

— Lagos LG Poll —

Two killed, others injured at ACN rally

Eniola Akinkuotu

TWO persons died after fighting broke out at a rally organised by the Action Congress of Nigeria in the Gbagada area of Lagos on Monday.

Our correspondent learnt

that the rally organised for the local government elections, attracted supporters from various LGAs

An eyewitness, who spoke to our correspondent on the condition of anonymity on Wednesday, said the event

was attended by a majority of the LGA chairmen in the state, along with their supporters.

He said, "The event began around 9am at Playground, Gbagada. Each chairman came with his own boys, wielding dangerous weapons.

"Some boys in the area (Bariga-Oworonshoki) where the event was held, led by a man identified simply as Ibrahim, felt it was their right to collect money from visitors.

"The thugs that accompanied various

chairmen however told the thugs in the neighbourhood not to disturb them. This created tension as fighting broke out."

It was learnt that the fighting was accompanied by gunshots.

Our source said, "The Somolu Chairman, Mr. Gbolahan Bago-Stowe, was accosted by the thugs but he said he didn't have money to give them. Immediately, they pounced on him, seized his phones, wristwatch and other valuables from him.

"During the fight, one area boy known as Leke, lost his life along with another person while over seven persons sustained injuries. Leke was buried almost immediately according to Islamic rites."

Bago-Stowe, however, denied he was beaten up by thugs, saying he only lost his valuables.

He said, "I was not beaten up, only my phones and wrist watch were seized by the thugs.

"I am sure it's my political opponents at work. I don't move around with thugs. Maybe that's why they were able to accost me.

"I heard that about two people died, but I'm not very sure if it's true."

The spokesperson for ACN, Lagos, Mr. Joe Igboke, condemned the violence, saying violence was not the style of the ACN

"The ACN is a purely democratic party. We do not believe in violence. Hoodlums took advantage of our peaceful nature and decided to cause trouble. I am sure the hoodlums in question are not our supporters," he said.

Meanwhile, many LG candidates for the state have begun work on various abandoned projects in their areas.

Our correspondent who visited Oshodi, Ikate and Somolu LGs, saw labourers using sand and stones to cover up potholes on roads that had long been neglected.



•L-R: Member, Federal House of Representatives, Mr. Aliu Kazeem; Chairman, Itire-Ikate Local Council Development Area, Mr. Hakeem Bamgbola; and Mr. Bidemi Taiwo, during the campaign rally of ACN in the council area, in Lagos... on Wednesday

'We are worried about LASIEC's neutrality'

Simon Utebor

THE Peoples Democratic Party, Lagos State, has expressed concern over the neutrality of the Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission.

In a statement on Tuesday by the spokesman for the PDP, Mr. Taofik Gani, the party stated that LASIEC was not fair to all in the process towards the election.

It said, "In fact we suspect strongly that LASIEC has

rigged the election for the Action Congress of Nigeria, even before the poll. We have many reasons not to have confidence in the system they have put in place.

"It has come to our knowledge that LASIEC is planning not to count the votes at the polls; has doctored the voters register; is going to distribute fake result sheets and use members as ad hoc staff among others."

The PDP reiterated that the best mode of voting

was that adopted by the Independent National Electoral Commission, asking that it should be retained in the LG poll.

"This is contrary to LASIEC's plan to change it in order to satisfy their employers. Lagosians resolve to come out massively and vote must not be made useless. Our votes must count and be counted rightly," the PDP stated.

It said the resolve of Lagosians to vote for the PDP

in the election was a rational decision.

The party said, "We assure you (Lagosians) that a PDP government in your local government/local council development areas shall not disappoint.

"We therefore appeal to Lagosians to be vigilant and watch over to protect their votes. Your resolve to make a difference is worth the while."

The Head of Operations and Logistics, LASIEC, Mr. Musbau Oyefeso, said there was no truth in the PDP's allegation.

"What is the evidence they have? It is a wild allegation. We are the only SIEC in Nigeria that gave free nomination forms to all the political parties including the PDP," he said.

PDP not an alternative in Lagos – ACN

Simon Utebor and Sodiq Oyeleke

THE Action Congress of Nigeria, Lagos State, has said the Peoples Democratic Party cannot be an alternative to the party in Lagos.

poor performance explained its rejection in the six states in the zone at the polls in April.

Igbokwe assured Lagosian that the ACN would replicate what it had done in Lagos to justify the overwhelming mandate it got from them

of infrastructure. He never promised to do all in one day, but one after the other.

"All things considered, the PDP cannot be the alternative to the ACN in Lagos, or in any of the states under its control for that matter."