



Text of the Remark By
His Excellency
Mr. Biodun Oyebanji
Governor, Ekiti State

**At the
Swearing-in Ceremony of the Chairman of the Ekiti State
Independent Electoral Commission (EKSIEC)**

Venue: Conference Hall, Governor's Office
Ado-Ekiti | Ekiti State | Tuesday | June 27, 2023.

Protocols

1. It is my delight to welcome you to this brief occasion marking the swearing-in of the Chairman of the Ekiti State Independent Electoral Commission, Hon. Justice Cornelius Akintayo (rtd)
 2. This event is in the fulfilment of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as Amended which establishes the electoral commission and empowers the governor to nominate the chairman and members of the Commission. With the confirmation of the chairman's nomination by the Parliament, we are here today to swear him into office as chairman.
 3. I therefore want to congratulate the Hon. Justice Akintayo (rtd) on his appointment as the Chairman of the State electoral commission. I hope you will forgive us for interrupting your well-deserved retirement after an illustrious career in the Judiciary where you started out as a Court Bailiff, Court Clerk and got to the apex as a distinguished Justice of the High Court of Ekiti State.
 4. As a Judge in the State Judiciary, he was renowned for his impartiality, meticulousness, integrity and fairness. He has acquitted himself as a thorough professional, fit and proper person and a man of sound character. It was on the strength of these attributes that he was well recommended for this task. I am very confident in his ability and
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those of the other members of the Commission to do a thorough job that we make all of us proud.

5. The Commission is an important organ of our democratic institutions that are constitutionally established to ensure governments at all levels exist through popular participation and democratic election. The State Electoral Commission is specifically charged with the responsibility of conducting election into the Chairmanship and Councillorship positions in our Local Government Areas and the Local Council Development Areas, in addition to conducting referendum in the event that new local governments are to be created.
6. As another election into the local government is due in December of this year, efforts must begin in earnest in accordance to the relevant electoral laws, to ensure the elections are credible, free and fair. The Commission must be seen and felt to be an impartial arbiter.
7. To be honest, the trust quotient of the electorate and the general public in the credibility of election into the local government is very low. The Commission must do everything possible to ensure the election is not only free and fair, it must be widely seen to be so.
8. We need to upgrade and upscale the electoral system to go in tandem with what is obtainable at the national level as seen in the 2023 general election which has been adjudged to be generally credible by impartial arbiters and observers.
9. Meanwhile, it must be noted that the success of any election is not the sole duty of the election management body but the responsibility of every stakeholder in the democratic enterprise. I therefore want to call on all the stakeholders in the political and electoral process to support the Commission to succeed by doing their bit to play fairly and lawfully. I urge the parties to conduct themselves peacefully and to adhere to the relevant laws as the electioneering into the council offices kick off in accordance to the SIEC timetable and directives.
10. On our part, we will do everything possible to ensure the Commission is well resourced to do a good job. The security agencies will also ensure there are no threats or violence and that the election are credible, free and fair.



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11. In conclusion, I want to call on Ekiti people to continue to support our administration as we are committed to their welfare and wellbeing.
 12. Thank you for your attention. God bless you.

Biodun Oyebanji

Governor

June 27 | 2023

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