

2020

CENTRE FOR
TRANSPARENCY
ADVOCACY

CTA



[THE WATCHDOG]

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CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

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KOGI AND BAYELSA GOVERNORSHIP ELECTIONS

BAYELSA

The Bayelsa State 2019 Governorship Election arose from the decision of the Supreme Court judgment that led to the staggered election in Bayelsa state from 2011.



Photographs of activities during the Bayelsa November 16, 2020 Governorship Election



ELECTION NO BE WAR!

Although, 45 political parties and candidates registered to contest in the governorship election, two political parties- PDP and APC- stood out as the major contenders as we observed through their campaigns and activities prior to Election Day.

The Bayelsa Governorship election was preceded by pre-election violence and threats. There were cases of one policeman and one journalist killed during political campaigns with several others injured and in critical condition according to media reports. Considering this atmosphere of fear and anxiety, it was feared that voter turnout would be low. This state of insecurity also explained the high number of security deployments which led to the militarization of the state.

CTA organized several activities prior to the election which include; stakeholders meeting in Yenagoa ,including Door to Door Sensitisation and Voter Education Campaign in Bayelsa East Senatorial District comprising of Ogbia, Brass and Nembe LGAs and training of observers who were deployed across the 8 LGAs of the state. (CTA) is a critical stakeholder in the electoral process in Nigeria and observed and monitored developments leading up to the elections. CTA, one of the accredited observer groups deployed 50 observers across the 8 Local Government Areas. Other activities carried out by CTA include, Observation of the PVC collection, conducted Stakeholders meeting and Trained observers and deployed them to the LGAs.

CTA deployed 50 observers across the 8 local government areas of Bayelsa State and reports from the field observers provided the basis for this report on the election.

Materials and Personnel arrived most polling units between 8:30am and 9:30 am signaling commencement of accreditation and voting while in some extreme cases, materials and personnel arrived at about 11am as witnessed in Otuoke in Ogbia LGA where the former President, Goodluck Jonathan voted. Voting ended generally by 2.30pm with results counted and announced in many units.

The total number of registered voters stood at 922,562; 517,883 voters was accredited producing 505,884 valid votes while 6,333 votes were rejected.

David Lyon of the APC was declared winner and returned as Governor elect polling 352,552 votes against his closest rival Senator of PDP who polled 143,172

However, the Supreme Court on February 14, 2020 declared his election null and void and declared the Runner up, the candidate of PDP the winner. The Supreme Court took this decision on the premise that David Lyon's running mate Senator--- forged his certificates. David Lyon was never sworn in as governor of Bayelsa State

KOGI

The November 16th Governorship and Senatorial Re run elections in Kogi state and Kogi West Senatorial came up after the general elections in Nigeria which held in March 2019. The Election was an off season one occasioned by the litigation that trailed the governorship election in the state since 2003.

**FREE, FAIR AND
CREDIBLE ELECTIONS
PROMOTE
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT.
DEMAND FOR IT, IT IS
YOUR RIGHT**



Prior to the elections, the Nigerian government through the election umpire, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) had attempted to address the recurrent problem of Voters card distribution and collection. This time the genuine efforts by INEC to distribute already produced cards met with success as only 2 % of the produced cards were uncollected.

While the participation of a wide variety of parties provided voters with a genuine choice, the Ruling party in the state was accused of not ensuring fair campaign conditions for all contestants.



The pre-election period was marred by acts of serious violence and intimidation of voters. The tensed political environment in most parts of the state dissuaded political parties from campaigning seriously there as was alleged by a section of the citizens. Alhaji Yahaya Bello of the APC was declared winner and has since been sworn in for a second term in office.

A sour incident after the election was the killing of the PDP woman leader in one of the LGAs. She was gruesomely murdered and set ablaze inside her house. It was also reported during the election wide spread intimidation of voters by thugs and security agencies including life threatening violence against Domestic observers and some INEC staff who were mainly women.

