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**WHY INEC IS HESITANT IN CONDUCTING ALL ELECTIONS IN ONE DAY, BY PROF JEGA**

**The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is hesitant in conducting all elections in one day due to the huge logistical challenges involved and the reversal such an effort might bring to the successes recorded so far in the electoral process.**

The INEC Chairman, Professor Attahiru Jega, disclosed this yesterday at an interactive meeting with Editors and News Directors at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja.

Professor Jega said confusion and chaos would reign supreme if all elections were conducted in one day due to the country’s poor infrastructure, insufficient voter education in a country with a high illiteracy rate and the large number of ballot papers involved in such an endeavor. Argued he: “There is the complaint now that voters are not sufficiently, educated and they are wasting their votes…  there’ll  be  chaos  and confusion. We do not believe it should be done in 2015. We should not bite more than we can chew.”

Reflecting on the Com-mission’s financial autonomy, Professor Jega said never had INEC been more independent than now. “We don’t go to the government cap in hand. Once our budget is appropriated by the National Assembly, it is transferred to a statutory account in the CBN which we access to conduct our activities”, he explained. In his goodwill message at the occasion, the Project Director, UNDP-Democratic Governance for Democracy (DGD), Dr Mourtada Deme, said the media play a crucial role in keeping citizens engaged in the business of governance because healthy political processes required pluralism and open communication.

He argued that by providing a vibrant and free environment for communication, debate and deliberation, the media helped to establish good governance and promote a more accountable leadership.

Dr. Deme further argued that the media could be champions for the promotion of a well informed citizenry through clear public communication and the provision of information on policies and processes. He said the media could do this effectively if the Election Management Body (EMB) provided timely, accurate and consistent messaging on policies, processes and planning within a clear communications framework.

***SOCIAL DIARY***

***HABIBA QUITS SPINSTERHOOD***

*On Saturday, 19th April 2014, our pretty and beloved Habiba M. Bello will quit spinsterhood.*

*She will walk the aisle, in tow with her sweetheart, Sajim Hamza, at the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) TEAP, beside Garki International Market, Damaturu Crescent, Kabo Street, Garki II where they will vow to stay till “death do them part” and “for better for worse”; “for richer and for poorer”.*

*A sumptuous reception will follow at FCT Archives, beside AGIS, Area 11, Garki at 1.00 p.m.*

*We wish the couple conjugal bliss.*