



**CARITAS NIGERIA/JDPC ELECTORAL OBSERVATION
REPORT**

**2019 GENERAL
ELECTIONS IN THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
NIGERIA**

February 23 & March 9, 2019

I

Department of Church & Society: Good Governance unit

Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria, Abuja.

Table of contents

CHAPTER ONE:

A.	INTRODUCTORY NOTE ON CARITAS/JDPC.....	1
B.	BRIEF ELECTORAL BACKGROUND OF NIGERIA.....	2
	THE FIRST REPUBLIC.....	3
	THE SECOND REPUBLIC.....	3
	THE THIRD REPUBLIC.....	4
	THE FOURTH REPUBLIC.....	4
C.	PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS...	5
	INEC.....	5
	CIVIL SOCIETY.....	6
	SECURITY AGENT.....	7
	MEDIA.....	7
	CARITAS/JDPS.....	7
	ELECTION OBSERVATION REPORT METHODOLOGY FROM CARITAS/JDPC SITUATION ROOM.....	8
	CHAPTER TWO: ELECTION OBSERVATION REPORT	11

OBSERVATION REPORTS SOUTH WEST

A.	LAGOS.....	12
B.	OGUN STATE.....	16
C.	EKITI STATE.....	18
D.	OYO STATE.....	22
E.	OSUN STATE.....	24

CHAPTER THREE: ELECTION OBSERVATION REPORT (NORTH WEST)

A.	KADUNA STATE.....	29
B.	KANO STATE.....	32
C.	SOKOTO STATE.....	33

CHAPTER FOUR: ELECTION OBSERVATION REPORT (NORTH EAST)

A.	ONITSHA, ANAMBRA STATE.....	35
B.	AWKA, ANAMBRA STATE.....	36
C.	NSUKKA, ENUGU STATE.....	36
D.	ABIA STATE.....	37

CHAPTER FIVE: ELECTION OBSERVATION REPORT (NORTH CENTRAL)

A.	NASSARAWA.....	41
B.	ABUJA.....	41
C.	JOS, PLATEAU STATE.....	43
D.	LOKOJA, KOGI STATE.....	45
E.	KWARA STATE.....	47
F.	GBOKO, BENUE STATE.....	47

CHAPTER SIX: ELECTION OBSERVATION REPORT (SOUTH SOUTH).

A.	EDO STATE.....	49
B.	PORT-HARCOURT, RIVERS STATE	50
C.	BOMADI.....	51
D.	OGOJA, CROSS RIVER STATE.....	52

CHAPTER SEVEN: ELECTION OBSERVATION REPORT (NORTH EAST)

A.	JALINGO TARABA STATE.....	57
B.	YOLA ADAMAWA STATE.....	61

CHAPTER EIGHT: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

A.	CONCLUSION.....	63
B.	RECOMMENDATION.....	63

APPRECIATION

APPENDIX

CHAPTER ONE

A. INTRODUCTORY NOTE ON CARITAS/JDPC

Caritas Nigeria was established in September 2010 as an umbrella body to oversee the activities of JDPC, which had existed since the past 3 decades in the 36 States across the country and FCT. As an agency of the *Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria*, *one of its core mandates is to coordinate all development interventions*. It is registered as a non-profit, non-governmental and faith based organization under the laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which, in addition to its primary duties of offering humanitarian services to the vulnerable persons, coordinates the social services of the Catholic Church in Nigeria in a larger perspective, including the activities of the JDPCs in the areas of electoral process and monitoring.

The scope of Caritas Nigeria covers a broad spectrum of programs, Good Governance inclusive. Caritas responds practically to core humanitarian needs in the face of natural disasters, conflicts, climate change, hunger, diseases, wars and other forms of violence. With this purpose in view, women and men situating in the poorest and most vulnerable communities of Nigeria would have a reason to survive and live safe and secured. Caritas/JDPC yearns for a world where the voices of the poor and vulnerable in the society are heard and responded to. A world where even the poor living in the most disadvantaged environments are able to influence the system, decisions and resources that surrounds them, which will enable them live under a government institution or global setting that is just and accountable. Caritas Nigeria works to fight hunger, disease and ignorance. She responds to humanitarian crises and emergencies by mobilizing resources from within and outside the Church to meet the basic needs of affected persons regardless of religion, national or ethnic leaning.

The Vision of Caritas Nigeria is *a harmonious environment where everyone enjoys fullness of life*.

The responsibilities of Caritas are executed through coordinating and collaborating with the Provincial and Diocesan Justice Development and Peace Commissions (JDPC) via mobilizing and monitoring election activities, conducting needs assessments, implementing social interventions, conducting organizational capacity gap assessments, facilitating capacity building/organizational strengthening programmes and providing technical assistance, mentorship and accompaniment to partner organizations as the need arises. JDPC/Caritas Nigeria also collaborates with other faith-based agencies, local and international humanitarian organizations, as well as various United Nations member agencies.

