

# Kogi guber election: Violence claims 2, Rep escapes death

• 17 suspected thugs, ANPP chiefs arrested

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**K**OGI State gubernatorial re-run election held yesterday was marred by voters apathy. There were skirmishes in many areas of the state while tight security scared away voters.

Notwithstanding the tight security, two persons were feared killed when violence erupted in Efu Local Government Area of the state during the election while a House of Representatives member narrowly escaped death when he allegedly challenged some thugs of a rival party.

In Oturkpo Local Government Area of Benue State, 17 suspected thugs allegedly on their way to Kogi to perpetrate violence during the poll were arrested by the police. The suspected thugs allegedly hired by one of the candidates in the election were paraded in Abuja by the inspector general of police, Mr Mike Okiro. Meanwhile, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) shot into early lead going by the results from some polling centres including Lokoja Club where the PDP polled 157 while the All Nigeria Peoples Party, ANPP, scored 77.

The PDP at Cinema Junction centre (National Open University of Nigeria) scored 178 leaving the ANPP with 73 votes and at the NRC voting centre, PDP got 86 votes while ANPP scored 49

votes. The election which witnessed combined security network of the army, the police, Civil Defence Corps, Federal Road Safety Corps and the State Security Service saw a generally low turn out of voters.

The search carried out by the security personnel looking for arms however disrupted vehicular movement along Lokoja- Okene

## ...Two also killed, house razed in Rivers/Niger council poll

**GEORGE ONAH,  
JIMITOTA ONOYUME &  
WOLE MOSADOMI**

**W**ITH the presence of 8,000 armed policemen and 400 Civil Defence Corps members, backed by military men under the

road, leaving commuters stranded.

In Kogi Central comprising Okene, Okehi, Adavi, Ajaokuta and Ogorimagongo local government area councils, the election was peaceful but witnessed very low turn out as residents fled to neighboring states because the area in particular was overwhelmed by the security personnel against the backdrop of its volatile nature.

In Dekina Local Government Area of the state, a member of the Federal House of Representatives, Hon. Positive Abdul Ihiaibe, escaped death following an attack by supporters of a rival party

after he challenged some persons suspected to be thugs.

It was gathered that the election in Ejule, Ate Ward in Ofu Local Government Area was marred by violence as supporters of the two governorship candidates, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris of the PDP and Prince Abubakar Audu of the ANPP engaged themselves in a free for all fight over alleged attempt by both parties to snatch ballot boxes.

It was learnt that dangerous weapons like cutlasses, broken bottles, charms and dane guns were freely used during the fight that lasted almost thirty minutes, leading to serious injuries by two persons. The persons whose identities could not be ascertained at the time of this report were said to have died at Grimade Hospital, Anyangba.

The situation was not different at Anyangba as supporters of both parties in an attempt to snatch ballot boxes attacked one another and as at 12 noon

yesterday, the election was yet to hold in this area.

At Idah, there were reported cases of ballot snatching by gun wielding thugs while over five houses were burnt in Ugwolawo, Ofu Local Government Area. One person was injured in the incident.

Security situation delayed the arrival of materials for the election especially in Okene and Lokoja.

In Kogi West comprising Kabba/Bunu, Ijumu, Mopa Moro; Yagba East; Yagba West; Lokoja and Kogi local government area councils, the election was peaceful as these areas witnessed large turn out of voters.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) deployed six resident electoral commissioners, and four national commissioners to conduct the election. The former governor of the state and the PDP candidate for the election, Idris, who arrived the Lokoja Club centre to cast his

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## EFCC grills senators Wednesday

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to the fact that we undertook a trip

# Two killed, house razed in Rivers/Niger council poll

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reported in many wards of the councils visited.

Materials had not arrived Asari Toru Council at about 3.30 p.m., home of the AC governorship candidate, Prince Tonye Princewill, where it was reported that leader of the Niger Delta Volunteer Force, Alhaji Mijahadeen Dokubo Asari had pitched tent with the party.

In Bonny Island, it was reported that materials had not arrived at 5 p.m. and voters were said to have become impatient at press time even as some of the electoral officers went into hiding to avoid being man-handled.

