



THE SENATE

Federal Republic of Nigeria

COMMITTEE ON INEC

**REPORT ON THE SCREENING OF
NOMINEES**

FOR

**CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT AS
NATIONAL AND RESIDENT ELECTORAL
COMMISSIONERS OF INDEPENDENT
NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION
(INEC)**

JUNE, 2018.

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION ON THE CONFIRMATION OF NOMINATIONS AS NATIONAL AND RESIDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSIONERS, RESPECTIVELY.

1.0 Preamble

The Senate at its Plenary Sitting on Thursday December 21, 2017 and Thursday 31st May, 2018, deliberated on a request by Mr. President and Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces, for the confirmation of nominations as National Commissioner and Resident Electoral Commissioners respectively. These appointments were made pursuant to Section 154 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), which requires that appointments of Chairman and Members of any bodies established under section 153 (1) of the Constitution, shall be made by the President and the appointment shall be subject to confirmation by the Senate.

S/N	NOMINEES	STATE	REMARK
1.	Festus Okoye	Imo State	Nat. Elect. Comm.
2.	Elder Monday Udo Tom	Akwa Ibom State	Res. Elect. Comm.
3.	Garba Attahiru Madami	Niger State	Res. Elect. Comm.
4.	Ahmad Bello Mahmud	Zamfara State	Res. Elect. Comm.

- 1.1 After deliberations, the request was referred to this Committee for further legislative action and for it to report back with its recommendations.

2.0 Methodology

- 2.1 In furtherance of its legislative mandate on the referral, the Committee requested for and received the *curriculum vitae*, security clearances and other supporting documents of the nominees and invited them to appear before it for screening exercise.

On Monday 4th June, 2018, the nominees appeared before the Committee and were accordingly screened by the Committee.

3.0 Screening:

Festus Okoye Esq. - Imo State

The Committee interviewed Barr. Festus Okoye and received explanations regarding his life, work experience, suitability, competence and integrity for appointment as National Commissioner, Independent Electoral Commission.

3.1 Background Information/Educational Qualifications

Barr. Festus Okoye hails from Imo State. He was born on 4th February, 1960. He holds a Bachelor of Laws (Hons.) Degree from the University of Jos in 1984. He was called to the Bar in 1985. He also holds a Certificate in Democracy and Elections: Challenges for the 21st Century from the American University Centre for Democracy and Election Management, University of Minnesota. He did his compulsory NYSC programme in Kano State where he served as a Pupil State Counsel in the Kano State Ministry of Justice in 1986. His areas of interest in the legal practices are: Justice Sector Reform; Promotion of Transparency and the Fight against Corruption; Constitutional and Electoral Matters; Public Interest Law; etc.

3.2 Work Experience/Career Progression

After his NYSC programme, Barr. Okoye commenced his career as a private Legal Practitioner in the law firm of *Hussaini Abdulrahman & Co. (Legal Practitioners and Consultants)* in 1988. After a brief stint, he started his own private legal practice as a Principal Partner in the law firm of *Akika. Abashi, Okoye and Mann: Legal Practitioners*, where he still serves to date.

In recognition of his hardwork, commitment and dedication, Barr. Okoye was appointed as a National Coordinator, Independent Election Monitoring Group and the Executive Director, Human Rights Monitor, Nigeria. He is still occupying these positions to date.

Apart from his regular duties as a private Legal Practitioner, he has also served as Chairman and Members of Various Committees, Boards and Associations, amongst which are: Member, the Justice Uwais Electoral Reform Committee; Member, INEC Committee on the Management of Election Petitions (COMEPET); Member, INEC Committee on the Review of Judgments on Election Cases (COREC); Member, Federal Government Panel of Investigation into the Jos Crisis of November, 2008; Member, National Council of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM); Member, Harmonization and Editorial Committee of the National Human Rights Commission's Report on Human Rights Violations in Nigeria; Chairman, Editorial Board, Nigerian Bar Association; Chair, Transition Monitoring Group; Chairman, NBA Human Rights Institute; Member, Common Wealth Observer Mission: Cameroon Presidential Election; among others.

