

# NHRC condemns killing of 10 law enforcement agents

**THE** National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has condemned the election-related violence, especially the killing of 10 law enforcement agents and security personnel, as well as seven NNPP supporters in Kano State.

The Executive Secretary, Mr Tony Ojukwu, SAN, also noted the consistent attack on INEC facilities; attacks by unknown gunmen, political intolerance and hate speech were specifically recorded during the 2023 Presidential and National Assembly Election.

Ojukwu made this known in the third monthly review meeting of Mobilising Voters for Election (MOVE) project in Abuja.

Ojukwu described such acts as gross violations of human rights

"Elections are the expression of the rights of the people and there must be accountability for the violation of these rights."

"There are other serious human rights violations

which has characterised the last Saturday's election are voter's suppression and intimidation as recorded in Lagos, Rivers, Imo, Ebonyi, Bayelsa and Delta.

"These new threats will impact on the integrity and credibility of the electoral process which may lead to voter apathy for the upcoming gubernatorial and house of assembly elections in March".

"We commend the conduct of security personnel during the 2023 Presidential and National Assembly elections" he said.

According to him, the reports emanating from the human rights situation room revealed that the officers performed their duties devoid of suppression and intimidation of voters as recorded in past elections.

"Despite the massive turnout of voters, the law enforcement agent and security personnel were able to execute their role as human rights defenders during the electoral

process.

"The Commission is calling on INEC to upload results electronically so as to validate the result being announced at the collation center.

"This is within the law that uploading the result and transmitting hard copies of election results must be done simultaneously and this must be respected" he said.

In his remarks, the National Coordinator, Legal Defence and Assistance Project (LEDAP), Mr Chinonye Obiagwu, SAN, called on INEC to follow the laid down rules in the collation of results to ensure transparency in the electoral process.

Similarly, the Chairman of the Transition Monitoring Group, Auwal Musa Rafsanjani in his goodwill message commended the Commission for mainstreaming human rights issues into the electoral process.

He said the National Human Rights Commission has condemned in strong terms the election related violence it recorded in the month of February

According to him, especially the killings of 10 law enforcement agents and security personnel, as well as the killing of 7 NNPP supporters in Kano State.

The NHRC dashboard showed that there were three Bomb attacks in Anambra, Borno, and Rivers states.

"There were two attacks on INEC facilities, attack by unknown gunmen or bandits were two: 12. Political intolerance 12, Hate speech, 15 reports.

Killing of Law enforcement, 10, Destruction of properties happened at Gombe and Anambra, Political Intolerance, Destruction /cutting of roads at Kogi. Stoning of governor Buni at APC rally happened at Yobe, cancellation of PDP rally, Rivers voters intimidation, and suppression, south west 55, South south 40, South east 25, North central 12, North west 3, North east, two political violence, attack on NNPP supporters-Kano, attack on APC political campaign-Bauchi.

"Attack on LP House of Representative candidate, Imo, attack on wife of PDP candidate, Zamfara, attack on first lady convoy, Nassarawa attack on PDP campaign DG, Rivers attack on LP supporters, Lagos.

## CSO warns politicians

They cited the example of Ekiti State, it is not enough to ask for an election to be cancelled just because you do not agree with certain parameters because a particular candidate is leading.

"The election you are complaining of, is it not this same INEC that conducted the election in Lagos where LP's Peter Obi won? Is it not this same INEC that conducted the election in Katsina where PDP's Atiku Abubakar won in the President's home state?"

While noting that politics is all about numbers, he said the party with the highest number of votes spread across two-third states and the Federal Capital Territory Abuja, would emerge victorious at the end of the collation.

Umohinyang, also took a swipe at former President Olusegun Obasanjo, who had in an open letter to President Muhammadu Buhari, slammed the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) alleged compromise in the electoral process, and demanded to reschedule the contentious polls.

According to Umohinyang, the era of Obasanjo's administration witnessed the worst elections in the nation's history, saying he (Obasanjo), should not be the one talking about the descent election.

"If there is anybody who should speak about this election and comment about the issues of rigging, it shouldn't be Obasanjo because under his watch, in the 2003 election, Nigeria was a war zone. Also in 2007, he introduced the phrase do-or-die politics.

"He cannot be the one writing a letter to a man like President Muhammadu Buhari, who has consistently said that he will leave a legacy of a free, fair, and transparent election.

"Writing a letter to Buhari is an insult, it is a slap to decency, and it has no place in a modern democracy."

