

4 killed as Osun speaker escapes death, police nab 4 suspects

From Lateef Dada, Osogbo

THERE was unrest in Osun State yesterday following the killing of four people by unknown gunmen in different parts of the state, with the state Assembly Speaker, Timothy Owuoye, said to have escaped death by the whiskers in a suspected assassination attempt.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Progressives Congress (APC) have traded accusations and counter-accusations since the killing began after the judgment of the election petition tribunal.

Owuoye explained that it took the gallantry of the men of the Department of State Services (DSS) and police officers attached to him to repel the assailants who arrived at his premises around 2am yesterday. He alleged that about five members of the APC had been killed in a gruesome manner across Eti-Oni in Atakumosa East, Oke-Aga, and Ilesa, including the immediate past secretary of Atakumosa East LCDA.

While the speaker alleged that his attackers were political thugs, the caretaker chairman of the PDP, Dr. Akindele Adekunle, also alleged that APC has unleashed a killer squad on members of the party in the state. Adekunle alleged that the APC attacked its members after Governor Ademola Adeleke led a campaign, saying "as a result of this devilish act from them, two members of our party (PDP) from the Ilesa West area were shot dead with the third one in a coma."

"Those killed by the hired thugs of APC on the orders of their party chieftains in the state are; Rafiu Quadri Abiodun and Elijah Baba Ewe, while the third victim, Gbenga Femi from Olorunsogo, is in a state of coma presently."

Spokesperson of the Tinubu/Shettima Campaign Council, Remi Omowaye, alleged that five members of the APC were killed by a political thug loyal to a popular PDP chieftain. He alleged that the recent

killing of Ibrahim Adebiyi a.k.a. 'Omo Alhaja' made it five members of the APC that have been killed by PDP thugs in the Ilesa axis.

Meanwhile, the police

spokesperson in the state, Yemisi Opalola, said it was a rival cult clash and four suspects have been arrested in connection with the killings. She confirmed that Tuesday's killings

in Ilesa were damaging, saying that the Commissioner of Police has ordered a total clampdown on cultists and other criminal-related activities in all the nooks and crannies of the state. She

said: "Presently, four suspects have been arrested in connection with the mayhem in Ilesa and its environment, while efforts are in the top gear to arrest other perpetrators."

Ekweremadu: Alleged organ harvest victim caught in web of lies

From Fred Itua, Abuja

THE trial of Senator Ike Ekweremadu, his wife, daughter and a doctor, was yesterday inundated with drama when the alleged victim of the alleged organ harvest was caught in a web of lies.

He admitted to a series of lies about his person, parents and proceedings that led to his reporting to the London police.

Ekweremadu, alongside his wife, Beatrice, daughter Sonia,

and a doctor, Obina Obeta, are being prosecuted by the Crown Prosecution Service for allegedly bringing David Nwamini into the United Kingdom to harvest his kidney to treat Sonia.

Nwamini, the alleged victim who is the key witness of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), however, turned the gallery in the Old Bailey into uproar and drama yesterday when he admitted to lying to the police at several points.

He was in the witness box

yesterday as he was cross-examined by the counsel to one of the defendants, Dr. Obinna Obeta. He admitted that contrary to his earlier claims of being 15 years at the time he reported in May 2022, he was actually 21 then and presently 22, and will be 23 in October.

Contrary to his earlier claim of being an orphan and homeless person in Lagos, Nwamini told the trial, yesterday, that his parents are alive in Ebonyi State and that he was relatively

a successful trader of phone accessories in Lagos. He said he made a profit of about N3,000 daily from his business.

He also agreed that he had an apartment in Lagos which he shared with someone. The serial admission of lies by the alleged victim raised a subdued rumpus in the gallery of the Old Bailey, putting to question the wisdom of the London Metropolitan Police and the CPS in putting forward Senator Ekweremadu.

Court remands Rivers federal lawmaker in prison 48hrs to election

From Tony John, Port Harcourt

THE Chief Magistrates' Court in Port Harcourt has remanded the lawmaker representing Etche/Omuma federal constituency in the House of Representatives, Ephraim Nwuzi, to the Nigerian Correctional Centre.

Nwuzi, who is also the All Progressives Congress (APC) House of Representatives candidate for Etche/Omuma constituency, was arraigned by the Nigeria Police Force for inciting violence in a trending video. Chief Magistrate, Amadi O. Amadi-Nna, ruled that the suspect should be remanded in Nigerian Correctional Centre for 10 days pending the outcome of investigation by the police.

Speaking to newsmen after the court session, counsel for the federal lawmaker, Emenike Ebete, said the offences preferred against his client were insufficient to warrant a remand. He said: "The offences preferred against him include treasonable felony, conspiracy, inciting violence, promotion of communal crisis, conspiracy and that they are

investigating him and that they wanted the court to remand him in the Correctional Centre pending investigations.

"We have, also, submitted to the court that the offences disclosed in the particulars and affidavit attached were not sufficient enough for him to be remanded. The court, in its wisdom, held that the offences are previous and that he should be remanded in prison custody

until the 3rd of March, 2023, pending when a charge will be preferred against him by the state."

It was gathered that the lawmaker was arrested yesterday morning in his house in Chokocho, Etche, when policemen with armoured vehicles broke his fence and broke into his house to arrest him. He was allegedly seen in a video, saying that residents of Rivers

State should be shot during the general election coming up on February 25, 2023, in the state.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Grace Iringe-Koko, a Superintendent of Police (SP), in a statement issued in Port Harcourt yesterday, said the invitation was extended to the federal lawmaker by the Supervising Assistant Inspector-General of Police for the Elections, Abutu Yaro.

Ladipo market traders send SOS to Gov Sanwo-Olu

By Lukman Olabiyi

TRADERS at Aguiyi Ironsi section of Ladipo International Spare Parts Market in Mushin Local Government, Lagos State have called on Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to caution the council chairman, Emmanuel Bamigboye, for allegedly sowing the seed of disunity in the market.

The traders accused Bamigboye of selfish interest with the manner he controls the traders' union activities and by imposing his stooge as their leader. The traders expressed their dismay at various actions of Bamigboye which they de-

scribed as an attempt to undermine the union's Constitution.

Speaking on behalf of the traders at a press conference held in the market, yesterday, their chairman, Chukwuma Onyebanma, gave a detailed account of how Bamigboye and his cohort suddenly picked interest in traders' union activities. The traders accused the LG chairman of trying to impose non executive members of their union on them, to be collecting union dues.

"Since the creation of this market, what we are witnessing today has never happened before, and that is why we are all surprised. First, it has never

happened since the history of this market that the council chairman would stop the already scheduled election of traders' union, but it happened this year.

"Mushin Local Government claimed that our election should be suspended because of the Federal Government election. Later, the council boss told us that some of the contestants needed more time to do effective campaigns, so we must shift the election earlier slated for January 28, 2023, in order to avoid any form of crisis, and we fixed a new date.

(Continued on www.sunnewsonline.com)