**STOP VOTE
TRADING, IT IS
UNPATRIOTIC**

INEC Deregisters 74 Political Parties



CSO Endorses Action Says Is Bold Move

By JOHN NWOKOCHA

Abuja

The Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA) a consortium of civil society organisation, has said it welcomes the deregistration of 74 political parties by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). Reacting to the action by the INEC's national chairman, Professor Yakubu Mahmood, the CTA in a press statement signed by its Executive Director, Faith Nwadishi, said it agreed with INEC that the deregistered parties failed to meet the constitutional requirement to continue to exist. With the decision only 18 political parties are allowed to exist having met the requirement. It would be recalled that before the deregistration 92 political parties were registered by the electoral umpire.

During a media briefing yesterday in Abuja, Professor Mahmood while explaining why the commission took the decision disclosed the time table for Edo and Ondo states governorship elections as well as bye elections in some states across the country. While it fixed Saturday 19 September 2020 for the Edo governorship election, INEC with the same breath fixed the Ondo governorship to hold on Saturday 10 October 2020. It said detailed timetable and schedule of activities will be published on its website and social media platforms.

Mahmood said that the commission looked at the status of political parties that were registered between 2011 and 2013 in accordance with the Electoral Act 2010 (as amended), among other reasons is "Failure to win at least 25% of the votes cast in one state of the federation in a presidential election or 25% of the votes cast in local government area of a state in governorship election."

However, the commission gave names of political parties that have fulfilled the requirements for existence based on section 225A of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) as: Accord Party, Action Alliance, African Action Congress, African Democratic Congress, African Democratic Party, All Progressive Congress, All Progressive Grand Alliance, Allied Peoples Movement, Labour Party, New Nigerian Peoples Party, National Rescue Movement, Peoples Democratic Party, Peoples Redemption Party, Young Progressive Party, Social Democratic Party and Zenith Labour Party. INEC said a new political party called Boot Party, that was registered via a court order after the 2019 general election will also continue to exist. The commission gave the list of the deregistered parties posted on its website which include: Advanced Allied Party, All Bending Party, Alliance for

Democracy, Mega Party of Nigeria, National Conscious Party, among others.

According to Mahmood, the parties were also assessed on the basis of their performance in the Area Council election in the federal capital territory which coincided with the 2019 general elections, ‘ hence the need to deregister some political parties’.

Meanwhile, describing the action of INEC as a bold move the CTA urged the affected parties to align with any of the lucky 18 parties which share the same ideologies with their.

At the same briefing, the INEC Chairman announced the timetable towards the Edo and Ondo 2020 Governorship elections. Therefore, election dates for Edo and Ondo are September 19, 2020, and October 10, 2020 respectively. With the de-registration of 74 political parties, only 18 political parties will participate in the Edo and Ondo 2020 Governorship elections.

HEALTH MATTERS

CORONA VIRUS



Dr Osagie Ehanire (Health Minister)

Health Ministry Confirms First Case of Coronavirus in Nigeria The Federal Ministry of Health has confirmed the first case of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Nigeria. The health minister, Dr Osagie Ehanire, confirmed the case in a statement issued in the early hours of Friday, February 28, 2020. According to the statement, the case involves an Italian citizen who works in Nigeria and returned from Milan, Italy to Lagos, Nigeria on the 25th of February 2020.

He was confirmed to be positive by the Virology Laboratory of the Lagos University Teaching Hospital, part of the Laboratory Network of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). The ministry, however, noted that the patient is clinically stable, with no serious symptoms, and is being managed at the Infectious Disease Hospital in Yaba, Lagos.

Read the full statement below.

The Federal Ministry of Health has confirmed a coronavirus disease (COVID-19) case in Lagos State, Nigeria. The case, which was confirmed on the 27th of February 2020, is the first case to be reported in Nigeria since the beginning of the outbreak in China in January 2020.

The case is an Italian citizen who works in Nigeria and returned from Milan, Italy to Lagos, Nigeria on the 25th of February 2020. He was confirmed by the Virology Laboratory of the Lagos University Teaching Hospital, part of the Laboratory Network of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control. The patient is clinically stable, with no serious symptoms, and is being managed at the Infectious Disease Hospital in Yaba, Lagos.