However, the publicity secretary of AC Chief Eze Chukwuemeka Eze in a text message to *Sunday Vanguard* alleged that suspected "thugs of Peoples Democratic Party denied our candidates easy movement at Etche while at Omuma 10 AC supporters were allegedly shot". The alleged shooting and arrest could not be independently confirmed.

Also, 20 of the party's

supporters were arrested, while a councillorship candidate was kidnapped in Abua. Eze said "the situation on ground was in agreement with the fears expressed by the party before the flag off of the election", in which it suspected the kidnap and arrest of AC candidates.

Police PRO Ireju Barasua (a DSP) said reports of situation in the various councils had "not started coming in from the DPOs and had not heard of any violence" at the time of going to press. The victim in Niger State was shot by some suspected political thugs believed to have been hired by one of the rival political parties. He died instantly.

And in Suleja, three policemen were seriously injured during the election in the state just as three other people were arrested in Pandogari.

The three policemen were hospitalized at Suleja General Hospital. Trouble started at the old Minna Park and Angwan Gaya in the town when some thugs believed to have been sponsored by one of the

political parties stormed two polling units and other areas where they scared lawful voters away from casting their votes. Dangerous weapons like knives, daggers and iron rods were said to be freely used by the thugs who threatened voters in the polling units while they also attempted to smuggle the ballot boxes. The policemen manning the units in an attempt to prevent the ballot boxes from being carted away were attacked by the hoodlums during which three of them (police), including their leader, ASP Hassan Umaru were seriously wounded.

However, other policemen on duty rose to the occasion as they were able to ferry seven boxes with the voting papers to their post for safety. Similarly, there was a free for all fight in Bida when supporters of some political parties clashed at a polling unit.

The quick intervention of the police was said to have saved the situation from degenerating into serious crisis which could have eventually disrupted the smooth conduct of the election in the area.

Our correspondent gathered that there was tension in some areas in Munyan Local Government Area of the state as a result of either late arrival of voting materials or lateness in starting election.

One of the supervisors, Dan Asumi, who was invited to the Sarkin Pawa Police Station for interrogation on the lateness or non-availability of materials explained that there was nothing he could do to help the situation.

earlier that he was opting out of the job.

In Minna, the state capital, and in Bosso Local Government, Wushishi, Paiko, Kontagora among other areas, the election was peaceful.

## Lagos warns charlatans to steer clear of Govt House

**L**AGOS State government has warned groups of people parading themselves as representatives of youth organizations to desist henceforth or face the full wrath of the law.

Special adviser to the state governor on youth, sports and social development, Dr. Dolapo Badru, gave the warning while reacting to disclaimer letters written to the state Youth Forum,

Spokesman of the Niger State Police Command, ASP Richard Oguiche, when contacted on the election in the state, said, "Reports across the state indicate that every thing went on peacefully and we don't expect a contrary report because our men are properly mobilized to man the various polling units".

an umbrella body of the youth organizations in the state, and copied to his office. In the letters, Badru stated that the chairman of Ikorodu Youth Council, an affiliate of the state Youth Forum, dissociated his association from one youth who claimed to represent the Local Youth Council at an alleged unconstitutional youth congress held at the NLC Secretariat, Yaba.

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vote at 11.49 a.m. in company of the former governor of Nasarawa State and chairman, PDP campaign committee, Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu, said his victory was certain. Idris, who rode in a Toyota Camry car with registration number Abuja EU 616 ABC, urged his opponents and residents of the state to see what was on ground as politics that should not call for fighting, adding, "We are all members of the same family. I have no doubt

described the exercise as peaceful and orderly.

Ogbeha, who noted that it was better to have a very tight security than to have harvest of deaths, said there was no tense atmosphere. Commenting on the arrangement and conduct of the election in the state, INEC commissioner in charge of operations, Hon. Adedeji Soyebi, described the exercise as peaceful.

Parading the 17 youths arrested in Benue State at Force

## Lagos declares Ozumba Mbadiwe-Falomo bridge no trading zone

**S**TREET traders displaying their wares on Ozumba Mbadiwe through Al-

which sends a negative impression to the wider world about Lagos capability to manage its own af-