



People
For
Democratic
Change

PEOPLE FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE (PDC)

ENUGU STATE SECRETARIAT

17, Bisala Road, Independence Layout, Enugu

OZOEMEZINA!

OPEN LETTER TO INEC CHAIRMAN, PROF. ATTAHIRU JEGA: HOW PDP/INEC RIGGED OUT EX-GOVERNOR CHIMAROKÉ NNAMANI IN ENUGU EAST SENATORIAL ZONE

Mr. Chairman, we are compelled to use this medium to condemn and reject in entirety the results of the National Assembly elections in the Enugu East Senatorial Zone as announced by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). It is indeed a big shame that at this decisive moment of our history when the good people of Enugu State are crying to be part of the wind of genuine democratic change sweeping through the nation, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) appears stubbornly steeped in massive rigging and fraud to “win” elections. The allocation of victory to all PDP candidates in the last elections in Enugu East in particular has left our people bewildered and incensed, driving them to the edge of aggression as witnessed in the outbreak of spontaneous mass protests in the streets of Enugu. The ruling PDP has once again subverted the will of our people by brazen inducement of INEC officials and security agencies, open vote buying at polling stations, writing of fake results, thuggery and violence. As you know sir, the PDP and rigging have always been conjoined like siamese twins. But never before has this scale of electoral chicanery been visited so callously on a people so desirous of effecting change through the ballot.

PARTISANSHIP OF INEC OFFICIALS IN THE MANIPULATION OF RESULTS

Sir, some consistent patterns were observed in the various local government areas of Enugu East Senatorial Zone in the blatant manipulation of the electoral process by INEC and PDP. To begin with, INEC polling officers refused to show the original result sheets to our party polling agents before the commencement of voting as required by law, while in many places our polling agents were kept at bay from the polling booths to prevent them from their legitimate duties of monitoring the voting process. Also, in many wards, there was a deliberate mix-up of result sheets belonging to different polling booths to create confusion, delay the collation of results and facilitate the writing of fake results. For instance, result sheets clearly inscribed with the names and code numbers of specific polling units were dispatched to other polling units many kilometers away, so that when the “mistakes” were discovered by our party polling agents and reported to INEC, it took some hours of swapping of all affected result sheets at different places by INEC to finally rectify the contrived discrepancies before voting could commence, or the results entered. Even after the votes cast at the polling units were counted and the results declared, INEC polling staff in many places refused to enter the results into the result sheets or issue copies of the result sheets to our party polling agents. It often took the vehement and insistent demand of our party polling agents to get the copies of the result sheets from INEC officials. Copies of result sheets were never released to our party polling agents by INEC staff at a good number of polling units.

As it turned out, there was an elaborate plan to delay the writing and issuance of result sheets to party agents into the night in a ploy to prevent the collation of results at the various designated ward collation centres as required by law and instead shift the collation exercise to the local government headquarters where it was easy to manipulate or forge the results from a coordinated central location. In effect, the ward collation centres were bypassed and rendered nugatory as election materials and result sheets from the polling units were moved directly to the local government headquarters with some of them arriving as late as 10 pm before collation commenced and continued into the next day. Thus the collation of results of polling

units that should have been proceeded with at the designated ward collation centres in daytime and under the watchful eyes of party agents was held at the council headquarters at night.

Meanwhile, as the election materials and result sheets arrived the council headquarters at night, the situation was compounded by the curious lack of electricity at every one of them. Since the generators were not switched on for alleged lack of fuel, phone torch lights had to be used by INEC officials for the collation and writing of results. This was a perfect atmosphere for the execution of their sinister objectives.

Inside the council headquarters, hundreds of INEC officials were herded into a single hall for collation of results of the various polling units and wards. To appreciate the orchestrated ambience of rowdiness and opaqueness in the halls suited for the manipulation of the exercise, the total numbers of polling units for the various councils in the Enugu East Senatorial Zone are as follows: Enugu East LGA (209), Enugu North LGA (232), Enugu South LGA (168), Nkanu East LGA (123), Nkanu West LGA (175) and Isi Uzo LGA (118). Thus crammed inside one hall at a LG headquarters were the four INEC officials assigned to each polling unit, multiplied by the total number of polling units, making a total number of persons ranging from 472 (for Isi Uzo LGA) to 928 (for Enugu North LGA). The crowding of the halls with INEC officers who had to work with torch lights therefore provided the needed excuse for security agents to bar our party agents from entering the halls to monitor the exercise, while some of the PDP polling agents were allowed in.

