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3 Killed, 9 Injured in Edo ACN Primaries

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Governor Adams Oshiomhole of Edo State

Three persons were said to have been **killed** and nine others **injured** in various clashes during the **primaries** of **Edo** State chapter of Action Congress of Nigeria (**ACN**) which took place on Wednesday in the state.

According to THISDAY investigation, two of the victims were said to have been shot at Udo in Ovia South West local government area while the third person, a woman, was **killed** and nine others **injured** at ward 5 in Akoko **Edo** local government area of the state.

Besides, fighting broke out at the state secretariat of **ACN**, along Airport road yesterday in Benin City, among members of the party from Ovia North East local government area of the state, just as another fighting was reported at Esan South-East among the party faithful, over disagreements regarding the conduct of the **primaries**.

The **primaries** which were in respect of the state House of Assembly, the House of Representatives and Senatorial seats took off at a slow pace Wednesday as a result of late arrival of election materials in many parts of the state.

Some wards particularly in **Edo** Central and **Edo** North senatorial districts did not receive any election materials and so the **primaries** could not hold in those places but results reported to have emanated from such wards.

The **primaries** where they took place adopted the open ballot system. However, it was learnt that some party leaders allegedly colluded with some party members particularly in Uhumwode local government area of the state to skew the **primaries** in favour of their preferred choices by shutting out other aspirants who could not muster the financial strength to post or maintain agents in their respective constituencies.

Additionally, some wealthy aspirants were alleged to have provided financial inducements to party members in many parts of the state, with specific incidences allegedly occurring in Oredo, where an aspirant was said to have given out N5,000 to each of the party members, and at Eguare Primary School, Ekpoma and Uwenuje Primary School, Irrua, where youths were said to have had a free-for-all while scrambling to collect their respective share of the monetary incentive.

Meanwhile, the **Edo** state chairman of the **ACN**, Mr. Thomas Okosun, confirmed the killing of one person during the **primaries** at Akoko **Edo** local government but said that anyone irrespective of their status found of any culpability in the death or in the perpetration of violence would face the full weight of the law.

The **Edo** **ACN** chairman admitted that they were a few places including Esan Central and four wards in Ovia North East where the **primaries** were inconclusive and that the party had ordered that **primaries** in those place be taken today (yesterday Thursday), and that they were looking into cases at Urhonigbe North and Urhonigbe South where, according to him, **primaries** were cancelled. As at press time, results of the **primaries** had not

been officially announced.