Ntụcha ụbụbọ nke okwu ọnụ Jega na ntụli aka elu izugbe Naịjirịa n'afọ 2015

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Ụmị
Ntụli aka elu bụ otu n'ime usoro ọchịchị onye kwuo uche ya nke e ji enweta ọchịchị ọhụrụ. N'ímē ntụli aka elu na Naịjirịa, otu na-ahazi ntụli aka elu nke ndị oyibo kpọrọ *Electoral Management Board (EMB)* bụ otu ntụli aka elu izugbe nnọrọonwe, INEC. Na ntụli aka elu izugbe e mere na Naịjirịa n'afọ 2015, onye isi otu ndị na-ahazi ntụli aka elu, ọka nkuzi Attahiru Jega kwuru ụfọdụ okwu. Site n'iji nchọcha nkọwa sọvei (descriptive survey), nchọcha a na-atụcha okwu ọnụ Jega n'oge a na-eme ntụli aka elu izugbe n'afọ 2015 iji wee chọpụta usoro ndokọ okwu ọnụ ya na mpụtara ha. Nchọcha ji atụmatụ ukpụrụ mmekọrịta Grice na ntụcha ụbụbọ kempụrụiche (Critical Discourse Analysis) wee rụọ ọrụ. Site na nchọcha a, a chọpụtara na ndokọ okwu ọnụ abụọ e ji rụọ ọrụ nwere ngalaba anọ ndị gunyere: ngalaba A (ekele na mkpọlite); ngalaba B (okwu a kpụ n'ọnụ); ngalaba CH (ihe ndị na-eche aka mgba na ihe e merela gbasara ha), na ngalaba D (iji ozi olile anya na okwukwe were mechie). A chọpụtara na a bịa na ngalaba A, Jega mezuru iwu okwukwu ezi okwu n'okwu A mana ọ dara iwu okwukwu ezi okwu n'okwu B nke mere ka ọ dachaa na mkparịta ụka. Ọzọ, nchọcha chọpụtara na ngalaba a emezughi iwu ndomanya n'ihi na ọ dịghị nkenke. A kọwapụtara mpụtara okwu ọnụ Jega ebe a nọrọ hụ na ha dị mma.
***Ọkpụrụkpụ okwu:** Atụmatụ okwu emereme, Ụkpụrụ mmekọrịta, Nnyocha Ụbụbọ Kempụrụiche, Okwu ntụli aka elu, Ụbụbọ ndọrọ-ndọrọ ọchịchị, Jega, INEC.*

Abstract
Election is one of the democratic processes of ushering in a new government. In the conduct of election in Nigeria, the Electoral Management Body (EMB) responsible is the Independent National Electoral Commission headed by a chairman. In the last Nigeria's general elections in 2015, the INEC chairman, Professor Attahiru Jega made some speeches. By adopting the descriptive survey research design, this paper analyses the speeches of Jega during the 2015 general elections in order to discover the structural patterns of the speeches and their outcomes. The paper adopts the Grice's cooperative principle and critical discourse analysis as its frameworks. From the study, the paper discovers that the structuring of the two speeches under study has four sections which include: section A (greetings and introduction), section B (situations at hand), section C (problems encountered and the solutions put in place), and section D (conclusion with messages of hope and faith). It was observed that in section A that Jega fulfilled the maxim of quality in speech A but flouted this maxim in speech B thereby committing a conversational implicature. Also, the research finds out that this section fails to fulfil the maxim of manner because it fails to be brief. The paper also discovers that the outcomes of the speeches and discovers that the outcomes are positively based than negatively based.
***Keywords**: Cooperative Principles, Critical Discourse Analysis, Political Discourse, Jega. INEC*

Mkpọlite

N'usoro ọchịchị Naịjirịa, e nwere alaka atọ: nke etiti, steeti na okpuru ọchịchị. Onye isi ala na-achịkwa gọmentị etiti. Ọ bụkwa ya bụ onye isi ndị agha ma bụrụkwa onye kacha nwee ikike n'obodo. Ndị gọvanọ na-achịkwa steeti ma na-asọpụrụ onye isi ala n'ogo etiti ebe ndị isi oche na-elekọta okpuru ọchịchị. A na-enweta onye isi ala ọhụrụ, gọvanọ, onye isi oche n'okpuru ọchịchị site na ntụli aka elu. Ọ bụ ndị na-atụ vootu mgbe a na-eme ntuli aka elu na-enye onye isi ala ma ọ bụ ndị gọvanọ ikike. Ntụli aka elu bụ otu n'ime njirimara ọchịchị onye kwuo uche ya.

N’otu aka ahụ, Bratton & Walle (1997) kwuru na ntụli aka elu bụ ọkpụrụkpụ ihe dị mkpa maka mmebe ọchịchị onye kwuo uche ya na ntowanye ya. Ha gara n’ihu ikwu na ntụli aka elu nọ n’isi ihe a tụrụ anya n’aka ndị ama ala n’ọchịchị onye kwuo uche ya. N’ịga n’ihu, Eminue (2001) kwuru na ntụli aka elu nke ọchịchị onye kwuo uche ya bụ ihe na-enye ndị na-atụ vootu ohere ịhọrọ onye ndu ha na-atụghị egwu ọ bụla na enweghi mmanye ọ bụla. N’obodo ọ bụla nwere ọchịchị onye kwuo uche ya, otu na-ahazi ntụlia aka elu bụ ha na-eme ka ntụli aka elu nwee isi.

Naịjirịa dị ka obodo, na-ahazi ntụli aka elu izugbe kwa afọ anọ ọ bụla. Ime ntụli aka elu na-ekwe omume site n’agbamụmbọ INEC. Iwara (2010) kọwara na otu na-ahazi ntụli aka elu pụtara otu akwụkwọ iwu nyere ikike ịhazi ntụli aka elu n’afọ ọ bụla akwụkwọ iwu kwuru. Ọ gara n’ihu ịrụtụ aka na otu na-ahazi ntụli aka elu gunyere ndokọ na usoro. Dị ka o si kwuo, ndokọ pụtara ndị ọrụ gọmentị e guzoro maka ịhazi ntụli aka elu ebe usoro gunyere iwu na usoro na-achịkwa mmebe ntụli aka elu. N’otu aka ahụ, Jinadu (1997) kọwara mkpa na ọrụ otu na-ahazi ntụli aka elu dị ka ndị na-amaghị etu ntụli aka elu ga-esi bie. Ya bụ, ọnọdụ a na-ahụ bụ na ndị tubuuru ugo na-abụ ndị e meriri ebe ndị e meriburu na-eturu ugo. Nke a, dị ka o si kọwaa, bụ ọrụ otu na-ahazi ntụli aka elu na-eleghi anya n’ihu ọ bụla. Na Naịjirịa, INEC ka ọ dị n’aka ịhazi ntụli aka elu.

