

# Rivers Of Blood: Wike's Former Aide, 15 Others Feared Dead

By **Daniel Abia** - February 24, 2019

2



*Nyesom Ezenwo Wike*

**P/Harcourt** – As predicted, blood letting was the order of the day in Saturday's presidential/National Assembly elections as the former special adviser to Governor Nyesom Wike, Pastor Mowan Etete and his brother were shot dead by suspected gunmen.

Mowan who was a former council chairman of Andoni local government area was allegedly shot dead as early as 11 am on Saturday in his house at Asarama in Andoni. Eye witness said his property were carted away by the assailants.

It will be recalled that Mowan who was a staunch member of the peoples' Democratic Party, PDP, had defected to the All Progressives Congress, APC, and challenged the national chairman of the PDP, Prince Uche Secondus and the former deputy governor of the state, Engineer Tele Ikuru who are also from the same Andoni.

Etete's elder brother was also shot dead including one Ignatius, an ex-officio member of the APC in the state.

There was sporadic shooting at Unit 3, 11, 6, & 7 in Ubima, Ikwerre Local Government Area, home town of the transportation minister, Rotimi Amaechi.

Also, reports from other parts of the state showed a pattern of organised violence and shootings in some cases with the military, Police and political thugs as the main actors trying to properly scare people away from danger zones.

In a statement issued by the Rivers State PDP Director of Information and Communications, Emma Okah, the party has described the situation as “barbaric and appalling, coming after the people of Rivers State had complained aloud about the threats of rigging, intimidation and violence hanging over their heads”.

Emma Oka described the situation as “a black day in Rivers State as the Presidential and National Assembly elections turn bloody with many PDP members shot dead by the military in Akuku Toru Local Government Area”.

It was also gathered that in Bonny LGA, the Army and police stopped distribution of materials to the units.

It will be recalled that the Nigerian Army had deployed troops to halt reported election violence in some local government areas in the state.

Col. Aminu Iliyasu, Spokesman of Nigerian Army 6 Division, Port Harcourt, confirmed the deployment of soldiers to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Port Harcourt on Saturday.

It was learnt that two persons were feared dead at Ogu in Ogu-Bolo Local Government Area while shootings were heard in Abonema town Akuku Toru Local Government Area of the state.

Iliyasu said: “We are hearing that there are some skirmishes but we have not yet fully confirmed the situation.

“However, in order not to escalate the situation, our team has already been moved to the area to make sure that everything within the area is calm.

“We also did this to ensure that people go about and cast their votes without any form of molestation,” he said.

Iliyasu said the role of the army in the election was secondary and was only supporting the police and other security agencies.

He said the army would only act on the invitation of the police.

“So, if there is any emergency that would warrant our involvement, the police or any security agencies will alert the closest army team to calm fraying nerves,” he said.

Meanwhile, the Resident Electoral Commission (REC), Rivers, Mr Obo Effanga, has confirmed reports of election disruptions in some local government areas but said the commission is working with the police to arrest the situation.

Effanga made the assertion while fielding questions from newsmen in Port Harcourt on Saturday.

According to him, the commission is taking note of the areas where there are disruptions of the election processes.

He also said that the commission was yet to find out exactly what happened about the information that one of the staff was allegedly missing.

In his response, Mr Enabor Edwin, the Head of Voters Education (HOD), also said that the alleged fake result sheet by APC agents in Bonny was a fake report.

Edwin said that the materials were inspected at the Central Bank premises before they were moved to their various local government areas.

He said that the alleged missing election materials in ward 6,7,8 and 9 in Okrika area had been reported to the State Commissioner of Police.

“We have got in touch with the CP and has also got in touch with the Garrison Commander here, who said they will send some security men to go to the area.

“The security would be there until the election is over so that the miscreants would not disrupt the election again.

"We heard that two of our units in Emoha were disrupted but that has not stopped the election to continue in that area, the election officer said that the election is still ongoing in the area.

"We are also aware of an alleged report from Okrika area that the election materials were carted away by hoodlums.

"We heard that people who carted away the materials were led by a Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of that local government area.

"And this report had been made to the Commissioner of Police (CP), who has been making calls to get the DPO so that the issue would be taken care of.

"Elections are going on smoothly in Obiakpor, we also got a report from Abonema that some people want to disrupt the election, but the security personnel are on their way now to arrest the situation," Edwin said.

Similarly, Mr Precious Elekima, the Governorship Candidate of the Social Democratic party (SDP), who is from Abonema told NAN on telephone that he was yet to cast his vote as at 2.49 p.m.