

INEC confirms death of one staff

By Muideen Olaniyi | Published Date Feb 25, 2019 3:35 AM

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The Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, yesterday, confirmed the death of one staff in Rivers State due to bullet wound while returning from election duty.

Prof. Yakubu, who briefed stakeholders at the International Conference Centre (ICC) yesterday, promised that the commission might consider the possibility of using armed policemen at polling units after a post-mortem.

He expressed hope that the death would be investigated, and the culprits brought to book after a comprehensive report might have been submitted to the security agencies.

Prof. Yakubu, who said only the commission was constitutionally empowered to announce election results, advised journalists and social media enthusiasts to be circumspect in the way the outcome of the polls was being presented.

The INEC boss, who said the technical glitches experienced in some locations were successfully rectified, regretted that the logo of African Action Congress (AAC) was inadvertently omitted from the ballot paper for Lagos East Senatorial District.

He said the commission had contacted the chairman of the party to acknowledge the error.

He listed States where elections were repeated on yesterday due to the failure of smart card readers and inadequate materials to include Abia, Bayelsa, Benue, Plateau, Zamfara, and one polling unit each in Sokoto and Kuje Area Council of the FCT.

He said the commission had received preliminary reports and was monitoring the situation in Rivers, Lagos, Imo, Zamfara and the cases of intimidation, abduction, burning of ballot papers/boxes and violence unleashed on electoral officials in some States.

He said since no State recorded wilful and wholesome refusal to use the smart card readers, there was no need for any repeat election.

Prof. Yakubu, who said the results of the presidential and National Assembly elections in Ekiti State were ready, added that the State Collation Officer was already on his way to the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, to submit the results for presidential elections.

The INEC chairman said the results of the presidential elections from 36 States and the FCT would begin to trickle in between last night and this morning after the inauguration of the National Collation Centre that was done yesterday.

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