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THE DIRECTOR GENERAL,
Department of State Security
Abuja

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE
Force Headquarters
Abuja

**PETITION AGAINST CORRUPT AND UNBECOMING CONDUCT OF INEC
RESIDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER, AKWA IBOM MR AUSTIN
OKOJIE AND OTHER INEC OFFICERS.**

1. We write as Counsel to the All Progressives Congress, Akwa Ibom Chapter and bring to your notice that on the 12th and 23rd May, 2015 and on the 25th June, 2015, orders of the Governorship Election Tribunal for Akwa Ibom State were issued and affirmed respectively granting access to INEC electoral documents. Those orders were sought for the following reasons:
 - a) The order of 12th May, 2015 arose out of a deliberate and determined refusal by INEC to voluntarily allow our client access as enjoined by the Electoral Act, 2010 and the universal practice. That order was never obeyed by the INEC REC, Mr. Okojie and in spite of repeated effort to secure obedience to the Tribunal orders, Mr. Okojie has remained adamant and unyielding.
 - b) The Akwa Ibom Tribunal, sitting in Abuja on the 25th June, 2015 ordered that the electoral materials be brought to Abuja for forensic analysis and inspection. The underlying philosophy was that the INEC Headquarters in Abuja would impose a salutary environment for a free and fair inspection of the materials as ordered by the Tribunal. As an added impetus, it was further ordered that the Directorate of State Security (DSS) and the Police be available to maintain peace at the site of the inspections!
2. It has, however unfortunately, come to our notice that the obstinacy of the Akwa Ibom REC, Mr. Okojie to carry out the Tribunal orders or

COUNSEL

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cooperate with our client to carry out the inspection owes principally to the fact that the sum of **N2.5 Billion** was disbursed to him by the previous Government of Chief Godswill Akpabio prior to the general elections and the REC now feels obliged to complete the corrupt process by doing everything possible to frustrate the Governorship petition of the APC candidate, **Hon. Umana Okon Umana**.

3. The REC's determination to frustrate the process, having received bribes as aforesaid manifests in a number of ways:
 - a) He brought some electoral materials to Abuja in *apparent obedience* to the Tribunal orders but ensured that those materials were not handed over to anybody and nobody to superintend them. The result is that our client has been unable to gain access to the materials as at 7pm today 8th July, 2015 whereas the exercise ought to have commenced since the 6th July, 2015 and to end on the 20th July, 2015! The objective of the delay tactics employed by Mr Okojie is to prevent the APC candidate from using the evidence to effectively prosecute his case at the election tribunal.
 - b) The trial of the election petition itself is due to commence on Tuesday the 14th July, 2015 and for fourteen (14) days only. The delay in the forensic exercise means that our client would not gather sufficient materials within time to prosecute his petition. the exercise ought to have commenced on the 6th July. The urgency cannot be over emphasised!
 - c) The following officers of INEC also share in the culpability. They are: Mr Uche Okorie, Head Legal Services, Akwa Ibom State; Mr Bawa, Director, Legal Services INEC Headquarters, Abuja. Both Legal Officers have shown very scant regard for the orders of the Tribunal. Mr. Uche Okorie corruptly abandoned the electoral materials in Abuja; acting the script of the PDP and the Government House, Uyo and returned to Uyo. He is known to have been richly rewarded by the PDP and the Government House Uyo and is also determined, like his REC, to frustrate the process. Mr. Bawa's uncooperative conduct is bewildering and very suspicious given his absolute nonchalance and lack of interest in carrying out the Tribunal orders.
4. It is now obvious that the attitude of the REC stems from the irreparable damage he caused to be done to electoral materials in Akwa Ibom State. Most electoral materials in Akwa Ibom State were deliberately

destroyed; water was deliberately poured into the bags of materials while some were kept under the rain contrary to the established practice of keeping the materials in envelopes according to their polling units.

5. We attach samples of electoral materials deliberately mutilated or otherwise destroyed by the corrupt and irresponsible orders of Mr Okojie, the REC in Akwa Ibom State. Could this be allowed to be business as usual especially for the change we desire as a nation? God forbid!
6. To buttress the compromise of these characters by the Akwa Ibom State Government, they came to Abuja without the following vital documents:
 - a) Polling Unit Result Sheets, namely FORM EC 8A for the 2982 units in Akwa Ibom State.
 - b) Ward Result Sheets, Form EC8B for the 329 Wards in Akwa Ibom State.
 - c) LGA Result Sheets FORM EC8C for the 31 LGAs in Akwa Ibom, etc.
7. The conduct of the REC; absolutely criminal in content, reckless in execution and done with impunity is not only a breach of public trust but would have catastrophic consequences if allowed to go unpunished in order to serve as a deterrent.

It is a shame that notwithstanding the large scale fraud perpetrated by the PDP in Akwa Ibom State, agents of the Party and the Government in power are still bent on doing more damage to our collective psyche and stand in the way of justice.

Yours faithfully
VICTOR IYANAM & CO.

CHIEF VICTOR IYANAM, Ch.M
Principal Counsel