Osun PDP holds congress, two die, many injured

Bola Bamigbola, Osogbo

TWO persons were confirmed dead during the violence that broke out in some parts of Osun State during the ad hoc ward delegates congress of the Peoples Democratic Party on Wednesday. (1) It was learnt that one of the victims, Toib Mutallib, was hacked to death by suspected political thugs that stormed his ward in Agberire, a community in Iwo Local Government Area.

It was further learnt that another resident of Agberire, a 28-year-old man simply identified as Sheriff, who was also injured in the attack, was rushed to hospital. Two persons were also reportedly injured during the congress in Oba Oke, in Olorunda Local Government Area and Inetumodu, in Ife North Local Government.

Another death was recorded in Koso Area of Inetumodu, when one Olamide Aremu, was shot in the leg and rushed to a hospital. where he later died.

It was learnt that the suspect accused of firing the shot was later arrested by residents and beaten before police operatives rescued him.

But a vehicle said to belong to the suspect was reportedly burnt.

The spokesman of the state police command, Yemisi Opalola. confirmed the death of two persons in an interview with our correspondent.

Opalola said in the first attack which occurred in Agberire, "two people were hacked: the assailants attacked them with broken bottle and machete.

"One Amoo Ovenivi led some hoodlums in a Suzuki mini bus to the venue of the ward congress. Immediately they got to the venue, they launched an attack on the people they met there.

Police operatives immediately rushed down to the place and evacuated two people that were seriously injured and took them to the hospital. It was at the hospital that a doctor confirmed one of them, Toib Mutalib, dead. The other injured victim, Sheriff, is said to be responding to treatment.

"Lawal Ibrahim and Ibrahim Akande had been arrested alongside Amoo that reportedly led the attack. Police also recovered their vehicle and weapons they used during the attack.

Speaking on the incident that occurred in Inetumodu, Opalola said, "a man, Olamide Aremu. was reportedly shot in the leg by a suspected thug. They were at a collation centre when gunshots were heard. The man that fired the shot was seized by the residents and beaten. Policemen later rescued him and took him to hospital. His vehicle was also burnt."

The exercise was however largely peaceful in Osogbo,

Olorunda, Obokun and Oriade Local Government Areas.

Bisi. Oio factions battle for control

Meanwhile, supporters of Sunday Bisi and Wale Ojo factions, who are struggling for control of the PDP in the state. held parallel congresses in some wards.

A chieftain of the PDP belonging to Wale Oio faction from Ife North Local Government, Funmiso Babarinde, while speaking with journalists, said parallel congresses were held by the two factions in the local government

But the Director of Research and Publicity of the Sunday Bisi faction, Oladele Oluwabamiji, said there was no parallel congress.

Although he admitted that there were pockets of violence in some of the local government areas, Oluwabamiji said the exercise was largely peaceful.

As of 8.30 pm when our correspondent left the collation centre, chairman of the PDP ward congress, Governor Umaru Fintiri of Adamawa State and his team were yet to arrive WOCDIF Centre, Osogbo for the commencement of the collation of results.

Court voids APC congresses in Anambra, restores 2018 executives

Ikenna Obianeri, Awka

A N Anambra State High Court sitting in Awka, on-Wednesday, voided the ward, local government and state congresses held by the All Progressives Congress in the state in January.

Seventeen former chairmen of the party in the local government areas led by Lawrence Emegini had gone to court seeking a declaration that their tenure still subsist.

The party had conducted congresses, which produced Mr Basil Ejidike as the state chairman in January.

But Justice Ike Ogu of the High Court 4, Awka, who delivered judgment in the matter before him, ruled that the exercise contravened the interlocutory injunction earlier issued by the court.

Justice Ogu ruled that the plaintiffs' case succeeded

described the judgment as victory for the rule of law.

Agufugo said some people wanted to disorganise the party by trying to hijack its leadership through the back, but the court had liberated it.

Cunsel for the plaintiffs, Chief P. I. Ikwueto (SAN), said his clients had been vindicated by the decision of the court.

The Legal Adviser to the faction of the APC in the state affected by the judgment, Mr Chinoso Chinwuba, said the judgment would be studied to know the next line of action to take.

"We will file a notice of appeal and stay of execution. The judge erred in law and the judgment will be set aside on appeal," he said.

PDP draws battle line with Ebonyi assembly

Edward Nnachi, Abakaliki

THE Ebonyi State chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party has said forgery, lies and falsehood can no longer thrive in the state House of Assembly, irrespective of the powerful forces in the ruling All Progressives Congress.

It said though the 15 All Progressive Congress lawmakers in the assembly had purportedly coup d'etat that happened in the desecrated chambers of the Ebonyi State House of Assembly which sought to forcefully remove from office the Deputy Speaker of Ebonyi State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Odefa Obasi Odefa has failed.

"Let me state categorically therefore that Rt. Hon. Odefa Obasi Odefa remains the undisputed substantive Deputy Speaker of Fhonyi State Hause

ns as deputy speaker, majority leader escape sack