

# 20 killed as violence, apathy, glitches mar guber, assembly polls

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bottles, causing voters to scamper.

No fewer than five Vanguard reporters suffered one attack or the other from thugs who warned voters who were not willing to vote for a particular candidate to go home.

In spite of the hitches, the polls went seamlessly in many parts of the state

**Sanwo-Olu, Rhodes-Vivour bicker violence threat**  
Meanwhile, the APC cautioned the Labour Party, LP, governorship candidate, Gbadebo Rhodes-Vivour, over his statement that INEC and security agents should be blamed if Lagos boiled over the polls.

Publicity Secretary of APC, Lagos, Seye Oladejo, who cautioned Rhodes-Vivour, in a statement, called on the police to arrest the LP candidate.

Oladejo said: "The attention of the All Progressives Congress has been drawn to a statement made by Labour Party (LP) governorship candidate, Gbadebo Chinedu Rhodes-Vivour, on today's elections.

"He accuses the Independent National Electoral Commission and the police of 'provoking Lagosians' and warning that 'if tonight Lagos catches fire, it is not our fault'.

"He says 'a lot of places are still under attack by thugs and hoodlums of the APC.' This scaremongering is typical of bad losers who lack the spirit of sportsmanship.

"The security agencies should note Mr. Rhodes-Vivour's threat to set Lagos on fire as his predilection for violence and war-mongering is well known to Nigerians.

"Should there be any breakdown of law and order in any part of our state, law enforcement agencies should know who to grab - Mr Rhodes-Vivour."

**Policeman, one other shot in Ondo amid voting-buying in dollars**

In Ondo, violence, low turnout of voters, and vote-buying marred the polls.

In many council areas, despite the prompt arrival of polling officers and adequate security provided, the electorate failed to show up to vote.

INEC officials arrived polling units at 8:00am but voting did not commence until around 9:00am in many units.

Electoral officials waited for hours before voters started coming for accreditation.

As at 10am, polling units were scanty and INEC officials stayed idle at polling units.

Candidates had to employ the services of town criers to go round and appeal to the residents to come out and vote.

Aside some places where the BVAS malfunctioned, it worked perfectly across the state, according to reports.

Loyalists of party candidates were seen handing over dollar notes to voters in many voting centres visited.



\*Cross section of elderly women with their voter cards at Polling Unit 006 Ward 1 Anifowoshe, Ikeja, Lagos.

A policeman and a resident of Idanre, were reportedly hit by stray bullets during the elections.

Reports had it that the two victims were rushed to the general hospital in the town and were receiving treatment.

The cause of the shooting could not be ascertained as of the time of filing this report.

There were also reported cases of snatching of ballot boxes in the area.

The state police spokesperson, Funmi Odunlami, said that "some thugs reportedly hijacked and destroyed ballot boxes and other voting materials during the elections in 10 of the 12 units in ward 12 at Ute in Ose Local Government area of Ondo State."

The units where ballot boxes were destroyed included 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 15, of Ward 12 at Ute.

Sunday Vanguard gathered that the thugs stormed nine units to destroy ballot boxes having realised that their sponsor was losing the election.

It was also gathered that the thugs had earlier threatened voters that any attempt to vote for the other political parties in the area would be resisted.

Despite the threat, voters were said to have cast their votes for the other political party, hence the destruction of ballot boxes in the wards at Ute.

A reliable source alleged that some INEC officials were also attacked on their way to the collation center and ballot papers and other election materials destroyed and burnt.

**One killed by security operatives in Niger**  
A middle aged man was shot and he died instantly as the deceased and others engaged security agents in a scuffle.

They were throwing missiles at security agents at a polling unit in Saukahuta area of Minna, Niger State capital.

It could not be immediately confirmed what ensued between the youths and the security personnel, including police and operatives of the Nigeria Security

**rity and Civil Defence Corps, who manned the polling unit.**

The corpse of the deceased was hurriedly ferried away by his colleagues.

Operatives of the EFCC also arrested an agent of one of the political parties for alleged vote-buying at Sabongari area of Minna.

The agent was said to have been caught while disbursing money to some voters at the polling unit and whisked away.

Meanwhile, Gbadagbadu Polling Unit in Busu town, Lavun LGA was invaded by thugs, who went straight to the tables where ballot boxes were placed and scattered the votes already cast.

Three people waiting anxiously for the counting of the votes already cast were injured by the thugs while presiding officers fled for safety.

Contacted, spokesman for the state Police Command, DSP Wasiu Abiodun, promised to get back to Sunday Vanguard but was yet to do at press time.

**One shot as hoodlums raid polling units in Osun**  
In Osun, one person was shot at a polling unit in Ward 4 in Ila-Orangun, Ila LGA during an argument on over-voting in the House of Assembly election that was marred by voter apathy.

While APC members were protesting over-voting recorded in Unit 3, some hoodlums shot at them, thereby disrupting the process.

INEC officers and security operatives arrived early, paving way for early commencement of voting.

While voting was ongoing smoothly across polling units in the state, hoodlums in an unregistered Toyota Sienna vehicle invaded polling units 10 and 11 of Ataoja ward 5 in Osogbo LGA and disrupted the process.

