

HONOURABLE CHAIRMEN *of* ELECTORAL COMMISSIONS IN NIGERIA (1958 - 2023)

PHOTOBOOK AND CONCISE BIOGRAPHY





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HONOURABLE CHAIRMEN *of* ELECTORAL COMMISSIONS IN NIGERIA (1958 - 2023)

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Lead Researcher

Princess Hamman-Obels



INITIATIVE FOR RESEARCH,
INNOVATION AND ADVOCACY
IN DEVELOPMENT

First Published 2024.

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About The Electoral Hub

The Electoral Hub, an affiliate of the Initiative for Research, Innovation and Advocacy in Development (IRIAD), is an interdisciplinary knowledge and advocacy think-and-do-tank with a focus on providing solutions to improve the credibility and integrity of the electoral process. The Electoral Hub complements the roles and activities of the different institutions, stakeholders and drivers of the electoral process and governance. The Electoral Hub aims to strengthen electoral governance and accountability in Nigeria through research, documentation, electoral education, policy and legal influencing and impact advocacy. We believe that the integrity of the electoral process is crucial in improving electoral governance and sustaining democracy in Nigeria. We also believe in solutions rooted in the principles of justice and equity.

...promoting electoral knowledge, accountability, and integrity

Phone Numbers: +2347047998525, +235915122138

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Introduction

Credible elections are considered necessary for the success of representative democracies globally. But there are a whole series of processes, systems, procedures and conditions, within and outside an Electoral Management Body, that are crucial in ensuring credible elections. The ability of an EMB to harness, coordinate and navigate such processes, loosely referred to as electoral governance, is thus a crucial ingredient in the conduct of credible elections and the management of the entire electoral process. In view of the crucial roles EMBs and their leaderships play in ensuring credible elections, this photobook, *"Honourable Chairmen of Electoral Commissions in Nigeria (1958 – 2023)"* is a unique contribution, offering insights into the progressive evolution of electoral governance in Nigeria and the trajectory of Nigeria's democratic journey.

Thus from 1958 to date, the electoral process in Nigeria has evolved remarkably through incremental improvements and continuous reforms aimed at enhancing the integrity and credibility of elections. From the pioneering efforts of Mr. R.E. Wraith, who oversaw the first nationwide voter registration and the election that ushered in Nigeria's independence, leading the 1958-1959 Electoral Commission and the 1960-1963 Electoral Commission for the Federation, to the innovative measures introduced by the current Commission under the leadership of Professor Mahmood Yakubu, each Commission has left an indelible mark on the country's conduct of elections and management of the electoral process.

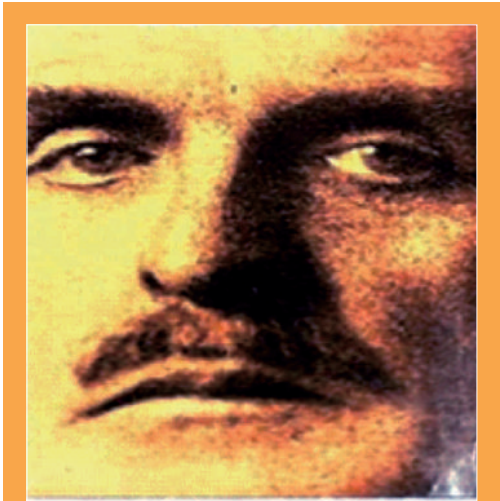
This photobook, enriched with concise biographies and key contributions to electoral management and governance in Nigeria by each Commission, provides a comprehensive overview of the contributions, challenges and legacies of these Commissions. It is a pointer to their dedication to fostering transparent, fair, and credible elections, and how this



has contributed to shaping the democratic foundation of Nigeria. It is through these Commissions' commitment and visionary leadership that significant strides have been made in voter education, registration processes, and the introduction of technologies to enhance the electoral


This study conducted by The Electoral Hub, an affiliate of the Initiative for Research, Innovation, and Advocacy in Development (IRIAD), reflects its commitment towards strengthening electoral governance and accountability in Nigeria. The story of each Chairman documented here serves as an inspiration to continue striving for excellence in electoral governance, ensuring that the principles of justice, equity, and integrity remain at the forefront of the electoral process.

This knowledge product would be an important resource for election managers, scholars, and all those dedicated to the cause of improving Nigeria's electoral process and deepening its democracy. It is intended to remind us of the profound impact that dedicated leadership can have on the quality and credibility of our elections, and the advancement of our democracy.

