



Community Life Project (CLP)

## **COMMUNIQUE OF A CONFERENCE ON INCREASING WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN EKITI AND OSUN STATES HELD IN ADO EKITI, EKITI STATE, BETWEEN NOVEMBER 25 -26, 2019.**

### **Introduction**

A 2-Day Post-Election Experience Sharing and Learning Conference was organised for Women Politicians from Ekiti and Osun States on Monday, November 25 and Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre, Ikere Road, Ekiti. The workshop was organised by Community Life Project (CLP).

The participants comprised women political leaders, members from African Democratic Congress (ADC), African Democratic Party (ADP), All Progressives Congress (APC), Labour Party (LP) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), including State House of Assembly Members, women who have contested elections for various positions, representatives of women Commissioners and senior advisers to the Governors of both States.

### **Attendance:**

The Conference was attended by 121 female politicians in all the different Local Government Areas of Ekiti and Osun states.

### **Summary**

The conference reviewed the poor performance of women in the 2019 General Elections and concluded there was need to adopt new strategies to increase women's representation in both elective and appointive positions.

### **Observations:**

1. There has been a steady decrease in women representation since 2007.
2. Intra party politics does not favour women.
3. The economic situation in the country has seriously affected women's participation in politics and governance.
4. The increasing thuggery and violence that has marred our elections does not favour women.



5. Decision making within the parties is largely exclusive of women who have token representation at the executive level.
6. The rising cases of vote buying now favour candidates with deep pockets.
7. Women are not working in unison but work in splinters.
8. Our elections are increasingly becoming muddled and hardly reflect the votes of the people.
9. The militarisation of our elections by security forces is becoming a disincentive to women's participation.
10. The long adjudication process which makes court processes very expensive is not favourable to women.

### **Recommendations:**

1. There's need to pass the Gender Equality Bill which provides for 35 percent in elective and appointive appointments of women.
2. There's need to review the Nigerian Constitution to be more gender friendly.
3. There's need to review our electoral processes which are becoming too expensive for women.
4. There's need to reform our electoral process to guarantee free, fair and transparent election.
5. There's need for sensitisation of the Nigerian populace on the gains of providing more representation for women.
6. There's need for women to form a women only political party to push their interest.
7. There' need to promote the education of the girl child.
8. There's need to empower women to prepare them for electoral politics.
9. There's need to criminalise all forms of electoral malpractices including thuggery, violence and vote buying.
10. There's need for successful and prominent women to mentor other women.
11. There's need to create more training and leadership opportunities and platforms for women.
12. There's need for further development of women through formal and informal education.
13. There's need for women to work in harmony to achieve a common goal.

14. There's need to hold political meetings at a more favourable time for women.
15. There's need to reduce the overwhelming influence of godfathers in the affairs of political parties.
16. There's need for orientation of the Nigeria populace to change their mindsets on women.
17. There's need to remove all socio-cultural and religious barriers that inhibit women's full participation in politics and governance.
18. There's need to demilitarise the voting environment and prevent the bearing of arms to frighten voters.
19. There's need to avoid the chanting of abusive and unguarded songs and utterances during campaign rallies as they can cause chaos.
20. There's need to re-introduce Option A4 in order to guarantee a transparent electoral process.
21. There's need for constitutional provision for the role of First Lady both at the national and state levels.

Signed by Communique Drafting Committee

