

DAILY

BULLETIN

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2023 GENERAL ELECTION: ALL INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE WORLD HAVE BEEN INVITED TO OBSERVE- INEC CHAIRMAN

As a show of its commitment towards ensuring transparency and credibility in next year's General Election, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) says it has invited all international organisations in the world to come and observe the 2023 General Election.

The Chairman of the Commission, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, made the disclosure when he received an ECOWAS delegation on an assessment mission to Nigeria, led by Dr. Kwadwo Afari-Gyan, the former Chairman of the Electoral Commission of Ghana, on Monday, at the INEC Headquarters in Abuja.

Prof. Yakubu noted that with the election fast approaching, it has become ritual for the Commission to receive international observers, and disclosed that "we have invited virtually all international organisations in the world to come and observe the 2023 General Election in Nigeria."

He said election observation is an important part of ensuring transparency and credibility in elections. "We have always benefited from the insight of election observation missions."

"For instance, you are here on fact-finding. We'll hear from you, what you have found so far, which will help us in concluding our preparations for the election. And I look forward to receiving any report at the end of the process in February and March, so that we can learn even more from the inside. "

The INEC Chairman used the opportunity to reaffirm the Commission's commitment to the use of technology for the 2023 General Election,

saying, ``Let me restate the commitment of INEC Nigeria to free, fair, and credible elections driven by technology."

"The 2023 General Election in Nigeria will be driven by technology not only as a matter of legal requirement but also as a matter of course, for us in the Commission."

"So, I want to assure the ECOWAS team that we are committed to delivering a credible election in the next four months and a few days, which will be Nigeria's seventh successive election since the restoration of democracy in 1999." He added.

Speaking on behalf of the ECOWAS delegation earlier, Dr. Remi Ajibewa underscored the important role of Nigeria in the sub-region, stressing the need for a peaceful election in the country.

He explained that the team was in Nigeria to meet and interact with all stakeholders in the electoral process, including the Commission, in order to know the country's level of preparedness for the 2023 General Election.

Also, on ground to join the INEC Chairman to receive the Commission's guests were National Commissioners; Festus Okoye Esq., Major-General Modibbo Alkali (Rtd), Mrs. May-Agbamu-Mbu, Prof. Sani Adam (SAN), and Prof. Kunle Ajayi, as well as the Secretary to the Commission, Mrs. Rose Oriaran-Anthony.

INEC CHARGES VOTER EDUCATION PROVIDERS WITH EFFECTIVE SENSITATION.

Ahead of the 2023 General Election, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has charged Voter Education Providers to be adequately equipped in order to effectively sensitise and enlighten citizens at the grassroots on the technological innovations to be used as well as the processes and procedures for the election.

The Resident National Electoral Commissioner (REC) in Nasarawa State, Usman Ajidagba, represented by the Head of Department Election and Party Monitoring, Shefiudeen Oyeyemi, gave the charge at a one-day Capacity Building Workshop for Voter Education Providers, held on Monday, in Keffi, Nasarawa state.

The workshop, organised with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is the fourth of six batches with participants from the six North Central States and the FCT.

The REC underscored the role of voter education providers towards the 2023 General Election, adding, "that you are our chosen ones and that your choices are in appreciation of your well-being and special positions you individually and collectively occupy in the Commission's life and aspiration towards keeping faith with our commitment to entrenching a remarkable legacy in election management in Nigeria."

He added that, "Your selection as voter education providers for this workshop is, therefore, a serious confirmation of your worthy partnership with the Commission to deepen our democracy."

The REC noted that the Commission was committed to conducting a free, fair, and inclusive 2023 General Election.

He further urged the participants to see their role in the Commission as critical, and encouraged them to participate fully in the workshop, as it provided the opportunity to upgrade themselves to be better voter educators at the grassroots.

Mr. Deryck Fritz, UNDP Chief Technical Adviser for Elections, said in his Goodwill message that citizens must be informed about election processes and technological innovations by the Commission, emphasizing that "they must understand the mechanisms of the elections, representative roles of INEC, political parties, as well as their own role as voters."

The Administrative Secretary in Nasarawa state, Usman Musa Wase, still represented by the Head of Department Election and Party Monitoring, Shefiudeen Oyeyemi, noted that "INEC has recognised that it cannot conduct voter education on its own and that it requires the support and collaboration of organisations that work in communities across the country, from you, the civil society organisation here represented."

The Deputy Director, Voter Education, Mary Nkem, said that the objectives of the workshop include informing the participants about the Commission's general preparations towards the conduct of free, fair, credible, and inclusive elections; acquainting participants with various enlightenment strategies ahead of the 2023 General Election; and educating them about strategies for implementing the voter enlightenment activities.

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