



# The Perspective

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# INSPIRING YOUTH FOR LEADERSHIP



John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

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THE NIGERIAN WOMEN  
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**NEED TO INVESTIGATE THE  
INCESSANT LOSS OF FIREARMS  
AND AMMUNITION IN THE  
NIGERIAN POLICE ARMAMENT  
FROM 2012 - 2022:**



# The Perspective



*Bridging the  
gaps in  
Human  
Rights  
Education and  
Advocacy*

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# INSPIRING YOUTH FOR LEADERSHIP

By: Idris Miliki Abdul

## RATIONALE:

Nigeria's 2023 elections have undoubtedly thrown up some core lessons for the development space alongside a demand for greater citizen action and response. One point of note is the youth agency before and during the elections. The dampened spirit and agitations of young people post the elections are also not lost on keen watchers of the political space. This dissatisfaction can be inferred from social media communication, judicial activism, conflict with constituted authority in some states and an increased determination to exit the country. Nigeria needs its youth to remain fully engaged in the political process. Peace, security, citizen well-being and partnership are key to attaining the SDGs by 2030 and ensuring no one is left behind. How can the discretionary award help harness the energy and channel it toward national development and participation?



*Idris Miliki Abdul*

## JUSTIFICATION FOR INTERVENTION:

Young persons (18-34 years) make up 39.65% (37,060,399 voters) according to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) towards the 2023 General elections in Nigeria. Despite this huge numbers of young persons, and the presence of the **Not Too Young To Run** Act of the National parliament, which sought to reduce the age limit of running for elective offices in Nigeria, the number of young persons in political leadership position both elective and appointive, is still very low which has led to the discouragement of youth commitment in promoting good governance in Nigeria that can lead to their effective participation.

This situation is replicated in Kogi state however, deliberate efforts by the present Administration in the state has encouraged participation of young persons particularly through appointive positions but this is not so in elective positions.

There is also the establishment of a Youth Development Commission which is a Law of the Kogi State House of Assembly to facilitate and galvanize the active engagement of young persons across board.

However despite this laudable efforts, the lack of synergy, partnership and collaboration in the State with relevant stakeholders, has not produced the desired result and thus the need to strategically intervene to achieve the objectives

The intervention will involve engagements with stakeholders in public and private institutions and organizations particularly youths and youth focused organizations in Kogi State.

The intervention will mobilize the citizen's especially young persons, to hold their leaders and representatives accountable. There also will be development of synergy between the Media and Youth based Civil Society in tracking and reporting youth related activities. There will be improvement in the participation of young persons in the budgetary process to enhance accountability and Transparency.

## GOAL:

Improvement in the participation of young persons in governance and leadership in Kogi State





Idris Miliki Abdul, Executive Director of CHRCR, making the Welcome Address, Objectives of the Meeting and Presentation on Inspiring Youth for Leadership during the One Day Summit on Inspiring Youth for Leadership. Organized by CHRCR in partnership with NUTF. On Thursday 26th October, 2023, at Lokoja, Kogi State.

#### OBJECTIVE(S):

- To ensure necessary political commitment to deepen and spread Youth participation in governance and leadership positions
- To build the capacity of young persons in promoting good governance and participation in post 2023 elections
- To develop and disseminate youth focused and media engagement through strategic media engagement

#### APPROACH

- Advocacy,
- Community Mobilization,
- Media Engagement,
- Publications/ Research, Capacity building
- Institutional strengthening

#### Proposed Activities:

- Advocacy Visits to political parties on the need for more youth involvement in party activities post 2023 elections
- Quarterly Round Table meeting with youth organizations and Media to promote collaboration and synergy among participating young persons and youth organization and Media partners
- 1-Day Youth town hall Meeting at Senatorial level to mobilize youth inclusivity at community level in leadership positions. This would be conducted in each Senatorial Districts.

- Media Engagement (Traditional and Social Media) to include Weekly Phone-in Live Programme, Production and airing of Jingles on youth related issues, Production of IEC (Stickers) and Social Media Campaign (Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp)
  - 1-Day Summit for Youth Organizations to build capacity and identify gaps in youth development in Kogi state

Project Indicators:

- Number of Youth organizations participating in project activities
- Number of young persons reached with project messages and participating in activities
- Media reportage on youth related activities in Kogi State
- Number of online hits and likes on youth related messages through websites, WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, twitter, etc

Number of community activates conducted

**Presentation by:**  
**IDRIS MILIKI ABDUL**  
*Executive Director,*  
Conscience for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution (CHRCR)

**at the**  
**ONE DAY YOUTH SUMMIT**  
**Organised by**  
**Conscience for Human Rights and Conflict Resolutions (CHRCR)**

**On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2023**  
**at Hallms Hotel, Ganaja Junction, Lokoja, Kogi State.**

**In partnership with The Women Trust Fund**

**WITH THE SUPPORT OF:**  
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
MacArthur Foundation



Group Picture during the One Day Summit on Inspiring Youth for Leadership. Organized by CHRCR in partnership with NWTF. On Thursday 26th October, 2023, at Lokoja, Kogi State.



## **COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 1-DAY SUMMIT ON INSPIRING YOUTH FOR LEADERSHIP ORGANIZED BY CONSCIENCE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION (CHRCR) IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NIGERIAN WOMEN TRUST FUND (NWTF) HELD ON 26TH OCTOBER 2023 AT HALIMS HOTEL LOKOJA**

### **PREAMBLE:**

The 1-day Summit was organized by the Conscience for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution (CHRCR), in partnership with The Nigerian Women trust Fund (NWTF), to raise awareness, identify challenges and proffer way forward for participation of young persons in Kogi State.

The Summit had in attendance Management of Kogi State Youth Development Commission, Youths from Civil Society, Youth Associations, Professional organizations, Young Women Associations, and Media.

There was Paper Presentations on Inspiring Youth for Leadership by Idris Miliki Abdul, Executive Director, CHRCR and Challenges of Youth in Attaining Leadership Positions and the Way Forward by Hamza Aliyu, Executive Director, INGRA

There was also Plenary Discussions, Question and Answer Sessions and Communique Development and Dissemination.

### **Observations:**

- The participation of Youths in political leadership in Kogi State is low despite the numerical strength in terms of Voter registration and PVC collected.
- The establishment of the Youth Development Commission, by the present Administration in Kogi State, the first in the North, is a welcome development
- Despite the importance of the commission, there is no budgetary provision for the taking off of the commission since inception.
- Young women are especially excluded by Social and Structural challenges in Youth participations in political leadership
- Young people have limited resources and experiences in attaining leadership positions, particularly at state level.
- There has been low/inadequate Government focus on building the capacity of Youth for leadership
- Culture and tradition have overbearing influence on youth in leadership at state level particularly in Kogi State
- There is minimal focus by political parties to improving the situation of Youth participation towards leadership positions.
- Youths make up over 35% of the voting population in Nigeria with over 37 million registered voters who are between 18-34 years according to the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) records.
- Cost of elections and politics generally is too high that prevents young persons from participation, depriving them from realizing their leadership ambitions.
- The 1999 Constitution as Amended, and the 2022 Electoral Act, stipulates 18 years as the age of Voting. However, the least age for being voted for is 25 years (for State and federal legislature). This is discriminatory and a hindrance to the Nigerian youths attaining leadership positions.

