

NIGERIA CIVIL SOCIETY
SITUATIONROOM

**SITUATION ROOM'S STATEMENT ON INTERFERENCE WITH COLLATION
IN IMO STATE SUPPLEMENTARY ELECTION HELD ON 25TH JANUARY
2020**

Issued in Abuja at 1:00pm: Thursday, 30th January 2020

The Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room is calling on the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to investigate reports of Police personnel in Imo State, led by the Commissioner of Police, disrupting the collation of results in the recently concluded supplementary election in Orlu/Orsu/Oru East Federal Constituency. According to reports received by Situation Room, the Commissioner of Police had besieged the venue of the collation of results from the recently held legislative election in the State and asked the Resident Electoral Commissioner, Prof. Emeka Ezeonu and other officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to stop from performing their statutory roles of collating results. The Commissioner of Police had also by a letter on his behalf dated 28th January 2020, sought to arrest INEC officials carrying out the electoral duty of vote collation under the pretext of investigating election related offences.

Situation Room is concerned that Police personnel that should ordinarily work to protect the free and orderly conduct of elections, would seek to disrupt it, in an obvious attempt at serving partisan political interests. The conduct of the said Commissioner of Police and his personnel is detrimental to the integrity of Nigeria's electoral process and should not be allowed to go uninvestigated or unpunished. Situation Room is calling on the IGP to investigate the incident of abuse and bring the erring Police officials to account, especially as President Muhammadu Buhari had in a meeting with the IGP and the leadership of INEC assured Nigerians that going forward, the government intends to create a legacy of respect for electoral integrity.

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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