

# Police probe Sokoto butcher's killing over blasphemy

**Abiodun Sanusi, Abuja**

**THE Sokoto State Police Command has confirmed the murder of a butcher, Usman Buda, who was killed on Sunday over alleged blasphemous comment against Prophet Muhammad.**

While noting that investigation was ongoing to arrest the perpetrators and bring them to book, the police revealed that the mob escaped the scene and left the victim unconscious where he was rescued and taken to Usmanu Danfodiyo Teaching Hospital, Sokoto, for treatment. He was later confirmed dead.

Our correspondent gathered that the butcher made the allegedly blasphemous comment during an argument with another trader at the Sokoto main Abattoir, at about 8am on Sunday.

Sources revealed that some of Buda's closest business partners in the market made attempts to rescue him but sustained injuries and have been admitted at the hospital, following attacks by the mob.

Speaking about the case, the Sokoto State Police Public Relations Officer, Ahmad Rufa'i, said, "A distress call was received at about 09.20am that one Usman Buda of Gwandu

Local Government Area, a butcher at Sokoto Abattoir, allegedly blasphemed the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and as a result, he was mobbed.

"Upon receiving the information, the

Commissioner of Police, Area Commander Metro and DPO Kwanni, led a team of policemen and all other operational commanders to the scene.

"On arrival, the mob escaped the scene and left

the victim unconscious where he was rescued and taken to Usmanu Danfodiyo Teaching Hospital Sokoto for treatment and was later confirmed dead.

"Meanwhile, investigation is on to arrest the perpetrators and bring them to book."

## PDP, APC disagree on Oyebanji's performance

**Abiodun Nejo, Ado Ekiti**

**THE Peoples Democratic Party in Ekiti State on Sunday expressed disappointment that Governor Biodun Oyebanji had allegedly been unable to stamp his feet in governance eight months after assuming office.**

The Convener of Ekiti PDP Progressives, Wale Ayeni, said it was baffling that Oyebanji could not appoint commissioners or chief of staff and as well address other pressing needs of the state since assuming office in October last year.

Ayeni, who spoke in Ado Ekiti during a meeting of PDP leaders and members towards the repositioning of the opposition party in the state, said, "The All Progressives Congress administration is not offering tangible dividends of democracy to

the people. Governance is beyond payment of salaries and patching of roads in only the state capital."

The PDP chieftain, who alleged that the Oyebanji government was under the grip of a godfather, said, "We know that the governor needs help, he would still need to come to us and we will give the help he needs. We need good governance which is lacking in Ekiti for now.

"If you are contesting election, you must have definite agenda and programmes, but someone has been in office for eight months without a clear direction and focus. We need genuine development in Ekiti State. Except the governor is trying to hide something, by now we should know the debt of the state and how much he inherited from the last administration.

"This is the first time in

the history of the state that a governor will constitute a committee to start looking for people who will become commissioners, it is not done anywhere," he said.

Ayeni, who said the PDP had learnt its lessons from the past failures, harped on the need for leaders to close ranks and be united in a bid to take over power in the state.

But the Ekiti State APC Publicity Secretary, Segun Dipe, dismissed PDP's assertions, saying that "Oyebanji's government is focussed, on course and meeting the people's yearnings and aspirations."

Dipe said the governor had not committed any offence in not having full cabinet members yet, saying, "Oyebanji appointed commissioners and special advisers last year and they are running the affairs of governance in the state. If you say he has not completed it, then there is no harm in that

**Echotolan plans skill upgrade for police commanders**