- Corruption and Insecurity is a major factor in preventing Young persons from participating in the electoral process
  - The National Education curriculum does not provide adequate capacity for leadership for young persons.
  - There no or limited mentoring of young persons by those who have attained leadership positions to provide succession, particularly by young persons.
  - It is highly worrisome and not encouraging, that there are no young persons among the contestants for the position of Governor among the Candidates that participated in the November 11<sup>th</sup> 2023 elections in Kogi State.

#### **Recommendations:**

- The Kogi State Youth Development Commission needs to create a 5 -year strategic Development Plan to mobilize needed resources for intervening for youth participation in leadership through relevant stakeholders
- The Kogi State Government must as a matter of urgency, create and provide adequate funding through the State Budget, for the Youth Development Commission, so as to enhance their delivery of their mandate according to the establishment of their law
- Young Women need particular attention as they are more vulnerable to the challenges more than any other person.
- Political parties must begin to re-energize their ideology towards youth participation and inclusion so as to enhance their potentials.
- There is need for an effective mentoring scheme targeting young persons for Leadership especially in politics
- The huge population of young persons must be strategically used to the advantage of Kogi State and Nigeria in terms of political leadership for young persons
- The cost of campaigns and elections must be reduced to allow for young persons to effectively participate in political leadership
- The fight against corruption and insecurity must be holistic to provide a conducive platform for youth to effectively take part in leadership.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

The summit thank Conscience for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution (CHRCR), the Nigeria Women trust Fund (NWTF) and the MacArthur Foundation for their continued support and partnership in the improvement of Youts issues at state level in Kogi State.

#### **Signed:**

**IDRIS MILIKI ABDUL**  
Executive Director,  
CHRCR, Lokoja, Kogi State



## **REPORT OF THE 1-DAY YOUTH SUMMIT ON INSPIRING YOUTH FOR LEADERSHIP ORGANIZED BY CONSCIENCE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION (CHRCR) IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NIGERIAN WOMEN TRUST FUND (NWTF) HELD ON 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023 AT HALIMS HOTEL LOKOJA**

### **WELCOME REMARKS:**

The Executive Director Conscience for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution (CHRCR) Idris Miliki Abdul welcomed participants to the summit. He talked on the position, importance and relevance of youths in the Nigerian political environment.



### **REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN KOGI STATE YOUTH COMMISSION**

The Chairman James Ozomata Lawal, appreciated the organizers of the meeting and thanked CHRCR for the opportunity to discuss the issues of youth participation in leadership. He further spoke on the further discrimination of women in politics and explained that there was need for mobilization of women to provide support for women who intend to take part in politics.

A major challenge he identified is the high cost of politics in Nigerian elections. He explained that this was on the high side and a major obstacle for young people in Nigeria. He stated that he believed that advocacy and interventions to reduce this cost was very important to achieving this objective.

Idris Miliki Abdul, Executive Director of CHRCR, making the Welcome Address, Objectives of the Meeting and Presentation on Inspiring Youth for Leadership during the One Day Summit on Inspiring Youth for Leadership. Organized by CHRCR in partnership with NWTF. On Thursday 26th October, 2023, at Lokoja, Kogi State.

He explained that Kogi State was the first state to establish a Youth Commission dedicated to issues of young persons in the State. This is a first in Nigeria. He however lamented poor resource allocation to the Board and Management to carryout activities to achieve the mandate of the commission. Another challenge of the Commission is the law establishing the commission and its implementation. The opaqueness of the law has created a cloud around the funding of the Commission. This made it impossible to have a budgetline on the State Budget. However, this has been clarified and there is hope that subsequent State budget will have this line item.

On resource mobilization, the Chairman stated that the commission has written and met with several private and public



sector entities to support youth development issues in the state. He however lamented that many of interventions have not been successful. There are intentions to continue this drive going forward.



Lawal O. James, The Chairman of Kogi State Youth Development Commission(KYDC) Lokoja, Kogi State. Making his remarks during the One Day Summit on Inspiring Youth for Leadership Organized by CHRCR in partnership with NWTF. On Thursday 26th October, 2023, at Lokoja, Kogi State.

He concluded with a call for collaboration with as many other entities as possible to move the commission forward.

**Remarks by ED CHRCR:**

- There is the need for the Commission to streamline their resource mobilization to capacity building for the Commission
- Interventions by the commission should focus on issues on Youths to avoid duplication of interventions
- The Commission must plan a gradual and focused

**QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

- A participant talked about mapping of resources available in the State for possible mobilization. He urged that the Commission to use this map as a resource tool to engage stakeholders.
- Miliki contributed by urging the members of the Board, especially

the Civil Society members, to contribute to resource mobilization. He urged Commission and other government establishment to balance the politics of governance and citizen expectations. He concluded by urging the Commission to recognize organizations that played prominent roles in the development of the law and develop strategic plans for engagement.

- Another participant called the attention of the Chairman of the Commission to National and State resources available for collaboration
- The Exe

**PRESENTATION ON INSPIRING YOUTH FOR LEADERSHIP BY IDRIS MILIKI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHRCR**

The paper featured overview and rationale for the youth project by CHRCR in partnership with The Nigerian Women trust Fund (NWTF).





Participants during the One Day Summit on Inspiring Youth for Leadership. Organized by CHCRC in partnership with NWTF. On Thursday 26th October, 2023, at Lokoja, Kogi State.

- That youths represent over 37 million registered voters in Nigeria
  - that despite their numerical advantage, the representation of youths in politics is dismal
  - youths represent over 60% of Nigerian Population

the facilitator also explained that it was not logical for the development of the nation for youths to be excluded from leadership. The poor attention paid to democracy at the local levels was identified by Idris Miliki as a factor militating the improvement of youth leadership in political especially as it provides a viable platform for young persons to acquire needed experience.

Political party actions was identified by the paper as a critical factor in the inclusion and promotion of youth participation and development in political leadership. Mr idris Miliki decried the attitude and behaviour of all the registered Parties who pay lip service to issues of Youth participation.

#### **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSIONS (PLENARY DISCUSSIONS)**

The paper presenter took the participants through a Plenary discussion Question and Answer Session

#### **What can the youth do to attain leadership position?**

In response to the above question, various participants gave their opinion on what the youth can do to attain leadership position?

- The youth can become leader by participating in community activities and community engagement at the rural area as the nursery of leadership.
- Youth can become leaders by developing themselves through capacity building, workshops, training, and education in readiness for leadership.
- Youth who want to become leaders must bult integrity and trust which is essential for leadership.
- The youth can become leaders by supporting one another. Partnership and synergy are essential for leadership.
- Young people can aspire to become leaders when they sensitize other youth and advocate for more youth inclusion in leadership and governance.



• The youth can become leaders when they open themselves to learning and mentorship.

- Youth can become leaders through hard work, patience, and determination.