	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
<p>1</p>	<div>  </div> <div> <p> MR. RONALD EDWARDS WRAITH Electoral Commission 1958 - 1959 Electoral Commission for the Federation 1960 -1963 </p> </div>	<div> <p>Bio</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Ronald Edwards Wraith was born 1908 in Derbyshire, England, United Kingdom. — R.E Wraith studied Economics from the University of Birmingham — He was a warden at Tyneside Community Centre — Secretary of Youth Services, Education Department of Borough of Southampton — He served as head of department on Colonial Studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) — He also served as head of Devonshire courses for Colonial and West African administrators. — He was a Colonial Administrator, and with the Housing, and Social Services Department of Gold Coast (Ghana). — He was a lecturer at the University College, Ibadan before his appointment as Chairman of the Electoral Commission (EC) in 1958.




	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
	<p>MR. RONALD EDWARDS WRAITH Electoral Commission 1958 – 1959 Electoral Commission for the Federation 1960 -1963</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">— He was Chairman of the Electoral Commission (EC) 1958 – 1959 and Chairman of the Electoral Commission for the Federation (ECF) 1958 – 1963— Wraith authored many books on local government and public administration, comparing English, and West African local government systems. <p style="text-align: center;">Contributions to Electoral Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Supervised the conduct of the 1959 parliamentary and regional elections that ushered independence in Nigeria.— Conducted the first nationwide voter registration and compiled the first voter register on regional basis.— Established polling units (PU) with a threshold of 500 voters per PU.— Introduced voter education through newspaper advertisements in the Daily Times highlighting the need for secrecy of the ballot and voting one's conscience.

	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — He was Chairman of the EC 1958 -1960 and Chairman of the first post-independence Commission, the ECF which was established under the 1960 Constitution, till 1963 when Nigeria became a Republic.
2	 <p>SIR KOFO ABAYOMI Electoral Commission for the Federation 1963 – 1964</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Sir Kofo Abayomi was born on July 10, 1896, in Lagos. — Attended United Native African Church School (UNA), Lagos, and later Wesleyan College, now known as Methodist Boys High School, Lagos. — Joined the staff of the African Hospital, Lagos, in early 1914. Volunteered as a dresser at a main base hospital in the Cameroons during World War I. — Studied Pharmacy at Yaba Higher College and attended the Medical School of the University of Edinburgh, graduating in 1928. — Although a medical doctor, he was also an active politician who was a founding member and chaired the Nigerian Youth



	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
	<p style="text-align: center;">SIR KOFO ABAYOMI Electoral Commission for the Federation 1963 – 1964</p>	<p>Movement (NYM), before returning to university for post-graduate studies in 1941.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— He was the first Nigerian to serve as Chairman of Nigeria's EMB, the Electoral Commission for the Federation (ECF) in 1963 when Nigeria became a Republic.— Died on January 1, 1979, at the age of 82. <p style="text-align: center;">Contributions to Electoral Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— As Chairman of ECF, Sir Kofu Abayomi chaired the new Mid-West EMB and supervised the February 1964 House of Assembly Elections.

	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
3	 <p>EYO ETA ESUA Electoral Commission for the Federation 1964 – 1965</p>	<p>Bio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Eyo Eta Esua was born in 1901, and hailed from Cross River State in the defunct Eastern region.— He was a school master, activist/trade unionist and a founding member of the Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT).— He served as the first full-time General Secretary of the NUT from 1943 to 1964 when he was appointed as Chairman of the ECF— Eyo Eta Esua worked with other activists such as Dr Azikiwe, Okorududu in the 1942 Reconstruction Group, a non-political, research organisation of small group of intellectuals whose objective was to conduct research into various aspects of Nigerian national life - politics, economics, education and sociology - with a view to finding solutions to the country's problems.— Eyo Esua was the second Nigerian to serve as the Chairman of the EMB. He served from April 1963 to December 1965 when he resigned.



	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
	<p style="text-align: center;">EYO ETA ESUA Electoral Commission for the Federation 1964 – 1965</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">— Eyo Esua died on December 6, 1973 at the age of 72 years. <p style="text-align: center;">Contributions to Electoral Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Organised the post-independence federal and regional elections of 1964 and 1965.— Managed the conduct of a delimitation exercise which led to the reconfiguration of the 312 federal constituencies in terms of voter population based on the 1963 Census.— Oversaw the reconstruction of polling booths and the compilation of a new register of voters ahead of the 1964 elections.— As an EMB Chairman, Eyo Esua acknowledged the limitations faced by the Commission in ensuring a credible election, thereby calling attention to the need for improvement.

