

FINAL REPORT

NIGERIA

GENERAL ELECTION 2011

- **RIGHTS MONITORING GROUP**
- **CENTRE FOR CONVENTION ON DEMOCRATIC INTEGRITY**
- **HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION AND ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION**



RIGHTS' MONITORING GROUP



**CENTRE FOR CONVENTION ON
DEMOCRATIC INTEGRITY**



**HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION
AND ADVANCEMENT
FOUNDATIONN**

This report was jointly produced by the Rights' Monitoring Group ,Centre For Convention On Democratic Integrity and Human Rights Protection And Advancement Foundation Election Observation Team for Nigeria General Elections held on the 9th,16th & 26th April 2011 .These views have been adopted and approved by the Boards of the Team and should be relied upon as a statement of the Team.

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The Election Observation Team to Nigeria

We would like to acknowledge the financial support of GCA Charitable Trust; UK. Our gratitude goes to Comrade Olufemi Aduwo, for leading the Team, Mr Ade Popoola and Mallam Saidu Mohammed, the deputy leaders of the Team. Mr. Deinde Komolafe and Femi Ibadapo for preparing the report, Mr. Gbenga Tomolaju and Bode Basorun for providing input into the report. Also Mr. Ayodeji Olaleye for security advice. Chukwuemeke Iwelunmo The media Director CCDI

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 all Nigerians to seek peaceful resolution of all disagreement(s)

TO THE PEOPLE OF NIGERIA; we commend the enthusiasm and determination of Nigerian 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



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



OUR CAPABILITIES AND EXPERIENCE

Rights Monitoring Group is a coalition of 45 Civil Society Organisations formed in 2007, we are committed to combating corruption, promotion of enduring democracy, sustainable electoral process, monitor Nigeria compliance with international treaties, which were made to promote peace and progress within and among Nations. Among our members are NATIONAL WOMEN SOCIETIES COUNCIL {NCWS} and CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA{CAN}. We have participated in many international election observation delegations, along with former United States of America President Jimmy Carter in America Election of 2008, We were in Ghana in 2009 and United Kingdom in 2010. In March 2008, We organised a two day seminar on **Nigeria's Quest for Democracy; The Way Forward**, held at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ife, Osun. In September 2008, a seminar on **Participation Democracy in Nigeria; The Challenges of Constituency delimitation** was held at Rockview Hotel Abuja.

In September 2009, a one day conference on **Christian Leaders and the Challenge of sustaining Nigeria's Democracy through Voters' Education** was held at Ikeja, Sheraton Hotel, Lagos. In July 2010 a one day seminar on **Voters' Education; The Imperative of Youth Participation in the Electoral Process** was held at the Conference Centre, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ife, Osun State

On Tuesday, 8/3/11, RMG organised training for her 4000 election observers at Protea Hotel, Asokoro, Abuja. See page 8 and 9 of Monday, 7/3 of SUN and The Guardian Newspapers and Tuesday, 8/3/11, of Tribune page 47, Compass, page 53 and Champion, page 28

We have testified before the National Assembly on Election related issues, granted press interviews and published widely on Elections and Election Observation in Emerging Democracies, and we have significantly influenced the practice and methodology of domestic election observation in the country. We served in the **INEC Anambra State 2010 Governorship Election Monitoring And Observation Board.**



Voters at Polling Unit

The General elections were held in April 2011 for voters to elect a President, who is elected as Head of State and Governors in the States, Members of the Parliament in the States and National Assemblies. Parliamentary members elected for a four year term and allowed to re-contest unlimited terms unlike the President and Governors who are allowed constitutionally for two terms in office.

Prior to the election, members of the Team were accredited individually to observe the voter registration process conducted by the INEC in the month of February.

The Team deployed 4897 trained observers following the accreditation from INEC on individually recognition and

and deployed them across the 774 LGs in the 36 States of the country .

The Team assess the electoral process against the constitution, electoral law and other pertinent legislation of the country, as well as the country's international commitments and regional treaties. The Team 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 general elections were conducted in an open, transparent and Competitive environment. Fundamental freedoms such as the right to stand for election, the right to vote and the freedoms of assembly, expression and movement were respected across the country 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 to cast their ballots.

Central institutions such as the Electoral Commission, the executive and security agencies demonstrated ability to remain impartial and played a positive role in ensuring these elections were conducted in transparent and open environment.

The Electoral Commission organised the elections in a largely transparent, competent and professional manner. Throughout the country the staff mostly acted with impartiality and demonstrated a high level of commitment to their work. The schedule for the preparations for these elections, however, was extremely tight and this put the Commission under unnecessary pressure. The legal framework governing the elections in the country provides a reasonable and comprehensive basis for the conduct of genuine and democratic elections 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 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 non-discrimination and equality, and the right to a fair trial.

The major rallies were generally calm and peaceful with a festival-like atmosphere, particularly during the larger rallies of the presidential candidates. In very few cases there were clashes between parties supporters. Increase in door-to-door canvassing of voters was noticed toward the beginning of the election. 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.

On a national level there were a large number of advertisements in the media range from Political parties, organisations and the Electoral Commission promoting voter awareness. Media coverage of the election campaigns of the three political parties, ACN, CPC and PDP received a considerable percentage of the coverage.

The remaining political parties received very little attention in the media.

There is a vibrant, mobilised and well organised civil society in the country; they played a key role in observing these elections.

Reflecting this high degree of engagement over 300 domestic observer groups were accredited to observed Polling and counting.