Hamza Aliyu Executive Director of Initiative for Grassroot Advancement (INGRA) making his Presentation on Challenges of Youth in Attaining Leadership position and the way forward during the One Day Summit on Inspiring Youth for Leadership. Organized by CHRCR in partnership with NWTF. On Thursday 26th October, 2023, at Lokoja, Kogi State.

**CHALLENGES OF YOUTH IN ATTAINING LEADERSHIP POSITION AND WAY FORWARD** by Hamza Aliyu, Executive Director, Initiative for Grassroot Advancement in Nigeria (INGRA)

The Paper presenter began with a question on Who is a Youth?

- According to the National Youth Policy, A youth is anyone between the Ages of 15-29 Years
- As at 2006 Census, Nigeria has a population of 180m, with young people making up 60%
- In 2020, Nigeria population is estimated to be 206 million, making it the 7<sup>th</sup> most populous country in the world and the most populous in Africa.
- Nigeria population is growing at around 2.6% every year. One of the fastest in the world
- At this rate, our population will double in the next 20-30 years

- Nigeria has the largest youth population in the world with a median age of 18.1 years.
- About 70% of population are under 30 years and 42% are under 15 years

He went on to discuss the position and role of youths in politics.

- As at January 2023, Over 90 million Nigerians were registered to vote at our elections
- 49 million or 52% were male, 47.5% or 44.5 million were females
- 40% or over 48 million registered voters are young people 18-34 years
- 26 million or 27% of the registered voters stated that they were students

**CHALLENGES IN YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP**

- Age Discrimination:
- Limited access to education:
- Lack of experience:
- Corruption and Nepotism:



- Limited resources:
  - Political Violence and Insecurity:
  - Lack of representation
  - Traditional Culture and Norms:
  - Weak Political parties
  - Youth apathy:

On Way Forward, Hamza Aliyu stated the following :

- Mentorship
- Improvement of Political Party Ideology
- Improvement in resource allocation for youth leadership interventions
- Constitutional Amendment

#### SCORECARD AND YOUTH PERCEPTION

The session was to develop a youth scorecard and to assess participant's perception on interventions by their elected representatives.

This session was facilitated by Ibukun Ajayi, from Conscience for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution (CHRCR).

He explained that the scorecard helps young persons to track actions and promises of elected public office holders and acts as a baseline for improvement of the Political party manifestos

He led the participants through filling the Questionnaire.

#### COMMUNIQUE DEVELOPMENT

A communique was development that identifies, and recommends specific actions aby stakeholders to address the challenges facing young persons and leadership.

#### CLOSING

The Summit closed with a group photograph.



Group Picture during the One Day Summit on Inspiring Youth for Leadership. Organized by CHRCR in partnership with NWTFF. On Thursday 26th October, 2023, at Lokoja, Kogi State.



# CHALLENGES OF YOUTH IN ATTAINING LEADERSHIP POSITION AND WAY FORWARD

## Who is a Youth?

- According to the National Youth Policy, A youth is anyone between the Ages of 15-29 Years
- As at 2006 C e n s u s , Nigeria has a population of 180m, with young people making up 60%
- In 2020, Nigeria population is estimated to be 206 million, making it the 7<sup>th</sup> most populous country in the world and the most populous in Africa.
- Nigeria population is growing at around 2.6% every year. One of the fastest in the world
- At this rate, our population will double in the next 20-30 years
- Nigeria has the largest youth population in the world with a median age of 18.1 years.
- About 70% of population are under 30 years and 42% are under 15 years

## Politics and Youths

- As at January 2023, Over 90 million Nigerians were registered to vote at our elections



Hamza Aliyu Executive Director of Initiative for Grassroot Advancement (INGRA) making his Presentation on Challenges of Youth in Attaining Leadership position and the way forward during the One Day Summit on Inspiring Youth for Leadership. Organized by CHRCR in partnership with NWTF. On Thursday 26th October, 2023, at Lokoja, Kogi State.

- 49 million or 52% were male, 47.5% or 44.5 million were females
- 40% or over 48 million registered voters are young people 18-34 years
- 26 million or 27% of the registered voters stated that they were students

## What are the challenges in Youth participation in Political Leadership

- Age Discrimination:
- Limited access to education:
- Lack of experience:
- Corruption and Nepotism:
- Limited resources:
- Political Violence and Insecurity:
- Lack of representation
- Traditional Culture and Norms:
- Weak Political parties
- Youth apathy:



## Photo News



Group Picture during the CHCRC Advocacy Visit to Kogi State Broadcasting Corporation (Radio Kogi) Management Team, On Inspiring Youth for Leadership and Toward the November 11th 2023 Governorship Election in Kogi State in the Fight Against Corruption at State Level in Kogi State. On Tuesday 10th October, 2023, Lokoja, Kogi State.



Group Picture during the CHCRC Advocacy Visit to Kogi State Youth Development Commission Management Team, On Inspiring Youth for Leadership in Kogi State. On Friday 13th October, 2023, Lokoja, Kogi State.



Group Picture during the One Day Summit on Inspiring Youth for Leadership, Organized by CHCRC in partnership with the NWTF. On Thursday 26th October, 2023 at Halims Hotel, Lokoja, Kogi State.



Group Picture during the One Day Round-Table for Youth Focus Organizations and Media on Inspiring Youth for Leadership Organized by CHCRC in partnership with the NWTF. On Friday 24th November, 2023 at Halims Hotel, Lokoja, Kogi State.



# 2024 CALENDAR

**JANUARY**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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**FEBRUARY**

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**MARCH**

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**APRIL**

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**MAY**

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**JUNE**

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**JULY**

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**AUGUST**

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**SEPTEMBER**

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**OCTOBER**

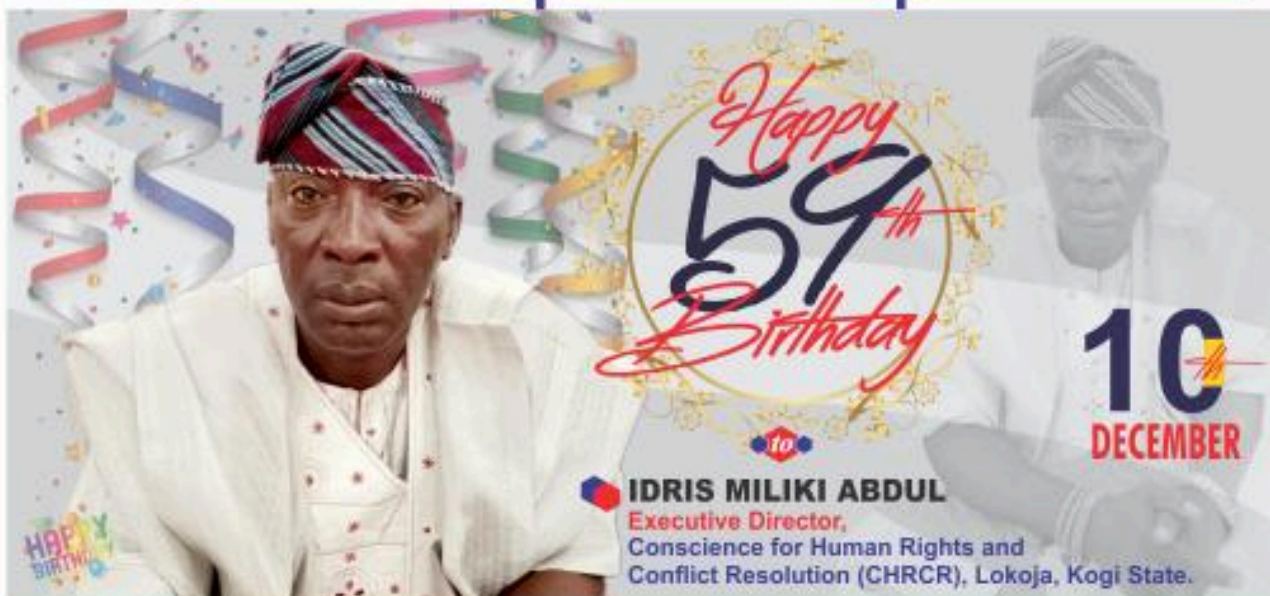
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**NOVEMBER**

