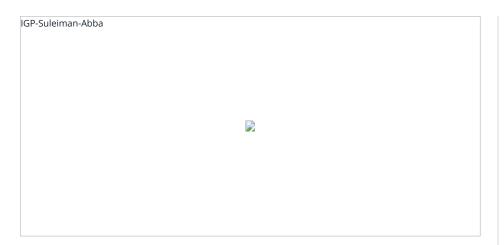
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AIG reads riot act to politicians

BY OUR REPORTER ONMARCH 3, 2015

NATIONAL

· Ibadan killings: Death toll rises to 3

FROM YINKA FABOWALE and OLUSEYE OJO, IBADAN

Following political violenceespecially the one that claimed three lives in Ibadan last weekend, the Assistant Inspector-General of Police (AIG) in charge of Zone 11, Mr. Ikemefuna Okoye, has warned the gladiators to caution their supporters.

Fielding questions from journalists in Ibadan, Oyo State capital yesterday during his unscheduled visit to the Police Command at Eleyele, he said candidates in Oyo, Osun and Ondo State, under the zone would be held responsible if their supporters commit any offence.

Okoye stated that the gubernatorial, senatorial, House of Representatives and House of Assembly candidates would soon sign a peace pact to ensure violence-free general elections, adding that such accord had been signed in Osun State.

Daily Sun had in a special report entitled: 'Oyo: Still wild wild West,' published in the South-West magazine last Thursday, reported the need for peace agreement sequel to pockets of violence in the state in the past three to four months.

"The peace pact is not just for signing sake. If anyone commits any offence, he will be dealt with -whoever is involved. They have to warn their supporters because if they commit any offence, they will be held responsible.

Okoye said: "Police are prepared for this election, but we won't release our strategies to the public. But



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whoever plays contrary, will face the music. The electorates should just cast their votes and steer clear of the polling centres. They should not allow themselves to be used as thugs," he said.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner of Police in Oyo State, Mr. Mohammed Katsina, said yesterday that the death toll from the shoot-out at a political rally organised by the Accord Party at Ode-Ige, Odinjo, Ibadan on Sunday had risen to three, adding that eight suspects had been arrested in connection with the case, while nine other persons were injured.

According to him, the police also recovered items such as one pump action rifle, three live cartridges and three expended cartridges from the suspects. He stated this while parading eight suspected political thugs.

"On March 1, 2015, the Accord Party held its campaign rally without notifying the police at Ode-Ige, Odinjo, Ibadan. A group of thugs reportedly led by one Ogeoju, also known as 'Eze Water,' attacked the rally, shooting sporadically into the crowd, resulting in the shooting of several persons.

"One Kehinde Akeem Bello died on the spot while one Sarafa Adedeji died while receiving treatment at Ege Trado/Medical Centre. The said notorious principal suspect, Yusuf Ogeoju, who has been on the wanted list of the police sustained gunshot injury was taken to hospital where he later died."

Katsina said that "Oyo State can never be turned into the theatre of the absurd, where every Dick, Tom and Harry would wake up drunk and start dancing naked in the market square, yet, expecting people to clap for him.

"Since some of our politicians have continuously remained adamant, we are also going to show them that the law is greater than anybody. And since some of them have decided to dance naked in the political arena, I will like to warn or assure them that I have the capability, capability and wherewithal to keep them away from the public view. What I mean in essence is that the full weight of the law will be applied on them. They are warned.

"From today, any other political rally or meeting organised in any place, in any manner, without informing the police, any aftermath of that, the organiser will also have himself to blame, no matter how highly placed.

"The Oyo State Police Command hereby declares a total war against criminals in the state, either political thugs or any other miscreants. To this, I mean whoever procures, sponsors any items of violence for the purpose or criminal motive of unleashing mayhem, causing instability or threat to life in any part of Oyo State will have himself to blame," he said.

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