

PRESS STATEMENT FROM THE INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION ON THE JUST CONCLUDED PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

The recently concluded Presidential Elections has been adjudged by both local and foreign observers to be free, fair, credible and peaceful in all parts of the country. This is a manifestation and demonstration of the fact that Nigerians have the capacity to get it right any day despite all challenges that are militating against us.

We once again commend the patriotism of Nigerians who stood in the sun and rain to perform their civic duties. We hope they will endure once more to conclude the exercise by coming out en masse to vote for candidates of their choice in the next elections.

We particularly commend the INEC for its courage and sincerity in ensuring that the one man-one-vote which had been promised Nigerians is working. As the elections get better by the day, we have no doubt that the Governorship/legislature elections will also be better organized than the preceding ones.

We also commend the security agencies for their vigilance in providing the necessary security cover during the elections. The role of the media, the election observers, local and international and the Ad-hoc staff are also worthy of commendation.

The Institute uses this opportunity to condemn in strong terms the violence that occurred in the aftermath of the Presidential elections as it was unnecessary and uncalled for. We therefore add our voice to those of others before now in calling on all Political, Religious and Community Leaders as well as parents and guardians to restrain their followers and wards from acts that may lead to violence. We remind politicians of a large variety of avenues for seeking redress such as the tribunals and the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms instead of taking laws into their hands.

Finally, we call on all Nigerians to continue to cooperate with INEC and its staff and the security agencies to ensure a hitch free Elections across the country come April 26, 2011. While congratulating Nigerians for the maturity so far demonstrated in the just concluded elections, we urge that the same spirit be kept aglow so as to achieve another peaceful exercise.

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Director-General