



MBANO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY USA, INC.
SECRETARIAT
PO BOX 1433
NEW ROCHELLE, NY 10802

PRESS RELEASE

PROFESSOR MAURICE IWU AND THE 2007 ELECTION:

MAY 25, 2008.

We have watched with interest the commentary on the 2007 election and noted with dismay the unsavory attempt to malign the person of Professor Maurice Iwu, the INEC Chairman. It has become pertinent to speak after listening to the canvass of opinions and the need to correct misconceptions emanating from some diatribe on the person of Professor Iwu. Our hitherto silence should by no means be misconstrued for acquiescence. It is very unfortunate that the political class in our dear country has not learnt from series of misjudgments and pitfalls that have characterized our polity. The same self righteous pose of the political elite has denied us the opportunity to learn from history. Having remained silent in the face of vitriolic rhetoric, it has become imperative that we state as follows:

1. That Professor Maurice Iwu creditably conducted the first transition from one civilian administration to another in Nigeria, remain an indelible record.
2. That in spite of numerous threats to his life and undue influence from unsuspecting quarters, Professor Iwu placed the interest of Nigeria first in ensuring a sustainable democracy.

3. That it is time politicians learn from history or rather live the ugliness of reliving the same ills over and over.
4. While no election even in the bastions of democracy can be described as flawless, it is worthy to note that with cynics doubting his ability to perform, Professor Iwu delivered by ensuring that our democracy is strengthened rather than diminished.
5. Finally, the imperfections witnessed in the last elections are lessons for all Nigerians to learn; with due diligence and a non sanctimonious pose, every Nigerian must address that tiny aspect of individual responsibility if we hope to improve on future performance. The umpire is only but an aspect of the game, the players decide the tenor of the actions.

We conclude that despite perilous odds, while not perfect, Professor Iwu has added to Nigeria the dividends of democracy. Unequivocally, we congratulate Professor Iwu for his courage and vision.

Chief Louis Chidi Anumudu,
MNA President

Sir Basil Ugo Njoku,
MNA Secretary-General.