

and Presidential Amnesty Programme, where eligible voters came out in large number to cast their votes.

The exercise was also smooth at the Opolo polling unit of Senator Emmanuel Paulker where voters turned out in large number. But it was a problem for voters at Gbarain in one of the units in Yenagoa council area where the SCRs failed to function.

The SCR also failed to clear the state deputy governor who was at the coastal turn of Nemebe for the exercise, causing him to fill the Incident Form.

Rivers: Amaechi, supporters shun elections

*Soldier, two others shot dead

In Rivers State, Governor Chibuike Amaechi and his supporters in his Ward 8, Unit 14, Ubima in Ikwerre Local Government Area shunned the elections, blaming alleged failure of INEC to come with result sheets to the unit.

Meanwhile, the Brigade Commander, 2 Brigade, Port Harcourt, Brigadier General Koko Essien, said a soldier was killed by suspected thugs in Obio Akpor local government area of the state.

Sunday Vanguard gathered that one person was also shot dead in Oghale, Ward 3, Unit 2 in Eleme Local Government Area while effort was on to begin accreditation of voters. Another person was killed in Ozuah community in Ikwerre Local Government Area.

A close aide to the

member representing Degema/Bonny constituency in the House of Representatives, Dr Sokonte Davies, dismissed the fear in several quarters that the lawmaker was abducted. The source, who said he established contact with the lawmaker when the news broke out, said Davies simply withdrew into his closet for security reasons.

In Asari Toru Local Government Area, there was exchange of fire between security operatives and some hoodlums. In Ward 9, thugs allegedly hijacked election materials.

Senator Magnus Abe, who represents Rivers South East in the Senate, alleged that there was no election in all parts of his constituency. But the Minister of State for Industry, Mr Kenneth Kobani, and a youth leader, Mr Marvin Yobana, dismissed the allegation.

According to Kobani, elections went on peacefully in all the wards in Bodo, headquarters of Gokhana Local Government Area.

In Biera, the home town of Abe, in Khana Local Government Area, suspected thugs smashed vehicles parked in the house of a PDP chieftain in the area.

The Senator also alleged that he was attacked in Kpor community.

The Chairman of the Caretaker Committee in Akuku Toru Local Government Area, Chief Benibo, told newsmen that he had asked members of his All

Progressive Congress (APC) in the area to withdraw from the elections, alleging that his party members were being harassed.

Accreditation of voters started behind schedule in several polling units because of late arrival of materials. Also ad hoc staff of INEC had to resort to manual accreditation of voters because of the failure of the SCRs to function properly in several polling units.

Absence of election result sheets during accreditation of voters was an issue in several polling units. Some analysts who spoke on this said that, by the electoral law provision, result sheet should only be brought for signing by party agents.

In Opobo, the home town of the APC governorship candidate, Dr Dakuku Peterside, election materials arrived very late.

It was a similar problem in several wards in Obio Akpor local government area where the APC governorship candidate, Barr Nyesom Wike, voted.

A former Chief of Staff, Government House and candidate of the APC for the Obio Akpor Federal Constituency, Mr. Tony Okocha, said result sheets were missing in all the 17 wards in the local government area. But this was dismissed as untrue by some voters.

The Director of Communications of the APC governorship campaign organisation, Mrs Ibim Semenitari, in a statement, alleged that the PDP connived with INEC in the state to rig the elections.