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CENTER *for* DEMOCRACY & ELECTION MANAGEMENT



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Special Report on Nigeria:

The Journey toward Free and Fair Elections, June 2006 – April 2007

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Introduction

The Center for Democracy and Election Management (CDEM) at American University in Washington, D.C. organized a Summer Institute from June 5-15 with election officials, leaders from civil society and government, and journalists from around the world. The group of 32 leaders participated in discussions and heard lectures from scholars and practitioners. The participants also divided into groups to address general and country challenges. The ten representatives from Nigeria – representing the Independent National Election Commission (INEC), the Congress, and civil society – decided to formulate a strategy for Nigeria to have free and fair elections in April 2007. They view the elections in 2007 as critical in determining the future of Nigeria.

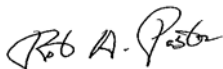
They focused on specific tasks to accomplish that goal and divided into three working groups. The following report proposes ways for the Independent National Election Commission (INEC) to avoid the problems that plagued Nigeria's past elections (*e.g.* incomplete voter registration, weak regulation of campaign finance, election-related violence, fraud in vote collation, long delays in dispute adjudication, poor training of staff, and inadequate transparency in the electoral process).

Working Group 1 discussed ways to **improve voter registration and identification and safeguard the vote count.** In 2003, Nigeria did not complete its electronic voter registration drive, reaching only 80% of the public. Moreover, due to the combination of administrative complexity and poorly-trained staff, the registration list was of low quality. The working group proposes to engage the public and finish voter registration, using data matching methods to improve the quality of the lists. The group also proposed to increase security and staff funding so that INEC may safely transport vote counts to the central collation center without fear of fraud.

Working Group 2 focused on **preventing election violence and promoting timely and effective dispute adjudication.** The group concluded that the police needed a comprehensive strategy, and the Election Tribunals focus all their attention in the month between the election and the inauguration on resolving disputes and that the parties are trained to submit their evidence and petitions on an expedited basis.

Working Group 3 looked at **ways to increase transparency in elections through campaign finance regulation and improved staff training.** Current campaign finance regulations are ignored by parties and candidates. The group encouraged the use of detailed forms that should be disclosed electronically considerably before elections. International and domestic observers and other stakeholders should publicize finance violations. This will create pressure from above and below for the parties to follow the laws. The working group also recommended comprehensive training of the registration and election staff well before the start of each electoral cycle.

This report is a sterling example of a candid analysis of past elections and a comprehensive strategy for achieving free and fair elections in 2007.



Dr. Robert A. Pastor, Director, Center for Democracy and Election Management

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Proposals to Improve Voter Registration and Identification and to Safeguard the Vote Collation Process Against Fraud

Working Group 1

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1.1 Problems in Registration and Voter ID

From 2002 to 2003, an Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) form was used to complete 70 million voter registrations, but a manual register was also used alongside the electronic registration system. Due to time constraints, not all of the registrations were processed for the 2003 elections. Similarly, the Automatic Finger Identification System (AFIS) was suspended before the elections.

Approximately 80% of the people were registered through this exercise. Subsequent to the 2003 election, electronic servers from the states were moved to INEC headquarters to form a central database. INEC resumed AFIS to check and remove duplicates. Through the process, 5 million duplicates were discovered and eliminated.

Yet, there were problems with the enumeration process. Much of the staff conducting voter registration was poorly educated and hired on an ad-hoc basis. Additionally, 55,000 cameras acquired for photos were not used since the vendor could not supply all 120,000 cameras in a timely manner. Plus, voter apathy in the 2003 election, much of which may be attributable to limitations in voter registration, dampens expectations for future elections.

1.2 Analysis of OMR forms versus Direct Capture

In 2006, Nigeria conducted a pilot registration using OMR with photo images. The pilot program discovered **three disadvantages and four advantages with OMR**.

Disadvantages:

1. In general, shading of the forms was a problem.
2. Photo capture encountered many difficulties, including rechargeable battery problems, shading, slow processing speed, storage difficulties (e.g. termites, rain damage), flash failure. Thus, it is questionable whether or not pictures will match the data from the OMR form.
3. Considering the limited time frame to organize the 2007 election, scanners and processing centers may be stretched too thin if a new registration is needed based on OMR forms.

Advantages:

1. The hardware and software is already available for INEC
2. INEC staff is already experienced with conducting OMR registration.
3. The existing database compiled in 2002 and 2003 are based on OMR forms.
4. More time could be available to conduct voter registration.

