

Violence, protest mar APC congresses in Ogun, Ekiti, Oyo, Akwa Ibom, others

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File: Yobe State Governor and Chairman Caretaker/Extra-Ordinary Ordinary National Convention Planning Committee of the APC, Mai Mala Buni

Despite the Riot Act read Friday to all its chieftains in all the states across the country, violence, protests and boycotts marred Saturday's ward congresses in several state chapters of the ruling All Progressives Congress.

Against the directive of the party leadership, parallel congresses were also held in many of the states. Some of the states where chaos was recorded include Ogun, Ekiti, Oyo, Akwa Ibom, and Imo.

In Ekiti State, violence in Ikere-Ekiti allegedly led to the death of a party member, while several others were allegedly injured when supporters of Governor Kayode Fayemi and those of the APC National Leader, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, reportedly clashed.

The APC national leadership had, in a preemptive move Friday, read the Riot Act to its chieftains against the conduct of parallel congresses in the states, threatening to sanction members who do.

Secretary of the National Caretaker Extraordinary Convention Planning Committee, Senator John Akpanudoedehe, in a notice, said the party would invoke necessary disciplinary measures against those who hold parallel congresses.

He reminded party members of the National Executive Committee's resolution of December 8, 2020, which directed members not to take the party to court unless they have exhausted "the internal mechanisms for conflict resolution, as enshrined in the party's constitution."

Akpanudoedehe said, "For the purpose of clarity, may I restate the relevant point in the resolution to wit: All pending litigations instituted by members against the party should be withdrawn forthwith, and going forward, no member should institute matters against the party, without exhausting the internal mechanism for conflict resolution, as enshrined in the party's constitution.