search for and arrest the young man, but the situation degenerated when guards within the palace resisted the move.

"The mob resorted to destroying several cars that were packed within the vicinity and in the process

also torched some buildings in the palace while the paramount ruler and his family members ran for dear lives."

As at the time of filing this report the whereabouts of the paramount ruler was unknown but *Sunday Tribune* learnt that the police had taken over the palace and dismantled the

barricade mounted along the highway.

Confirming the report, the Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Assistant Superintendent, ASP, Augustine Ezeani, said the irate mob had been dispersed, adding that two suspects had been arrested in connection with the disturbance.

N/Delta youths to Buhari: Don't dare us

CHRIS AGBAMBU - ABUJA

SUBTLE protests by youths of the Niger Delta against some perceived policy initiatives of the incoming All Progressives Congress (APC) administration with regard to the region, seem to have gone full throttle, as the Niger Delta Progressives Alliance (NDPA), at the weekend, pointedly told president-elect, General Muhammadu Buhari,

not to test the resolve of the youth to vehemently resist further suppression of the peoples' interests.

The NDPA, a socio-cultural group with massive following across the oil-rich region, specifically warned Buhari against using the Presidential Amnesty Programme initiated by the late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, and the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) as

political tools to settle a few bigwigs of his party in the South-South.

President-General of the group, Chief Tombra Ekpedekumo, said in a statement issued on Friday in Abuja, that the Niger Delta people should not be treated as conquered species simply because the region is not on fire after the harassment, intimidation and political manipulation to force President Goodluck Jonathan

out of power.

"The harassment, intimidation and political manipulation through the use of the 'Card-Rigger' by INEC and its collaborators in the recently conducted presidential election to force President Jonathan out of office remained a bitter pill to swallow for the Niger Delta people.

"The region is not on fire basically because of some considerations, which is

the peace and unity of Nigeria that President Jonathan has been preaching", the group noted.

It expressed regret that while the Niger Delta people had, for decades, suffered environmental degradation due to oil exploitation and exploration activities with attendant effects on fishing and farming which would have been alternative sources of livelihood for them, the people were still being treated as second class citizens despite their huge sacrifices to the nation.

The NDPA said the outcome of the 2015 presidential election, in which President Jonathan, an Ijaw from the minority Niger Delta region was forced out of office through institutional and organised conspiracy, was a testament to the age-long view that Nigeria as a political entity merely existed in name.

Part of the statement reads: "Nigeria's unity had been preserved by the petro-dollars from the massive crude oil in the Niger Delta region, whose people are ironically the least beneficiaries of their God-given wealth. While the inhabitants of the area are bearing the brunt of the destructive oil exploration and exploitation activities by the multinational firms, the proceeds are used to develop and industrialize other parts of the country that now regard the Niger Delta people as second class citizens.

"Yet, the people have exercised caution and refused to engage in actions capable of breaking up the country. This is not a sign of weakness, but sacrifice they've borne for decades even with the stark reality that the project called Nigeria is a total conspiracy against the Niger Delta. Having maintained their peace for so long, the Niger Delta people should not be stretched beyond endurable limits."

Fayose planning to kidnap us —APC lawmakers

They're afraid of their own shadows —Fayose

SAM NWAOKO - ADO EKITI

THE All Progressives Congress (APC) members of the Ekiti State House of Assembly, on Saturday, raised the alarm, claiming an alleged plot by Governor Ayodele Fayose to use thugs to kidnap them.

They also alleged in a statement by the media aide to Dr. Adewale Omirin, Wole Olujobi, that the governor was "trailing them for kidnap, saying it was evil to plot to take members of their families out of circulation for a ransom of surrender to stall the governor's impeachment move.

But Fayose, in reaction said: "We have seen this as one of the usual false rants of people afraid of their own shadows, against their state and a popularly-elected governor that has on many occasions proven them as liars.

"It is either they always want to entertain their uninformed and gullible listening audience or to make themselves happy by saying everyday that they want to impeach Governor Fayose. Ironically, many Nigerians are not on the same page with them, as they have realised that they are a bunch of outcasts throwing stones at

their home."

Fayose, who reacted through his Chief Press Secretary, Idowu Adelusi, said "the APC lawmakers have to come up with this falsehood to cover their shameful desecration of the status of Ekiti elders, whose genuine efforts at peace they have spurned, only to continue in their despicable lies against their state."

According to Adelusi, "they are now looking for all kinds of lies to keep themselves in the news to deceive the world, whereas they know that they have lost in their plot to completely bring Ekiti to its

knees.

"We charge security agencies, elders and indeed the people of the state to note the trend of their lies, ignore them and focus on their support for Governor Fayose as he strives to play the role they had given him in the journey to build a better Ekiti for us all."

Olujobi had said in the statement that the lawmakers also called the attention of security agencies to the threats posed by the governor's activities, saying the latest move on their kidnap plan had exposed the insincerity of the governor in calling a truce meeting last week.

Ladoja files petition against Ajimobi's victory at tribunal

•Panel begins sitting tomorrow •We'll get justice- Lanlehin, Ilaka

BY DARE ADEKANMBI

GOVERNORSHIP candidate of Accord Party in Oyo State, Senator Rashidi Ladoja, on Saturday, filed a petition against the declaration of Governor Abiola Ajimobi as the winner of the election.

Sunday Tribune learnt that Ladoja has assembled a legal team headed by a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) who is said to be a specialist at election petitions to marshal his arguments before the three-

man election panel.

The former governor of the state, it was gathered, had, four days after the announcement of the election result, commissioned a team of statisticians to work on the result sheets given to party agents by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

His filing the petition, whose deadline expired today, has laid to rest, speculations that he was being pressured by the Ibadan Establishment and other eminent personalities in

the state not to challenge the outcome of the election.

Meanwhile, the three-man tribunal will tomorrow hold its inaugural sitting to entertain the petitions already filed by aggrieved candidates in the National Assembly election held on March 28.

Twelve petitions had been filed before the expiration of the deadline on Monday, April 20, for petitions arising from the March 28 elections.

Some of those who have already filed their petitions

are Senator Olufemi Lanlehin (Oyo South Senatorial for Accord), Chief Bisi Ilaka (Oyo Central Senatorial candidate for Accord) and 10 House of Representatives candidates from the Labour Party, Accord and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Secretary of the Election Petition Tribunal, Eleazu Kalu, told *Sunday Tribune* that the Tribunal would begin sitting tomorrow at 9 a.m, while the proceedings are scheduled for Court 15 and 21 of the state High Court, Iyaganku, Ibadan.