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Foreword

The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has made provision for the system of Local Government Administration by democratically elected Local Government Councils for which purpose State Independent Electoral Commissions (SIECs) have been established by the States of Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja. The Kaduna State Independent Electoral Commission (KAD-SIECOM) was therefore established by KD.S. Law No 10 of 2012 with the functions, among others, to conduct voter and civic education and to promote knowledge of sound democratic electoral process.

A review of the activities of the Commission has shown that, with Eight Editions of the Voter Education Pamphlet, focus had been on voter education in preparation for conduct of each election. Activities had therefore been on the 'election process' even when reference was being made to 'electoral process'. The aspect of promoting knowledge of sound democratic electoral process through public education was not being addressed. The Kaduna State Independent Electoral Commission (KAD-SIECOM) in its concern to close this gap by paying appropriate attention to public education has produced three publications, which are all First Editions;

- Handbook for Public Education on Electoral Process,
- Executive Summary: Public Education and the Electoral Process, and
- Prompting Questions for Public and Voter Education Drive.

The contents of these publications have emanated from a paper, which was well received, presented at an International Conference (March, 2016) which reviewed the 2015 National elections. The Kaduna State Independent Electoral Commission (KAD-SIECOM) is determined to fully and effectively implement the electoral process

for entrenching and deepening democracy such that the Commission is seen to be conducting, free, fair and credible elections and those voted into office be seen to be working for the people they represent. The Commission is therefore soliciting for cooperation from all stakeholders towards effectively implementing the electoral process for the development of Kaduna State.

Dr. (Mrs.) Saratu Binta Dikko-Audu

CHAIRMAN KAD-SIECOM

Introduction

The Handbook for Public Education on Electoral Process has been published based on the decision of the Kaduna State Independent Electoral Commission (KAD-SIECOM) to fill the gap in the electoral process created by the focus on voter education to the neglect of promoting knowledge of sound democratic electoral process through public education. The contents of the Commission's public education activities are guided by contents of a paper presented at an International Conference at the Department of Political Science; Faculty of Social Sciences, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, in which conduct of the 2015 National elections was reviewed.

Starting from the position that in a democracy, government is of the people, by the people and for the people, the Handbook has covered issues of the electoral process in a democracy in the Nigerian context and as applies to Kaduna State. The fundamental issue is that all citizens have rights as stakeholders in a democracy, including those not of voting age or those who are unable to vote. The Handbook has therefore clarified basic issues of the difference between the election process and the electoral process and the difference between entrenching and deepening democracy.

Issues covered to bring about public awareness of the electoral process include;

- The phases of the electoral process,
- Governance in a democracy,
- Stakeholders in a democracy,
- Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs)
- The Ward as a basic electoral unit,
- The right of citizens as stakeholders in a democracy,
- Kaduna State Local governments with the number of Wards and Pelling Units,

- The Commission (KAD-SIECOM),
- The election process,
- Electoral offences and sanctions

The Handbook has included the section on information dissemination to emphasize the importance of information and the strategies that can be used for both voter and public education. In the same manner, the section on electoral process for development, deals with activities towards deepening democracy in the role of citizens. The Handbook therefore serves as a reference book and should also help to encourage greater interest and participation in the electoral process by all stakeholders, especially the youth who are not yet of voting age.

Prof. Andrew A. Nkom
Commissioner Public Affairs and Information
KAD-SIECOM

Preamble

This Public Education Handbook is intended to close the information gap created by the focus on elections using Voter Education in the concern to provide information to all Nigerian citizens on the electoral process. This Handbook therefore should help to encourage greater interest and participation in the democratic process.

Nigeria as a Country

Nigeria as a country is a geographical area with fixed porous boundaries inhabited by hundreds of language groups and ethnic nationalities that have to organize themselves to be able protect their territory and themselves and to take care of their welfare. They therefore have to live together in a cooperative relationship, given this diversity. The Nigerian Constitution, based on democracy as the appropriate form of government in these circumstances, was developed as the document that has set out how the country with such diversity is to be run to the benefit of all; how its provisions can be employed to the benefit of the citizens of Nigeria and especially how they can live together cooperatively. The concern is how; based on the Nigerian Constitution and using the electoral process as the bedrock of democracy, Nigerians can all make the Constitution to work so that they can live in peace in this diversity and develop as a united country.

The challenges in the electoral process in Nigeria as a country have to do with its diversity and high level of illiteracy and poverty and therefore with the potentials for manipulation in the tendency to use sectional, ethnic, religious and other divisions. In the situation where elections have become a profitable venture and thus encouraging the attitude of winning by all means, this breeds various forms of cheating and a tendency to violence. Cheating and violence from the tendency to use sectional, ethnic, religious and other divisions to try and win elections by all means, works against the basic principle of

democracy; that of freedom of choice. The setting of the electoral process in the Nigerian context presents challenges to conducting free, fair and credible elections.

