

## INEC and the Burden of Trust

**T**rust is a burden that carries the virtues of integrity, sincerity, honesty and truth in its kitty. These virtues work hand in hand and so it is difficult to trust somebody without integrity because the elements of sincerity, honesty and truth will be absent. This is why we are where we are today as a nation. These virtues of Trust like honesty, sincerity, integrity and truth has been relegated to the background and so our hope as a great nation is daily being betrayed by those who are supposed to uphold them. It is pertinent to mention that once trust has been broken it becomes extremely difficult to rebuild and the consequences are far reaching and could last for a life time.

On February the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2023, the electorates in Nigeria came out in their droves to cast their vote to elect a new President and Members of the National Assembly that will steer the affairs of the nation for the next four years. The voters turnout was very impressive based on the assurance by the Chairman of INEC, Prof Mahmood Yakubu that their votes will count because his Commission promised to ensure that all the results of the votes will be transmitted electronically through the BVAS via the IReV directly to the INEC portal real time so as to avoid result manipulation which hitherto had been the bane of conducting free and fair elections in Nigeria. Prof. Mahmood assured Nigerians that his INEC was on top of the game and fully prepared since the new technology has previously been tested in two off cycle elections. He debunked an alleged rumour according to him from a section of the Media accusing his Commission of a plot not to use the BVAS in the transmission of the results. According to Prof. Mahmood 'it is a fake news. INEC cannot reverse itself; we are committed to transmission of all the results with the BVAS.'

But Alas what happened after the Presidential and National Assembly elections? The BVAS was used to transmit the National Assembly results and when it came to the transmission of the presidential elections the BVAS suddenly stopped working due to technical glitches. It was clear to all and sundry that there was a deliberate attempt to bypass the BVAS in the transmission of the Presidential election result so as to create room for manipulations and that was exactly what happened in the presidential election results. This is why we have decided to aggregate the views of Nigerian in this month edition captioned; Mahmood s INEC, Burden of Trust and Hope Betrayed? Who was behind this great betrayal and how did it happen? Certainly, in the coming days there will be more revelation as we will continue to revisit the issues in the days ahead. Happy reading.

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