The Government of Nigeria, through the Federal Ministry of Health has been strengthening measures to ensure an outbreak in Nigeria is controlled and contained quickly. The multi-sectoral Coronavirus Preparedness Group led by the Nigeria Centre for Disease

Control (NCDC) has immediately activated its national Emergency Operations Centre and will work closely with Lagos State Health authorities to respond to this case and implement firm control measures.

I wish to assure all Nigerians that we have been beefing up our preparedness capabilities since the first confirmation of cases in China, and we will use all the resources made available by the government to respond to this case.

We have already started working to identify all the contacts of the patient, since he entered Nigeria. Please be reminded that most people who become infected may experience only mild illness and recover easily, but it can be more severe in others, particularly the elderly and persons with other underlying chronic illnesses. All Nigerians should take care of their health and maintain hand and respiratory hygiene to protect themselves and others, including their own families, following the precautions below:

1. Regularly and thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water, and use alcohol-based hand sanitiser.
2. Maintain at least 1 & half metres (5 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
3. Persons with persistent cough or sneezing should stay home or keep a social distance, but not mix in-crowd.
4. Make sure you and people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene, meaning cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or into your sleeve at the bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.
5. Stay home if you feel unwell with symptoms like fever, cough and difficulty in breathing. Please call NCDC toll free number which is

available day and night, for guidance- 0800-970000-10. Do not engage in self-medication.

6. Stay informed on the latest developments about COVID-19 through official channels on TV and Radio, including the Lagos State Ministry of Health, NCDC and Federal Ministry of Health.

Citizens must not abuse social media and indulge in spreading misinformation that causes fear and panic. The Federal Ministry of Health, through Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, will continue to provide updates and will initiate all measures required to prevent the spread of any outbreak in Nigeria.

Dr Osagie Ehanire

Hon. Minister of Health

080097000010

080097000010

Wherever you are in Nigeria,

That's the number to call,

IF you suspect any Coronavirus.

It is toll-free, no charges.

THE HATE SPEECH AND INTERNET FRAUD BILL

Centre for Transparency Advocacy participated in the Town Hall Forum organized by DAAR Communication/AIT to discuss and X-Ray the

usefulness of the **“HATE SPEECH” Bill and the “INTERNET FRAUD” Bill. The event held at the Nigeria Air Force Conference Centre, Abuja on February 3, 2020 with the theme; Media Regulations, Society and Governance.**

The event commenced with Goodwill messages by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice who was represented. He wished the participants well and urged them to support the bill. The Speaker of the House of Representatives was represented by his Adviser after which the Managing Director of DAAR Communications Mr Tony Akiotu welcomed the participants and the dignitaries who graced the occasion. The event was officially declared open by the Senate President and Chairman of the National Assembly Senator Ahmad Lawan. The opening formalities were followed by Panel discussions.

The first Panel was constituted with the likes of Professor Chidi Odinkalu, Professor Umaru Dambata, Ms Kato, Hamzat Lawal and the sponsors of the Bill Senator Sabi and Senator Sani both from Niger state.

The first Bill is the ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF HATE SPEECH. The sponsor Senator Sabi gave a background and overview of the proposed Bill which if implemented attracts death penalty for offenders. Senator Aliu Sabi representing Niger North Senatorial District labored to convince participants on the need to support the Bill and make it part of our law. He agreed that their misconceptions concerning the Bill by the public and Nigerian Media but assured that he sponsored the Bill to deaths of innocent Nigerians as a result of Hate speech and that the Bill will promote national cohesion and integration.

Majority of the Panelists and participants were vehement in rejecting the Bill which Professor

Odinkalu described as toxic and designed to guillotine Nigerians.

The second Bill the bill to “Protect People from Internet Falsehood 2019” sponsored by Senator Sani also from Niger State suffered the same fate as participants did not agree with its desirability or need. The Bill which was an obvious plagiarism was faulted and described as needless. Professor Odinkalu wondered why the two Bills emanated from Niger State and admonished the senators to concentrate on bills that will better the lives of citizens instead of laws that will encourage the murder of citizens by politicians. Equally, it was clearly stated by the participants that Nigeria already has laws that takes care of the issues raised by the two proposed bills. Ms Kato advised the senators to take time and research on issues before coming out to the public and that legislators should justify their pay.