The civil society also played a positive role, in calling for, a peaceful election and supporting the Electoral Commission's work.

The major political parties deployed their party 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.

Polling was generally orderly in many units. Whilst there were some cases where polling officials did not fully comply with open modified ballot system procedures,

on the whole polling officials acted impartially and competently and overall, procedures were complied with in most polling stations.

Polling staff were committed and professional in polling stations visited. Party agents and domestic observers had unobstructed access to observe all stages of the election process across the country.

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. Comrade Olufemi Aduwo was accredited to represent more than 300 domestic observers at the Presidential coalition centre, Abuja and he was present till when certificate of return was presented to the winner of the Presidential election and candidate of PDP-Dr. Goodluck Jonathan. 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.

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Compass politics

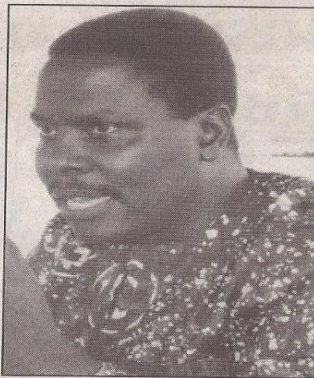
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2010

2011: Nigerians should keep faith with Jega, says activist

Olufemi Aduwo, Coordinator, Rights Monitoring Group (RMG) and member of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), who constituted Observations and Monitoring Board for the recently held Anambra and FCT polls, speaks about the forthcoming general elections in this interview with **GODWIN AKPAN**.

WHAT is your take on the recent proposal of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for a shift in the general elections from next January to April?

I won't blame the INEC for asking for an extension and at the same time, I didn't hear directly from the members of the National Assembly and as such I cannot totally condemn the amendment that made them fix the period of the election. Under the 1999 Constitution and the 2006 Electoral Act, INEC has the prerogative to fix the date and time of general elections, and if that provision has been maintained



• Aduwo

in the amendment we wouldn't have been confronted with this challenge. I think we're still learning. But with what they have said now, maybe it will take them like two or three weeks to do the amendment and resolve the whole matter and we'll go back to the track. But I had said it before that it may not be feasible to hold the elections in January due to logistic problems INEC is having, and

here we're talking about Voter registration and other things.

But do you think all these can be put in place before the extension period elapses?

Well, it is one thing to ask for extension, it is another thing to ensure that the time is well used in terms of making adequate preparations. However, having a free and fair election is beyond the INEC. The electoral body is just one of the many stakeholders in the exercise and we look up to them just because they are the umpire; we don't want the umpire to join the game but there are many things that the umpire needs to be comfortable.

One reason why the elections were initially fixed for January was to allow for the completion of litigations that may ensue from the elections before swearing in. Do you think that can still be achieved with the postponement?

No. With the way things are now, we'll come back to the same thing if elections are held next April, that would mean you have only about a month to hand over. The May 29 handover date must not change. President Jonathan is not likely to change it, and the INEC under the chairmanship of Jega is not likely to change it either. Nigerians are also not likely to allow that, because it will be tantamount to a coup if he fails to hand over on May 29.

Already those aspects of the constitution that have been amended have been gazetted and they have become part of the constitution, although some people are still contending whether or not the president

has the power to assent or not. **I'm asking if one month is enough to treat all the litigations**

No. **That means we're going to face the same situation where litigations run into two, three years and more.**

Yes. But if the will is there, like what happened in the case of the late Ajasin and Omoboriowo in the 1983 governorship election in Ondo State which took about a month from the tribunal, to the Appeal court, to the Supreme Court, it can be achieved. This was done within that space of time because then, we had men of honour, men of integrity at the bar. But with what we've witnessed since 2007, one has every reason to doubt if such a feat could be repeated.

Some of your positions are similar to those been put forward by the Save Nigeria Group (SNG), do you have any relationship with it?

No. Well, everybody is saving Nigeria, or have you seen anybody that says he's not saving Nigeria? Every reasonable Nigerian wants Nigeria to be saved. But in reality, I don't belong to Save Nigeria Group. I'm a Christian; some of them are also Christians. Some of them are my friends and I like some of their views. Some of them may not go well with me, I have nothing to do with Save Nigeria Group.

I'm the Coordinator of Rights Monitoring Group (RMG), with not less than 48 NGOs that are members. I don't go on the roads to protest, there are so

Continued on Page 37

10 THE GUARDIAN, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2009

'Politicians are the problems of elections, not INEC'

Mr. Olufemi Akinbule Aduwo, National Coordinator of The Rights Monitoring Group (RMG), a coalition of 45 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society organisations (CSOs) spoke with **MOHAMMED ABUBAKAR** in Abuja on election monitoring and electoral reforms. Excerpts:

WHAT does The Rights Monitoring Group (RMG) stand for?