	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
4	<div> </div> <div> <p> CHIEF MICHEAL O. ANI Federal Electoral Commission 1976 – 1979 </p> </div>	<div> <p>Bio</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Chief Michael Ani was born on November 30, 1917, and hailed from Cross River State. <li>— Chief Michael Ani was appointed by the Acting President of the Federation in December 1965 as Chairman of the ECF to succeed Eyo Esua but the appointment was aborted by the January 15, 1966 coup d'etat. <li>— In 1966, Chief Ani was appointed by Major General Johnson Aguiyi-Ironsi as a Commissioner to assist in reviewing the unification of regional public services. <li>— Ani was subsequently appointed chairman of the new EMB, the Federal Electoral Commission (FEDECO) by General Olusegun Obasanjo in 1976, following his retirement from the Civil Service. <li>— Michael Ani served as the Chairman of FEDECO from 1976 to 1979, overseeing the transition to the Nigeria's Second Republic. <li>— Chief Ani's tenure as FEDECO chair ended in 1979.

	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
	<p>CHIEF MICHEAL O. ANI Federal Electoral Commission 1976 – 1979</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">— He died at the age of 68 years on December 18, 1985. <p style="text-align: center;">Contributions to Electoral Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Conducted the 1976 zero-party local government councils' election following the local government reforms of 1976.— Under Ani's leadership, FEDECO delimited the country into electoral districts, conducted voter registration and registered five political parties, namely: the National Party of Nigeria (NPN); the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN); the Peoples Redemption Party (PRP); the Great Nigeria Peoples Party (GNPP); and the Nigeria Peoples Party (NPP).— FEDECO under Ani conducted a house-to-house voter registration exercise across Nigeria.— FEDECO under Ani conducted the 1979 General Election that ushered in Nigeria's first transition from military to democratic rule.

	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
5	<div> </div> <div> <p> HON. JUSTICE V. OVIE-WHISKEY Federal Electoral Commission 1980-1983 </p> </div>	<div> <p>Bio</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Justice Victor Ovie-Whiskey was born on April 6, 1923, in Ikiwewu, Agbarho, Delta State (then Western Region), Nigeria. — He attended King's College Lagos, Yaba Higher College, and University College, Ibadan (now University of Ibadan). — He was noted as one of the leaders of the 1944 Kings College boys strike against the Colonial Administration — He later studied civil law and jurisprudence at the University of London — Justice Ovie-Whiskey was called to the United Kingdom bar in 1952. — He practiced from 1952 to 1960 when he became a magistrate in the Western Region — He became pioneer Chief Magistrate of the newly formed Mid-Western Region (later Bendel State) in 1963 and eventually rose to the position of chief judge of Bendel State till 1980 when he was appointed as Chairman of FEDECO by President Shehu Shagari.



	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
	<p>HON. JUSTICE V. OVIE-WHISKEY Federal Electoral Commission 1980-1983</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">— Before his legal career, he worked briefly in the civil service as a marine clerk and had teaching stints at Western Boys High School, Benin City and Hussy College, Warri.— He pursued a career that included roles as a marine clerk, and teacher, and studied civil law and jurisprudence at the University of London.— He served as Chairman of FEDECO from 1980-1983— He died at the age of 89 years on July 18, 2012. <p>Contributions to Electoral Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Under his leadership, FEDECO screened out candidates deemed unqualified to hold public office following standards set by the Electoral Decree of 1977.— Conducted the 1983 General Election.

	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
<p>6</p>	<div> </div> <div> <p> PROFESSOR EME AWA National Electoral Commission 1987 – 1989 </p> </div>	<div> <p>Bio</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Professor Eme Awa was born on December 15, 1921, and hailed from Old Imo State. <li>— He attended Ohafia Central School from 1928 to 1934 and Hope Waddell Training Institute in Calabar from 1935 to 1939. <li>— Professor Awa pursued further education in the United States, attending Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, from 1949 to 1951, and New York University from 1951 to 1955. <li>— He was a professor of Political Science at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, where he contributed significantly to the field and mentored future leaders, including Humphrey Nwosu. <li>— Professor Awa was a member of the Political Bureau of 1986. <li>— Professor Eme Awa was appointed Chairman of the National Electoral Commission (NEC) in 1987 and served until his resignation in 1989. <li>— Professor Awa died on March 11, 2000 at the age of 79 years.