Entrenching and Deepening Democracy

The electoral process is the bedrock of democracy in providing the means for forming government and is required to promote both the entrenchment and deepening of democracy using information as the vehicle for effectively carrying out the process. Voter education is the information type that targets how to conduct free and fair elections for the purpose of electing representatives of the people who will form government and is therefore directed at citizens above 18 years of age who are qualified to vote or to be voted for. This information type is for political parties, candidates, voters and all those involved in the election activities in actual conduct of elections. In being concerned with forming government and addressing two aspects of democracy; government of the people and by the people, this information type in helping to improve the quality of elections, works to entrench democracy. However, deepening democracy requires a more expanded electoral process to provide citizens information on needs identification as forming the guide to decisions on the candidates to vote for in elections and on how to monitor those elected as related to meeting identified needs. While voter education is periodic coinciding with and restricted to election periods, there is need for public education, a more expanded information type to cover the electoral process, which must be a continuous exercise that is punctuated by periodic elections.

Nigerian citizens should therefore know about the entire electoral process in a democracy: how the electoral process is the bedrock of democracy; how as individuals, groups or communities they can identify and articulate their needs and use the vote towards meeting those needs; how they can assist towards the conduct of free, fair and

non-violent elections, and how they can monitor their representatives towards ensuring that their needs are met; and that they can hold their representatives accountable. The information required for the entire electoral process in a democracy thus goes beyond that of teaching citizens simply how to vote and should indeed include even those citizens below 18 years of age who by law cannot vote. The most important information that citizens need in a democracy is how to make the vote work for them; including applying pressure where there is need. This therefore shows that there is need for public education extended to all Nigerian citizens different from voter education that is only for those involved in the election process in pre-election, election and post-election activities.

Educating Nigerians on the Electoral Process

Since democracy is government of the people by the people for the people, the ultimate goal of government is to cater for the welfare of the people or citizens. The electoral process for which Nigerians need to be provided information or to be educated therefore covers three major areas referred to as the three phases of the electoral process:

Phase 1

The ability of individuals and groups or communities to understand what democracy is all about and their stake in it for which they are called 'stakeholders'; identify and articulate their needs; and the ability to use the vote towards meeting those needs by electing individuals capable of properly representing them based on understanding that the electoral process is intended to serve their interests.

Phase 2

Active participation and cooperation by all concerned, to assist towards the actual conduct of free, fair and non-violent elections.

Phase3

The ability to monitor their representatives towards ensuring: that their needs are met; that they can hold their representatives accountable; that they can use this information towards future elections; and that they have a window to recall the representatives who fail to serve them.

There is the need to be conscious of the difference between the electoral process which covers these three areas and an election process which is the Phase 2 of the electoral process and covers only election activities in specific elections usually divided into pre-election, election day and post-election activities; post-election activities in this case are restricted to petitions and court processes. This difference must therefore be reflected in the type of information or education to be provided to citizens. Voter Education as part of Public Education, covers only the election process during specific elections and is therefore periodical but Public Education additionally covers the other two areas in preparation for all elections in the fact that stakeholders to democracy go beyond those citizens of 18 years and above who by law qualify to vote and to be voted for and indeed even of these, those who for one reason or the other that are unable to vote. Indeed, Public Education should serve to encourage all citizens to register and to vote for those qualified to do so and for all others to take an interest in governance in serving their needs.

The public as citizens must know not only how to cast votes but more importantly the value of the vote in relation to their well-being. Rather than bemoaning what governments have failed to do for them, citizens must know that they do hold the power to make government work for them but exercising this power must start from a knowledge of what they want those representing them to do, using this to decide on the individuals to vote for and how to impress on or cajole their representatives to actually work in their interest. If voters on the basis

of ethnic, religious and other sentiments or on the basis of inducement such as in money, rice, salt, magi and fertilizer vote in persons who do not work for them, they should not turn round and complain; as the saying goes, he who makes the bed must lie on it. Information to be provided in Public Education for the electoral process must include citizens below the voting age of 18 years who form a large chunk of Nigerians and on whom the future of Nigeria and of democracy must depend; there is indeed the crucial need to 'catch them young'.

Form of Government in Nigeria

Democracy is the form of government upon which the Nigerian Constitution is based. The Nigerian Constitution therefore provides guidance on democratic governance covering the rights of Nigerians or what government should do for them and their obligations or what they in turn are expected to do and how to manage Nigeria's diversity. According to the Constitution, Nigerian government, in line with the definition of democracy, is to operate based on three major objectives;

- Government will be administered on the principles of democracy and social justice
- Power belongs to the people from whom Government derives all its authority
- It is the duty of Government to ensure the security and welfare of the people.

This means, and Nigerian citizens should know, that governing or administering the country will be guided by:

The principles of democracy and of social justice or of participatory involvement in giving everybody his/her due and of equality before the law;

Government will derive its authority or power from the people

through their votes in a sort of servant-master relationship;
and that

Responsibility of government to the citizens is to ensure their
security and welfare.

Along with this,

The affairs of all agencies of Government must be carried out
in such a manner as to recognize the diversity of the Nigerian
people.

'The people' means the generality of Nigerian citizens and these
provisions confer on them

- The right and an obligation for every Nigerian citizen who is
qualified, to vote and be voted for as a representative of the
people
- The right as Nigerian citizens to monitor the implementation
of these major objectives by those they vote into government;
as regards ensuring their security and welfare;
- The right in summary for citizens to monitor the
implementation of the objectives of governance.