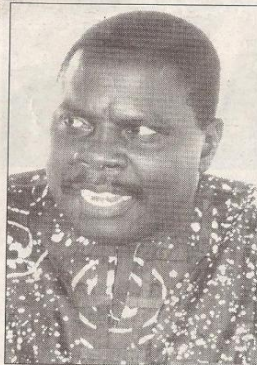
One of our missions is the promotion of good governance, accountability and transparency and to promote participatory democracy. We partnered with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) during the Nuhu Ribadu era; and investigated a lot of cases, because we have an arm of probity. We had started these cases with some embassies before the EFCC came on board. We have been partnering the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in voter education, observation of elections and other areas we feel we can contribute to the advancement of democratic ideals, defending the constitution and on anything that can lead to good governance. **What is the nature of your association with INEC in election monitoring and observation?**

When organising an election, the list of stakeholders does not end with the electoral management body (EMB). In our case INEC, political parties, electorate, security agencies, the media and observers have roles to play. The other stakeholders, important as they are, have shortcomings but nobody wants to challenge them. For instance, the electoral law says a polling agent should have a name and address, which should be registered with INEC at the council level at least eight days before the elections. We did a study and discovered that most parties do not comply with this provision; they don't have credible

polling agents. Secondly, most parties lack internal democracy, considering the way some of the candidates emerge. This breeds crisis, which is a reflection of the general elections. The issue of money in politics is rampant. If somebody spends N200 million for a senatorial election, and loses, he would become desperate. Nigerian politicians don't know how to be good losers. Someone has to take the blame; it could be the police or INEC. In a situation whereby logistics are faulty and electoral materials are not available, INEC must be blamed.

Comment on the challenges facing the Commission in view of the criticism that trailed the 2007 elections?

Since independence, no election has been conducted that people have not complained against. People condemn INEC without properly analysing that INEC conducted the election in Bauchi State where Adamu Mu'azu, lost to his former aide in a senatorial election won by the All Nigerian Peoples Party (ANPP) and in Lagos State Babatunde Fashola (SAN) of the Action Congress (AC) won. The council election that was conducted in Plateau State that consumed more than 500 families was not conducted by INEC. All the council elections ended in chaos and complaints. Even a saint were invited to conduct an election in Nigeria, as long as we have the same politicians who will not play according to the rules, we are going nowhere. In the bye election conducted by INEC in Ondo State, the Labour Party won. The same happened in Edo where the AC won the bye-election. Has anybody seen the power of incumbency and the use of government machinery to coerce the people? If millions of Professor Maurice Iwu say they don't want to give Nigerians credible election and the politicians say they want credible election, they will get it. If Iwu wants credible election and the players say, they don't want it, then we can't get it. If there is by-election into any State House of Assembly or governorship election, people should understand that Iwu has no power concerning who announces the results at that level. The Resident Electoral Commissioners (RECs) are there, they conduct elections at the state



• Aduwo

levels, so when people see the role played by each stakeholder and apportion blame as appropriately, then we can move. **How do you react to calls for Iwu to be removed?**

People calling for Iwu's removal are not sincere. Take for example the Uwais panel report. Some of the governors, especially AC governors clamouring with Coalition of Democrat on Electoral Reform (CODER), why can't they start by allowing judicial bodies in their states to appoint the electoral bodies, for the SIEC? Are people saying that the PDP cannot get a single councillorship seat in Lagos or that the ANPP cannot get a single slot in Kaduna State? The call for the removal of Iwu is misplaced. Iwu's appointment is a constitutional matter, he has a fixed appointment, five years, which is renewable and I believe that if Nigeria wants to move away from these accusations and counter accusations, we should let Iwu be. For instance, at the Senate retreat in Kaduna, they invited the Ghanaian Electoral Commissioner. He said if we must get it right we must do three things: continuous voter education,

experience and continuity. The man has been there for nearly 18 years, he has conducted election, where all the sides of political divides have been able to win and the credibility is still there. Before John Aitah Mills became Ghana President, he did not have to jump from party A to B, he was there contesting until one day, he won. Two days to the Ghana election, the ruling party went to court to challenge that the run-off should not take place, but the judge threw away the request. If it were Nigeria probably that case would continue, and election would not have held. When Iwu's tenure ends there is nobody that President Yar'Adua appoints who will not analyse without political colouration. It is either they tell you he is a PDP or AC supporter. If there are mistakes, we should learn from them and move ahead. With some sincerity, we can learn and. People are advocating that we learn from Ghana but they forget that Ghanaians have made their own mistakes and learnt from them. Iwu's tenure is five years in the first instance. But his counterpart in Ghana has spent 18 years on the job without anybody saying that he is partisan. Why can't we allow Iwu to continue, if there is any mistake they have made in the past, those mistakes will be corrected. **How do you want to pick somebody next year, when we have less than one year to conduct elections, what type of magic will such a person perform? Anyway, the problem is that up till now, we don't know the laws that will govern the 2011 election. Iwu is not our problem; our problems are not individuals but with politicians and the entire system and our values as a people.**

What happened at the retreat you held for religious leaders recently?

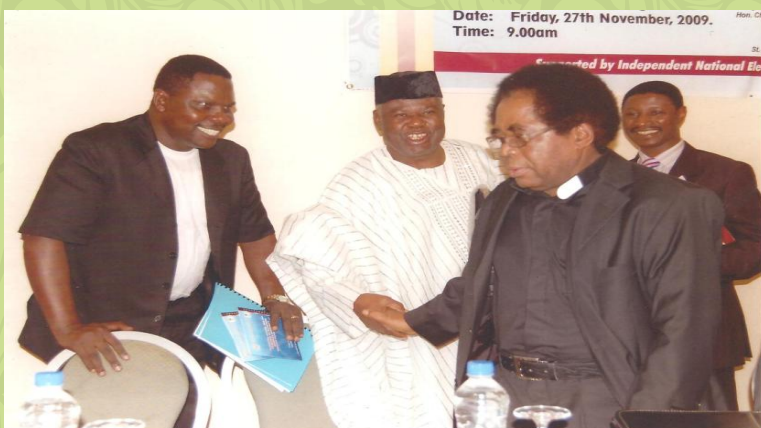
Before we were asked to learn from Ghana on voter education, the RMG started something along that line in 2008. The first was held at the Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife, in Osun State, while the second and third editions were held in Abuja. We believe we need a continued voter education, and then we have been able to identify some segments of the society - private organisations, labour and professional bodies - and we discovered that religious bodies play very critical role in the politics in

