RENAISSANCE CARE AND EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION

CAC/IT/NO.: 123804
No. 12 Behind Federal University
Adankolo New Layout, Along Dunamis
Church Road, Lokoja Kogi State.

+234 706 379 7550
recefnigeria@gmail.com
www.recefnigeria.org
recefnigeria

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OUR COUNCIL'S ELECTION IS A YEAR OLD TODAY: WHERE ARE THE RESULTS.

There is no doubt that accurate and proper record keeping is a panacea for effective research and development. The Kogi State Independent Electoral Commission (KOSIEC) led by the chairman Mamman Nda Eri conducted the most recent council's election in Kogi State on 12th December, 2020 and announced results of same on 13th December, 2020. The civil society groups in Kogi state and beyond, including researchers had since been asking for a break-down of votes received by parties who contested the said election. It makes no meaningful sense to citizens whereby records of vote casted by them that produced 21 local government chairmen and 239 councilors cannot be sighted after 365days + 1.

The integrity of any form of election is tied to the diligent follow up on processes. Without electoral integrity, leaders and officials lack accountability to the public, confidence in the election results is weak, and the government lacks necessary legitimacy. Electoral integrity allows for peaceful resolution of conflict, open dialogue, debate, and information sharing among leaders and the public. Integrity depends on public confidence in electoral and political processes. Electoral integrity is defined by *Kofi Annan Foundation, 2012* as "any election that is based on the democratic principles of universal suffrage and political equality as reflected in international standards and agreements, and is professional, impartial, and transparent in its preparation and administration throughout the electoral cycle."

The nature of democracy is that elected officials are accountable to the people, and they must return to the voters at prescribed intervals to seek their mandate to continue in office. Elections make a fundamental contribution to democratic governance. Elections enable voters to select leaders and to hold them accountable for their performance in office. Accountability can be undermined, when elected leaders do not have idea of votes that brought them into office.

Recommendation:

- That, the Kogi State Independent Electoral Commission (KOSIEC) immediately compile and make public the break- down of 12th December, 2020 Councils election results in Kogi State.
- That, the Kogi State Independent Electoral Commission (KOSIEC) design and make functional a website capable of archiving election results data for research and reference purposes.

Idris Ozovehe Muraina
Executive Director,
Renaissance Care and Empowerment Foundation (RECEF)