

Jigawa AC rejects guber election results

The Jigawa Action Congress party in Dutse yesterday rejected the outcome of the gubernatorial and state house of assembly election results in the state even as INEC has not announced the final results.

Alhaji Sule Lamido former minister of foreign affairs and the PDP candidate won the guber polls.

Stating this at the Three Star Hotel, the state chairman of the party Ambassador Daudu Suleiman said the rejection became necessary due to alleged irregularities that marred the exercise in some parts of the polling units in the state adding that AC may not participate in the presidential elections.

He said in Roni local government one person was allegedly killed and a policeman injured by alleged PDP thugs of which forced the INEC to announce the cancellation of the results and only for it to declare a different one in favour of the PDP.

Ambassador Suleiman said the electoral process was

From Ahmed Abubakar, Dutse

characterised by rigging in Birnin Kudu and Gwaram local governments were he alleged that ballot boxes were forcefully removed by armed thugs and later replaced with PDP votes.

The chairman stated that in Buji local government elections were concluded under just one hour in most of the polling stations which indicated that the entire process was conducted and finished by 9am.

He said voters on queue were denied voting by INEC officials despite petitions by the party and called on all members of the state to outrightly reject any outcome of the results and be ready to defend the course of democracy in the country.

Another reason the party gave for the rejection was that all over the state official computerised voter registers were replaced with manual registers such that many people were disenfranchised in the process.

He stated that presiding officers and polling clerks that officiated over the election were known members of the PDP while agents of various parties were chased away from their designated polling centres and claimed that ballot boxes were stuffed with fraudulent votes.

Ambassador Daudu Suleiman indicated the state party's readiness to boycott the presidential election if by Thursday necessary action by INEC has not been taken.

Daily Trust report that in Birnin Kudu area and the home town of the PDP gubernatorial candidate Alhaji Sule Lamido election were characterised by massive rigging and intimidation of political opponents by party supporters that besieged some polling stations in the state.

Election in Kazaure was also marred by a riot that broke out between the Action Congress (AC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP) supporters where mayhem was unleashed on unsuspected

voters at the Roni polling unit that were dispersed and only few could vote.

The riot which was confirmed by the police resulted in the arrest of the Roni district head and seven others whom were suspected to have had a hand in the destruction of properties where two cars were set ablaze that led to the escalation of the crises in the area.

At the Babaldu polling station in Birnin Kudu some hoodlums had virtually taken hostage of the INEC adhoc staff posted to conduct the elections in the area where they kept them in a classroom.

The hoodlums who were suspected to be PDP agents also took over the whole polling unit together with the work of the INEC adhoc staff were they forcefully ask voters to thumbprint against the agents choice candidates.

Even journalists were not spared by the brutality of the hoodlums who after realising that we are pressmen threatened to deal with us if we reported what we saw happen-

ing at the polling booth.

One agent that assumed the role of the presiding officer in the unit that was doing the stamping and issuing of the ballot papers insisted that journalists should not be allowed to view the unfolding episode on tape and ordered that our recorded interviews should be seized.

A reporter of the FRCN in the state was lynched by the group whom after being caught stuffing the ballot box with votes suspected that we came to spy and report them to the authorities, it took the intervention of the community elders to intervene even as the only police officer at the place pretend not to notice what was happening however some of the reporters valuables were removed including their tapes.

Over 6,000 security personnel's said to have been deployed to the state for the smooth conduct of the election could not make much impact as only their presence could be seen in the state capital and the PDP candidate's house in Birnin Kudu.