

## 2019 ELECTIONS

# Ballot box snatchers kill three Delta voters, repelled in Edo

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Scene of a voting zone where thugs disrupted the exercise. Photo: Sesan Olufowobi

***Simon Utebor, Theophilus Onojeghen and Adekunle Peter***

Three persons were killed and two others sustained gunshot injuries in Delta State after being shot by suspected ballot box snatchers.

The incident occurred at Amope in Sapele Local Government Area of the state on Saturday while accreditation and voting were going on.

It was learnt that the suspected hoodlums started shooting sporadically to scare away voters, election officers and party agents around polling units on Old Eku Road, Amope.

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Some security agents at the polling units reportedly ran for their safety.

However, the hoodlums' attempt to snatch ballot boxes at the units was thwarted by the quick arrival of some soldiers.

They (hoodlums) reportedly succeeded in escaping from the scene.

When *Sunday PUNCH* got to the area at about 3pm, various election materials were seen scattered on the ground and election officials were nowhere to be found.

When contacted, the Commissioner of Police, Delta State Command, Mr Yinka Adeleke, said he had not been properly briefed on the development.

He, however, promised to call back after getting the relevant information on the matter.

But in Edo State, three persons who allegedly attempted to snatch a ballot box were repelled by voters.

The incident allegedly occurred at ward 6, unit 44, located inside Ugiomon Secondary School, Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area.

It was learnt that when the armed hoodlums attempted to snatch the ballot box, brave voters stood their ground before the arrival of police backup.

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**Contact: [theeditor@punchng.com](mailto:theeditor@punchng.com)**



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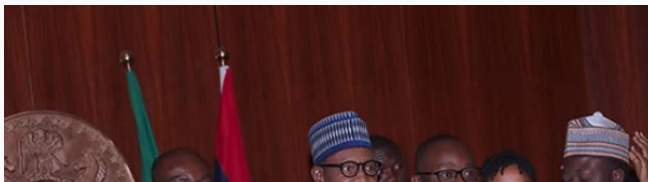
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