Kurfi (2005:10) kọwapụtara na site n’atụmatụ ọchịchị ndị agha nke Jeneral Abdusallami Abubakar ịhapụrụ ndị ọchịchị a kpọbatara site n’usoro ọchịchị onye kwuo uche ya ike n’afọ 1999, e guzobere INEC dị ka otu ọchịchị site n’ikikere nke iwu ịhazi usoro ntụli aka elu na Naịjirịa. Ọ gara n’ihu ịrụtụ aka na nguzobe INEC bụ nke isii n’otu ndị na-ahazi ntụli aka elu kemgbe Naịjirịa bidoro chọwa ịbụ obodo ọchịchị onye kwuo uche ya na-achị. Otu ndị na-ahazi ntụli aka elu e nweburu na mbụ dị ka Kurfi (2000) siri kwuo gunyere; *Electoral Commission of Nigeria (ECN), Federal Electoral Commission (FEC), Federal Electoral Commission (FEDECO), National Electoral Commission (NEC)* na *National Electoral Commission of Nigeria (NECON).* Jinadu (2011) mere ka a mara na mgbanwe aha e nyere otu na-ahazi ntụli aka elu ndị a bụ ịhụ na erughi eru na ihe mkpọbi ụkwụ nke ochie agaghị abata na nke ọhụrụ. INEC, kemgbe a malitere ya, ahaziela ntụli aka elu ise gara nke ọma (1999, 2003, 2007, 2011, na 2015). Kemgbe e hiwere ya, ọchịchị INEC enweela ọtụtụ mgbanwe site n’aka Justice Ephraim Ayo Apata n’afọ 1998-2000; ruo n’aka Ọkm. Abel Guobadia 2000-2005; Ọkn. Maurice Iwu 2005-2010; Ọkn. Attahiru Jega 2010-Junn 2015, Onye isi nọrọ oge nta; Odz. Amina Bala Zakari na onye nọ ugbu a, Ọkn. Mahmud Yakubu.

Ntụli aka elu ikpe azụ na Naịjirịa bụ n’ọnwa Maachị na Eprel ka e mere ya. Mgbe a na-akwado ntụli aka elu na mgbe ntụli aka na-abịa na ngwụcha, onye isi INEC onye hụrụ na ntụli aka elu gara nke ọma kwuru ụfọdụ okwu, ọ bụ okwu ndị a ka nchọcha a chọrọ inyocha. Ọ dị nnọọ mkpa ka mmadụ, ọ kachasị onye isi INEC ịgwa ndị mmadụ okwu. Ndịna okwu ndị a nwere ike ịbụ ime ka ihe doo anya, ma ọ bụ ịgwa ndị mmadụ ihe na-eme. Obitube (2014) kwuru na ihe e ji amata ezigbo okwu bụ site na uru ọ bara. Ọ gara n’ihu ikwu na a na-ebu otu ihe n’uche ma a na-ekwu okwu ọ bụla; ọ bụrụ na e mezuo ebumnuche a, a na-ekwu na okwu ahụ dị ire. N’ihi nke nke a, Chambers (2003) na nchọpụta ya kwuru na mgbe ọ bụla anyị na-ekwu okwu, anyị anaghị ekpughe akparamagwa ụfọdụ na ụfọdụ mmasị naanị kama anyị na-ekpughe njirimara niile anyị na ndị mmadụ

nwekọrịtara ọnụ. N'otu aka ahụ, Agbedo (2015) kwuru na ụfọdụ ihe dị ka ogo, abụmnne/abụmoke, afọ, ọrụ, ogbe wdg. na-emetụta etu anyị si ekwu okwu.

Ka o sila dị, Obitube (2014) kwuru na e nwere ike ịhụta uru okwu bara n'akụkụ abụọ. Akụkụ nke mbụ dị ka o si kọwaa, bụ site n'ilebanye anya n'akụkụ okwuu. N'ebe a, ọ kọwara na okwu e kwuru/nke a gwara ọha kwesiri ibu echiche okwuu bu n'obi ya. Ọ gara n'ihu ikwu na ozi ọzọ ọ bụla nke dị n'okwu nke na-emezughi echiche okwuu arụbeghi ọrụ e dunyere ya. Akụkụ nke abụọ metụtara ọnụụ. O kwuru na ọ bụrụ na okwu akpalie mmụọ ọnụụ mee ya ka o nye ụdịrị nzaghachi okwuu na-atụ anya, okwu ahụ bara uru. N'otu aka ahụ, ụdịrị nzaghachi ndị a ka e nwere ike itinye n'ọwa nzisa ozi dị ka mmeghari ahụ, mmeghari isi, nsiakwụọtọ, nnọkete mmadụ na ibe ya, mmekọrịta anya na anya, na ọnọdụ ihu.

Ya bụ, ọ dị mkpa ịtụcha nke ọma ma kọwaa asụsụ na usoro okwu nke onye isi INEC gara aga, Ọka nkuzi Attahiru Jega mgbe a na-eme ntụli aka elu izugbe Naịjirịa na 2015 nke na-ekpughe ebumnuche ya iji hụ na ntụli aka elu gara nke ọma na ịhụ na e chekwara ndụ ndị mmadụ. Mbọ a niile bụ ịhụ na Naịjirịa bụ otu obodo bi n'udo. A na-ahụtakarị ntụli aka elu na Naịjirịa dị ka ihe na-ebute nkwafu ọbara na obi erughi ala. Kwaghga (2012) kọwapụtara na usoro ntụli aka elu na Naịjirịa nwere ụfọdụ njirimara dị ka; ndị na-etozughi ịtụ vootu, ịfụnahụ igbe e ji atụ vootu, mwakpo anya si n'aka ndị agha. Etu Jega ji were asụsụ n'izisa ozi, iwebilata ọnọdụ erughi ala na ọgbaghara iji hụ na e nwere ntụli aka elu bụ ịgba, na-eleghi mmadụ ọ bụla anya n'ihu na nke nkwụmọtọ bụ ihe nchọcha a na-elebanye anya na ngalaba amụmamụ asụsụ na obodo. Asụsụ anaghị anọ naanị ya kama a na-etinye ya n'ọrụ n'obodo iji hụ na nghọta ya pụtara ihe. Nchọcha a na-elebanye anya n'okwu ọnụ Jega site n'ibu n'uche ịkọwami usoro ndokọ na mpụtara okwu ndị a.

Njime nchọcha a bụ okwu ntụli aka elu Jega kwuru. Okwu ndị a gunyere okwu o kwuru na Satọdee, Febụwarị 7, 2015 banyere oge na etu ntụli aka elu ga-esi gaa, na okwu gbasara etu e si mee ntụli aka elu nke o kwuru na Sọndee, Maachị 29, 2015. Usoro njirime a gbasoro bụ usoro nchọcha kendapụta ma ọ bụ mberede (accidental sampling method). Ihe mere e jiri mee nke a bụ maka ọ bụ okwu abụọ ndị e ji arụ ọrụ ka ndị nchọcha hụrụ n'ọwa ịntanet. Okwu ndị a dị n'asụsụ bekee mana ndị a họọrọ ka a tapịara n'asụsụ Igbo. Ndịna okwu ndị a ka a ga-edepụta na mgbakwụnyere.