The act of monitoring performance based on these objectives thus
goes beyond that of individuals representing communities and
includes government at Federal, State and Local Government Council
levels. At each of these three levels, government is to; be
administered on the principles of democracy and social justice, derive
its power and authority from the people or serve the people, and
ensure the security and welfare of the people within its jurisdiction.
Apart from federal character for instance, there must also be state and
local government character in employment and distribution of
amenities. In other words these objectives are not the preserve of the
Federal government alone, but states and local governments are also
required to strive to attain them.

Features of a Democratic Government

To be recognized as being democratic, a government is required to
have and exhibit the following features;

- Periodic elections; conducting elections at fixed periods of
time
- More than one political party; having more than one party for
choice by electorate
- Free and fair elections; conducting elections that give political
parties equal chances
- Freedom to vote and be voted for; allowing all persons
qualified, to vote or be voted for
- Fundamental human rights; observing individual rights as
enshrined in documents
- Rule of law; ensuring that all persons are seen and treated
equally in implementing laws
- Freedom of the press; allowing the press access to source and
disseminate information

Laws are enacted in a democracy for these features; periodic
elections, registration of political parties, registration of voters and
conducting elections. They are implemented by the electoral bodies,
which in Nigeria include; Independent National Electoral Commission
(INEC) and State Independent Electoral Commission (SIECs) which
conduct national and local government elections respectively. That
four out of these seven items of features of a democratic government
are the responsibility of electoral bodies therefore indicates that they
have a critical role to play in a democracy. They perform the function
of; fixing periods for elections, registering political parties, conducting
free and fair elections and providing conditions for allowing Nigerians
the freedom to vote and to be voted for. In other words for
governments to confirm or exhibit their democratic credentials, they
must give prominence to the electoral bodies to enable them carry
out these functions in the electoral process.

Activities of Democratic Government

There are specific activities that are carried out by government in a democracy, including;

- Formulation of policies; providing guidance on activities of government
- Protection of the Nigerian territory; maintaining national integrity from invasions
- Law making; making laws for the good of and protection of citizens
- Maintenance of law and order; applying laws to protect the individual from molestation
- Provision of social amenities; food, water, health, education, housing

As representing the people, it is a right as Nigerian citizens, to monitor the implementation of these activities by those they vote into government. Nigerian citizens should monitor:

The policies that have been formulated for carrying out government activities;

The protection that government on a national, state and local government level is providing;

The laws that are being made for their welfare and protection;

The individual security that citizens have of life and property and

The social amenities; food, water, health, education, housing being provided.

These are the activities that indicate how well government is working to provide these needs and thereby show the level of deepening of democracy. In monitoring these activities, Nigerian citizens are able to influence governance through the electoral process; that is the ultimate end of the vote in a democracy. Just as with objectives of

governance, these activities are not the preserve of the Federal government alone, but State and Local governments are also required to strive to; formulate policies to guide their activities, protect their boundaries, make bye-laws for the good and protection of their people, and provide social amenities.

Arms of Government

Government is the organization through which the country is run in order to provide for the needs of the citizens and political parties are established for the purpose of presenting candidates for election into elective positions and forming government. The democratic system of government has three arms, which serve to provide checks and balances in running government; carrying out day-to-day administration, making laws, and interpreting and applying the laws. The three arms to provide checks and balances in running government include;

- Executive; those to form government at federal, state and local government levels and execute programmes for the well-being of the citizens
- Legislature; to make laws for carrying out the affairs of government for good governance
- Judiciary; to interpret and apply the laws.

Elections are carried out to fill positions for the executive and legislative arms of government while positions in the judiciary are by appointment. However, in being appointed through the instruments of the executive arms and in being funded by government, the judiciary has some level of control by the executive arm of government. The executive arm made up of State governors and the President and their appointees as commissioners and ministers respectively with advisors and members in Parastatals and Boards carry out the administrative responsibilities of governance. The

legislature made up of federal and state houses of assembly make laws while the judiciary interpret and implement the laws. These functions though separate and at the same time complementary are expected to enhance efficiency in governance.

The Electoral Process

Electoral process covers all issues and activities related to elections such as; understanding the purpose of elections in a democracy, identification of needs by groups and communities, basing decisions on who to vote for in the election process on these issues, conducting elections and monitoring performance of elected representatives including the governments they *form*, as the basis for decisions on the next round of elections. The electoral process is thus made up of three phases as shown;

Phases of the Electoral Process

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	
	Needs Identification and Articulation	Election Process	Needs Implementation and Monitoring	Link with Phase 1
Action By	Interest Groups and Communities	Electoral Bodies and Support Organizations	Representatives/Groups/Communities	Link with Phase 1
Information Type	Public Education	Voter Education	Public Education	Link with Phase 1
Outcome	Decision: Re-Election/Higher Office OR Rejection	Representatives Elected and Government Formed	Decisions on level of Needs Implementation	Link with Phase 1

The electoral process depends on information being provided to citizens through Public Education and Voter Education. Public education is carried out in Phase 1 of the electoral process to provide information on democracy and its links with the electoral process,

which allows for citizens to carry out needs assessment and to articulate their needs in preparation for election. This step helps those of voting age to decide which candidates to vote for on the expectation that they will actually work for them. Phase 2 is that of the actual election in which Voter Education is used to teach voters what they need to do to ensure that an election is *free*, fair and credible. Public education continues in Phase 3 after petitions are settled by the courts, to assist citizens monitor and assess the performance of their representatives. This phase dovetails into Phase 1 in determining course of action at the next election process. Public education is a continuous activity that is punctuated by the periodic election activities with the sole purpose of getting citizens to be actively involved in the electoral process.