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**DECEMBER**

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29	30	31				







Participants during the One Day Summit on Inspiring Youth for Leadership. Organized by CHCR in partnership with NWTf. On Thursday 26th October, 2023, at Lokoja, Kogi State.

### Age Discrimination

- The Nigerian Constitution discriminates against youths when it comes to Voting and the right to be voted for.
- The Voting age is 18 years but the age to be voted for is 25 years for State House of Assembly/House of Representatives, 30 years for Governorship, 35 years for Senate and 35 years for President or Vice President
- The question is why the discrimination????

### Lack of experience

- Political experience????
- Ineffective Local Government Administration.
- Section 7 of Nigerian Constitution states the Local Government governance system
- However, the Local Government system

### Limited resources

- Cost of Nomination forms in Political parties??
- Cost of campaigns (e.g N5b for Presidential campaigns, etc)
- Section 88 of EA 2022 limits donations to political parties to under N50m
- Very few young persons can afford this

### Traditional culture and Norms

- Most African culture lay emphasis on Age as a criteria for leadership rather than capacity
- It is applicable in the political parties as none of the leadership of the 19 recognized political parties are young people.
- This is the reason for the age discrimination in our Constitution
- Question will be can we change culture?????

### Way Forward

- Mentorship
- Improvement of Political Party Ideology
- Improvement in resource allocation for youth leadership interventions
- Constitutional Amendment

**Presentation by:**

**HAMZA ALIYU**

*Executive Director,*

Initiative for Grassroot Advancement in Nigeria (INGRA)

*at the*

**ONE DAY SUMMIT**

*on*

**INSPIRING YOUTH FOR LEADERSHIP**

*Organised by*

Conscience for Human Rights and  
Conflict Resolutions (CHCR)

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

at Halims Hotel, Ganaja Junction, Lokoja, Kogi State.



# ACCEPTANCE SPEECH



**KHALIFAH ABDULRASHEED SAIDU AREKEMASE MNI, FMIM**  
**CHIEF IMAM OF AYEGUNLE GBEDE**

Bismillah al-Rahman al-Raheem

May the peace of Allah be upon our Noble Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Esteemed members of our cherished community, Ayegunle Gbede,

I am deeply moved and profoundly honored to accept the privilege of becoming the Chief Imam of our community, Ayegunle Gbede. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for entrusting me with this sacred responsibility.

Unity is the cornerstone of any thriving community. My tenure as Chief Imam will be marked by an unwavering commitment to fostering unity among us. Together, we are stronger. Regardless of our diverse backgrounds and religious differences, we must stand as one, supporting and uplifting each other, working hand in hand to build a stronger and more harmonious community.

Education is the beacon that lights the path towards progress. It is my firm belief that education is the foundation upon which we can build a brighter future. During my tenure, I will tirelessly advocate for improved access to quality education both Islamic and secular education for our children, creating opportunities for lifelong learning for all.

Development is a continuous journey that we must embark on together. Our community deserves to prosper in all aspects of life. As Chief Imam, I pledge to be at the forefront of initiatives that promote community

development, whether it's in terms of infrastructure, healthcare, economic



**KHALIFAH ABDULRASHEED SAIDU AREKEMASE MNI, FMIM**  
**CHIEF IMAM OF AYEGUNLE GBEDE**

empowerment, or any other sphere that contributes to our well-being and progress.

Lastly, I want to underscore the vital role that women play in our community. Women are not just contributors but the life force of our families and community. My commitment is unwavering in championing the rights and empowerment of women. We will work tirelessly to ensure that women in our community are given equal opportunities and respect.

In conclusion, I want to assure you that I will dedicate every ounce of my energy and passion to serving the Muslim community in particular and the Ayegunle Gbede in general with the utmost integrity, compassion, and dedication. I see our community as a shining example of unity, a hub of education, a cradle of development, and a place where women are celebrated and empowered.

I am deeply grateful for your trust and support. Let us come together as one, to



# NEED TO INVESTIGATE THE INCESSANT LOSS OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION IN THE NIGERIAN POLICE ARMAMENT FROM 2012 - 2022:

By: HON. SALMAN IDRIS.

## The House:

Notes that the primary responsibility of the Government is to safeguard lives and properties, as outlined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) through law enforcement agencies, with the police being the primary point of contact;

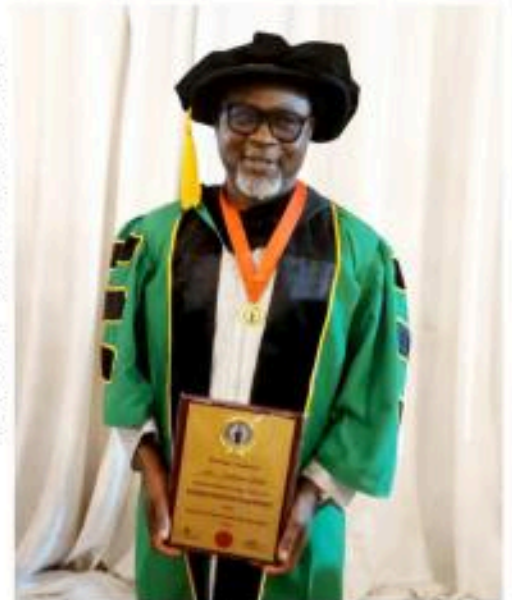
Also notes that the Nigeria Police Force is a crucial part of any country's security architecture responsible for maintaining law and order and being the frontline in public security provision. The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 and the Police, Act 2020 explicitly provide the primary functions and duties of the Police Force;

Aware that On 1, January 2022 the Nigerian Punch Newspaper reported that the office of the Auditor General for the Federation (OAUGF) referenced AuGF/AR.2019/02 disclosed about 178,459 missing arms and ammunition from Nigeria Police Armament in December 2018, with unaccounted 3,907 assorted rifles as of January 2020 without any trace or formal report;

Disturbed that the Nigeria Police have lost sufficient firearms to arm four full-size infantry divisions which were not reported, thus, violating paragraph 2603 of the Financial Regulations, 2009, which requires officers to report store losses to the head of department or unit within three days if the loss occurs away from headquarters;

Also disturbed that the report has it that Nigeria host over 70% of the illicit arms in West Africa. A UK-based Conflict Armament Research carried out in January 2020 alleged

that most of the weapons recovered from bandits in some States, with most recovered



Hon. (Arc) Salman Idris FNIA

d weapons belonging to Nigeria's security forces;

Worried that the Nigeria Police's underperformance may be due to the constant loss of firearms and ammunition in the police Armament which requires urgent legislative intervention to ensure the safety of officers;

Concerned that, aside from the established reality of illegal importation of arms, it is horrifying to realise that the guns and bullets deployed by terrorists, armed robbers and thugs against Nigerians may have been stolen weapons from the armoury that were bought with taxpayers' money;

## Resolves to:

mandate the Committees on National Security and Intelligence, Police Affairs and Public Account to investigate the persistent firearm loss, the failure of the Police Force to comply with the Financial Regulations Act, and recommend appropriate punitive measures.



INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION  
KOGI STATE GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION  
11th NOVEMBER, 2023

SUMMARY OF RESULTS FROM LGAs  
VOTES SCORED BY POLITICAL PARTIES

S/Ns	NAME OF STATE: KOGI		NO. OF REGD. VOTERS	NO. OF ACCREDITED VOTERS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	CORE IG			
	NAME	CODE																					TOTAL VALID VOTES	REFLECTED VOTES	TOTAL VOTES CAST	
1	ADAMI	01	114,663	103,351	6	264	7	268	9	101,156	0	2	2	0	16	1	0	1,005	1	268	0	0	0	103,005	67	103,072
2	AKORUTA	02	56,504	33,806	6	24	8	267	55	23,211	24	5	86	9	26	9	14	483	37	8,669	45	15	33,173	580	33,753	
3	ANPA	03	180,095	57,650	54	71	9	186	66	8,707	28	11	116	3	12	12	36	3,654	66	43,258	84	22	56,395	873	57,268	
4	BASSA	04	68,376	22,276	47	10	32	448	51	9,515	20	11	144	2	5	7	25	3,605	35	7,543	40	14	21,554	718	22,272	
5	DEKPA	05	187,881	60,588	776	20	34	421	104	9,174	35	6	67	8	18	17	5	499	213	47,480	252	22	56,151	1,168	60,319	
6	BAU	06	90,556	25,099	13	0	8	133	23	6,991	11	2	70	0	6	4	2	269	24	16,984	38	11	24,589	464	25,053	
7	DAH	07	64,339	23,044	38	3	8	91	22	2,033	18	3	58	3	10	6	5	271	51	20,059	46	16	22,742	280	23,022	
8	IGALAMELA-OXU	08	77,577	27,365	6	2	16	61	36	2,975	6	7	88	2	10	2	8	140	44	23,185	63	14	26,665	696	27,361	
9	BUWU	09	66,482	20,405	20	93	32	1,898	81	10,524	12	6	10	3	5	7	19	6,909	10	356	4	2	15,991	304	20,375	
10	KARBA/BUKU	10	87,462	24,242	17	196	23	1,537	73	12,376	16	8	10	3	7	7	16	8,566	12	942	11	3	23,823	419	24,242	
11	KOGI K.K.	11	63,342	27,184	6	31	8	133	44	14,789	16	5	37	2	9	5	8	2,974	24	8,441	25	4	26,541	308	26,849	
12	LONJA	12	157,248	36,526	22	128	20	758	148	19,105	37	15	94	8	37	15	16	4,028	57	10,380	43	21	34,932	1,208	36,140	
13	MOPAMURO	13	26,827	9,193	24	5	24	2,077	48	5,077	8	4	2	2	1	2	2	1,562	4	253	4	0	9,049	136	9,185	
14	OFU	14	101,964	36,087	26	60	28	297	66	5,245	26	12	141	2	19	12	11	293	62	28,788	86	26	35,180	587	35,767	
15	OGBU/NAGUNGO	15	27,688	665	0	0	0	11	1	362	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	86	0	195	0	0	658	7	665	
16	OKEHI	16	94,456	57,243	6	165	21	680	34	53,062	9	2	1	7	69	2	46	2,722	7	153	1	6	57,002	174	57,176	
17	OKEKE	17	151,243	141,888	13	288	54	261	45	138,416	160	16	12	18	282	14	2	1,463	36	271	16	27	141,404	134	141,538	
18	OUANBORO	18	105,864	30,287	77	4	46	126	35	5,572	21	3	143	2	15	8	7	1,376	47	23,173	62	14	25,731	495	30,226	
19	OMUA	19	74,537	22,538	33	5	7	218	26	2,902	7	1	50	2	5	1	4	832	19	18,160	38	7	22,317	196	22,513	
20	YAGRA EAST	20	51,436	18,001	34	40	23	7,453	38	7,096	10	7	1	5	1	2	5	2,615	2	312	5	0	17,640	344	17,983	
21	YAGRA WEST	21	51,234	17,152	29	31	16	4,556	59	7,969	5	4	3	1	3	3	9	1,010	30	1,002	5	3	16,738	363	17,101	
	TOTAL	21	1,932,474	794,500	1,254	1,440	404	21,819	1,064	446,237	469	130	1,135	62	567	136	242	46,362	781	259,052	668	227	782,289	9,601	791,890	



**INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**KOGI STATE GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION**  
**11th NOVEMBER, 2023**  
**SUMMARY OF RESULTS**  
**VOTES SCORED BY CANDIDATES**

A	B	C	D	E	G
S/N	NAME OF CANDIDATE	GENDER	PARTY	VOTES RECEIVED	REMARKS
1	JIBRIN USMAN OYIBE	MALE	A	1,254	
2	BRAIMOH OLAYINKA ADENEHON	MALE	AA	1,440	
3	ACHIMUGU AUGUSTINE ABU	MALE	AAC	424	
4	ABEJIDE LEKE JOSEPH	MALE	ADC	21,819	
5	ELUKPO JULIUS	MALE	ADP	1,064	
6	AHMED USMAN ODOD	MALE	APC	446,237	
7	ILONAH IDOKO KINGSLEY	MALE	APGA	469	
8	ISAH DAUDA UTENWOJO	MALE	APM	130	
9	ONAJI SUNDAY FRANK	MALE	APP	1,135	
10	MUHAMMAD KABIR UMAR	MALE	BP	82	
11	OKEME ADEJOH	MALE	LP	567	
12	MUSA SALIU MUBARAK	MALE	NNPP	136	
13	DIRISU BALA ABDULGHAFAR	MALE	NRM	242	
14	MELAYE DANIEL DINO	MALE	PDP	46,362	
15	DR. ABDULLAHI BAYAWO	MALE	PRP	781	
16	YAKUBU MURTALA	MALE	SDP	259,052	
17	OMALE SAMSON AGADA	MALE	YPP	868	
18	SULEIMAN TAIYE FATIMA	FEMALE	ZLP	227	



# **FINAL STATEMENT BY THE NIGERIA CIVIL SOCIETY SITUATION ROOM ON ITS OBSERVATION OF THE 2023 GOVERNORSHIP ELECTIONS IN BAYELSA, IMO AND KOGI STATES**

Issued: 2:00 pm, Monday, 13th November 2023

The Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room (Situation Room) is issuing this statement following the conclusion of the collation process in Imo and Kogi States and the ongoing process in Bayelsa State on the 2023 Governorship Elections held on Saturday, 11th November 2023.

