

PRE-ELECTION PRESS STATEMENT ON THE PARTICIPATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE 2025 ANAMBRA STATE GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION

Friday, November 7th, 2025

Delivered at the Radisson-Onyx Apartments and Suites,
Awka, Anambra state.

Introduction:

As Anambra State prepares for its governorship election on Saturday, November 8, 2025, the participation of all eligible voters, including persons with disabilities (PWDs), remains a critical test of Nigeria's commitment to inclusive democracy. Elections offer not only a platform for citizens to choose their leaders but also an opportunity to measure the extent to which democratic processes are accessible to everyone, irrespective of physical, sensory, or intellectual disabilities.

According to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), a total of 2,802,790 voters are registered to participate in the election, including 3,456 persons with disabilities. However, the absence of disaggregated data on PVC collection among persons with disabilities raises concern, as such data is essential for effective electoral planning and inclusive participation. Sixteen (16) political parties are fielding candidates in the election, yet none have nominated a person with a disability, reflecting the continued gap in political inclusion and representation.

The 2025 Anambra State Governorship Election presents a vital opportunity to assess how far Nigeria has progressed in guaranteeing equal electoral participation for citizens with disabilities. TAF Africa's observation mission aims to provide an evidence-based evaluation of INEC's compliance with the provisions of Section 54 (1 & 2) of the Electoral Act (2022), which mandates the use of assistive tools and inclusive measures for PWD voters.

The exercise will generate valuable data to highlight existing gaps and successes in accessibility, assistive provisions, and voter experience for persons with disabilities. Beyond data collection, this monitoring effort emphasizes TAF Africa's firm belief that inclusive elections are stronger, fairer, and more credible elections, because no democracy can truly thrive when over 30 million Nigerians with disabilities remain on the margins of political life.

TAF Africa's Observation Methodology and Deployment Plan

Under our Persons with Disabilities Election Hub (PWD Election Hub), TAF Africa has deployed a team of **150 trained observers** across the three senatorial districts of Anambra State. The observers are strategically placed in polling units with the highest number of registered PWD voters. The deployment team consists of **134 stationary polling unit observers** and **16 roving media observers**.

Observers will monitor the availability of assistive tools such as:

- Braille Ballot Guides for blind voters,
- Magnifying Glasses for voters with albinism and,
- Form EC 30E PWD for deaf voters.

They will also observe the level of compliance with priority voting rights for persons with disabilities, accessibility of polling units, attitude of polling officials toward PWDs, communication experience of deaf voters, and the overall experience of voters with disabilities at the polls.

All observation efforts will be data-driven and technology-enabled. TAF Africa's upgraded TAF Disability Hub mobile application has been redesigned to enhance user interface (UI), user experience (UX), and functionality for improved performance, real-time reporting, and data accuracy. Through this app, observers will transmit verified information to the PWD Election Hub, where data will be aggregated, analysed, and displayed on a live Election Monitoring Dashboard for timely decision-making. The dashboard is available for use by the Public and can be accessed via <https://electionhub.org.ng/>.

The app's prominent citizen reporting feature, The Third Eye, empowers every Nigerian to act as a defender of democracy by reporting, in real time, any incident that affects persons with disabilities, whether it involves accessibility challenges, intimidation, or denial of rights. The app is available for download on both the Play Store and App Store.

Enhancing Communication Access for Deaf Voters

To address the persistent communication barriers faced by deaf voters, TAF Africa, in partnership with INEC, has trained and will deploy 25 sign language interpreters to polling units with the highest concentration of deaf voters across Anambra State. Their presence at these polling units will ensure that deaf voters can receive instructions, interact with polling officials, and cast their votes independently and confidently.

This initiative represents a major step forward in providing adaptive communications, thereby deepening electoral accessibility for the deaf community in Nigeria. The intervention is being piloted at the state level, and insights from its implementation will inform a post-election report that will provide INEC with practical guidance toward the national adoption of sign language interpretation as a standard feature of Nigeria's electoral process.

TAF Africa strongly appeals to all political actors, security agencies, and citizens of Anambra State to uphold peace, tolerance, and non-violence during the election, in line with the peace accord signed by the candidates. Violence and insecurity not only undermine the credibility of the electoral process but also disproportionately affect persons with disabilities, many of whom face additional mobility, sensory, and communication barriers during crises.

We urge communities, traditional institutions, political parties, and voters to prioritize peace and inclusivity. A calm and orderly election day will guarantee that every voter, especially those with disabilities, can safely and freely exercise their right to vote.

The participation of persons with disabilities in electoral processes is a defining measure of democratic maturity and inclusiveness. Through the PWD Election Hub, TAF Africa continues to champion an inclusive democracy, one that guarantees persons with disabilities the opportunity to participate fully, freely, and with dignity in choosing their leaders.

All TAF Africa's interventions for the 2025 Anambra State Governorship Election, including the PWD Election Hub, the Third Eye, and the deployment of sign language interpreters, are made possible with **funding support from the European Union through its European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN II) Programme.**

Signed:

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