



**Commonwealth Observer Group
Nigeria National Assembly and Presidential Elections**

21 April 2011

Dear Secretary-General,

The Commonwealth Observer Group has completed its Final Report on its observation of the Nigerian National Assembly and Presidential elections and is pleased to submit it to you.

In approaching our task, we were conscious of the importance of Nigeria to Africa, to the Commonwealth and indeed to the larger international community, and the onerous responsibility therefore placed upon us. We were mindful also of the history of flawed elections in Nigeria and of how much was at stake on this occasion. It was for these reasons that most members of our team decided to adjust our plans and stay on in Nigeria for the postponed National Assembly and Presidential elections.

In the event, notwithstanding the postponement of the 2 April National Assembly elections and persistent logistical and organisational deficiencies, and some serious security incidents during the campaign and on the eve of the elections, the 2011 elections in Nigeria, by and large, met the national, regional and international standards for democratic elections. Indeed, they marked a genuine celebration of democracy in Nigeria, helped to redeem the image of Nigeria as a country that was known only for flawed elections and served to restore the faith of the Nigerian people in democracy. In the process, Africa's most populous nation was able to make a new beginning.

Our report includes a number of recommendations which, we believe, could further improve the electoral process in Nigeria. I hope that these will be positively considered and implemented. Some of them mirror recommendations already made by earlier Commonwealth Observer Groups. I hope the Secretariat will remain engaged with the Independent National Electoral Commission and the Government of Nigeria to take these forward.

We take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the excellent support provided to us by the Commonwealth Secretariat staff team.

We thank you most sincerely for the opportunity to participate in this important mission and hope that our report can contribute towards the deepening of democracy in Nigeria.

Yours sincerely,

Festus Mogae
Chair




Dr Zahurul Alam



Dr Mrs Elizabeth Tamajong




Ms Thandeka Percival



Ms. Marjorie Walla



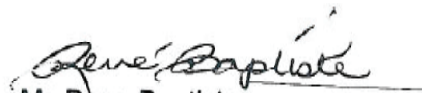
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