

**ONDO STATE  
FINAL REPORT  
GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION**



**OCTOBER 2012**

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We would like to acknowledge the financial support of CCDI Charitable Trust. Our gratitude goes to Comrade Olufemi Aduwo, for leading the Team, Mr Ade Popoola and Mallam Saidu Mohammed, the deputy leaders of the Team. Dr. Anthony Oladoyin of Obafemi Awolowo University for coordinating the preparation of the report, Mr. Gbenga Tomolaju and Pastor Femi Ibidapo for providing input into the report. The Team is deeply concerned to see continued progress towards pluralist democracy, we are concerned by reports of post election violence in some parts of the country .We encourage the people on Ondo State to seek peaceful resolution of all disagreement(s) **TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE.**

We commend the enthusiasm and determination of the people to continue the democratic consolidation through active participation in an electoral process marked by its inclusiveness and transparency. **TO THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION;** we offer our congratulations to the Commission; for impressive ability to conduct free, fair and acceptable Election.



**Mr. Olufemi Akinbule Aduwo  
Team Leader/National Coordinator  
Rights' Monitoring Group**



Team leader, Olufemi Aduwo (3rd from Right) with the roving team of Ilaje Local Government Area.

## **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Governorship election was held in October 2012 for electorate to elect the Governor of the State. The Rights Monitoring Group Election Observation Team (RMG EOT) was present in Ondo State from 18<sup>th</sup>/ 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012 following an accreditation from the Independent National Electoral Commission. The RMG EOT

EOM was led by Olufemi Aduwo, Country Director of Centre On Convention For Democratic Integrity (CCDI) and the Current National Coordinator of Rights Monitoring Group. The Group deployed hundred (100) observers from affiliated organisations to all the 23 Local Government Councils made up the three senatorial districts of the State to assess the electoral process against international and regional standards for elections as well as the laws of Federal Republic of Nigeria. The RMG EOT is independent in its findings and conclusions and adheres to the *Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation* commemorated at the United Nations in October 2005. The Governorship Election was conducted in an open, transparent and Competitive environment Freedoms such as the right to stand for election, the right to vote and the freedoms of assembly, expression and were respected across the State in line with the country's international and regional commitments. Key international and regional standards for elections were generally met and voters turned out in high numbers in some part of the State to cast their ballots. The Independent National Electoral Commission and security agencies demonstrated remain impartial and played a positive role in ensuring the election was conducted with transparency and openness.

The Independent National Electoral Commission organised the elections in a largely transparent, competent and Professional manner. Throughout the State, the electoral officials acted with impartiality and demonstrated high level of commitment to their work. INEC retained the confidence of major stakeholders and managed to deliver credible and transparent election, despite pressures before and during the election by the politicians with unguarded statements the legal framework governing the Governorship election of Ondo State provides a reasonable and comprehensive basis for the conduct of genuine and democratic election in line with international standards. Freedoms, including those of association, movement, assembly and speech as well as citizens' political and civil rights are all guaranteed in the Nigerian constitution. The constitution also protects other fundamental freedoms and political rights such as the right to vote, the right to participate in public affairs, based on the principle of non-discrimination and equality. A total of nine candidates competed for the election, only three Parties were seriously contested the election, ACN, LP and PDP.

**POLLING STATION INFORMATION**

- NAME OF POLLING UNIT: IKAKUMO
- POLLING UNIT CODE: 08
- NAME OF REGISTRATION AREA (WARD): ISOWOPO II
- REGISTRATION AREA CODE: 015
- NAME OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Alako NORTH EAST
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CODE: OD/01/08/010

**Note: VOTERS WHO HAVE COMPLAINTS OR ENQUIRIES SHOULD CALL THE FOLLOWING HOTLINES:**

INEC OFFICIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

INEC OFFICIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

INEC OFFICIAL: \_\_\_\_\_



The team leader, Olufemi Aduwo with the electorate at Ode Pepe Polling Unit in Ilaje Local Government Area.

Basic freedoms of assembly and movement were respected throughout the campaign period and political parties campaigned freely across the State. The rallies were generally calm and peaceful with a festival-like atmosphere, particularly during mega rallies, except on view occasions where the parties' supporters clashed. Although the environment remained largely calm, it became more acrimonious between the three political parties towards the end of the election the ACN, LP and PDP accused one another of trying to undermine the election process. In general there were no tangible signs that Incumbency or access to state resources was exploited to the advantage of the governing party's candidates during the election campaign period.