Stakeholders in Electoral Process

Four groups of citizens can be identified in the electoral process, that are usually taken into consideration in the information to be given in both Public Education and Voter Education: the general group of all Nigerian citizens; those registered and able to vote or are unable to vote for one reason or the other; those qualified to register but are not registered also for one reason or the other; and potential voters not yet of voting age many of whom could be short by a few months or even weeks. For Phase 3 of the electoral process which has usually been neglected, the principal targets include: those elected as representatives; the voters who elected them; the citizens in the constituency making up those the elected persons are to represent and to work for and the voters within constituencies with the power of recall. However, the critical phase in the electoral process is the election process with information in Voter Education directed at: educating those qualified on how to vote; political parties on their role; those performing specific election duties; the offences and penalties involved; petitions and avenues for redress.

The focus on Voter Education therefore has the implication of denying over 50 percent of citizens or the general public as citizens under the age of 18 years the education they need for the most important aspect of deepening democracy through the electoral process. Conducting consistently fair and credible elections involving those who can vote and be voted for is a process of entrenching democracy. However, deepening democracy goes beyond that because it requires that the welfare of all citizens is catered for; that government is seen to be for the people, which is the principal function of a democracy. The adage 'catch them young' must be made to apply to the deepening of democracy through the inclusion of this group of Nigerian citizens in education on the electoral process.

Groups of Stakeholders

These groups of stakeholders are the ones to whom both public and voter education are to be directed and tailored to their needs as a means for showing them why they need to vote and benefits they should expect to get through their votes; this is the basis for political party manifestoes. The information provided through voter and general public education is important because it should assist the groups to articulate their needs to their representatives and to monitor their representatives after the elections as to whether or not their needs are being met; which in extreme conditions could lead to recall. The groups based on their needs and motivation to vote and to thereby press for their needs being met all contribute to the deepening of Democracy through the electoral process. The groups include;

- Political Parties: Manifestoes; Primaries; Nomination of Candidates; Campaigns; Infringements; Penalties; Security; the Vote; Rights and Responsibilities
- Traditional Leaders: Father Role; Security; Information Chain to Subjects; the Vote
- Religious Leaders: Father Role; Security; Information

- Chain to Congregations; the Vote
- Development Associations: Role in Communities; Community Needs; Security; Relevant Information Chain to Communities; the Vote; Rights and Responsibilities
- Workers Unions: Place in Society; Needs; Security; Relevant Information Chain to Members; the Vote; Rights and Responsibilities
- Women Groups: Place in Society; Needs; Security; Relevant Information Chain to Members; the Vote; Rights and Responsibilities
- The Nigerian Child: Place as future of Society; Needs; Security; Relevant Information across ages; the Vote; Rights and Responsibilities
- Youth Groups: Place in Society; Needs; Security; Relevant Information Chain to Members; the Vote; Rights and Responsibilities
- Special Groups: Inclusiveness; Challenges; Needs; Relevant Information to challenges and members; the Vote
- NON-Governmental Organizations {NGOs}: Covering Different Aspects and Groups of Stakeholders and Interests; Serving to Educate Elected Representatives; the people they represent, representative role, interaction in reporting and consultation

The list of groups of stakeholders gives an indication of the various interests that are required to be catered for in a democracy and for whom Electoral Management Bodies {EMBs} have a responsibility as citizens of Nigeria. This represents not only groups of persons who can vote but especially children or those below the age of 18 years who all have interests and therefore expectations from the electoral process.

The interest groups as stakeholders as listed above such as of subjects of traditional institutions, congregations of religious institutions, women, special groups, other groups and associations are not defined by age. Voter education is therefore directed at the groups of persons who are of voting age, who have registered to vote or who are interested in being voted for. It is based on those expectations that the electorate can monitor those they cast their votes for at all levels and hold them responsible. Those who serve their constituencies well are better placed to be re-elected or get elected into higher offices, while those who do not serve them well are less likely to be re-elected in subsequent elections or in extreme cases, can face the possibility of being recalled.

Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) in Nigeria

The term 'Electoral Management Bodies' (EMBs) refers to those organizations established by Law and charged with the responsibility for carrying out electoral activities in Nigeria; covering the three phases of the electoral process. They include; Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to conduct federal and state elections and State Independent Electoral Commissions (SIECs) to conduct local government elections. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) conducts elections for; Office of President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, State governors, Senators and members of the Federal and State Houses of Assembly. Each State Independent Electoral Commission (SIEC) conducts local government elections for the positions of chairman and councilors in each individual state. The two electoral bodies have the function of working to entrench and deepen democracy through the information activities of Voter Education and Public Education that are Ward-based. The (EMBs) are therefore required by Law to provide information through both Voter Education and Public Education to Nigerians covering the electoral process: inform them about elections in a democracy especially in its function of serving their needs; help them to determine the types of

representatives they require; teach them how to cooperate in carrying out free, fair and credible elections for that purpose; how to monitor their representatives in relation to meeting their needs; and to prepare them for sustaining this process. However, EMBs are not to be confused with election management bodies; those involved in actual conduct of elections including; Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) and their staff, political parties and candidates, security agencies, donor agencies, election monitors/observers and other relevant bodies.

The Ward as Basic Electoral Unit

Kaduna State has a total of 255 Wards and 5108 Polling Units from which voter registers are compiled. Part of the function of KAD•SIECOM as contained in the Law setting it up is to render such advice as it may consider necessary to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on the compilation of and on the register of voters in so far as that register is applicable to Local Government elections in the State. However, of importance to the electoral process is the fact that Wards from which registers of voters are derived are grouped to form constituencies where a Ward is a collection of people while the constituency marks a geographical area for electoral purposes. Those elected into any elective position at Federal, State and Local Government levels become their representatives and are accountable to the Wards in which votes were cast for their election. The register of voters as initiated by SIECs is therefore applicable not only to local government elections butte all elections in Nigeria.

An elected person represents the Wards in which votes were cast for his/her election. President and Head of State represents all Wards in Nigeria; a Governor of a state represents all Wards in the state and Chairman of a local government council represents all Wards in the local government area because all Wards cast the votes for their election at federal, state and local government level respectively. For

the others, Wards are constituted to form federal and state and local government constituencies for their election and they therefore represent those Wards that form their constituencies. Such other elective offices include those of; Distinguished Senator, Member Federal House of Assembly, Member State House of Assembly and Councilor. Regardless of political party that presented the candidate, once elected the candidate represents all citizens of the Wards in which votes were cast at his/her election.

Kaduna State Local Government Council Wards and Polling Units

The Kaduna State Independent Electoral Commission (KAD-SIECOM) has responsibility to carry out the activities of the Electoral Process. KAD-SIECOM therefore has to educate citizens on the Nigerian constitution, features and activities of government on the election process as well as conduct local government elections. Kaduna State has twenty three (23) Local Government Areas (LGAs) in which elections are held for the purpose of forming Local Government Councils (LGCs) made up of a chairman and councilors as follows;

Local Government Area	Number of Wards	Number of Polling Units
Birnin Gwari	11	182
Chikun	12	263
Giwa	11	137
Igabi	12	367
Ikara	10	197
Jaba	10	110
Jema'a	12	216
Kachia	12	214
Kaduna North	12	408
Kaduna South	13	449
Kagarko	10	113
Kajuru	10	153
Kaura	10	157

Kauru	11	177
Kubau	11	211
Kudan	10	160
Lere	11	249
Makarfi	10	160
Sabon Gari	11	266
Sanga	11	131
Soba	11	214
Zangon Kataf	11	215
Zaria	13	334

The Local Government Chairman is the head of the Local Government Council (LGC), consisting of a number of Councilors representing the Wards in the Local Government Area (LGA). Of importance to the electoral process is the fact that these Wards form constituencies for national and state elections such that those elected into any office at Federal, State and Local Government levels become representatives of those Wards and are accountable to the citizens of the Wards as their electoral constituencies.

Federal and State Constituencies

Federal and State constituencies are based on the Ward as the smallest election unit and identify the Wards that combine to elect those to represent them at State House of Assembly and at the National Assembly. In other words any individual that is elected in an election in which any Ward participates to become a member of the National Assembly or of a state House of Assembly, regardless of the political party that presents him/her for election, represents that Ward and its citizens. For the election of the President and Governor for instance, all Wards in Nigeria and in a State form Federal and State constituencies respectively; the President thus represents all Wards and their citizens in Nigeria in the same way that Governor in a State represents all Wards and citizens in that State regardless of party that presents him/her for election.

Applying Federal and state constituencies to Kaduna State means that the President of Nigeria is representing all Wards in Kaduna State in the same way that Governor of Kaduna State represents all Wards of Kaduna State since all the Wards in Kaduna State voted in the elections that produced them. In the same manner, any Distinguished Senator, Member Federal House of Assembly and Member State House of Assembly elected in Kaduna State, represents the federal constituencies made up of the Wards that combine to elect them. In other words any individual that is elected in an election, in which any Ward participates in Kaduna State, regardless of the political party that presents him/her for election, represents that Ward and its citizens. As representatives, they should not show any differences of religion, tribe and any other affiliations or even that of a political party, since they are responsible to all citizens. The Wards in Kaduna State as constituting federal and state constituencies therefore need to be aware of whom their representatives are, so as to monitor their performance; Wards can and should insist to be briefed by their representatives.

