

One killed in Ekiti

One person was killed and many others injured as violence characterised the congress in Ekiti. It was gathered that the deceased, who was identified as Jide, was stabbed to death after violence erupted in Ado Ekiti in Ward 10.

A source, who was at the venue of the congress held at the pavilion close to the popular Fajuyi Park, said, “After the congress was concluded, some boys who were possibly on drugs had disagreement among themselves and before you knew it, it turned to a free for all.

“Jide was stabbed and rushed to the hospital where he was confirmed dead. This is unfortunate and uncalled for because it is a mere ward congress.”

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Sunday Abutu, who confirmed the incident, said investigations were ongoing to arrest the perpetrators of the killing.

According to him, “We got a distress call today [Saturday] after the Ward 10 congress in Fajuyi that people were fighting when celebrating and on getting to the place, we were told one person had been rushed to the hospital where he was confirmed dead.

“From our findings, he was beaten with a charm and investigations have commenced towards arresting the perpetrators.”

Sunday Tribune, which monitored the exercise, observed that, while the loyalists of the governor, Dr Kayode Fayemi rooted for consensus arrangement across the 177 wards, the other faction, peopled mostly members of the South West Agenda 2023 (SWAGA), a group rooting for the national leader, Senator Bola Tinubu, to be president in 2023, resisted the move and insisted on election.

It was gathered that party faithful as early as 8 a.m. trooped out to the venues of the congress for the election while the voting process did not start until 12 noon when the ward congress committee from the national secretariat started distributing election materials.

Sunday Tribune observed that while loyalists of the governor were expecting an easy ride on the consensus method, they were, however, astonished when SWAGA members who stormed the designated centres and insisted on having election to fill the party positions.

This development in some of the wards led to widespread violence across the state as thugs were allegedly unleashed with many sustaining injuries and vehicles destroyed. Specifically, in Ado-Ekiti Ward 8, thugs unleashed mayhem on party members and disrupted the process. Senator Babafemi Ojudu and the deputy governor, Chief Bisi Egbeyemi, are from Ward 8 in the state capital.

Many of the injured members were said to be receiving medical attention in one of the private hospitals in the state capital as of the time of this report. The chairperson of Ado local government, Mrs Omotunde Fajuyi, who participated in the congress in Ward 10, said the process was peaceful and devoid of any violence.

Speaking on the congress, the state chairman of SWAGA, Senator Tony Adeniyi, decried the widespread violence which marred the process, saying that there was no congress in the state. “There was no election today [Saturday] in Ekiti because there was no accreditation across the wards. The Fayemi Tokan Tokan people manipulated the process and prevented people from voting for their preferred leaders, especially SWAGA members.

“I can confirm to you that there was violence in Ikere-Ekiti, virtually all the wards in Ado-Ekiti we had violence and several people wounded and also in Ward 10, someone was killed. Is that how to do a congress?” he said. But the party’s spokesman, Ade Ajayi, denied the allegations, saying every member was allowed to participate in the congress.

“I can tell you that nobody was deprived of voting at the congress today [Saturday] and it is our hope that it will be an acceptable one by the stakeholders. It is a blatant lie to say that people were deprived, many members participated in the process,” he said.