



Professor Attahiru Jega, INEC Chairman, at the Senate

February 18, 2015

“O God of creation, direct our noble cause. Guide our leaders right; help our youth the truth to know.”

- 2nd Stanza of Nigeria’s National Anthem

	QUESTIONS From Senators	ANSWERS by the Chair
1.	Outstanding PVC Production	Between 800,000 and 1 million cards yet to be produced. Over 66 million already available for collection. Collection rate nationwide is approaching 76%. Collection rates in Ekiti & Osun were below 70%.
2.	Ensuring all-round use	Avoiding the use of card readers is an offence. NO expectation that INEC staff, security personnel and party agents will ALL succumb to such.
3.	Possible network issues	Card readers are used to verify PVC data, and send accreditation records to INEC’s central server. Where there is network challenge at the polling unit, the records will be sent when the card reader is taken back to the ward centre.
4.	Ensuring that IDPs vote	INEC can only minimize challenges and make the most of the situation within the provisions of the Electoral Act. IDPs in the three Northeast states experiencing insurgency will vote at centres created in low risk areas within the states, if they have not been restored to their communities by Election Day.
5.	Decentralization of PVC collection to poling units	Initially, PVCs were collected at the polling unit level. We believed that if everyone came out to collect their cards, many would be able to do so within the 3 days provided for the exercise. Thereafter the collection was moved to LGA level . But it’s now decentralized to the ward level.
6.	Too much time taken to be accredited, and then wait to vote later	We decided on this process so as to prevent electoral fraud. In order to deepen our democracy, voters should be able to sacrifice just one day in 4 years.
7.	Based on demonstrations, time allocated for accreditation might not be enough to cover all voters at a polling unit	Average time per voter should not exceed 30 seconds . More time taken during demonstration because the card reader had to be reconfigured to each voter’s polling unit before use.
8.	Possible use of TVC	During registration in 2011, over 4 million people did multiple registrations (electoral offence) and obtained TVCs. Any of this number could show up with their TVCs on Election Day in polling units where the



		<p>multiple have been eliminated, and they will then disrupt the electoral process.</p>
9.	Legality of Card Readers	<p>Card Readers are used only for accreditation and only accreditation data is communicated by the card reader. The Electoral Act prohibits electronic voting, but the section also clearly outlines what voting involves – i.e. the use of ballot papers. This does not preclude the use of electronic accreditation.</p>
10.	Scenario where number of ballot papers exceed number of accredited voters	<p>The polling unit's results will be cancelled.</p>
11.	Rumours of PVCs being purchased from the electorates	<p>Political fraud perpetuated by corrupt politicians, most likely in places where they have weak following. They certainly will not be able to use the cards, but they could be aiming to prevent people voting for their popular opponents. The security agencies have the responsibility to put a stop to this.</p>
12.	Suspiciously high collection rates by voters in IDP states	<p>It simply means they came out to collect their cards.</p>
13.	Plan for IDPs not present in camps	<p>Voting centres designated for IDPs will be outside the camps (except in Borno where stakeholders chose otherwise), in order to cater to both IDPs in camps and those in host communities.</p>
14.	Success story of Card Readers elsewhere	<p>Computer verification systems have been used successfully in Ghana and Kenya.</p>
15.	Imposition of ballot papers by hoodlums (?????????)	<p>That will be a disruption of the electoral process, hence an electoral offence. (?????????????????????)</p>
16.	Guarantee of security during elections	<p>I don't think I am competent to answer that question. It should be directed to security chiefs</p>
17.	Continuous registration and collection of PVCs nationwide even after elections (?????????)	<p>That will mean about 8,000 offices nationwide with personnel and running costs. We are still talking about more money to produce PVCs. (?????????????????????)</p>

OTHER NOTES

General Comments

1. The National Council of States said that INEC should make decisions based on its statutory powers.
2. A 6-week extension was announced on Saturday, February 7th.
3. On Sunday, February 15th, the commission met to review the new development and decide on how to make the most of the extension period:



- Field Evaluation: National Commissioners visit states under their supervision for on-the-spot readiness assessment (February 11 - 19)
- Headquarters Evaluation: Comprehensive review of what else needs to be done (February 20 – 21)
- Meeting with Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (Scheduled for Tuesday, February 23)
- All activities to end two weeks to the elections (March 14)

Priority Areas

1. PVC Collection: 75.94% collection rate already attained as of February 18. Deadline is March 8th.
2. Card readers to undergo stress testing in each geopolitical zone. Card readers have already gone through 13 tests as regards durability and versatility.
3. More training for ad-hoc staff.
4. Intensify voter education and awareness.
5. RECs to finalise arrangement for transportation on election day, under the MoU with NURTW.

Card Readers

ADVANTAGES	CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only reads INEC-issued cards assigned to a particular polling unit• Reads embedded chip on the PVC, not the surface data or bar codes• Verifies users' fingerprints• Keeps accreditation data• Transmits accreditation data to a central server via SMS• Stored data will be useful for quick delivery of statistical data and auditing of voting results at PUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scenario where card is verified but holder's fingerprint is not authenticated: Incident form will be filled by INEC staff and voter accredited• Possible failure of card reader (technical error): replacement of device before end of accreditation period. In the highly unlikely event that device can't be replaced, the exercise will be postponed to the next day in affected polling unit.

Using the Card Readers

- Go to polling unit and give PVC to the polling official
- The official will scan the PVC with the card reader and details on the card are displayed to verify that it's an INEC-issued card. You are then authenticated with a fingerprint



- Once authenticated, voter can vote.
- For voters with no fingers or whose fingers could not be read, a manual confirmation is done
- The reader operates on a battery which lasts up to 12 hours when in use. The device goes on a safe mode when not in use and lasts much longer.
- Carries a SIM card which enables the sending of accreditation details to a central server enabling data collation, data verification and data transmission
- Accreditation date and time period are preconfigured
- Polling unit data is preconfigured

