

PEOPLES Democratic Party, PDP, House of Representatives primaries held nationwide, yesterday, went bloody in at least two states - Lagos and Oyo - where three persons were feared killed.

Two persons were reportedly killed in Epe Constituency, Lagos State, after the supporters of an aspirant that appeared to be losing disrupted the exercise.

In Oyo State, the shadow election left one Wahab Jimoh dead and several people with matchete cuts in Irepo/Orelope/Olorunsogo Federal Constituency, Oke-Ogun.

The primaries were generally peaceful in other states.

Lagos: Two feared killed

In Epe Constituency, Lagos State primaries

turned violent after the supporters of an aspirant disrupted the exercise on the grounds that their candidate was losing.

The supporters then went on rampage attacking those perceived to be in support of the opposition and destroying their houses.

Two persons were feared killed in the process.

Sunday Vanguard learnt that the house of the opposition candidate, Mr. Adeleke Fariu Arebi, was one of the houses attacked by the rampaging PDP members.

The House of Representa-

tives aspirant himself was said to have narrowly escaped being lynched. At press time, Arebi was said to be taking refuge at Epe Police Station.

Oyo: One shot dead

The victim of the primaries in Oyo was allegedly shot dead by loyalists of a PDP chieftain in Ibadan who found out at Igboho-More Grammar School, venue of the election, that the supporters of his opponent had numerical superiority over his own candidate.

Also in Ibadan North Local Government, Gate, Honourable Tayo Sarumi representing Ibadan North in the House of Representatives alleged that a top government official took over the role of the Chief Electoral Officer and changed all laid down rules of the party to favour his candidate.

Sunday Vanguard gathered that as soon as the top government official arrived Ibadan North Local Government, he called all the contestants and instructed them that open ballot system would be used instead of the

secret ballot system allowed by the party. This generated opposition from those who felt that the party laid-down rules should not be unilaterally changed by an individual.

Sarumi said, "When we got there, there were no ballot papers and boxes for proper documentation. Eventually, we lined up and I had 400 delegates behind me out of about 480 that came. To my surprise, the top government official was counting those behind his candidates in tens and recorded 352 for him while he wrote 120 for me. Everything is on tape for everybody to see."

I don't know why they imposed candidate on us. They want to destroy PDP. I know that President Olusegun Obasanjo would not allow this type of ugly arrangement to succeed. He won't allow some politicians of questionable character to destroy this party. But I must tell you, an individual wants to destroy this party. He is a political contractor".

Ogun: Obasanjo's intervention saved primaries

The primaries in President Olusegun Obasanjo's constituency was almost marred as the delegates protested against the sole aspirant whom they accused of being stingy.

It took the intervention of Obasanjo and Governor Olugbenga Daniel to pacify the delegates who insisted on being paid N10, 000 each before they would vote for the candidate, Hon. Jelili Kayode Amusan.

At a stage Amusan had to prostrate to the delegates to appease them.

The primaries was for the House of Representatives ticket for Abeokuta North/Obafemi Owode/Odeda Federal Constituency.

The delegates before the arrival of the president had vowed that they would not vote insisting that the N1, 000 promised each delegates was too meager and that Amusan had not empowered them since he was elected into the House of Representatives in 2003.

At a stage Hon. Amusan agreed to give each delegate N2, 500, but they refused arguing that they would not see him again as soon as he returned to Abuja.

Obasanjo who on arrival with Governor Daniel at 1.40pm met the protesting delegate shouting "no, no" went round to greet them and asked them what their problems were before going to his seat.

With placards denouncing Amusan, the delegates at the Gateway Secondary School compound, venue of the primaries insisted that they would not vote unless they were paid by the aspirant.

Daniel then got up and approached the delegates to pacify them while Amusan prostrated on the field.

Obasanjo then got up again and told the delegates that they have a right to be aggrieved if offended but that after being begged they ought to be magnanimous and forgive the offender. He then pleaded with them to forgive and forget.

The delegates apparently pacified by President Obasanjo's words then shouted that they had agreed and voting started at about 2.05 pm.

Ekiti: Exercise suspended in one constituency

The PDP primaries conducted in five federal constituencies in Ekiti State was generally peaceful, though election did not take place in one other federal constituency, Ekiti South Federal Constituency 1, due to unfavourable security reports.

Ekiti South Federal Constituency 1 comprises three local governments of Ikere, Ise and Ekiti South Local Government areas of the state.

However, there were little bit of delay on the accreditation of delegates in some of the polling centres a development that could have marred the exercise, as most of the delegates complained bitterly about the late arrival of voting materials.

Bayelsa: Lists harmonised

All was calm in Bayelsa State with residents going about their normal businesses as there were no PDP primaries for the House of Representatives in any of the five federal constituencies following the harmonization of the list of aspirants by the contending forces in the state.

Sunday Vanguard gathered that the harmonization which was first adopted following the furore generated by the revalidation exercise of the party members in the state in the wake of the arrest of former governor, Chief Diepreye Alamieyeseigha, in London was again adopted to avoid heating up the already volatile state at the instance of President Olusegun Obasanjo.

The ward congresses held in the state almost fragmented the party into factions of the leading contenders namely the incumbent governor, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, Mr. Timi Alaibe and Mr. Timipre Sylva. Three lists were reportedly submitted to the party national secretariat in Abuja at the end of the exercise prompting the party leadership to set a committee headed by Chief Ebenezer Babatope to resolve the crisis.

This scenario it was learnt, prompted Obasanjo to order the contending forces to harmonize the lists of aspirants for the subsequent primaries so as not to over heat the already volatile state.

We understand the place of **people-centred reforms** in building a working society

No. 1 State in Governance and Reforms

SEEDS Benchmarking 2005

An assessment of cardinal pillars of developmental governance and reforms in 35 States and FCT

- Policy
- Fiscal Management
- Service Delivery
- Communication and Transparency

National Planning Commission,
World Bank, DFID, EU, UNDP

**NIGERIA 2007
EBEANO**