	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
	<p style="text-align: center;">PROFESSOR EME AWA National Electoral Commission 1987 – 1989</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Contributions to Electoral Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Conducted voter registration in 1987 in preparation for zero-party election into local government councils.— NEC also conducted the 1988 Constituent Assembly elections using the existing local government councils as electoral colleges.— The Commission also engaged in the mobilisation of voters in collaboration with MAMSER (Mass Mobilization for Self-reliance, Social Justice and Economic Recovery).— AWA-led NEC also revised the voters' register ahead of the 1993 elections.— Awa's tenure as NEC Chairman ended in 1989 when he resigned from the Commission. He was succeeded by Professor Nwosu.

	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
<p>7</p>	<div> </div> <div> <p> PROFESSOR HUMPHREY NWOSU National Electoral Commission 1989 – 1993 </p> </div>	<div> <p>Bio</p> </div> <div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Professor Nwosu was born on October 2, 1941, in Anambra State. — He was a political science professor at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. — Professor Nwosu served in the 20-member Dasuki Local Government Review Committee in 1984. — In February 1986, the late Military Administrator of old Anambra State, Air Commodore Emeka Omeruah (Rtd.), appointed him as the Commissioner for Local Government, Rural Development and Chieftaincy Matters as well as Commissioner for Agriculture. — Professor Nwosu was appointed Chairman of the NEC in 1989 and served till June 1993. </div> <div> <p>Contributions to Electoral Governance</p> </div> <div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Organised the landmark 12th June 1993 election, lauded as Nigeria's freest and fairest, introducing innovative voting </div>



	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
	<p>PROFESSOR HUMPHREY NWOSU National Electoral Commission 1989 – 1993</p>	<p>systems such as the use of Option A4 in the selection of candidates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Conducted the December 1990 Local Government Council election contested by the two official parties- Social Democratic Party (SDP) and National Republican Convention (NRC).— The Nwosu-led NEC promptly released guidelines on party formation just two days after the government lifted the ban on politics in May 1989.— It verified the claims of membership of 13 political associations that applied for registration as one of the two integrative political parties.— NEC produced the party blueprints, including the draft manifestos and constitutions for what eventually became the National Republican Convention (NRC) and the Social Democratic Party (SDP).— Initiated the establishment of the Commission as a statutory organisation recognised by the Constitution. Thus, ensuring institutional memory and also marking career in the Commission permanent and pensionable.


	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Initiated the building of permanent offices of the Commission at the three levels of its structure - national, state and local government areas. Including moving the Commission from Lagos to Abuja. These actions were the beginning of the today's Independence of Commission. — Nwosu's tenure as NEC Chair ended in 1993 when he was succeeded by Professor Okon Edet Uya.
8	<div> </div> <div> <p>PROFESSOR OKON EDET UYA <i>National Electoral Commission</i> 1993</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Professor Uya was born on June 12, 1947. — He served as Nigeria's ambassador to Argentina, Peru, Paraguay, and Chile, gaining experience in international relations. — He also held a professorship in history at the University of Calabar, specialising in the Atlantic slave trade. — Appointed by President Ibrahim Babangida, he led NEC after the annulment of the 1993 presidential election. — Uya-led NEC was short-lived as political turmoil prevented him from conducting new elections before General Sani Abacha assumed power and his subsequent dismissal.

	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Despite the setbacks, he continued to contribute to academia, serving as Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Acting Vice-Chancellor at the University of Calabar. — Professor Uya died on April 17, 2014 at the age of 67 years.
9	<div> </div> <div> <p>CHIEF SUMNER DAGOGO-JACK National Electoral Commission of Nigeria 1995 – 1998</p> </div>	<div> <p>Bio</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Chief Sumner Dagogo-Jack was born 1930 in Abonnema, Rivers State, Nigeria. — He was deputy governor of Rivers State — He previously served as a member of the Humphrey Nwosu Electoral Commission from 1989 to 1993. — By 1994, he was appointed Chairman of the National Electoral Commission of Nigeria (NECON) from 1994 to 1998. <div> <p>Contributions to Electoral Governance</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Registered five new political parties, United Nigeria Congress Party (UNCP), Congress for National Consensus (CNC), Democratic Party of Nigeria (DPN), National Centre Party of Nigeria (NCPN), and Grassroots Democratic Movement (GDM).

