

chines further worsened the situation for voters and the ad-hoc INEC officials man

Akwa Ibom Poll: 1 Killed

At least, one person has been confirmed killed in Uyo. The unidentified deceased was allegedly killed while trying to cart away ballot box, even as irregularities, arising from lateness of election materials by officials of INEC marred the elections in Akwa Ibom State yesterday.

At most of the centres visited, there were issues with the electronic smart card readers, a situation that made the election officials resort to manual accreditation.

Also, there were no result sheets at almost all the centres visited by our correspondent in Uyo, Ikot Ekpene and Eket Senatorial Districts.

Speaking on the conduct of the election, Akwa Ibom State Governor, Godswill Akpabio, said the poor performance of the card reader machines vindicated the position of those who opposed it. To Akpabio, the introduction of the card reader machines by INEC was sheer duplication of electoral processes.

His words: "When I came for accreditation, my own worked, but that of my wife delayed and it didn't work at first and second attempts, it only worked at the third attempt.

"The report I got across the country was card reader machine failure in many places. I also saw things on the web site of INEC that someone has hacked into their system.

"But we have always said that the card reader will always be the major hindrance. It's like duplication because the register has the name and pictures of everybody.

By Bernard Tolani Dada, Uyo

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