

Woman killed as low voter turnout mars FCT council election

A middle-aged woman was killed during the FCT council election yesterday. She was knocked down by a motorcycle.

According to an eye witness, the incident happened at about 10:12am at Polling Unit 048, Salasi opposite Post Office, in Karu, Abuja Municipal Area Council when the woman, a voter, was attempting to cross the road to her polling unit.

The motorcyclist was immediately arrested and handed over to security operatives deployed for the election in the area.

The motorcyclist who had the flag of one of the major political parties was said to have ridden in a dangerous manner.

Police had earlier on the eve of the election announced a restriction of movement, however, hours later they released another statement relaxing the restrictions and urging all residents to go about their normal duties.

At midnight, the Command again issued a notice of restriction, saying it was in receipt of credible intelligence to the effect that some miscreants were trying to cash in on the relaxed atmosphere to foment violence.

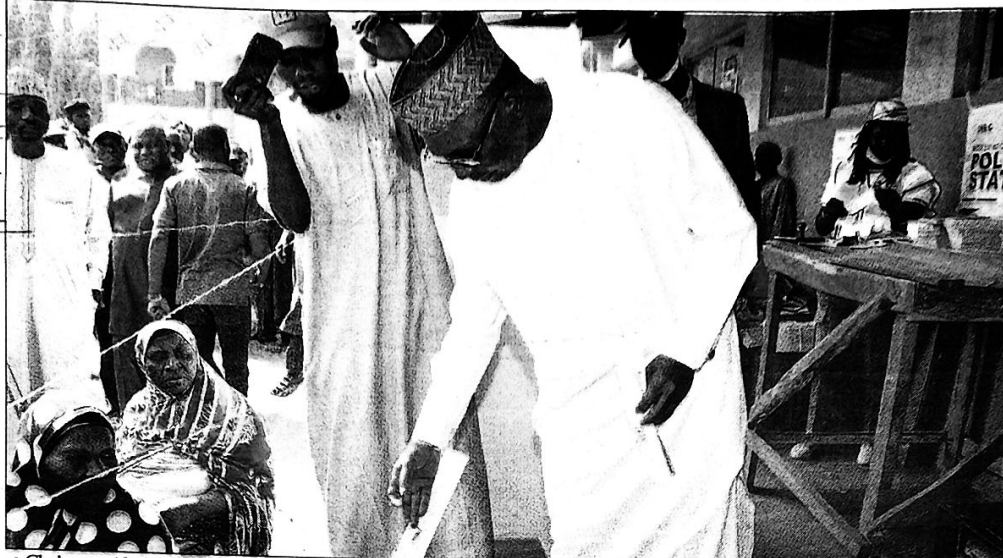
BVAS machine malfunction, voter apathy characterise polls

The Area Council election processes in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) yesterday, especially in the AMAC Local Government Area - Nyanya, Karu, Jikwoyi, Kpeyegi, and Kurudu axis were characterised by low voter turnout and a handful of BVAS machines malfunctioning in some polling units.

The Nation reports that as a result of malfunctioning BVAS machines, some voters could not get accredited on time, while some left without voting out of frustration.

Voter apathy was particularly evident in Kurudu and Kpeyegi axis. However, the turnout in Jikwoyi, Karu, and Nyanya were not as bad, as a handful of voters came out to vote for their preferred candidates. In most polling units, the accreditation and voting started about 10am.

There was a visible presence of security opera-



• Chairman, Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) Hon Abdullahi Adamu Candido casting his vote during the FCT area councils elections in Abuja yesterday. Photo: Abayomi Fayese.

From: Gbenga Omokhunu, Moses Emorinken, Frank Ikpefan, & Sanni Onogu, Abuja

tives, particularly the Police at every polling unit and junction. The community seemed relatively peaceful and some people went about their normal activities.

The voter turnout in Jikwoyi primary school (polling unit code: 087), Karu market (polling unit code: 37), Karu (polling unit code: 041), and Nyanya (polling unit code: 020), were encouraging.

A particular voter in a polling unit in Kurudu, who begged to remain anonymous, told *The Nation* that he wasn't going to vote anymore as a result of the very slow pace of accreditation and voting due to malfunctioning BVAS machines.

Council Chairman decries delay in voter accreditation

The Chairman of Bwari Area Council, Hon. John Gabaya, on Saturday, decried the slow pace of accreditation of voters with the Bi-modal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS).

Gabaya spoke to reporters after casting his vote at Polling Unit 002, in Tokulo Primary School, Igu Ward,

Bwari at 9:30am.

He said that it took up to five minutes for him as the chairman of the Area Council to cast his vote and wondered how millions of other voters would vote in a timely manner.

Gabaya said: "I have just voted in my polling unit and the challenges I realised that we might face, though I am the first person to be accredited and voted, the BVAS machine we are using is an electronic device and it is a device that we know will do the right thing at the right time."

"In terms of maybe maneuvering or doing anything that is not supposed to be an election, BVAS will sort it out."

"The BVAS machine is not picking up quickly to identify the face, that is, thumb printing has been the major challenge of the BVAS."

"I think capturing with the BVAS machine is the major challenge we are going to face."

