



INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION

PLOT 436, ZAMBEZI CRESCENT, MAITAMA DISTRICT
P.M.B. 0184 GARKI - ABUJA.

PRESS RELEASE

STATEMENT ISSUED AT THE END OF THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING BETWEEN THE INTER-AGENCY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION SECURITY (ICCES) AND THE INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC) ON THE NEED TO EXPAND VOTER ACCESS TO POLLING UNITS IN NIGERIA, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY 2021

PREAMBLE

The Inter-agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) met today, Wednesday, 10th February 2021 with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as part of the Commission's national engagement and consultations with stakeholders on the need to expand voter access to Polling Units in Nigeria. The meeting was attended by the following ICCES Members:

1. Office of the National Security Adviser
2. Nigeria Police Force
3. Nigeria Immigration Service
4. Nigeria Customs Service
5. Federal Fire Service
6. Ministry of Interior
7. Ministry of Police Affairs
8. National Orientation Agency
9. Economic and Financial Crimes Commission
10. Federal Roads Safety Corps
11. Nigeria Correctional Service (NCoS)
12. Independent Corrupt Practices Commission
13. National Drug Law Enforcement Agency
14. Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps
15. Nigeria Army HQ
16. Nigerian Air Force
17. Nigerian Navy
18. National Intelligence Agency
19. Presidential Task Force on COVID-19
20. Police Service Commission
21. Department of State Services

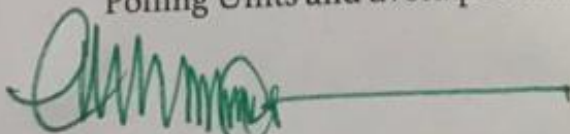
Also in attendance were the Chairman of INEC, National Commissioners, Commission's Secretary and other Senior Officials of the Commission. The meeting was co-chaired by the Chairman of INEC, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu and the Representative of the National Security Adviser, Mr. Sanusi Galadima.

During the engagement, which coincided with the first regular quarterly meeting of the Inter-agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) and the Commission for 2021, INEC presented documentary and visual evidence on the challenges of voter access to Polling Units in Nigeria. Among them was the INEC Discussion Paper No.1/2021 titled, *The State of Voter Access to Polling Units in Nigeria*.

RESOLUTIONS

Following extensive deliberations, the meeting resolved as follows:

1. That given the current state of voter access to Polling Units in Nigeria, expanding access to Polling Units is fundamental and critical to the exercise of the right to vote and to the conduct of free, fair, credible and safe elections.
2. That it is important and necessary to widely consult with all electoral stakeholders to develop a consensus and build trust in expanding Voter access to Polling Units.
3. That ICCES supports the INEC proposal of converting the existing and well-known Voting Points and Voting Point Settlements into full-fledged Polling Units as a practical and realistic way to expand Voter access to Polling Units.
4. That ICCES will collaborate with the Commission in achieving this objective and in promoting measures towards a routinized and seamless adjustment for expanding Voter Access to Polling Units as the need arises in the future.
5. That in expanding Voters access to Polling Units, due attention should be paid to location of the proposed Polling Units in suitable, accessible, secure and conducive environments for voting.
6. That all stakeholders should support INEC's efforts to expand voter access to Polling Units and avoid politicizing the issues involved.



Festus Okoye Esq

National Commissioner & Chairman Information and Voter Education

10th February 2021.