The Independent National Electoral Commission embarked on voter awareness. Also the Office of Special Adviser on inters parties Affairs to the president organised conference for the parties on peace and voter education. Freedom of speech in the media was respected and there were no reports of any incidents affecting the media's freedom to report on the campaign. The media provided a wide range of coverage of the election campaigns with the two major political parties, the ACN, PDP and LP received above 96 percentages. The remaining political parties received very little attention in the media.



None of the leading or minor field women as candidates or running mates there were no legal or technical obstacles to the participation of minority groups either as candidates or voters. There is a vibrant, mobilised and well organised civil society in the State and nongovernmental Organisations played a key role in observing the election. Reflecting this high degree of engagement over 2,000 domestic observers were deployed on election days to observe polling and counting from 24 accredited 26 Groups accredited by INEC. The three major political parties, ACN, PDP and LP deployed their Polling agents to all polling stations. They performed an important role in observing polling, counting and the aggregation of results that provided an inclusive environment for scrutiny of procedures. Party agents and domestic observers had unobstructed access to Observe all stages of the election process across the State providing for a highly transparent election day. A high degree of transparency was maintained at collation centres. The consensus retained largely because of this openness and compliance to the procedures during the aggregation of the results.

On the announcement of the final results there was general acceptance of the veracity of the process and confidence in the Electoral Commission's capacity and ability to conduct credible and transparent elections. However, a comprehensive set of detailed recommendations is included at the end of this report for consideration by the relevant authorities in order to further improve certain areas in the election process. Key recommendations include: \*The introduction of statutory provisions establishing clear rules for regulating the campaign environment as well as the introduction of greater transparency measures in the financing and expenditure of political parties to enhance public accountability. \*Enhanced transparency measures to be introduced by the Electoral Commission at all levels of the electoral administration to guarantee accountability. \*An extensive review of the voter register to be undertaken as well as a review of the procedures and safeguards currently in place to ensure its accuracy. Greater transparency measures should also be introduced to ensure stakeholder confidence in the register.



An RMG observer at Ode-Pepe Polling Unit

### II. INTRODUCTION

The Rights Monitoring Group Election Observation Team (RMG EOT) arrived Ondo State on the 18<sup>th</sup> and stayed till 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2012 following an accreditation by Independent National Electoral Commission. The RMG EOT was led by Olufemi Aduwo, Country Director, Centre on Convention for Democratic Integrity (CCDI) and National Coordinator, Rights Monitoring Group. The Team deployed hundred (100) observers from affiliated organisations to all the 18 Local Government Council made up the Three Senatorial Districts of the State to assess the electoral process against international and regional standards for elections as well as the laws of Nigeria. The RMG EOT is independent in its findings and conclusions and adheres to the *Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation* commemorated at the United Nations in October 2005. On Election Day, of 20th October 2012, EIGHTY OBSERVERS visited 1320 polling stations across the State to observe distribution of material, voting and counting. TWENTY OBSERVERS were stationed at the distribution centres and collating centres.



An unaccredited observer (middle) with RMG observers



An electorate complaining of non-availability of voting materials at Mahin town in Ilaje Local Government Area



### III. POLITICAL BACKGROUND

#### *A. Political Context*

On 25 July, 2008, the tribunal, presided over by Justice Harbar Nabaruma, nullified the election of Dr. Olusegun Agagu of the Peoples Democratic Party, ordering that the certificate of return issued to him by the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, be retrieved and, in his place, the petitioner, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko, be sworn-in. The Federal Appeal Court sitting at Benin, Edo State endorsed the Tribunal judgment and, declared that Olusegun Mimiko should be sworn-in with immediate effect, as the duly elected governor of Ondo state. The Appeal Court declared that Dr Segun Mimiko of Labour Party won the election with 195,030 votes, while Dr. Olusegun Agagu of the PDP won 131,565 votes. That singular judgment altered the political and election of Governorship of Ondo State and some few States where Courts nullified the election results.



Electorate on Election Day at Olubaram's Palace polling unit in Ikaram, Akoko North



### VIII. ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND PRE- ELECTION ENVIRONMENT

#### *A. Background to the Election Campaign Environment*

The campaign was undertaken in an environment where the freedoms of assembly, movement and expression have been continuously strengthened over the past decade. The three largest parties provided a highly competitive atmosphere that remained throughout the campaign period. A whole range of campaign strategies were employed by political parties. The Electoral Commission is responsible for supervising the political parties' election of executive officers and primaries. However, in practice there is no scrutiny on the actual degree of the internal party primaries which is widely perceived to have become monetised: dependent on financial status



At Ilaje Local Government Area

However, in practice there is no scrutiny on the actual degree of the internal party primaries which is widely perceived to have become monetised: dependent on financial status rather than popular support within the constituency and party. Many informal complaints came from ACN candidates who claimed that the Party leaders did not allowed primary election.

