



'Blame FG, INEC for Electoral Malpractices'

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A United States-based non-governmental organisation (NGO), Citizen for Nigeria (CFN), yesterday said should there be a repeat of electoral malpractices as witnessed during the 2003 general elections, the Federal Government and the leadership of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) should be held accountable.

This followed renewed concerns expressed in some quarters over INEC's capability to conduct a free and fair election, despite repeated assurances by its Chairman, Professor Maurice Iwu.

Speaking at a press briefing in Lagos, the organisation's Director of Operations, Biodun Durojaiye, said such laxities on the part of government and INEC should be looked into urgently, as "these issues threaten democracy in Nigeria.

"Be it known, therefore, that the Citizen for Nigeria (CFN), hereby sounds the clarion call for Nigerians to be vigilant; to be prepared to hold the leadership of the INEC and the Federal Government accountable, if electoral fraud is perpetrated," Durojaiye said.

He said the group was challenging INEC to live up to its constitutional obligations to the electorate, by ensuring that a repeat of what was experienced during the 2003 elections were checkmated.

According to him, "we remind the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), of the institution's unique and sacred importance as a public trust. We further implore INEC to set rhetoric and sound bites aside, and employ tangible reassuring measures to allay the collective political fears of the Nigerian electorate."

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