

The attention of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has been drawn to a statement credited to the outgoing President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Augustine Alegeh (SAN), which was widely reported by the media. Addressing the opening of the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual General Conference of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, on Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> August 2016, Mr. Alegeh was reported to have rebuked the Commission for having conducted one hundred and thirty six (136) inconclusive elections in the past one year under the watch of Professor Mahmood Yakubu.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) seldom takes issues with members of the public. But the President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) is a highly distinguished and respected person. Besides, he represents a knowledgeable and influential constituency. His pronouncements are therefore weighty and could easily pass for the gospel truth.

Unfortunately, Mr Alegeh's statement was grossly incorrect. It is against this background that the Commission is compelled not only to respond but to put the records straight.

The facts concerning the elections conducted by the Commission since November 2015 are succinctly captured in the table below:

S/NO.	Type of election	No. of elections	No. of elections concluded at first ballot	No. of inconclusive elections concluded after supplementor	Re-run elections pending due to court cases	Suspended re-run elections to be concluded (in Rivers state due to violence)
1.	Court-Ordered Elections in the aftermath of 2015 General Elections	80	49	7	2	22
2.	End of tenure elections	70	59	11	-	-
3.	Bye-elections occasioned by death or resignation	13	10	3	-	-
	Summary	163	118	21	2	22

From the table above, it can be seen crystal clearly that the Commission has thus far **concluded 139 elections** (118 at first ballot and 21 after supplementary) out of a total of **163** scheduled elections and that **22 elections** were suspended due to violence **while 2 elections are sub judice**.

This shows that 72.3 % of the elections were concluded at the first ballot; 21.8 % of the inconclusive elections were concluded after supplementary; 1.2 % are pending; while 13.4 % were suspended in Rivers State due to violence.

It is clear from the foregoing that Mr Alegeh's pronouncement was ill-informed and that his stern rebuke to the Commission was misplaced and undeserved.

The Commission has always maintained that inconclusive elections are caused by violence and over-voting and that the notion of inconclusive election is not strange to our laws (see Sections 26 and 53 of the Electoral Act 2010 as amended).

The Commission remains unwavering and irrevocably committed to delivering elections that are free, fair and credible and to ensure that the vote of every eligible Nigerian counts.