

Osun bye-election: Thugs kill **AC agent, unleash violence**

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VIOLENCE yesterday marred the bye election into the Ifelodun/Boripe/Odo-Otin federal constituency of Osun State when some political thugs invaded Ward Nine of Iree in Boripe local government area killing the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) polling agent. The deceased simply identified as Abdullahi Taofeek and who was until his death the youth leader of the Action Congress in the area became the agent of the ANPP following an arrangement between the AC and the ANPP to field a single candidate for the bye election.

Similarly, two female staff of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) were seriously injured during the skirmishes and now on danger list at the Ladoke Akintola University of Technology Teaching Hospital, Osogbo. Only three parties fielded candidates for the bye election. They are the ANPP, PDP and AD. The state INEC Commissioner, Rev. John Dansu who confirmed the incident stated that the commission staff were

rough handled by the thugs while trying to prevent them going away with the ballot boxes.

The seat became vacant following the death of Chief Ranti Alabi of the PDP in December, last year. When newsmen visited Rainbow Hospital, Iree, where the corpse was deposited, it was learnt that the family of the deceased resisted all attempt by the police to carry the corpse to Ladoke Akintola University of Technology Teaching Hospital (LAUTECH) Osogbo. According to the family, they wanted to ensure that the killer of their son was brought to book in a traditional way and that would no longer be possible should the police carry the corpse to the mortuary in Osogbo.

Speaking with newsmen on the crisis, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) secretary in the state, Mr Yinka Adejojo who was alleged to be at the scene of the incident said the ANPP and Action Congress (AC) brought thugs in several vehicles to the polling booth and smashed the ballot box on the ground on the allegation that the PDP was rigging in the centre.