



IONS REPORTS... GUBER/STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS REPORTS...

Rivers: 7 Policemen Killed, Election Materials Arrive Late

Killings and late commencement yesterday characterised the elections in Rivers State as no fewer than seven policemen, four of them senior officers were killed at about 1am, by some militants' who stormed Elenwo Divisional Police Headquarters on Elenwo road and Mini Okoro Divisional Headquarters.

The killings were first confirmed by the Rivers State Police Public Relations Officer, Mrs. Ireju Barasua before the Commissioner of Police in the State, Mr. Felix Ogbandu gave the details of the attack.

According to Ogbandu, the militants arrived the police stations in three cars and a Jeep, which was mounted with machine gun, freed detainees in the stations before killing policemen and detonating dynamites in the stations, which totally destroyed the Stations.

When THISDAY got to Elenwo, the HiLux pick up van donated by Governor Peter Odili less than 12 hours to the election was destroyed with dynamite while the dri-

*From Ahamefula Ogbu
in Port Harcourt*

ver who slept in the vehicle was shot on the driver's seat, which still had his blood, splattered on it.

Also, the hotel beside the police station had its walls pucker with bullets while

Doctors Without Borders were still seen evacuating people injured in their frenzy and fright to flee to safety.

The corpse of a young man who apparently came down from his vehicle to flee the firing was seen lying by Elenwo junction with a clean single shot through his eyes. His Bible was still in the car while the driver's

door was still open.

At Mini Okoro, the militant said to have arrived there few minutes after attacking the Elenwo Station missed killing the DPO who seconds before the attack had handed over to his DCO and dashed off to his house within the premises to take a cup of tea as he was said to have been feeling cold.

Shekarau Optimistic of Victory in Kano

*From Donald Andoor
in Kano*

started to cast their ballot as early as 9 a.m while their counterparts within the 8 councils in the metropolis had to wait for INEC officials till about noon.

At Bichi, one of the rural councils where the PDP gubernatorial candidate hails from, hundreds of voters were sighted at about 9 am on cue, taking turns to cast their votes.

But the situation was not the same at Dala, Kano municipal, Nasarawa and Ungogo local government areas where THISDAY visited.

It was observed that polling

officials curiously failed to show up with voting materials until about 12 noon.

Kano State governor, Ibrahim Shekarau who is hopeful of winning the poll had to wait till about 2.43 pm to cast his vote at his native Giginyu quarters.

Though, election took place under a peaceful atmosphere, it was learnt that there were pockets of scuffle between supporters of the all Nigerian peoples party (ANPP) and rival peoples democratic party (PDP) at Kunchi council of the state.

This however did not abort the conduct of election there as voters started to cast their ballots at about 3 p.m at Kunchi.

Kaduna: Peaceful Polls, Late Take Off

The gubernatorial and House of Assembly elections in Kaduna state were generally peaceful even as the exercise could not take off on time as scheduled.

The late take off of the polls was attributed to the late arrival of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) staff and electoral materials.

The presence of combined security agents who were stationed at strategic locations in the state ensured that voters went about the exercise peacefully.

However, in the Kachia and Kagarko Local Government Councils, elections into the House of Assembly was postponed because of the non inclusion of the logo of the All Nigerian Peoples Party (ANPP) in the ballot papers. The gubernatorial election was not affected.

After a meeting with Chairmen of the political parties in the area and the electoral officers, they jointly agreed that

*From George Oji and
Reuben Buhari in Kaduna*

election into the House of Assembly be postponed to a future date. It was also jointly agreed that all the stakeholders would meet on Monday to fix a new date for the election.

In the Jama'a Local Government Council, election

could not take off until about 2pm because the INEC vehicle conveying election materials developed fault and broke down on the way.

In the Birnin Gwari area, the Former Speaker of the Kaduna State House of Assembly, Alhaji Zubairu Bashir came to the polling units with suspected thugs who attempted to

cause confusion but where driven away by security men at the units.

As at the time of filing this report election was still taking place in some areas of the state where there was delay in its take off. Counting of votes was in progress in places where the exercise took off on time.

Six Feared Dead in Osogbo

*From Yinka Kolawole
in Osogbo*

area of the state during the conduct of the elections.

Similarly, no fewer than 20 ballot boxes were snatched away by some political hoodlums at various locations in the three senatorial district of the state while three police stations in Iragbiji, headquarters of Boripe local government area of the state were vandalised by political thugs.

The affected areas were Ile-Ife, Ikirun, Ijebu-jesha, Osu,

Ifewara and Ode-omu.

Survey by our correspondent who visited some polling centres in the three senatorial districts of the state revealed that some eligible voters were denied the opportunity to exercise their civic responsibilities as many of them could not trace their names on the voters register provided by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

Although the elections were peaceful at the commencement of the exercise, the conduct of the polls turned chaotic as political touts allegedly sponsored by the ruling party in the state invaded some of the polling centres thereby turning the centres to a theatre of violence.

Ballot boxes were also reportedly hijacked at gun-point at Moore/Ojaja ward in Ile-Ife while the political hoodlums displayed various dangerous weapons including guns, cutlasses and charms deliberately to scare the eligible voters away from exercising their franchise.

When contacted the state commissioner of Police, Alhaji Suleiman Fakai said he was not aware of the political violence at the polling centres which led to the death of the six persons, saying that the election in the state was generally peaceful and orderly.

Borno: Massive Turn Out, Late Delivery of Materials

*From Ike Abonyi and
Michael Olugbode
in Maiduguri*

election materials. Sheriff attributed the massive turn-out of voters to the level of mobilisation.

In Maiduguri and Jere the turn-out was really impressive with most of the polling stations visited having a large crowd of voters, including women who queued orderly to perform their civic duties.

However, in some parts of the state there were complaints of late arrival of materials with sketches of violence in some areas.

In some parts of maiduguri and Jere there was reported cases of thugs invading polling centres and pilling up the ballot boxes after scaring away security men on duty.

At the Mafoni ward, in Maiduguri at about 12.30 voters were seen complaining that they were driven out of the polling centre by some armed youths wielding arms.

The electoral officer who spoke with THISDAY said the thugs forced them to release the electoral materials to them before they thumb printed on the papers which they later deposited in the ballot box before disappearing.

The gubernatorial and State Assembly poll in Borno state witnessed massive turn-out of voters with late arrival of election materials in most parts of the polling centres in the state by the officials of the Independent National Electoral (INEC) a development that took shine off the exercise.

In some parts of the state the election materials started arriving as early as 8.45 am, while in larger parts of the state the material did not arrive even as at 12noon.

Governor Ali Modu Sheriff himself a candidate of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) who cast his vote at

Late Polls: Botmang Urges Patience