

NIGERIA VOTES

Election: IDPs weep as they reunite with relatives

SOME Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) yesterday shed tears of joy after reuniting with friends and relations during accreditation at IDP special polling centre during yesterday's polls.

The IDPs wept as they reunited with their relations whom they thought were dead when Boko Haram sacked their towns in 2014.

Most of the IDPs were said to be from Michika and Madagali Local Government Areas in Adamawa.

One of them, Madam Hajara Samuel, seen at the IDPs Special Polling Centre, Aliyu Mustafa College, Yola, said that he was separated from his family five months ago by Boko Haram insurgents.

She, however, expressed joy that the exercise had afforded them the opportunity to reunite.

Samuel, who was in tears, said that before the insurgency, he and his neighbours used to cast their votes in the same unit in Michika LGA.

Alhaji Haruna Manzo, who hails from Bazza in Michika, said that since he and other IDPs fled Michika in 2014, he was seeing his immediate neighbour, Ezekiel Haruna, for the first time.

Manzo described Haruna as a close friend, adding they fled for safety when Boko Haram elements took over their village.

He, however, expressed joy that he met Haruna again at the polling unit as IDPs in Yola.

There was impressive turnout of voters at the IDPs special polling centre.

Speaking shortly after being accredited at the Aliyu Mustafa Secondary School IDPs polling centres, Alhaji Abubakar Kari, an IDP also from Michika said he was impressed with the electorate's turnout.

Kari, who was the state Chairman, Adamawa Positive

Scores of APC members shot dead in Rivers

Scores of members and supporters of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Rivers State were killed and maimed as the presidential and national assembly elections got underway across the country yesterday.

One of the victims, an APC member in Ward 3, Unit 2, Ogale-Elleme, was allegedly killed by a soldier attached to a prominent leader of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Elleme, Elleme local government area.

The deceased was among the APC members who had put up resistance to an attempt by the PDP chieftain to use soldiers guarding him to hijack electoral materials in the area.

The police later came to remove the body, even as another soldier was shot dead at Wimpey-Port Harcourt.

His death was confirmed by the Commander, 2 Brigade of the Army, Bori Camp, Brigadier General Koko Essien, although he gave no details of the killing.

However, eye witnesses said the late soldier was in a truck with his colleagues on Friday night when gunshots were unexpectedly fired at the vehicle, fatally hitting him.

Many other APC members were disenfranchised, party chairman, Dr. Davies Ibiamu Ikanya, said in a statement through his spokesman, Chief Chukwuemeka Eze.

He blamed "armed militias working for the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)" for the attacks.

"Scores have already been killed and several others marked for elimination. This morning (yesterday) in Kpife Town, Tai Ward 2 and other areas of the state, five people were shot dead by PDP's armed militia, and that was before accreditation commenced," Ikanya said in a statement to which the photographs of the victims were attached.

He said PDP and its agents targeted APC strongholds and chieftains for attacks and killings, citing examples.

These include Chidiebere Okwuolu, a former Commissioner and currently an APC leader, said to have been arrested by police and taken to Olu Obasanjo Police Station in Port Harcourt along with 99 other arrested APC members scattered in various police Stations in the state.

He said that at Ubima, the home town of Governor Chibuike Amaechi, "the INEC results sheets are currently with Chief Nyesome Wike, the

- 100 others arrested
- Rejects outcome of elections
- Amaechi refuses to vote

From Bisi Olaniyi/Precious Dikewoha, Port Harcourt

gubernatorial candidate of PDP in Rivers State while at Andoni, his (Ikanya) the Local Government Area of Rivers State APC Chairman, the National Vice Chairman of PDP and his cousin, Tele Ikuru (the Deputy Governor of Rivers State who few days defected to PDP) "hell has been let loose; electoral materials have been hijacked by PDP agents in connivance with the army that has been threatening to arrest and kill any APC chieftains in sight."

He also alleged that the Caretaker Committee Chairman of Andoni Local Government area, Esuku Esuku, was "ordered out of Ngo, headquarters of local government, by the Joint Task Force (JTF)/army personnel deployed to Ngo, or be killed."