The second Panel was mostly to discuss the implications of Media Regulation in relation to the two proposed bills. Among the Panelists were Ben Bruce Murray, Dr Sam Amadi, Emeka Mba among others. According to Senator Ben Bruce, Media Houses should be self-regulatory as this will help them to be in business and not stifled by unnecessary regulations that are sometimes punitive by the government. They called for the independence of the Nigerian Broadcasting Commission so as not to be under the political control of the government in power. The participants and panelists called on government not to over regulate the media industry.

Furthermore, it was observed that government owned media houses are the worst offenders going contrary to set out regulations by the NBC but usually go free because NBC as a government agency is constrained to mete out punishments to the erring government media houses.

Finally, the participants and panelists called for the review of the NBC Act.

NIGERIANS CONDEMN AND REJECT THE INTERNET FRAUD AND HATE SPEECH BILLS

In furtherance of the rejection of the Internet Fraud and Hate Speech bills, Civil Society organisations have called on the Senate to stop forthwith from going ahead with such obnoxious bills. To bring this to the notice of Nigerians, the CSOs jointly signed the petition and Press Statement below;

COALITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS FOR PROTECTION OF CIVIC SPACE

PRESS STATEMENT

4th March 2020

The Senate must reject the Anti-Social Media Bill, as it is unconstitutional and inconsistent with Nigeria's international obligations

Ladies and gentlemen of the Press,

Fellow citizens,

We are gathered here today to report the summary of the people's and civil society's analyses of the Protection from Internet Falsehood and Manipulations; and for Related matters Bill, 2019 (SB.132), ahead of the Senate public hearing slated for 9th March 2020. We are glad to inform the members of the Senate and the International Community, that the Anti-Social Media Bill 2019 (SB.132) has been widely and popularly rejected by the people.

It has come to the understanding of the

people that the Senate Bill 132 (Internet/Social-Media) Bill is a draconian and modified version of the defeated "Bill for an Act to Prohibit Frivolous Petitions and other matters Connected Therewith, 2015 (SB.143), sponsored under the 8th National Assembly. The bill which also targeted the internet and on-line media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, WhatsApp, and the like, was dropped by the 8th Senate following an outcry by the people in 2016.

The latest attempt by the Senate to resuscitate an obnoxious bill that had been hitherto unanimously rejected by the people, constitutes an assault on the people and a flagrant assault on the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria (as amended) which guarantees the human rights of everyone including to freedom of expression. The people have overwhelmingly rejected any attempt to police the internet and gag the right to freedom of expression through back doors.

It has been affirmed severally in various courts of law that the right to freedom of expression is a constitutional and fundamental right; inviolable under the 1999 constitution. Section 17 (1) of the Constitution expressly states that: "The State Social order is founded on ideals of Freedom, Equality and Justice," while in section 37, it protects "The Privacy of Citizens, their homes, correspondence, telephone conversations and telegraphic communications is hereby guaranteed and protected." We invite the Senate to take a serious constitutional note of section 37, as the SB.132 clearly violates this provision.

It has also come to the knowledge of the people that it is a bill that seeks to give the executive arm of government outright powers to regulate the internet and control communications, but which has been

disguised as a private member bill in the Senate. It is therefore instructive, to remind the 9th Senate of the publicly stated position of President Muhammadu Buhari before the first version of the bill was dropped in 2016, and also the position of Vice President Yemi Osinbajo on Internet/Social Media regulations.

According to the President, "Free speech is central to democratic societies anywhere in the world. Without free speech, elected representatives won't be able to gauge public feelings and moods about governance issues. As a key component of democratic principles, people in democratic societies are so emotionally attached to free speech that they would defend it with all their might."

According to the Vice President, "I don't think that government regulation is necessarily the way to go, but I believe that we as persons of faith and we, as leaders, and those of us who use the social media actively owe a responsibility to our society and to everyone else, to ensure that we don't allow it to become an instrument of conflict and instrument of war."