terms of reality, credibility and transparency. We said we should go to the church and organise a one-day conference with the national leaders of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) on the relevance of voter education. We believe that no religion supports immorality or injustice and anything that has to do with cheating. We wanted them to use the pulpit to talk to their members and let them know that their votes according to the dictates of their conscience. Even if they belong to different parties and they realise the candidate in the opposition party is more credible, and likely to give Nigerians more credible policies and laws, they should vote for the person. In the past, some church leaders were lackadaisical and have a lukewarm attitude towards politics, to the extent that some of them discouraged their members from participating in elections. But 10 years ago, I knew about two churches who barred their members not to go near anything like election and we are saying it cannot happen, people should not stand aloof and say that they are praying for a government they did not put in place in the first instance. People should just go and vote and make their votes count.

Recently I have been hearing from some religious leaders who said they would no longer pray for our leaders. I don't think it should be so. The most important thing for us to do is to effect a change through a no-violence method, because your vote is your power. The major dividend of democracy so far is the fact that we have had 10 years of uninterrupted democracy. I disagree when people commission roads and call it dividends of democracy. If people can have the powers to vote and be voted for, it is an evidence of democracy dividends. And in December, we are meeting with Islamic leaders at National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS),



Each of the organisations that formed the Team was accredited by Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on individual recognition and led by Mr. Olufemi Aduwo, National Coordinator, Rights Monitoring Group. The Team deployed 4897 observers from 45 affiliate organisations to all the 774 LGs of the country to assess the electoral process against international and regional standards for elections as well as the laws of the country. The Team 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.



Olufemi Aduwo, Secretary General of Christian Association of Nigeria. Egnr Samuel Salifu and Rev. Father Ukah at a voters' Education Conference for Christian leaders.

8 DAILY SUN Monday, March 7, 2011
NEWS
April polls: RMG conducts training for 4,000 election observers
 By PETER ANOSIKE

For international best practices in election monitoring to be observed in the Nigerian April general election, the Rights' Monitoring Group (RMG) will organise its pre-general election training for the observers to be deployed by the group for the election.

The participants for the training would be drawn from 45 civil society groups that were affiliated to it as well as from the partners among which were the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and the National Council of Women Society (NCWS).

According to the National Co-ordinator of the group, Olufemi Akinbule Aduwo, the training would concentrate on the issue of election monitoring around the world and would draw experience from the United States, United Kingdom and Ghana general elections of 2008, 2009 and 2010 of which the group was accredited among the foreign observers for the elections.

He said the aim was to teach the new members about how to observe, write election report as well as how to collate field reports.

According to him, the declaration of principles for international observation and its accompanying code of conduct which were endorsed by the United Nations in New York in October 2005 would also be reviewed.

He said the declaration established general principles for professional observation, adding that it attempted to define what was meant by genuine democratic election.

He words: "The international community does not have a single common set of internationally accepted standard for democratic elections or criteria for assessing elections.

"As a result, there is need for election observation organizations to work together to build consensus on detailed criteria for assessing elections. Electoral abuse is more complex than it used to be. Much of it occurs prior to the election day particularly during the compilation of electoral register."

He said given the increasing sophistication of the fraud, a long-term approach to observing election process was required.

According to him, the voters' registration, political parties, campaign organization, state media access by opposition parties, security, INEC preparation and the environment must be observed.

"We appeal to all political parties to desist from miss-leading the electorate. The electorate are also not permitted to be loitering around polling stations. Any reasonable political party should be able to have responsible polling agents at every polling station across the country."

The training would come up in Abuja tomorrow.

ife Babalola vows to lead crusade

A. Political Context

Since the restoration of democracy in Nigeria and the introduction of the 1999 constitution the country has maintained continuous progress towards strengthening fundamental freedoms and rights and developing a multiparty democracy. This was the fourth fully competitive general elections since 1999. These elections are widely regarded as important in the broader context of the development of democracy in the continent after some recent failures to hold credible elections in a number of key African states. The elections in the country therefore offered an opportunity to provide a positive reference Point for democratic development in Africa .As the incumbent President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, who became the president after the death of President Musa Yardua on the 5/5/10, won the primary election of his party, PDP. The other two leading parties CPC and ACN are regional based parties. Also the Presidential candidates of these 2 parties emerged through selection or adoption method.

A. Legal Framework

The legal framework governing general elections 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, and the right to a fair trial.

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. It is also a signatory to the African Union's African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, 2007.

C. Other Applicable Election Legislation

The general elections are regulated by a diverse range of laws and Regulations that include the Constitution of the Republic of Nigeria of 1999 as amended in 2011 and the Amended Electoral Act 2011. The legal framework is comprehensive and in conformity with international standards and best practices addressing the majority of areas relating to the electoral process. Whilst in line with these instruments there are some areas that need to be more precisely regulated.

D. The Electoral System

The 1999 Constitution of the country declares Nigeria to be a republic with sovereignty residing in the Nigeria people and it establishes a presidential and legislature system of governance with a president, parliament and local government assemblies who are all elected on the basis of universal suffrage. The Parliament of Nigeria is unicameral. The President is elected by popular vote in a single national constituency.

