

# Edo PDP Is A Bunch Of Confused Elements - Prof. Julius Ihonvbere

## ...PDP-He is Frustrated

As the Peoples Democratic Party licks its wound following a showing at the July 14 governorship election where Grade Adams Oshiomhole placed the PDP flagbearer by a margin, a war of words is being between the party and a chief.

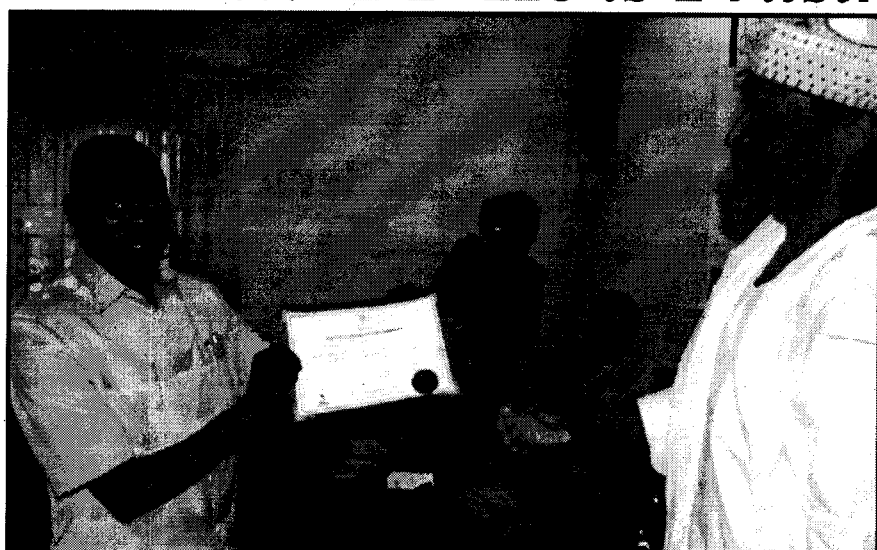
Former governorship aspirant the Peoples Democratic Party in Edo State, Prof. Julius Ihonvbere has described the party as a bunch of confused elements.

Prof. Ihonvbere said Edo rejected the party because people saw the PDP as a party that does not believe in human progress.

He former special adviser to President Obasanjo on the restructuring and implementation of the constitution admitted that he was frustrated after the primary election by PDP leaders, which led him to dump the party for the ruling Action Congress of Nigeria.

Edo PDP is a bunch of confused elements. Let all of them in the leadership of PDP point out the person who contributed a penny to what has contributed to the Edo democracy. They cannot do such. So, in their ignorance, I think I was not having a card in 1999, that I was not of the democratic process."

He former adviser said his commitment to the center had nothing to do with the PDP. "My commitment as special adviser to



Governor Adams Oshiomhole, Edo State Governor receiving the certificate of return as governor re-elect from the national commissioner INEC, Col. Mohammed K. Hammanga (rtd).

Obasanjo had nothing to do with PDP. It was based on merit. No godfather or governor nominated

me to President Obasanjo and on the issue whether I am frustrated or not, it is left for them to determine

Stories by Monday Efe Iduozee

what brings about frustration."

Accepting that he was no longer happy in the party, he added, "True, there is some frustration, I am not denying that. But, it was the product of the corruption, indiscipline, arrogance of power, manipulation, imposition of candidates and the imposition of aspirants whenever there is primary election, the rigging of election by the so called godfathers, who have been humbled and relegated to nowhere, that exposed me to frustration."

Throwing further light on his opting for ACN, Ihonvbere said, "That is why I abandoned

darkness and incompetence for light and progress. That is exactly why I left the PDP for the ACN, if PDP say they are not dead they can give themselves false hope, we grant them that. If you lose all the 18 local governments to opposition party does that mean you are on the field? It means that you are totally finished.

The majority of Edo People have rejected that party because they believe that the party does not believe in human progress. It has no commitment for accountability, transparency, social justice, human right, gender equality, environment protection and the promotion of holistic people driven sustainable development. And, a party that does not believe in those cannot be trusted to move a state like Edo forward to the next level," said Ihonvbere.

However, refuting this heavy indictment which dubbed Edo PDP as dead, the state chairman of PDP, Chief Dan Orbi said the party is not dead.

## Osunbor Calls For Additional Polling Units In His Ward, Lambasts Judiciary For Corrupt Practices

Former Governor of Edo State, Prof. Osereimwen Osunbor has called for the creation of additional polling units in his ward, Iruokpen, Esan West Local Government Area, in Edo State.

Osunbor said the polling unit is the largest in his ward which is why it attracts more crowds during

elections.

The former governor also said the Nigerian judiciary has not performed creditably when it comes to electoral matters.

He made the statements at Ogbomoide Primary School, 9:30am, in Iruokpen, Esan West Local Government Area, his hometown after process for the July 14, 2012 governorship election in the state.

Said he, "In particular, this polling unit is the largest in this ward. You can see the large crowd that is here, which is the reason why there should be additional polling units in this ward.