Kaduna State Independent Electoral Commission (KAD-SIECOM)

In Kaduna State, the Kaduna State Independent Electoral Commission (SIECOM) which was established through Law No 10 of 2012 conducts elections into Kaduna State Local Government Councils. Headed by a Chairman the Commission has six Electoral Commissioners and a Secretary as head of administration. The mandate of the Commission includes;

- a. Organize, undertake and supervise all elections to Local Government Councils within the State
- b. Render such advice as it may consider necessary to the Independent National Electoral Commission on the compilation of and on the register of voters in so far as that register is applicable to Local Government elections in the State.

The Commission has six Departments located at the SIECOM Headquarters twenty three Electoral Officers with other support staff at the Local Government Area offices, to carry electoral activities under the supervision of the Commission Secretary.

SIECOM Departments: These include;

- Human Resource and Management Services Department
- Finance and Supplies Department
- Legal Department
- Logistics and Operations Department
- Planning, Research, Statistics and Training Department
- Public Affairs and Information Department

The Departments as indicated by their titles, deal with activities related to the election process such as: personnel and management; finance and supplies; legal; logistics and operations; planning, research, statistics and training; and public affairs and information to cover public and voter education and public information.

Zones and Constituting LGAs: For administrative convenience and for effective supervision by the Electoral Commissioners, Local Government Areas have been grouped into Zones. These include;

Zone 1A: Kaduna North, Kaduna South, Chikun and Kajuru

Zone 18: Birnin Gwari, Igabi and Giwa

Zone 2A: Zaria, Soba, Sabon Gari, and Kudan

Zone 28: Lere, Kubau, Makarfi and Ikara

Zone 3A: Kauru, Kachia, Kagarko and Zangon Kataf

Zone 38: Kaura, Jema'a, Sanga and Jaba

Each Commissioner therefore heads a Department and supervises a Zone as listed above.

- c. The Commission also has the power to;
 - Conduct voter and civic education and
 - Promote knowledge of sound democratic electoral processes

By these provisions the Kaduna State Independent Electoral Commission (KAD-SIECOM) as applies to other EMBs, is empowered to carry out Voter Education and Public Education respectively. Indeed, the implication is that EMBs are required to work all year round rather than only during periodic elections, as currently appears to be the case.

The Election Process

The principal purpose of conducting elections in a democracy is for forming government that will run affairs of governance at federal, state and local government levels. The Nigerian Constitution has therefore given all Nigerian citizens above the age of 18 years, the right to vote and to be voted for. The vote has provided every individual using that vote, the right to decide who represents him/her and look after his/her interests. At all these levels, government is expected to be of the people by the people for the people and to represent all the citizens and work for their welfare. Currently, it is only registered political parties that can present candidates to be voted for and political parties usually present manifestoes or programmes setting out what their candidates intend to do if voted into office to form government. The election process covers the activities that are carried out for the purpose of casting of votes and is implemented towards ensuring fair and credible elections, and this includes;

- Preparation of voters registers
- Registration of political parties;
- Nomination of candidates starting from primaries
- Canvassing for votes through campaigns
- Conducting elections
- Declaration of results
- Presentation of Certificates of Return

It is also a right as Nigerian citizens and beneficiaries of the democratic

process, including those who did not vote, to monitor the implementation of these activities by those involved including electoral bodies, political parties, security and other bodies and election staff. Nigerian citizens have the right, after the presentation of certificates to confirm their election, to monitor those voted into office because once voted into office they are expected to work for the constituencies they represent regardless of the party that presented them for election and indeed regardless of any other divisions such as of tribe, religion and gender.

Phases of Elections: There are three phases in conducting an election that include;

Pre-Election Phase

This phase involves preparations that are made for conducting elections. These preparations include giving relevant information to voters and to political parties. Since political parties and voters are registered by Independent National Independent Electoral Commission (INEC), Kaduna State SIECOM deals with already registered political parties with a presence in Kaduna State and with those already registered in Kaduna State to vote. The phase covers the following activities;

- Issuance of notice of Local Government Elections
- release of election guidelines
- release of election time-table
- commencement of electioneering campaigns by both political parties and candidates
- conduct of party primaries
- collection of data forms for those seeking election
- preparation of sponsored list of candidates
- collection and payment for nomination forms
- publication of names of validly nominated candidates standing election

There is need to control when campaigns should start and end, to give all political parties and candidates equal opportunity of being in the field and to prevent disruptive behaviour.

Election Phase

The phase has to do with the activities surrounding the actual casting of votes as the primary election activity which involve.

- Preparation of voting units
- Placement of voting booths
- Placement of voting guides
- Accreditation of voters
- Casting of votes

Post-Election Phase

This phase has to do with the management of votes that includes;

- Counting of votes
- Collation of results
- Announcing of results
- Declaring winners

Since election in a democracy is for the purpose of forming government to meet the needs of its citizen, this phase includes what the representatives of the people or those elected into office do to meet the needs of the people. This phase involves citizens monitoring the activities of elected officers in line with campaign promises made to the different groups of stakeholders, which could lead to recall where they fail to live up to expectation. There is thus the need for public education as indicated by Kaduna State SIECOM, which goes beyond voter education.

Election Petitions

Petitions are allowed, to challenge the outcome of the election, following any election in furtherance of maintaining the sanctity of

the election process.