	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — His tenure came to an abrupt end with President Sani Abacha's death in June 1998.
10	<div> </div> <div> <p>JUSTICE EPHRAIM O. I. AKPATA Independent National Electoral Commission 1998 – 2000</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Hon. Justice Akpata was born on April 15, 1927, in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. — Educated at King's College, Lagos, and pursued legal studies in the United Kingdom. — Called to the bar in London's Middle Temple in 1959; admitted to the Nigerian bar the same year. He had a successful career in private legal practice, handling various political cases. Transitioned to the bench in 1969, rapidly ascending to Chief Judge of the Midwestern State of Nigeria by 1973. Appointed as a Supreme Court Judge in 1990, retiring in 1992. — Served as Chairman of Nigeria's Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) during the crucial transition to civil rule elections of 1999.

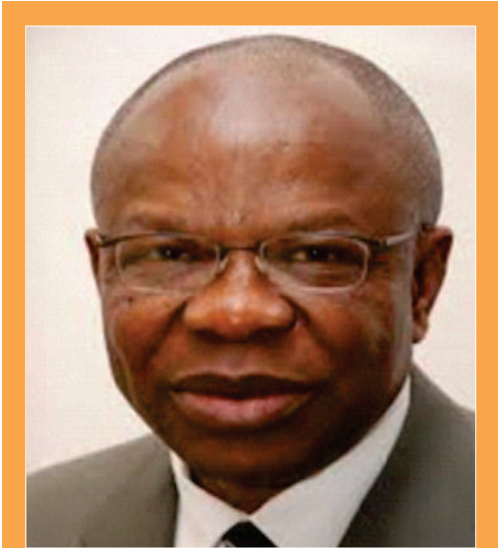


	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
	<p>JUSTICE EPHRAIM O. I. AKPATA Independent National Electoral Commission 1998 – 2000</p>	<p>Contributions to Electoral Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Introduced strict conditions for registration of 'nationalist' parties to avoid the pitfalls that emerged from the immediate post-independence regional-ethnic-based political parties in Nigeria.— Oversaw the conduct of the December 1998 local government elections. The Akpata-led Commission was also the only commission under the ongoing democratic dispensation to have conducted and managed a nation-wide local government (LG) election. LG election became the responsibility of State Independent Electoral Commissions under the 1999 Constitution.— Organised the conduct of transitional elections of 1999 which ushered in Nigeria's Fourth Republic— Justice Akpata died on January 8, 2000, bringing his tenure to an untimely end.

	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
11	 <p> DR. ABEL I. GUOBADIA Independent National Electoral Commission 2000 – 2005 </p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Born on June 28, 1932, in Benin City, Nigeria. — Held a Ph.D. in solid-state physics from the University of Pittsburgh, USA, in 1966. — Taught at the Universities of Nigeria (1961 – 1966) and Lagos (1966-1971) — Acting Executive Secretary of Nigeria's National Universities Commission (NUC), 1971 -1983. — Served as Commissioner of Education from 1984 to 1986 and Commissioner of Finance and Economic Planning between 1986 and 1987 in old Bendel State during military administration. — Became Nigeria's first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of South Korea in 1987 -1991. — Secretary of Benin Forum 1993 - 2000 — Served as Chairman of INEC from May 2000 to May 2005.



	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
	<p style="text-align: center;">DR. ABEL I. GUOBADIA Independent National Electoral Commission 2000 – 2005</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Contributions to Electoral Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Established an ICT Department for the efficient deployment of Information Technology tools in the electoral process.— Introduced the use of technological solutions in the electoral process, including Optical Mark Readers (OMRs) to capture voter registration data and finger impressions— Computerisation of the voter register, thus producing the first electronic/digital voter's register.— Transmitted election results electronically by VSAT, and HF Radio and pasted election results on the Commission's website as the vote counts were recorded from the field.— Dr. Guobadia contributed to numerous boards and councils, including the New Nigeria Bank and the West African Examinations Council.— Advocated for community organizations like the Benin Forum and Women's Health and Action Research Centre.— He died on February 4, 2011.

