

10 feared killed in Bauchi, one in Katsina

By Baba Negedu (*Kaduna*) and
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• Protest breaks out in Adamawa

FORMER military Governor of Kaduna State, Abubakar Umar, expressed delight on

Sunday that Nigerians have disappointed those who thought they could not conduct free and fair elections.

Nearly everything went well nationwide, except that the death of 10 persons in Bauchi, one in Katsina, and

protest in Adamawa tainted, what would have been the

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most peaceful Presidential vote since 1999.

Youths mostly under aged and believed to be supporters of the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) unleashed terror on innocent people in the name of protecting the votes cast for the party.

In Azare, headquarters of Katagum Council, they set ablaze the homes of state Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman, Ibrahim Yaro-Yaro, and Deputy National Secretary, Musa Babayo.

Other buildings belonging to PDP members were also torched.

The hoodlums said they were protesting against insufficient ballot papers, a claim the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) denied.

In Alkaleri, the vandals burnt building and cars. Both Kirfi Council Chairman, Ibrahim Galadima, and Bauchi Council Chairman, Sabo Mohammed, were molested and their vehicles were burnt.

The home of the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Ibrahim Dandija in Misau was torched, and an Electoral Officer, who is a member of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), was beaten up and is

now in hospital.

The campaign office of Governor Isa Yuguda on Ran Road, Bauchi was completely razed along with vehicles belonging to PDP agents.

The rioters blocked Ahmadu Bello Way leading to the Sa'adu Zungur Model School which served as the collation centre for the Presidential election.

In Wuntin-Dada and Guru in the metropolis, three people were killed by the youths who questioned why the PDP won in some polling centres in the area.

Two more were killed in the Kofar-Dumi, where homes

and cars were also torched.

A team of soldiers and anti-riot policemen have been deployed in strategic locations in Bauchi to maintain peace.

Police have arrested some of the vandals.

Riots broke out in Katsina, after a policeman, Tanko Abdullahi, shot dead a young boy identified simply as Najib.

Youths burnt tyres on highways and pulled down all PDP posters and symbols in Yola.

Shops hurriedly closed and a sense of danger loomed, with thoughts that the violence could spread to Maiduguri where five bombs were set off in the past 10 days, killing

several people, including policemen.

But even with such pockets of violence in the North, Umar stated in Kaduna that Nigerians have shamed those who thought they could not hold credible elections.

He pleaded with the candidates to know "that out of the many who went into the race, only one could win" and Nigerians should accept the result.

"We must take pride in the fact that we, Nigerians, have disappointed our detractors who say we never can organise free, fair, and praise worthy elections," Umar said in a statement issued in Kaduna.