

2015 Elections: LITE-Africa sensitises Niger Delta communities on civic and voters education



Electoral officer, Mr Bienose .I.Augustine sensitizing community residents in Koko

In its bid to ensure that Niger Delta communities participate actively in promoting a peaceful and credible 2015 elections, Leadership Initiative for Transformation and Empowerment (LITE-Africa), has embarked on a civic and voters education for rural communities in the state.

This critical activity is delivered courtesy of a project titled "Tomorrow is a New Day (TND)". The 24-month project which is in its 2nd phase is funded by the European Union through Search for Common Ground and aimed at ensuring long term stability and a functioning peace architecture in the Niger Delta and beyond.

The civic and voters education town hall sections kicked off on January 29 in Koko community Warri North and moved to Uzere, Isokoh South LGA on February 3 and Oporoza, Warri South West LGA on February 6, 2015.

The town hall sections which were used to raise citizen awareness on electoral process and procedures, brought together a wide range of stakeholders including

representatives of Independent National electoral Commission (INEC), Nigerian Police Force (NPF), Nigerian Security and Civil defence Corp (NSCDC), Local Government, Media, Vigilante, Community Leaders, Youths and Women.

According to the representative of INEC, Mr. Bienose I. Augustine, accreditation process for the 2015 elections will commence by 8.am and end by 1.pm on the Election Day. "Any voter not accredited by the card reader will not be eligible to vote. Everyone is encouraged to pick up their Permanent voters card (PVC), at the various distribution centres in order to be able to vote on the Election Day".

Speaking on the security concerns, the Divisional Police Officer and Divisional Officer of the NSCDC represented by Akpo Gabriel and Augustine Oputu respectively assured citizens of adequate security arrangement during the elections.

Also speaking the supervisory councillor for environment, Warri North local government council, Hon. Jolomi Esiategiwa encouraged members of the community to put to practice all that has been said at the meeting to bring about the desired change in the forth coming elections.

Community members were informed about the Nigerian Election Early Warning Systems (NEEWS) reporting mechanism and hotlines and also received copies of NEEWS fliers to create a multiplier effect of effective reporting mechanism during the 2015 elections.

Mr. Jones Efele representative of Koko community expressed appreciation to the INEC, security and government officials for making out time from their busy schedules to participate in the civic education town hall and sensitise community members.