

SITUATION ROOM'S STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT BUHARI'S APPOINTMENT OF INEC NATIONAL COMMISSIONERS

Issued in Abuja: 2:00pm, Tuesday, 13th October 2020

The Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room is concerned about the nomination of Ms. Laretta Onochie, Senior Special Assistant to the President on Social Media as National Commissioner of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) representing the South-South. Ms. Onochie is a known partisan supporter of President Muhammadu Buhari and his ruling party, the All Progressives Congress (APC).

Item F, paragraph 14 of the third schedule to the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria (as amended) forbids a partisan politician as a member of INEC - a body charged under the Constitution to unbiasedly conduct free and fair elections. Her nomination amounts to a major attempt at undermining efforts to build credibility for an improved electoral process in the country.

Situation Room calls on President Muhammadu Buhari to immediately withdraw her nomination. Should the President fail to withdraw this nomination, the Nigerian Senate is hereby called upon to disregard her nomination without any consideration whatsoever. Situation Room is also calling on the Nigerian Senate to investigate all of the other nominations by the President especially as there are concerns that some of these nominations may have been by self-serving interests.

It is important for Nigeria that the composition of INEC is transparently non-partisan and independent of partisan political manipulation.

SIGNED:

Clement Nwankwo

Convener

For: 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), Centre for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), Nigerian Women Trust Fund (NWTF), African Centre for Leadership, Strategy & Development (Centre LSD), CITAD, Enough is Enough Nigeria, WANGONET, Partners for Electoral Reform, JDPC, New Initiative for Social Development and Youth

Initiative for Advocacy, Growth & Advancement (YIAGA). Others are Development Dynamics, Stakeholder Democracy Network, Human Rights Monitor, Reclaim Naija, Alliance for Credible Elections (ACE), CISLAC, The Conscience for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution (CHRCR), Young Innovators and Vocational Training Initiative, EdoCSOs, CONGOs Edo State, Brave Heart Initiative, LAPDO, Partners West Africa and several other CSOs numbering more than seventy.

Contact information:

Website: situationroom.placng.org

Email: situationroom@placng.org

Twitter: @situationroomng

#NigeriaSituationRoom

Facebook: [Facebook.com/situationroomnigeria](https://www.facebook.com/situationroomnigeria)

Hotlines: 09095050505, 09032999919