The hoodlums left in a hurry without taking ballot boxes, only to return later after voting had resumed at the two units and eventually dispersed voters by shooting sporadically into the air before carting

away the ballot boxes at units 10 and 11, as well as ward 4, units 17 and 32.

Similarly in Ife-Central LGA, hoodlums invaded Irewo Ojatonun ward 3 unit 18 and destroyed both the used and unused ballot papers and boxes.

**Thugs attack polling units injure, 16 INEC officials in Anambra**

In Anambra State, more than 16 INEC ad-hoc staff were attacked and electoral materials, including ballot boxes, destroyed at Odoakpu Ward 7 in Onitsha South LGA during the House of Assembly election held in the state.

Five INEC ad-hoc staff were seriously wounded while 11 sustained minor injuries during the attack by the hoodlums who were moving from one polling unit to the other in Ward 7 and other wards in Onitsha South LGA.

The hoodlums carted away some ballot boxes, and destroyed them and scattered other voting materials being used for the election.

Some of the voting units invaded were at Nnewi Street, Margaret Street and Metu Memorial Secondary School.

**Thugs in military uniform hijack materials in Ebonyi**

In Ebonyi State, thugs in their numbers stormed Oshiegbe and Umuezeokoha Wards in Ezza North LGA and hijacked electoral materials meant for the elections.

Ezza North LGA is the stronghold of the APGA governorship candidate, Prof Benard Odoh.

Voters also protested alleged burning of electoral materials such as BVAS machine and other sensitive materials in Omege Ward, Ezza North LGA.

Mr Nwafor Benjamin, an APGA Ward Agent for the ward, described the situation as unfortunate, stressing that the development had deprived the people of the area their right to vote.

Confirming the incident, the Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Ebonyi State Police Command, SP Onome Onovwakpoyeya,

said electoral materials were being resent to the affected polling unit as election will still be conducted there.

Contacted, Ebonyi Resident Electoral Commissioner, REC, Mrs. Onyeka Ugochi, said she had received similar reports and that the Commission was working towards the conducted of election in the affected areas.

Speaking with Sunday Vanguard on phone, the APGA governorship candidate alleged that the ruling APC had imported lots of thugs who were busy disrupting election at various polling units across Ezza North Local Government Areas of the state.

He alleged that three voters were shot in his polling unit as election materials were destroyed.

He called on INEC to consider re-conducting election in various polling units, where election was disrupted and materials destroyed.

Reacting to the allegations, the APC Chairman in Ebonyi State, Chief Stanley Okoro-Emegha, denied the involvement of his party in such mayhem and asked Odoh to know that he could not become governor through violence and other forms of electoral misdemeanor.

Also, speaking, PDP governorship candidate, Dr. Chukwuma Odii, stated that there were pockets of violence in virtually all parts of the state.

Odii, who stated this while interacting with journalists after casting his vote at Nworie Town Hall Polling Unit 025 in Isu-Achara in Onicha Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, accused the ruling APC of desperation to retain power at all costs.

**Alleged vote-buyers injure EFCC staff in Kaduna**

Operatives of the EFCC on election monitoring duty in Kaduna State, yesterday, came under attack at School Road, Unguwan Rimi Kaduna while attempting to arrest a suspected vote-buyer.

Wilson Uwujaren, Head,

Media and Publicity of the EFCC, in a statement, explained that the team, working on intelligence on the alleged activities of one Kabiru Musa, who was seen in an amateur video allegedly inducing eligible voters by using his phone to transfer money into their accounts as they cast their votes, had mobilized to the scene to arrest the suspect.

However, immediately he was accosted by the operatives, Musa became unruly and screamed to attract the attention of his syndicate members, who descended on the operatives, using all manner of weapons that left some of them injured. It took great restraints for the operatives to ignore the unprovoked attack but insisted on arresting the suspect.

As the team drove away with the suspect, their vehicle was pelted with stones and other dangerous objects that damaged the windshield and three operatives suffered varying degrees of injuries in the process.

The injured operatives were said to be receiving medical attention at the Medical Centre of the Kaduna Zonal Command, while the suspect was taken custody, pending conclusion of the investigation.

**Voter apathy in Plateau as candidates claim victory**

There was low turnout of voters across polling units in Plateau State as INEC officials were seen setting up at the different units, waiting for voters at 8.40 am.

It was gathered that there was mixed up of some sensitive materials as some result sheets of some local government areas were taken to some other local government areas fuelling some suspicion of sabotage.

However, at some parts of the Mangu local government area, there was an improved number of voters at the Pushik 1 polling unit, Ampang West where the PDP governorship candidate, Caleb Mutfwang, cast his vote.

Speaking shortly after voting, Mutfwang said that he expected the votes of the people to count and that the process would continue and end peacefully.

Speaking on the alleged mix-up of the sensitive materials, he said: "I heard some materials meant for Riyom were moved to Bokkos, we hope this is a genuine mistake that should be urgently sorted out. Voters should be calm as we expect the right things would be done."

Also, Dr. Patrick Dakum of the Labour Party, LP and Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda of the APC, who voted at their respective polling units at Pankshin and Kanke LGAs, expressed hopes of winning the election.

On his part, APC's Nentawe Yilwatda, after casting his vote at the Dungung B polling unit at the LEA Primary School in Ampang East, Kanke LGA, expressed optimism of winning the election.

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