

# INSIDE POLITICS

## Bayelsa: PDP supporter killed, INEC officials held hostage

● Six out of eight LGA results put Diri ahead of Sylva

From Bassey Willie & Victor Edozie, Yenagoa

A middle-aged man, George Sibó, has been killed at the collation centre in Twon-Brass, Brass LGA of Bayelsa State.

Sibó, identified as a supporter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), was reportedly attacked by a mob suspected to be supporters of one of the political parties taking part in the election.

Daily Trust gathered from witnesses that the deceased was attacked at the Governorship Election Collation Centre at the Local Government Area headquarters when results for some wards in Constituency 11 were being submitted.

Confirming the killing, Bayelsa State lawmaker representing Brass Constituency 1, Dr Daniel Charles, urged security agents to immediately arrest and prosecute perpetrators of the dastardly act.

The deceased, popularly called "Kobo-Kobo" is said to be an indigene of Twon-Brass and an aide to the Brass Local Government Chairman, Hanson Alabo-Karika. He was married with children.

When contacted, police spokesman in Bayelsa State, CSP Asinim Butswat, said he was still awaiting details from the area command in Brass.

This is as the officials of the Independent



■ Diri

National Electoral Commission (INEC) have been held hostage in the same Brass Local Government Area.

"This is detrimental to credible elections. We call on the security agencies to immediately facilitate their release," INEC said while calling on security agencies to secure the release of the officers.

The development comes 24 hours after Ms Ebehireme Blessing Ekwe, the Supervisory Presiding Officer (SPO), who was abducted on election eve, regained freedom.



■ Sylva

Already, the results of six out of eight local government areas of the state have been announced by INEC, with the incumbent governor and candidate of PDP, Duoye Diri, winning in five and Timipre Sylva, candidate of APC winning in one.

The local government areas where results have been announced include Yenagoa, Nembe, Ekeremor, Ogbia, Kolokuma/Opokuma and Sagbama.

The two local government results awaited are; Southern Ijaw and Brass.

Earlier on Sunday, stakeholders and supporters of the PDP embarked on a peaceful protest over alleged disenfranchisement of their members in Nembe-Bassambiri during Saturday's off-cycle governorship election in the state.

The party stakeholders took the protest to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) head office in Yenagoa.

The Bayelsa State Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Biriyai Sambo SAN, who spoke during the protest, said they were at the INEC office to register their protest on the disenfranchisement of party members in Nembe-Bassambiri in Nembe LGA of the state.

Addressing the protesters, the INEC Resident Electoral Commissioner in the state, Obo Effanga, represented by the head, Voter Education and Publicity, Mr Wilfred Ifogah, said the commission is not joking with the Bimodal Voter Automated System (BVAS), while assuring them that the units where the BVAS were not used would be cancelled.

He said, "No BVAS, no election in that particular unit, and it will be cancelled, so that is the assurance I am giving you right now.

"This protest definitely will get to the REC. I want to thank you all and assure you that the other process will continue in the collation centre. It will also be presented before the collation officer."