	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
12	 <p> PROFESSOR MAURICE M. IWU Independent National Electoral Commission 2005 – 2010 </p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Professor Iwu was born on April 21, 1950, in Umuezeala, Umukabia, Ehime Mbano, Imo State, Nigeria. — He earned a master's degree in Pharmacy in 1976 and a Ph.D. in 1978 from the University of Bradford, England. — Held positions as a World Health Organisation (WHO) Visiting Scholar at the University of Oxford and a Fulbright Senior Scholar at Ohio State University. Won the U.S. National Research International Prize for Ethnobiology in 1999. — Served as a professor of pharmacognosy at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, from 1984 to 1993. Widely published with over 100 works to his name. — He was the Deputy President of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) from January – July 1988. He left for the USA for further research when ASUU was proscribed by the IBB regime. — Served as the United Nation's Lead Consultant for Nigeria's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.



	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
	<p>PROFESSOR MAURICE M. IWU Independent National Electoral Commission 2005 – 2010</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">— Appointed as INEC National Commissioner in August 2003 and INEC Chairman in June 2005. <p>Contributions to Electoral Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Establishment of The Electoral Institute (TEI) with two satellite campuses and partnership arrangement with three Nigerian universities. TEI is responsible for training, research, and documentation on elections in Nigeria.— Iwu-led INEC improved electoral storage and distribution of electoral materials with the building of two secured warehouses in Abuja and Lagos as well as six zonal stores across the six geopolitical zones of the country to facilitate secure storage of election materials.— Establishment of a robust communication system in all the 774 local government areas of the country linked to the 36 state capitals and FCT. This is to facilitate the electronic transmission of results collated by the Resident Electoral Commissioners and their field staff to Abuja in real-time.



	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
	<p>PROFESSOR MAURICE M. IWU Independent National Electoral Commission 2005 – 2010</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">— Iwu-led INEC improved on the OMR system with technology that allowed for “direct data capture of voters' details [including photographs], data backup and transfer”.— Use customized ballot papers for each electoral constituency to address ballot box stuffing.— Introduced INEC-NYSC bilateral collaboration in electoral staff management.— Established INEC – SIEC collaboration through the Forum of State Independent Electoral Commissions of Nigeria (FOSIECON) in 2006.— Established the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Unit.— Start compliance monitoring in the Commission with the establishment of Compliance Monitoring Unit.— Improvement of Staff welfare with the introduction of a hazard allowance, a thirteenth-month salary and a housing scheme.— Established partnerships with development partners which led to the creation of the Joint Donor Basket Fund.— Introduction of the first voter register database.

	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
<p>13</p>	<div> </div> <div> <p> PROFESSOR ATTAHIRU M. JEGA Independent National Electoral Commission 2010 – 2015 </p> </div>	<div> <p>Bio</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Professor Jega was born on January 11, 1957 and hails from Kebbi State. <li>— Professor Jega holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, and both a master's degree and PhD from Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, USA. <li>— He served as President of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) from 1988 to 1994. And acting president in 1987 when the then president late Professor Festus Iyayi was sacked from the University of Benin. <li>— He was also the deputy Vice-Chancellor of Bayero University, Kano, from 1995 to 1996. <li>— Directed the Centre for Democratic Research and Training from 2000 to 2004. <li>— Became Vice-Chancellor of Bayero University, Kano, from 2005 to 2010.



	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
	<p style="text-align: center;">PROFESSOR ATTAHIRU M. JEGA Independent National Electoral Commission 2010 – 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">— Professor Jega was a member of the 2008 Electoral Reform Committee AKA Uwais Committee.— Served as Chairman of INEC from June 2010 to June 2015.— In 2015, Professor Jega received IFES' Charles T. Manatt Democracy Award.— Professor Jega continues to contribute to academia at Bayero University and serves on influential committees and boards, including the Kofi Annan Foundation's Electoral Integrity Initiative and the board of the International Federation of Electoral Systems (IFES). <p style="text-align: center;">Contributions to Electoral Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Conducted the 2011 and 2015 General Elections— Jega-led INEC introduced a new biometric register of voters, the National Electronic Voter Register (NEVR).— Conducted a comprehensive reorganization and restructuring of the Commission to: define an optimal structure; eliminate duplications and overlaps in roles; streamline branches of the



	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
	<p style="text-align: center;">PROFESSOR ATTAHIRU M. JEGA Independent National Electoral Commission 2010 – 2015</p>	<p>Commission namely, Departments, Units, Desks, etc., and clarify manning levels; clarify job descriptions; identify skills and competencies required to man the branches of the Commission; augment skills through continuous training, where necessary, and enhance the conditions of service of staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Mapped and re-engineered the Commission's Business Process.— Developed and produced a Strategic Plan and a Strategic Programme of Action covering the period of 2012-2016— Developed and deployed the first Election Project Plan (EPP), the 2015 EPP.— Established the INEC Citizens Contact Centre (ICCC).— Established a Graphic Designs Centre (GDC) and Virtual Library,— Promoted research and learning by reorganising and repositioning the TEI as an embedded institute. Strengthened the functions of TEI and appointed the first DG Late Professor Abubakar Momoh. He laid a strong foundation for the growth of the institution.



