PRESS RELEASE

CISLAC commends Jonathan, Charges Buhari on Objectivity

Following the last development in the Nigeria’s political landscape, with the announcement of General Muhammad Buhari as successful candidate in the 2015 Presidential Election, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre congratulates people of Nigeria as they have peacefully conducted themselves and participated in the elections.

Although challenges were encountered with the newly introduced card reader, which malfunctioned in some part of the country, however, patriotic effort and efficiency displayed by the Board, Management and Staff of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as well as polling personnel who in most polling units managed the polling operations in a professional manner, amidst operational challenges such as failure of the Smart Card Readers throughout the poll is commendable and appreciated.

We observed that the polling process was generally peaceful during the accreditation as well as voting and counting processes, despite isolated incidence of violence reported in Anambra, Rivers, Imo, Bayelsa, Akwa ibom, and Enugu states.

While we recognize and commend the sitting President, Goodluck Ebele Jonathan for such democratic effort that upheld a peaceful atmosphere throughout the election and his subsequent democratically peaceful acceptance of outcome from the poll, we also encourage him to maintain the spirited effort towards successful hand over to the President-elect in accordance with the Constitutional provision.

We join all well-meaning Nigerians to congratulate the President-elect, General Muhammad Buhari upon his victory from the poll; and urge to remain objective and focused while discharging his mandates as the President of Federal Republic of Nigeria. We demand that the President-elect work toward maintaining equality and ensure unified Nigerians in spite of their diverse social and ethno-religion backgrounds.

Having observed drastic turnover in the National Assembly with newly elected Senators and Members of the House of Representatives, we charge incoming and re-elected legislators on due diligence in discharging their primary mandates—oversight, lawmaking, promotion of good governance and adequate representation of the interest of Nigerians. We encourage the legislators in fulfillment of their electoral mandates, to incorporate accessibility and constructive participation by the citizens from diverse backgrounds.
We charge civil society and the media to never relent in their pursuit for an impactful democratic nation; and maintain prompt follow-up on campaign promises to demand accountability on adequate delivery at all levels.

As we move towards Gubernatorial Elections, we further urge INEC and all relevant stakeholders to maintain and improve on existing achievement to ensure free and fair conduct of elections across the country.

Signed:

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