



THE EXTRA STEP INITIATIVE

March 03, 2023

PRESS RELEASE

The Extra Step Initiative is a non-profit platform created to encourage or even compel that **'Extra Step'** that produce best practice in the family, organization, and the community. This includes our employees (elected, appointed and career public servants) and our public institutions.

BACKGROUND:

This year 2023 marks the 100th anniversary of when voting first took place in Nigeria and it will be 30th anniversary of the Option A4 Elections/June 12 saga that eventually led to the demise of the late sage M.K.O Abiola, His demise we can safely say acted as a catalyst for the birthing of this 4th republic.

The 25th of February 2023 elections was to be a water shed for our democracy particularly with the amendment of the 2022 Electoral Act which introduced the use of technology (BVAS) into our electoral process. This optimism of our electoral process was funded with N305 Billion of the nation's scarce resources.

This press release is premised on the loss of confidence on the Electoral process and her Umpire INEC by the public with the presumption that the elections of the 11th of March 2023 would not be credible If conducted in the present context.

The comment from the presidential candite of the SDP Adewole Adebayo succinctly captures the mood:

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“ ...I warned that the BVAS was a loaded gun and this election showed that it was put in the hands of armed Robbers...INEC is filled with highly corrupt people”. (Arise TV 03:03:23)

We will not blame the political actors but blame INEC and her supervisors who have been employed/elected to enforce **Section 14 of the Nigeria constitution** from which legitimacy is derived as Nigerians and leaders of Nigeria.

(a) sovereignty belongs to the people of Nigeria from whom government through this Constitution derives all its powers and authority.

(b) the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government: and

(c) the participation by the people in their government shall be ensured in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

(3) The composition of the Government of the Federation or any of its agencies and the conduct of its affairs shall be carried out in such a manner as to reflect the federal character of Nigeria and the need to promote national unity, **and also to command national loyalty;**

And Mr. President swore to Schedule 7 of the Nigerian Constitution:

‘... that I will strive to preserve the Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy contained in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; that I will not allow my personal interest to influence my official conduct or my official decisions; that in all circumstances, I will do right to all manner of people, according to law, without fear or favour, affection or ill-will;

This is an appeal to Mr. President as the employer and supervisor of INEC. **Funds and time are not a priority, doing right is supreme and doing right in this regard is to build confidence in our electoral system before the next voting takes place.**

VOTER APARTHY & VOTE SUPPRESSION:

The 2023 elections became electrified with the emergence of HE Bola Tinubu, HE Abubakar Atiku, HE Peter Obi, the G5 and uncertainty of the Biafra agitators. The obedient movement drove the registration and collection of PVC to hit 93.7million registered



elections. In other instances, opposition figures were deliberately accused by state governments and deliberately taken to wrong courts and remanded in prison custody with long adjournment date. We even have cases of clear contravention of the electoral act were based on 'technicalities' violators of the Electoral act were allowed to contest the elections while INEC went mute despite being empowered to be a 'monitor' of party primaries.

THE PRESIDENTIAL & NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS:

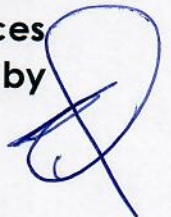
This election was fraught with acts that resulted into voter suppression and apathy. The INEC administrative and operational campaigns failed to live up to the ₦305billion availed her.

INEC failed operationally and her shoddy handling of the elections have made the public to accuse the commission of deliberately violating the 3 documents that grants her legitimacy namely (i) The Constitution (ii) Electoral Act (iii) the INEC guidelines for the 2023 elections. These are allegations are already before the courts.

THE GOVERNORSHIP & HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS :

These elections are 8 days away and there is wide disaffection in the public space based on the conduct of the elections of the 25th of February 2023. It is on record that they have accused INEC the umpire of being partial and denying them of a level playing field. This is chaos in waiting and we would like to appeal to President Buhari to postpone that election and take actions that would restore public confidence in INEC the Umpire and her elections.

We would thus suggest the following having at the back of our minds that **based on the ₦105.2Billion for Accreditation Devices availed INEC a slight modification and delay can be managed by the commission and the nation.**



voters and the world was impressed with the emergence of these young first-time voters who were mostly rooting for a candidate.