#### IV. LEGAL ISSUES

##### *A. Legal Framework*

The legal framework govern elections generally, provides a reasonable and comprehensive basis for the conduct of genuine and democratic elections in line with international standards guaranteeing the protection of fundamental freedoms and political rights. Freedoms of association, movement, assembly and speech as well as citizens' political and civil rights are all guaranteed in the constitution. The constitution also protects other fundamental freedoms and political rights including the right to vote, the right to participate in public affairs, based on the principle of non-discrimination and equality.



Electoral officials and a party agent



One of the polling units in Owo

##### *B. Universal and Regional Standards*

Nigeria has ratified all major international and regional treaty standards for elections. These include the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the 1966 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the 1952 Convention on the Political Rights of Women (CPRW) and the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (MWC). As a member of the African Union and of the Economic Community of West African Countries (ECOWAS), Nigeria has ratified the 1981 African Charter on Human Rights and Peoples' Rights (ACHRPR) and the 2001 Protocol on

Democracy and Good Governance Nigeria is also a signatory to the African Union's African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, 2007. Most of the provisions of these international instruments are agreement with the country basic law and electoral laws of Federal Republic of Nigeria.

### *C. The Administration of the Election*

The Independent National Electoral Commission organised the election in a largely transparent and professional manner generally in accordance with regional and international standards.<sup>1</sup> Throughout the State the Electoral Commission's temporary and permanent members of staff mostly acted with impartiality and prepared for the elections in a committed and competent manner. Polling agents and domestic observers had the right to unobstructed access to observe all stages of the election process which provided a high level of transparency on the Election Day in the State. The Electoral Commission also employed an open and effective communication strategy in the media and the INEC Chairman along with Commissioners visited the State to parley with the Stakeholders to explain and inform the public on the preparations for the election before the election. The Office of Election Monitoring and Observation Unit of the Electoral Commission met with accredited observers for briefing a day before the election and immediately after the election.

### *D. Overview of the Election Campaign*

Basic freedoms of assembly and movement were respected throughout the campaign period and political parties campaigned freely across the State. Campaigns of the LP, ACN and PDP were very visible throughout the State and rallies, door-to-door canvassing and town hall meetings were held across State. The rallies were generally calm and peaceful with a festival-like atmosphere, there only a very few incidents of violence were reported. At some of the rallies the tone of campaigning was negative with the three major parties ACN, LP and PDP criticising one another openly and RMG observers noted the incidents of inflammatory language. Rallies ranged in size from small localised ones of 300 supporters to very large gatherings of and NPP with as many as 50,000 supporters attending. The three large political parties ACN, LP and PDP also distributed party paraphernalia such as t-shirts and scarves and provided food at rallies. Debates between the candidates of the of the contesting parties were organised prior to the election by Election Debate Group at Akure, the State Capital, led by Mr. Taiwo Alimi, a veteran journalist. During the final debate between the running mate candidates, Chief Taiwo Alimi condemned the behaviour of ACN and PDP supporters at the venue. The running Mate of LP who also the current Deputy Governor of the State did not participated in the debate. The party LP, reported that he withdrew due to the security report that he may be attacked. The fear of the Party was confirmed by the organiser of the event, Taiwo Alimi who openly declared that the debate of the running mates was the worst in the history of election debate in Nigeria since 1999.



Although the environment remained largely calm, it became more acrimonious between the three political parties towards the end of the campaign period as the ACN, PDP and LP accused one another of trying to undermine the election process. No evidence was presented to support any of these claims. In the final days of the campaign period such accusations became excessive and inflammatory with unsubstantiated claims issued by the three parties and published in the media that were primarily intended to heighten suspicion of election fraud between different supporters of political parties.



A typical Ilaje neighbourhood

## ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND PRE-ELECTION ENVIRONMENT

### *A. Background to the Election Campaign Environment*

The campaign was undertaken in an environment where the freedoms of assembly, movement and expression have been continuously strengthened over the past decade. The three larger parties provided a highly competitive atmosphere that remained throughout the Campaign period. A whole range of campaign strategies were employed by political parties. The Electoral Commission is responsible for supervising the political parties' election of executive officers and primaries. However, in practice there is no scrutiny on the actual degree of the internal party primaries which is widely perceived to have become monetised: dependent on financial status rather than popular support within the constituency and party. Many informal complaints came from ACN contestants who claimed that the Party leaders did not allow primary election.

