

PVC Sensitisation Campaign



**National
Association of
Seadogs**
Pyrates Confraternity



OUR
VOTES
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OUR
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OUR
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2018 report

OUR
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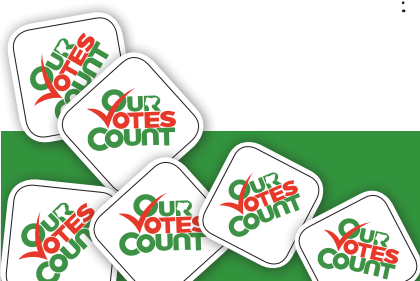
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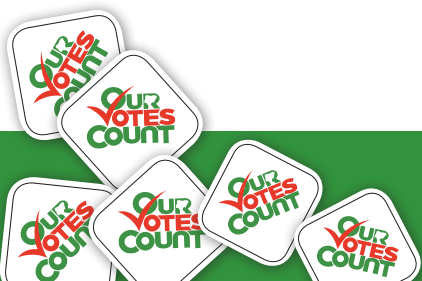




Report on the 2018 PVC Sensitisation Campaign

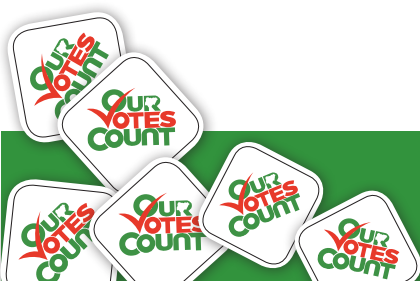
Held worldwide by
members of the National
Association of Seadogs,
Pirates Confraternity from
14th to 31st of August 2018.

By Bart Akelemor



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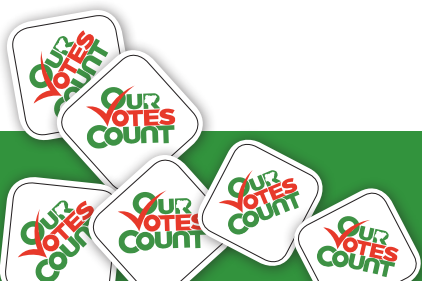


Acknowledgement

The PVC registration and collection awareness campaign was driven by the dedication and commitment of members of the NAS Programme Development and Execution Committee (PDEC), namely; Chuks Onwudinjo, Chuma Anagbado, Lamide Oni, Cyril Otukpe, Emeka Maduka, Ken Henshaw, Dankaro Gbinosa and Debo Adeniji. Without the contribution of the PDEC who developed, designed and ensure the effective execution of the PVC campaign, this programme would have struggled. Special commendation to Chuks Onwudinjo who strategically led the team, Chuma Anagbado who was at the forefront of creating the campaign's designs and Dankaro Gbinosa who put together the preliminary report, as well as every other member of the team that worked tirelessly to ensure that the campaign was a huge success.

Commendation also goes to John Oke (NAS Buksaylor) who in conjunction with the Buksaylors Cell provided real-time feedback which also helped in the data collection. The valuable input of Lamide Oni, Chuma Anagbado and the media team who relentlessly updated all NAS social media platforms and handles cannot be overlooked. Without the commitment and input of the media team, the impact of this campaign would have been limited. We also acknowledge and recognise the contribution of the Second Mates forum in the preparation of this report.

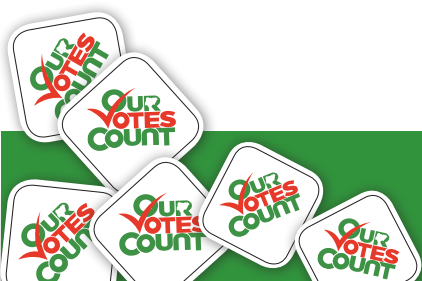
A large number of Captains of the 56 Chapters of NAS/PC, key officials and members of various cadres played an invaluable role in the execution of the PVC



awareness campaign. Despite the tight schedule, the chapters demonstrated immense commitment and dedication to the success of the campaign and provided extremely valuable input. Without the feedback from the chapters, this report would not have been possible. We thank the leadership of the various chapters for the collection of data, video recordings, commentaries and documentation of the campaign in their local chapters. We also recognise and acknowledge the role of the Area Mates in ensuring compliance in the various areas.

Last but not the least, we recognise the leadership provided by the Chief Executive Officer – EK Gbahabo, Esq (NAS Cap’n) and Chiemeka Ozumba (Chief Operations Officer). This campaign and report would not have been possible without the leadership drive and support of EK Gbahabo. Many thanks also to the NAS/PC Executive Secretary – ‘Tope Akintoye (NAS Scribe).

