

Protests Greet Poll Results

Continued from A1

Mechanised Division, Major General, Mohammed Sanni Saleh, put it.

Tension is heightened by the violence reported in the other South West states of Osun, Ekiti, Ondo - and Ogun, where three people were shot by soldiers in Ijebu-Igbo, before Governor Gbenga Daniel was returned as elected in Abeokuta.

He won a second term and accepted it with kind words for the "umpire," the police and "the good people of Ogun State" as well as President Olusegun Obasanjo, for standing by the state "in this watershed election."

Obasanjo commended the exercise where he voted at the African Church Grammar School in Ita-Eko, Abeokuta, but the INEC annulled it without giving the reason.

However, an INEC official confided that the result was cancelled "because ANPP scored 2,598 whereas the PDP scored 245."

Protests greeted the declaration of Daniel in some areas such as the ever busy Sapon, the students-popu-

lated Onikolobo, Sokori, Ijebu-Igbo, Akin Olugbade, and Isabo.

The PDP was declared winner in all but one of the 26 Assembly seats with that of Ijebu North Constituency 1 outstanding.

Resident Electoral Commissioner, Godfrey Miri, said the cancellation of Ijebu North results was informed by violence during the ballot.

Four persons were killed in Ile-Oluji, Ondo State, on Sunday as tension rose in Akure, where thousands besieged the INEC office chanting war songs. Women protested half naked to register their displeasure over fears of upturning the results.

The death toll in Cross River has increased from five to six; the latest was recorded on Inyang Nta Henshaw Avenue in Calabar South.

A PDP candidate, Timipre Sylva, won the governorship in Bayelsa with 776,715 votes.

His challenger from the AC, Ebitimi Amgbare - who scored 10,769 - regretted that he was not allowed to vote at his Ogobiri community

and urged the INEC to cancel the result because the ballot was not transparent.

All the 24 seats in the Assembly were declared for the PDP, even with protests from politicians and electors.

Governor Goodluck Jonathan dismissed the allegations, saying the elections were free and fair, and appealed to the losers to accept the results in good faith.

AC governorship candidate, Babatunde Fashola, emerged Lagos Governor-elect, to the chagrin of PDP power brokers who had deployed their all to "capture" Nigeria's commercial capital.

They lost for the second time, this time hugely, in a state that is the hub of intellectuals. The late Funsho Williams narrowly lost to Governor Bola Tinubu in 2003.

The AC has also won 37 out of the 40 Assembly seats declared.

Lagos AC Chairman, Henry Ajomale, and Publicity Secretary, Joe Igboke, denied allegations of rig-

ging and said the party would resist any annulment.

The calm that descended on Lagos after the announcement of the result was indicative of the fact that Lagosians were satisfied with the result.

However, the AC in Jigawa, alleging rigging, has rejected the results of the elections prior to their official announcement by the INEC.

State AC Chairman, Daudu Suleiman, told a press conference in Dutse that part of the reason for rejection is because the official computerised voters' register was replaced with a manipulated manual one such that several people were disenfranchised.

He complained that most presiding officials and polling clerks are known card-carrying members of the PDP and that agents of opposition parties were chased away from polling units and ballot boxes stuffed in the absence of the agents and voters.

According to Suleiman, ballot boxes were snatched from polling stations in several councils and later found in police stations and INEC office.

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