

Bayelsa guber: Nembe death toll rises to 12 with 93 injured – Dickson



Published 9 hours ago on November 21, 2019

By



Bayelsa State Governor, Seriake Dickson has disclosed that the death toll in the Nembe massacre during the last Saturday's governorship election in Bayelsa State had risen to 12, while the figure of those injured had also increased to 93. The governor, who stated this during the State Executive Council (SEC) meeting yesterday at the Government House, Yenagoa, the state capital, noted that the election was a coup against the country's democracy. He, therefore, called for minute silence to be observed at the Executive Council in memory of those slain during the election period in Nembe Local Government Area. On the preparations for the transition programme, Governor Dickson said that regardless of the outcome of the governorship polls, it was incumbent on his administration to work towards the proper handing over the baton of leadership in February 2020.

The governor said: "In view of the fact that the people of Bayelsa State are in different places, particularly in Nembe where many people were mowed down even before the election. No fewer than 12 of them have been confirmed dead. The Commissioner for Health also told me that the number of those injured had increased to 93 and some of them are in critical conditions. "You have seen how it has all ended. You have seen how what was supposed to be an election turned out to be a charade and what has been done to our people. I want to thank you all for showing the example of peace in all the areas that you functioned.

The difference between a democracy and a dictatorship is that in our own system, there is a definite terminal date. "So, irrespective of the outcome, irrespective of the way and manner the election went, even when the outcome was not what we deserve, we have a duty as Executive Council to prepare the state for transition."

He, therefore, charged members of the Council, particularly the Chairman of the Transition Committee to work assiduously in documenting the achievements of the restoration government, including proposed programmes for the next government to capture in next year's budget. Dickson, who urged Council members to work till the terminal date of the present administration, said their contributions would be recorded in history.

He reaffirmed that his administration had performed creditably well in bringing development to Bayelsa State considering the daunting challenges it had to contend with. The governor also showered encomium on members of Council for the pivotal roles they played in contributing towards the success of the restoration, adding that their achievements would forever remain a reference point for posterity.