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## NEWS:

### PDP sweeps LG elections in Bayelsa ... As 6 feared dead in Ekeremor

By Theo Agidee

**R**esult from the local government elections held in Yenagoa has been released by the Bayelsa state Independent Electoral Commission.

The outcome was an expected landslide victory for the People's Democratic Party which took all chairmanship positions in the state's eight local government councils.

The election was however not without incidents.

Six persons were reported to have been killed at Ekeremor Local Government Area in a clash on the same day but police authorities which ascribed the incident to rivalry between two cult gangs say there is no connection.

Facts on the matter are not clear but eyewitness report indicates that the deaths occurred when two groups in a bid to snatch ballot boxes in a polling centre, violently engaged each other.

There are insinuations that the incident is an offshoot of the cold conflict between the Deputy Governor of the state, Peremobowei Ebebi whose political stronghold the incident occurred and Chief Timipre Sylva.

For an election that had been viewed with suspicion and uncertainty, Chief Akpoabode Yingomone, Chairman BYSIEC says the polls had been a success, considering the challenges and modest fund given to the electoral body.

However the Port Harcourt Telegraph which covered the voting exercise in Yenagoa observed a general feeling of indifference towards the poll by voters in the area.

While monitoring the local government polls in Yenagoa this medium observed that the weekly market day at Kpansia was in full gear, as traders and buyers ignored the normal closure of business during election hour.

They were later dispersed by squads of policemen who wasted no time in destroying their wares.

On the Mbiama/Yenagoa expressway, there was free flow of vehicular traffic despite the presence of policemen on the highway. There was also noticeable absence polling and the desolation of booths that were available.

In Ogbia Local Government area, independent monitor told the Telegraph that BYSIEC officials at the collation centre had complained that election materials had not been sent.

In Southern Ijaw Local Government were reports of electoral violence as several persons were said to have sustained injuries in machete fight.

Meanwhile, the Action Congress has expressed its reservation over the weekend polls and wants it cancelled.

In a statement to the media which strongly condemned the conduct of the election by BYSIEC, the party cited widespread irregularities and the violence as reasons for its call.

The acting chairman of the Action Congress, Mr. Miriki Ebikibina in the statement blamed the state government poor conduct of the election, saying, the electoral body had been under-funded and that

security agents were used to intimidate opponents.

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