Ka o sila dị, ọ di mkpa ime nchọcha dị etu a ka e wee gosi ndị na-atụ vootu ihe ha kwesịrị ịghọta n'okwu Ọkn Jega na etu okwu ya siri nye aka medaa ndị mmadụ obi ma kwado ihe nke ọma maka ịtụ vootu na ịnabata ka okwe siri gbaa na ntụli aka elu e mere. N'ime ya ka o doo anya, nchọcha ga-aza ajụjụ abụọ ndị a:

a. Kedu usoro ndokọ okwu ọnụ Jega gbasoro?
b. Kedu mpụtara, ya bụ, uru okwu ọnụ Jega bara?

Nchọpụta nchọcha a ga-abara ndị na-amụ sayensị asụsụ, ndị na-amụ maka ndọrọ-ndorọ ọchịchị, na ọha niile uru. A bịa na sayensị asụsụ, ọ ga-enye aka kọwaa na ka etu ndokọ okwu si enye ihe niile e kwuru nghọta n'izube. N'ọmụmụ asụsụ na obodo, ọ ga-akwado na okwu na-ebute udo ma ọ bụ ọgbaghara n'obodo. N'ikpe azụ, o ga-egosipụta na atụmatụ nnyocha ụbụbọ kempụrụiche na ụkpụrụ mmekọrịta bakwara uru n'inyocha okwu onye isi ndị na-ahazi atụmụvootu n'obodo ọ bụla ọ kachasị na Naịjirịa.

Ntụle nnyocha ụbụbọ kempụrụiche na ụkpụrụ mmekọrịta

Fairclough (2006) kọwara na asụsụ achụmnta vootu nwere ikike ịkpụ echiche na ebumnuche nke nwere ike ịgbanwe ihe a na-ahụ anya na ndụ, ikpuchi emereme dị na ndụ na ịkpụgharị ha. N'ikpughe emereme dị na ndụ na mpụtara dị n'okwu ndị a, nchọcha a ji Nnyocha Ụbụbọ Kempụrụiche (NỤK) iji tụchaa okwu ọnụ abụọ Jega na ntụli aka elu izugbe 2015.

N'ịgba mbọ iweta ụkpụrụ a ga-eji rụọ ọrụ mgbe a na-agbaso usoro NỤK, Huckins (1999) wepụtara ụkpụrụ. O kewara usoro ya ụzọ abụọ; ntụcha agwara edemede na-abụghị kelingwistiiks na ntụcha agwara kelingwistiiks. O kwuru na n'akụkụ nke mbụ, ọtụcha ga-elebanye anya n'ederede n'ụzọ doro anya iji nweta ezi nghọta ndịna, nke ga-emecha gosipụta ọnọdụ ya. Ka e mechara, ọ ga-agụgharị ederede ahụ. N'oge a, ọ ga-etinye anya etu e si kpụọ ndịna, etu e siri jiri isi okwu na ọkpụrụkpụ okwu kọwaa ụfọdụ okwu. Akụkụ abụọ nke ntụcha gbadoro ụkwụ n'isiokwu kelingwistiiks a chọpụtara. N'ebe a, ọtụcha na-elekwasa anya n'ihe ndị a – ihe okwuu na-ekwu maka ya na etu o si ekwu ya; usoro ọnọdụ mmụọ - mmekọrịta okwuu/ọnara n'ekwumekwu; olu aktivu/pasivu – etu na ihe kpatara o ji were olu nke ọ bụla; ahịrị okwu echiche nsonyere (presupposition) – echiche nsonyere a na-ahụ anya; mpụtara – etu okwuu si egosipụta nghọta; ọnọdụ - kedu olu na akanka e jiri mebe ederede? O kwuru na mgbe ụfọdụ a na-eji nnọchi aha onye nke mbụ egosipụta ezi okwu ebe onye nke atọ bụ nke e ji egosipụta asị.

Agbedo (2015) kwuru na o doro anya na nnyocha ụbụbọ kempụrụihce dị ka ngalaba nnyocha ụbụbọ; na-ahụ maka mmekọrịta dị n'etiti ụbụbọ na ike. N'otu aka ahụ, Idiagbon (2015:33) kọwara na NỤK abụghị naanị maka ndọrọ-ndorọ ọchịchị; ọ karịrị ya. O na-atụcha ụbụbọ site n'akụkụ keuche, keobodo na keakụkọ ala nke zoro ezo nye ọnụụ ma ọ bụ ọgụụ. Ya bụ, ederede ọ bụla nwere mpụtara 'nzuzo.' Ọ gara n'ihu ikwu na ndị ọtụcha NỤK na-ekwu na e kwesiri ịgụ ederede nke ọma ma gee ha nke ọma iji wee gbaa ozi 'nzuzo' ya n'anwụ. Ha na-eme nke a site n'ilebanye anya n'agwara ụbụbọ kelingwistiiks na nke abụghị lingwistiiks dị ka o si metụta ọnụụ na obodo. E nwere ike iji NỤK rụọ ọrụ n'ụbụbọ ọ bụla mmetụtara asụsụ - ndọrọ-ndorọ ọchịchị, mgbasa ozi, mgbasa ozi ahịa, iwu, agụmakwụkwọ na ihe ndị ọzọ. Ngalaba mmebere NỤK nke akwụkwọ a ga-eji rụọ ọrụ bụ iji okwu ọnụ n'ụbụbọ ndọrọ-ndorọ ọchịchị.

N'aka nke ọzọ, atụmatụ ụkpụrụ mmekọrịta si n'aka Paul Grice n'afọ 1975. Site n'ịgbado ụkwụ n'ebe ọ dị ukwuu n'atụmatụ ihu Goffman, ọka mmụta a kwuru na e nwere iwu ndị nke ọ kpọrọ 'ụkpụrụ' ndị na-ekwu okwu ga-edowe ma ọ bụrụ na ha chọrọ ka mkparịta ụka ha gaa nke ọma. Grice (1975:45) kwuru na ihe nọ n'isi na mkparịta ụka bụ ihe ọ kpọrọ ụkpụrụ mmekọrịta: Mee ka ntụnye gi na mkparịta ụka dị etu a chọrọ, n'ogo ọ pụtara ihe, site n'ebumnuche na ọnọdụ mkparịta ụka ị na-eme nabatara.

O kewara iwu ndị a ụzọ anọ: iwu okwukwu ezi okwu, nhanole, ndomanya na ndabara. Iwu nhanole na-ekwu na okwuu ga-eme ka ntụnye ya dị etu a chọrọ (n'okwu a kpụ n'ọnụ). Ọ gaghị eme ka ntụnye ya gafee etu a chọrọ ya. Iwu okwukwu ezi okwu na-arụtụ aka na okwuu ga-ekwu ezi okwu mgbe ọ bụla. O kwesighi ikwu ihe ọ ma na ọ bụ asị ma ọ bụ kwuo ihe na-edoghi ya anya. Iwu ndomanya na-akọwa na okwuu ga-eme ka okwu ya doo anya, dị nkenke ma kwe nghọta. N'ikpe azụ, iwu ndabara na-ekwu na okwuu ga-ekwuriri ihe dabara adaba nke bụ na ihe ọ na-ekwu ga-adaba n'okwu a kpụ n'ọnụ.

