

# One feared dead in Niger council polls

BY WOLF MOSADOMI

**L**OCAL government elections were held in Niger State yesterday with poor turn out recorded just as one person was reportedly shot dead while two other people were seriously wounded in Kontagora, headquarters of Kontagora local government area of the

state.

The election took place in 24 of the 25 local government areas with Kontagora left out due to the crisis that engulfed the town a day before the elections.

Our correspondent gathered that on Friday night, crisis broke out between supporters of two leading political parties during the distribution of election materials in the town.

## South-South govs strategise on way forward

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discussed the urgent need to commence concentration on the development of large scale agriculture as a post-oil strategy to ensure food security, job creation and sustainable development.

Accordingly, the BRACED Commission has been directed to identify three to four crops that the region could invest in the short run and also how to create value chain.

On environment matters, the governors directed the BRACED Commission against the

which contribute significantly to environmental pollution and degradation.

The governors also deliberated on infrastructural development in the zone and reaffirmed their commitment to the Lagos-Calabar rail line and development of roads in the region and agreed to consult with the Federal Government and other stakeholders on how best to achieve the proposed rail line in the coming years.

They expressed concern at the state of education in the zone and the need to

Due to the crisis, the state Independent National Electoral Commission had to postpone the elections.

However, election took place in other local government areas of the state but with very poor turn out on the part of the electorate.

Governor Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu and former head of state, General Abdulsalami Abubakar, after casting their votes, decried the poor turn out and attributed it to lack of sensitization on the part of politicians on the importance of the local government election.

Abubakar, who drove himself in a black colored Mercedes Benz car (S500 class series) marked Niger: Tripple A1, in the company of his wife, Hon. Justice Fati Abubakar, for accreditation, at the Uphill Water Tank Polling Unit 020, at Sabon/Gari ward 009, in Chanchaga Local Government area of the state at about 10:38am, said with democracy striving in the country, the electorate should have been more enlightened on the importance of local government election which he said is much more

important than any other election.

On the crisis in Kontagora, the deputy commissioner of police in the state, Alhaji Mohammed Sule, confirmed the development, adding that police was on top of the situation.

## Ladan, ex-NNPC resourceful – Rep

BY TINA OGBEBOR

**T**HE late group managing director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, Alhaji Shehu Ladan, has been described as "a very resourceful and illustrious icon in the energy sector".

"He was a rare gem whose vacuum may not be filled for a very long time. He was a quintessential professional, dignified and gracious, a quiet hero, man of many parts and dynamism", Hon. Joseph Akinlaja, a member of the House of Representatives (Ondo East/West), said.

In a tribute signed by his media aide, Emmanuel Ajibulu, Akinlaja, also the