

Police inspector in court for drug dealings

Akeem Nafiu

Justice Mojisola Olatoregun of a Federal High Court, Lagos, yesterday admitted to bail a police inspector, Bola Adigun, for alleged illegal drug dealings.

Olatoregun, ordered the accused to be remanded in prison custody pending the perfection of his bail conditions.

This was sequel to Adigun's arraignment by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) on charges bordering on conspiracy, drug dealings and wilful obstruction of security agents from carrying out their official duty.

The anti-narcotic agency in a charge marked: FHC/L/192c/17, alleged that the police inspector currently attached to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), and Voke David (now at large), had on May 25, about 1 a.m., at Agemowo junction on Badagry-Lagos Expressway conspired among themselves to transport 49 large bags containing compressed vegetable substance suspected to be cannabis sativa, popularly called marijuana, weighing 2.338 kilograms, in a Volkswagen LT bus marked, FKJ 937 XS.

The policeman was also

alleged to have unlawfully possessed the banned substance.

NDLEA also alleged that the accused, while armed with a Jericho Pistol numbered BDA 380425pm 56369, calibre 9.85 CAT 1661 loaded with 10 rounds of ammunition, wilfully obstructed its officials from exercising the powers conferred on them by the NDLEA Act.

The offences, according to the NDLEA prosecutor, Mr. Aliyu Abubakar, are contrary to and punishable under sections 14(c), 19 and 49(B) of National Drugs Laws Enforcement Agency Act Cap N30, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

The accused, however, pleaded not guilty to all the charges.

Upon his 'not guilty plea,' he was admitted to bail by the judge in the sum of N10 million with three sureties in like sum.

Olatoregun also ordered that each of the sureties, who must be landed property owners, should produce evidence of three years' tax payment and have their addresses and means of livelihood verified.

The judge, however, ordered that the accused be remanded in prison custody pending the perfection of the bail conditions.

Five killed as Melaye's supporters, gunmen dash



Muhammad Bashir
LOKOJA

At least five people were feared dead yesterday in Lokoja, Kogi State, when armed men clashed with supporters of Senator Dino Melaye.

This came about three months after Melaye allegedly escaped assassination attempt at his residence at Ayetoro-Gbade in Ijumu Local Government Area.

The alleged attempt led to the arrest of the Chief Administrator, Ijumu Local Government Area, Hon. Tao-fiq Isa, and four others. The case is currently at the state High Court for adjudication.

The senator representing Kogi West had embarked on a political sensitisation since Sunday, before moving

his rally train to Lokoja yesterday, where he addressed groups of youths at the front gate of the state polytechnic in Lokoja.

Immediately after the ceremony ended and people were going into their cars, some gunmen inside a Toyota Siena bus began to shoot sporadically into the air to scare the people away. The bus was later torched.

While the security operatives attached to Melaye engaged the armed men in a shootout. Many people were injured in the process.

A student of Kogi State Polytechnic, Saka Saidu, was said to have been killed.

The Rector of the polytechnic, Muhammed Isah, said he had to invite the police when he learnt that some people gathered at the school

gate.

He said: "We were in the school compound with some students who were preparing for registration ahead of the academic year."

"We got information that some people were assembling in front of the school gate. I hurriedly alerted the police. Immediately after the rally, we began to hear gunshots."

It was learnt that Melaye was whisked away inside his Mercedes Benz Wagon, after about 45 minutes' gun duel.

Speaking with journalists, Melaye alleged that this was the second assassination attempt on his life.

He also said two of the Department of State Services (DSS) officials attached to him were severely injured.

The Special Adviser to Governor Yahaya Bello on Security, Commodore Jerry Omodara (rtd), Special Adviser to the governor on Multilateral Donor Agencies and Special Duties, Ibrahim Adoga and Senior Special Assistant to the governor on Political Affairs, Abdul Dollars, were said to have rushed to the scene.

Reacting to the clash, the state Police Commissioner, Wilson Inalegwu, blamed it on Melaye's refusal to obtain police permission.

He said: "This incident

would have been averted if the senator had informed the police. But he did not do that. However, we have already set up investigation team to ascertain the cause of the crisis."

Also in his reaction, the governor said he got a security report since January that Melaye was planning to cause crisis.

Bello spoke with journalists while inspecting the scene of the clash.

He said: "Since January we heard the information and we had since petitioned the Presidency about the plan of Senator Dino (Melaye) to make the state a hotbed of crises. Now you have all seen what happened; costing people their lives. One person is already lying lifelessly."

"I want to urge the relevant security agencies to quickly go into a thorough investigation of this case and bring to book whoever is responsible."

Earlier, the governor had, in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary (CPS), Petra Akinti, condemned what he described as the unruly conduct, political violence and needless crisis orchestrated by Melaye in a bid to foil his recall from the National Assembly.