Media freedom in Nigeria remains under attack, as shown by several cases of arrests and detention of journalists, bloggers and social media activists in the last four years. This trend suggests a disturbing trend toward repression of right to freedom of expression and media freedom in the country. The Internet/Social Media bill, the fast shrinking civic space and the clampdown on critics of government have shown a rising pattern of suppression.

The 9th Senate is therefore urged to take historical note of how previous sessions of the National Assembly had sided with the people and resisted executive overbearing and repression, thereby safeguarding the

civic space, and ensuring respect for Nigeria's international human rights obligations including under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. Nigeria has ratified both treaties and has even gone ahead to domesticate the African Charter as part of Nigerian laws.

This apparently executive plot pushing, manipulating and exploiting the Senate to regulate the social media and internet, will expose people to increased intimidation, harassment, arbitrary arrest and detention, and exacerbate the growing attacks on journalists, human rights defenders and activists.

The National Assembly must immediately and publicly reject this illegal and unconstitutional bill, ensure full and effective compliance with Nigeria's international human rights obligations and commitments. We as people and civil society reject this bill as both politically motivated and self-serving.

At a time when the United States has placed Nigeria on Visa restrictions and Special Watch-List (SWL) for governments that have engaged in or tolerated severe violations of religious freedom, the European Union has also urged the Nigerian authorities to guarantee full respect for human rights, the United Nations and Amnesty International have expressed serious concerns about human rights violations in Nigeria, it is expected that the Senate will not do anything that will portray Nigeria as a repressive state with no regard for human rights and the rule of law.

The bill is a threat to constitutionally and internationally guaranteed human rights.

At a time when corruption is endemic and

Nigeria has dropped on Transparency International 's yearly corruption perception ranking, moving two places down to rank the world's 34th most corrupt nation, the Social Media/Internet bill will further worsen the position of the country, as it would be seen as a self-serving plot by politicians to block the public demand for transparency and accountability.

Whereas, Section 15 (5) of the constitution states that "The state shall abolish all corrupt practices and abuse of power." The SB.132 constitutes an abuse of power and will impede the fight against corruption, which would lead to violations of human rights.

In addition, the Senate is also urged to take consider the provisions of Section 22: "The press, radio, television, and other agencies of the mass media shall at all times be free to uphold the fundamental objectives contained in this chapter and uphold the responsibility and accountability of the government to the people." Any attempt to regulate the internet/social media, will directly impede this provision.

The Senate should also note that there are enough existing laws in the country's statute books on defamation, privacy, libel and slander to protect public and private individuals along with the 2015 Cybercrimes Act. The SB. 132 Bill, therefore, is a legislative overkill. There is absolutely no need for a new law specially targeting the internet and social media platforms.

The planned public hearing on SB. 132 should therefore be an avenue to apologize to the people for wasting legislative time in resuscitating an obnoxious bill that had been totally rejected and to drop the bill. The Senate should rather promote bills that would improve the civic space, and not

unduly restrict it.

We urge the National Assembly, in particular the Senate to view the internet platforms as independent dashboard of ideas where people can freely exchange ideas and express their opinions or thoughts.

Signed:

1. Center for Liberty
2. Girl Child Africa
3. Global Rights
4. Enough is Enough Nigeria
5. Center for Democracy and Development
6. Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre
7. Oxfam Nigeria
8. Transition Monitoring Group (TMG)
9. Centre for Information Technology and Development
10. Sterling Center for Law and Development
11. Network of Disabled Women
12. Disabled People in Leadership Initiative
13. Rule of Law Development Foundation
14. Dorothy Njemanze Foundation
15. TechHer NG
16. Zero Corruption Coalition
17. Raising New Voices Initiative
18. Concerned Nigerians
19. The Election Network
20. Center for Impact Advocacy
21. Amnesty International Nigeria
22. Free Nigeria Coalition
23. Raising New Voices Initiative
24. Coalition in Defence of Nigerian Democracy and Constitution
25. Education As A Vaccine
26. Adopt A Goal for Development Initiative
27. House of Justice
28. Gatefield TV
29. The Art and Civic Table
30. SilverchipFox
31. Butterfly Effect Empowerment Initiative

