

REMARKS BY HONOURABLE CHAIRMAN, INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC), PROF. MAHMOOD YAKUBU, AT THE SWEARING-IN OF NINETEEN (19) RESIDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSIONERS HELD AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM, INEC HEADQUARTERS, ABUJA, THURSDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2022

National Commissioners

Secretary to the Commission

Our new Resident Electoral Commissioners

Families and Friends of the Resident Electoral Commissioners

Senior Officials of the Commission

Members of the INEC Press Corps

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. We have just witnessed the swearing-in of nineteen (19) Resident Electoral Commissioners. On behalf of the Commission, let me first of all congratulate you on your nomination, confirmation and appointment or re-appointment as Resident Electoral Commissioners. Fourteen (14) of you are fresh appointments while five (5) have been re-appointed for a second and final term.

2. I am glad to note that each one of you brings to the Commission knowledge and experience in various fields. In terms of professional background, nine (9) of you are from the academia, including Professors; two (2) lawyers; an Accountant; a retired Ambassador and six (6) civil/public servants, including retired Permanent Secretaries;. As I welcome you to the Commission, I urge you settle down quickly and familiarise yourselves with the demands of your new responsibilities, always bearing in mind our commitment to free, fair, credible, transparent and verifiable elections.

3. With exactly 113 days to the 2023 General Election, we are aware that the task ahead of us is not easy but we must never disappoint Nigerians. Our loyalty is to Nigeria and our allegiance is to Nigerians. Only their votes should determine winners in the 2023 General Election. Nothing more, nothing less. There should be no deviation from this path of honour and integrity.

4. Over the years, the Commission has worked tirelessly to reform the electoral process and introduce many innovations that are generally acknowledged to have improved the electoral process. In doing so, we will continue to acknowledge the sacrifice and dedication of our hardworking staff. As you are deployed to the States of the Federation, you will be responsible for human and material resources. Work with the staff and be guided by the provisions of the law and our various Regulations and Guidelines.

5. Furthermore, you will also interact with various stakeholders. You should maintain the established practice of consultation with them. However, in dealing with the general public, you should be guided by the provisions of the Commission's Code of Conduct. You should not be visitors to Government Houses and must never hold unofficial meetings with politicians, even after official working hours. All matters pertaining to official responsibilities should be conducted in the office attended by the relevant staff and properly documented. This is your best protection against mischief. Do not compromise the neutrality of the Commission or create the perception of partisanship.

6. In discharging your responsibilities, you must at all times be transparent and non-partisan while remaining firm and courageous. You owe nothing to any individual but owe everything to the Nigerian people. We must continue to ensure that the choices they make on Election Day prevail. It is their decision. We are only administering the process in trust supported by technology. On this note, let me once again emphasise that the only means of voter accreditation during the 2023 General Election is the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) while results will be uploaded to the INEC Results Viewing Portal (IReV) in real-time on Election Day as provided by law.

7. In line with the Commission's current practice, Resident Electoral Commissioners are deployed to States within their geo-political zones. However, no one will serve in his/her State of origin throughout your tenure. Accordingly, the nineteen (19) Resident Electoral Commissioners are hereby deployed as follows:

S/No	RESIDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER	POSTING
1	Prof. Uzochukwu I. Chijioke	Abia
2	Barr. Nuhu Yunusa	Adamawa

3	Mrs Queen Elizabeth Agu	Anambra
4	Mohammed Bulama Nura	Bauchi
5	Prof. Samuel G. Egwu	Benue
6	Yomere Gabriel Oritsemolebi	Cross River
7	Onyeka Pauline Ugochi	Ebonyi
8	Obo O. Effanga	Edo
9	Prof. Ayobami Salami	Ekiti
10	Umar Ibrahim	Gombe
11	Prof. Sylvia Uchenna Agu	Imo
12	Prof. Muhammad L. Bashar	Jigawa
13	Amb. Abdu Abdussamadu Zango	Kano
14	Prof. Yahaya Makarfi Ibrahim	Katsina
15	Ahmed Yushau Garki	Niger
16	Dr. Agboke Mutiu Olaleke	Osun
17	Dr. Agundu Oliver Tersoo	Plateau
18	Dr. Nura Ali	Sokoto
19	Ibrahim Abdullahi	Yobe

8. The deployment of the new Resident Electoral Commissioners means a consequential adjustment in the current postings of four serving Commissioners are redeployed as follows:

S/No.	Name	Current Posting	New Posting
1	Dr. Adediran Rahmon Tella	Ekiti	Oyo
2	Dr. Johnson Alalibo Sinikiem	Cross River	Rivers
3	Dr. Chukwuemeka J. Chukwu	Ebonyi	Enugu
4	Dr. Mahmuda Isah	Jigawa	Kaduna

9. Once again, I congratulate the new and returning Resident Electoral Commissioners. We should continue to remain focused on the goal of improving our electoral process.

10. Thank you and God bless.