Ya mere, ọ bụ site n'iji atụmatụ abụọ ndị a ka a ga-eji tụchaa okwu ọnụ abụọ Jega. A ga-eji ụkpụrụ mmekọrịta tụchaa usoro ndokọ okwu ọnụ ebe a ga-eji NỤK were tụchaa mpụtara okwu ndị a.

Ntụcha usoro ndokọ okwu ọnụ Jega

N'ebe a, okwu ọnụ (okwu gbasara etu a ga-esi mee ntụli aka elu izugbe 2015, na okuw gbasara etu e si mee ntụlia aka elu) ka e lebanyere anya iji chọpụtara usoro ndokọ okwu ndị a. Site n'ebe a gawa, okwu nke mbụ ka a ga-akpọ 'Okwu A' ebe nke ọzọ ka a ga-akpọ 'Okwu B.' N'ime nke a, a ga-eji ụkpụrụ mmekọrịta tụlee ndokọ a. Nke a dị mkpa n'ihi na ọ ga-enyere anyị aka ịmata ma ndokọ a o mezuru iwu anọ nke ụkpụrụ mmekọrịta. Ndokọ okwu ọnụ abụọ a nwere ngalaba anọ ndị gunyere:

NGALABA A: Ekele na mkpọlite
NGALABA B: Okwu a kpụ n'ọnụ
NGALABA CH: Ihe ịma aka n'ihu na ihe e merela gbasara ha
NGALABA D: Iji ozi olile anya na okwukwe mechie

N'ịtụle ngalaba nke mbụ, iwu nhanole nke na-ekwu na okwuu kwesiri ime ka ntụnye ya dị etu a chọrọ (dị ka o si daba adaba n'ihe a na-ekwu) ma ghapụ ime ka ọ gafee etu a chọrọ bụ ihe e mezuru. Tupu Jega agwa ọha ndị mmadụ ebumnuche o ji kpọọ nzukọ ahụ, o kelere onye ọ bụla bịaranụ mgbe ọ sịrị ndị nwoke na ndị nwaanyị (Ladies and Gentlemen). Ọ gwara ha ebumnuche e ji kpọọ nzukọ nke bụ ịgwa ha mkpebi ndị INEC gbasara etu a ga-esi mee ntụli aka elu izugbe 2015. Ọ gara n'ihu ịgwa ha mkpa ọ dị ịnyụkọta mamịrị ọnụ iji hụ na ntụli aka elu gara nke ọma. N'okwu B, o kelere nnọọ ndị Naịjirịa niile maka nkwudosi ike ha n'oge ntụli aka elu. Ya mere, site na ntụcha a, Jega mejupụtara iwu nhanole na ngalaba A nke okwu ya.

Dị ka o si metụta iwu okwukwu ezi okwu, ngalaba A nke okwu Jega mejuputara iwu a n'okwu A maka na ọ bụ ịgwa ọha mmadụ ebe INEC kwụ gbasara etu a ga-esi mee ntụli aka elu ka e ji kpọkọọ nzukọ ahụ. Mana ọ dara iwu a n'okwu B mgbe o kwuru na INEC na-ekele ndị Naịjirịa maka ịpụta n'igwe na ntụli aka elu nke e mere n'udo. Ọ bụrụ na e lee anya, ịsị na e ji udo mee ya bụ ntụli aka elu abụghị ihe a ga-ejide aka. Ihe e ji kwuo nke a bụ maka na e nwere ụfọdụ ọgbaghara na nsogbu a hụtara na ntụli aka elu izugbe 2015. Jega kwughagidere onwe ya mgbe ọ sịrị na ha natara ozi etu ndị Boko Haram siri mee ihe dị egwu nke gburu ụfọdụ ndị ọrụ INEC. Ọ gbakwụnyere na ha eziela ndị ihe metụtara ozi. Ya bụ, nke a mere ka udo na ọṅụ ghara izu oke mgbe a na-eme ntụli aka elu. N'ihi nke a, ngalaba A nke okwu B Jega dara iwu okwukwu ezi okwu.

Ka o sila dị, na ngalaba A nke okwu Jega, ụfọdụ ahịrị okwu mezuru iwu ndomanya dị ka ebe ọ nọrọ were nye nkọwa okwu ịchafụ dị ka INEC (Independent National Electoral Commission) na EMB (Election Management Body). Mana ụfọdụ akụkụ ngalaba a dara iwu a. Ebe ụfọdụ ọ dara iwu a bụ mgbe o kwugharịrị n'okwu A ihe ọ gaara ịchịkọta n'otu ahịrị okwu. Ọmụma atụ, o kwuru na ịhazi ntuli aka elu n'obodo dị ka Naịjirịa bụ ọrụ onye ọ bụla na-abụghị naanị otu na-ahazi ntụli aka elu, kama ndị ọrụ na-eru n'okwu, ndị otu nchekwa…sokwazi. Nghọta dị n'echiche a ka o kwugharịrị mgbe ọ sịrị na ịhụ na e mere ntụli aka elu nke ọma, e nwere ụfọdụ ọrụ dịịrị naanị INEC nwekwaa ụfọdụ ihe ndị ọzọ na-

adịghị n'aka INEC. Okwu niile ndị a na-arụtụ otu ihe aka nke bụ na ọganihu ntụli aka elu abụghị ọrụ otu onye. Ya bụ, ọ dịghị nkenke etu a chọrọ.

Na ngalaba B nke metụtara okwu a kpụ n'ọnụ, Jega kpugheere ndị mmadụ ihe na-eme. Site na data e nwetere, ngalaba B nke okwu Jega mezuru iwu nhanole n'ihi na o nyere ozi etu a chọrọ ya nke nyere aka kọwaara ndị mmadụ niile na ndị na-atụ vootu njikere INEC n'ime ntụli aka elu n'okwu A, na etu e sirila mee ntụli aka elu na steeti dị iche iche n'okwu B. N'okwu B, ọ kọwara na steeti dị ka Osun, Kebbi, Ekiti, Adamawa, Borno, Jigawa, Anambra, Akwa Ibom na Ebonyi ji aka nkịtị nyochaa ndị na-atụ vootu. N'ihi ihe nhị ahụ a, akapịaghị ntụli aka elu ọnụ nke mere ka ọ gaa n'ihu n'ụbọchị na-esote.

