

Sunday-Adenuga and the Principal Traffic Officer, LASIMA, Mrs Florence Olayinka, to enhance provision of basic life support for accident victims in Lagos, on Wednesday. Photo: NAN

Two feared killed in attack on Kwara APC senatorial candidate

Biola Azeez | Ilorin

TWO persons, suspected to be members of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Kwara State, were reportedly killed during a political clash in Ojoku ward in Oyun Local Government Area of the state on Tuesday night.

The state police command, which confirmed the incident in Ilorin, the state capital, on Wednesday, said that it had arrested some suspects allegedly involved in the attack, while peace had been restored in the area.

The statement by the police quoted the state Commissioner of Police, Kayode Egbetokun, as saying that policemen were dispatched to the scene at Ojoku immediately the report of the attack on Mr Lola Ashiru, the APC candidate for Kwara South senatorial district, was received.

"A team of policemen, led by the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) and the Squadron Commander 68 PMF, Offa, successfully brought the situation under control and rescued the candidate unhurt.

"Suspects who were actively involved in the attack were arrested and peace was restored.

"Manhunt for the remaining fleeing suspects has since begun, while discreet investigation of the incident is ongoing."

However, the leadership of the two political parties allegedly involved in the attack blamed each other for the incident.

Both the state chairman of the APC, Bashir Bolarinwa, and his Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) counterpart, Mr Kola Shittu, described the attack as unprovoked.

The APC chairman, who said that two members of

the party died from the attack, added that eight persons were wounded.

He said, "On Tuesday, February 19, the party's senatorial candidate for Kwara South, Lola Ashiru, took his campaign to Ojoku Ward in Oyun Local Government Area of the state.

"In line with tradition, he and his team paid a courtesy visit to the Olojoku of Ojoku in his palace. After the courtesy visit to the traditional ruler, the team came out of the palace to proceed to the venue of the rally. They had barely come out of the palace when they were ambushed by PDP thugs who apparently, had been lurking around the palace.

"The attackers started shooting at the APC members and supporters who accompanied our candidate to the palace. The policemen who accompanied our candidate's campaign

trail tried to repel the attackers, but they were overwhelmed. Our candidate was quickly taken away from the place and he remained in hiding for over two hours before police reinforcement came to rescue him," he said.

Also speaking, Shittu, who condemned the development, said that the attack was coordinated on its members and supporters by political thugs loyal to the Kwara South senatorial candidate of the APC.

"Ojoku is the hometown of the PDP senatorial candidate for Kwara South, Senator Rafiu Ibrahim.

"The APC thugs who were on the campaign trail of Ashiru shot no fewer than eight PDP members during the attack. The victims are currently receiving treatment at the Offa General Hospital and other private hospitals," he said.