It is quite remarkable that this same method of deliberate mix-up of result sheets sent to different polling units, delay of collation into the night and diversion of ward collation exercise to council headquarters featured in the controversial governorship election in Anambra State last year, as the opposition All Progressive Congress (APC) screamed to no end. Is it a mere coincidence or happenstance that as in the Anambra State case, the Enugu State Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) at centre of the present controversy is Prof. Chukwuemeka Onukogu?

Apart from the “coincidence” or “happenstance” of a particular REC always being the fulcrum of all too resembling manoeuvres like the mix-up of result sheets of different polling units, delays into the night, diversion of collation from designated ward collation centres to council headquarters and so on, other top officials of INEC in Enugu North, Enugu East, Isi Uzo and Nkanu East LGAs were also deeply involved in the highly coordinated manipulation of the electoral process.

WIDESPREAD MALFEASANCE

The same pattern of non-demonstration of polling unit result sheets to party agents before the commencement of voting, switching of result sheets belonging to different polling units, refusal to issue written results to our party agents, non-collation of results of polling units at the designated ward collation centres, shifting of ward collation exercise to local government headquarters, exclusion of our party agents from the local government halls where the ward collations eventually took place, re-writing and forging of results, brazen vote buying at polling units, intimidation and thuggery was repeated in varying degrees everywhere in the zone by the PDP with the active complicity of INEC officials and security agencies.

Specific incidents that pointed to the massive scale of the rigging

carried out by the PDP and INEC are:

- In Enugu East Local Government Area, electoral frauds were carried out with impunity by PDP operatives with the active connivance of INEC officials and security agents. At Umuenwene, Iji Nike Ward, one of the Senatorial Candidates arrived with armed thugs to disrupt the counting of votes and thereafter took charge of the writing and doctoring of results. The PDP thugs beat up some uncooperative INEC officials and held them hostage for about six hours while the same candidate and his wife personally joined in thumb-printing of ballot papers and writing of fake results. This incident was reported by our party to INEC and the security agencies, to little or no effect. In fact a police DPO, obviously drunk and swaggering from bouts of corruption, orchestrated the exclusion of PDC party agents from the collation halls to enable incorrect figures to be added into the result sheets. The PDC Collation Agent, Hon. KGB Oguakwa was abducted, beaten up and abandoned for dead by PDP henchmen led by a well known thug, on the personal direction of the Senatorial Candidate in a snap operation supervised by a senior police officer in the area right inside the INEC office, itself within the LGA premises which was supposedly under protective cordon of the Nigeria Police. Hon. Oguakwa was rescued and resuscitated by men of the Nigerian Army.
- Still in Enugu East, security agents assisted the rigging by clamping down the protest of Hon. Oguakwa that INEC officials should write results directly into the Collation Result Sheets but rather the INEC was writing results into mere sheets of paper claiming these were “dummies” which system was to allow for the introduction of false figures in an incremental pattern to lead up to a predetermined votes count.
- In Enugu North Local Government Area, the re-writing and forging of results declared at polling booths was done by INEC officials in the “emergency” ward collation hall at the council headquarters. Again, our party collation agents were barred by security operatives and PDP thugs from observing the process.
- A House of Representatives candidate for Nkanu East/West Federal Constituency, Dr. Chukwuemeka Ujam was arrested at Ozalla by the army company deployed to the area in a stop and search operation after over 10,000 undistributed Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) were discovered in “Ghana Must Go” bags in his car. He was however released on the intervention of higher authorities in the State, but not before pictures of the incident had been taken by baffled onlookers. The pictures have since gone viral on the social media, severely tarnishing the outcome of the elections in the area. The recovered PVCs are reportedly in the custody of the 82 Division of the Nigerian Army in Enugu.
- In Isiogbo Nara, Nkanu East Local Government Area, a Very Senior Official in the State personally led the attack on some polling booths and the seizure of voting materials after policemen acting on his orders fired gunshots to scare away voters. He however returned the materials when the soldiers deployed to the area received the report and went after him.
- In Enugu South Local Government Area, there was open sharing of money by high ranking PDP leaders and “stakeholders” at polling stations and intimidation of voters by PDP thugs.
- The most shocking election heist however occurred in Isi-Uzo Local Government Area, where there was virtually no voting at all. In this local government council which was apparently specifically targeted for being the most rural, least policed as well as the most distant part of the senatorial zone from the State capital, PDP thugs simply hijacked the election materials and thereafter embarked on the writing of fake results. For his role in writing the fake results for the LGA which was organized by a former member of the House of Representatives, an Assistant Electoral Officer was invited to the Shoprite Shopping Mall in Enugu on 30th March, 2015 where he received a bribe of N250,000 from a Senatorial Candidate. The Assistant Electoral Officer was however very frustrated and unhappy for the paltry sum he received for risking his life and career for the Senatorial Candidate.