32. Youth Concerns Development Foundation
33. Dinidari Foundation
34. Partners West Africa Nigeria
35. Haly Hope Foundation
36. Youths in Motion
37. Gender Relevance Initiative Promotion
38. Cedar Seed Foundation
39. Women on Wheels
40. E-Ability Platform
41. State of the Union Coalition
42. African Centre for Media and Information Literacy
43. National Procurement Watch Platform
44. Say No Campaign – Nigeria
45. Community Action for Popular Participation
46. Borno Coalition for Democracy and Progress
47. Tax Justice Nigeria
48. Women in Nigeria
49. Environmental Rights Action/Friend of the Earth, Nigeria
50. Nigerian Feminist Forum (NFF)
51. Alliances for Africa (AfA)
52. Women Advocate Research and Documentation Center (WARDC)
53. Women for Peace and Gender Equality Initiative
54. Women Rights and Health Project (WRAHP)
55. Association of Aliwe Daughters International
56. Gender Advocacy for Justice Initiative (GAJI)
57. Equality Through Education Foundation
58. Gender Equality, Peace and Development Centre
59. Girl Child Advocate
60. Equality Through Education Foundation
61. Gender Equality, Peace and Development Centre
62. Echoes of Women in Africa Initiatives
63. Network of Productive Health Journalists of Nigeria (NRHJN)
64. Socio-Economic Right and Accountability Project (SERAP)
65. Citizens Center for Integrated Development and Social Rights (CCIDESOR)
66. Halliru Memorial Youth Development and Empowerment Initiative
67. Daria Media Foundation
68. Sesor Empowerment Foundation
69. Mojúbàolú Olúfúnké Okome, Professor of Political Science, African & Women's Studies, Brooklyn College, City University of NY, USA.
70. Responsible Citizenship and Human Development Initiative
71. NoMore234NG
72. Women Foundation of Nigeria (WFN)
73. Media Concern Initiative (MediaCon)
74. First Future Leadership
75. Ovie Brume Foundation
76. Women for Peace and Gender Equality Initiative (WOPEGEE)
77. Ayodeji Fadugba, Director Kili Ceramics - Girl Child advocate
78. International Society of Media in Public Health (ISMPPH)
79. ACTS Generation
80. Country Associates Network (CANET)
81. Emerge Women Development Initiative (EWDI)
82. Working Moms Africa (WMA)
83. Women's Right to Education Programme
84. Gender and Environmental Risk Reduction Initiative (GERI)
85. ActionAid Nigeria
86. Jireh Doo Foundation Nigeria (JDF)
87. African Women Empowerment and Child Care Initiative
88. Amazing Grace Inspirations
89. Centre for Nonviolence and Gender Advocacy in Nigeria (CENGAIN)
90. Medical Women's Association of Nigeria
91. Justice and Empowerment Initiatives – Nigeria (JEI)
92. Widows Development Organisation
93. #BringBackOurGirls

94. Civil Resource Development and Documentation Center
95. Centre for the Eradication of Violence Against Women
96. Child Rights Protection Initiative
97. YIAGA Africa
98. Connected Development (CODE)
99. Youth Hub Africa
100. BraveHeart Initiative for Youth & Women
101. Global Hope for Women and Children Foundation (GLOHWOC)
102. Women Africa
103. Koyenum Immalah Foundation
104. **Center for Transparency Advocacy**
105. Avocats San Frontiers France
106. Women in Humanitarian Response in Nigeria Initiative
107. IANSA Women Network Nigeria
108. Equity Advocates/The Woman Today
109. Women's Right to Education Programme
110. Stand to End Rape Initiative (STER)

Violence Against Women During Elections Under Reported By Media- CTA

Election Observer group, Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA) has said violence against women during elections has sadly been under reported by the media and underplayed by both the security and government.

The group therefore called for an end to violence against women during elections in the country.

