

Polls: Two dead, eight injured in Ekiti

THE governorship and House of Assembly elections were held in Ekiti State amidst widespread rigging and violence.

At least two persons were feared killed in Ikere-Ekiti and Ise-Ekiti while eight others received gun shot wounds in the violence that ensued in the course of voting.

There were massive snatching of ballot boxes in virtually all local government areas visited leading to violence among the ballot snatchers and those trying to defend their votes.

Other flashpoints of violence were Ido-Ekiti where a fake State Security Service (SSS) operative was apprehended, Itapa-Ekiti, Ayegbaju-Ekiti, Emure-Ekiti, Okemesi-Ekiti and the state capital, Ado-Ekiti.

A Government House source revealed on Saturday in Ado-Ekiti an alleged official collaboration in the reported electoral fraud in the governorship and House of Assembly polls conducted in the state.

According to the reliable source, vehicles used in transportation of ballot boxes were coordinated by a police officer attached to the Government House

(name withheld). The vehicles used, according to our source were marked ONDO XA 818 ANG, EKITI XA 599 EFY, EKITI EB 530 KER, EKITI EX 141 KER

ONDO ED 238 NND, EKITI XB 501 KER and EA 650 KER.

A golden blue Peugeot 406, he went further, with bearing a security number LAGOS DA 775 AAA from the Government House which belong to a former special adviser in the Fayose administration was given to the said police officer attached to the Government House who is in charge of mobile policemen for participation in the alleged electoral fraud.

The vehicles were led by the driver to the ex-special adviser while other buses used included those marked EKITI 835 KER and EKITI XA 33 TUN and they reportedly left the Government House around 8.30 am while another government official allegedly provided uniforms to some fake election observers.

Our source also revealed that at about 1.30 pm when voting was at its peak, two vehicles belonging to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and a private car were accompanied to the Government House by a top official of the electoral

body with eight policemen with ballot papers.

The vehicles-pick-up vans belonging to INEC were marked FG 246 V01 and FG 314 V01 9. the two pick-up vans were joined by Mazda car marked AJ 113 ADK.

The SSS also confirmed the arrest of three persons in connection with an assassination attempt on the life of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) governorship candidate, Mr Yinka Akerele.

They were Philip Idowu and his two accomplices simply identified as Adebayo and Seun. The fourth person reportedly escaped with bags containing weapons to be used for the attack on the ANPP flagbearer.

Death, chaos, rigging mark elections in Osun

THOUGH an uneasy peace hangs over Osogbo the state capital, the elections state-wide have been marred with wide spread violence and thuggery, with at least four dead and reported stealing of ballot boxes, absence or lateness of polling officials, ballot stuffing and multiple voting.

The dead toll were at Osun, in Atakumosa local government (one), Igbajio, in Boluwaduro local government (one), Iree, in Boripe local

President Olusegun Obasanjo cast his vote at his Ita-Eko, Abeokuta residence in Ogun state at exactly 9.40 a.m., yesterday expressing satisfaction at the conduct of the election in its early stage.

The President arrived African Church Grammar School, Asasin's compound, Totoro/Sokori ward 11 at about 9.30 am, did accreditation for about five minutes before casting his vote at 9.40 a.m.

He said: "As you can see here, people have started voting before I came and the exercise has been peaceful.

"This morning, I tried to go round to find out what the situation is throughout the country. One or two places there have been some little incidents over the night (referring to killings in Kano and Port

in the country is very satisfactory, and as you can see here now, people have started voting, even before I came here and they are peaceful".

According to Obasanjo, the Kano killing was very unfortunate.

"It is not political, it is intra-religious and yesterday I called on the Sultan of Sokoto who, as you know, is the head of Muslims in the country and he is already doing something about it," he said.

"The Port Harcourt killings, they told me, is purely criminally motivated".

A security guard of the school, 58 year old Pastor Elijah Taiwo, with voter registration card VIN3000500398, was the first to cast his vote by 8.20 a.m.

He expressed happiness for being the first "to vote for the progress of the na-

where the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) governorship candidate, Sen. Ibikunle Amosun voted, voting did not start until exactly 10.45 a.m. as electoral officers arrived late. Turn-out at the polling unit was impressive but just as people were becoming apprehensive about the whereabouts of the polling agents, they rushed in and started mounting their election materials.

Amosun waited for about 45 minutes before he could cast his vote as the first voter in the place.

Reports from Sagamu indicated that Gov. Gbenga Daniel, who is the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) governorship candidate, voted at exactly 8.54 a.m. at Isote ward six, Sagamu.

The turn out there was also impressive while people were enthusiastic to exercise their franchise.

take place. As at 10.30 am, no voting had started, as there was no INEC official in sight.

A similar situation was reported in Ijebu Ijesa and other communities in Oriade local government. Though there was a large turnout of voters, thugs suspected to be PDP supporters, prevented people from voting.

In Ode Omú in Ayedade local government area, thugs suspected working for the PDP, unleashed terror on voters, carting away ballot boxes.

A top Action Congress (AC) member and special adviser to former Governor Bisi Akande, Ayo Afolabi, complained of PDP thugs beating him with charms and the rampaging mob after his life.

Reports from Gbongan, in the same Ayedade local government, talk of a total mop-up of all ballot boxes, stolen and emptied in the house of

Alhaji Ademola Razak, the Osun State PDP chairman, where massive thumb-printing was reportedly going on as at 2.30 pm.