

Wednesday, May 04th | Last update **11:00:00 PM GMT** | **HEADLINES:** Mark consoles defeated senators, mourns slain corps members



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Five die in ballot snatching incident in Benue

WEDNESDAY, 27 APRIL 2011 00:00 FROM MOHAMMED ABUBAKAR (MAIDUGURI) AND SIMEON NWAKAUDU (MAKURDI) [NEWS - NATIONAL](#)



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INEC pledges to cancel polls in crisis areas

FIVE people were feared dead in Mbayee-Yandev ward of Guma Local Council, Benue State after youths resisted some political thugs who hijacked ballot boxes at Kaseyo town and were taking them to the home of a government functionary in the area.

At about 9a.m., two buses conveying Independent National Electoral Commission ([INEC](#)) workers to the commission's collation centre were ambushed by armed thugs who snatched voting materials from them.

As the hoodlums diverted the materials to the home of the government official, armed thugs from another party stormed the residence and opened fire on the other hoodlums.

After the exchange of gunfire, the political thugs from the second party gained access to the home and set ablaze all the voting materials for Mbayee-Yandev ward. The thugs also [beat up INEC ad hoc staff](#) for alleged complicity in the incident.

Also, armed thugs disrupted voting in [Ye Ward](#) of Guma Local Council, as they clashed over the control of [ballot papers for the area](#). Voters took to their heels while security personnel struggled to bring the situation under control.

The remains of those killed in Mbayee-Yandev Ward littered the home of the politician as at press time.

Public Relations Officer of INEC in Benue State, Jacob Iyanda, confirmed that all genuine materials for Mbayee-Yandev Ward in Guma Local Council were burnt by thugs and that no result from the ward would be recognised.

Meanwhile, INEC yesterday confirmed the withdrawal of National Youths Service Corps (NYSC) members posted to Damboa Local Council of Borno State over threats to their lives.

Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) of the state, Prof. Tukur Sa'ad, who spoke, confirmed the development, but said a meeting was held with some of the affected corps members where their fears were allayed.

Sa'ad also confirmed reported cases of ballot snatching in the state, but assured that "in places where some people are caught snatching boxes, we will have to cancel that election in that particular location."

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Author of this article: From Mohammed Abubakar (Maiduguri) and Simeon Nwakaudu (Makurdi)

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