### *B. Overview of the Election Campaign*

Basic freedoms of assembly and movement were respected throughout the campaign period and political parties campaigned freely across the State.



A ballot box secured by a Security agent



ACN Governorship candidate observing a voter dropping his ballot paper

### *C. Election Day*

The large majority of polling stations observed opened on time or within an hour of the scheduled time, with a small percentage opening later. Generally all voting material and polling staff were present on opening to ensure voting started on time, but in a few isolated cases, in Ilaje Local Government area materials came late due to the terrain of the area. A large number of voters turned out on opening of the poll and queues were long in some polling stations. Polling was conducted in calm and generally orderly manner with voters patiently waiting to vote. Large numbers of members of the security forces were deployed on election days, but their presence was not intimidating and they acted professionally. Polling procedures in the 1,200 polling stations visited on Election Day by The Team were assessed as satisfactory. Polling staff were committed and largely professional in all polling stations visited.



## ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND PRE-ELECTION ENVIRONMENT



ACN Candidate during his accreditation

### *E. Campaign Finance*

There is campaign spending limit for political parties and candidates. The Amended Electoral Act of 2011 stipulated that the maximum election expenses to be incurred by a candidate at a governorship election shall be 200,000,000.00, two hundred million naira. In practice, the INEC does not possess the means to verify the spending.

### *F. Voter Education*

There were a large number of advertisements in the media from the political parties and the Electoral Commission. The Voter Education Dept of INEC organised seminar for the political parties on voter awareness. Significant efforts were made to promote civic responsibility during the election day and throughout the campaign period. Political parties and security forces also made public calls for a peaceful election period.



RMG Observer taking notes at a polling unit



## **IX. MEDIA AND THE ELECTIONS**

### *A. Media Environment*

In the last decade there has been an expansion in the diversity of the media in Nigeria with the growth of independent radio stations throughout the country. Radio is the key medium and is widely available and considered the most important source of news information for the public. There are an increasing number of independent radio stations broadcasting programming in English and vernacular languages. The state owned broadcasting Corporation (OSBC), also operates radio and television services. The print media is diverse with more than 11 daily newspapers. Most titles available in the State are privately owned and either independent or affiliated to a political party, administration.

### *B. Legal Framework for the Media and Elections*

Freedom of speech in the media was respected during the campaign period for these elections in line with Nigeria's regional and international commitments. There were no major incidents affecting the media's freedom to report on the campaign of the candidates or their parties. In this respect, the provisions in Chapter 1V, Section 39 of the constitution of 1999 as amended providing for freedom of expression and press including freedom of the press and other media have been met. The Electoral Law and National Broadcasting Commission stipulated the dos and don'ts for media.

### *C. Monitoring of Media Coverage of the Elections*

Print and audiovisual media provided extensive coverage of the elections throughout the Monitoring period. Reflecting their strong position in the State politics the ACN, PDP and LP received a wide range of coverage across the media. In contrast the smaller parties, very low levels of coverage. Despite the generally positive nature of most media coverage, there were instances of aggressive and negative campaigning, both in the paid-for-advertisements of the parties as well as in the discussion programmes aired by some private radio stations



Women electorate waiting to cast their votes

## PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AND MINORITIES

### *A. Participation of Women*

Women's rights and gender equality are guaranteed by the Nigeria constitution of 1999 as amended and in the international instruments Nigeria none of the leading parties field woman as candidate or running mate during the election.



Women electorates on their way to a polling unit in Ilaje

## **XI. PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND ELECTION OBSERVATION**

There is a vibrant, mobilised and well organised civil society in Country and nongovernmental Organisations played a key role in observing the election. This organisation undertook parallel voter tabulation in a sample of polling stations that provided increased transparency in the results process. . Civil society organisations and faith based groups also played an important role in publicly calling for a peaceful election, and supporting the Electoral Commission's work by expressing confidence in its ability to ensure the election was organised transparently and effectively. Public institutions established by the law such as Police Service Commission and the NIPSS also deployed observers. The LP, ACN and PDP mobilised large numbers of Polling agents who were present in nearly all of the 3240 polling stations to observe polling and counting processes and they played a key role in ensuring transparency on the Election Day and for the period of the aggregation of results. As part of its consensus building role the Electoral Commission also provided training for observers from civil society organisations through the assistance of IFES. The election was also observed by foreign mission .The officials of United States of America, Embassy, and Consulate Office Lagos were in the State during the election as observers.



