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**INEC TO WORK WITH CREDIBLE ELECTION OBSERVERS**

**As part of plans by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to make 2015 General Elections better than previous ones, and to provide solid guidelines for future elections, the Commission is looking forward to working with credible observers whose reports and recommendations can be relied upon.**

The INEC Chairman, Professor Attahiru Jega, disclosed this when he received a delegation from the National Institute for Legislative Studies, led by its Director General, Dr. Ladi Hamalaiat at his office.

Professor Jega told the delegation that INEC has a legal requirement for election monitoring which it does by advertising and accrediting Civil Society Organizations (CSO).

He explained: “we are looking for credible observers who we can work with, who will give us credible reports and recommendations we can work with. Previously, many Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) lacked the capacity to give reports we can work with”.

“To send monitors into the field we need to train them and provide adequate logistics, they need to know the difference between being an Election Observer and a Monitor” he said.

On advocacy, the INEC Chairman suggested that the Institute should assist in furthering INEC’s cause, by using its close relations with Legislators to intimate them on what the Commission is doing and what it needs to do to deepen democracy.

Earlier, Dr. Ladi Hamalaiat had commended the Professor Jega for being the first INEC Chairman to mandate the National Institute for Legislative Studies to monitor elections, but noted that the Institute may not have the capacity for full fledged monitoring for now.

Acknowledging and appreciating INEC’s commitment, through the Electoral Institute in training her institution’s staff ahead of 2015 General Elections, Dr. Hamalaiat canvassed for more support in terms of funding. She however assured the INEC Chairman of her Institute’s willingness to expand its scope and work closely with INEC.

**CONTINUOUS TRAINING FOR INEC STAFF AHEAD OF 2015 GENERAL ELECTIONS**

As part of its preparation for 2015 general elections, the Independent National Electoral Commission will continue to organize capacity building  programmes  and trainings for its staff.

The INEC Chairman Professor Attahiru Jega disclosed this while declaring open the one-day workshop organized for Alternative Dispute Resolution Officers of the Commission.

The INEC Chairman who was represented by the National Com-missioner in charge of the Legal Services Committee Mrs Thelma Iremiren, said the workshop is “part of the Commissions preparation towards 2015 general elections, that is to say, continuous capacity building for staff of the Commission”.

Underscoring the significance of the workshop, the INEC Chairman noted that “the ultimate goal was to be able to manage and resolve disputes that the Commission faces in carrying out its mandate as provided by law”.

At the Workshop tagged “Skills Acquisition, and Implementing Principles of Alternative Dispute Resolution”, Professor Jega called on all INEC staff who by their natural roles are dispute resolvers in their effort to deliver electoral services to the general public to be ambassadors of the Commission by educating and reminding the public about their civic duties.

The Secretary to the Commission, Mrs Augusta C. Ogakwu expressed pride in the accomplishments of the ADR Directorate. She charged the Directorate “to keep the flag flying”.