

One killed, others injured in Niger Council polls

A PARTY supporter was on Saturday stabbed to death and three Policemen injured in the Niger state local government elections that were marred with violence and apathy, while elections did not hold for lack of voting materials in some areas of the state.

Though the election which started as early as 8 am in some polling stations in Minna the state capital, did not start in some areas six hours after the commence-

**From Jide Orintunsin -
Minna**

ment of voting for late arrival of materials.

Tragedy struck in Kagara, Rafi local government area of the state when a face off between supporters of two rival parties left one of them (names withheld) dead. He was stabbed to death in the melee that ensued. A Jeep car belonging to a Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chieftain, Alhaji

M o h a m -
med Shua
was equally
d a m a g e d
during the
row.

In Muyan Local government area voting did not take place in at least ten units in Serkin Pawa, the headquarters of the councils. Investigations by our correspondent revealed that voting materials were not taking to the area, while some electoral officers in some of the units turned down offer to preside in the area.

The development in the area made the leaders of both Action Congress (AC) and All Nigerian Peoples Party (ANPP) to formally protested to the Divisional Police officer, as the office of the Niger state Independent Electoral Commission in the area was under lock and key.

Spokesman for protesting parties, Ahmed Malami Dogo, the AC chairmanship candidate described election in the area as a sham and unacceptable to the two parties. "What we are witnessing today is a rape of democracy. This election was a sham and unacceptable to us. In places where voting was conducted electoral officers did not use the register," Dogo complained.

In Suleja local government, election would have witnessed early disruptions, as thugs allegedly hired by one of the political parties stormed some polling stations in the town to chase voters away from polling stations, but their moves were countered by the

Police.

Violence however erupted at Old Minna Park and Anguwar Gayain polling stations when the thugs realized that most of the voters that braved their presence were voting for candidates in the opposing party, and ventured to cart away the ballot boxes before Police men in the area rose to the defense of the boxes by taking them away to the Police station.

Irrked by the action of the Policemen, THENATION gathered that the thugs descended on the Policemen for attempting to take away the boxes to safety. In the course of the attack, the thugs injured an Assistant Superintend-

ent of Police, Mr. Hassan Umoru and two other junior officers.

As at 2:30 pm seven ballot boxes were seen at the Suleja Police station.

In Gbako local government area, ballot papers were brought in at about 12 noon while officials of the electoral body had to send for result sheets for the chairmanship election results at about 2:15 pm.

The peaceful situation in Bida local government was nearly marred by an early face off between supporters of two main parties at BCC polling unit, before Police intervention quell the row.

CLASSIFIED ADVERT FOR N2,500.00

Simply produce your marriage certificate or sworn affidavit for change of name and your advert is in the soar away The Nation at rock bottom price. Please contact, the Advert Department on 01-8164283, 01-4580751, 01-4520845 or Gbenga on 08052720421