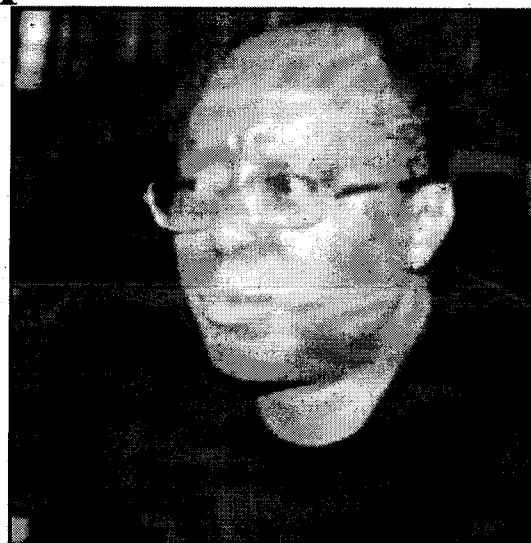
The former senator said the people have been asking for this for some time now. "We have been fighting for its creation for many years. People are very conscious of their right, the campaign has been very rigorous and the people are very enlightened, and they have come enthusiastically to elect the governor of their choice. That is democracy in action."

He defended the 2011 elections which temporarily brought him to power as free and fair "The action

of INEC in 2011 general elections by all account was quiet commendable. Even international observers have attested to the fact that the elections were free, fair and credible. Other governorship elections that have been conducted in April last year were in line with the overall acceptability of the election that INEC has conducted so far," the former governor stated.

Prof. Osunbor thanked INEC for ensuring that there is free and fair election and expressed hope that just as INEC chairman Prof Attahiru Jega promised Edo people a free and fair election, ensuring nothing is left to chance, the judiciary will respect the will of the people."

"People have been talking about the problem of INEC, without really addressing seriously, the problems with the judiciary. The judiciary in Nigeria



Prof. Oserheimen Osunbor

has not performed creditably; there have been a lot of accusations and allegations of corruption among their ranks, especially when it comes to electoral matters. They have been giving mandates to people who did not win election," Osunbor who was ousted from the Edo number one seat by a court ruling charged.

## GSM Dealers Protest Against Unfair Arrest Of Members

There was pandemonium in Iguosa village, host of the broadcasting station of Independent Television, as members of GSM dealers, Edo State chapter came protesting against the brutalization and arrest of three of their members apprehended by the Edo State Police Command in the

protesting GSM dealers stated that they have been receiving unkind treatments in the form of extortion, maltreatment, unfair harassment from men of the Aideyan Police division.

The furious protesters carried placards bearing various slogans, like, "We are tired of the brutalization," "Aideyan men should stop extorting money from us," "Police release members for us."

Explaining their grievance to the men, chairman GSM Dealers in Edo State, Osaze Igbinosun, they came out to stage the protest because of the harassment they have been receiving from officials of the Edo State Police Station.

Also speaking, the state coordinator of GSM Dealers, Mr. Eghosa, said when they went to the police station to inquire the reason for their members' arrest, the police could not tell what offence led to their

He described the arrests as illegal.

When contacted, the Police public relations officer, DSP, Anthony Airhuoyo described the allegation of the GSM dealers as baseless and an attempt to damage the reputation and image of the police.

Airhuoyo said the GSM dealers were arrested as a result of a stolen handset ascribed to the dealers after the police have carried out probe.

Tragedy struck penultimate Sunday, in Benin City, the capital city of Edo State, as two children were killed by flood on their way coming from a ceremony, due the heavy rainstorm.

It was reliably gathered that the victims were three in number, born by the same parent but fortunately, one escaped death. The incident happened in Oba Erediwa Street, Off Sapele Road, at Triangle Avenue, in Benin.

According to eyewitnesses, they said the victims who are between the age of seven and twelve, fell into the flood as a result of the intense downpour, stressing that two could not survive despite the rescue effort. The third child is currently receiving treatment in a hospital.

Said the eye witness, "When the news came to us, we find out that it is the third child that came home safely. So, the father of the children went to the flood started looking for the remaining two children, he could not find them,

## Benin Flood Kills Two Children

he started crying.

He then asked the third child again, where are the two, he told his father that they were three, two fell into the flood, when the father of the children went back to the flood he discovered that the two children have drunk and died," said the eyewitnesses.

Speaking to newsmen, a resident in the area, Mr. Nosa Obazee, said, when it rains he always abandons his home to sleep in a neighbour's house.

Nosa disclosed that many landlords and landladies have fled their homes as a result of the constant flood which has ravaged the neighbourhood. He called on the governor and concerned individuals in the state to come to their aid.

Also commenting, the secretary of the community, Comrade Moses Agbonlaor, said flood has become a nightmare in the area. He said some years back, the area recorded a similar incident twice when some children fell into the hole.

Comrade Moses said the newly dead children were alive until at 10 am on Sunday. He attributed their death to perennial flooding in the region.

Agbonlaor called on the state

governor to send emergency relief team to come and rescue them.

The parents of the victims could not be reached when this reporter visited the area for his comment.

## Two Sisters Electrocuted In Edo

Residents of Upper Sakponba Road, Oka Quarters, Benin City were heartbroken with sorrow when news came to them that two young sisters, Miracle and Mini were electrocuted by a conduit wire which fell from an electric pole.

The two girls, until the mishap resided, at No 1, Igiede Avenue, opposite Ehigie Street, after Omoregie Motors, Benin City, Edo State.

Narrating their ordeal, one of the residents in the area said, Miracle and Mini were on their way to a local shop, at the end of the street to purchase biscuit, after

the rain when they were electrocuted by a live wire that cut away from an electric pole.

The age of the two girls were said to be four and six years and they were children of same parents. Their father's name was given as Benji. The incident which occurred about 1pm put the people in the vicinity in a mourning mood.

Clear investigation showed that after the electrocution, the children were found clutching the wire, while lying on their back with the wire across their chests.

Immediately the bad incident, relatives, friends and sympathizers besieged the residence of Mr. Benji to console the family.