3.3 Conferences, Seminars/Paper Presentation and Publications/Awards

Barr. Okoye is an astute Legal Practitioner and a versatile writer. He has attended various Conferences and Seminars both in Nigeria and abroad. He has also presented papers at various Conferences in the Country. He is the author of the following Books: Guide to Rights Enforcement for Nigeria; The Administration of Juvenile Justice: The Example of the Borstal Training Institution, among other numerous publications. He is a recipient of various awards of excellence.

3.4 Committee Resolution:

Having studied the nominee's curriculum vitae, in addition to exhaustive interaction and deliberations with him, members were satisfied with his wealth of experience in the legal profession in addition to being a Human Rights Crusader, Constitutional lawyer and a member of Independent Election Monitoring Group (IEMG), make him suitable for confirmation as a National Commissioner.

4.0 Mr. Attahiru Garba Madami – Niger State

The Committee interviewed Mr. Attahiru Garba Madami and received explanations regarding his life, work experience, suitability, competence and integrity for appointment as Resident Electoral Commissioner, representing Niger State.

4.1 Background Information/Educational Qualifications

Mr. Attahiru Garba Madami hails from Niger State. He was born on 2nd August, 1957. He holds a Higher National Diploma (HND) (Distinction) in Horticulture from the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria/Kabba Campus in 1982. He also holds a First Class Honours Degree in Agricultural Science Education and Agronomy from the University of Missouri-Columbia, United States of America in 1990.

4.2 Work Experience/Career Progression

Mr. Attahiru commenced his career as an Agric Assistant with the Niger State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources in 1976 and rose through the ranks to become a Senior Agric Officer in Charge of Horticulture Extension activities. In 1983, he was appointed as an Assistant Lecturer in the Niger State College of Education and taught Horticulture and Crop Production in the Department of Agric Science. He rose through the ranks to become a Chief Lecturer.

Through hard work and resourcefulness, Mr. Attahiru was appointed as Assistant Manager, Operations in charge of Production, Distribution, Planning and Research in the Niger State Fertilizer Company, Zungeru. While in the service of the Company, he also assisted in the Company's general administration. Upon retirement from the Public Service, Mr. Attahiru became the General Manager Al-Munur Farms Nig. Ltd and Promo Green Investment Ltd. He is also into Agricultural Consultancy and the Managing Director of Martaba Farms Nigeria Limited.

Apart from his regular duties, the nominee is also a Sports enthusiast who has served in various sporting positions, such as: Chairman, Niger State Handball Association; Team

Manager of Nigerian National Teams (male/female) to All African Games, 2003 in Abuja; First Vice President, Handball Federation of Nigeria; Member, Technical Commission of Africa Handball Federation (World Handball); Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Handball Association; Programme Adviser for Niger Tornadoes Football Club in charge of Technical Issue, and he also served as Team Manager of the Football Club; among others.

4.3 Conferences, Seminars/Paper Presentation and Publications

Mr. Attahiru has attended Conferences both in Nigeria and abroad, amongst which are: International Conference on Jatropha Curcas for Bio-diesel at Center for Jatropha Promotion and Bio-Diesel Academy in Jaipur, India; International Conference on Jatropha Curcas organised by the University of Ilorin, etc.

4.4 Committee Resolution:

Mr. Attahiru G. Madami demonstrated a high level of competence in response to questions put to him. A painstaking study of the nominee's curriculum vitae by the committee indicates that members were satisfied with the nominee's academic and wealth of experience in various fields make suitable for confirmation as Resident Electoral Commissioner.