Direct Capture (DC) offers a different set of disadvantages and advantages.

Disadvantages:

1. It requires bulky equipment that will be difficult to transport across rugged terrain.
2. The lack of a steady power supply across all of the country limits the use of direct capture.
3. The vendor must be able to supply all the necessary units well before the 2006 update that must be completed in November of that year.
4. DC is expensive.
5. It is questionable whether the new data would be compatible with previous registration data, and thus direct capture may imply compiling an entirely new voter registration list.

Advantages:

1. DC provides high processing speed to access and gather data.
2. Human error is less common.
3. DC requires the use of a higher caliber of staff, which means a better list.
4. The picture and other biometrics may be used for security purposes.

1.3 Proposals for Voter Registration

1. Use the existing database for verification, and capture photos with the cameras currently available. Acquire the additional OMR forms needed for all new registrants and capture photos for these individuals. Acquire the necessary forms to gather data so that newly collected photos may be matched with old registrants already on the register.
2. Implement a vigorous voter education program in conjunction with state and local governments, political parties, civil society groups, and the voters.
3. Engage in dialogue between INEC and Parliament to address the status and expansion of technology use in the electoral process.
4. Engage the public in the process used to ensure the accuracy of the list with the goal of building confidence in the registration and electoral systems.
5. Carefully phase-in new technology.

1.4 Timeline for Registration and Identification Reforms

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Date</u>
INEC consults major stakeholders (e.g. parties, parliament)	June – August 2006
Voter education begins; Registers are presented in all states so that voters may verify their names	July 2006
The registration list is updated in all units and closed for display to the political parties	September – November 2006
Direct capture is announced by the Commission	October 2006
The legal and final registration list is completed	November 2006
The final list is officially displayed for the political parties	February 2007

1.5 Problems in Vote Counting

Counting and collation are separate legal processes, which complicates doing both. During elections, counting at the polling units is done in the open, and thus usually not controversial; indeed

the forms are usually filled out correctly at the polling station. However due to inadequate funding and security for the staff, transportation of the sensitive voting materials creates room for politicians, desperate to influence elections by whatever means, to bribe or attack poll workers and snatch the materials.

Election results are displayed on a screen at INEC headquarters and on the website, and the state governments assist by providing vehicles and logistics to move the ballots. Yet, the states provide little security. Thus, in between the polling stations and INEC, result sheets may be manipulated.

1.6 Proposals for Vote Counting

1. Increase funding for INEC to adequately transport its material and pay its workers and polling staff, which may also involve deploying the military. This eliminates the ability and the incentive to manipulate the election after the vote count.
2. Employ new technology (with the understanding of the political parties) to transmit the results quickly to the Returning Officers or INEC headquarters, thereby eliminating the collation points between polling units and the Returning Officer.
3. Include instructions so that it is clear to all that the supervisors only give the result sheets to polling clerks at the end of Election Day (i.e. 3 pm).

1.7 Problems in Funding

Funding has been delayed in the past, which affects the pace of preparing for an election. The 'Due Process' clause (used to verify how the money is dispersed), is usually perceived as the reason for the delay. A bill in parliament which would increase the independence of INEC recently was thrown out along with other constitutional amendments. A dialogue with parliament is needed to facilitate and expedite the release of funds for 2007.

1.8 Proposals for Funding

An amendment to the constitution ensuring independent funding for INEC, perhaps immediately after the 2007 election, is the principle solution to the problem of funding delays and shortfalls.

Preventing Violence and Promoting Prompt Adjudication of Electoral Disputes

Working Group 2

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2.1 Adjudication of Electoral Disputes

A fair and transparent election adjudication process is an essential element of the democratic process. A fair, speedy and transparent adjudicatory process persuades candidates who believe that they genuinely won an election, or that their opponents were not qualified, to air their grievances before a properly constituted election petition tribunal instead of resorting to violence.

The experience of the Nigerian people with the adjudication process for the 2003 elections left much to be desired. The Election Petitions Tribunals struck down a substantial number of the petitions on technical grounds. Interlocutory matters and challenge to the jurisdiction of the Tribunals took much time to resolve. Some legal practitioners called unimaginable numbers of witnesses and tendered tons of exhibits. This led to a situation where some of the petitions took between 3 months and 3 years to resolve. These experiences have dampened the confidence of the Nigerian people in the Tribunals as an effective mechanism for the resolution of election petitions.