This report was peer reviewed by ‘Tope Akintoye (NAS Scribe) and approved for publication by EK Gbahabo, Esq (NAS Cap’n).



Foreword

Pursuant to our commitment to the strengthening and upholding of the integrity of systems and processes in Nigeria as a concerted contribution towards the realization of a better nation, the National Association of Seadogs designed and executed a public awareness campaign to promote massive participation in the continuous voters' registration exercise.

INEC official records will show that the National Association of Seadogs registered and participated in previous general elections as independent observers. We remain committed to the goal of partnering with INEC, other government agencies and voluntary organizations to evolve a stable democracy for Nigeria. Our membership spread, which covers the six geo-political zones of Nigeria and the diaspora, will be deployed to amplify and support the efforts of INEC whenever the need arises.

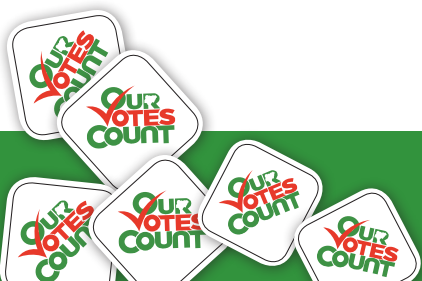
We sincerely hope that this effort will add to the pool of feedbacks from the recently concluded exercise for planning and implementation of future registration of voters.

Accept the assurance of our patriotic support and contributions always.

For: *National Association of Seadogs*



EK Gbahabo
NAS Cap'n





Preamble

The National Association of Seadogs (*Pyrates Confraternity*) embarked on a nationwide campaign to enlighten Nigerians on the importance of active participation in election process and the need for Nigerians to register and collect their permanent voters' card, PVCs in order to ensure active participation in the forthcoming general elections in 2019, and in other future elections.

This exercise, carried out under the Association's "*Our Vote Counts*" - a Citizens Summit Initiative of the National Association of Seadogs, was aimed at complementing the efforts of INEC and other Civil Organizations, as well as promoting good governance and accountability which begins with registration and participation of the citizenry in elections. The Campaign took place in over 40 cities across five of the six Nigerian geopolitical zones, physically reaching a large portion of eligible voters. Statistics gathered from the campaign indicated that the "*Our Vote Counts*" reached over one million Nigerians of voting age. The expansive use of radio messages (jingles in both Queen's English and Pidgin English), electronic and print media, including extensive online and social media campaign, ensured that the targeted audience was reached far and beyond.

Data Collection and Ethical Consideration

Collection of data in this campaign followed best practices and ethical principles. Thus, citizens participation was voluntary and they were fully informed of their rights and procedure of interview, and informed consent was granted. Consequently, confidentiality and anonymity of participants was maintained in this report.

In the course of this campaign, feedback and data collected from Nigerians highlighted the challenges encountered by individuals in their quest to register



and/or collect their PVCs. Analysis of the qualitative data collected from respondents interviewed during the public campaign produced similar results and themes across the nation, in places where the campaign held. Some of the themes identified produced a set of challenges being encountered by the general populace and Nigerians of voting age. These themes are highlighted and described below.

Qualitative Thematic Analysis

INADEQUATE REGISTRATION CENTRES

In many cities where this campaign took place, one of the major complaints was the dearth of enough registration centres. It was noted that the citizenry raised the issue of travelling distance to the nearest registration centres, which in some cases were far away from many people who would have wanted to register but were unable to access the centres. Furthermore, there were concerns of registration being centralized in a single location with few staff, making the process more cumbersome and time consuming. Several reports suggest that the people's fear of spending productive hours at registration centres, travel distance and the associated cost to reach these centres are some of the major challenges discouraging some eligible Nigerians from registering and collecting their permanent voters' cards.





In many locations, there were serious allegations of graft and demand for financial inducement by the registration personnel to facilitate registration for eligible citizens. The factors that account for the allegations of graft are closely related to the issues and concerns raised above in 1. Although these allegations were not substantiated, citizens opined that the lack of enough registration centres and the large turnout of prospective voters for registration created a market for FastTrack registration in exchange for money. Some locations complained that officials collected as high as One Thousand Naira (N1, 000.00) for this service. Those who could not afford this fee either left in frustration or spent hours, and in some cases days to be registered.

Other concerns closely related to the above include complaints of inadequate manpower. Most of the people who volunteered information stated that only a limited number of 50 – 60 persons were registered at most on a daily basis, in contrast to the teeming population waiting to be registered.