Continuing, he said: "At Abonnema, headquarters of Akuku-Toru Local Government, materials are being distributed from the house of Minister of Sports, Chief Tammy Danagogo, instead of the INEC office, without any security personnel. Danagogo has held the policemen that ought to escort these materials to the polling units hostage and injuring DPO of Abonnema, Mr. Joseph Kayode for daring to accompany Hon Isobo Jack the Commissioner for Urban Development to the Polling Unit, relevant pictures attached."

"PDP thugs hijacked materials and INEC personnel meant for Akuku-Toru Wards 15, 16 and 17. The hijacked materials and men were taken to Freetown, a hinterland coastal community. The attack was led by two youths whose identities are known."

"In Tombia, in same Akuku-Toru local government, PDP had by Friday night filled the community with Ijaw Youth Council (IYC) bouncers who were attacking APC members and, at the same time, preventing those returning home to vote from entering the town. They were doing so in the presence of soldiers who were too few in number. The Caretaker Committee Chairman and others were injured on Friday. The over 30 APC members that were to act as agents were arrested."

"In Buguma, which is the Headquarters of Asari-Toru Local government, policemen were busy all day arresting APC chieftains."

"In Gokana Local Government, trained INEC ad-hoc personnel were replaced with untrained manpower suspected to be PDP members. This is believed to have been done in connivance with the LGA Electoral Officer (EO)."

"At Opobo/Nkoro, the Local Government Area of Dr. Dakuku Adol Peterside, the gubernatorial candidate of APC, the house of Opobo/Nkoro Caretaker Committee

Chairman, Loveday Jaja, was torched after he escaped to avoid being killed by the PDP hoodlums. Electoral materials meant for the Local Government Area have been diverted to John Africa/Ada Tom Pepple Compound area where they are thumb-printing in favour of PDP. Another person Alafagha Oko-Jaja had his head broken head and he is seriously bleeding. No one is sure if he will survive."

"The army has been going around the community harassing people while Chiefs in Kalaibama are compelling them to vote for President Goodluck Jonathan of PDP. This is said to be on the orders of Chief of Army Staff, Major-General Kenneth Minimah, who is also from the town."

"A PDP Agent in Unit 006 Ward, Oopbo/Nkoro was caught with INEC Register and

fake results sheet at the polling Unit."

"At Oyiigbo LGA, 40,000 incident forms were being given out at 6:30 a.m. but they stopped when the APC Agent complained about it. He was however asked to leave the INEC office at about 11:30 a.m. Already, 120,000 incident forms have been to Port Harcourt LGA, 80,000 to Obio/Akpor and 50,000 to Ikwerre LGA. The incident forms are one of the ways PDP plans to use to rig the elections around the country, especially in the South South and South East."

"In Okrika, there was sudden change and appearance of fresh and inadequately trained INEC ad-hoc staff who tried to persuade voters to undergo manual accreditation, claiming that card readers assigned to Okrika LGA polling booths were not working (even without trying them). In a few units where APC supporters insisted on 'No Card, No Accreditation', the card readers mysteriously began to work. But in majority of the places manual accreditation is being undertaken."

Also in Okrika, there is insufficient delivery of electoral materials by INEC. Up till now no one, not even party agents, has seen the original result collation sheets. The INEC officials claim it is not everything that they must explain. Meanwhile, INEC

delivered incident forms far excess of the number of registered voters."

Ikanya said that on the hand, PDP stalwarts were "openly parading bundles of PVC cards in their possession." while one of them accompanied by police and PDP thugs armed with guns, went round chasing away APC members from doing accreditation."

Dr Ikanya passed a vote of no confidence on the State Resident Electoral Commissioner, Gesila Khan for, in his view, failing in her duties.

"Whatever trash she will announce as the result of today's (yesterday's) election is not acceptable to us and we ask for her immediate transfer and a new date be set for a proper election in Rivers State than the sham and charade that was calculated to rubbish INEC and democracy," he said.

Governor Rotimi Amaechi refused to be accredited in his Ubima hometown after INEC officials failed to produce result sheets for the elections.

Information Commissioner Ibim Semenitari told reporters that Amaechi took the decision because "he could not subject himself to accreditation when the required election material meant for his unit could not be accounted for."

She said the same problem was reported from all parts of the state.



• President of the Senate, Sen. David Mark (right) while casting his vote at Otukpo Ward 1, polling centre during the Presidential and National Assembly election in Otukpo, Benue State.

APC raises alarm over use of FG facility in Lagos

THE All Progressives