As Nigeria prepares for the 2007 elections, it is important to carry out a proper evaluation of the 2003 election petitions process, to learn how to achieve a speedy and transparent process for 2007.

2.2 Time for Elections

The 1999 Constitution, the Electoral Act 2006 and the Practice Directions issued by the President of the Court of Appeal regulate the Constitution, the powers and the procedures for the adjudication of electoral disputes in Nigeria.

Sections 132(2) and 178(2) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria provide that elections to the offices of the President and Governor respectively shall be conducted not earlier than 60 days and not later than 30 days before the date of expiration of the term of office of the last holder of that office. In the case of the National Assembly and State Assemblies sections 26(2) and 116(2) of the Constitution provides that elections should be held no earlier than 60 days before and no later than the date on which the House stands dissolved. The implication of these provisions is that all the elections provided for in the Constitution shall be conducted in April 2007.

2.3 The Constitution and Composition of Election Tribunals

The Constitution itself creates the institutions responsible for resolving election disputes. In the case of the Governorship and Legislative Houses Election Tribunals, the tribunals shall have

jurisdiction to the exclusion of any court or tribunal, to hear and determine petitions as to whether any person has been validly elected to the office of Governor or Deputy Governor or as a member of any legislative house

The sixth schedule to the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria provides for the composition of the National Assembly Election Tribunals, Governorship and the Legislative Houses of Assembly Election Tribunals. It provides that each of the two Tribunals mentioned in the sixth schedule shall be composed of a chairman and four other members. The chairman shall be a judge of a High Court while the other members shall be appointed from among judges of a High Court, Judges of the Sharia Courts of Appeal, Judges of Customary Courts of Appeal or other members of the judiciary not below the rank of a Chief Magistrate.

The Constitution provides that the members of the National Assembly, Legislative Houses and Presidential Election Tribunals shall be appointed by the President of the Court of Appeal in consultation with the Chief Judges of the States, the Grand Kadis of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the State or the President of the Customary Court of Appeal of the State as the case maybe.

2.4 Establishment of Election Tribunals

Section 285(1) & (2) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which is the fundamental law of Nigeria provides for the establishment and constitution of the National Assembly Election Tribunal, Governorship Election Tribunal and Legislative Houses Election Tribunals. The said sections 285(1) & (2) provide that the National Assembly Election Tribunals shall have jurisdiction to and determine whether:

- (a) Any person has been validly elected as a member of the National Assembly
- (b) The seat of a member of any person under the constitution has ceased;
- (c) The seat of a member of the Senate or a member of the House of Representatives has become vacant; and
- (d) A question or petition brought before the election tribunal has been properly presented.

2.5 Time to Appoint Election Tribunal Members

Section 140(3) of the Electoral Act, 2006 provides that Election Tribunals enumerated under the Constitution and the Electoral Act shall be constituted no later than 14 days before the election while section 141 provides that an election petition under the Act shall be presented within 30 days from the date the result of the election is announced.

2.6 Time frame for Adjudication

Section 294(1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria does not prescribe a time frame within which a court of law including tribunals can adjudicate on matters brought before it. It only provides that courts and tribunals must deliver their decisions in writing no later than 90 days after the conclusion of evidence and final address.

However Section 148 of the Electoral Act, 2006 provides that without prejudice to the provisions of Section 294(1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 an election petition and

an appeal arising there from shall be given accelerated hearing and shall have precedence over all other cases or matters before the tribunal or courts.

2.7 Analysis of the Issues

It is practically impossible to conclude the election petition process before the May 29, 2007 swearing-in and inauguration of a future government in Nigeria. This is because most of the elections will be conducted in April 2007, and because section 141 of the Act and section 12(1) of the First Schedule to the Electoral Act, 2006 prescribes a **30-day time frame for the presentation of election petitions after the declaration of election results and a fourteen day time frame for the filing of reply by the respondent.** The challenge therefore is to work out a program to expedite the process of hearing and deciding election petitions.

2.8 The Road Map: What is to be done?

The Tribunals provided for under the 1999 Constitution have, over the years, been set up in an ad-hoc and episodic manner. This accounts for the lack of a systematic and professional process for its conduct and activities. The Electoral Act 2006 provides for the setting up of the tribunals not later than 14 days before each election. For the tribunals to be ready for election petitions, they have to be appointed before the 14 day deadline for their appointment. This also means that the activities in the regular court system will be disrupted if the tribunals are to operate at full speed. It is therefore important for the tribunals to be set up on time as petitions have to be presented, fees paid and a secretary has to be appointed to receive election petitions. Petitions must also be served on the respondents.

