

The Electorate

A CONVERSATION ON ELECTIONS IN NIGERIA

Saturday, June 4, 2022

According to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), **voter turnout across Nigeria hovered around 30 - 35% of registered voters in the last two electoral cycles**. Unfortunately, achieving free, fair and credible elections in Nigeria remains challenging as every election is fraught with candidate controversies, lawsuits, vote-buying, logistics and security inadequacies, to name a few.

It is against this backdrop that we hosted and engaged the INEC Chairman, **Prof. Mahmood Yakubu** on voter registration, political parties, security and logistics.

These are highlights from the conversation as well as updates from INEC press releases and the #YouthVoteCountNG engagements.



VOTER REGISTRATION

1. INEC's CVR Portal remains active for transfer of polling units; replacement of lost/damaged cards, data updates.
2. CVR Registration has now been extended but the new deadline is to be announced.
3. CVR machines are in high demand in certain areas of the country and INEC will try to respond accordingly.
4. CVR **can not happen all year round** because the registration data is captured locally for security reasons. Data is then uploaded to the central database in Abuja where duplicates are checked and incomplete data is expunged before cards are printed.
5. Complaints about INEC staff should be escalated to the state Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC). EiE's website also processes citizens' complaints - www.rsvp.ng/complaints



SECURITY & LOGISTICS

1. INEC has had an uneventful partnership with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). However, given recent developments with the party membership of the CBN Governor, the sensitive materials for #EkitiDecides2022 were not routed through CBN. The same will happen for #OsunDecides2022. **The final plans for sensitive materials will be shared closer to the General Elections.**
2. INEC is working with the security agencies to ensure 2023 General Elections are held in all parts of the country. The existing policy to guide the conduct of elections in IDP camps will be updated.
3. The requirement for INEC to **provide infrastructure** that should already exist - electricity, water, toilets & mattresses for ad-hoc staff at the super RACs before election day deployment not only increases INEC's budget, it also diverts INEC's attention from its core work of conducting elections.
4. The INEC Result Viewing Portal (IREV) provides results that are accessible to all citizens.
5. Election will be suspended in any polling unit that there is violence.
6. Accreditation will be by biometrics or facials **ONLY**. If it does not work, **you will NOT be able to vote.**



POLITICAL PARTIES

1. The deregistration of the Youth Party is pending at the Supreme Court and INEC will abide by the judgement of the court. Unfortunately, the Youth Party will be unable to participate in the 2023 elections as the next court date is September 2022.
2. APC was not the only party that benefited from the date extension for party primaries. Others include PDP, AAC and SDP.
3. INEC has not audited political parties' financial reports since 2018. However, INEC has engaged auditing firms and the outcomes will be shared with the public.

Did you miss the conversation? Watch it here bit.ly/TheElectorate

"Votes don't count is the big lie politicians sell to those whose votes cannot be bought so that only those whose votes can be bought will come to the polling units."

- AISHA YESUFU
(Entrepreneur & Activist)



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