The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PRESS RELEASE

ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF ELECTION RESULTS: The Position of the Nigerian Society of Engineers

In February 2026, the Nigerian Senate **rejected** the proposal to make real-time electronic transmission of election results from polling units to INEC's IReV portal mandatory.

Key reasons for their rejection include:

1. **Poor Network Coverage**: Large parts of Nigeria, especially rural and remote areas, have weak, unstable or no mobile/internet network, making reliable real-time transmission impossible;
2. **Cybersecurity Risks**: Mandatory real-time upload would expose the system to hacking, interception and tampering;
3. **Infrastructure Deficiencies**: Unreliable electricity and limited technological capacity at thousands of polling units increase the risk of technical failures; and
4. **Risk of Legal Disputes**: Failure of transmission due to network or technical glitches could lead to endless court cases questioning election validity.

The Senate chose to retain the current provision, allowing INEC to transmit results "in a manner prescribed by the Commission" rather than enforcing mandatory real-time electronic transmission.

Let it be on record that the reasons mentioned above do not have the endorsement of any technically proficient professional organisation such as the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE). Electronic transmission of election results offers several technical advantages that could enhance the integrity,

efficiency and credibility of Nigeria's electoral process. Through it, the country stands the chance of benefiting from the following:

a. **Reduced Risk of Manipulation**: Manual transfer relies on physical transport of result sheets, which is prone to tampering, loss or alteration during transit. Electronic systems use secure protocols like end-to-end encryption and digital signatures to ensure data integrity from polling units to central servers, minimizing human intervention;

b. **Faster Collation and Announcement**: Real-time digital uploads enable automated aggregation, cutting result declaration time from days to hours. This leverages network technologies (e.g., cellular 4G/5G or satellite links in remote areas) to bypass logistical delays in our nation's vast terrain;

c. **Improved Accuracy and Auditability**: Digital records eliminate transcription errors common in manual processes. Blockchain or timestamped ledgers provide immutable audit trails, allowing independent verification by stakeholders via Application Programming Interface (API) or Dashboards; and

d. **Cost Savings and Scalability**: Initial setup costs are offset by reduced printing, transportation and personnel needs for manual handling. Scalable cloud-based systems can handle the over 176,000 polling units efficiently, with redundancy measures like offline caching for areas with poor connectivity.

At the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), we believe that adopting real-time transmission of election results, as seen in successful implementations in countries like Estonia and India, could have addressed Nigeria's history of electoral disputes while complying with INEC's existing tech infrastructure.

THEREFORE, WE DECLARE OUR FULL SUPPORT FOR REAL-TIME ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF ELECTION RESULTS.

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