

Ondo LP task IG on curtailing PDP violence streaks

The Labour Party in Ondo State has asked the Inspector General of Police, through the new Commissioner of Police in the State to curtail the brazen display of violence of the PDP before Saturday's rescheduled National Assembly election.

In a statement yesterday, Dr. Olaiya Oni, the party chairman said reports from across the State on the botched election showed an unbelievable predisposition to violence and impunity by the PDP and its apparatchiks in the State.

Oni said: "In the whole of the Southern Senatorial District, the PDP embarked on a wholesale importation of thugs and miscreants from far flung locations to intimidate would-be voters, discourage them from exercising their franchise and if all these fail, disrupt the counting and collation process.

"In one instance in Igbotako, two buses with numbers Lagos XW836 AAA and XH 480 BDG were apprehended by vigilant residence with a pump action gun and several other arms of lesser calibers. The young men who were non-Ikale speaking and non-residents of the area were said to have been imported to frustrate the process in Igbotako, the home town of the Labour Party candidate, Mr. Boluwaji Kunlere."

In other instances, Oni said two other buses were caught with another set of thugs though one of them managed to escape after the occupants shot sporadically into the air in Ode Aye.

"In Ese Odo, thugs in company of Mr. Agboola Ajayi, the PDP member representing Ilaje/Ese-Odo Federal Constituency not only rode roughshod over the people of the area but attacked known Labour Party members wounding at least two of them.

"In Ilaje, a Commissioner in the State cabinet was not only attacked while on his way to cast his vote, his friend and family members were also manhandled. Even policemen who waded in to arrest the drift to anarchy were assaulted and disgraced in Mahintedo by known PDP thugs," Oni said.

The story, according to the LP boss was also the same in Ose/Owo federal constituency when another PDP man in the garb of the Action Congress of Nigeria and his thugs attacked people known to be supporters of the party threatening to maim them should they get anywhere near the polling units.

"From the spate of violence, we know that State police command may be overwhelmed on Saturday hence this call on the police High command to order the arrest of known people who have infringed as obviously done by the PDP on the law.

'We do not want to resort to self help but cannot continue to ask our members to turn the other cheeks when it is apparent the PDP members are not going to be satisfied with just slapping them. There must be an end to the ogre of intimidation and oppression by people who have never ceased from saying they will deal with our members with their 'federal might.'

"Though we note the avowals of the President to peace and orderly conduct of electoral affairs, we state that the PDP in Ondo State shares no part in this and have been doing everything to upturn the peace of Ondo State,' Oni Stated