

NEWS

One killed as technical hitches, delay, apathy mar Abuja council polls

- APC leads as results trickle in
- Security operatives bar journalists from collation centres
- Epileptic BVAS delays elections in Karshi, Jikwoyi
- Low turnout in Municipal Area Council

By Henry Umoru, Omeiza Ajayi, Dirisu Yakubu, Luminous Jannamike, Fortune Eromosele & Ezra Ukanwa

A MIDDLE-aged woman was feared dead after she was knocked down by a supporter of one of the major political parties who was riding a motorcycle, during the local council polls in the Federal Capital Territory, FCT Abuja, yesterday.

The incident happened at about 10:12am at PU048, Salasi, opposite Post Office, Karu, Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) when the woman, a voter, was attempting to cross the road to her polling unit.

The motorcycle rider, who carried the flag of one of the political parties, rode in a frenzy as if he was under influence.

Voters in the area immediately held the motorcyclist and handed him over to security operatives deployed for the elections.

The FCT Command of the Nigeria Police had, on the eve of the elections, announced restriction of movement but hours later released another statement relaxing the restriction and urging all residents to go about their normal duties.

Yet, hours later, at about midnight, the Command again issued a notice of restriction, saying it was in receipt of credible intelligence that some miscreants were trying to cash in on the relaxed atmosphere to foment violence.

Meanwhile, technical hitches marred the elections. There was poor voter turnout in many areas just as the Biometric Voters Accreditation System, BVAS, did not work optimally in many areas and had issues accrediting voters in Karshi and Jikwoyi among other places.

At press time, the ruling All Progressives Congress, APC, and main opposition Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, were in a tight race for the 68 slots made up of 6 Area Council Chairmen and 62 Councillors with the APC jumping to an early lead as results trickled in.

Only 14 of the 18 political parties in the county nominated 110 candidates for chairmanship/deputy chairmanship positions and 362 candidates for councillorship.

Epileptic BVAS delays polls in Karshi, Jikwoyi

Karshi, a community located in AMAC witnessed impressive turnout of voters.

However, in spite of the early arrival of voters, electoral officers and security personnel, accreditation and voting were delayed owing to a malfunctioning BVAS in the polling units Sunday Vanguard visited.

At Polling Unit 005, Karshi Ward 8, the BVAS failed in its accreditation duty for long, leaving a lot of voters frustrated.



From left: Presbyter, Wesley Cathedral, Olowogbowo, Lagos, the Very Rev Sunday Adegbola, wife of the Archbishop of Lagos, Methodist Church Nigeria, Sis Funmilayo Olawuyi, husband, the Most Rev Isaac Ayobami Olawuyi (PhD), and Lay President, Diocese Of Lagos, Methodist Church Nigeria, Sir Olugbolahan Olayomi, KJW, at the New Year Service of the Lagos Archdiocese held at the Wesley Cathedral, Olowogbowo, Lagos.



From left: Mrs. Taiwo Babarinde, Market Women Representative; Mr. Adeoye Olawale, Market Men Representative; Mr. Efe Isiorho, Head, Business Development, GOXI Micro Insurance and Mrs. Elizabeth Adekemi, Market Women Representative, during the GOXI Micro-Insurance Market Storm held at Iyana Ipaja Market, Lagos.

The delay in accreditation elicited anger from the voters, some of whom threatened to go home if the situation was not addressed.

At the Local Education Authority, LEA Primary School, Jikwoyi, Polling Units 014, 087, 089, the story was the same. Here, voters arrived early but had to wait for hours for INEC officials and election materials.

There was a mild confusion in Karu as voters who arrived to cast their ballot insisted their polling units was 003 while the electoral officers at the venue told Sunday Vanguard they were deployed to cover Polling Unit 030.

Indeed, the polls started late in many polling units due to late arrival of electoral officers. As of 9:10am, the election was yet to commence across several polling units.

Voting was originally scheduled to begin by 8:30am. However, at the Masalachi Junction, (PU006) in Karu, Abuja Municipal Area Council, electoral officials and voters were yet to arrive as of 9:10am. Only security operatives were on ground at the time.

In some parts of Kuje Area Council, there was however a high turnout of enthusiastic voters.

At the various polling units 001 and 002 inside the Science Primary School, Agwan-Gade in the area, most of the voters had arrived as early as 6am waiting for the com-

mencement of polls.

At polling unit 099 in Kabusa Ward in AMAC presided by Miss Nnamani Rita, only one out of 233 registered voters voted.

Meanwhile, when the FCT Resident Electoral Commissioner, Mr Yahaya Bello, visited the Garki Area 10, PU 018, to monitor the election, he expressed satisfaction with the accreditation and voting process, saying "INEC has done its best for the FCT poll to be free, fair and credible."

Low turnout in AMAC

Areas that witnessed voter apathy include parts of AMAC.

In the Maitama district, presiding officers were seen waiting for eligible voters to arrive for accreditation and voting.