A satisfactory set of legal provisions to regulate the campaign environment are lacking and although freedom of assembly is guaranteed by the constitution there are neither specific regulations for the conduct of campaign activities. Inflammatory language and a prohibition on the use of state resources for campaign purposes Its non-legally binding nature, however, limited its application and political parties at times disregarded some of its provisions. There are also other areas such as the publication of results at all levels, including polling stations, that are neglected and there is an absence of deadlines for dispute settlement set out in the legal framework for elections, which would provide greater legal certainty and transparency.



Members of President elect entourage at the venue of presentation of certificate of return at the INEC institute on 19th April 2011

A. Structure and Composition of the Election Administration

The constitution of 1999 established the Independent National Electoral Commission, as established by S.153 of the Constitution, primarily to conduct federal and state elections. In addition to the functions conferred on it by the constitution, the Commission shall have power to, conduct voter and civic education.

B. The Administration of the Elections

The Electoral Commission organised these elections in a largely transparent and professional manner generally in accordance with regional and international standards throughout the country the Electoral Commission's temporary and permanent staff mostly acted with impartiality and prepared for the elections in a committed and competent manner. Party 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 both election days in most parts of the country. The Electoral Commission also employed an open and effective Communication strategy in the media and Chairman attended public forums across the country to explain and inform the public on the preparations for the elections.

The Electoral Commission also employed an open and Although the Electoral Commission met many international and regional standards in its work it did face challenges that were mostly related to the timetable that it set itself.

The schedule for these elections was extremely tight for a number of key components of election preparations and this put staff under unnecessary pressure. Also because of time constraints there was not always enough time for the Electoral Commission to implement some of its transparency mechanisms. This was a result of a lack of forward planning to take advantage of the full legal time period that could have been used to organise these elections. Overall, however, the Electoral Commission retained the confidence of major stakeholders and managed to deliver acceptable and transparent elections, despite these pressures.

A. The Right to Vote

The right to vote is established in the constitution of 1999. Any person of 18 years of age or above at the time of registration is eligible to vote has the right to be included in the voter register. The Electoral Commission conducted a national voter registration early this year and the outcome of the exercise was accepted to all stakeholders.



A renowned human rights activist Comrade Femi Aborishade at RMG Seminar on voters' education for the youth.

A. Registration of Political Parties

The registration of political parties in Nigeria is a flexible exercise. Also the acceptance of parties' candidates by Electoral Commission who has power to register parties follows simple method.



Child Voters

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. The Presidential primary election of PDP was credible and acceptable unlike ACN and CPC where the candidates were made by selection method.

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 country presidential candidates of the ACN, CPC and PDP extensively went round the country. Campaigns of PDP were very visible throughout the country and rallies, door-to-door canvassing, musical rallies and town hall meetings were held across Nigeria by the party. The rallies were *generally* calm and peaceful with a festival-like atmosphere, particularly during the larger ones of the presidential candidates, very few incidents of violence were reported in some part of the country. At some of the rallies the tone of campaigning was negative. Rallies ranged in size from small localised ones of 300 supporters to very large gatherings of PDP, CPC and ACN with as many as 50,000 supporters attending. The larger political parties also distributed party paraphernalia such as t-shirts and scarves and provided food at rallies.

Debates between the presidential candidates were held. There should be more visible opportunities for smaller parties to participate in future televised political debates.



Media briefing after national assembly election

DAILY SUN, Thursday, November 13, 2008, Page 2

Politics


Constituency delimitation'll ensure credible elections – National Co-ordinator, RMG

By PETER ANOSIKE

The National Coordinator, Rights' Monitoring Group (RMG), Olufemi Akinbule Aduwo has said that constituency delimitation being embarked upon by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) would deepen Nigerian democracy and ensure credible elections.

Speaking after a workshop on constituency delimitation in Abuja recently, he said that one of the factors that are impeding free and fair election in Nigeria was imbalances and unequal distribution of electoral units but that with constituency delimitation, the imbalances would be corrected.

According to him, sometimes the dividends of democracy don't go round because of the lopsided nature of the constituencies, adding that at times a senatorial zone could have eight local government area with one million people while another would have the same number of local governments but with 500,000 people. He said that the senatorial zone with the lesser number of people are likely to enjoy more of the federation revenue since federal



adjustment has put them in Ogun State. But in this particular exercise, nobody will be taken out of his state." What is going to happen is that in the constituencies, the population would be adjusted to give equal participation across the federation?

Creating awareness

Recently we organized a one-day workshop in Abuja. Two technical sections followed the workshop by civil society organisations across the country. The participants included Academic Staff Union of Universities, Christian Association of Nigeria, Islamic Council, National Association of Nigerian Students, National Council of Women Society, Civil Liberty Organization and notable human rights activists which include Femi Aborishade and Ayodele Akele. At the end of the workshop, we came out with a communiqué which include that INEC should always carry the civil society groups along in information dissemination. We are going to carry the message of constituency delimitation to the geo political zones and we intend to involve pressure groups like MEND, OPC, ACF, MASSOB and others. As I am talking to you now some of them have indicated their readiness to



RMG, Election Observation Coordinators at Local Government Councils, Pre election workshop. 774 Coordinators were deployed for the General Elections.

C. Election Related Violence

There were relatively few incidents of violence during the elections.

D. Campaign Finance

There was a campaign spending limit for political parties and candidates.

The Electoral law set out requirements for political parties to submit audited accounts of their spending to the Electoral Commission. The application of the law in this regard is non-effective to ascertain the spending of the candidates and parties during election.