Voters being directed to queue by RMG Team Leader



RMG Team boarding boat at Zion Pepe in Ilaje Local Government Area to an interior part of the Local Government



## XII. COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

The legal framework provides generally sound mechanisms for the enforcement of its provisions. There are clear and appropriate channels for addressing election related offences and complaints. The judiciary is responsible for handling complaints and appeals against decisions of the Electoral Commission through judicial review and petitions against the election results in accordance with international standards. The Electoral Law stipulated time frame when petition must be filled.

### A. Electoral Offences

Electoral offences are set out in Part VIII, section 138, of the Amended Electoral Act 2011

### B. Counting and the Announcement of Results

Immediately after the close of polling, counting commenced, at all polling stations in clear sight of the polling agents and election observers. Counting was mostly conducted in a calm and orderly environment with procedures mainly followed. Presiding officers and party agents signed the result forms after counting and the process remained transparent throughout. Closing was assessed as fair and good in all polling stations visited and the transfer of ballots to collation centres was carried out without hitches. RMG observers noted that in all collation centres, the ballot boxes were fully securely stored. The Chief Returning Officer for the election, Prof. Adebisi Daramola, Vice Chancellor, Federal University Technology, Akure at 1.30p.m. on the 21st of October 2012, declared the results as follows:

### RESULT SUMMARY

The collated figures tally with figures RMG Observers recorded at Local Government Council level

S/N	CONTESTANT	GENDER	PARTY	VOTES RECEIVED	% SCORE	REMARKS
1	OLUWAROTIMI ODUNAYO AKEREDOLU ESQ	M	ACN	143,512	22.97%	
2	ADEUTI STEPHEN TAIYE	M	ACPN	1,806	0.29%	
3	HON. ADEYEMI BOLARINWA	M	ANPP	1,461	0.23%	
4	COMRADE OLADIMEJI TOKUMBOH ADEGOROYE	M	APS	751	0.12%	
5	OLASEGIRI GBENGA FESTUS	M	BNPP	2,949	0.47%	
6	BUILDER OMOYELE AFOLABI OLORUNWA	M	CAP	735	0.12%	
7	EHINLANWO OLUSOJI	M	CPC	1,931	0.31%	
8	DR. RAHMAN OLUSEGUN MIMIKO	M	LP	260,199	41.65%	ELECTED
9	OLADIPO BOLADE LAWRENCE	M	NCP	823	0.13%	
10	ABIKANLU JAMES OLUSOLA	M	NSDP	1,103	0.18%	
11	VICTOR OLUWAFEMI ADETUSIN	M	PDC	21,361	3.42%	
12	CHIEF ALEX OLUSOLA OKE	M	PDP	155,961	24.97%	
13	OMOREGGHA OLATUNJI KRIS (OTUMBA)	M	PPA	1,625	0.26%	
	TOTAL NUMBER OF VALID VOTES	594,244				
	TOTAL NUMBER OF REJECTED VOTES	30,415				
	TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES CAST	624,659				
	TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCREDITED VOTERS	645,597				
	TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS	1,638,950				
	PERCENTAGE TURNOUT	38.11%				

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations to improve the electoral process and related areas are offered for consideration and action by the Government, Electoral Commission, political parties, civil society and the international community.

### Legal Framework

1. The legal framework regarding campaign regulations should be clarified. The provisions of the Political Parties Code of Conduct should be made legally binding and penalties for its violation should be imposed by the Electoral Commission on political parties. Greater clarity and legal certainty should also be provided for certain areas in the election process such as re-counting.

### Election Administration

2. The Electoral Commission should consider using the maximum length of time it has to Organise election. A precise and detailed calendar should be published for the organisation of elections with clear deadlines for the delivery of key components at the time of publication of the writ of notice of poll minutes.

3. The Electoral Commission should increase its training activities and design a permanent and rolling programme for polling officials to ensure all areas of the technical process are fully understood by officials.

4. A review of the information technology department of the Electoral Commission should be undertaken. Adequate training for staff responsible in the field for aggregation of results should be provided and more resources available to enable them to carry out their work

### Political Parties and Candidates

5. The national capacity of political parties needs to be strengthened including the introduction of proactive measures for ensuring inclusive political party structures.

