

One feared dead, scores injured as AC factions clash

By Gbenga Olarinoye & Evelyn Usman

AT least five persons were yesterday seriously injured while one of them is now on danger list after a free-for-all broke out at Ibokun, headquarters of Obokun Local Government Area of Osun State during the local govern-

ment congress of the Action Congress (AC).

Similarly, one person was yesterday feared dead and several others injured during a bloody clash between factions of the Action Congress (AC) party at Makoko, area of Lagos. The bloody clash which brought commercial activities in the area to a total standstill, report-

edly spread to Yaba area and its environs.

In the crisis in Osun State, the name of the party member simply identified as Tankoré received a deep matchet cut on his head and he is on danger list at a private hospital in the area.

It was gathered that a gubernatorial aspirant of AC, Otun-

ba Jumoke Ogunkeyede escaped death by whiskers but his car was not spared as it was badly damaged beyond repair by the rioters.

It was gathered that the fight broke out as a result of disagreement over who controls the local government branch of the party between the faction of Engineer Rauf Aregbesola/Jumoke Ogunkeyede and Kunle Ige faction.

Vanguard also learnt that the disagreement started when Kunle Ige faction presented one Chief Ademola Adejuwon to be elected as chairman of the party in the council while the Aregbesola faction supported Chief David Oggunniyi for the same post.

In the Lagos fracas, unconfirmed sources said the deceased, an AC party supporter was allegedly shot dead by the police while trying to restore peace in the war zone. But in a swift reaction, spokes person for the Lagos State Police Command, Mr Olubode Ojajuni said the police did not release a single shot while trying to bring the situation under control. Ojajuni who said he was not aware of any casualty stated that rather, it was the warring factions that exchanged bullets among themselves.

Twenty persons according to him, had been arrested in connection with the fracas.

ing stalls own trial in Court

trial for alleged murder of a member of his church, late Miss Ann Uzor and attempt to murder six others by causing petrol to be poured on them and setting them ablaze on July 22, 2006 had, on Wednesday, given his evidence-in-chief led by his lead counsel, Mr Mike Okoye. He was therefore expected to be cross-examined by the prosecution yesterday but when he mounted the witness box the following dialogue ensued:

Prosecutor: Can you tell this court your name.

Accused: My name is His Holiness, the Most Honourable, Reverend Dr. King

Prosecutor: Are you also called Emmanuel Ezeugo?

Accused: I don't know anyone by the name Emeka Ezeugo.

Prosecutor: What is the name given to you by your biological parents?

Accused: I have been ordered by the Almighty God not to remember my former name. My degrees, the studies I had, the schools I attended, they have become the past since 2003.

Judge: The issue of identity is involved here. There is a name on the charge before me and it is important to clarify that it is the same person whose name is on the charge that is being tried, it has nothing to do with one's belief

Prosecutor: What is your biological father's name?

Accused: My biological father's name is Ezeugo but he did not even give me names, it was my spiritual father that gave me Charles Ezeugo. I

don't have birth certificate and I have been ordered not to remember the name again. There was nothing like Emeka. I have a covenant with God and He is the person I will go back to, I will keep that covenant by not remembering that name.

Prosecutor: But when the court registrar called the name on the charge sheet you stood up and entered into the dock.

Accused: I only responded to the suit number on the charge and not the name that was called.

Prosecutor: What is the name of the secondary school you went to?

Accused: I went to secondary school, I even went to the university but it is against my belief to mention the names of the schools I attended.