

DAILY

BULLETIN

VOLUME:2 NO:236 DATE: November 24th, 2022

2023: INEC CHAIRMAN SHUTS DOWN SPECULATIONS ON PLANS TO JETTISON THE INEC RESULT VIEWING PORTAL

Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Mahmood Yakubu, has described as fake, reports in some section of the Media claiming that the Commission plans to jettison the INEC Result Viewing Portal for the 2023 General Election.

He said the innovation was a brain child of the Commission and there was no way it would turn around to undermine itself, and reaffirmed that technology in enhancing the integrity of elections was here to stay.

The INEC Chairman made the clarification when he received the Commonwealth Pre-Election Assessment Mission to Nigeria, led by the Commonwealth Adviser and Head of Africa Section, Political Team, Ms. Abiola Sunmonu, at the INEC Headquarters, Abuja, on Wednesday.

Prof. Yakubu who was appreciative of the contributions of the Commonwealth Observation Mission to the deepening of democracy through their progressive recommendations after the 2019 General Election, assured Nigerians and the international community of INEC's commitment towards safeguarding the integrity of the electoral process and delivering the best election ever in the history of Nigeria.

He equally used the opportunity to address some insinuations emanating from a section of the Media alleging plans by the Commission to jettison the real-time upload of polling unit results to the INEC result Viewing Portal (IReV)

Prof. Yakubu said "let me seize this opportunity to respond to a story emanating from a section of the media that the Commission has decided to jettison the uploading of the polling unit results real time on election day. It should please be disregarded as fake news."

"The Commission will upload polling unit results and citizens will have real-time access as we upload from polling units. This innovation was introduced by the Commission and it cannot turn around to undermine itself, this

technology has come to stay. We are serving the citizens, how can we deny citizens access to the results of a process conducted by them at the level of polling units?”, he said.

Harping on the progressive recommendations of the Common-Wealth Observation team and its impact on the electoral process, the INEC Chairman said “We have always benefited from the insight of the Common-wealth. Nigeria is a proud member of the Common-wealth. I recall that in 2019 we benefited from the report submitted after the election.”

“As you can see from the engagements we have had so far, we have taken those recommendations very seriously and that has been factored into the preparations for the 2023 General Election, particularly for the improvement to the electoral legal framework. We have a brand-new law in Nigeria called the Electoral Act 2022. It is IT friendly, and perhaps the most progressive of legislation as far as elections in Nigeria are concerned.”

“The law has enabled the Commission to deploy technology in elections and is also very strong on inclusivity, particularly on provision of assistive devices for Persons With Disabilities (PWDs), is now a legal requirement as far as resources permit.

“As a Commission, we have been deploying some of these devices in the off-season elections in preparation for the General Election, we have introduced the braille ballot guide that enables the visually impaired to vote unassisted, and for those with albinism we introduced the magnifying glasses, and for the deaf we have posters.”

The INEC Chairman said “I want to assure you and reassure you that the 2023 General Election is going to be our best ever. We are committed that the votes cast by Nigerians will determine the outcome of elections, nothing more, nothing less”.

Earlier, the Leader of the delegation, Ms. Abiola Sunmonu, said that the team was in Nigeria on a Pre-Election assessment mission. She explained that they were in the Commission essentially to understand and appreciate the preparation of Nigerian stakeholders for the 2023 General Election and will be meeting with the Political Parties, Civil Society, the Government and the Media.

Ms. Sunmonu stressed that engaging with Nigeria’s electoral stakeholders was very important for the Common-wealth due to the country’s strategic place in Africa and the world, adding that the world is interested in what goes on in Nigeria.

Also on ground to join the INEC Chairman to receive the guests were National Commissioners; Mohammed Kudu Haruna, Prof. Abdullahi Abdu Zuru, Mr. Sam Olumekun, Festus Okoye Esq, Prof. Sani Adam, Maj. General Modibo Alkali (Rtd), Mr. Kenneth Ukeagu, and the Commission’s Secretary, Mrs. Rose Oriaran-Anthony.

Others were, Chief Technical Adviser (CTA) to Hon. Chairman, Prof. Bolade Eyinla, Special Adviser to INEC Chairman, Prof. Mohammed Kuna, Chief Press Secretary to the Hon. Chairman, Rotimi Oyekanmi, and some Directors in the Commission.

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