F. Voter Education

Voter education is recognised in international law as the principle means to ensure that an informed electorate is able to effectively exercise their right to vote. Voter education in Nigeria is the responsibility of the electoral commission. On a national level there were a large number of advertisements in the media from organisations and the Electoral Commission. Lack of voter's education led to the relatively high number of rejected ballots in the elections. In the Nigerian context total of 1.2 million votes rejected is perceived to be high.

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 and television stations in the country. Radio is the key medium and it's 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 Federal government and all the state governments own radio and television station. The print media is diverse with numerous weekly magazines and daily newspapers .All titles are privately owned. Some editorial opinions were in favour of some political parties. Some owners are partisan; hence such organisations were biased in their reports. This was noticed in Compass Newspaper and The Nation Newspaper editorial opinions that are owned by politicians from South West. Also some radio and television stations in the north became campaign outfits for the party's in power.

The ruling party enjoyed a large advantage in coverage by state owned media. The biggest television and radio stations in the country, NTA and Radio Nigeria owned by the Federal government, were impartial in their reports. Candidates in respective of their parties were given equal opportunity to air their messages and also participate in their political programmes.

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 law and regional and international commitments.

A. Participation of Women

The women were involved in the electoral process as candidates and electorate. Only very few stood and contested in the elections.



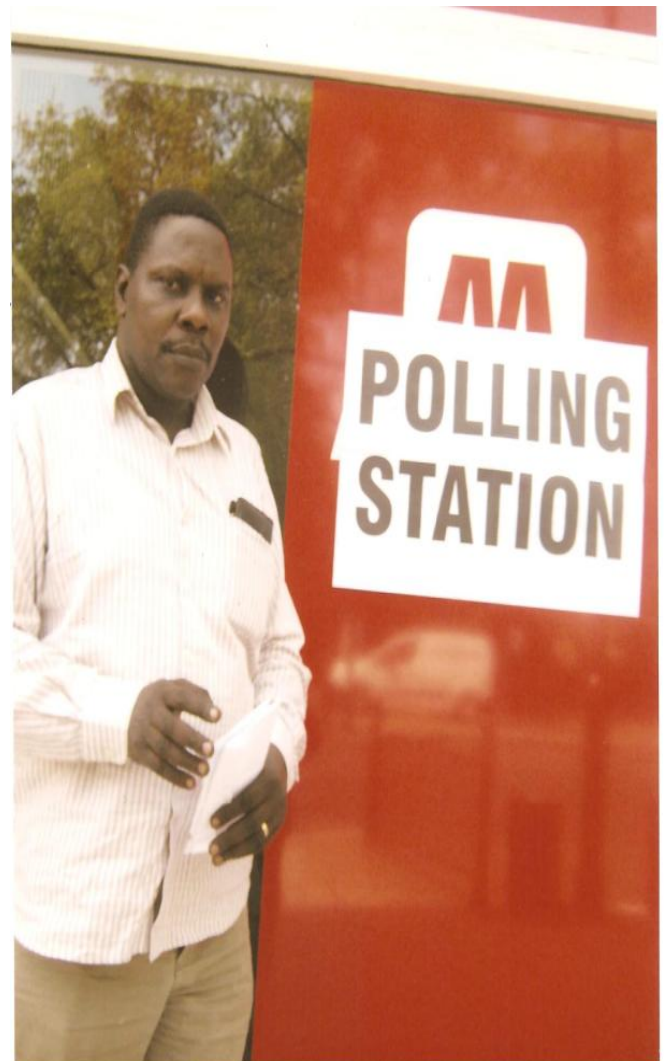
Olufemi Aduwo, National Coordinator, RMG and Mrs Ramat Bala mni National President, National Council of women Societies (NCWS), during observation exercise.

PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND ELECTION OBSERVATION



RMG conference on Voters, Education for the youth. Twenty (20) of such conferences were held across the six Geo-political zone between July 2010 and March 2011

There is a vibrant, mobilised and well organised civil society in Nigeria and non-governmental organisations played a key role in observing these elections. The RIGHTS MONITORING GROUP a coalition of 45 affiliate organisations deployed over 4,897 observers on each election days. The Team undertook parallel voter tabulation in a sample of polling stations that provided increased transparency in the results process. Other organisations like Transition Monitoring Group and Independent Monitoring Group also deployed reasonable observers. Many of the accredited observer groups lack the capacity building and professionalism to observe election process.



Olufemi Aduwo at a Polling station, in London in 2010 as an accredited foreign observer.

PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND ELECTION OBSERVATION

Many of them were political agents. The ACN, CPC and PDP mobilised large numbers of party agents who were present in nearly all of the 40,000 polling stations. The Team observers visited on each election days.

Also at the collation centres they played a key role in ensuring transparency on election days and for the period of the aggregation of results. As part of its consensus building role, The RIGHTS MONITORING GROUP also provided training for observers from civil society organisations before the elections. These elections were also observed by a range of international observation missions including the African Union, Commonwealth, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), EU and American Embassy also observed all the elections.

The Electoral Commission

Aduwo Olufemi Samson
7 Ikuomola Street
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Dopemu
Lagos
Nigeria

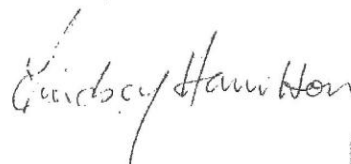
09 February 2011

Dear Mr Samson

I am pleased to inform you that your application for accreditation as an individual electoral observer has been successful.

Please find enclosed your observer identification card, which you must wear when attending proceedings and present to electoral officials and other interested national authorities when requested.