## **GENERAL OBSERVATION**

The disturbing reports of high levels of results falsification and other forms of electoral irregularities in the governorship elections in the three States raise serious questions about the credibility of elections and the future of democracy in Nigeria. Nigerians had expected that the lessons learnt from the 2023 General elections by stakeholders, particularly the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), would have been taken to improve the conduct of these elections. Unfortunately, this seems not to be the case, as these elections have proved to be another huge disappointment. The governorship elections conducted in these States represent a major setback for Nigeria's electoral democracy.



## **DEPLOYMENT CHALLENGES AND DELAYED COMMENCEMENT OF POLLS**

Situation Room observers reported that voting commenced late in polling units visited Imo State - only 29 per cent of the polling units had commenced voting by the official time of 8:30 am. According to reports of Situation Room observers, election officials did not turn up in several polling units in Ideato North and Ideato South LGAs and a few polling units in Orlu, Orsu, Okigwe and Oru East LGAs. The failure of INEC to turn up disenfranchised voters in the affected areas.

The situation was relatively different in Bayelsa and Kogi States, where 66 per cent and 86 per cent of the polling units observed commenced voting by the official time of 8:30 am. Voting in Bayelsa State was, however, affected by the incidents of the capsized boat in Southern Ijaw LGA and the abduction of



INEC's Supervisory Presiding Officer assigned to Registration Area 06 (Ossioma) in Sagbama LGA.

### BI-MODAL VOTER'S ACCREDITATION SYSTEM (BVAS)

The BVAS functioned optimally in most polling units where it was used for accreditation in these States. However, Situation Room is concerned by reports of over-voting in the three States and INEC's failure to apply the provisions of the Electoral Act 2022 in addressing the menace last Saturday. Also, the inability of INEC to synchronize the record of accreditation by the BVAS with the Result Viewing Portal (IReV Portal) in real time despite improved access to internet broadband in Nigeria is questionable. By permitting the bypass of the BVAS, INEC has effectively rolled back the gains of electoral reform recorded in recent times.

### RESULTS MANAGEMENT

The Situation Room received reports of falsification and mutilation of polling unit-level results in the three States. INEC had acknowledged incidents of pre-filled result sheets before the commencement of polls affecting 5 LGAs in Kogi State –Adavi, Ajaokuta, Ogori/Mangongo, Okehi and Okene. Regrettably, INEC has gone ahead to collate results from these LGAs without conducting any thorough investigation and making its findings public. This is condemnable.

With respect to Imo State, the Situation Room



is surprised to see INEC transmit results for polling units where the election was not held in the earlier mentioned LGAs. In Bayelsa, politicians attempted to exploit INEC's weaknesses to tamper with results, especially in Brass, Sagbama, Southern Ijaw and Nembe LGAs.

These incidents question INEC's integrity and the willingness and ability of the Commission to conduct credible elections. To ascertain the depth of the damage, Situation Room is calling on the Commission to release data of accredited voters as recorded on the BVAS and total votes cast on a local government basis in these States.

### VOTER TURNOUT

Situation Room finds it hard to ascertain the most probable turnout of voters in these elections as a result of the reported irregularities, especially in Imo and Kogi States.

### ELECTION SECURITY

Situation Room's network of partners reported incidents of violence in Imo, Bayelsa



and Kogi States. In Bayelsa State, an observer of the Situation Room was chased out of the Ward Collation Centre in Ogbia township by personnel of the Nigerian Army, while an observer working with the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) was attacked and her phone confiscated by a party agent in polling unit 003, Ogboloma Town Square, Ward 11, Kolokuma LGA without any intervention from the security agents present at the polling unit.

Situation Room partners also reported 19 incidents of violence by noon on election day in the three States. These incidents of violence were recorded in Anyigba, Dekina LGA of Kogi State, Sagbama and Brass of Bayelsa State and Ikeduru LGA of Imo State.

It will seem that security agents deployed for election duty, rather than help in securing the process and ensuring its integrity, they opted to collude with politicians and even in some cases, protected the politicians, enabling them to indulge in vote buying and other conducts that compromised the elections in these three states.

#### **VOTE TRADING**

The commercialization of Nigeria's elections appears to have reached unprecedented heights. Political parties and their agents operated openly and with impunity, distributing money in the purchase of votes without any effort from the security agents to contain it. Sums paid at polling units ranged from N1,000 to N30,000, along with cooked and uncooked food items. There has to be an effective mechanism to halt politicians weaponizing poverty to win elections in Nigeria.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Situation Room is deeply disappointed with



**Y.Z Ya'u**

Convener, Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room

the conduct of the governorship elections that held in Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi States and worries that the elections fell far below the threshold of credible elections. These elections represent a major setback in Nigeria's democratic development. Situation Room calls on INEC to fully review the elections in Kogi and Imo States to identify the incidents of malpractice that took place and reflect the genuine vote of the people. Situation Room is reiterating its earlier call for an independent audit of election administration in Nigeria and compliance with electoral law by INEC. Without this, we are worried that not much improvement can be achieved.

#### **SIGNED:**

**Y.Z Ya'u**

Convener, Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room

#### **MIMIDOO ACHAKPA**

Co-Convener, Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room

#### **FRANKLIN OLONIJU**

Co-Convener, Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room



**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE 1-DAY ROUND TABLE FOR YOUTH FOCUS ORGANIZATIONS AND MEDIA, ORGANIZED BY THE CONSCIENCE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION (CHRCR) AT HALIMS HOTEL, GANAJA JUNCTION, LOKOJA ON FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WOMEN TRUST FUND NIGERIA WITH SUPPORT FROM MACARTHUR FOUNDATION.**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Round Table meeting was aimed at developing synergy among youths and youth focused organizations and the Media in Kogi State towards increasing the effective participation of youth and young persons in governance at State and community levels.

The Round Table had in attendance Youth organizations and Media practitioners.

There was paper presentations on Inspiring Youths for Leadership by Executive Director, Conscience for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution (CHRCR) Idris Miliki Abdul, Challenges of Youth in Attaining Leadership position and the way forward by Executive Director, Initiative for Grassroot Advancement in Nigeria (INGRA), Hamza Aliyu and Goodwill message from Kogi State Youth Development Commission. There was also **the unveiling of the Inspiring Youth for Leadership Network (IYLN)**, plenary discussions and Questions and Answer sessions.