HIGHLY INFLATED VOTE COUNTS FROM ISI-UZO

Despite the orchestrated widespread irregularities and massive rigging, the PDC House of Representatives Candidates and the Senatorial Candidate, former Governor of Enugu State, Senator (Dr.) Chimaroke Nnamani continued to garner very strong vote counts and were winning almost everywhere from results declared at the polling booths in four of the six local governments, namely Enugu North, Enugu East, Enugu South and Nkanu West, as the electorates were determined to vote for the preferred candidates of our party. But that was until the arrival of results from Isi-Uzo, with highly inflated figures totally at variance with the general pattern of the rate of voter registration, collection and distribution of PVCs, the turnout of voters and the margins of victory in the senatorial zone. The ruling PDP has always been masterful riggers but in this case they were initially too complacent to anticipate the impending surge of protest votes against their accustomed impunities and misrule. and in favour of our opposition party.

LGA	Registered Voters	PDP Votes	PDC Votes	Total Valid Votes Cast	Percentage of Total Valid Votes relative to Registered Voters
Enugu North	137,084	12,730	12,017	29,580	21.57%
Enugu East	129,180	13,411	12,166	36,041	27.89%
Enugu South	100,389	10,579	12,192	27,415	27.30%
Nkanu East	49,537	6,067	9,967	Not yet available	Not yet available
Nkanu West	62,459	6,655	12,169	Not yet available	Not yet available
Isi-Uzo	35,603	16,202	2,917	21,005	58.99%

* Results declared by INEC for the Enugu East Senatorial Election showing votes for PDP & PDC

Little wonder that in apparent panic, they cooked up ridiculous figures that put simple logic on the tailspin, especially the numbers posted for the senatorial election for Isi-Uzo LGA. From the above table, Enugu North, the most densely populated council in the senatorial zone with a total registered voting strength of 137,084, mustered a total of 29,580 votes representing 21.57% of registered voters, whereas Isi-Uzo, the least populated, with 35,603 registered voters posted 21,005 votes representing 58.99% of registered voters. In fact, a detailed breakdown of the PVC collection rate, local government by local government, when available, promises to offer more startling revelations of the doctored and consequently mismatched trends of voter turnout measured against the rate of voter registration. The results from Nkanu East, which arrived last, after the election materials were forcefully removed to Enugu in an operation led by a very notorious Chief Security Officer (CSO), were also doctored to give PDP the second widest margin of “victory” over our party, apparently to minimize the outstanding aberration of the humungous figures allocated to the PDP in Isi Uzo. What the PDP and INEC are therefore saying is that Senator Gil Nnaji of PDP beat Senator Chimaroke Nnamani of PDC in Senator Nnaji’s home Enugu East LGA by a mere 1,219 votes whereas in Isi Uzo LGA where none of them hail from Senator Nnaji out-voted Senator Nnamani by a whopping 13,285 votes

CALL FOR INVESTIGATIONS

We urge you, sir, to urgently order thorough investigations into the involvement of INEC officials in the massive rigging, doctoring and forging of results that characterized the National Assembly elections in Enugu East Senatorial District, with a view to bringing the culprits within INEC to book, if only to serve as a deterrence to other INEC officials, going forward. Also, justice would not only have been done to the voters whose mandates have been stolen, but indeed to the candidates of our party who campaigned vigorously to mobilize and win mass support. Only then will your mantra of free, fair and transparent elections begin to make sense to our disillusioned constituents.

Signed:



Comrade Sunday Anih
State Chairman