Yours sincerely



Lindsey Hamilton
Business Support Officer
lhamilton@electoralcommission.org.uk
0131 225 0200

Enc



Democracy matters

An independent body established by Act of the UK Parliament



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A renewal letter of accreditation from U.K Electoral
Commission .

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

A. Electoral Offences

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

B. Complaints and Appeals

Decisions of the Electoral Commission can be appealed to the courts, including cases involving voter registration and candidate nomination.

C. Petition

The validity of the elections can be challenged by a petition presented before the Tribunals within 30 days after the date of publication of the election results. However in respect to the presidential election, a petition challenging the results can be submitted to the Court of Appeal within 30 days after the declaration of the results.

A. Overview of Voting

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 either all materials or individual items were missing. The Electoral Commission reacted to these problems efficiently and resolved issues promptly. 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 40,000 polling stations visited on each Election Day by The Team were assessed as satisfactory. Polling staff were committed and largely professional in all polling stations visited.

A large number of child voters were also observed voting in polling stations in some States in North, excluding, Kwara, Benue, Kogi and Plateau States. Logistical and operational failures led to the suspension of the voting in some LGs during Governorship election in Imo State. The election was therefore postponed in the area and held a week after as supplementary election. The same degree of efficiency in processing of voters, use of controls and safeguards by polling staff was also recorded.

A. Counting and the Announcement of Results

Immediately after the close of polling, counting commenced, at all polling stations in clear sight of the party agents and election observers. Counting was mostly conducted in a calm and orderly environment with procedures mainly followed during all the elections.

Presiding officers and party agents signed the result forms after counting and the process remained transparent throughout. Closing was assessed as fair to good in all polling stations visited.



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Great Encounters

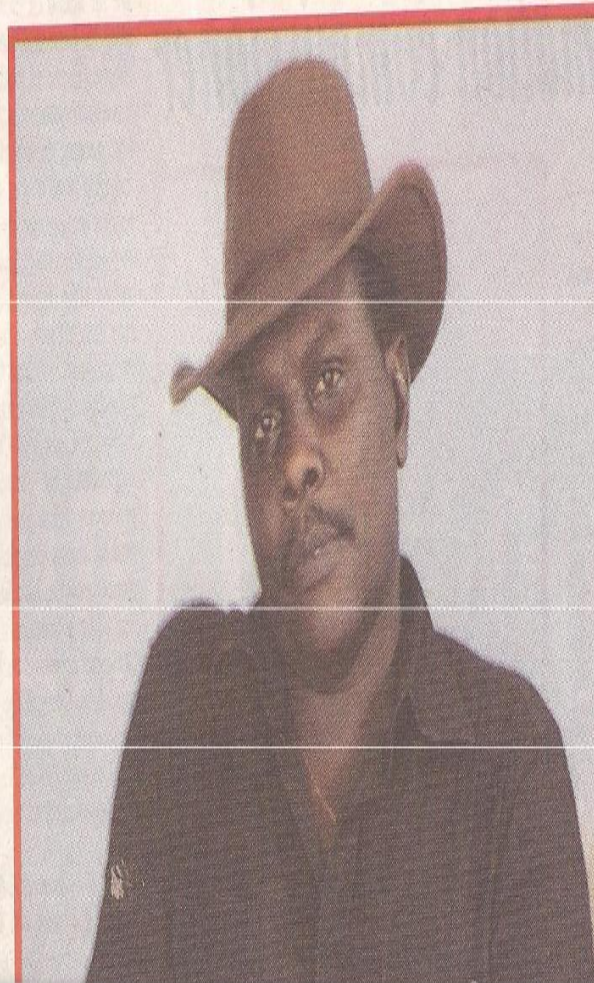
We need vibrant opposition to make democracy work —Aduwo

By PETER ANOSIKE

The National Coordinator, Rights Monitoring Group (RMG), Olufemi Akinbule Aduwo has condemned the way politicians in the opposition parties are cross-carpeting to the ruling Peoples Democratic Party. According to him, such actions would not help the country's democracy.

He is of the view that for the country's democracy to grow there is the need for vibrant opposition. Aduwo said even some people who claim to be in the opposition parties are more devoted to the ruling party they the party that flaunt its cards.

His words: "In Nigeria today, there is only one party. There is no more opposition. For instance, look at Edwin Ume Ezeoke, the so-called chairman of the All Nigerian Peoples Party (ANPP). He is even more devoted to PDP than the chairman of PDP. But when we look at his pedigree, we will not be surprised. This is a man who because of the accord that NPP had with NPN in 1979 became the Speaker of the House of Representatives but



Umaru Musa Yar'Adua in his wisdom has decided to grant them amnesty the militants should appreciate the gesture and lay down their arms.

"I want Federal Government to be very careful with the way it is handling the issue of amnesty. Personally, I feel that what these militants are doing is nothing but acts of terrorism and I strongly feel that there is no way they can be stronger than government but since Mr. President has decided to grant them amnesty, I feel that it is a welcome development which they must appreciate.

But the problem that I have is that if you are giving them money, what happens if the money is exhausted? They may go back to the creeks and start all over. That is why I view this money for gun with reservations. We need to be very careful. Even today, armed robbers are claiming to be militants because there is reward for carrying arms against your country and they are now enjoying the grant. Let's try and find out who the true leaders of these militants are so we can discuss and extract some commitments on permanent solution to the problem from them. Henry Okah has not told us that he is the leader of MEND and even if we find out who the leader is, it is not only MEND that is terrorizing the country. Without extracting

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.

