

Akure rally stampede: Ladoja sues for calm

Akin Oyedele, Ibadan

• One killed in Ibadan mayhem

FOLLOWING Saturday's violent reactions by supporters of the Oyo State Governor, Alhaji Rasheed Ladoja, and those of deputy, Chief Adebayo Alao-Akala, to the presentation of the gubernatorial ticket to the latter in Akure, the governor has called on all parties to embrace peace and eschew violence.

Specifically, he described

Saturday's attempt on his life at the Akure township stadium, Ondo State, venue of the Peoples Democratic Party rally, as a sad reminder of the dark era of politics.

The governor said the wanton destruction of property and the alleged loss of three lives, which he said was avoidable, had shown

that some politicians were bent on derailing the coming elections.

Ladoja, who spoke through his Special Adviser, Media and Strategy, Mr. Ade Adekanmbi, said the media account that the governor was smuggled out of the venue encapsulated the plot by the political renegades.

When the entire world was embracing politics without bitterness, as enunciated by the departed political fathers of the country, he said it was unfortunate that some politicians had refused to shed their violent trademark.

Meanwhile, the deputy governor has said he hoped to continue with the re-

construction of the state from May 29, if given the mandate by the people of the state.

In an e-mail to our correspondent, the Director on Media and Strategy for the Akala Campaign Organisation, Mr. Dotun Oyelade, said Saturday's event in Akure had finally laid to rest the "simulated tension on the PDP gubernatorial ticket in Oyo State."

Among other achievements, he claimed that Alao-Akala rehabilitated 700-kilometre roads across the state within the 11 months that he held the forte for his boss.

Following on the heels of the Akure stampede, one person was feared killed in Iwo Road area of Ibadan on Saturday when suspected members of the NURTW caused another round of violence similar to the Akure incident.

Witnesses said the hoodlums, who were armed with lethal weapons, including machetes and bottles, had waylaid supporters of Ladoja, who were retuning from the PDP rally at the Iwo Road intersection.

The incident, which was a spillover over of the attack on the governor and his supporters in Akure, occurred between 6pm and 9pm.

The entire area was said to have been thrown into confusion for more than three hours that the hoodlums held sway.

The armed gang was said to have shot sporadically into the air throughout the period, while bottles were freely hurled at their targets.

Passersby were not spared of the harrowing experience as they were ordered to raise up their hands before they could secure a safe passage.



• L-R: General Manager, Benin-Owena River Basin Authority, Mr. Ajibade Ijasan; Minister of State for Water Resources, Dr. Grace Ogwuche; and Olowo of Owo, Oba Victor Folagbade Olateru-Olagbegi, at the inauguration of a borehole sunk by the authority in Iyere-Owo, Ondo State ... on Friday. Photo: Femi Makinde.

Judges on strike at Ota over leaking courtrooms

Niyi Odebode,
Abeokuta

JUDGES in the Ota Judicial Division of Ogun State have embarked on a strike over the poor condition of courtrooms in the area.

Findings by our correspondent on Friday showed that although the judges had been reporting for work, the courts were not sitting.

vide a generator, which could have served as an alternative power source.

The court official added that no fewer than three witnesses had collapsed as a result of heat since electricity supply to the court stopped.

"Most of the court rooms are leaking. During the rainy sessions, they are always water-lodged. The judges fear

that unless the buildings are repaired, the court may find it difficult to sit during the rainy season."

Sources said the judges were also demanding the construction of drainage in the court surroundings, which are always water-lodged during the rainy season.

When contacted, the Attorney-General and Commis-

sioner for Justice, Mr. Akin Osinbajo, said the state government had approved fund for the repair of the leaking roofs.

He confirmed that the transformer, which supplied electricity to the court premises, broke down and had been taken away by the Power Holding Company of Nigeria for repair.