

Primary School, the Speaker expressed satisfaction with the improvement on the function of the smart card reader, unlike the March

around here in Tambuwal about card readers failing to recognize finger print of voters."

The Speaker, who is contesting against his brother-in-law Senator

State. Masari was Speaker between 2003-2007. He unsuccessfully ran for the Katsina state governorship in 2007 under the platform of the PDP.

Abubakar Auwal & Abdulfatai Abdsalami, Sokoto

Soldiers kill 4 at Kebbi PU

From Garba Muhammad, Birnin Kebbi

Soldiers have allegedly killed four voters at the Bayan Dutse polling unit, Ginga Ward, Suru Local Government of Kebbi State.

The House of Representatives-elect representing Suru/Bagudo federal constituency, who confirmed the incident said it happened around 12 noon on Saturday as accreditation was on going.

He said: "A serving Area Development Councillor, Ahmed Sankezu invited the soldiers to arrest some prominent elders in the area because he was earlier prevented from accessing the PU to perfect their rigging plan.

"The soldiers opened fire on the voters who challenged them from 'arresting' the elders," he said.

Our correspondent revealed that the area is predominantly pro-APC.

The Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Nafiu Abubakar, when contacted on phone confirmed the incident.

The governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Kebbi State, Senator Atiku Bagudu has urged the voters in Kebbi to guard their votes.

Also, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) flagbearer in the state, General Sarkin Yaki Bello warned against do-or-die politics in the state.

On his part, the Minister of Special Duties Kabiru Tanimu Turaki, said the outcome of the governorship election in Kebbi State would be a win-win situation for the people of Birnin-Kebbi since the candidates of the APC and PDP are both from Birnin-Kebbi.

They all spoke during interviews with our correspondent after they had been accredited to vote in their various polling units.

Bagudu said he was hopeful to win the elections. "Everyone is

hopeful," he said.

While calling for a violence-free election, Bagudu said: "We have stressed numerous times during the campaign that we don't want anyone to get hurt for politicking.

"We want everyone to be obedient, cooperate with the security agencies, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and more importantly to guard their rights. They should do what the law says.

"They should ensure that there is no thuggery and nobody takes away the mandate that they want to confer on whosoever they so desire."

He lamented the high rate of the card reader failure but commended the significant improvement in the turnaround time per voter.

Bagudu said: "We noticed that the turnaround time has improved significantly even though the failure rate of the card readers is still significant so the number of entries in the incident form is quite high."

Former Governor of Sokoto State, Alhaji Attahiru Bafarawa has said they stand behind President Jonathan in his acceptance of the outcome of the presidential election. He stated this yesterday at his hometown in Isa local government area of the Sokoto after casting his vote.

"We stand behind our leader, President Goodluck Jonathan," he stated when asked to comment on the outcome of the March 28 presidential polls.

Meanwhile, our correspondent observed at the Isa and Sabo Birnin axes of the state that the use of the card reader machine was highly improved upon.

INEC officials said the exercise went on smoothly without any hitches as was the case during the presidential polls.

Commenting on the election, Chairman of the APC in Sokoto State Alhaji Usman Danmadami Isa described the turnout of voters as highly encouraging in Isa local government of the state. Generally, the governorship and state House of Assembly elections in Sokoto State witnessed timely accreditation in many parts of the state.