	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
	<p>PROFESSOR ATTAHIRU M. JEGA Independent National Electoral Commission 2010 – 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">— Established mechanism for the Gazetting of INEC Regulatory Instruments.— Strengthened the election dispute management mechanism with the establishment and strengthening of the directorate of Election Alternative Dispute Resolution (EADR).— Improved electoral staff management by establishing, and institutionalising an INEC-NYSC Bilateral Committee with membership from both INEC and NYSC.— Improved the framework for civic and voter education through a new Communication Policy, the establishment of the ICCC and the National Interagency Committee on Voter Education (NICVEP).— Safeguarded elections with the establishment of the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) to address challenges to the security of elections across the country.— Enhanced and promoted electoral inclusivity with the development of an INEC Gender Policy and Policy Programme



	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
	<p style="text-align: center;">PROFESSOR ATTAHIRU M. JEGA Independent National Electoral Commission 2010 – 2015</p>	<p>of Action; and Framework and Regulation for Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) voting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Started the comprehensive legal reforms, the 10years journey that culminated with the enactment of 2022 Electoral Act.— The Commission also introduced security features on electoral materials such as the results sheets and ballot papers, Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS).— INEC under Professor Jega also introduced a phased and decentralised system of distribution of electoral materials with the establishments of Registration Area Centres (RACs) to house electoral materials, polling units' officials and security. This way before materials and personnel were taken closer to the polling units for easier distribution and early commencement of the voting process on election day.— Established election situation room on election day to address issues real time as they arise, as well as a national collation centre for presidential results announcements.

	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
	<p style="text-align: center;">PROFESSOR ATTAHIRU M. JEGA Independent National Electoral Commission 2010 – 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Improved transparent, timely collation and announcement of results, with audio-visual recording and live media coverage of collation; such that for the first time, from local to national elections, we were able to declare results within 36 to 48 hours. — Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) were also introduced under the Jega-led INEC as were electronic card-reading machines. — Deployed the e-trac platform where scanned polling units' results – EC8As are uploaded after election day. This was the precursor to the IReV. — Professor Jega's tenure as INEC Chairman came to an end June 30, 2015 when he was succeeded by Hajia Amina Zakari as acting Chairman of INEC.

	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
<p>14</p>	<div> </div> <div> <p> PROFESSOR MAHMOOD YAKUBU Independent National Electoral Commission 2015 – 2020 </p> </div>	<div> <p>Bio</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Professor Yakubu hails from Bauchi State. He was born in May 1962. — Graduated with first-class honours in History from the University of Sokoto (now Usmanu Danfodiyo University) in 1985, earning the Waziri of Sokoto Prize for Best Graduating Student. — Pursued postgraduate studies at the University of Cambridge, obtaining a Master of Philosophy in International Relations in 1987, followed by a Doctor of Philosophy in History from the University of Oxford in 1991. — Received multiple awards, including the Overseas Research Students' Award and the Beit Fund Research Grant. — Started as a Graduate Assistant at the University of Jos in 1986. — Advanced to senior academic roles, becoming a Professor at the Nigerian Defence Academy by 1998.



	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
	<p>PROFESSOR MAHMOOD YAKUBU Independent National Electoral Commission 2015 – 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">— Held various administrative positions, including Head of the Department of History, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and pioneer Dean of the Post Graduate School.— Appointed Executive Secretary of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TET Fund) in 2007.— Served in the 2014 National Conference— Introduced innovative programs improving Nigeria's tertiary education system, such as the Academic Staff Training and Development programme, the Special High Impact Intervention Project, and the National Research Fund.— Received honorary doctorates from several universities and fellowships from professional bodies.— Professor Mahmood Yakubu is the current chairman of INEC, serving since 2015. He is the first Chairman to serve a second term in office. <p>Contributions to Electoral Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Under Professor Yakubu's first tenure, INEC oversaw the



