



PRE-ELECTION STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL PEACE COMMITTEE (NPC) ON THE 2025 ANAMBRA GOVERNORSHIP ELECTIONS

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Introduction

The good people of Anambra State will, on November 8, 2025, go to the polls to elect their next governor, who will steer the affairs of the state. As part of efforts to promote a peaceful electoral process, the National Peace Committee (NPC) facilitated the signing of a Peace Accord on Monday, November 3, 2025, at the International Convention Centre, Awka. The event brought together 15 political parties and 13 governorship candidates who committed themselves to peaceful conduct before, during, and after the elections.

We commend the candidates and parties for signing the Peace Accord and urge them to remain civil, abide by the rules of the game, and conduct themselves in accordance with the Constitution, the Electoral Act, and INEC's Guidelines. As the Secretariat of the Peace Committee, The Kukah Centre (TKC) will continue to monitor adherence to the commitments outlined in the Peace Accord.

According to information from the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), the election will be conducted across 5,718 polling units, spread over 326 wards in the 21 local government areas of the state. The Election Security Information (ESI) Hub, an initiative under the European Union Support to Democratic Governance (EU-SDGN) Programme and hosted at the Secretariat of the Committee, has been closely monitoring the security situation in the state. The Secretariat will rely on findings from the Hub to engage relevant stakeholders during and after the elections to help maintain a peaceful atmosphere throughout the process.

The Secretariat of the Peace Committee remains deeply focused on the security of the electoral process and the commitment of political parties to the Peace Accord. Particular attention will be paid to the safety of voters and INEC officials, as well as the conduct of political parties and security agencies during key stages of the election, from the

deployment of materials to polling units, the opening of polls, voting, counting, and the announcement of results.

The Nigeria Police Force has announced the deployment of over 60,000 security personnel drawn from agencies within the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) to safeguard the peace and security of citizens. We call on all security personnel to carry out their duties with professionalism, neutrality, and respect for human rights.

We urge all political parties, candidates, and their supporters to uphold both the spirit and the letter of the Peace Accord they have signed. The credibility of this election and indeed the strength of our democracy depend on our collective commitment to peace, fairness, and respect for the will of the people.

Early Warning Early Response Ahead of Voting Day – Key Findings

Voter Inducement (Vote Trading): Reports from the Election Security Information Hub have identified vote buying and electoral inducement as critical threats that could undermine the credibility of the electoral process. Several findings document direct cash offers and material incentives from political actors. Such practices constitute a clear violation of Sections 121 to 127 of the Electoral Act, which criminalise bribery and the giving or receiving of money or gifts to influence electoral outcomes. These acts not only subvert the integrity of the electoral process but also erode citizens' trust in democracy.

We, therefore, call on citizens to reject any form of inducement and to safeguard the sanctity of their vote. Selling one's vote diminishes the collective voice of the people and undermines the legitimacy of leadership. Likewise, we call on political parties and their agents to desist from engaging in such unlawful practices. Free and fair elections must be won through persuasion, ideas, and service, not through monetary inducement.

Kidnapping, Cult Violence, and Political Thuggery: From June to October 2025, 25 out of 155 recorded incidents (16%) involved kidnapping, cult clashes, armed robbery, and political thuggery, particularly in Aguata, Ihiala, and Nnewi South LGAs. These threats can discourage voter turnout and disrupt election-day procedures. We therefore call on security agencies to provide visible and proactive deployment in these flashpoints so

that voters, election officials, and materials can move and operate safely. Every citizen must be able to vote freely, without fear or intimidation.

Destabilizing and Inflammatory Behaviours: In the days leading up to the election, we have observed conflict-triggering actions and narratives, including isolated incidents of violent protest, verbal and online threats, and the rapid circulation of fake news and misinformation. Such actions heighten fear, distort public perception, and create conditions that can lead to avoidable conflict. It is therefore essential that all stakeholders manage their communication responsibly, discourage incitement, and rely only on verified and credible information. The credibility and peaceful conduct of this election depend on our collective restraint, our sense of responsibility, and our respect for the due process of law.

Conclusion: Call for Peace, Civility and the Rule of Law

On behalf of the National Peace Committee, I wish to make a sincere appeal to all stakeholders. The responsibility for peaceful and credible elections rests on every one of us – political leaders, citizens, institutions, security agencies, and the media alike. We all have a vital role to play in ensuring that our democracy continues to grow stronger through fairness, transparency, and mutual respect.

To our political actors and their supporters, I urge you to demonstrate maturity and restraint throughout this process. Let your words and actions reflect a genuine commitment to the peace and unity of our dear state Anambra. Leadership is not only about winning elections, but also about upholding the values that sustain democracy, respect for the rule of law, tolerance, and sportsmanship.

To citizens, I appeal to you to exercise your right to vote peacefully and without fear. Your vote is your voice; use it responsibly and resist every temptation to engage in violence or to be manipulated by falsehoods and divisive rhetoric.

To the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), we call for transparency and consistency in the application of all electoral procedures. Only through fairness and openness can confidence in the process be strengthened and the legitimacy of the outcome assured.

To our security agencies, we urge professionalism, impartiality, and restraint. The protection of all citizens, regardless of political affiliation, must remain your guiding

principle. Peaceful elections are possible when citizens trust that the law will protect them equally.

Finally, to the media and social influencers, we appeal for responsible communication. Avoid sensational or divisive reporting and help counter misinformation that can fuel fear or hostility. The power of your platforms must be used to inform, educate, and promote harmony. Let us all, in our different capacities, commit to making this election a testament to our collective maturity and love for peace. Together, we can show that democracy thrives best when anchored on integrity, respect, and unity.

Signed.



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