5.0 ELDER MONDAY UDO TOM - AKWA IBOM STATE

He was born on 1st September, 1960 at Ukat Ubiom in Nsit Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. He obtained his First School Leaving Certificate in 1973, West African School Certificate from Salvation Army Secondary School Akai Ubiom 1978 and B.Sc Micro Biology (Second Class Hons Upper Division) and MSc (Applied Microbiology) in 1984 and 1989 from University of Calabar and Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka respectively.

5.1 The Nominee's Work Experience:

- 1979 Nigerian Ports Authority Port Harcourt - Audit clerk.
- 1984 – 1985 National Youth Service corps OAU Ife - Graduate Assistant
- 1986 - 1987 Salvation Army Secondary School Akai Ubiom - Master Grade II
- 1989 – 1990 Cornelia Corneli College Afaha Oku, Uyo - Lecturer
- 1991 – 1992 College of Education Afaha Nsit - Supervisor for Education
- 1997 – 2000 Ministry of Commerce and Tourism - Industrial Officer I
- 2001 – 2003 Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly Uyo SA to Dep. Speaker
- 2007 – 2008 Nsit Ubiom LGA Secretary Transitory Committee
- 2010 – 2011 Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly SA/member
- 2014 – 2015 National Assembly, Abuja

5.2 Research and Publications:

- Field Trials of anaerobic bacteria as indicator of water pollution in the tropics - BSc Project 1984
- Antibiotic sever living and methicillin resultant strains of staphylococcus aureus in Ile Ife NYSC Research 1985.
- Purification and some properties of a B amylases and an Isoamylase from Hendersonula Toruloidea - M.Sc project (1989)

5.3 Committee Resolution:

The Committee took an in-dept study and analysis of the nominee's curriculum vitae juxtapose same with his working experiences and concluded that his wealth of experience will be of immense value to the Independent National Electoral Commission. He is suitable for confirmation as a Resident Electoral Commissioner for Independent National Electoral Commission.

6.0 AHMAD BELLO MAHMUD- ZAMFARA STATE

He was born on 25th August 1959 in Gusau Local Government Area of Zamfara State. He attended Danturai Model (Ex-Sabon Pegi) Primary School, Gusau between 1967 to 1973 and proceeded to Government Secondary School, Anka between 1973 to 1977. He had his LLB in Common Law and Islamic Law at Sokoto University in 1983. Thereafter, he proceeded to Nigerian Law School and was called to Bar in 1984 and went for his compulsory National Youth Service in Rivers state in 1985.

6.1 Further Studies:

- Diploma in Computer Studies, Usman Dan Fadio University, Sokoto (1996)
- Masters of International Affairs and Diplomacy, Admadu Bello Zaria (2006)
- Masters of Business Administration (MBA) Usmanu Dan Fadio University Sokoto.

6.2 Professional Experience:

- State Counsel, Ministry of Justice, Sokoto State, 1983-1987.
- Part time Lecturer/Graduate Assistant 2, Faculty of Law, University of Sokoto, 1986-1989
- Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Zamfara State, 1999-2003.
- Chairman, Zamfara State Anti-Corruption Commission 2003-2006.
- Principal Partner, MESSRS A.B MAHMUD AND CO., (Legal Practitioners and Consultants) 2010 to date.

6.3 Committee Resolution:

The Committee in its wisdom has come to a decision to reject his nomination for confirmation as a Resident Electoral Commissioner for Independent National Electoral Commission based on petitions written against the nominee from the state.

7.0 Findings:

7.1 After the screening exercise, the Committee deliberated on the nominees' suitability for appointment as National Commissioner and Resident Electoral Commissioners, respectively and hereby make the following findings:

1. That the nominees, Barr. Festus Okoye, Elder Monday Udo Tom and Mr. Attahiru Garba Madami have satisfied the requirements of section 154 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, as amended; and the Electoral Act;
2. That there is no petition or any negative report against the nominees. Also, from the security clearances made available by security agencies to the Committee, the nominees have no negative report against them; and
3. That the nominees are fit and proper persons for appointments as National Commissioner and Resident Electoral Commissioners, respectively.

