

ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIANS ABROAD [ANA]
18196 Oliver Drive
Strongsville, OH 44149 USA
Email: ANA-Headquarters@ananet.org

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Press Release

The Association of Nigerians Abroad Warns of Looming Election Crisis in Nigeria

The Association of Nigerians Abroad (ANA) (www.ananet.org) is compelled to call the attention of well meaning Nigerians and the international community of the dangerous political events that are unfolding in Nigeria as the April elections draw near. ANA has observed with growing concern that these events represent the most dangerous attempt to undermine the country's nascent democracy. The democracy is witnessing the coordinated utilization of public institutions by the Federal Government (FG) to effectively emasculate opposition parties so as to deny a free and fair election.

The rapidly occurring events over the past few months have the hallmarks that are characteristic of a growing election crisis:

- The dismissal of the Nigeria's Vice President (VP) and withdrawal of official services few months before election;
- The calculated timing of the list drawn up by the EFCC (Economic and Financial Crimes Commission) of alleged corrupt politicians and the advisory letter by the EFCC to INEC (Independent Election Commission) with regard to these alleged corrupt politicians. The list includes the VP;
- The rapid installation of an administration panel of inquiry by the President that comprised of cabinet ministers to essentially attempt to determine the guilt or innocence of these alleged corrupt politicians on the EFCC list;
- The subsequent rapid announcement by the FG of the disqualification of the alleged corrupt politicians from contesting the elections. The list of the disqualified includes the VP;
- The recent utterances by the President that the current electioneering campaign is a "do-or-die" and "life-and-death" battle for the ruling party should be a source of concern;
- Recent arrests of opposition political operatives, specifically operatives of the VP's party, by the State Security Service (SSS);
- The above events have occurred in a span of three months as the country hurtles toward the national elections in April, 2007;
- The appearance that the obvious target of the above actions by the FG, EFCC, INEC, and SSS, is the country's VP, who is a presidential candidate under a party different from the President's;

- The VP has consistently gone to court to challenge the actions of the FG, and the courts had restrained the FG and its institutions from further action pending the conclusion of the cases.

ANA Resolution

1. ANA recognizes the clear separation of powers between the Executive, Legislature, and the Judiciary as enshrined in the constitution;
2. ANA believes that while FG institutions, such as the EFCC, may have the authority to investigate specific financial crimes, only the courts have the power to impose guilt;
3. ANA believes that the FG and its institutions should exercise restraint and respect the orders on the courts;
4. ANA rejects the use of proxy administrative panels comprising of ministers that are beholden to the executive to judge the guilt or innocence of any Nigerian;
5. ANA calls upon all political parties to reject violence and pursue their cases in courts of law;
6. Most importantly, ANA calls upon the Nigerian judiciary to try these cases without fear and or favor.
7. While ANA is in principle not opposed to the flushing out of corrupt politicians and banning them from holding offices, such action must be conducted in the nation's courts and not by administrative panels that are beholden to the executive.

The Association of Nigerians Abroad (www.ananet.org) is non-ethnic, non-religious, and non-partisan in all its dealings with the people and government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The Association shall, as and when necessary, advocate for democratic ideals, human rights, the rule of law, fairness, justice, and equity in Nigeria and for all Nigerians.