Electoral System

2. A review of constituency boundaries should be undertaken to ensure boundary demarcations to reflect population density and weighting in parliamentary representation. This should continue to be undertaken taking into consideration the geography and demographics of the country as is currently the case.

Election Administration

3. The Electoral Commission should consider using the maximum length of time it has to organise elections. 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. The right of prisoners or remand awaiting trial persons should be reviewed for consideration for them both to be included in the voter register and permitted to vote in future elections.

CAC/IT/NO 43255



CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Certificate of Incorporation

of the Incorporated Trustees of

HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION AND ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION

I hereby certify that

OLUFEMI SAMSON AKINBULE ADUWO, SAIDU MOHAMMAD, AKINBULE LEKAN SALAMI,
LAWAL HUSSAIN,

*the duly appointed Trustees of HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION AND ADVANCEMENT
FOUNDATION have this day been registered as a corporate body, subject to the below
mentioned conditions and directions.*

*Given under my hand and the Common Seal of the Corporate Affairs Commission at
Abuja this Tenth day of February, 2011*

CONDITIONS AND DIRECTIONS

This certificate is liable to cancellation should the objects or the rules of the body be changed without the previous consent in writing of the Registrar General or should the body at any time permit or condone any divergence from or breach of such objects and rules.

Note:

This certificate does not bestow upon the Organization the right to establish any institution, engage in any business and the like without permission from the appropriate authority.



BELLO MAHMUD

405126

Registrar - General

RC 929023



CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Certificate of Incorporation

I hereby certify that

CENTRE FOR CONVENTION ON DEMOCRATIC INTEGRITY LTD/GTE

*is this day incorporated under the COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS
ACT 1990 and that the Company is Limited By Guarantee.*

*Given under my hand at Abuja this Thirtieth day of December,
2010*



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bello Mahmud'.

BELLO MAHMUD

Registrar - General

396933



RMG TEAM AT KOGI STATE GOVERNORSH RE-RUN ELECTION, 2008.

The Electoral Commission.

4. 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.

Political Parties and Candidates

6. The national capacity of political parties needs to be strengthened including the introduction of proactive measures for ensuring inclusive political party. The political parties should be more adventurous and creative.

A review of the Information Technology Department of the Electoral Commission.

5. 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.

Party Agent

7. Party agents should receive adequate training and the Electoral Commission should design common ID Cards with pictures for them during the elections.

Voter Registration

8. An extensive review of the voter register and the voter register exercise should be undertaken 6 months before the general elections. A greater period of time should also be planned for public exhibition of the register and a permanent registration process should be considered in conjunction with the development of the national identity card scheme the voter register should be overhauled and a greater degree of centralisation introduced. The parties should also receive copies of the register well in advance of elections. 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 placing a 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. 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 and Civic Education

10. 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 Electoral Commission should identify credible civil society organisations with track records of organising seminars and meetings in this regard.

The Media Sector

11. The broadcasting act should be strengthened 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.

12. Constitutional clarification should be given to the provision for equal access to state owned media for candidates and political parties.

13. 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

14. Though their ratification of international and regional treaties, Nigeria has pledged to promote the political participation of women on an equal basis with men. Election day observation consistently showed that women were active participants in the process, representing great percentage of the electorate across the country.

Despite this significant achievement, The Team noted widespread inequality in the percentage of women contesting for elective positions in the government both at Federal and States level. Out of 109 Senators that emerged, only seven (6.4 %) are women. Out of the 360 available seats in the House of Representatives, representing great percentage of the electorate across the country, women won 19 (5.27%). There were 4 female vice presidents, suffice to say, none of the big 4 political parties had a female vice presidential candidate. Only one female emerged as a deputy governorship candidate in Lagos State on the platform of ACN.

On average, women represent less than 15 percentages of elected contestants. Although all parties verbally agree on the importance of equal representation of women in the political process .The Presidential candidate of PDP and the winner of the presidential election, the incumbent President of Nigeria, Dr.Goodluck Jonathan made a promise during the campaign of 35 percent of executive appointment for the women. We suggest that a stronger position for women and minorities in parliament, governance and political parties should be encouraged through affirmative action within the political parties themselves.

Civil Society and Domestic Observation

15. The Team was encouraged by the presence of domestic observers from civil society, foreign missions and international observers. 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. election.

The Team sought to share information and collaborate with domestic, international and diplomatic observer's .However, the future role of domestic election observers must be enhanced through capacity building, training and ongoing international and domestic support to facilitate observation of all aspect of the election process. We noticed that some of the observers are active members of political parties; these trends need to be checked in future election.

Complaints and Appeals

16. The system for constituting election tribunals should be reviewed. Retired Justices with good track records should be considered to head such tribunals; throughout the country to deal with election related petitions should be established in law in order to guarantee an expeditious response to disputes. Moreover, a continuous training programme should be developed, to ensure judges are fully aware of electoral legislation and proceedings related to Elections. The electoral offenders should be adequately punished.

Polling, Counting and Publication of the Results

17. 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

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. Provisions to guarantee results are posted and displayed outside of polling stations for the public to inspect should be strengthened.

This process should also take place at all levels of the aggregation process to ensure maximum transparency in the results process.

22. 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.

21. Provisions to guarantee results are posted and displayed outside of polling stations for the public to inspect should be strengthened.

This process should also take place at all levels of the aggregation process to ensure maximum transparency in the results process.



Professor Attahiru Jega OFR Chairman, INEC at the Presidential Election coalition centre, INEC Institute Abuja.