

# NEWS

## Abuja Council Poll

### One Killed, Records BVAS Failure, Low Voter Turnout, Vote Buying

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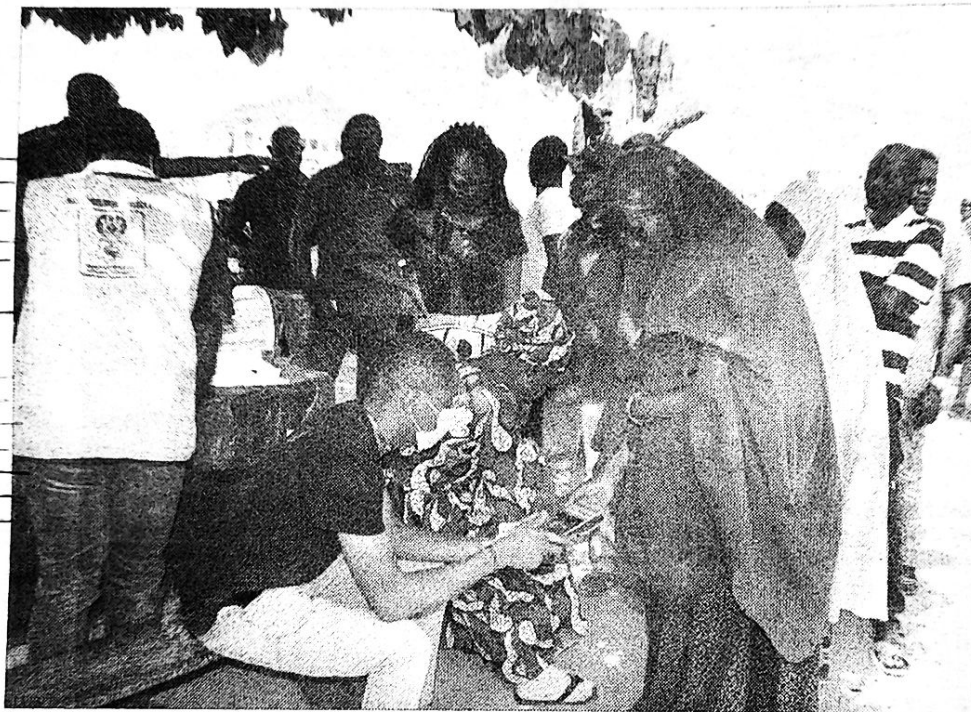
A middle aged woman has been killed after being hit by a motorcycle rider said to be a supporter of one of the major political parties at the February 12 council poll in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

The woman, who came to cast her vote, was attempting to cross the road to her polling unit at PU048, Salasi opposite Post Office, in Kary, Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) at about 10.12am.

The motorcycle rider, who carried the flag of one of the political parties, was reportedly in top speed.

Voters in the area immediately arrested the motorcyclist and handed him over to security operatives deployed for the election.

Recall that the FCT



Command of the Nigerian Police movement restriction order, but hours later, released another statement

relaxing the restriction, urging residents to go about their normal duties.

Yet, hours later, at about

midnight, the command again issued a fresh restriction, which it attributed to credible intelligence

Voters being accredited by INEC official at Dankogi Polling unit, during the 2022 FCT Area Council Elections in Abuja on Saturday. PHOTO: NAN

## Records BVAS Failure, Low Turnout, Vote Buying

The FCT council poll was characterised by Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) failure, low voter turnout and late arrival of the officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in some areas, our correspondent gathered.

The election, which took place in over 1,000 polling units across the six area councils that make up the nation's capital, with 478 candidates vying for six chairmanship and 62 councillorship positions.

The election was held

in six area councils: Abaji, Kwali, Bwari, Kuje, Gwagwalada and Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), with 14 political parties participating in AMAC.

INEC workers were late to voting centres as observed by our correspon-

dent who visited polling units within AMAC.

The election in the council also witnessed a low voter turnout. The story was the same in Gwagwalada area council.

The election in the council was also frustrated by BVAS failure, which

wade the accreditation and voting process slow.

There were incidents of vote buying in AMAC and Abaji.

Party agents were seen clustering around and subtly wooing voters across other polling units in the council.

## Aduda Decries BVAS Failure, YIAGA Africa Indicts Voters

The Senator representing the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Senator Philip Aduda has decried the alleged low performance Bi-modal Voters Accreditation System (BVAS), even as he expressed hope that it was not a ploy.

Aduda, who spoke shortly after casting his vote at Unit 004, said the exercise there was calm and seamless.

He, however, said he was dissatisfied with the performance of the BVAS machines across several area councils.

Also, Ezenwa Nwagwu, a board member of YIAGA Africa, rated punctuality index low, saying voters did not turn up early at most of the polling station he visited.

Nwagwu said that generally, the election was rife with open demand for money by voters, stressing that the development did not augur well for the development of the country's democracy.

He, however, scored the performance of the BVAS high well generally.

He urged President Muhammadu Buhari to quickly sign the Electoral Act Amendment Bill.