**OBSERVATIONS:**

Participants made the following observations

- The establishment of The Kogi State Youth Development Commission in Kogi State is welcome development
- However the Commission as constituted may not deliver the desired results as intended.
- There are several youth focused government agencies and department working at cross roads purposes with each other
- Youth make up over 60% of the population of the State and it voting power
- The number of young persons elected or appointed to decision making position are not comparable to the voting strength of youth in Kogi State
- The Nigerian Youth Council has not been effective in mobilizing and advocating the issues of youth and Young persons in leadership positions.
- Kogi State Budgetary process has not been youth and gender sensitive
- The Constitutional provision on age of voting is discriminatory to the rights of Young persons to be voted for at age of 18 years.
- Youth capacity to engage in governance is a major challenge in effective participation for young persons
- Issues of youth participation in governance has not been as forcefully in the forefront of State discussions as it should be
- The issue of youth in the media space has not been given prominent attention as expected
- **Non conduct of Local government elections in Kogi State and lack of machinery put in place to conduct such elections before the expiration of the current elected Council that expires on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 is a deprivation of opportunities for youths to participate in governance and leadership at local levels**



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Kogi State Government need to allocate more resources to the Youth Development Commission to improve their effectiveness in addressing youth issues in the State
- There is need for coordination and synergy between all Youth focused Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and also among Youth focused Organizations
- The Media reportage on youth issues must be deliberate and long term to achieve desired impact on youth leadership
- Youths must translate their electoral strength to elective and appointive positions in the State
- Advocacy for Constitutional amendment on the reduction on the age to vote and be voted for, needs to be strengthened
- Kogi State Budget process needs to be more participatory involving youth and youth focused organizations
- **There is need for consistent and periodic elections at local government levels in accordance with relevant laws and Constitutional provisions of Federal Republic of Nigeria, as at when due to strengthen the platform for youth participation in political governance and leadership.**

The Round Table commended the continuous engagement of relevant stakeholders towards youth leadership in the state, and the continuous partnership of The Nigeria Women Trust Fund and the support of MacArthur Foundation

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**IDRIS MILIKI ABDUL**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**CONSCIENCE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION (CHRCR)**  
**LOKOJA, KOGI STATE**



Group Picture during the One Day Round-Table for Youth Focus Organizations and Media on Inspiring Youth for Leadership Organized by CHRCR in partnership with the NWTF. On Friday 24th November, 2023 at Halims Hotel, Lokoja, Kogi State.



# LG CHAIRMAN AUCTIONS OVER 20 VEHICLES, FANS, TV THREE WEEKS TO EXPIRATION OF TENURE

by Kogi Report

**B**arely three weeks to the expiration of tenure, the Chairman of Ijumu local government area of Kogi state, Hon. Taufiq Isah, has allegedly auctioned properties worth hundreds of millions of naira belonging to the local government.



over affairs of the local government.

This is the first time in the history of Ijumu Local Government when a Council Chairman will sell properties of government just less than a month

The Chairman, according to an insider who craved anonymity, allegedly sold the items to himself through political allies as efforts to resist his fraudulent move were met with threats of using security agencies to arrest anyone that goes against his plan.

to end his tenure without giving room for due process.

The insider revealed that items allegedly sold out included; two Toyota Corolla 1.8 Salon 2014 model, Toyota Camry salon, Toyota Hummer Hiace Bus belonging to the legislative council, Toyota Hiace Conference bus and that of NULGE, Toyota Camry salon car Envelope, 2 Toyota Sienna, Ford Hilux Van, Ford Jeep, Toyota Pick Up Van, Quiqui, Dyna Van and other vehicles.

The Local Government Secretariat is now empty as tractors distributed by Governor Yahaya Bello to enhance farming and food security including the ones he met have been sold at a ridiculous amount.

Other government valuable such as ploughs, harrows, tractor scrap, tractors (Ursus 4512), MF3755, new Holland, 2 cat graders 120G and others were sold for 16,560,000 Naira.

Before his appointment as Administrator in 2016 and subsequent election as Chairman in December 2020, the Local Government will always grade feeder roads but Isah has sold the graders as most rural roads are presently impassable and in a dilapidated condition.

The remaining items are; 4 televisions, 5 standing fans, generators, 4 refrigerators, typewriters, motor saw and so on.

There is nothing left in the Local Government anymore. Government of Alhaji Yahaya Bello, eminent Ijumu personalities must not allow this fraudulent auction which will turn our Local Government to a desert and shadow of its self.

A staff of the local government who pleaded anonymity because she was not mandated to speak, wants the State Governor, Alhaji Yahaya Bello, to dissolve the process and direct refund of funds collected in the exercise, saying the entire local government will be empty if the auctioning activities are allowed to succeed.

How will a man sell 70% of government property to himself through proxy?"

She noted that "the sales of the properties have milked the local government dry as nothing is left for anyone that will take

She stated that no local government staff benefitted from the exercise and there was no transparency and accountability in the entire process.

Further investigations also revealed that the auction was done in connivance with an auctioneer, Salawu Onimisi.



Ijumu Local Government Secretariat

## News Sources

<https://kogireports.com/kogi-lg-chairman-auctions-over-20-vehicles-fans-tv-three-weeks-to-expiration-of-tenure/>





RC: 1582014

## CONSCIENCE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION (CHRCR)

Whereas, the majority of the Nigerian Society suffering various forms of violence, conflict and indignity to their person? Realizing the need to campaign for the promotion of human rights and peaceful co-existence. The Conscience for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution (CHRCR) based in Lokoja, Kogi State now replace the formal Centre for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution as part of our growth and status the need to make expansion, the Conscience now replace the Centre. The Conscience for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution is incorporated Limited by Guarantee RC: 1582014 on 6th May, 2019.

### NETWORKS

We are members of the following networks of organizations;

Electoral Reform Network (ERN), Freedom of Information Coalition (FOI), Network on Community Radio (NCR), Citizen Forum for Constitutional Reform (CFCR), Citizen Wealth Platform (CWP), National Coalition on Affirmative Action (NCAA), Partners Against Violent Extremism (PAVE), Civil Society Network against Corruption (CSNAC), Budget Monitoring and Advocacy Group (BMAG), PLAC/Situation Room, Global Network on Investigative Journalism (GNIJ), The International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ), Network on Police Reform in Nigeria (NOPRIN), bases on our current project intervention in Kogi State. Part of the outcome/fallout of the engagement on Anti-Corruption, Transparency and Accountability. Network on Anti-corruption, Transparency and Accountability (NATA) was created for the purpose sustainability, information sharing and capacity building of stakeholders in the fight against corruption in Nigeria, and Inspiring Youth for Leadership Network (IYLN)

### ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Our activities includes the following:

- Peace and conflict resolution,
- Elections monitoring/observation,
- Gender advocacy,
- Voters education,
- Legislative lobbying and engagement,
- Budget Advocacy,
- Security and counter terrorism advocacy: Currently National Steering Committee Member, National Action plan for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE), domiciled in the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA)

Our major instrument of advocacy is through the media engagement which include both print and electronic. We conduct training, facilitation and we network with various organizations which includes but not limited to NGO/CSO, Labour Union, Women Groups, Youth Association and Community Based Organizations. We also partner with National and International Agencies.