It was also reported that in most locations, the number of officials present was grossly inadequate to attend to the persons waiting to be registered or to collect their PVC's. Some locations reported INEC officials leaving before closing hours while a lot of persons were still waiting to be attended to.

In some other cases, there were complaints of the officials being unprofessional, rude and unhelpful.



Thousands of citizens averred that they were disappointed at leaving their homes as early as 5am and still being unable to get registered due to the above reasons.

POLITICAL APATHY

In the cause of the public engagement and in all locations covered, there was a general apathy towards the “democratic” electoral process. Majority of the citizens who volunteered information expressed distrust in the present and past political processes, as well as expressing serious doubts about the ability of INEC to conduct a free and fair election in Nigeria.

Most of the prospective voters interviewed strongly believe that the electoral process and election results are hugely influenced by politicians and political parties. There was a seeming consensus of opinion that citizenry participation in the democratic process and their votes were insignificant. Some expressed fears that after registration, their cards would not be made available to them but sold to political parties for the purpose of rigging elections. A limited number of prospective voters saw the exercise as a waste of their business hours since the outcome of the elections would not be based on their participation.

PUBLIC ENLIGHTENMENT AND AWARENESS

Feedback from the public engagement suggest that some Nigerians of voting age were unaware of the current registration exercise. In other cases, thousands of citizens were unaware of the steps to take to register, registration requirement or the nearest venue for registration.

Furthermore, some of those who had registered previously are not well informed on how to collect their permanent voter's card or transfer their voters card and change polling unit (in the case of those who have moved home or changed address) to enable them participate in the next general elections.

Members of the Association responded to several

enquiries relating to information on challenges being faced by Nigerians. It is instructive to note that most of the challenges could have been resolved if there was a clear public enlightenment and awareness strategy.

Some of the challenges highlighted during the campaign were; replacing a missing or lost voters card; updating information like change of address or location, and; invalid voters card due to wrongly entered biodata that requires correction.

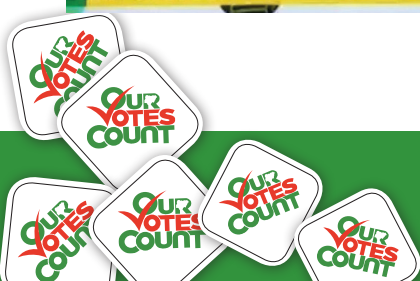
Hundreds of Nigerians sought information on how to go about resolving the challenges listed above and also emphasised the impact of these anomalies on their voting status. These issues brought to fore the lack of information dissemination and public awareness on the voters' registration process, as well as complaint and resolution procedures.

No Provision for Nigerians in diaspora

Reports from some of the Association's overseas chapters suggested that some Nigerians in diaspora expressed their disappointment in not being given the opportunity to take part in the nation's democratic process. A significant population of Nigerians resident in the United Kingdom and America felt disenfranchised despite their contribution to country's economy from diaspora.

Many of those interviewed during the public awareness campaign which was aimed at Nigerians in diaspora encouraging their kinsmen

in Nigeria to register to vote, expressed their willingness and determination to participate in Nigerian elections and democratic process from their overseas base. A lot of persons expressed their frustrations on being continuously ignored in such an important decision process. They felt that their contributions to the economy in reparation of funds,





Challenges and Panacea



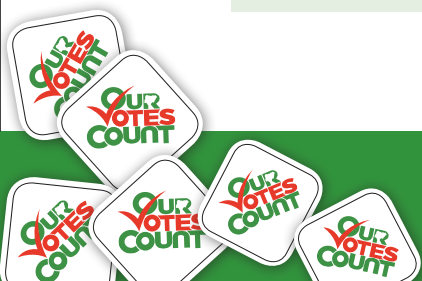
RESOLUTION

The challenges enumerated above are the feedback garnered in the PVC registration and collection awareness campaign carried out by the Association between the 14th to 31st of August 2018.

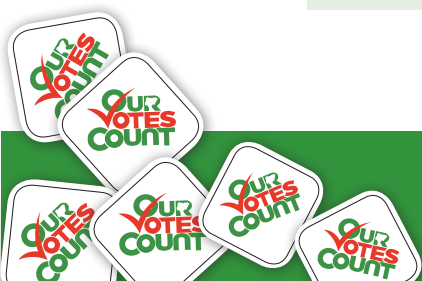
The table below enumerates some resolutions to ensure maximum participation in the coming and future elections, and to ensure that Nigerians are not disenfranchised due to the avoidable challenges discussed above.

