

Press Release on Nigerian 2015 Elections

The Association of Nigerians Abroad (ANA) (<http://www.anagroupnet.org/>), a non-profit, non-ethnic, non-religious and non-partisan association of Nigerians resident around the globe, calls for all possible efforts to ensure free, fair and peaceful elections that are coming up on March 28, 2015.

ANA has been very concerned about the do-or-die attitude of the candidates, their supporters and agents. The purpose of campaigning in a democratic environment is for the candidates and supporters to present to the general electorate the policy objectives and goals as articulated by their respective parties on how to advance Nigeria forward. Considering that these policy objectives and goals tend to enunciate positive visions, it would, therefore, be paradoxical to such spirit if candidates and supporters encourage or participate in acts of election season violence.

ANA believes that violence-free election campaigns are crucial for implementing free and fair elections. The outcome of such violence-free elections would legitimize the eventual winners, thereby helping to minimize the pervading cynicism and suspicion among Nigerians about their government. It would also instill confidence among international investors.

ANA strongly believes it is only a Nigerian government with legitimately elected candidates that can enjoy the support of its people to successfully implement the policy objectives as promised by their parties.

The national stakes are too high to be ignored. Terrorist activities have destroyed lives and properties. There is a heightened general insecurity in the country. The lack of sustainable power has stifled industrial growth and discouraged international investors. The dependence of the economy largely on fossil fuel energy is a national security threat that must be tackled. The high unemployment rate, among the youth in particular, is a socio-economic threat to the country's future. The culture of corruption that is rooted in daily government transactions has significantly diminished the ability of government to be responsive to the needs of the average Nigerian.

It is for the above and other issues not stated here that ANA is calling for free and fair elections through: access for voters to perform their civic responsibilities without intimidation; unrestricted access of the ballot boxes to legal party representatives and international observers; neutrality on the part of the Nigerian military and law enforcement agents; and compliance with an agreed code of conduct that provides legal channels for resolving any electoral disputes.

We look forward to a free and fair successful election that would make Nigerians proud of their country and beginning of good things to come.

Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!

-The Association of Nigerians Abroad (ANA)

cc: Nigerian Presidential Candidates
Nigerian National Assembly
Nigerian Political Parties
Nigerian Law Enforcements
Nigerian Military
Nigerian Media