

## Crashed helicopter conveyed election materials — Udenwa

*From VICTOR DURUAMAKU, Owerri*

**I**MO State Governor Achiike Udenwa has explained that the Naval helicopter, which crashed at Enyiogugu in Aboh Mbaise Local Government Area of the state and killed all the four persons onboard was conveying electoral materials See Page 2 Col 1

# Crashed helicopter

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meant for last Saturday's Presidential and National Assembly elections.

According to the governor, who spoke to journalists at the crash site Saturday morning, the ill-fated helicopter was coming to Imo State to convey electoral materials meant for the riverine areas of Bayelsa, Rivers and others.

He said the brief he received from the Naval authority at the crash site showed that the helicopter was negotiating to land at the Sam Mbakwe Airport at Obiangwu, by 7:30pm Friday

## turnout —

the constitution to be able to stagger the elections to ease the burden of logistics.

The INEC boss explained that the electoral commission had never anticipated the logistical problems encountered during the polls.

He agreed that staggering the elections over weeks would have reduced the burden of logistics tremendously.

Iwu attributed the problem to the Supreme Court's judgment on Monday which reversed the disqualification of Vice-President Atiku Abubakar, the standard bearer of the Action Congress (AC).

This forced the commission to print fresh 65 million ballot papers.

night when its propeller hit a palm tree and crashed into the bush.

Also speaking, the Executive Secretary of the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Mr. Nnamdi Nze-Ihezue, accompanied by the South-South Zonal Coordinator of National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mr. Martin Osuwah, told newsmen that the team arrived at the crash site on time and was ready to commence work but that it was barred from entering the site by the Naval officers.

It was learnt that the crash was responsible for the delay in the distribution of electoral materials to the local government areas in the state.

Commenting on the elections, a member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Board of Trustees and a frontline politician in Imo State, Chief Emmanuel C. Iwuanyanwu commended INEC for the peaceful conduct of the exercise.

He said that the election would have commenced on schedule but for the crash.

Iwuanyanwu expressed the belief that PDP would consolidate on its victory in the state.

He predicted that if the results of the elections are announced, PDP will win all the way.