

Greetings,

The SING Foundation family hope you had a wonderful month of March. It is also our sincerest hope that the month of April come with more successes and new horizons.

The Governorship and State House of Assembly elections, with the exception of our beloved Rivers State, are done and dusted, with winners announced. We continue to rededicate ourselves to our mandate, while working to achieve same, we call on all to join hands with us as we transform our country by continuing to hold elected leaders to account. We look forward to working with all stakeholders, actors and players in the Nigerian project to push for comprehensive elections reform towards ensuring that the voices of the people are heard and their choices stand.

We, as an organisation will continue our active role in advocating for transparency and accountability in governance at all levels, in line with our thematic focus on promoting and demanding Good Governance.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION INTERIM MONITORING REPORT

Following a compilation of reports from our observers in the field, we released the interim report of our findings to the public along with our observations and suggestions to meet such challenges in future elections.

The elections were marred by logistics challenges, as INEC's partners failed in some areas, especially the hard to reach creeks of the Niger Delta, with materials reaching many such areas late, sometimes when voting ought to have ended.

The report highlights the need for all stakeholders to come together to push for comprehensive electoral reforms that will make the process of managing elections and the processes leading up to elections more efficient. While we have released our interim report, a more comprehensive and detailed report is in the works and will be released soon.



→ GOVERNORSHIP AND STATE HOUSES OF ASSEMBLY ELECTION MONITORING



The state governments hold and manage significant resources on behalf of the people, with the budgets of many Nigerian states eclipsing that of some African countries. The states are also closer to the people than the Federal Government, which should ordinarily give elections at that level more significance.

The elections finally came to an end in the Niger Delta, and our “Vote a Must” campaign wound down as well, after a fruitful and extensive engagement across the entire Niger Delta region. As is our practice, we deployed a team of observers to monitor proceedings during the Governorship and State Houses of Assembly Elections.

Our team observed the elections and brought feedback from the field, which revealed an underwhelming turnout of voters during the governorship elections in the south-south region. The military played a less than neutral role in the whole process, involving itself in areas of elections where it had no business being involved such as, invasion of collation centers and denying legitimate observers access to such sensitive areas. It is clear that the electoral process needs an urgent rejigging to make electronic voting and transmission of results legally binding. This would have prevented the desperation of politicians to hijack voting materials and disrupt collation processes as was observed during this election.

Seeing the chaos that was unfolding with the military presence in the Niger Delta states, SING Foundation released at least three press statements calling on government to call them to order, based on the conventional human rights practices. We also petitioned the embassies of the European Union (EU), United States of America (USA) and the United Kingdom (UK), with a clear demand to call the Nigerian authorities to order in the application of military force to a purely civil affair. We also pushed a Social Media campaign calling on the government to call the military to order, using the Hashtag #DemilitarizeNigerDelta, which was aimed at facilitating citizens’ response to the militarization of the Niger Delta states.

➔ STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY



Management put together a Professional Development Activity (PDA), with a view to strengthening staff capacity to implement the SING strategic plan.

Staff were trained on critical skills. The staff equally used this period to further facilitate bonding among them and to be immersed in the culture of the organisation while better understanding the challenges confronting society where SING must intervene.

In line with SING's commitment to promoting multidisciplinary and ongoing learning among its staff, these trainings will continue to be a regular feature for its entire manpower, even as it works to achieve its mandate.

➔ DEATH OF DR. FERRY GBEREGBE



During the collation exercise of the Gubernatorial and State Assemblies elections in Rivers State, personnel of the Federal Special Anti-Robbery Squad (F-SARS) were alleged to have stormed the INEC Bori Election collation centre.

The illegal invasion and activities of the F-SARS personnel at the Bori centre resulted in the death of Dr. Ferry Gberegbe a lecturer and party collation agent of Khana Local Government Area who is a Principal Lecturer with the Kenule Beeson Saro-Wiwa Polytechnic Bori, and the immediate past Chairman of the Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP).

We issued a press release condemning the act, calling on the Nigeria Police Force to react to the allegations that he was shot by men of SARS, of the Nigerian Police. The Police, as the time of writing, was yet respond to the allegations that it was their officer who led those that killed Dr. Gberegbe. SING further called on the Rivers State Government to, see to the welfare of the family as the governor promised, to fight hard for his killers to be made to face justice and also to consider naming a state monument or infrastructure to immortalize him and the values he stood for.

CODE 3 PROJECT

The SING Foundation has initiated the CODE 3 project, which is a flagship project, aimed to skill up about 15 thousand children to prepare them to become innovators in the emerging fast paced world of Information Technology. The goal of this project is to ensure that we create a ready pool of young men and women who are ready to find jobs or create jobs for others, rather than being unemployed or unemployable.

The project has three major components which are Learn, Innovate and Impact. The strategy is for these young ones to Learn coding, entrepreneurship and employability skills, then to use the acquired knowledge to Innovate and then to make Impact with the solutions they create out of their innovative application of knowledge.

The project is already in the process of gaining partnerships with private sector companies and some state governments in preparation for its takeoff.

WE ARE ON THE WEB!

www.sing.org.ng

Follow Us on our social media for daily updates on our activities

Facebook: *The sing foundation*

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The SING foundation is a non partisan and non governmental organization that seeks to ensure government accountability, responsibility and conformity to good governance and youth participation in government.

OUR VISION

To be an organisation that champions the survival of the Niger delta people in a poverty-free and environmentally protected region.