	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
	<p>PROFESSOR MAHMOOD YAKUBU Independent National Electoral Commission 2015 – 2020</p>	<p>conduct of the 2019 General Election as well as seven off-cycle governorship elections from 2015 to 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Under Mahmood's first tenure as Honourable Chairman of INEC, the commission developed a mobile application, the '<i>INEC i-reporter</i>', for use by Nigerians to monitor the 2019 General elections and share pictures, short videos and other information on election-day developments in real-time to INEC.— Deployment from the 2020 Ondo Governorship Election of the INEC Result Viewing Portal at the country-wide level to allow for public view of election results of all Polling Units (EC8As).— Other innovations by INEC in the first tenure of the Mahmood-led Commission include the provision for results to be pasted at PUs and Collation Centres, the introduction of a Strategic Plan (2017-2021), and a detailed Strategic Program of Action for the election as well as a detailed Election Project Plan was drafted.— The Commission under Professor Yakubu's first tenure also adopted a revised Communication Policy/Strategy, designed

	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
		<p>to improve both internal and external communication by the Commission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The Yakubu-led Commission also adopted the Gender Policy intended to make the Commission's work more gender-sensitive in line with global best practices.
<p>15</p>	<div> </div> <div> <p> PROFESSOR MAHMOOD YAKUBU Independent National Electoral Commission 2015 – 2020 </p> </div>	<p>Second Tenure Contributions to Electoral Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Under Professor Yakubu's second tenure, INEC has overseen the conduct of the 2023 General Election as well as eight off-cycle governorship elections from 2020 to 2023. — INEC further consolidated election innovations for the conduct of the 2023 general election. — Establishment of a Gender and Inclusivity Department and revision of the 2014 INEC Gender Policy to promote electoral inclusivity for historically marginalised groups – women, youth and PWDs. — Yakubu-led INEC improved voter access to polling units by creating additional 56,872 polling units in 2021.

	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
	<p style="text-align: center;">PROFESSOR MAHMOOD YAKUBU Independent National Electoral Commission 2015 – 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — INEC under Professor Yakubu's second tenure, also expanded access for PWDs by providing policy framework and assistive devices to aid their participation during election. — The Professor Yakubu-led INEC, in his second tenure also introduced the INEC Voter Enrolment Device (IVED), an improved android-based voter registration device. — There was also the country-wide use of the Biometric Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) for voter's card verification and authentication as well as biometric (facial and thumb) scans. The device also allowed for PU result upload. — INEC under Yakubu's second tenure leadership consolidated the use of the INEC Result Viewing Portal at the country-wide level to allow for public view of election results of all Polling Units (EC8As). — The Commission also introduced the use of ZPads, an Android-based device for capturing and uploading results to the IReV Portal.



	EMB Chairmen	Biography and Contribution to Electoral Governance
	<p>PROFESSOR MAHMOOD YAKUBU Independent National Electoral Commission 2015 – 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">— The INEC Security Alert and Notification System (INEC SANS) consisting of an Android application and web dashboard used for monitoring and responding to physical threats to INEC activities and facilities was also introduced by INEC under Professor Yakubu's second tenure.— Under the leadership of Professor Mahmood Yakubu, INEC introduced collapsed accreditation and voting procedures, whereby voters were accredited using their PVC and an SCR/BVAS and then proceeded to vote using a ballot paper.— Set up the Election Monitoring and Support Centre, the operational coordination and support mechanism for tracking the implementation of the EPP.— The Yakubu-led Commission also set up an Electoral Logistics Committee and a National Collation Committee for the 2019 and 2023 General Elections.



...promoting electoral knowledge, accountability, and integrity

About The Electoral Hub

The Electoral Hub, an affiliate of the Initiative for Research, Innovation and Advocacy in Development (IRIAD), is an interdisciplinary knowledge and advocacy think-and-do-tank with a focus on providing solutions to improve the credibility and integrity of the electoral process. The Electoral Hub complements the roles and activities of the different institutions, stakeholders and drivers of the electoral process and governance. The Electoral Hub aims to strengthen electoral governance and accountability in Nigeria through research, documentation, electoral education, policy and legal influencing and impact advocacy. We believe that the integrity of the electoral process is crucial in improving electoral governance and sustaining democracy in Nigeria. We also believe in solutions rooted in the principles of justice and equity.

Phone Numbers: +2347047998525, +235915122138

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