2.9 Short Term Proposals for the Speedy Disposal of Election Petitions

The proposals set out here do not require the amendment of the Electoral Act 2006 and the 1999 Constitution of the Federal republic of Nigeria.

1. The President of the Court of Appeal shall not later than February 2007 set up the administrative and logistics machinery for the operation of the Election Petitions Tribunals (e.g. office space, office equipment (computers), trained personnel and a standing operational framework).
2. The President of the Court of Appeal shall not later than the 1st day of April 2007 set up 3 Election Petitions Tribunals for National and State Assembly elections in each senatorial zone of the Federation. If there are more than 3 cases in a senatorial zone, more judges and other tribunal members should be appointed and if there are no cases in any of the 3 senatorial zones, the tribunal should be collapsed and the members deployed to other zones if necessary. The President of the Court of Appeal in consultation with Chief Judges of the various states should consider rescheduling the vacation period for courts to coincide with the setting up of Election Petitions Tribunals. The Courts can go on a two months vacation and handle election petitions. A vacation judge can be appointed to handle urgent criminal and civil matters in the High Courts.
3. The political parties should train their agents on how to detect irregularities and gather evidence in the process to enable them to file petitions expeditiously.

4. The President of the Court of Appeal should issue Practice Directions for the guidance of the Tribunals. The directions should include fair and adequate allocation of time to each party to present, defend and conclude its petition bearing in mind the need for the accelerated hearing of election petitions.
5. Civil society groups and the non-governmental organizations should train and deploy their officials to monitor the adjudications process in tribunals to ensure fairness.

2.10 Long Term Proposals

1. The National Assembly should amend Section 285 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to allow retired judges to be appointed as members of Election Petition Tribunals.
2. The National Assembly should amend sections 178(2), 132(2), 76(2) and 116(2) of the Constitution to provide a 3 months gap between the conduct of election and the inauguration of the new government
3. The National Assembly should make constitutional provision for the disposal of an election petition within 3 months of the filing of the petition.
4. The National Assembly should create a constitutional court with specialized jurisdiction to handle matters provided for under Section 285 of the Constitution and matters provided for under Section 79 of the Electoral Act, 2006.

2.11 Electoral Violence

A number of factors contributed to violence in the 2003 elections. Many of these include:

1. Lack of trust among the candidates, political parties and the electorate (voters).
2. Ethnic and religious differences among the people. This can influence their voting patterns and cause conflicts among them.
3. Election results not reflecting the majority wish.
4. Lack of trust in the Independent National Electoral Commission as a neutral referee.
5. The lack of accuracy and transparency in the voters roll.
6. Lack of sufficient voter/civic education.
7. The use of government machinery to support a particular candidate or party.
8. Unequal access of all candidates to the media.
9. The view that politics is a do or die affair and a means of self enrichment.
10. Delays in announcing results leading to confusion and suspicion.
11. Delays in conducting elections gives rise to uncertainty, suspicion and tension and leads to negative speculation which can cause violence.
12. "Godfatherism" – e.g. Godfathers trying to install an unqualified or unpopular candidate at all cost.
13. Partisanship of security officials and their being used to harass and intimidate candidates.
14. Lack of political will to enforce electoral laws or regulations.
15. Some politicians pay poor people to cause mayhem.
16. Lack of training for security officials in election matters. Some security personnel may not know what to do to arrest a situation before it escalates into violence
17. Parties not adhering to their party constitution in their nomination process.
18. Lack of sufficient security for voting materials during and after election.

