

concluded election in Ekiti as a process, then we can confidently say that while the events of the voting day itself may have led many to believe that the election was free and fair, the same cannot be said of the events before, during and after the election.

The party listed the anomalies in the countdown to the poll, saying "the events leading to the D-Day in Ekiti negate the principles of a free, fair and credible election."

"From the militarisation of the election to the police attack on our supporters, arrest and detention of our leaders across the

simply under a total lockdown. "While we believe that the police and the Civil Defence indeed have a role to play in providing the necessary security for the election, we do not see why soldiers and NDLEA operatives who were armed to the teeth need to be deployed to a non-belligerent situation like an elec-

ordered the deployments of the troops and for what purpose? Who gave the orders to stop Governor Rotimi Amaechi from reaching Ado-Ekiti, as the army captain who stopped and threatened to shoot him said he was acting under "orders from above"?

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investment portfolios linked to the Abachas in France, the Britain, British Virgin Islands and the United States."

The Minister explained that the withdrawal of charges was to prevent the Abacha family from benefiting from the looted funds.

any shadow of doubt is resolved in favour of the accused person. "The incontrovertible facts that the efforts to retrieve "Abacha loot" predate this administration and have been going over 16 years with varying degrees of success. How

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# Abuja blast death toll hits 23 as families search for bodies

## More explosives recovered from two suspects

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He declared the bombing as an "evil act".

National Hospital spokesman Tayo Haastrup said a victim died as a result of serious burns after he was brought to the hospital.

The Head of Department of Nursing, Maitama Hospital, Nme Ndanusa, said a victim died in the hospital bringing the total bodies in the morgue to 10.

In the April 14 Nyanya blast, a little girl, Baby Goodness, escaped with a scratch. Her mother was seriously injured. In the Wuse II blast, a baby boy, Joshua, survived miraculously, but Joshua's mother died instantly.

It was learnt that Joshua, who was strapped onto his mother's back, was thrown off by the blast and found sitting on the ground, crying. Sympathisers rushed to the scene and took him to the Maitama Hospital.

At the hospital, Joshua refused to eat. He held tight to a woman nurse who attended to him and never wanted to let go of her. He turned down every other person trying to carry him.

In the evening, his father came up with pictorial evidence before he was allowed to take him away. Joshua was released to his father after being examined and found to be stable.

Ndanusa said 53 people were admitted yesterday. Some have been discharged, and seven transferred to other hospitals. "The ones we have on admission

**M**ORE explosives were seized from two suspects believed to have coordinated Wednesday's EMAB bombing in Abuja, the Defence Headquarters (DHQ) said last night.

The DHQ also explained the last moment of the mastermind of the explosion.

It said the suspect was defiant till he died, yelling: "More people will die!"

**No fewer than 103 insurgents were killed by troops in two separate encounters.**

**The clashes occurred in Duguri near the Nigerian - Nigerien border, Miyanti and Bulungu.**

The Director of Defence Information, Maj. Gen. Chris Olukolade, released the fact sheet at about 9pm.

The statement said: "More explosives were seized from two suspects believed to have coordinated the bombing of EMAB Shopping Plaza in Wuse II Abuja on Wednesday 25th June 2014.

"Bystanders at the scene of the explosion alerted soldiers on patrol to the two suspects who were speeding off on a power bike. The soldiers swung into action, engaging the escaping suspects and fatally

are responding to treatment," Ndanusa said, adding:

"As at yesterday, we recorded nine deaths but one of those brought here alive died bringing the total deaths to 10. The total on admission is 12. The remaining have been discharged and some were referred out."

At the Emergency Ward, the head of the unit, Dr. Haruna, said: "Two patients were discharged today (Thursday) and we have seven now in the emergency unit.

"We have two patients in the female ward, one in the male ward and four in the VIP ward. Some were referred to the National Hospital, Asokoro Hospital, and Wuse, due to inadequate bed space."

Some relatives who were waiting at the entrance of the mortuary spoke with our reporters.

They were unhappy that after filling documents, the hospital's management did not release bodies to them.

One of them said: "My broth-

From Yusuf Alli, Abuja

wounding one of them who fell with his bag as the motorbike rider still made efforts to escape through the crowd.

"The bag recovered from the suspect was later confirmed to contain a package of IED and other accessories, including stop clock, mobile phones and other materials used for setting off explosives.

"The suspect who was shot by the soldiers finally died in the hospital as he defiantly yelled "people will die! people will die!!". After the incident, 21 persons were confirmed dead while the wounded victims are receiving treatment in various hospitals. **Two more people have died in the hospital taking the death toll to 23.**

"Two other suspects arrested at the scene of the explosion are being interrogated.

"15 suspects have also been taken into custody in Abuja after a raid that resulted in the recovery of seven rifles, pistols, swords and other weapons. Military operations to track armed gangs will be sustained in various locations."

The statement added: "In another devel-

er's name is Aliyu Usman. He sold guava at the entrance of the plaza and he was married with four children and one wife. He hailed from Kano State.

"We are four staying in the same location, close to the mosque at the plaza. Farouk is a tailor, Lukman, a shoe maker, Aisha, *nunu* seller and Aliyu, whose body has been identified; we are still looking for the others."

At the National Hospital, Haastrup said: "We have some of

opment, a makeshift camp of terrorists in Miyanti and Bulungu have been sacked during a raid on terrorists' hideouts in the area. Over 50 terrorists died in the clash.

"A fuel dump used for storing fuel for their operations as well as vehicles including Toyota Hilux trucks, Peugeot cars and seven motorcycles were destroyed in the raid while 15 rifles, 11 machine guns and hundreds of ammunition were captured by the troops.

"In a separate encounter around Duguri near Nigerian - Nigerien border, troops of the Multinational Joint Task Force stormed a terrorists' hideout in a raid operation and recovered 18 rifles, five General Purpose Machine Guns, 25 hand grenades and IED making materials.

"A total of 53 terrorists died in the encounter while the troops lost two men and five others suffered varying degrees of injuries."

"A suspected gun runner is undergoing interrogation in Plateau State.

"He was apprehended during a cordon and search operation by troops tasked to mop up illegal arms in the state."

the victims transferred from Maitama Hospital to National Hospital, about two or three of them. As at today, we have eight bodies in the mortuary. Unfortunately, one of them who claimed to be a Senegalese and who said that we should contact his embassy, died as a result of very serious burns. About 90 degrees burns. Medically, it is only God that can intervene in such a situation. We have eight now; seven were brought from the scene of the incident."



• Boy Joshua...out of hospital

Security agencies said they got a hint of the blast.

Department of State Security (DSS) spokesperson Mar Ogar told reporters at the scene of the blast that security agencies got a hint of the attack a two weeks ago and that measures were taken to forestall it.

Ogar said the sponsor of the travellers who were intercepted by soldiers in Abia had been

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### WORLD CUP RESULTS

- USA 0 - 1 Germany
- Portugal 2 - 1 Ghana
- Algeria 1 - 1 Russia
- South Korea 0 - 1 Belgium

### SECOND ROUND TIPS

- Algeria vs Germany
- Belgium vs USA

### ADVERT HOTLINE

08023006969,  
08052592524