

NATION

Osun AC, PDP trade tackles over Appeal Court

As the people of Osun State eagerly await the verdict of the Court of Appeal on a case against Governor Olagunsoye Oyinlola instituted by the Action Congress (AC) Governorship candidate in the last general election, Engr. Rauf Aregbesola, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the AC are now trading tackles, with each claiming it will emerge victorious in court.

At the last sitting of the Appeal Court sitting in Ibadan, the appellate court admitted some exhibits put before it by counsel to Aregbesola, Mr. Kola Awodehin (SAN) against the PDP. However, while the PDP claimed that the sitting of the appellate court favored Governor Oyinlola, the AC described it as a plus to its appeal.

The elections Petition Tribunal in Osogbo had last year ruled in favour of Governor Oyinlola of the PDP, upholding the election that brought him to power. But dissatisfied, Aregbesola, the former Lagos State Commissioner for Works and Infrastructure, proceeded to the Appeal Court, Ibadan to challenge the verdict of the lower tribunal.

While the PDP insisted that the admittance of exhibits by the Appeal Court at its last sitting would not affect the party's victory at the court, the AC maintained that the admittance of the exhibits would work against the PDP.

The Deputy state Chairman of the PDP, Chief Sunday Ojo-Williams, noted that the Appeal Court did not rule on the matter before it, adding that only the ruling of the court could have effect on the case. He said the court did not admit any other exhibits in favour of the AC in addition with those admitted by the lower court, but noted that the court approved those already admitted by the lower tribunal.

According to Williams who led the state delegation to the court, "the Court of Appeal did not admit any other exhibits or witness as sought for by the counsel to Aregbesola," adding that the PDP has no cause to doubt the integrity of the judiciary on the matter.

He denied reports that some members of the PDP were arrested at the premises of the Appeal Court, saying those arrested were members of the AC who attacked PDP loyalists at the court premises after the court sitting.

"I led the party delegation to Ibadan, where the Appeal Court sat and I returned with the same number of people I took to Ibadan. Not even a single person was arrested by either the police or any other law enforcement agency," he stated.

Describing AC as a party that celebrates falsehood, the PDP leader stressed that "AC as a party celebrates falsehood and lies and at the same time rejoices in rumour.

"The world knows that AC is a political party that celebrates all that tends to be false and the party has machineries for doing this. We in PDP are aware of their evil manipulations." He urged members of the public to disregard information on the last Appeal Court sitting, saying "the hope of the PDP to win at the appellate court is as constant as the northern stars."

"The PDP has no cause to doubt the outcome of the appeal. We are sure of winning and that is why I will appeal to our people to disregard all rumours peddling by the AC. Only the Court of Appeal has the authority to decide our fate. No amount of insinuation can change truth and jus-



Oyinlola

By **BAMIGBOLA GBOLAGUNTE, Osogbo**

Our party is based on truth, justice and faithfulness while they celebrate lies concocted by their leaders who know the truth but fail to say it."

But the AC's Director of Research and Strategy, Mr. Sunday Akere, faulted the PDP's position, arguing that the Appeal Court accepted the interlocutory appeal on the rejection of the election results and ordered forensic and physical inspection of materials used for the 14th April, 2007 general election.

Akere explained that the position of AC and that of its gubernatorial candidate, as canvassed by their lawyers led by Chief Kola Awodein was that the lower Tribunal deliberately shut out evidence by disallowing the party from tendering and analyzing reports of the forensic and physical inspection which it ordered.

He said all the three interlocutory appeals filed by counsel to Aregbesola were consolidated with the main appeal at the last sitting and accepted by the judges of the Court of Appeal, Ibadan.

"For the PDP to now stand the truth on its

head by going to town with falsehood and lies shows how warped, perverted, demented and disturbed the shivering interlopers in Osun State are. When the Appeal Court knew it will not make use of the call logs we tried submitting to them, it out rightly rejected it on the 2nd of February, 2009 and our unlearned interlopers in Osun did not hesitate going to town to celebrate a fake victory thinking that was the end of our case.

"Now that it has dawned on them that their end is nigh, they won't mind fooling and feeding the people with falsehood reminiscent of the Hitler Gestapo days," Akere stressed.

He clarified that "our appeals for acceptance of Adrian Forty report, Tunde Yadeka physical inspection report and the Certified True Copy of police report on Osun Election were all accepted for consideration in the final ruling by the Court of Appeal."

Akere, who stressed that "the decision to rig Osun election and pervert the course of justice at the lower tribunal is a deliberate one aimed at denying Osun people the right to choose a governor of their choice," said truth will soon prevail at the Court of Appeal.

"A court does not make use of a document it did not accept for its final adjudication as Osun PDP admitted in its release and only fools will believe the lies being churned out from the usurpers masquerading as rulers."

