

Five killed, one kidnapped as PDP sweeps LG poll in Akwa Ibom

By Aniefiok Macauley
Correspondent, Uyo

NO FEWER than five persons were at the weekend feared dead in various parts of Akwa Ibom State during the local government election conducted by the Akwa Ibom State Independent Electoral Commission (AKISIEC), for the positions of Chairmanship and Councillors in the 31 LGAs of the state.

Daily Independent learnt that while three persons were reportedly killed in Ini Local Government Area in a fierce battle for supremacy between ACN and PDP, two other persons were allegedly killed in

Itu in a shoot-out by thugs.

Our correspondent who monitored the elections observed that in Mkpai Enin Local Government Area, the People Democratic Party (PDP) Vice Chairmanship candidate, Miss Eno Williams, was allegedly abducted by unknown gunmen, but was later released around evening on Saturday.

Meanwhile the election results announced by the chairman of the commission, Mrs. Gloria Ukpang, showed PDP sweeping all the chairmanship positions in the 31 local government areas.

The results, announced without figures, also showed that

in the state's 329 wards where elections were conducted, PDP won 325 councillorship positions while ACN won only one seat each in Ikono and Mbo Local Government Areas respectively.

Ukpang also announced that United Nigeria Peoples' Party (UNPP) won one councillorship seat in Esit Eket while All Nigeria Peoples' Party (ANPP) won another seat in Ukanafun.

Speaking on the low voter turn out that greeted the exercise, Ukpang noted that people were eager to go and vote, but were intimidated by political thugs.

According to her, "I think many people were out to vote, but were cowed by miscreants out for their selfish interest," adding, "We acknowledged that we have received petitions and protest letters from aggrieved parties, but as the law says, the state government will set up election tribunal to take care of these grievances."

State chairman, PDP, Paul Ekpo, who commented on the success of his party at the polls, said it would have been abnormal for any other party to win elections in Akwa Ibom after seeing how Governor Godswill Akpabio has transformed the state.