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Lagos, Nigeria

**PRESS RELEASE: LAGOS SLUMDWELLER
FEDERATION CALLS FOR PEACEFUL ELECTIONS,
WISE VOTING BY THE URBAN POOR & PRO-POOR
GOVERNANCE POST-ELECTIONS**



On the eve of the long-awaited general elections, the Lagos Slumdweller Federation **calls for** peace and security during and after elections and **advises** the urban poor to vote wisely to elect those candidates who will be true to their election-time promises and deliver more inclusive, pro-poor policy and governance post-election.

The Federation notes that, already in the months leading up to the elections, there has been an uptick in political violence in many of its member communities. Urban slums with high population density are places where many politicians come to seek votes and, too often, employ force and violence.

Looking toward the next weeks, **the Federation calls for security forces:**

- To secure the peace without bias or partisanship; and
- To arrest and prosecute persons responsible for violence in our communities.

The Federation also notes that many politicians seek votes from the poor urban masses—often with lofty promises—only to forget them after the elections. **The Federation therefore cautions the urban poor:**

- To exercise the right to vote wisely and be skeptical of empty campaign promises; and
- To vote for representatives with a proven track record of genuine pro-poor partnership and delivering on promises and / or whom we can hold accountable at the local level.

Finally, **the Federation announces its primary pro-poor policy demands for those elected in 2015:**

- An end to forced evictions and protection for persons threatened with eviction;
- Legal protections and regularization options of land tenure for urban slumdweller; and
- Government partnership with slum communities to jointly plan for infrastructure upgrades.

The Federation is a network of the urban poor that strives to provide a forum for poor and marginalized communities in Nigeria to dialogue and take common actions in pursuit of empowerment of our members.

With a population of over 23 million, an estimated 2/3s of which live in slums, if we join together, we have the power to make pro-poor governance a reality starting in 2015.

The Federation works in partnership with Justice & Empowerment Initiatives (JEI) as the Nigerian affiliates of Slum/Shack Dwellers International (SDI).

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