Dissociating members of his party from the crisis at the court premises, Akere said the court was invaded by PDP members from the state, adding that "the armed invasion by PDP thugs is part of the plan to cause confusion and create the impression that there will be breakdown of law and order if the wrong done Osun people in the April 14, 2007 election is corrected."

He advised the police to ensure that those arrested in connection with the crisis at the Court of Appeal are brought to book, while all those fingered as sponsors made to face the full wrath of the law.

"The judiciary should be allowed to do their job unhindered as the people are eagerly waiting, yearning and praying that the god of justice that visited Ekiti and Ondo states will come to judgment in Osun state," he said.

NMN tasks Yar'Adua on Nigerian students in Malaysia

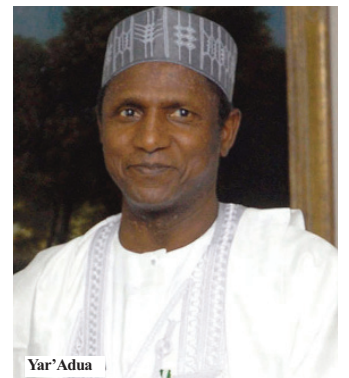
By **CAROLYN OPATA**

Call has gone to President Umaru Yar'Adua to put in place all necessary machinery that will ensure the security of life and properties of Nigerians studying in Malaysia.

In an open letter to president Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, members of the Nigerian Muslims Network (NMN) an Internet group of Nigerians at home and in the Diaspora lament over the racial discrimination and killings of innocent African Students in Malaysia. According to NMN, some groups Malaysian youth have resorted to extorting money from African students, robbing them of their properties and ultimately killing them. In less than a year, three African students have been killed. A Malaysian newspaper (Malay Mail of September 23rd, 2008; also available online at http://www.mmail.com.my/Victims_of_hate.aspx) broke the news of the death of Mr. Abdel Aziz Hassan Abdraman, 22 years old, on

September 21st, 2008 by a group of Malaysian youth who were angered by his inability to give them money. The death of Mr. Kadar Abdul Kadir Said followed a similar trend when, on January 22nd, 2009 (Malay Mail of January 23rd, 2009, Pg. 4-5; also available online at http://www.mmail.com.my/Somali_student-as_fatal_vacation.aspx), he was clubbed mercilessly with crash helmets, iron bars and stones before finally strangled to death by the Malaysian youth," the letter to the president, a copy of which was sent to The Westerner stated.

The NMN lamented the silence and lukewarmness of the Malaysian Government over the atrocities meted on innocent African students.



Yar'Adua

2007) and Aderibigbe Muyiwa (expelled since 2005)."

The students stressed that total reinstatement and end to political suspension and expulsion would provide opportunity for genuine engagement among the university authorities, students and staff unions.

The student activists pledged their support for the continued defence of not only students' welfare interests but also the collective interests of the working and poor people for better living.

"Our suspension and travails, rather than diminish our belief has further strengthened our resolve to commit ourselves to these goals. And we enjoy all change-seeking individuals and groups to join us in this road," they added.

"Despite several media reports on the deaths of these young, innocent, and promising students, the Malaysian government has not, either overtly or covertly, apprehended or reprimanded the perpetrators of these heinous act," the open letter signed by NMN president, Dr. Kamorudeen Abidogun and Secretary General, Engr. Bashir Bello stated.

Expressing their disappointment in the Malaysian Government, a supposed role model to other African countries, NMN called on other African Nations to come to the rescue of African students in Malaysia.

"We are of the opinion that the African countries, especially those whose citizens are studying in Malaysia, should enter into a diplomatic dialogue with the Malaysian government on the way to forestall future occurrence of these criminal acts and bring the perpetrators to justice" the Muslim group stressed.

OAU pardons ex-student leader, others

Reprieve finally came the way of four ex-student leaders of the Obafemi Awolowo University, (OAU) Ile-Ife, including Adeniyi Adeleke, former President of the Students Union between 2000 and 2001, when the authority of the institution granted them an unconditional pardon and reinstated them.

The other affected students include Kola Ibrahim, Oyediji Nurudeen, a former clerk of parliament and Frank Ogaga, former Co-ordinator of Education Rights Campaign (ERC) OAU branch.

The Registrar of the university and Secretary of Governing Council, Mr. A.O Ogunraku, in a statement said the students should resume academic activities from second semester of the 2008/2009 session.

By **BAMIGBOLA GBOLAGUNTE, Osogbo**

However, Frank Ogaga, who was part of those recalled by the Council, has not been given his letter on the grounds that his studentship file has not been located.

The reinstated students while expressing their profound appreciations to all those who contributed to their recall also lauded the students of the institution for standing solidly behind them during their travails.

The affected students in a letter dated March 16th, 2009 also called for the review of the cases involving "three of our colleagues - Akinola Saburi (former Union President expelled since 2007), Ogumah Andrew (former Speaker of the union, suspended since