

## **EDO AND ONDO STATES GOVERNORSHIP ELECTIONS: REQUEST FOR APPLICATION TO SERVE AS OBSERVERS**

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) hereby invites registered Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other interested Stakeholders whose work is on democracy, governance and election and who wish to observe the Edo and Ondo States Governorship Elections scheduled to hold on **19<sup>th</sup> September, 2020** (Edo State) and **10<sup>th</sup> October, 2020** (Ondo State) respectively to visit <http://observergroups.inecnigeria.org> complete the application forms. This is without prejudice to any previous correspondences with the Commission. Completion of the prescribed application form {**EC 14A(I)**} remains the only acceptable means of applying.

2. In view of the above, interested observer groups should complete the application form {**EC 14A(I)**} and submit same online along with other necessary documents (including evidence of past election observation) to assist in their assessment.

3. Observer groups should particularly note that all other information including Legal status, Federal Inland Revenue Service (Medium Tax Office) Registration Certificate as well as evidence of registration with the Civil Society Desk at INEC Headquarters, Abuja among others are to accompany the applications online.

4. Observer groups who desire to observe the two Elections shall indicate accordingly while completing application form.

5. Any falsification of documents in the submissions will lead to automatic disqualification and possible prosecution.

6. The list of successful observer groups approved for accreditation will subsequently be published in National Newspapers and on the Commission's website. The deadline for submission of applications {**EC 14A(I)**} is **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020**.

## **ACCREDITATION OF SUCCESSFUL OBSERVER GROUPS**

7. Each successful Group would then be required to complete and **submit online** the Deployment of Observers form {**EC 14A(II)**}.

8. Successful Observer groups should also note that passport photographs (in **JPEG format**) of their members to be deployed to the field shall be arranged on local government basis (reflecting spread of deployment) and shall be submitted along with the deployment form {**EC 14A(II)**}. This is to enable the Commission produce identification/accreditation tags for individual field Observers ahead of the respective elections.

9. All successful Observer Groups will be required to sign the Commission's indemnity form before receiving their accreditation credentials.

## **10. NOTES ON ELECTION OBSERVATION EXERCISE**

### **a) Principles of Observation**

Observer groups should note that the core principles of election observation as contained in relevant UN, AU and ECOWAS treaties and protocols, as well as INEC Guidelines

on Election observation (2018), which includes **impartiality, objectivity and non-partisanship** should guide conduct of observers during the Elections and any observer group found to compromise those principles shall be banned from future participation in Election Observation.

**b) Covid 19 Protocols**

In accordance with the prevailing circumstance in the Country, Accredited Observer Groups are expected to comply with all the regulations and protocols on **COVID 19** as issued by Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (**NCDC**) and Presidential Task Force on COVID 19 including provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as face masks, hand gloves, and hand sanitizers, as well as maintain social distancing by all their members that will operate in the field on Election Day. Details of the COVID 19 Protocols are available at NCDC website.

Please be guided accordingly.

**SIGNED: INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC)**