

Some of the voters preparing to cast their votes during the election

1 shot dead as Delta by-election turns bloody in Isoko

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ONE person, reported to be a voter, has been feared dead after being shot by hoodlums at the ongoing Saturday Delta State House of Assembly bye-election to Isoko South Constituency 1.

The bye-election to fill the vacant seat at the State House of Assembly was contested mainly by the candidates of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Hon. Ovuakpoye Evvie, Comrade Michael Emumena Paul of the Social Democratic party (SDP) and Mr Ogagalfowodo of the All Progressives Congress (APC).

The incident happened at

about 3:15pm on Saturday when the armed hoodlums allegedly stormed Irri Ward 10, polling unit 5, in an attempt to snatch away ballot papers used for the election.

Sources said the hoodlums, who were armed with AK-47 rifles and made away with the voting materials, shot sporadically in the air to scare away voters before one of them shot at the victim, whose identity is yet undisclosed, for a reason yet unknown.

The victim was later conveyed in the pool of his blood via a bus for medical attention at an undisclosed facility.

In the ensuing commotion, the hoodlums, according to

eyewitnesses, went away with the voting materials.

Witnesses said there were gunshots and violence in some other parts of the constituency including Emede where election materials were also snatched.

State Police Public Relation Officer, DSP Bright Edafe could not be reached on the shooting.

Meanwhile, there was a stalemate in several polling units during the bye-election for Isoko South constituency 1 as the Independent National Electoral Commission's (INEC) newly introduced Bi-modal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) for the election, reportedly rejected the

Permanent Voters Card (PVC) of eligible voters.

The BVAS device, which was meant to simultaneously accredit voters with both fingerprints and photos to ensure the authenticity of the voting process, failed in some polling units across Isoko South Local Government Area.

Reacting to the malfunctioning of the BVAS, INEC's Resident Electoral Commissioner in charge of Delta State, Mr Monday Udoh-Tom, said that though there were some technical glitches experienced in some polling units, the exercise was smooth in most parts of the constituency.

Edo police rescue five kidnapped persons. arrest two suspects