

Violence trails PDP primaries in Ebonyi

By Eric Ugbor

ABAKALIKI—AT least one person is feared dead, two others kidnapped and many injured during last Saturday's Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) State House of Assembly Primaries in Ebonyi state leading to an inconclusive exercise in some parts of the state.

In Onicha Local government area of Ebonyi State, a clash by unidentified political rivals led to a shootout that reportedly caused the death of a mobile policeman sent to ensure peaceful conduct of the primaries.

The hoodlums who were well armed were said to have intercepted the PDP electoral officers as they were approaching the council headquarters and opened fire on them causing panic and pandemonium as delegates scampered for their lives.

Although the electoral officers led by Mr. Pascal Ugadu reportedly managed to escape into the nearby bush the security men who tried to quell the actions of the hoodlums met stiff opposition which led to the alleged killing of the policeman.

In Ezza South local government area two unidentified persons were reportedly kidnapped while in Afikpo North West Constituency violence caused by doctored list of delegates reportedly marred the exercise.

Efforts to confirm the report from the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) Mr. Godwin Wekwa proved abortive as he was said to be away on official assignment.

Meanwhile, two female candidates, Mrs. Tonia Adol Awam, Ebonyi North East and Mrs. Helen Nwobasi of Abakaliki South Constituencies have so far emerged as PDP candidates for the state House of Assembly election.

Mrs. Awam who briefed newsmen at the Ebonyi local government council Headquarters, Ugbodo after she was elected described the exercise as free and fair, "and I wish to dedicate this victory to the women of Ebonyi state."

She expressed appreciation to both President Obasanjo and the leadership of PDP for giving women a chance to participate in the on-going primaries by making the nomination form free for women.

Awam who disclosed that her husband, Chief Adol Awam was her agent during the exercise confessed that it was not an easy victory and thanked the state party executive and the governor for upholding the tenets of democracy in the state.

Lecture: Nnamani to review OBJ's poverty reduction programmes

COME Wednesday, November 22, in the auditorium of the College of Medicine, University of Lagos, Idi Araba, Governor Chimaroke Nnamani of Enugu State will, once again tackle the issues of poverty in the land.

Billed to speak under the topic, Poverty in landour gods must hear of it, the governor is expected to articulate matters President Olusegun Obasanjo's poverty reduction programmes, implementation of which had seemed circuitous, with highly controversial results.

Nnamani is believed to be gearing to clear the air and help his professional colleagues set the path in keying into the seeming complexities of poverty incidences and policy actions in the last seven years.

Initially contending that widespread lack and system decay had affected the moral foundation of medical practice in Nigeria prior to 1999, the governor who is billed to give the Horatio Oritshejola Memorial Lecture of the College of Medicine, University of Lagos, is believed to have planned to boldly confront the subject from both the perspectives of ethics and incidences arising from social institutions.

According to sources close to the governor's office, Nnamani, who has given over 10 other lectures on the subject among other 30 lectures on diverse national issues is believed to have planned to articulate an expansion of the concept from confusing reports of incidences, to broad strategies propelling higher moral found-