

They Planned to Kill Ladoja in Akure, Says Aide

Special Adviser on Media to Governor Rashidi Ladoja of Oyo State, Prince Ade Adeganmbi yesterday disclosed that but for providence, the weekend violent clash in Akure, Ondo State, between Ladoja's supporters and that of his estranged godfather, Alhaji Lamidi Adedibu, would have claimed the governor's life.

Speaking to **THISDAY** yesterday on the incident, Adeganmbi, however, praised the State Security Service in Oyo and Ondo states for coming to the rescue of the governor at that critical period.

According to him, "the moment the party flag was handed to Akala, thugs led by a factional leader of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), his deputy and another thug riding in Jeep blocked the private Mercedes Benz belonging to the governor and attacked it with machetes. The leader of the thug was even saying, 'Ladoja, your end has come, come out. Let us kill you' while they kept attacking the car".

The media aide said as the thugs continued with their attack, men of the SSS around and the resident mobile police force came into the fray, firing teargas canisters into the air to dislodge the thugs and then rescued the governor who was in another unmarked car.

Adeganmbi claimed that the governor had security report of the planned attack, "but as a loyal party member and a governor of the party, he chose to ignore the security report and headed to

From Tunde Sanni

in Ibadan

Akure with his loyalists, ticket or no ticket".

Despite the attack, Adeganmbi expressed Ladoja's commitment to the peace and security of the state, assuring that his (Ladoja's) government would cooperate with security agents to ensure the maintenance of law and order in the state.

He said, "Violence is not in the best interest of Oyo politics and the country's politics in general. The governor had been very calm while the ceremony lasted, while his supporters had been playing the game according to the rule unlike his opponents."

But the Alao Akala Campaign Office spokesman, Dotun Oyelade said his principal was disappointed that Ladoja could export thugs from Oyo state to a neighbouring state in order to arm-twist the party hierarchy to nullify a democratically conducted party primary which produced him (Akala) as the party's gubernatorial candidate.

Oyelade said one of the casualties

of the attack was one Olayanju, a nephew of Akala and added that, "if it would take the blood of party loyalists to appeal to the conscience of those who were so violent-minded to seek peace, Otunba Alao Akala is ready to go extra mile to achieve that."

Meanwhile, three people were feared dead and several people injured Saturday as the peace in Ibadan, the capital of Oyo State was disturbed when rival political thugs unleashed terror using sticks, cutlasses and live bullets.

Eye witnesses' account told **THISDAY** that the weekend violence started around 11am when the thugs were allegedly escorting Adedibu and Akala to Akure to flag off the PDP presidential campaign in the South West.

With shouts of Akala ni joo, Akala ni jare, (it is Akala only, Akala is undisputable), the menacing thugs unleashed terror as they went through the heavy traffic built-up on their way to Akure.

Armed with the flag of the party, handed over to Akala at the Akure rally, the thugs, according

to sources, also returned to Ibadan shooting indiscriminately into the air as they reportedly sang the slogan of their political masters.

Their return was said to have turned bloody when the thugs, went after the bill boards of Governor Ladoja which they destroyed.

The action reportedly provoked Ladoja supporters who responded to the seeming affront, leading to a free for all and dispensed machete cuts on themselves.

The incident which started around 8pm took residents unaware while those who were caught in the cross fire sustained various degrees of injuries.

Three people were reportedly hit by stray bullet while a man who had matchet cut was rushed to a nearby private hospital, on Iwo road late at night.

Contacted on telephone, police boss, Jonathan Johnson said he was not aware of any clash between the supporters of Ladoja and Akala while camps of Ladoja and Akala traded blames over the clash.

Niger Delta: 90% Indigenes to Lose Jobs – PENGASSAN

From Juliana Taiwo

in Abuja

from Rivers, Bayelsa and Delta States.

"A lot of oil and gas companies

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN) has disclosed that 90 per cent of Niger Delta indigenes stand to lose their jobs in the region if the current insecurity and hostage tak-

insecurity how will development come to the area? If you are kidnapping, how will the place develop? A lot of developmental programmes have been put on hold because of this problem. Julius Berber was supposed to start the