Security operatives bar journalists from collation centres

Last night, security operatives in AMAC and the Bwari Area Council barred journalists from accessing collation centres in both councils following the conclusion of voting.

At the INEC AMAC office in Karu, the operatives said they were given instructions by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) not to grant media access to the centres despite prior accreditation by the

electoral umpire.

Also, at the INEC office in Bwari town, security operatives said they were acting under instructions from the electoral umpire to deny access to accredited media personnel.

INEC officials did not immediately react to the incidents.

Early results

At Polling Unit 056 Aco estate GUI Ward 07 in AMAC, at the end of polling at about 3pm, only 13 of the 580 registered voters turned up for voting.

The results showed that for chairmanship election, AAC scored 1 vote, APC got 8 votes, LP 1 vote while PDP polled 3 votes.

In the councillorship poll, APC got 7 votes to lead other parties as APGA polled 1 vote with PDP scoring 4 votes while YPP got 1 vote.

Councillorship result at Pigba in Apo Extension showed that APC got 16 votes, PDP-149, and ADP scored one vote.

At Polling Unit 100 at Kabusa Ward 3, AMAC, only three of the 59 registered voters turned out for accreditation and voting out of which APGA scored 2 votes while APC got 1 vote for both chairmanship and councillorship elections.

Chairmanship: Abaji Area Council

Ungwar PU010 Accredited Voters -35 APC-20 PDP-15	Samari Accredited Voters-9 ADP-1 APC-3 PDP-5	Accredited Voters- 24 ADP-1 APC-17 PDP-6
Au Suleiman PU007 Accredited Voters-9 ADP-1 APC-3 PDP-5		Ungwar Maikano PU005 Accredited Voters-6 APC-6 PDP-0
Ungwar Ndamazari PU006 Accredited Voters-9 APC-5 PDP-4 Ungwar Samari PU009		Ungwar Manko PU008 Accredited Voters-19 APC-18 PDP-1
		Ungwar Manko PU007 Accredited Voters-8 APC-7 PDP-1

Military school ex-boys join drug war, support NDLEA

• As Marwa bags 2021 Daily Asset Public Servant of the Year Award

The Nigerian Military School Ex-Boys Association has expressed the willingness of its members to join the ongoing war and advocacy campaigns against the menace of illicit drug trafficking and abuse especially among Nigerian youths. This was the solidarity message brought to the National Headquarters of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA in Abuja by some leaders of the group led by their President, Engr. Femi Ikuponiya when they paid a courtesy visit to the Chairman/CEO of the Agency, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Retd) at the weekend.

Ikuponiya said they were on the visit to identify with Marwa's strides of accomplishment and vision for the NDLEA as an ex-boy and a pride of the ex-boys family. He expressed the willingness of ex-boys to join advocacy campaigns to stem and eradicate the menace of use of illicit drugs amongst the Nigerian youths particularly in areas of intelligence gathering and reportage. He commended Marwa and described him as

a pacesetter and an exemplary ambassador of the NMS ExBA.

In his response, Marwa thanked the NMS Ex-Boys for their visit and offer to support the drug war, stressing that such was an indication that the key message of the War Against Drug Abuse (WADA), launched by President Muhammadu Buhari last June is fast achieving its target of mobilising every citizen to take ownership of the battle against the drug scourge.

Meanwhile, Chairman/Chief Executive Officer, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Retd), has bagged the DAILY ASSET newspaper's Public Servant of the year award for 2021.

The award which was presented in a well attended event held at the conference hall of Nicon Luxury Hotels Abuja on Thursday, 10th February had Professor Iyowuesue Hagher, a two-time minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as the chairman of the occasion.

Construction workers trapped as three-storey building collapses in Lagos

By Bose Adelaja

Two construction workers were reportedly rescued yesterday while three others were trapped in Yaba area of Lagos following the collapse of a three-storey building.

The building, said to be under construction as of the time of the collapse, was located at 16, Akanbi Crescent, off Adegina Street, Harvey, Sabo, Yaba, a short distance from the main entrance of University of Lagos.

Eyewitnesses said the construction workers were at their various duty posts when the building collapsed on them.

However, two of them were

rescued from the rubble immediately the incident occurred in the afternoon.

An eyewitness, Alhaja Adeoye Adesewa, said the building had suffered partial collapse in 2021 but this did not stop the ongoing construction.

The Director-General, Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA), Olufemi Oke-Osanyintolu, confirmed the incident but did not give further details on it.

At press time, it was learnt that rescue operations were ongoing at the site of the building which led to the rescue of two of the victims while the remaining were yet to be rescued.

NOTICE

Notice of substituted service is hereby given to MRS OBIDOZIE CHIGOZIE DOROTHY that there is a pending suit at the High Court 2 of Justice , Delta state Asaba in suit no A/41D/2021 between MR OBIDOZIE IKENNA NICHOLAS (PETITIONER) and MRS OBIDOZIE CHIGOZIE DOROTHY (RESPONDENT) Which she's to appear in high court 2 Asaba, Delta state.