A former council chairman, Musa Diko lamented that the machine that was functioning took a long time to accredit a voter and thereby making others to stay longer on the queue.

While applauding the large

voters' turnout, Diko noted that most of them were forced to go back home out of frustration occasioned by the machines.

Another voter, Pastor John David also voiced similar concern saying the situation was quite worrisome especially for the elderly men and women who are being made to stay too long on the queue.

Also at Ushafa area of the council, a staff member of the National Assembly, Chief Dan Angulu noted that the deployment of technology is aimed at enhancing the electoral process and wondered why this is not the case with the Bvax machine deployed for the FCT area Council election.

The Nation observed that the Council elections in Bwari were peaceful with relatively low turnout.

At Polling Unit 007 located at New GSS Security post, Kuduru, voters were seen queued up for accreditation before voting.

Voters were also seen checking their names on the voters list pasted at Polling Unit 007 in Gaba Primary School, Bwari Central Ward, Bwari.

There was a heavy presence

of security personnel deployed for the elections.

They include men of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Nigeria Police Force, Nigerian Army and Department of State Security Service (DSS).

One killed as thugs attack Igboho's house, supporters in Ibadan

YET-TO-BE-IDENTIFIED armed thugs have attacked the Soka residence of the Yoruba Nation agitator, Chief Sunday Adeyemo, aka Sunday Igboho in Ibadan.

An aide of the embattled Yoruba nation agitator Chief Sunday Adeyemo (aka Sunday Igboho) simply identified as Kokoro killed by hoodlums during a violent attack on his supporters.

Igboho's lead counsel, Chief Yomi Aliyu (SAN), confirmed this to *The Nation* last night.

The deceased was said to have been killed at Soka area of Ibadan at about 3pm on Saturday as a confrontation between Igboho's supporters and the motor park touts escalated.

The fracas was said to have been triggered by some touts who accosted an Igboho supporter who wore a shirt on which Igboho's picture was printed. The hoodlums were said to have confronted the man, querying him for wearing the customized Igboho shirt. It was learnt that the incident occurred in the morning.

Igboho is currently being detained in a prison facility in the Republic of Benin, after he was arrested at Cardinal Bernardin International

INEC urged to train ad hoc staff on how to operate BVAS

The Independent National Electoral Commission has been asked to train its ad hoc staff on how to operate the Bi-modal Voter Accreditation System machine.

Executive Director of Centre for Transparency Advocacy, Faith Nwadike during a briefing on Saturday advised the commission to deploy only trained ad hoc staff and not replace trained staff with untrained people as this has continued to jeopardise smooth electoral processes.

The organisation said this in its preliminary statement on observation of the FCT Area Council polls.

Nwadike said: "Our observers reported cases of slow BVAS functioning and malfunctioning which in turn made the voting process very slow and kept many waiting."

"Ad hoc staff should be properly trained to operate the B-VAS While INEC should endeavor to deploy only trained ad hoc staff and should not replace trained staff with untrained people as this has continued to jeopardise smooth electoral process."

It commended INEC and all stakeholders for ensuring a peaceful election so far.

From Bisi Oladele, Yinka Adeniran, Ibadan and Alao Abiodun

Airport, Cotonou, while on his way to Germany in July.

The thugs, *The Nation* learnt raided his house on Saturday afternoon around 3pm.

The development was also confirmed by one of Igboho's aide, Onaolapo Ademola Omiyale, who ran a live Facebook broadcast.

He claimed that Igboho's supporters were the focus of the target.

Omiyale said, "Soka Junction, Sanyo, Academy, Oremjeji is currently under attack, they are attacking anyone wearing Yoruba Nation Vest and Igboho's face caps."

The Nation has not been able to independently verify his claims yet.

But sources in the area who spoke with our correspondent said there was pandemonium in the Soka community in the afternoon following sporadic gunshots.

Also, in the videos seen by our correspondent, some of Igboho's supporters who reportedly confronted the armed thugs, sustained injuries.

Police spokesman in the state Adewale Osifeso was unavailable for comment.

Valentine's Day: Avoid behaviours that make you vulnerable to HIV, FG tells Nigerians

THE Federal Government has urged Nigerians, especially youths to avoid risky behaviours that make them vulnerable to contracting HIV, even as they express love to their loved ones on Valentine's Day.

It noted that persons between the ages of 15 to 24 years constitute the highest number of new HIV infections across the

The NACA boss said: "New HIV infection is currently highest among young people aged 15-24 years. It is important to reduce this worrying trend among Nigerian youths by encouraging faithful relationships for those who cannot abstain from sex to practice safer sex."

"This period is particularly noted for young people expressing their love for one another. Nigerians, especially the youths, should express love within the context of caring deeply for their loved ones and avoid behaviour that will make them vulnerable to HIV/AIDS."

"As we express love on this day, remember to love wisely. As members of the wider society, your health and productivity is vital to the future of our country. So, I urge you to avoid risky behaviors as we commemorate Valentine's Day. Love wisely, share love not HIV. Get a HIV test today."

Woman needs N22m for kidney transplant

Firm plans to raise one-million high networth individuals