### PAST INTERVENTIONS

- Between 2009 – 2014, we introduce to the Kogi State Assembly GENDER AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY BILLS which was passed in March 2014 into Law after rigorous lobbying. The Bill was the first in the Northern Nigeria and also the third in the Federation as part of the effort to domesticate Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discriminations against Women (CEDAW).
- We also led the process that culminated in the passage of FREEDOM OF INFORMATION BILL (FOI) which was also passed into law in 2013 to enhance transparency and accountability in governance, the first of its kind in Nigeria at State level.
- We co-ordinated Voters Registration Observations in the entire 21 Local Governments of the Kogi State in 2011 in partnership with Alliance for Credible Elections (ACE).
- We also co-ordinated for Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), its Anti-Corruption Revolution Anchor in the North Central.
- We work on Countering Violence Extremism (CVE)
- We coordinated VOTE NOT FIGHT, ELECTION NO BE WAR, a voter's education programme targeting the youths and their influential against electoral violence in Kogi State during the 2015 General elections supported by National Democratic Institute (NDI).
- We facilitated for Foreign Observers for IRI in Kogi State during the Presidential and National Assembly elections.
- Implemented a Project on Anti-corruption, Transparency and Accountability in Elections in Kogi State. In partnership with Yur'Adua Foundation with the support of MacArthur Foundation.
- Working on Open Government Partnership (OGP) in Kogi State in partnership with Centre LSD.

### PUBLICATIONS

- We research and published a book on the plight of widows in the Northern Nigeria titled WAILING WIDOWS.
- Monthly publication of THE PERSPECTIVES Magazine since January 2016 till date.
- Annual Budget Pull-Out of selected MDAs in Kogi State since 2016 till date.
- A Weekly live Phone-in Radio Programme
- We also produce and air jingles on Elections, Good Governance, Anti-Corruption, Transparency, Accountability, Electoral Violence and COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Compendium of Anti-Corruption, Transparency and Accountability Intervention in Kogi State, Volume One, 2019

### PARTNERS

We partners with the following organizations/Institutions; International Republican Institute (IRI), National Democratic Institute (NDI), UNDP/DGD, Alliance for Credible Elections (ACE), Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CSLAC), Institute of Peace and Conflict Resolutions (IPCR), Kogi State House of Assembly, European Union Technical Assistance to Nigeria's Evolving Security Challenges (EUTANS), Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), International Centre on Counter terrorism (ICCT), Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC)/Situation Room, Citizen Wealth Platform (CWP), Centre for Social Justice (CSJ), Yur'Adua Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, African Centre for Leadership Strategy and Development (Centre-LSD), Peace Initiative Network (PIN), Yiaga Africa, The Nigeria Women Trust Fund (NWTFF) and The International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ)

### OUR GOAL

Our goal is to institutionalise Anti-Corruption, Transparency and Accountability in Nigeria by ensuring necessary political commitment to deepen and spread Anti-Corruption, Transparency and Accountability.

### SECRETARIAT ADDRESS:

Jelesinni Memorial Plaza, 2, Chris Ali Close, by Muritala Muhammed Way, Lokoja, Kogi State, Nigeria.

Tel: 08038884367, 09038115284 Website: [www.resolutioncentre.ng](http://www.resolutioncentre.ng) E-mail: [resolutioncentre@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:resolutioncentre@yahoo.co.uk)

Facebook: CHRCRPerspective Twitter: @CHRCRPerspective D-U-N-S No: 561346357 TIN No.: 23826782-0001



# CALL TO ACTION

## On Anti-corruption Transparency and Accountability

### OUR GOAL

**Our goal is to institutionalise Anti-corruption, Transparency and Accountability in Nigeria by ensuring necessary political commitment to deepen and spread Anti-corruption Transparency and Accountability.**

#### LITTLE THINGS MATTER

*Corruption does not seem harmful until it is too late*

It is often easy to ignore impacts of petty corruption when they appear to be little more than inconveniences. But collective permissiveness of minor graft creates an enabling environment for corruption to fester, resulting in a problem far more difficult to solve.

Stop tolerating petty corruption. Pay attention to the smallest signs of retail corruption in public service delivery and be prepared to demand accountability from government service providers.

#### FATALISM IS PARALYSING

*Anti-corruption strategies are less likely to be successful when entrenched practices are considered impossible to overcome*

Decades of unchecked corruption in Nigeria's public institutions and a history of inept leadership have destroyed public faith in governance and created a sense of fatalism. Citizens are unlikely to be motivated to combat corruption because experience suggests that nothing will change.

The fight against corruption can be won. New approaches must be adopted to create social incentives for collection action against corruption. Leaders must inspire faith in anti-corruption efforts by implementing tangible reforms in public institutions. Civil society and community leaders must develop and promote a national social contract that rewards accountability and enforces social sanctions for unacceptable behaviour.

#### CHANGING OUR APPROACH TO ANTI-CORRUPTION MESSAGING

*Sensational messaging desensitizes the public to corruption*

Traditional approaches to anti-corruption messaging in Nigeria have been characterized by sensational reporting of corruption cases involving huge amounts of money or the use of extreme language to eliminate undesirable behaviour. These kinds of messages risk inducing apathy in citizens by reinforcing their sense of powerlessness in the face of rampant corruption.

Anti-corruption messages must be carefully framed to effectively communicate the negative impacts of corrupt behaviour while empowering targeted audiences to take practical and effective action. Pro-accountability actors must avoid the one-size-fits-all approach to anti-corruption messaging and ensure that messages are assessed for effectiveness before dissemination.

#### LITTLE ONES MATTER

*Education can help prevent corruption by fostering a culture of integrity*

An effective way to tackle corruption is to teach children to recognize it, reject it and condemn those who tolerate it.

School curriculums must incorporate ethics and civic education in the curriculum. Parents, teachers and school administrators must recognize their responsibility to shape the values of the next generation by exhibiting high standards of integrity, honesty and transparency in their actions.

#### REDESIGNING GOVERNMENT PROCESS TO MAKE CORRUPTION AVOIDANCE PRACTICAL

*Doing the wrong thing becomes a rational choice if doing the right thing is too difficult*

In Nigeria, avoiding corruption may not be the most practical option. Governance processes are not designed to be citizen-friendly. It is easy to fall afoul of regulations because procedures are needlessly complicated and poorly documented.

Complying with penalties for relatively minor violations is unnecessarily difficult and creates incentives for extortion by law enforcement agencies.

Government must rethink and redesign routine procedures for providing public services to ensure they are citizen and business friendly. Options for complying with penalties for minor violations should include online platforms where citizens can lodge complaints, dispute imposed penalties and report instances of solicitation or extortion.

#### POLITICISING CORRUPTION CAN DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD

*Political bias in the fight against corruption undermines public faith in anti-corruption efforts*

In Nigeria, fighting corruption can be an excuse to persecute political opponents. Government and its anti-graft agencies are often accused of abusing their power and being biased in choosing which allegations of corruption to investigate or prosecute. In several cases, court rulings are disregarded.

Fighting corruption is already a difficult mission. The abuse of state power compounds Nigeria's accountability challenge. The government must be seen to be fair in applying sanctions and anti-corruption agencies must operate independently and within the scope of the law.

### COURTESY



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