

# News

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## LG Poll: 10 Feared Dead in Kano

Violence erupted in Kano at the weekend following the announcement of results of the local government election, claiming more than 10 lives.

Seven local government secretariats within and outside the state capital were also set ablaze by arsonists, while Police said over 254 suspected political thugs have been arrested.

State Commissioner of the Police, Mr. Aminu Yusuf told

*From Ibrahim Shuaibu  
in Kano*

journalist on Sunday night, that the command will not tolerate the escalation of violence as mobile policemen have been deployed in all the flash points of the the state.

He confirmed that six people had been killed people but said he would not state the places where they were killed for security reasons.

It was reliably gathered that

the secretariat of Kunchi, Tudun-Wada, Minjibir and Wudil local governments were set ablaze by the protesters.

THISDAY also saw billowing smoke from the Gwale local government secretariat around 9 pm yesterday while the state fire service men made spirited efforts to put off the fire.

THISDAY gathered that the

former Minister of Defence, Dr Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso was allegedly manhandled by the state assembly member from Gwale constituency, Alhaji Mohammed Umar.

Kwankwaso, was at the state electoral office to lodge a complaint about what he called "total rigging and manipulation, leading to announcement of unapproved results on radio."

He, along with Alhaji Abubakar Rimi and immediate permanent representative to the UN, Alhaji Aminu Wali, were harassed before security men attached to them shot into the air to disperse the mob.

Angry youths numbering about 2000 were seen carrying various dangerous weapons on their way to the deputy governor's home town, allegedly guarded by security operatives.

Governor of the State, Ibrahim Shekarau, who spoke with reporters on Saturday night admitted the killing of two people from Sumaila Local Government and blamed the opposition for igniting the crisis.

## Mark Slams Obasanjo's Critics

Senate President, David Mark, at the weekend rose in defence of former president Olusegun Obasanjo, saying his critics have not been charitable enough.

Speaking during an interview session with newsmen in Lagos, he said Obasanjo should not be vilified for his actions when he ruled the country between May 29, 1999 and May, 29, 2007, because he was the kind of leader Nigeria needed at the time.

*By Nosike Ogbuenyi and  
Tokunbo Adedaja*

second term as provided by the Constitution and left the stage. When Obasanjo was in power, I supported him and I didn't have to hide. I had good reasons for supporting him. If you have good reasons for supporting a cause, you must do it openly so that people would know your stand. He did very well for

this country. I can only assess him in terms of his overall performance. He was the leader we needed at the time he came. Don't make mistake about it, we all know where we are coming from, he did his best, he did a lot of things well."

Mark, however, could not comment elaborately on the failed third term bid of Obasanjo, which he allegedly supported.