

DAILY

BULLETIN

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PVCs OF VALID REGISTRANTS WILL BE READY FOR COLLECTION OCTOBER ENDING, INEC ASSURES

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has reassured new registrants who were captured between January and 31st July, 2022, in now suspended Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise, that Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) of persons with valid registrations would be ready for collection by the end of October/early November this year.

The assurance was contained in a statement signed and National Commissioner and Chairman of the Information and Voter Education Committee (IVEC), Festus Okoye Esq, on Monday.

The Commission said as soon as the CVR exercise was suspended at the end of July this year, it commenced cleaning up of the register of voters using the Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS).

Hinting at some discoveries in the course of the cleanup, the Commission recalled that it had informed Nigerians that “out of the 2, 523,458 (Two million, five hundred and twenty-three thousand, four hundred and fifty-eight) fresh registrants that registered between 28th June 2021 and 14th January 2022, 1,126,359 (One million, one hundred and twenty-six thousand, three hundred and fifty-nine) records were found to be invalid and consequently delisted”.

It added that “the ABIS for the period - 15th January to 31st July 2022 is almost completed. Several double, multiple and ineligible registrants have also been detected and invalidated. These include entries that fail to meet the Commission's

business rules. The Commission takes this responsibility seriously because a credible register is at the heart of electoral integrity”.

The Commission further assured that as soon as the process is concluded, it will provide the public with full information. “Thereafter, valid registrants will be added to the existing national register of voters before publishing same nationwide for scrutiny, claims and objections by citizens as required by section 19 (1) of the Electoral Act 2022”, it said.

2023: IVEC CHAIRMAN TELLS IMAGE MAKERS TO BRACE UP FOR TASK AHEAD

National Commissioner and Chairman of the Information and Voter Education Committee (IVEC), Festus Okoye Esq, has tasked Heads of the Voter Education and Publicity (VEP) Department to brace up for the task of projecting and promoting the Commission's policies, decisions and actions ahead of the 2023 General Election.

Okoye noted that the Commission had entered a critical phase of the 2023 General Election, which required all HOD's VEP from the 36 states and the FCT to be at their very best to defend the Commission.

The IVEC Chairman gave the charge during the Voter Education Implementation Workshop for 2023 General Election organised with support from the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), held in Keffi, Nasarawa state, last week.

Addressing the participants, Okoye observed that unfortunately for HODs who are newly deployed to the department there will be no time to settle down. "You will have to get into the thick of the activity immediately. This is because this Commission has entered the critical phase of the electoral process. This is the

phase we call ground zero, and when you reach ground zero, it's a no holds barred situation", he: said.

Harping on some critical timelines and events that would require explaining by the image makers at their various states, the IVEC Chairman said "on the 20th September, 2022. The Commission will release the final list of nominated candidates (National Elections). It will also publish the final list of duly nominated candidates on the 4th October, 2022, while on the 28th September, 2022 Presidential and National Assembly candidates will begin campaigns in public".

Speaking further, he said: "on 12 October, 2022, Governorship and State Assembly candidates will start campaigns in public, while 30th December, 2022 is the last day for the submission of the names of polling agents for presidential and national assembly elections".

The IVEC Chairman urged participants to be knowledgeable on the Legal Frame Work to be used for conducting the 2023 General Election, i.e., Electoral Act 2022, and be in-tune with the changing dynamics and demography of Nigeria's youthful population.

On his part, National Commissioner and Chairman, Outreach and Partnership Committee (OPC), Prof. Kunle Ajayi, disclosed that the Commission was determined to transform the zeal and enthusiasm displayed by youths into the desired action of collecting their PVCs and participating en-masse in the forthcoming (general election by designing a youth engagement policy document aimed at addressing the youth voter apathy challenge, which is in its final stages and would be launched soon.

While harping on the need for HODS VEP to drive the Commission's inclusivity policy, the OPC Chairman said "allow me to proudly say that for the first time in the history of electioneering in Nigeria, INEC engaged the services of over 30 PWDs as election officials during the Osun election and due to their very

impressive performance, the Commission hopes to engage more in the forthcoming 2023, General Election"

Stating the objectives of the workshop, the Director, Voter Education and Publicity department, Mr. Victor Aluko said it was necessary to update the knowledge of the HODS VEP who were critical to managing the public perception of the Commission ahead of the 2023 general election. Specifically, he said it was important to update the knowledge of the HODs on new technologies, Public Relation Strategies of the Commission, the Electoral

Act 2022, and social media opportunities available to the Commission ahead of 2023 General Election.

In a goodwill message, the Deputy Country Director for IFES, Mr. Obajeh Ukeh, noted that without effective Voter Education, people will not be able to participate effectively in electoral process. He said it is therefore important that as a Commission, Voter Education is taken seriously.

Obaje commended the Commission for its dedication and/commitment towards steadily improving the electoral process, but maintained that more can be done with effective Voter Education and Publicity at all levels. "We hope that in 2023 we will see an improvement in the turn out witnessed in Osun".

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