

NATIONAL NEWS

Strange disease: Death toll hits 22 in Ondo

From **BAMIGBOLA GBOLAGUNTE, Akure**

The last seems not to have been heard on the outbreak of a strange disease in Ode-Irele, headquarters of Irele Local Government Area of Ondo State as no fewer than 22 people have been confirmed dead as a result of the development.

The victims of the strange disease were initially put at 14 by the state Commissioner for Health, Dr. Dayo Adeyanju.

It was, however, gathered that eight people who were initially hospitalised as a result of the strange disease died at the weekend at the General Hospital, Irele.

Chief Jimi Adekale, who spoke with Daily Sun on behalf of the traditional ruler of the town, Oba Olanrewaju Lebi yesterday, said the dead had initially lost their sight.

He attributed the strange disease to a breach of tradition by some residents of the town. He said the community would appease the gods, who, according to him, were angry with the people.

Rituals, he confirmed had been made by traditionalists in the town to seek forgiveness on behalf of those who stole some artifacts and caused pandemic in the community.

Some of the victims were said to be recuperating in the hospital. Daily Sun also learnt that medical experts from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other international health organisations have arrived the town.

A strange disease had last week killed some residents of Ode-Irele, while several others lost their sight.

Only God can sack me from Government House -Fayose

By **WOLE BALOGUN, Ado Ekiti**

Ekiti State Governor, Mr. Ayo Fayose has said his emergence as helmsman of the state after eight years of exit is an act of God and so his survival in office will be determined by God.

Fayose made the remarks during a thanksgiving service at Emmanuel Cathedral Anglican Church, Ado Ekiti, to mark his victory at the Supreme Court.

Reacting to reports that he begged 19 All Progressives Congress (APC) lawmakers over their move to impeach him, the governor said he only said he was sorry in the interest of peace in the state.

Said he: "Waving the olive branch does not mean cowardice. Truth is bitter. Pastors should tell reporters not to twist the truth but say it as they should. I am hidden in Christ in God. This is why I stand the test of time in spite of odds. It is God who has done this.

"When I contested for Senate, they said I lost and I did not fight anyone. I did not go to the tribunal and I was saying good things about government then. The opposition should be courageous enough to accept defeat. I follow Jonathan in and out of office. Jonathan gave up for the survival of Nigeria. Jonathan prevented the prophecy that Nigeria would break in 2015.

"It was all rough for me to emerge as party candidate. My case is like that of Joseph and Shedrack, Meshack and Abednego. I am enjoying the mandate of God. I don't read things in social media, I am a governor of the common people."



• From left: Rival Governor **Anderson Hart** and others at a thanksgiving service in honour of Governor Fayose's victory at the Supreme Court.

Senators sena

• North West

From **ADETUTU FOLASADE-KOYE, Abuja**

Ahead of a zoning arrangement for the National Assembly, All Progressives Congress (APC) this week, governors, Senators and party leaders have formed a unified lobby of the party's National Working Committee (NWC) to ensure that the Senate presidency is retained in the Central.

Senate Minority Leader **Senator George Akpan**

Delta guber poll fallout: You can't expel