8.0 General Observation

8.1 We wish to reiterate for the avoidance of doubt, that these appointments satisfy the constitutional provision of section 154 (1). It should also be stated that Barr. Festus Okoye was nominated to fill the vacant position of the National Commissioner, representing the South-East Geo-political Zone. In the same vein, Mr. Attahiru Garba Madami was nominated to replace the nominee for the position of Niger State Resident Electoral Commissioner, who was hitherto rejected by the Senate because he hails from

the same Local Government Area and Senatorial District with the serving National Commissioner of the Commission. The Senate may wish to recall that the nomination of Elder Monday Udo Tom was earlier stood down; but after due consultations, the Committee recommends him for confirmation.

9.0 Recommendation:

- 9.1 The Senate Committee on Independent National Electoral Commission, after careful scrutiny of the Curriculum Vitae and other accompanying documents and security clearances of **Barr. Festus Okoye, Elder Monday Udo Tom and Mr. Attahiru Garba Madami**, and having been satisfied about their exposure, experience, performance, qualifications and integrity, **except Ahmad Bello Mahmud who had petitions against him from the state.** The Committee recommends as follows:

1. *"That the Senate do confirm the nominations of:*

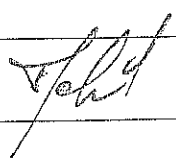
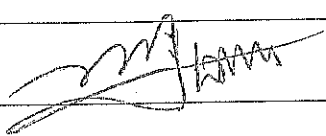
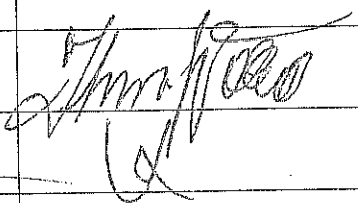
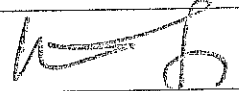
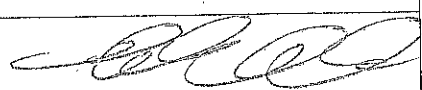
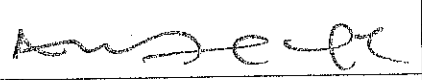
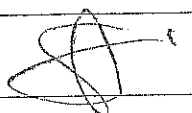
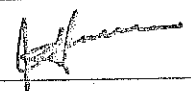
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|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>a. Festus Okoye</i> | <i>Imo State</i> | <i>Nat. Elect. Comm.</i> |
| <i>b. Elder Monday Udo Tom</i> | <i>Akwa Ibom State</i> | <i>Res. Elect. Comm.</i> |
| <i>c. Garba Attahiru Madami</i> | <i>Niger State</i> | <i>Res. Elect. Comm.</i> |

As National Electoral Commissioner and Resident Electoral Commissioners respectively".

2. That the Senate do reject the nomination of *Ahmad Bello Mahmud* as Resident Electoral Commissioner representing Zamfara State.

I SO MOVE.

Signature page:

S/NO.	NAMES	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
1.	Suleiman M. Nazif	Chairman	
2.	Olusola Adeyeye	Vice Chairman	
3.	James E. Manager	Member	
4.	Hope O. Uzodinma	Member	
5.	Gilbert E. Nnaji	Member	
6.	Atai A. Aidoko	Member	
7.	Abubakar Kyari	Member	
8.	Mao A. Oluabunwa	Member	
9.	Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi	Member	
10.	Umaru I. Kurfi	Member	
11.	Abdullahi A. Gumel	Member	
12.	Ogembe Ahmed Salau	Member	
13.	Ovie Omo Agege	Member	
14.	Suleiman Hunkuyi	Member	
15.	Shehu Sani	Member	
16.	Aliu Wamako	Member	
17.	Isah Hamma Misau	Member	
18.	Mohammed Hassan	Member	
19.	Stella Oduah	Member	


Dr. Macdonald Odibo (Committee Clerk)