N'aka nke ọzọ, ngalaba B nke okwu Jega mezuru iwu okwukwu ezi okwu n'ebe ọ dị ukwuu. Ozi gbasara arụghị ọrụ kaad rida n'ụfọdụ ebe a na-atụ vootu bụ ezi okwu nakwa nke iji aka nkịtị nyochaa ndị mmadụ. Mana e nwere ụfọdụ okwu na ngalaba a nke mmadụ nwere ike ịgbagha n'ihi ozi ọ na-ezi. N'okwu A, Jega sịrị na ọ bụrụ na a tụnyere ntụli aka elu na 2011, n'oge na-ebughi ibu, ha haziri ntụli aka elu izugbe nke ụwa niile sịrị na o doro anya, kwụrụ ọtọ ma bụrụ nke eleghi mmadụ anya n'ihu ya na ntụli aka elu kachasị mma n'akụkọ gbasara ntụli aka elu na Naịjirịa. Mmadụ nwere ike ịgbagha okwu a n'ihi na ụwa niile agaghị ekwu na ya bụ ntụli aka elu gara nke ọma. A ga-enwe ndị kwe na ndị ekweghi. Okwu a dachara n'iwu okwukwu ezi okwu. Otu na-ahụ maka udo na mba Amerịka nke ndị Bekee kpọrọ “The United States Institute of Peace” (2011) kwuru gbasara ntụli aka elu izugbe 2011 wee sị na ntụli aka elu izugbe e mere na Naịjirịa n'afọ 2011 natara ezigbo otito n'ihi na a haziri ya nke ọma mana ogbaghara so ntụli aka elu ahụ riri isi mmadụ narị asatọ n'ihe karịrị ụbọchị ato na mpaghara ugwu Naịjirịa ma chụpụ mmadụ puku iri isii na ise n'ụlọ ha, nke mere ka ọ bụrụ ntụli aka elu a kacha nwee ọgbaghara na ya n'akụkọ ala Naịjirịa.

Ọzọkwa, e nwere okwu Jega kwuru n'okwu A nke a maghị ma ọ bụ ezi okwu ọ kachasị mgbe ọ sị na usoro ha bụ nke e megharịrị emegharị nke ga-eme ka e nwee ntụli aka elu dịkwu mma n'ọdịnihu. Enweghi ike ikpebite ezi okwu dị n'okwu a n'ihi na ọ na-arụtụ aka ihe na-aga ime n'ọdịnihu. Adịmire usoro a ezubeghi oke belụsọ ma e tinyere ya n'ọrụ. Ya mere, ngalaba B nke okwu Jega juputara na mmezu na ndacha iwu okwukwu ezi okwu.

N'aka nke ọzọ, ngalaba B nke okwu ndị a nwere ụfọdụ ahịrị okwu nke na-emezughi iwu ndomanya maka ọdịdị nhagide ya na enweghi odido anya. N'okwu A, Jega kwuru na dị ka ọ dị mgbe ọnwa Febụwarị gbara mkpụrụ ụbọchị ise, 2015; ọnụ ọgụgụ akwụkwọ ntụ vootu e weere dị 45,829,808 nke nọchitere anya pasentị 66.58 ndị debanyere aha maka ịtụ vootu. Ọnụ ọgụgụ a edochaghi anya n'ihi na o nyeghi nkọwa etu o si nweta pasentị ya. Ọ kaara inyekwa ọnụ ọgụgụ mmadụ ndị debanyerela aha ka o wee doo anya etu o siri nweta pasenteji ya. Ebe ọzọ ngalaba a dachara n'iwu ndomanya bụ mgbe ọ sị na INEC dị njikere ịhazi ntụli aka elu ma nọrọkwa n'ime ya sị na nkwadowe ha adịghị ka a chọrọ. Nke a mere ka okwu ya gbagwojuo anya bịazie mee ka ọ daa iwu ndomanya nke na-ekwu na ihe ọ bụla e kwuru kwesiri ido anya.

N'ịga n'ihu, ngalaba CH metụtara nsogbu ndị na-eche INEC aka mgba na ụfọdụ ihe e merela iji gboo nsogbu ndị a. Ngalaba CH mezuru iwu nhanole. Jega mere ka ndịna ngalaba a pụta ihe mgbe o kwuru na INEC abụghị otu na-echekwa ndị ndị na-atụ vootu. Ọ bụ nke a kpatara na ọ gaghị akachi ntị na ndụmọdụ ndị ọ bụ ọrụ ha ichekwa obodo nyere

ha. N'ihi nke a, dị ka o si kwuo, otu ha ekpebiela ibugharị ụbọchị ntụli aka elu izugbe 2015: ntuli aka elu maka onye isi ala na ndị omebe iwu etiti ga-ewere ọnọdụ na Maachị 28, 2015 ebe ntụli aka elu steeti (gọvanọ na ndị omebe iwu steeti) ga-ewere ọnọdụ n'Eprel 11, 2015. Okwu ndị a ziri ozi etu a chọrọ ha n'ihi na o kwuru ihe kpatara e ji bugharị ntụli aka elu. O nyekwara ụbọchị ọhụrụ a ga-eme ntụli aka elu n'ihi na ọ na-agwa ndị mmadụ okwu gbasara ụbọchị a ga-atụ vootu. Ya bụ, ịbụgharị ụbọchị ntụli aka elu na ihe kpatara e jiri bugharị ya dị mkpa. Ọzọ, e bugharịrị ụbọchị ntụli aka elu iji gboo nsogbu nke echekwaghị ndụ na akụnụba nke bụ isi sekpụ ntị na nsogbu ndị na-eche INEC na ndị ọ bụ ọrụ ha ichekwa ndụ aka mgba.

N'otu aka ahụ, n'okwu B, e ziri ozi etu a chọrọ ya dị ka o si metụta nsogbu nke ndị na-etozubeghi ịtụ vootu ịtụ vootu na Taraba na nchọcha a na-eme; nakwa ihe ịma aka Boko Haram butere na ịkasi ezinụlọ ndị ihe metụtara obi. Ya bụ, n'ihi na o nyere nkọwa gbasara ihe na-eme, ngalaba CH nke okwu Jega mezuru iwu nhanole.

Dị ka o si metụta iwu okwukwu ezi okwu, ụfọdụ okwu Jega kwuru bụ ezi okwu ebe enweghi ike ikpebite ezi okwu dị n'okwu ụfọdụ. A bịa na ngalaba nke mbụ, Jega kwuru ezi okwu mgbe ọ sịrị na ichekwa ndụ ndị na-atụ vootu adịghị ha n'aka kama n'aka ndị agha na ndị na-echekwa obodo ndị ọzọ. O kwukwara ezi okwu mgbe ọ sịrị na ndị na-etorubeghi ịtụ vootu ma na-atụ vootu dara iwu obodo. Mana mgbe ọ sịrị na ọ ga-eri ndị ọrụ ya nha ma ọ chọpụta na aka ha dị na wuruwuru e nwere n'oge a na-atụ vootu abụchaghị ihe a ga-ejide aka. Ọzọkwa, mgbe o nyere ụbọchị ọhụrụ a ga-atụ vootu, e nweghi ike ikwu hoohaa na ọ ga-ewere ọnọdụ ụbọchị ndị ahụ n'ihi na ọ bụ ihe ga-eme n'ọdịnihu. Dị ka o si dị, a chọpụtara na ntụli aka elu weere ọnọdụ ma na 28 Maachị ma na 29 Maachị. Ya bụ, ụfọdụ okwu dị na ngalaba CH okwu ọnụ Jega mezuru iwu okwukwu eziokwu ebe ndị ọzọ chọrọ ka e lebara ha anya nke ọma.

