

## **Manager information in such a way that it will do what it is supposed to do without heating up the polity - Ranti Akerele**

Information managers in Nigeria have been charged to manager information in such a way that it will do what it is supposed to do without heating up the polity.

This charge was made by the Ondo State Commissioner for Information, Hon. Ranti Akerele at the 41<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the National Council of Information and Communications (NCIC) held at the Sokoto State Polytechnic, Sokoto.

Mr. Akerele who expressed the need to have a credible election in Nigeria so as to be able to raise the best candidates for the electorate to choose from, noted that it is the duties of information managers to ensure the people are fed with proper and good information that would galvanize Nigeria to becoming a 21<sup>st</sup> century country.

His words, "It is important that Information Management is done in a way that we would not heat up the polity. To at the same time do what information is supposed to do. It is important that we have a credible election in Nigeria."

"It is important that we are able to raise up the best candidate for the electorate to dig and choose from because democracy is about choices and these are our jobs as information managers to make sure that people have proper information, good information as to who to vote for not only who to vote for but the ideals to properly galvanize Nigeria and make it a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Country."

The Commissioner also noted that the country is lagging behind in so many areas and that unless it has the right leaders it would not get to where it should be if information managers too do not do their jobs the way it should be done.

While responding to questions on why the Memo submitted by his State Ondo State tally with the theme of the Conference: "Rebranding Nigeria through Credible Elections", Akerele explained that, it was because people in Ondo State always do the right thing the right way and also understands the demand of the time.

According to him, "When our memo titled 'The roles of Media Managers in Ensuring Credible Elections' was submitted by the Permanent Secretary of my Ministry, it was practically and holistically adopted at the conference because it had to be merged to the Memo of the conference. That tells you that we are in the spirit like someone will say it and we are actually doing it the right way in Ondo State. We understand the demands of the time. Therefore our memo is not out of tune with the central theme."

Declaring the meeting open, the Executive Governor of Sokoto State, His Excellency, Alhaji (Dr) Aliyu Magatakard Wamako who was represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Alhaji Sa'habi Isa Gada Mni welcomed all delegates to the historic City of Sokoto – the seat of the caliphate and also charged them to always put national interest over and above any other interests in their reportage.

In an address delivered by the Hon. Minister of State Information and Communication, Mr. Labaran Maku who represented the Hon. Minister, Prof. Dora Akinyili noted that the theme of the meeting, “Rebranding Nigeria through Credible Elections” was carefully chosen because according to him “election are seen as a symbol of democracy world-wide and Nigeria must key into these group of successful democratic nations.”

He challenged council to come up with far reaching recommendations that will ensure successful elections.

Two papers were delivered at the meeting by the following Guest Speakers, Pro. Attahiru Jega OFR, Chairman INEC on “Rebranding Nigeria Through Credible Election Changing Attitudes and Perception by Doing Things Right” he was represented by the INEC Commissioner in charge of Information and Publicity, Prince Solomon Adedeji Soyebi while the second paper titled. “The Post Office as a tool for National Development” was presented by the Post Master General of the Federation who was represented by Mallam Nuhu Maishanu.

After exhaustive deliberations, the Council resolved on a number of issues which include, one, “All owners of media organizations are urged to improve the welfare of media practitioner by paying them living wages and two that government should do everything possible to ensure