

Ibadan elders endorse Ajimobi against Akala

....Five killed as fresh violence erupts in Ibadan

By Ola Ajayi

IBADAN—UNCERTAIN TY yesterday beclouded the political atmosphere in Ibadan as the Ibadan Elders Forum rejected the candidature of the Peoples Democratic Party(PDP) flagbearer, Otunba Adebayo Alao-Akala who had already been endorsed by President Olusegun Obasanjo.

The elders, who unanimously agreed that they should be given freedom to choose their governor through democratic means said in unequivocal terms that they would not allow anybody to force any candidate

on them.

They said that "the unfettered freedom of some individuals to foist "mediocres and unqualified and inexperienced candidate" on them would be strongly resisted.

The solution to check thugery, and unchecked violence, they stressed was their collective decision to "reject the *status quo ante*" adding that though they were not biased politically, they held it as elders in the ancient city to ensure that someone who would change the lives of the good people of the state would be given the nod to represent them at the polls.

The elders led by their Chair-

man, Ambassador Olu Saanu then presented Senator Abiola Ajimobi, the gubernatorial candidate of the All Nigeria Peoples Party(ANPP) as the candidate endorsed by Ibadan indigenes.

But in a swift reaction, Akala through his Director of Media Campaign Organisation, Prince Dotun Oyelade said "the stand of Ibadan Elders in adopting Senator Ajimobi as the gubernatorial candidate is not a popular stand of Ibadan people".

Meanwhile, fresh violence again broke out in Ibadan between supporters of the Labour Party (LP) and the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) resulting in the death of

five people and destruction of many vehicles.

The bloody clash reportedly took place at Moniya Roundabout in Ibadan when some supporters of the PDP armed with dangerous weapons allegedly descended on members of the Labour Party where they were holding their rally.

Secretary of the PDP in the state, Alhaji Tunde Olayiwola denied the allegation and noted that they were somewhere else holding their campaign. He said "though I have not got the details of what happened, I'm sure that our supporters are law abiding who would not do such a thing".