Ka o sila dị, ngalaba a mejuputara iwu ndomanya n'ihi na Jega kọwapụtara kpọmkwem ihe mere e jiri bugharịa ntụli aka elu. Ya mere, nsogbu ndị pụtara ihe bụ ndị erughi eru ịtụ vootu, ọgbaghara Boko Haram wetara na ihe niile e merela iji gboo nsogbu ndị a bụcha ihe Jega rụtụrụ aka.

Ngalaba ikpe azụ nke okwu ọnụ Jega bụ ebe o ji ozi olile anya na okwukwe were mechie. N'ebe a, Jega kpọkuru ndị Naịjịrịa ka ha nwee okwukwe n'INEC dị ka ha na-atụ anya ịhazi ntụli aka elu. Ngalaba D nke okwu ndị a mezuru iwu nhanole maka na ngalaba a nyere ihe a chọrọ. N'okwu A, ka Jega kpokuchara ndị Naịjịrịa ka ha nwee okwukwe n'INEC iji hụ na ọchịchị onye kwuo uche ya na-aga n'ihu, o ji ozi ekele were mechie okwu ya. Ọ gwara ndị mmadụ oge ha ga-atụ anya etu okwe si gbaa ma tụkwasakwa ha obi maka na ha agaghị ekwuputa ntụli aka elu akapịaghị ọnụ. Ozi ndị a dabara adaba n'okwu a kpụ n'ọnụ.

E nweghi ike ịtụlenwu ezi okwu dị n'okwu mmechi Jega n'ihi na okwukwe abụghị ihe a hụrụ anya. Ezi okwu dị na mkpebi ha ime ka ọchịchị onye kwuo uche ya ga-ahị ahụ ịtụle. Ọzọkwa, mgbe ọ sị na a ga-ekpokọta rịzọọltụ n'ehihie ụbọchị n-abịanụ, onwere ike iwere ọnọdụ nwekwaa ihe ọ gaghị ewere ọnọdụ n'ihi na ọ bụ ihe ka ga-eme n'ọdịnihu.

N'aka nke ọzọ, ụfọdụ okwu Jega kwuru mezuru iwu ndomanya ebe ụfọdụ okwu dara iwu a. Mgbe o kwuru na a ga-ekpokọta rịzọọltụ echi na-abianụ, ọ gara n'ihu ikwu na onye ọ bụla ga-atụ anya ịmata etu okwe sig baa ka awa iri anọ na asatọ gachara mgbe ọtụtụ

ebe ndị a tụrụ vootu mechiri ntụli aka elu ha. Okwu a edochaghị any. 'Ọtụtụ' o tinyere n'okwu ya edoghi anya n'ihi na o nweghi ọnụ ọgụgụ ọ na-arụtụ aka kpọmkwem.

Iwu ndabara na-ekwu na okwuu ga-ekwu ihe dabara adaba n'okwu a kpụ n'ọnụ. Ya mere, ezigbo okwuu ga-ekwuriri ihe dabara adaba. Na ntụcha a, a ga-elebanye okwu ndị a niile anya iji mata ma ha a dabara adaba n'okwu e ji n'aka. Ọzọ, etu Jega si hazie okwu ya sokwa n'ihe a ga-atụle iji mara ma okwu ya o mezuru iwu ndabara ka ọ dara ya.

N'okwu A, Jega ji ekele were bido wee gaa n'ihu ịgwa ndị gbakọrọ ihe mere e jiri kpọọ ọgbakọ ahụ. Ọ gara n'ihu ikwu na mbugharị e bugharịrị ntụli aka elu abụghị mkpebi naanị ya mere kama ndị na-echekwa ndụ sokwa. O tinyere ndụmọdụ a n'ọrụ ka a ghara iji ndụ ndị ọrụ INEC, ndị na-atụ vootu, ndị obodo were gwuo egwu. Ka o kwuchara nke a, ọ kpọkuru ndị Naịjirịa niile, otu ndọrọ-ndorọ ọchịchị, ndị na-azọ ọkwa ọchịchị na ndị niile ọnụ na-eru n'okwu ka ha nabata mkpebi ha n'obi ọcha iji wee hụ na udo dị. Ka o kwuchara nke a, o kelere onye ọ bụla.

N'aka nke ọzọ, okwu B metụtara etu e si mee ntụli aka elu na Naịjirịa. N'okwu ya, Jega kelere mmadụ niile ma tokwaa ndị Naịjirịa maka ịpụta n'igwe na ntụli aka elu e mere. Na-egbughi oge ọ bụla, ọ gwara ndị mmadụ maka ịpụta n'igwe na ntụli aka elu e mere. Na-egbughi oge ọ bụla, ọ gwara ndị mmadụ etu e siri mee ntụli aka elu, nsogbu ndị e nwere na ihe e merela gbasara ya. Ụfọdụ nsogbu a bụ arụghị ọrụ nke kaad rida n'ụfọdụ ebe a tụrụ vootu na nsogbu Boko Haram butere. Dị ka o kelechara ndị tụnyere oke ha na ntụli aka elu, ọ gwara ndị mmadụ mgbe a ga-akpọpụta etu okwe si gbaa. Etu onye isi INEC siri hazie okwu ya na etu ha si daba adaba n'okwu a kpụ n'ọnụ mere ka o mezuo iwu ndabara.

Ntụcha mpụtara/ndapụta okwu ọnụ Jega

Ihe si n'okwu ọnụ Jega pụta dị mma. Otu ndapụta nke okwu A bụ na ntụli aka elu weere ọnọdụ dị ka e si bugharịa ya. Ndị na-atụ vootu weere akwụkwọ ha ji tụọ vootu dị ka Jega siri kwuo. N'okwu ya gbasara nkanụzụ kaad rida, Ugonna (2015) kwuru na onye isi ụlọ omebe iwu gara aga, David Mark, kwuru na a ga-aja Ọkn. Attahiru Jega ike maka nturu ugo e nwere na ntụli aka elu izugbe 2015. Mwebata kaad rida gara nke ọma ma meek a ihe niile doo anya. Ọ gara n'ihu ikwu na e kwesiri ịnabata nkanụzụ ọhụrụ a ma gwazikwaa ndị INEC ka ha lebanye anya na ihe mkpọbi ụkwụ ha nwere ma hụ ka a ga-esi kwọ nwaanyị ukwu wara.

Ihe ọzọ okwu Jega mere bụ na ndị Naịjirịa enweghi oke mgbakasị ahụ mgbe ọ gwara ha ihe kpatara e jiri bugharịa ntụli aka elu. Ebumnuche ime ntụli aka elu ga-abụ ịgba bke agaghị enwe ile anya n'ihu na ya na ekworo mere ka onye isi ala Goodluck Jonathan nabata mmeri Buhari meriri ya iji hụ na udo chịrị. Ihe a bụ mbụ e wepụrụ onye isi ala na-achịzubeghi afọ asatọ n'ọchichị nakwa mbụ a na-ahụ onye isi ala ịnabata mmeri e meriri ya.

