

NIGERIA CIVIL SOCIETY  
**SITUATIONROOM**

**SITUATION ROOM'S INTERIM STATEMENT ON THE BYE-ELECTIONS HELD 14TH MARCH 2020**

**Issued in Abuja at 1:00 pm Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

The Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room deployed observers to watch the bye-elections holding today, Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in Niger, Kwara and Sokoto States.

**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 8:10am on the average in the polling units observed by the Situation Room.

**Turnout:** Situation Room observed a slightly above average voter turnout in almost all the polling units. However, there were reports of isolated cases of low turnout in some polling units, particularly PU002, Auna South East ward, Magama Niger State and PU001, Patigi Ward III, Kwara State.

**Vote buying:** Situation Room did not receive any report of vote buying in the polling units observed.

**Conduct of Security:** From the reports of observers, there was an average of 3 security personnel per polling unit in the locations observed, primarily made up of the Police and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps officials. Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) were also present in some polling units, particularly in Patigi State Constituency, Kwara State. The deployed Security agents conducted themselves professionally in the polling units observed. This is a departure from previous cases where security agents were observed interfering with voting process.

**Party agents:** Situation Room observed the presence of a minimum of 3 political party agents in most of the polling units, who conducted themselves in an orderly manner.

**Conclusion: -**

Situation Room commends the voters for coming out to exercise their civic duty, and the election security team, as well as political parties for conducting themselves within the ambits of the law. Situation Room also commends INEC for the timely opening of polls and improvement in the logistics arrangement.

As the process of counting of votes and collation of results commence, Situation Room urges INEC, political parties and security operatives to conclude the process peacefully and ensure its credibility.

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**SIGNED:**

***Clement Nwankwo***

***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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