2.12 Ways to Reduce or Eliminate Electoral Violence

1. The government, and the Independent National Electoral Commission should build and restore confidence in the people (candidates, political parties, voters) by ensuring openness and transparency in the political system. This can be done through a consultative process of including representatives of the political parties, religious bodies, Non-Governmental Organizations/CSO, the youths and security agents in decision making concerning elections. The consultative meetings can hold at the Local Government, State and Federal level on a monthly basis and later every other week until the 2007 elections are over.
2. Inter-ethnic/religious dialogues should be held in various States. Government can also use fora to organize seminars and talk shops to disabuse people of the dangers of bigotry and using ethnic and religious profiling as the basis for electing candidates to various offices.
3. Civil society groups, the Independent National Electoral Commission, the National Orientation Agency and development partners should carry out aggressive voter/civic education programs on the rules and regulations for elections as well as strategies for the defense of their mandate.
4. The Electoral Commission should employ systems to actualize the peoples' wish by ensuring security of ballot and other election materials prior to, during and after vote casting. There should be representatives of each political party and candidate, security officials and observers in all voting, counting and collation centers.
5. The counting of ballots and conduct of elections generally should be done by trained officials who will know that they are only umpires and not supporters of any contesting candidate. The Commission's officials should maintain their neutrality at all times.
6. The results of elections must be recorded and duly announced immediately after counting the ballots at the voting centers or polling stations and copies of the results given to all the party representatives, security agents and observers at the centers.
7. Communication Strategy – Efficient communication network is needed among the observers, Commission's Officials and security agents.
8. The voters roll must be accurate, transparent and all eligible voters as stated in the electoral law must be able to vote during elections.
9. The office of the Commissioner of Police and the Attorneys General of the States must develop the political will to enforce sanctions.
10. There must be equal media access for all candidates.
11. Political parties should adhere to their party constitution in nominating candidates.
12. "Godfatherism" in politics should be discouraged by putting laws in place to disqualify any candidate proven to be sponsored by any Godfather through investigation.
13. Poverty alleviation programs should be put in place by the government by having free education, employment opportunities for the jobless and free medical treatment for those in the low economic cadre.
14. The Police Force must develop strategies for creative and equitable deployment of security agents to the various polling stations on Election Day.
15. The Police must also develop strategy for rapid deployment of its forces to trouble spots during elections.

Building Confidence Through Transparency, Campaign Finance Regulation, and Improved Staff Training

Working Group 3

Chair: Ishmael J. Igbani
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3.1 Building Confidence through Greater Transparency

In this presentation we discuss the administration of the 2003 elections and some of the problems and lapses observed during that election, and suggest proposals for dealing with them.

The central goal of election administration is to build the people's confidence in the electoral system. In view of this, our proposals are designed to make the process more transparent to all stakeholders including observers. In this vein, we focus specifically on the issues of campaign finance, transparency and training.

The Independent National Election Commission's (INEC) strategic plan for 2004-07 contains provisions for ensuring political equality by allowing free access to all media. This is demonstrated by the fact that African Independent Television (AIT), a privately-owned TV station, after consultations with the Commission, is currently presenting a nightly one-hour program in which each party's representative is interviewed to present the party's manifesto and programs.

The Electoral Institute (established by the Commission) is in the process of publishing a "Voters Guide" following AIT's format. A questionnaire has been sent out to all the political parties requesting them to state their manifestos and programs and to explain why they should be preferred by the electorate over and above the other parties. Their party symbols and pictures of their party leaders will be displayed. This is a way of lowering the election cost (particularly of the smaller and poorer parties) and engaging them in the election process.

This approach will broaden the scope of issues open to public debate and bring out alternative policy issues that will make the debate more informative and appealing to the public. The electorate's knowledge of issues, parties and candidates is thereby enhanced and they will be able to make more informed choices at the polls.

3.2 Campaign Finance

Funding for the political parties is primarily done through private contributions and government grants. The emphasis of current campaign finance laws is placed on disclosure of expenditures and contributions (e.g. names and addresses of large contributors).

Each political party is required to appoint a finance agent who is expected to liaise with the commission on all political finance matters. The Commission has published a political finance

manual for the use of political parties and external auditors appointed by the Commission. A training program for all political finance officers is planned for September 2006.

The Commission must report cases of contravention to the law enforcement agencies as required by the 2006 Electoral Act. Unfortunately, the law only requires disclosure of contributions after, not before elections. However, the media and civil society groups can and should lay emphasis on early and continuous monitoring of campaign spending by parties and candidates and include information about the donor. The media should do more investigative reporting on contributions and donations to political parties and candidates, but must avoid false allegations of wrongdoings in campaign finance. Public disclosure on the INEC web site will be undertaken.

There are two major challenges facing the Commission with respect to campaign finance. First, publishing the results of the audit of the party finances at this time may be interpreted by opposition political parties as “witch hunting, partisanship or a hidden agenda” to discredit them in favor of the ruling party. Second, there is a lack of will by the police and the judiciary to enforce the law after the Commission has reported contraventions.