Ihe ọzọ okwu Jega mere bụ na o mere ka ndị INEC na ndị nchekwa obodo rụkọọ ọrụ nke ọma. Nke a sitere n'ige ntị Jega gere ndị ọrụ ha bụ ichekwa obodo. Nke a mere ka ha nwaa ike ha ịhụ na ntụli aka elu gara nke ọma. N'ịga n'ihu, n'okwu B, jega nyere ndị mmadụ ụbọchị ha ga-atụ anya ịnụ etu okwe si gbaa. Mgbe o kwuru na ọ bụ INEC ka e nyere ikike ikwuputa etu okwe si gbaa, ndị mmadụ wepuru uche ha n'ihe ndị ọzọ na-ekwu belụsọ nke INEC kwuru. Okwu ya butere olile anya na nsonye n'ebe ọ dị ukwuu. Jega

gosipụtara amamihe ya n'ikwu okwu ụbọchị a na-ekpokọta rịzọọltụ mgbe o ji nwayọọ zaghachị Godsday Orubebe. Etu Jega si kwuo okwu mere ka udo chịa.

Mmechi

Nchọcha a elebanyela anya n'okwu onye isi INEC, Attahiru Jega kwuru mgbe a na-eme ntụli aka elu izugbe 2015. Nchọcha chọpụtara na ndokọ okwu abụọ e ji mee nchọcha nwere ngalaba anọ ndị gunyere: ngalaba A (ekele na mkpọlite); ngalaba B (okwu a kpụ n'ọnụ), ngalaba CH (nsogbu e nwere na ihe e merela gbasara ha), na ngalaba D (iji ozi olile anya na okwukwe were mechie).

Site n'iji iwu ụkpụrụ mmekọrịta n'ịtụcha ndokọ ndị a, a chọpụtara na ngalaba niile mezuru iwu nhanole maka na o kwuru okwu dị ka a chọrọ. Ka o sila dị, a chọpụtara nan a ngalaba A, Jega mezuru iwu okwukwu ezi okwu n'okwu A ma ọ dara iwu a n'okwu B. Ọzọkwa, nchọcha chọpụtara na ngalaba a dara iwu ndomanya maka na ọ dịghị nkenke. Na ngalaba B, ụfọdụ okwu ndị mejupụtara ngalaba a mezuru iwu okwukwu ezi okwu ebe ụfọdụ dara iwu a. Ụfọdụ kwa n'ime ha abụghị ihe a ga-ekwunwu ma ha abụ ezi okwu n'ihi na ha ga-eme n'ọdịnihu. A chọpụtara na ngalaba a dara iwu ndomanya.

N'aka nke ọzọ, enweghi ike ikpebite ezi okwu dị n'okwu ụfọdụ na ngalaba CH n'ihi na ha bụ ihe ga-eme n'ọdịnihu. Mana ụfọdụ okwu mezuru iwu okwukwu ezi okwu. Na ngalaba a kwa, nchọcha chọpụtara na okwu ya mezuru iwu ndomanya maka na ọ dị nkenke ma dokwaa anya. N'ikpe azụ, ngalaba D mezuru iwu ndomanya n'ebe ọ dị ukwuu ebe ụfọdụ dakwara iwu a. Ezi okwu dị n'okwu ụfọdụ abụghị ihe a ga-ekwunwu n'ihi na ha ka ga-eme. Mgbe e ji iwu ndabara nyochaa okwu Jega, a chọpụtara na etu onye isi INEC siri hazie okwu ya na ndịna ya dabara adaba n'iwu ndabara.

Nchọcha lebakwara anya na ndapụta okwu ya ma hụta na ihe okwu ya mere dị mma. O nyere ndị mmadụ olile anya na nsonye nke mere ka ha kwere na ọchịchị onye kwuo uche ya na Naịjirịa na-etowanye. Ndị mmụta na ndị ọchọcha okwu emereme ga-agba mbọ ilebanye anya n'okwu ndị na-abụghị ndị ndọrọ-ndorọ ọchịchị kama ndị na-ahazi ntụli aka elu. Ndị na-atụ vootu ekwesighi itinye uche ha niile n'okwu achụmụnta vootu ndị na-azọ ọkwa ọchịchị kama ka ha tinyekwa uche n'okwu onye isi INEC maka na ọ bụ site na ya ka ha ga-esi mata ihe gbasara ntụli aka elu.

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Mgbakwunyere

STATEMENT ON THE TIMETABLE FOR
2015 GENERAL ELECTIONS
BY
THE CHAIRMAN,
INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC),
PROFESSOR ATTAHIRU M. JEGA,
AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON FEBRUARY 07th, 2015

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Introduction

We invited you here today to make known the position of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on the timetable for the 2015 general elections. Let me state from the outset that the Commission's position was reached after carefully weighing the suggestions from briefings held with different stakeholders in the electoral process.

The conduct of elections in a country like Nigeria is invariably a collective venture that involves not just the Election Management Body (EMB), but also a diverse range of stakeholders, notably security agencies, political parties and their candidates, voters, as well as interest groups, such as the civil society organizations and the media. To guarantee successful conduct of elections, there are things that are wholly the responsibility of the EMB. But there are other things critical for the success of elections, which fall outside the control of the EMB.

In other words, while INEC must work hard to perfect its systems and processes for conducting elections, and take responsibility for any imperfections thereof, whatever the Commission does may not by itself be sufficient to guarantee the success of elections. There are a number of issues in the preparation and conduct of an election, the most critical of which is security, which is not under the control of INEC.

Current State of INEC's Preparedness

On Thursday, February 5, 2015, I was invited to brief the National Council of State, which is the highest advisory to the President comprising past and present leaders in Nigeria, on the level of preparedness of INEC to conduct the 2015 general elections. I made a presentation to the Council titled 'Preparations for the 2015 General Elections: Progress Report,' in which I gave a detailed account of what the Commission has been doing in readiness for the national elections (National Assembly and Presidential) scheduled for February 14th, and the state elections (Governorship and State Assembly) scheduled for February 28th, 2015.

The summary of my presentation to the National Council of State meeting is that, for matters under its control, INEC is substantially ready for the general elections as scheduled, despite discernible challenges being encountered with some of its processes like the collection of Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) by registered members of the public

In addition, INEC has been doing everything it can to facilitate the collection of the PVCs by registered members of the public. As at 5th February 2015, the total number of PVCs collected was 45, 829, 808, representing 66.58% of the total number of registered voters.

In the delivery and deployment of electoral materials, INEC is also at a comfort level in its readiness for the general elections as scheduled (see the presentation to the Council of State). The Commission's preparations are not yet perfect or fully accomplished. But our level of preparedness, despite a few challenges, is sufficient to conduct free, fair and credible elections as scheduled on February 14th and February 28th. Compared with 2011 when, within a short time, we conducted general elections that were universally adjudged free, fair and credible and the best in Nigeria's recent electoral history, our processes are today better refined, more robust and therefore capable of delivering even better elections.

Other Variables

But as I mentioned earlier, there are some other variables equally crucial for successful conduct of the 2015 general elections that are outside the control of INEC. One important variable is security for the elections.