Speaking during a roundtable as part of the International Womens Day celebration, CTA executive director, Faith Nwadishi said women are refusing to get involved in politics due largely to the extreme violence

perpetrated against women politicians and female voters at all levels during elections

She said the roundtable seeks to proffer solutions to the increasing rate of violence being targeted at women participating in the electoral process.

Nwadishi said, "It is also important to note that the national average of women participation in politics in Nigeria is 6.7% across the board. We should interestingly note that only 62 women won elections during the 2019 General Elections according to Independent National Electoral Commission.

"This is largely attributed to the extreme violence perpetrated against women politicians and female voters at all levels making the environment toxic even though 51% of women participate in voting though under-reported by the media."

She hinted that some women are pressured to step down for male candidates and are often threatened or physically abused even when the female politicians are clearly better and preferred by their people even more so, in party primaries, women are not allowed on a level playing field to compete with men.

Giving instances of violence and discrimination against women, she said at the recently concluded local government election in Enugu state, a female politician who contested and clearly won her male counterpart at the primaries but was asked to step down for the defeated male candidate who will now become the Councillor in their Ward.

Today, we call on women to toe the doggedness of the likes of Gambo Sawaba, Margaret Ekpo, Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti

who were not deterred by their challenges at that time but made history and are today celebrated. This is a clarion call for positive action .She recommended that women should build gender solidarity by forming coalitions to take what rightfully belongs to them.

She added that women should develop their political acumen through leadership training, campaigns and gaining leverage via social media.

She also recommended that security agency should be strengthened to effectively handle cases of electoral violence against women, adding there should be a strong political will to tackle violence against women by all stakeholders

She said, “enlightenment should be carried out to help men know that elective positions do not belong to a particular gender but anybody can function based on ability, Women should be in support of one another.

The CTA boss called for improved capacity and powers of Women groups and female politicians to negotiate and participate in the electoral process that guarantees participation and the protection of their rights and privileges in the electoral process.

The roundtable was organised to discuss issues around violence against women in election.

She said, “Today, we seat here first as Nigerians to discuss the issues arising and the possible solutions to the increasing rate

of violence being targeted at women participating in the electoral process.

Report by Michael Oche



Group photograph of participants at the Round Table on Preventing Violence against Women in Elections in Nigeria

“The pressure is on the women – they are the ones who have to take care of their homes and their children, in the hope that their children will live better lives than they have lived.” (Faith Nwadihi)

**WOMEN HAVE
THE RIGHT TO
MAKE POLITICAL
CHOICES**



Ms Faith Nwadishi, Executive Director CTA, granting a press interview



International Women's Day 2020: Generation Equality



Participants from the Security Agencies with the ED during the IWD 2020 roundtable

STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN POLITICS

CTA FOCUS AND PROGRAMME AREAS

The Center for Transparency Advocacy (CTA) formerly known as Independent Service Delivery Group (ISDMG) is a consortium of several Civil Society Organizations with a large repertoire of media partners birthed with the sole purpose of assisting the government and the people in ensuring that effective services are rendered by government institutions especially those that have been mandated specific statutory functions.

WOMEN ARE AGENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Importantly, the covenant of CTA is premised on assessing and verifying on-going and completed physical projects and ascertaining the quality of Service Delivery by Federal, State and Local Government, Ministries/Departments and Agencies (MDAs), promoting credible electoral process and good governance.

Public Sector Reforms
Democracy & Good Governance
Elections
Extractive Governance
Anti-Corruption

CROSS CUTTING

Women & Youth Involvement
Human Rights

VISION

A society where public institutions render quality and efficient services using public funds (in line with their mandates) for common good

MISSION

To contribute in building a Nigeria where public institutions are used as veritable tools for national development through advocacy and research

Core Values

Our core values include justice, equity and fair play, patriotism, fairness, empathy, respect for the views of others, and corporate social responsibility

Public Sector Service Delivery

THE CTA TEAM

Faith Nwadishi- Executive Director and Team Lead

MacDonald Ekemezie- Communications Manager

Jumai Danuk – Senior Programme Officer

Ngozi Ogwudile- General Administration

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