Currently the Commission is engaging the political parties in regular meetings on the 2007 general elections and the registration of voters. The latest meeting took place on the 6th of June 2006 when the election timeline and the payment of grants to political parties were discussed and accepted. Similar meetings in the form of “stakeholders’ election forums” are ongoing and will be continued. The stakeholders include observers, media practitioners, civil society groups, and security officers, among others.

In all the stages of the electoral process, international observers and other stakeholders should be actively engaged in order to ensure transparency and public confidence.

3.3 Training

In an attempt to professionalize all electoral staff and ensure continuous capacity building, the Commission established The Electoral Institute, whose training program has now been accredited by the University of Ibadan for Diploma and Post Grad Diploma degrees in Election Administration. Other courses in electoral administration have been and are being developed. All training programs required by the various departments in the Commission are channeled through the training department of the Institute. The prospective students are drawn from the regular staff. For the 2006 registration of voters, the Commission will recruit and train about 600,000 ad-hoc staff or poll workers, election observers, media, party agents and security officials to man and cover the 120,000 polling units nation-wide.

3.4 Responsibility of Registration and Election Officials

Election officials are responsible for the physical handling and maintenance of the registration and election materials and equipment before, during and after an exercise. For this reason, the procedures to be followed in moving the equipment from their issuing station to the polling station must be explained clearly.

Other responsibilities during Registration or Election Day will include physically setting up the registration or electoral stations (e.g. arranging tables, chairs, and polling booth, ensuring that materials are in the right numbers and on time before the registration or polling hours), answering registrants or voters questions about the exercise and anticipating and resolving problems that may arise from registration or polling.

The ad-hoc staff or poll worker must be well trained in order to assist the registrants and voters as the need arises. He should be able to recognize problems during the process and take remedial steps to correct them. It is against this backdrop that INEC established The Electoral Institute, with the responsibility to deal with important training questions arising from past experiences and to provide remedies.

3.5 Methods of Recruiting and Training Ad-hoc Staff

The Commission will recruit and train three principle groups of people to be ad-hoc staff for the 2006 registration and 2007 election exercises. First, INEC will encourage retired judges, Permanent Secretaries, and Senior Civil and Public Officers to enroll and be trained as non-partisan poll workers. Second, INEC will enlist the support of labor unions, civil society groups, and other non-partisan organizations to enroll. Third, INEC will encourage university lecturers, NYSC members, and secondary and primary school teachers to register as poll workers.

The nature and extent of the training out-laid above is dependent upon the design and capabilities of the system adopted. Currently, Nigeria is computerizing its voter registers. Thus, looking back at past training programs for poll workers prior to the transition will provide a limited guide on how to prepare a new generation of election and registration staff.

A pilot program was carried out in April 2006 to test the usefulness of the training materials and the duration of time required to train staff that will be responsible for managing a computer-based system. The outcome of the pilot encouraged INEC to anticipate and uncover potential problems in the staff training exercise. INEC is also looking at the possibility of introducing new media training, such as video, DVD, or multimedia to enhance the effectiveness of training.

The major problem that has emerged in the training of ad-hoc staff is poor remuneration, which often leads to corrupt practices or other partial behavior.

3.6 Timeline

The INEC training timeline for the registration and election exercises are as follows:

Registration Exercise

<u>Group</u>	<u>Date</u>
Training of trainers (TOT)	First week of July 2006
Zonal training	2 nd week of July
State level training	3 rd week of July
Local government level training	4 th week of July
Training of observers and media	1 st week of August

Training of party agents	2 nd week of August
Training of security personnel	3 rd week of August
Registration exercise	End of August 2006-Nov 2006
Training of political party finance officers	Sept 2006

Election Exercise

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Date</u>
Training of trainers (TOT)	1 st week of Jan 2007
Zonal training	2 nd week of Jan 2007
State level training	3 rd week of Jan 2007
Local government level training	4 th week of Jan 2007
Training of observers and media	1 st week of Feb 2007
Training of party agents	2 nd week of Feb 2007
Training of security personnel	3 rd week of Feb 2007
Retraining exercise	March 2007
General elections	April 2007

The training exercise, particularly for election observers, media, party agents, and security officials, will focus on the “dos” and “don’ts” of election observation as enumerated in the UN protocol. Above all, the training program will be geared towards ensuring that their actions be within the regulations governing the exercise.