

One dies as factions clash at PDP meeting

BOLA BAMIGBOLA

ONE person simply identified as Kuranga was feared killed during a fight that broke out at a meeting of the Peoples Democratic Party at Oloba Ward, Atapara Area, Ede, Osun State.

The cause of the disagreement was linked to money, and sources in the area said gunshots were heard,

adding that Kuranga was shot during the incident.

It was further learnt that one of those involved in the misunderstanding had brought police operatives to make arrest during when the situation became rowdy.

"It was in the process of effecting arrest that Kuranga was shot. But I can't immediately say who shot him. The incident happened on Friday,"

a source in Atapara axis of Ede told *Sunday PUNCH*.

During an interview with our correspondent, Osun Command spokesperson of Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Olabisi Atanda, confirmed that someone was shot at the meeting.

She said, "There was a meeting of the PDP where misunderstanding ensued over money released for the last governorship election.

"There was altercation among the people at the meeting and one of those in attendance brought police into the meeting to make arrest.

"It was at that time that one person called Kuranga was hit by bullet. I can't confirm if he died or not. The incident led to stampede in a market around the area as people ran in different directions. But peace has returned."

Efforts to get police reaction to the incident proved futile as calls to Osun Police Command spokesperson, Yemisi Opalola, rang out, while she did not reply to a text sent to her on the issue as of the time of filing this report.

But the Director of Media and Strategy in Osun PDP, Oladele Oluwabamiji, accused the leadership of the All Progressives Congress in the state of bringing in hoodlums to the PDP meeting.

Oluwabamiji, who said the Minority Leader of the House, Mr. Kofoworola Babajide, was at the meeting, further disclosed that the hoodlums that invaded the meeting were dragging rifle with the police.

He confirmed the attack on the residence of the father of the lawmaker, Mr. Babajide, which, according to him, was razed and he fingered the perpetrators as hoodlums working for the APC.

Special Adviser on Media to Osun APC chairman, Mr. Kola Olabisi, could not be reached on his mobile line and he did not respond to a message sent to him on the allegation as of the time of filing this report.

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unwelcome.

He offered his condolences to the families of the law enforcement agents murdered and to the

government and people of Niger Republic whose citizens were cruelly beheaded by the beastly attackers.

Ila markets closed as ex-IG Balogun is buried

BOLA BAMIGBOLA

MARKETS and shops across Ila-Orangun in Osun State were on Saturday shut as a sign of honour as the remains of former Inspector General of Police, Tafa Balogun, were interred in his country home.

Many commercial transport operators also did not render services as residents of the ancient city trooped out in large number to the residence of the late former IG located along Ila-Arandun road to witness his internment.

Apart from many serving top police personnel that were in attendance, some ex-police officers also attended the burial ceremony.

A long convoy that accompanied the corpse from Lagos to Ila, Osun State had a hectic time accessing his residence.

Before his remains were buried, prayers led by the Chief of Imam of Ila-Orangun, Dr. Abdulhammed Salahudeen, were held for him inside Ila Eid prayer ground.

The body was later moved to his residence, where it was received by Osun state police Commissioner, Wale Olokode.

The final rites of passage for officer of his status which include gun salute were held for the late ex-IG by a police team, having eight operatives, dressed in their ceremony red over black uniform, before the body, wrapped in all white dress was interred amidst wailings by many that witnessed the ceremony.

Speaking with *Sunday PUNCH* after the burial ceremony, ex-IG, Solomon Arase, said late Balogun was, "one of the greatest we had in terms of policing culture in this country and apart from that, if you look around you will see that most of us who have come to honour him, are people who have drank from the fountain of his knowledge, he was an operational icon, intellectual to the core, a cerebral officer.

"Even in death, he remains, my mentor and benefactor. He was like a big father. When it comes to policing difficult issues, you can always go to him for advice, and we will miss him for that.

"For those of us that he brought up, Lagos was like Mecca to most of us because we look forward to seeing him and sitting by him to listen to that great wisdom in policing."