



# INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Zambezi Crescent, Maitama District, P.M.B. 0184, Garki - Abuja.  
Federal Capital Territory.

Telephone: .....

Ref. No. ....

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING BETWEEN MEDIA EXECUTIVES AND THE INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC) ON THE NEED TO EXPAND VOTER ACCESS TO POLLING UNITS IN NIGERIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

## PREAMBLE

Media Executives met today, Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021 with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as part of the Commission's national engagement and consultations with stakeholders on the need to expand voter access to Polling Units in Nigeria. The meeting was attended by several Media Executives (See attached list of attendance) including the President of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, Comrade Chris Isiguzo (See attached list of attendance).

Also in attendance were the Chairman of INEC, National Commissioners, Commission's Secretary, Resident Electoral Commissioners (RECs) and other Senior Officials of the Commission. The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of INEC, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu.

During the engagement, which coincided with the first regular quarterly engagement with Media executives and the Commission for the year 2021, INEC presented documentary and visual evidence on the challenges of voter access to Polling Units in Nigeria. Among them was the INEC Discussion Paper No.1/2021 titled, *The State of Voter Access to Polling Units in Nigeria*.

## RESOLUTIONS

Following extensive deliberations, the meeting resolved as follows:


1. That given the current state of voter access to Polling Units in Nigeria, expanding access to Polling Units is fundamental and critical to the exercise of the right to vote and to the conduct of free, fair, credible and safe elections.

2. That given the limited time towards the 2023 General Election and other off-cycle Governorship elections in Anambra, Ekiti and Osun states, the Media Executives support the INEC proposal of converting the existing and well-known Voting Points and Voting Point Settlements into full-fledged Polling Units.
3. The Media Executives urged the Commission to continue exploring other options of expanding Voter Access to Polling Units as the need arises in response to increased population and demographic changes.
4. The meeting agreed on the necessity and urgency for a framework and guidelines for the conversion of existing Voting Points and Voting Point Settlements into full-fledged Polling Units.
5. Media executives will collaborate with and support the Commission in achieving this objective and in sensitizing the public on the necessity of promoting measures towards a routinized and seamless expansion of Voter Access to Polling Units.
6. The Meeting commended INEC for embarking on wide consultation with all stakeholders in order to facilitate a consensus and build trust in expanding Voter access to Polling Units.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF MEDIA EXECUTIVES

  
12-02-2021  
(Comrade Chris Chris Isiguzo, President NUJ)

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF INEC

  
12-02-2021  
(Barr. Festus Okoye, Chairman Information and Voter Education)

## LIST OF ATTENDANCE

### Physical

1. President NUJ
2. Premium Times
3. NTA
4. AIT
5. Kuftan TV
6. Galaxy TV
7. Daily Times Nigerian Tribune
8. BluePrint Newspaper
9. Leadership Newspaper

### Virtual

10. NAN
11. ABS
12. News Dot Africa
13. The Sight News
14. Nagarta Radio
15. The Guardian Newspaper
16. Radio Kogi
17. EBS
18. NTA Akure