



DAILY NEWSPAPERS REVIEW MONDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2019

COURT REJECTS SUIT CHALLENGING AKPABIO'S QUALIFICATION - NATION PG.41

The Supreme Court has rejected an appeal querying the qualification of Senator Godswill Akpabio to contest the 2011 governorship primaries of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). The appeal was filed by Imo Edet Udo. The court held that the appeal was filed out of time and that the originating summons, filed at the trial court, was caught by Section 2285(9) and (12) of the Constitution (as amended by the Fourth Alteration Act, 2017).

POLLS: ACTIVISTS URGE EFCC TO PROBE KWARA GOVT OVER ALLEGED N1B LOAN - NATION PG.39, DAILY TRUST PG.12

Activists, under the aegis of Kwara Coalition for Good Governance and Accountability (Kwara-CGGA), have urged the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to probe a N1 billion loan the state government allegedly secured from a bank few days to the general elections. Kwara-CGGA insisted that the loan was suspect and in bad faith. A statement by its Secretary General, Hassan Omoiya, said Kwara-CGG was privy to intelligence that the state government obtained the loan on February 13 from a first generation bank, using the remittance of the state's Value Added Tax (VAT) allocation due in February and March as collateral.

SERAP THREATENS TO SUE FED GOVT OVER ELECTIONS SHIFT - NATION PG.8, DAILY TRUST PG.12

The Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) has threatened to pursue appropriate legal action against the Federal Government and the National Assembly leadership, following the postponement of Saturday's election. SERAP Deputy Director Kolawole Oluwadare, in a statement issued yesterday, said successive governments since the return of democracy in 1999 and the leadership

of the National Assembly should be held responsible for the postponement of the 2019 general elections.

POLLS SHIFT: 'INEC ACTED TO STOP RIGGING' - NATION PG.4

The Buhari Campaign Organisation (BCO) has alleged that the decision of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to postpone the 2019 elections saved the country from massive rigging plotted by the opposition. The president's support group stated this in reaction to claims made on Saturday by the Coalition of United Political Parties (CUPP) of an alleged plan by President Muhammadu Buhari to suspend INEC chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu and replace him with Amina Zakari as acting chairman under the guise of the commission's inability to conduct the presidential and National Assembly elections.

NIGERIANS UPBEAT ABOUT PRESIDENTIAL POLL DESPITE DATE SHIFT - DAILY TRUSTPG.8

The initial disappointment that trailed the shelving of the Presidential election by one week is gradually waning, with calls on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to ensure a successful ballot come February 23rd. A number of Nigerians have actually travelled from Accra to exercise their franchise last Saturday, only to realize that the election had been postponed, prompting them to return to the country.

ABIA POLICE ARREST THREE INEC OFFICIALS WITH 10,000 PVCS - PUNCH PG.10

POLICE operatives in Abia State have arrested three officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission for allegedly being in possession of over 10,000 Permanent Voter Cards. It was gathered that one of the suspects, simply identified as Stella, was arrested at a checkpoint at INEC head office in Umuahia, the state capital. Stella was said to have stuffed the PVCs in the booth of her Honda Accord saloon car with Registration No.AKD 953 FN

PROBE PVCS SUPPLIED BY APC CANDIDATE'S FIRM, SECONDUS TELLS INE - PUNCH PG.10

The Peoples Democratic Party has urged the Independent National Electoral Commission to appoint external auditors to probe Activate Technologies Limited, a firm reportedly owned by the Niger-East senatorial candidate of the All Progressives Congress, Mohammed Musa. The firm was allegedly given a contract by INEC to print Permanent Voter Cards. The National Chairman of the PDP, Prince Uche Secondus, said this in a letter written to the Chairman of INEC, Prof. Mahmoud Yakubu.

MOVEMENT RESTRICTION DURING ELECTIONS IS ILLEGAL, SAYS ADEGBORUWA - PUNCH PG.40, THISDAY PG.46

Activist lawyer, Mr Ebun-Olu Adegboruwa, has warned the police against restricting human and vehicular movements on election days, saying it is unconstitutional. According to him, the Federal High Court in Lagos had in 2014 pronounced that such movement restriction was unconstitutional. The lawyer noted that despite the constitutional provisions and the pronouncement of the court, the Inspector-General of Police had on Friday, February 15, ahead of the postponed presidential election, announced the restriction of human and vehicular movements for 12 hours.

FALANA ASKS FG TO REVISIT REPORTS OF UWAIS, LEMU, NNAMANI'S PANELS - THISDAY PG.44, NATION PG.8, SUN PG.3

Human rights lawyer and Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), Mr. Femi Falana, has urged the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to apologise to Nigerians for their deliberate refusal to implement the far-reaching recommendations of the Electoral Reforms Panels headed by retired Justice Mohammed Uwais, Sheik Ahmed Lemu and Dr. Ken Nnamani, which were set up by the Yar'adua, Jonathan and Buhari regimes, respectively. The senior lawyer has also called on the federal government to revisit the reports of the committees, saying each of the panels had recommended the unbundling of the Independent National Electoral Committee (INEC) for effective performance.