The participation of registered voters in that election was circa 27% which reminds us that the federal government did not address the concerns that were before us prior to the election.

REGISTRATION & COLLECTION OF PERMANENT VOTERS CARD:

The registration and collection of the PVC was haphazard and millions of PVC remained uncollected or as widely reported in some instances the owners were even prevented from collecting them. It was reported that PVCs with eastern names were deliberately destroyed to disenfranchise the owners in some states. Thousands of such cards were even found in the bush in Anambra state and till date no one has been held liable or sanctioned for the disenfranchisement of those Nigerians.

TRAMPING ON THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF CITIZENS:

There was systematic obstruction to campaigns whereby incumbents in states unleashed bogus levies and restricted freedoms of aspirants and their supporters. In Rivers State all major aspirants were attacked except for the PDP aspirant. This was taken to new levels on election day and till date there has been no arrests nor sanctions. The Nigeria Police helped to implement these infractions as if they were responsible to the state governors, obviously they forgot their role as the first line of defence of our democracy. It would be pertinent for the Inspector General of Police to address the nation or at least populate her website with her role and the details of those charged to court.

THE JUDICIARY:

The judiciary was unwillfully used to subvert the system where all manners of frivolous cases were thrown against aspirants and these cases prevented them from campaigning until the week of the



SECURITY:

We are requesting the extension of the elections for another 30 days to provide ample time to ensure that all candidates can go round their constituency and campaign effectively. This will be preceded by a sweep by the security agencies working with CSOs and making their actions publicly accountable. This security angle can be boosted with the invitation of the FBI & Scotland yard representatives as observers, whose findings must be made public.

We have suggested for foreign input because of public apathy towards our public institutions and her drivers.

INDEPENDENT MONITORS:

A number of groups are calling for the removal of the INEC Chairman, but we would instead recommend for the infusion of Election managers from the United States, United Kingdom, European Union and the United Nations to over see the following (i) the planning and implementation protocol for the elections and (ii) the monitoring of the deployment of man and material, the voting process and the accounting process on election day.

This team would certify arrangements to be satisfactory before the elections can be held.

We also suggest that the Information Technology department be reorganized with the infusion of teams from Microsoft, Apple and Goggle to audit and restructure the INEC IT architecture and supervise the technical side of the elections as stated below.

THE TECHNICALS:

THE MONITORING CENTERS:

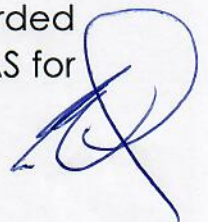
1. We request the establishment of 3 situation rooms namely at the Local Government (2) State and (3) National aka Abuja.



2. All BVAS machines will be Geo-tagged, once armed or switched on will be seen live at the 3 Situation rooms. And if they are not in their locations will prompt the Situation Rooms and requisite officers would be queried real time along the chain of command. This is how ATM machines are monitored by banks across the country.
3. We request for an additional BVAS Machine to be availed each polling unit. The machines will be placed on stands and one in front of the INEC officials and the second one will be in the voting booth.

THE VOTING PROCESS:

1. The voter approaches the officials with his PVC and under the guidance of the officials places the card before the machine to activate the machines. He places his eyes in front of the camera and his details pops out.
2. He is now given ballot papers with a Bar code which he places before the machine and until it beeps for each of the ballot paper.
3. He proceeds to the voting booth and looks at the camera of the second BVA machine which turns on and shows him all the contesting parties; he touches his preferred party, and all of his activity is transmitted automatically to the situation rooms and servers.
4. He proceeds to thumb print his prefeed candidate. Even when there is a slight ink spill to make the ballot invalid, the electronic copy corrects the choice.
5. He then proceeds to drop his thumb printed ballot papers in the ballot boxes.
6. This circle would take an average of 5minutes for each voter. This guarantees that every activity at the polling unit is automatically captured from log-on to voting by all supervisory levels.
7. On conclusion of voting, the votes are counted and recorded on the requisite forms like EC 8 and captured on the BVAS for auto transmission.



8. The party Agents and the voters can also track their votes via the IREV simultaneously.

Thankyou,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Eugene Abels', written over the word 'Thankyou,'.

EUGENE ABELS

Executive Director