While the Commission has a very good working relationship with all security agencies, especially on the platform of the Inter-agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) since its inception in 2010, it has become pertinent for it to seriously consider the security advisory presented to it by the Security and Intelligence Services. I would like to reiterate here that INEC is an EMB and not a security agency. It relies on the security services to provide a safe environment for personnel, voters, election observers and election materials to conduct elections wherever it deploys. Where the security services strongly advise otherwise, it would be unconscionable of the Commission to deploy personnel and call voters out in such a situation.

Last Wednesday, which was a day before the Council of State meeting, the office of the National Security Adviser (NSA) wrote a letter to the Commission, drawing attention to recent developments in four Northeast states of Borno, Yobe, Adamawa and Gombe currently experiencing the challenge of insurgency. The letter stated that security could not be guaranteed during the proposed period in February for the general elections.

This advisory was reinforced at the Council of State meeting on Thursday where the NSA and all the Armed Services and Intelligence Chiefs unanimously reiterated that the safety and security of our operations cannot be guaranteed, and that the Security Services needed at least six weeks within which to conclude a major military operation against the insurgency in the Northeast; and that during this operation, the military will be concentrating its attention in the theatre of operations such that they may not be able to provide the traditional support they render to the Police and other agencies during elections.

INEC's Decision

We have done wide ranging consultation to enable us have as much input as is necessary before taking an informed decision. In the series of consultations that we held with stakeholders, the questions consistently posed to them for consideration are:

In view of the latest development, should INEC proceed with the conduct of the general elections as scheduled in spite of this strong advice; and if so, what alternative security arrangements are available to be put in place? Or, should INEC take the advice and adjust the schedules of the general elections within the framework of Constitutional provisions?

The Commission held a meeting after the consultations, and decided to take the advice of the Security Chiefs and adjust the dates of the elections. We have done this relying on Section 26(1) of the Electoral 2010 (As Amended), which states thus: "Where a date has been appointed for the holding of an election, and there is reason to believe that a serious breach of the peace is likely to occur if the election is proceeded with on that date or it is impossible to conduct the elections as a result of natural disasters or other emergencies, the Commission may postpone the election and shall in respect of the area, or areas concerned, appoint another date for the holding of the postponed election, provided that such reason for the postponement is cogent and verifiable".

INEC not being a security agency that could by itself guarantee protection for personnel and materials, as well as voters during elections, the Commission cannot lightly wave off the advice by the nation's Security Chiefs. The Commission is specifically concerned about the security of our ad hoc staff who constitute at least 600,000 young men and women, together with our regular staff, voters, election observers as well as election materials painstakingly acquired over the last one and half years. This concern is limited not just to the areas in the North-eastern part of Nigeria experiencing insurgency; the risk of deploying young men and women and calling people to exercise their democratic rights in a situation where their security cannot be guaranteed is a most onerous responsibility. Under such circumstances, few EMBs across the world, if any, would contemplate proceeding with the elections as scheduled. No matter the extent of INEC's preparedness, therefore, if the security of personnel, voters, election observers and election materials cannot be guaranteed, the life of innocent young men and women as well the prospects of free, fair, credible and peaceful elections would be greatly jeopardised.

Consequently, the Commission has decided to reschedule the 2015 general elections thus: the national elections (i.e. Presidential and National Assembly) are now to hold on March 28th, 2015; while the state elections (Governorship and State Assembly) are to hold onApril 11th, 2015. It should be noted that this rescheduling falls within the constitutional framework for the conduct of the elections, notably, Sections 76(2), 116(2), 132(2) and 178(2). See also Section 25 of the Electoral Act 2010 (As Amended).

For the avoidance of doubt, we will under no circumstances approve an arrangement that is not in line with the provisions of our laws. Our hope is that with this rescheduling, the security services will do their best to ensure that the security environment needed for safe and peaceful conduct of the 2015 elections is rapidly put in place.

We in INEC reassure all Nigerians and indeed the international community of our commitment to do everything within the law and to conduct free, fair, credible and peaceful elections. We call on the security agencies to honour their commitment to restore sufficient normalcy for elections to take place within the period of extension. We also call on Nigerians, political parties, candidates and all other stakeholders to accept this decision in good faith and ensure the maintenance of peace.

As for us in INEC we'll endeavour to use the period of the extension to keep on perfecting our systems and processes for conducting the best elections in Nigeria's history. In particular, we

believe that we would resolve all outstanding issues related to non-collection of PVCs, which agitate the minds of many Nigerians.

Finally, we wish to call on all Nigerians to accept our decision, which is taken in good faith and the best interest of deepening democracy ion our country.

Thank you.

Professor Attahiru M. Jega, OFR
Chairman

INEC CHAIRMAN, PROFESSOR ATTAHIRU JEGA'S STATEMENT ON THE CONDUCT OF POLLS ON MARCH 29, 2015.

"INEC wishes to commend Nigerians for their large turnout and peaceful conduct during the elections. The Commission commends Nigerians for the resilience and understanding exhibited in the face of these difficulties"

"We hope good conduct will continue to prevail throughout the election period as well. The Commission is pleased that the elections went on smoothly across the country including the North-East where Internally Displaced Persons voted (Adamawa,Yobe,Borno)."

"It is also gratifying to note that the card readers worked well in the majority of the Polling Units (PUs). Though there were areas where the difficulties experienced necessitated additional guidelines. The guidelines by the Commission allow for manual accreditation of voters as announced yesterday."

"Osun, Kebbi, Ekiti, Adamawa, Borno, Jigawa, Anambra, Akwa Ibom and Ebonyi state reported manual accreditation in some PUs. As a result of these difficulties, elections could not be concluded yesterday in a few PUs and voting in underway today."

"I can tell you certainly that the failure of card readers surprised us and it is probable that the POs were not trained."

"The Commission conducted voting for IDPs in the NE, although with a few reported security incidents. It is heartwarming that the elections went well in a substantial number of the PUs across the country notwithstanding challenges."

"We commend the security agencies for their vigilance and dedication. In the course of the elections yesterday, the Commission has received reports of security challenges in some states that were repelled."

"Only the INEC is empowered by law to announce results and it is an offence for anyone to preempt the Commission in this regard."

"You start counting 48 hours when substantial amount of polling units have concluded elections. According to the reports from our state offices, collation of results has commenced and it is going well."

"We received reports of a boko haram attack and a few ad-hoc staff of INEC lost their lives. We have reached out to the family of the bereaved and it is an unfortunate event."

"We received reports of underage voting from Taraba and we have instructed that the PO involved be identified. Underage voting is against the law, we are investigating reports and will take measures once this is established."

"This morning, I received a letter from APC calling for elections cancellation in Rivers, we are thoroughly investigating this. After investigation, we will brief the political parties of our findings."
"If we find out that our staff are involved in any illegal acts, they will be investigated and penalized according to the law."
"It is true our INEC office in Rivers state was torched, we have informed police authorities. We have asked for additional security so this does not occur again."
"We will declare results when it has been collated from the states. You start counting 48 hours when substantial amount of polling units have concluded elections."
"Collation of results will begin at 12pm tomorrow. We are not under any pressure to declare inconclusive elections."
The elections were slated to hold only on March 28 but were extended to the 29th due to difficulties experienced in some areas.