1. The Chief Judge of a State shall establish one or more Election Tribunals which shall have original jurisdiction to hear and determine election petitions
2. The Election Tribunals provided for under the Law shall be constituted not later than 14 days before the elections
3. An election petition shall be presented within 21 days after the date of the result of the election is declared
4. An election petition may be presented by one or more of the following persons:
 - a. A Candidate in an election; or
 - b. A political party which participated in the election
5. An election may be questioned on any of the following grounds;
 - a. That a person whose election is questioned was at the time of the election not qualified to contest the election
 - b. That the election was invalid by reason of corrupt practices or non-compliance with the provisions of the Law
 - c. That the respondent was not duly elected by a majority of lawful votes at the election; or
 - d. That the petitioner or its candidate was validly nominated but was unlawfully excluded from the election
6. Any party dissatisfied with the judgment of the Election Tribunal shall have the right to appeal within 21 days from the day judgment of the Election Tribunal was given to the Local Government Council Election Appeal Tribunal
7. The decision of the Local Government Council Election Appeal Tribunal in respect of Local Government Council Elections conducted under the Law shall be final.

Electoral Offences and Sanctions

There is an electoral Law that has identified offences in the "electoral" process, which is vital to a democracy towards maintaining a high level of integrity in conducting and attaining free, fair and acceptable elections. It is for this purpose that actions that could negatively affect this process have been identified as forming offences for which sanctions as punishment have been prescribed. They cover the actual election process; pre-election, election and post-election. However, from our discussion, the Law essentially has identified offences specific to an election process rather than the electoral process starting from issuance of notice of election, release of election guidelines and election time-table and ending with petitions and court processes. Indeed, a candidate for instance can be disqualified on grounds of a false declaration and the political party which presented the name of the candidate to the Commission is liable to a fine of NS00,000.00.

Electoral offences are criminal in nature and punishment includes fine, confiscation or imprisonment for offenders. This may apply to; political parties, candidates in elections, print media and broadcasting houses, financial outlets, Commission and ad-hoc staff, the electorate, political party agents, security personnel and the general public. The important offences have been grouped into; Electoral Offences and Polling Offences.

The Electoral Offences include;

a. Treating

No person shall give or accept food, drinks or gifts with the intention to influence another person from casting his/her votes.

b. Undue Influence

- i. No person shall use threat, intimidation or violence to restrain or restrain a person from casting his/her votes.
- ii. No person shall by the use of thugs or any other means such as induction, duress or any fraudulent device or

contrivance impede or prevail upon a voter either to vote or refrain from voting at an election.

c. Bribery Corruption

- i. No person shall corruptly give, lend or agree to give any money or valuable consideration to or for a vote
- ii. No person shall either by himself/herself or on his/her behalf receive, agree or contract for money, loans, office, place or employment for himself/herself, for any other person so as to vote or not to vote during the election.

The Polling Offences include;

1. No person shall on the date on which an election is held do any of the following acts or things at a polling station or within 300 meters of a polling station:
 - a. Canvass for votes
 - b. Solicit for the vote of any voter
 - c. Persuade any voter not to vote for any particular candidate
 - d. Persuade any voter not to vote at the election
 - e. Shout slogans concerning election
 - f. Be in possession of any offensive weapon or wear any dress or have facial or other decoration which in any event is calculated to intimidate voter
 - g. Exhibit, wear or tender any notice, symbol, photograph or party card referring to the election
 - h. Use any vehicle bearing the colour or symbol of a political party by any means whatsoever
 - i. Loiter without lawful excuse after voting or after being refused to vote
 - j. Snatch or destroy any election material; or
 - k. Blare siren.

The wide range of persons covered by the Electoral Law and the fact that these offences are criminal, means that virtually every person

should be familiar with the provisions since ignorance is no excuse before the Law.

Information Dissemination Strategy for Voter and Public Education

The information to be provided for Voter Education covers the periods; pre-election, actual election and post-election where the principal actors are political parties, candidates and voters. However, for the post-election period in voter education, the principal actors are those elected, the political parties, voters and tribunal members. Those elected and those upheld by tribunals are representatives of the people and are expected to work in the interest of those they represent. Voter education is therefore limited to those concerned and so also is the use of media.

For Public Education which entails providing information to the entire Nigerian population of nearly 180 million people either nationally or segregated on state basis, requires the use of the mass media and the mass mobilization strategy. The use of the mass media for Public Education in this case is for the specific purpose of teaching Nigerian citizens about the electoral process as the bedrock for entrenching and deepening democracy. The use of the mass mobilization strategy was demonstrated in Nigeria through the work of the defunct Directorate for Mass Mobilization for Social and Economic Recovery (MAMSER) in the preparations for and the actual successful conduct of the 1993 election. That election was adjudged the best election in Nigeria until the 2015 election on account of the use of electronic support 22 years later; which however has witnessed more litigation so far than any other election. The task of providing Public Education is of pivotal importance to democracy and to governance in the Nigerian context and should be of concern to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as the parent EMB in Nigeria in its concern for deepening democracy and especially because over 70 percent of the different elections in Nigeria are conducted by INEC.

