Buhari's victory celebration: Three killed, two shot, policemen injured



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At least three people were feared dead, two others were shot while three policemen were injured yesterday in parts of the country during celebration heralding the announcement of President Muhammadu Buhari's re-election.

In Kaduna, about three persons were reported killed while others injured when supporters of President Buhari and those of the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, clashed.

At Ilare-Ijesa in Obokun Local Government Area of Osun State two persons were shot while several others were injured during a clash between members of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and those of the PDP.

Also in Lagos, three policemen attached to Okokomaiko Police Station were injured when some youths celebrating the President's re-election attacked the station.

Those celebrating the President's victory in Benue State reportedly defaced posters of Governor Samuel Ortom.

The Kaduna incident occurred at Trikania community, close to the Nnamdi Azikiwe by-pass in Kaduna South Local Government Area.

It was learnt that trouble started early in the morning when the APC supporters took to the street to celebrate the victory of their candidate.

The supporters were said to have taken their celebration to Atiku's stronghold, which led to the clash.

Dangerous weapons were freely used, which led to the death of three persons while several others were injured before the intervention of security operatives.

However, security operatives comprising soldiers and mobile police were deployed in the area to check further break down of law and order.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Yakubu Sabo, said "information available to the police is that some youths were trying to take the law into their hands and security agencies were immediately drafted to the place to main the law."

But Sabo said he was not aware of any death. He, however, promised to get back to our correspondent if he confirmed the information.

However, later in a statement, Sabo called on parents and community leaders to warn their wards against "reckless celebrations".

He said: "The Kaduna State Police Command wishes to call on the good people of Kaduna State who are celebrating the victory of President Buhari in the elections held on Saturday 23rd February 2019, to moderate and celebrate with decorum.

"The command has observed with dismay the reckless way motorists and motorcyclists are driving on highways and public places in the name of celebration which is causing fatal vehicle accidents."

Meanwhile, in the Muslim dominated northern part of Kaduna metropolis, it was celebration galore as residents of the area took to the streets in jubilation as soon as Buhari was declared winner.

A resident of Kurmin Mashi, who identified himself simply as Shehu, said the celebrations started by 1a.m.

He said: "We did not sleep at all with the celebration of Buhari's victory. These people were going from house to house, disturbing people and knocking on our gates in the name of celebration. They didn't allow us to sleep."

The situation was said to have been the same in areas like Angwan Sarki, Tudun Wada, Rigassa, Angwan Dosa, Kawo areas, among several others.

The metropolis was taken over by the celebrants who drove round some of the streets in convoy of cars and motorcycles with party music from loud speakers mounted on a vehicle.

Some of them were driving dangerously on motorcycles and cars, without regards for traffic rules and regulations.