

Adamawa APC assembly candidate dies

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A candidate of the Adamawa State chapter of the All Progressives Congress in Saturday's House of Assembly election in the state, Adamu Kwanate, has died.

The late Kwanate, who was a member of the state House of Assembly representing Nasarawo/Binyeri (Mayo Belwa 1) state constituency, died on Wednesday at the age of 56.

He was said to have collapsed during a campaign for his re-election in Kwanate and rushed to a hospital in Yola, the state capital, where he was pronounced dead by doctors.

His death was the second in the state within five days after another lawmaker, Abubakar Abdurahman, who represented Mubi South under the platform of the African Democratic Congress, was reported dead after an illness.

The state Residence Electoral Commissioner, Kassim Gaidam, told one of our correspondents that the Independent National Electoral Commission would not stop the election in the constituency

unless the APC gave the electoral umpire a formal notification about the loss of its candidate.

He said, “We are aware of the loss of the candidate but we have not received any formal notification from his party. The law provides that election can be postponed only in an area affected for two weeks but the party must take the necessary steps for that to be done.

“INEC position as at now is to go ahead with the election in every unit in the state because there has been no official notification from the APC.”

However, the APC Secretary in the state, Warnfari Theman, said the party had submitted a former letter about Kwanate’s death to INEC, noting that a death certificate would also be obtained and submitted to the electoral umpire.

Meanwhile, the state REC, Gaidam, has said that claim by some political parties that INEC officials do not make use of card readers in some parts of the state during the February 23, 2019 presidential and National Assembly elections is unfounded.

In an exclusive interview with one of our correspondents, Gaidam said it was the duty of party agents to be present at polling units and sign INEC result sheets after counting of the votes at the units.

He said the inability of party agents to sign the paper would not invalidate the results.

“You cannot do election without the card reader. Where the card reader fails to function, we replace it and where replacement fails, we defer the election till the second day. Party agents cannot start raising issue when results have been brought to the collation centre. Every party agent must be educated on the process.

“In Adamawa State, we cannot claim that everything is smooth. Politicians should stop looking for ways of cutting corners. We want every vote to count but politicians are cutting corners. This is a big challenge for us. We also have terrain and security challenges. But generally, we are addressing all major issues. Our hope is that in Adamawa State, election will hold in every polling unit on Saturday,” said Gaidam.

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