

Eight killed as PDP wins Akwa Ibom poll

EIGHT persons were reportedly killed in Akwa Ibom State on Saturday following the violence that rocked the local government poll.

In Ini Local council area, eight persons were reported dead as factions of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) clashed. The leaders were said to have imposed candidates on the electorate.

About seven persons were also killed during the local government primaries in that area when youths accused an Assembly member, Hon. Paul Owo, of diverting election materials to his house to rig for his candidates. His house was burnt.

The crisis was a fall-out of the emotions in the area. Weapons including guns, machetes, clubs and charms were freely used.

Some of the injured are receiving treatment in some undisclosed hospitals and clinics in Ikono and Ini.

• Over imposition of candidates

From Iniobong Ekpinta, Uyo

In Uruan and Udung Uko, violence raged as PDP supporters battled the opposition which made a good showing.

Ballot materials were said to be diverted to secret places where voting allegedly took place. PDP loyalists in Uruan. Election that was supposed to end by 2 pm did not start in Uruan until in the night, sparking off violence. An eye witnesses said those killed died of gun shots wounds.

The Police spokesman, Mr. Gab Ngban, said his command was yet to get the report.

Meanwhile, results of 16 local government areas so far released by the Akwa Ibom

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State Independent Electoral Commission (AKISIEC), showed PDP has set the tone for a sweeping victory in the poll held across the 31 local government areas.

The AKISIEC chair, Mrs. Gloria Emmanuel Ukpong, who announced the results at the Udo Umana Street, Uyo Secretariat of the Commission, listed the local governments

to include Etim Ekpo, Ukanafun, Nsit Ubium, Nsit Ibom, Ika, Ibesikpo-Asutan, Mbo, Nsit Atai and Eastern Obolo.

Others are Ibeno, Onna, Ikot Ekpene Etinan, Okobo, Obot Akara, Urue Ofong Oruko and some wards in Uruan.

Governor Godswill Akapbio voted in his country home, Ukana Ikot Ntuen, in Essien Udim Local Government. He thanked the traditional ruler of the area for rallying the people to vote and praised the peaceful conduct of the poll. The Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Obong Umana Okon Umana and the Commissioner for Information, Mr. Census Amos Ekpualso praised the conduct of the poll. in charge of Lands, Mr. Nse-Abasi Akpan and the former military administrator of the state, Otuekong Idongesit Nkanga expressed delight at the outcome of the exercise.

'Why UNIPORT lecturers killed'