

NIGERIA CIVIL SOCIETY
SITUATIONROOM

**SITUATION ROOM'S INTERIM STATEMENT ON THE RE-RUN AND
SUPPLEMENTARY ELECTIONS HELD ON 25TH JANUARY 2020**

Issued in Abuja at 4.00pm: Saturday, 25th January 2020

The Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room deployed citizen observers and worked with partner organisations to observe the re-run and supplementary elections holding today, Saturday, 25th January 2020.

Logistics and commencement of poll: Reports from the field show that materials were deployed on time in several of the polling units across the affected Constituencies, with polls commencing at about 8.30am in most of the polling units that were observed by the Situation Room. There were however reports of a delay in opening of polls in Imo State.

Turnout: Situation Room notes with concern the generally abysmal low voter turnout in almost all the polling units observed as a result of poor sensitization in the Constituencies by INEC, with the exception of Sokoto State where there was a good turnout.

Vote buying: Situation Room received report of incidents of vote buying notably in Imo and Bauchi States. However, the situation was brought under control by officials of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) who reportedly made some arrests in Polling Unit 009 of Gamawa Ward, Gamawa LGA, Bauchi State.

Suspected Underage Voting: observers reported an incident of suspected underage voters in polling unit 002, Magajin-Gari Ward A, Sokoto North LGA,

Sokoto State. This is worrying, as it can have consequent on future elections if it is not tamed.

Conclusion: - Situation Room notes that there was a general low turnout. It will be important that future elections in the country are widely publicised and electorate sensitised to adequately participate. The Turnout level for these elections is abysmal and dents participatory democracy and citizens' involvement. INEC should make every effort to create constituency-wide awareness during future votes where supplementary or substantive elections are to take place.

SIGNED:

Esther Uzoma

Co-Convener, Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room

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, Centre for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), Nigeria Women Trust Fund, JDPC and Youth Initiative for Advocacy, Growth & Advancement (YIAGA). Others are Development Dynamics, Stakeholders Democracy Network, Human Rights Monitor, Reclaim Naija, Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, CITAD, Alliance for Credible Elections (ACE), RECHDI, WREP, CISLAC and several other CSOs numbering more than seventy

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