

Elections in Nigeria Marred by Violence

Contributed by Jonathan Elendu
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No election in some states... Nigerians went to the polls yesterday, April 14, 2007, to elect governors for the thirty-six states and state houses of assembly members. Elendureports.com monitored elections in some states including Sokoto, Zamfara, Kano, Abuja, Anambra, Lagos, Ogun, Imo, and Cross River States.

As reported in our Abuja titbits, there were serious problems with telephone services in Nigeria as most of the providers had network problems for many hours on election day.

This election has not been without wild rumors but we have taken our time to sift the truth. Here is what we know so far:

There was violence in the following states on election day: Bauchi, Zamfara, Gombe, Ogun, Rivers, Delta. Elections did not hold in Anambra, Enugu, in some parts of Zamfara, Bayelsa, and Delta states. In Cross River State election materials were reportedly diverted by INEC officials and PDP operatives. In Kano State, voting did not start until about midday. Even then, INEC officials were calling names of people to vote. In Imo State, some candidates cleared by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) were not on the ballot.

However, a top official of the Andy Uba campaign told Elendureports.com that elections held in Anambra. "There was election in Anambra; just that the election materials came at about 1:00 PM and most people who came to vote and could not find Chris Ngige's name on the ballot tore their cards and insisted that elections will not hold."

Meanwhile there is a manhunt for the former governor of Anambra State, Chris Ngige. There are unconfirmed reports that the security services are trying to arrest Ngige and tie him to the violence that marred elections in Anambra yesterday. As at the time of filing this report, Ngige was yet to be seen by anybody.

Also, there are unconfirmed reports that the Enugu State Governor, Chimaraoke Nnamani may be under house arrest. Elendureports.com has not been able to independently confirm this report. Chimaraoke Nnamani is a senatorial candidate of the ruling party, PDP, and as a serving governor enjoys immunity from arrest and prosecution.

In Sokoto State, there are indications that the Democratic Peoples Party (DPP) is going to emerge victorious. According to results from the field, the governorship candidate of the DPP, Muhammadu Maigari Dingyadi is leading Aliyu Magatakarda Wammako in several local government areas.

In Kebbi State, DPP is leading in the polls. However, there are fears that the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and INEC is working to manipulate the results.

Reports reaching us from a highly reliable source in Ogun State indicate that violence is raging in Ijebu Ode. According to our sources, houses and property worth millions of naira have been destroyed so far. Another source indicates that INEC is set to announce Gov. Gbenga Daniel as the winner of the election.

In Lagos State, it is all but certain that Babatunde Fashola, the candidate of Action Congress (AC) will succeed Gov. Bola Tinubu. There are indications that the announcement of the result has been delayed deliberately.

Email: jonathan@elendureports.com

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There are unconfirmed reports that Ibrahim Shekaru may have won the governorship election in Kano State. Shekaru is the incumbent governor and a member of the All Nigerian Peoples Party (ANPP).

In Oyo State, reports reaching us indicate that there is raging violence arising from the elections.