The National Association of Seadogs hopes that these issues are critically examined by the relevant government agencies and addressed with the aspiration of correcting some of them before the 2019 elections, especially during the collection of the PVC cards. It is the Association's goal to ensure that when continuous voters registration commences again, these challenges would have been resolved and the process of registration and collection PVC would have improved

CHALLENGES	PANACEA
Inadequate registration centres	More registration centres should be created. Centres should be created in highly populated areas such as religious places of worship, tertiary institutions, markets, secretariats and highly populated business areas and districts to ensure wider coverage.
Complaints of lack of manpower, alleged graft and attitude of INEC personnel	Continuous professional development and training for staff, adequate remuneration and motivation of staff can improve staff output. Furthermore, increased supervision, spot checks, integrity test and mystery shopping on staff, as well as structured implementation of disciplinary measures will be a step in the right direction that would go a long way to turn the tide around.
Public apathy	One of the best ways to avoid public apathy in our electoral process would be to hold free and fair elections nationwide. The credibility of our elections will resolve this challenge. Also, continuous orientation in partnership with NOA, religious bodies and civil society will go a long way to reduce the current public apathy towards the electoral process in Nigeria.



CHALLENGES	PANACEA
Public enlightenment and awareness	The current level of awareness on several pertinent issues pertaining to the PVC registration and collection process is worrisome. For overall inclusiveness, adequate steps should be taken to address the problem of public enlightenment and awareness through social and traditional media. The electoral commission should take concrete steps to ensure that information reaches every home in Nigeria. This may include deployment of the National Orientation Agency, other governmental public enlightenment agencies and partnering with civil society organizations in achieving public awareness and participation.
Disappointment of Nigerians in diaspora	Whilst the primary focus now is on the homeland, it is also important for the INEC and Nigerian government to start exploring the possibility and plans to extend full electoral participation to Nigerians in diaspora. Lessons can be learnt from the experiences of countries with similar challenges and how they were managed and resolved.





Summary



Summary

The challenges facing Nigeria are enormous. The Association's voluntary campaign to encourage Nigerians of voting age to engage with the electoral process in fulfilment of their civic responsibility produced some unexpected results and feedback, which have been discussed above. There is no doubt, the challenges faced in the electoral process in Nigeria are not insurmountable. However, it would require commitment, dedication and hard work. INEC would also be ready to deal with the challenges of corrupt politicians, incompetent personnel and the determination to make a meaningful change in the business of governance and enthroning credible elections in Nigeria.

The Association understand that resolving the electoral challenges in Nigeria is a gigantic step that would require full collaboration of government agencies, civic societies and support of the international community. To this extent, the National Association of Seadogs is open to opportunities to partnership with INEC, government and other organizations to combat the challenges that currently plague the existing structure.

Report authored by:

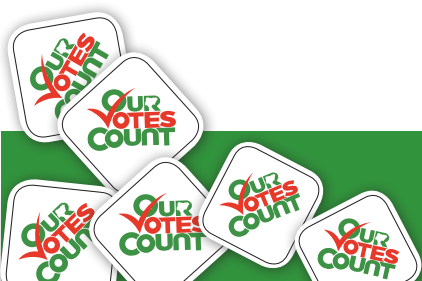
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NAS Second Mate

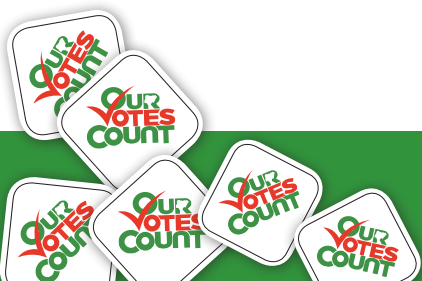
Chief Programme Officer

NAS Citizens' Summit (Our Votes Count)

National Association of Seadogs



Notes





Your voter's card will determine the worth of your ATM card

#GETYOURPVC #kingofcards



Friday, 31st August 2018

Is The Deadline
To Register For Your
Permanent Voters Card
(PVC)

What are your hopes and aspirations because silence is not golden in elections!
Your vote is your voice, make it heard!
Without your PVC, Snakes and Monkeys will continue to swallow government money!

Your vote will determine the value in your ATM card!

Your vote will determine whether more jobs and businesses are created in 2019.

ONLY IF YOU USE IT WISELY.

GO TO THE INEC OFFICE NEAREST TO YOU, REGISTER AND COLLECT YOUR PVC NOW!

#OurVotesCount #RetakeNigeria #NASPC1952

An Initiative Of:



**National
Association of
Seadogs**
Pirates Confraternity