

Kano Death Toll Rises to 25

Death toll resulting from the crisis which greeted last Saturday's Local Government election in Kano State has risen to 25.

And to stem the violence which particularly engulfed Kano, no fewer than 280 soldiers have been deployed in strategic areas of the ancient city.

The soldiers were deployed on Tuesday as the rampaging youths causing mayhem in the city overpowered policemen initially drafted in to restore law and order to the area.

Over 300 youths believed to

• FG deploys soldiers

*From Ibrahim Shuaibu
in Kano*

have had a hand in the crisis have, however, been arrested by the police.

Violence has been unleashed on Kano in the last four days as a result of the announcement of results in respect of the Local

Government election held in 24 councils in the state.

A statement issued yesterday by the Third Brigade of the Nigerian Army, Kano, said the military were called in by the state government to assist the

police restore law and order.

The statement signed by the Public Relations Officer of the brigade, Major Sabiu Abba Wudilawa, said another batch of 200 soldiers was also on stand-by.

Wudilawa said the soldiers had taken positions in such strategic areas of Kano as Audu

Bako Secretariat, Kano State Television Station, Radio Kano, Investment House on Hadejia Road, Palace of Emir of Kano, Gyadi-Gyadi Roundabout and the premises of the Kano State Independent Electoral Commission (KANSIEC).

He appealed to all law-abiding citizens to go about their

normal businesses without panic, saying the soldiers were deployed to protect lives and property.

Wudilawa asked parents and guardians to warn their wards to desist from acts capable of disrupting peace and order in the state, warning that the army

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was ready to crush any default-
er.

THISDAY gathered that the office of KANSIEC, which is very close to the Government House, has been condoned off by the heavily armed soldiers and passers by are turned back from the area.

The popular Sabon-Gari market remained open but soldiers were seen keeping watch over the movement of people in and out of the market.

Meanwhile, the Emir of Kano, Alhaji Ado Bayero, has urged the people of the state to maintain the peace.

The Emir who spoke through his Senior Councillor, Alhaji Abbas Sunusi, Wamban Kano, on the state radio and television, reminded the people of the state that they were peace loving.

The crisis, which had erupted after the election held last Saturday, had claimed 10 lives by

last Monday.

Government offices remained closed while youths from different parties after a special prayer session at Race Course Ground headed for Kano Metropolis where they set up bonfires.

More violence, however, erupted again on Tuesday night as the death toll soared.

The Returning Officer of Dawakin Kudu Local Government area of Kano State, Mallam Ado Manga, was allegedly shot to death over the announcement of election result which did not favour a certain political party.

Patients at Nassarawa Hospital quickly discharged themselves as the rampaging youths moved to set the hospital on fire but in Tofa Local Government, the Sharia Police Station was set ablaze. The Islamic Centre building and the council secretariat were also not spared.