

**NIGERIA CIVIL SOCIETY SITUATION ROOM STATEMENT ON THE KANO STATE
SUPPLEMENTARY ELECTIONS**

Issued: 7:00 pm Saturday, 23rd March 2019

Situation Room is concerned about reports emanating from the Kano State supplementary elections that indicate serious violence, extensive use of thugs to perpetrate electoral and intimidation of violence and would like to make the following statement:

1. **Conduct of Political Parties** - Situation Room condemns the actions of political parties in the run up to the supplementary elections and on Election Day. Reports received show massive deployment of thugs and party agents to polling units. In Gama Ward, a large number of thugs were seen intimidating voters, observers and even INEC officials around the polling units, unchecked, despite the presence of security personnel. There were also incidents of high deployment of unaccredited party agents to polling units who aided the disruption of the voting process.
2. **Conduct of Security Personnel** - Situation Room is concerned that abuses of electoral process and violence have occurred despite the deployment of top-level Police officials, including a Deputy Inspector General (DIG), 3 Assistant Inspectors General and Commissioners of Police. In the previous elections, the State Commissioner of Police took charge without senior level officers. It is therefore ironic and curious that this level of violence and political thuggery would occur with this quantum of senior Police Officers deployed. Situation Room has always advocated against redeployment of Commissioners of Police ahead of elections.
3. **Vote Buying** - Reports also showed that there were high incidences of vote buying facilitated by thugs and party agents. This trend was seen particularly in Gama Ward of Nasarawa Local Government. There were also reported cases of attempted inducement of observers with cash.

In the light of widespread violence in the areas where INEC had conducted supplementary elections in Kano State, Situation Room calls on INEC to discountenance the supplementary elections where violence occurred and proceed to make a declaration on the basis of the polls already concluded, as the country will be in no mood to accept the conduct of another supplementary election on the back of a supplementary election.

SIGNED:

Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room

Clement Nwankwo - Convener

Y.Z Yau – Alternate Chair, Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room

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The Situation Room is made up of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working in support of credible and transparent elections in Nigeria and includes such groups as Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), CLEEN Foundation, Action Aid Nigeria, Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), Proactive Gender Initiative (PGI) Enough is Enough Nigeria, WANGONET, Partners for Electoral Reform, JDPC and YIAGA Africa. Others are Development Dynamics, Centre for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN), Stakeholder Democracy Network, Human Rights Monitor, Reclaim Naija, CITAD, Nigerian Women Trust Fund, Alliance for Credible Elections (ACE), CISLAC, and several other CSOs numbering more than seventy.

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