6. Party agents should receive more training on their role during election and an adequate code of conduct be introduced. They should also receive visibility material identifying them as agents and should refrain from taking on a too proactive role in the process.

### Voter Registration

7. An extensive review of the voter register and the voter register exercise should be undertaken. . More adequate safeguards should also be introduced during registration to ensure minors of other individuals that are not eligible to vote are excluded from the register. A greater period of time should also be planned for public exhibition of the register and a permanent registration process should be considered.

8. In conjunction with the development of the national identity card scheme the voter register should be overhauled and a greater degree of centralisation introduced in ample time for entries to be checked and if necessary removed. The parties should also receive copies of the register well in advance of election. These should also be displayed in public in the vicinity of polling stations.

### Campaign Environment

9. The system for campaign spending should be reviewed as it is inadequate. Consideration should be given to enforce compliance with ceiling on spending and introducing an appropriate and transparent system for public accountability in campaign spending. To complement their annual financial reports the political parties should submit accounts of their donations and spending on a bi-weekly basis to a relevant authority for the duration of the campaign period ensuring maximum transparency.

10. Provisions for regulating the campaign environment and the conduct of political parties in their campaigning should be included in statutory legislation that should include the length of the official campaign period, a period of moratorium for campaigning immediately prior to elections, and penalties for infringements.

### Voter Education

11. More extensive and permanent voter and civic education should be introduced throughout the year to inform and educate voters of both their rights as voters as well as registration and voting procedures. The responsible institutions should also ensure this reaches grass roots level and the authorities provide an adequate budget for these activities to be undertaken.

### The Media Sector

12. The broadcasting act should be strengthening in public consultation to ensure a satisfactory regulatory environment for the broadcast media, whilst respecting the principle of freedom of speech. It should set out programme standards and broadcaster obligations as well as provisions relating to media coverage of elections.

13. An independent regulatory authority should be established for the audiovisual sector that possibly combines the responsibilities of the Media Commission and the National Communications Authority. This regulatory authority's functions and mandate should be clearly defined and it should have an adequately funded secretariat to undertake management responsibilities. It should also have statutory powers for it to adequately deal with complaints against programming and ensure editorial standards are maintained.

14. A committee for political advertising should be established prior to future elections to ensure consistency in the application of programme standards and taste and decency. Key provisions such as those pertaining to free access slots for party political broadcasts should be clarified and precisely defined as to the rights of the parties and candidates in law. Political advertisements should be clearly labelled and the practice of buying large amounts of airtime for documentaries and campaign rallies of the parties limited during campaign periods.

### Promote the Participation of Women and Minorities

15. A stronger position for women and minorities, governance and political parties should be encouraged through affirmative action within the political parties themselves. Civil Society and Domestic Observation

16. The active position of civil society in Nigeria should continue to be supported in respect to their election related work. Civil society organisations should continue to work together in observing elections to ensure coordination between organisations. The Political Parties should be able to understudy the operational method, to be able to separate election observation from activism and human rights protection, which some civil society organisations who observe election also undertake.

### Complaints and Appeals

17. A continuous training programme should be developed, to ensure judges are fully aware of electoral legislation and proceedings related to elections.

18. The prison sentence of up to two years should be adequate for electoral offences than fine of small amount of money. Polling, Counting and Publication of the Results



19. There should be an increase in the number of polling stations in higher population density areas. A maximum ceiling should be placed on the number of voters registered at an individual polling station to ensure regular voting patterns and less crowding.

20. A more adequate set of safeguards should be introduced at polling stations to ensure the veracity of the process. An extra polling official should be posted at all larger polling stations to ensure crowd control and regulate entry and exit points as well as to ensure that only eligible persons are inside the polling station area.

21. More training conducted well in advance of Election Day should be planned by the Electoral Commission. A permanent register of polling officials should be maintained with regular training sessions conducted throughout the country.

22. Consideration should be given to adjusting the closing time of polling stations to ensure that counting can be conducted in a suitable environment with adequate lighting and visibility. This is particularly the case for polling stations that are situated outside in the open air.

23. Provisions to guarantee results are posted and displayed outside of polling stations for the public to inspect should be introduced. This process should also take place at all levels of the aggregation process to ensure maximum transparency in the results process.

24. Greater safeguards need to be introduced to guarantee the accuracy of the aggregation process. Staff should receive advanced training in handling the handover of documents and data entry. The environment should also be more regulated to ensure crowd control.