

MUSLIM PUBLIC AFFAIRS CENTRE REPORT

ELECTION 2007: MPAC Guidelines and Recommendations

MPAC, Nigeria

2006

Copyright © 2006 MPAC

All Rights Reserved

P.O. Box 51900, Falomo, Ikoyi, Lagos.

Post Code: 101008

Contact:

+234 8099860204

communications@mpac-ng.org

Contents

Guidelines and Recommendations

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

For a number of years now, the Muslim Public Affairs Centre, MPAC, has advocated that the Nigerian Muslims must take its vote seriously as a means, in a free and fair election process, to build a responsive and God-fearing government that will lift our nation out of its present miseries. It is worth noting that the Muslim community has the potential to influence the outcome of elections in practically any constituency through their vote alone, and far more if coordinated with other sectors of their respective local constituencies. Seeing their votes as Amanah (trust) and a means to effect lasting positive changes in our society for the benefit of all, we urge Nigerian Muslims to vote according to their conscience and elect leaders based only on the candidates' credentials. We urge them to assess candidates- Muslims and non-Muslims- based on their worth and on the candidates' knowledge and action plans on the following issues that are of concern to our community, in addition of them being God-fearing. Further to this, we urge Mosques and Muslim organizations to seek meetings with political candidates to discuss specific issues confronting our community with them, demand their position as well as electoral commitment on such issues as Hijab at workplaces, Religious discrimination and harassment, etc.

Muslims have been targeted within the workplace and have suffered from open harassment and prejudice which are mere reflection of the wider society. These societal ills, and the media deafening silence which accompany them, have naturally led to the rise in Islamophobia to the level of absurdity, and is set to rise even further unless the government adopts a clear policy which criminalizes the perpetrators and promotes social diversity and inclusion.

Following are the Issues of Concern to Muslims:

MPAC urges Muslim voters to assess candidates, regardless of party affiliation, by considering the main issues which affect Muslims and reflect our National interests. Nigerian Muslims, being the majority in the population, share common concerns, needs and aspirations of our fellow citizens. Concerns about education, health, security, quick and easy access to justice, national prosperity, and above all God consciousness, are common to us all. MPAC proposes, as a result of its lengthy and thorough consideration, that the main issues of concern to the Nigerian Muslims in the coming election should be as follows:

- Education
- Sustainable livelihood
- Young People
- Corruption
- Human Rights and Social Justice & Equality (including Religious strives and conflicts)
- Housing, Electricity & other infrastructures.
- Security
- Health
- Justice
- Poverty & Low Income
- Discrimination & Islamophobia
- Media & Culture
- Foreign Policy/International Affairs

The MPAC looks forward to a peaceful election where Muslims will turn out in numbers and will influence the outcome of election 2007 in a positive and constructive manner and in an effort to bring about what is best for their community, local constituency and our country.

The Muslim Public Affairs Centre, MPAC, Nigeria.

December 8th 2006

+234 8099860204

website: www.mpac-ng.org

email: administration@mpac-ng.org; communications@mpac-ng.org