The Political Bureau had recommended the establishment of MAMSER as a national mobilization outfit because the very low level of education and therefore low consciousness of the people had made them very vulnerable to the fraudulent manipulations of politicians and other dominant groups in the society; this situation has not changed. The mass media provide the required support but because of these factors in the Nigerian context, there must be more dependence on face-face interactions with stakeholders.

Mass media use covers;

The Print Medium; Newspapers are a principal means of support through the publication of reports, articles and advertisements. Other productions include; books, manuals, pamphlets, posters, handbills, flyers, seasonal greeting cards, stickers and other promotional materials such as clocks, calendars, key holders, caps and t-shirts etc. Promotional materials apart for decorative and visual appeal, serve as message carriers and constant reminders of themes and actions.

The Radio Medium: This has served as a popular medium, especially when used with local languages, for the lower income and itinerant persons in providing access to information cheaply anywhere and anytime through news items, interviews, reports and discussions and has the advantage of maintaining a theme or action over a period of time in episodes. It has limitation of time thus the use of time slots and episodes such as in quarters in the use of drama and the choice of slots in anticipation of large groups of listeners. It can be interactive with phone-in programmes.

The Television Medium: The television medium serves similar purposes as the radio medium but has limitations to do with cost, location and availability of power. It also has limitations of time in slots but can also accommodate phone-in programmes. However, it has the advantage in its visual properties for real life situations and

teaching of skills where these can be demonstrated for viewers. Its visual properties make it most suited to the use of drama as a teaching tool as presented for instance in situation comedies and in episodes.

The Social Media: They played a very significant role in the 2015 elections and their role will continue to grow. However, in not being under any specific control as to content and in neutrality in the information disseminated, this influence can only be noted with an urge for caution.

The Interpersonal Face-Face Medium: The medium is not usually recognized as being a mass communication medium, but MAMSER had proved otherwise. The medium is where people meet face-face in very large groups such as in rallies and in various group sizes in interactions with the general public or with strata of stakeholders. It is essentially an instrument for grassroots interaction and is most suited to the electoral process which is electoral Ward-based such that the main mobilization activity is at the local government level. The medium in being used simultaneously across Wards, local governments or States serves as a mass medium but its advantage is that it at the same time allows targeting with quality interaction in the asking of questions, getting clarifications and making comments. In the MAMSER experience, towards the 1993 elections, 97.9 percent of mobilization activities using the interpersonal face-face medium were carried out at this level. Just as with MAMSER and its workforce of Social and Assistant Social Mobilization Officers, State Independent Electoral Commissions (SIECs) which have responsibility for wards in Voter and Public Education should use Electoral and Assistant Electoral Officers by training them for face-face interactions at the grassroots level.

Public education, in encouraging citizens to have knowledge and the motivation to take appropriate action requires resources for engaging information activities in a sustained manner. It requires the

cooperation of a wide range of personnel such as reporters, correspondents, resource persons as experts in various areas, script-writers, actors and especially field personnel to carry out interactions with stakeholders. For SIECs, this of necessity requires support from other organizations such as workers' unions and development and other associations as well as organizations with experience in mobilization activities such as the National Orientation Agency (NOA). However, these activities must be based on prepared content for uniformity and consistence on which training must be provided in workshops for those to be involved; thus the need for a public education handbook on the electoral process. This means that departments in charge of publicity, voter and public education as forming core activities for entrenching and deepening democracy as is required of electoral bodies are required to do more than publicity in exhibiting the activities of electoral bodies during elections; they are required to educate Nigerians on the electoral process and thereby assist to promote the entrenchment and deepening of democracy in Nigeria.

Electoral Process for Development

The electoral process carried out by SIECs is central to both the entrenchment and deepening of democracy, where their work at the grass root level goes well beyond carrying out the physical election process to also cover the deepening of democracy through sustained Public Education. Democracy empowers citizens to monitor the democratic process, where Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) are to act with integrity as umpires. Nigerian citizens have the power and have therefore to learn to do the following;

- Monitor the activities of government at all levels
- Monitor Arms of government; Executive, Legislature and Judiciary
- Monitor electoral bodies; to ensure their neutrality
- Monitor the electoral process

-)> Political party manifestoes; what they propose for groups of stakeholders
-)> Nomination process; protest where candidates provide false information
-)> Election results; petition where there are grounds or grievances
-)> Representation; ultimate power of recall where unsatisfied with quality of representation.

The role of EMBs in a democracy, especially a developing one like Nigeria, is to promote both the physical entrenchment of democracy through the process of conducting free, fair and acceptable elections as well as of deepening democracy by advocating that elected officials work in the interest of citizens. Deepening democracy means that the large population of Nigerians need to be educated to be able to: determine and articulate their group needs; monitor the activities of government; monitor the Arms of government; Executive, Legislature and Judiciary; monitor electoral bodies to ensure their neutrality; monitor the electoral process; and monitor the representatives of their constituencies based on their articulated needs and party manifestoes. Although non-voters such as those below 18 years of age are not able to protest nominations and petition results or participate in the recall process, they are nevertheless in a position to raise issues on the quality of representation with the ability to act in subsequent elections; they need to be prepared for participation in the electoral process through Public Education.

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