Since inception, Caritas Nigeria has successfully managed projects, grants and relationships with diverse stakeholders ranging from government, United Nations Agencies, international aid agencies, faith and community based organizations, sub-grantees and host communities to ensure that services are delivered to intended beneficiaries. In line with its vision of “a harmonious environment where everyone enjoys fullness of life”, Caritas Nigeria beneficiaries are selected based on need, regardless of religion, nationality or political affiliation.

Similarly, the Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC) functions as the

local charity agency at the diocesan levels. Since 1989, the JDPCs have been charged with the mandate to sensitize faithful citizens and the whole nation towards safeguarding their democratic rights and duties. It has also always been mandated to observe the conduct of the 2019 general elections in the country. The expectation is that JDPC, along with the institutions involved in the preparation and conduct of transparent, free and fair elections can together contribute towards making Nigeria a stable democratic nation. Furthermore, the program was designed to enable the Nigerian Church, through (CBCN) take a stand on the election results, in order to make substantial impact on the democratic process in the country.¹

B. BRIEF ELECTORAL BACKGROUND OF NIGERIA

One fundamental essence of the evolution of democracy is the clamour for the voices of the masses to be heard in governance. Domestic and international human rights instruments placed the supremacy of citizen's voices at the foundational level in the pyramid of democratic processes. This informs the global standards for democratic elections, wherein the central focus is on the supremacy of the will of the electorate. This is clearly exemplified in Article 21 (3) of the 1948 Universal Declaration on Human Rights, which states that "the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures."

As a sovereign entity, Nigeria has aspired since independence to affirm democracy as the vehicle for the realization of its national aspirations and objectives, Nigeria has struggled to adopt and situate the democratic ethos in its nation-building efforts. Even before independence in 1960, Nigeria's march towards a realization of the objective of democratization was already underway. The electoral system was a key component of this national objective, which was equally portrayed as a dimension of the nation's manifest destiny in the comity of nations. Right from the early period when nationalists' agitations began to take roots, democratic processes, and electoral contests, shaped the ideas, and the dominant narratives, which determined the direction of the nation. In preparation to end the colonial domination of the country, as the nationalist agitation for independence intensified, Great Britain demanded to leave behind a process through which leaders are chosen, which in effect gave way to the deepening of Nigeria's political participation, including constitution making and legislative representation.

The democratic process, more specifically the electoral system, therefore played a significant role in legitimizing the nationalist demands and agitations for independence in 1960. In fact, the pre-independence electoral process, produced parliamentarians who by the late 1950s, were using the instrumentality of democratic structures to call for independence. A ready example is the motion for independence, which was moved at the Federal House of Representatives by Anthony Enahoro in 1957.

THE FIRST REPUBLIC

Nigeria became independent on October 1, 1960. The period between this date and January 15, 1966, when the first Military coup d'état took place, is generally referred to as the First Republic, although the country only became a republic on October 1st, 1963.

At independence, Nigeria had all the trappings of a democratic state and was indeed regarded as a beacon of hope for democracy. It had a federal constitution that guaranteed a large measure of autonomy to three regions; it operated a parliamentary democracy modeled along British lines that emphasized majority rule; the constitution included an elaborate bill of right; and unlike other African states that adopted one party system immediately after independence, Nigeria had a functional, albeit regionally based multiparty system.

These democratic trappings were not enough to guarantee the survival of the republic because of certain fundamental and structural weaknesses. Perhaps the most significant weakness was the disproportionate power of the north in the federation. The departing colonial authority had hoped that the development of national policy will forestall any sectional domination of power, but it underestimated the effect of a regionalized party system in a country where political power depended on population.

However, immediately after independence in 1960, the optimistic vision, which projected that Nigeria would become a stable and functioning democracy, playing a leadership role on the African continent, soon gave way to despair consequent upon a deep rooted regional politics. Electoral competition became a major source of unhealthy friction between and among the political elite. In the desperation for political power, Nigeria's ethnic and sectarian diversities, which should have been played up to foster unity in diversity, became target for exploitation by partisan interests who would rather win elections at all cost. A major part dimension of the problem came from politicians who through their disruptive political activities rejected the real essence of the democratic process, which is the supremacy of the votes of the people. The political actors therefore replaced a culture of bowing to the electoral will of the people, with a culture of always attempting to subvert their will. The struggle for political power by the post-independence elite, took a disturbing toll on the fledgling democratic precedent and development in Nigeria. By 1964 when the first general elections to be superintended took place, the political elites had polarized the country to a dismally unstable extent. The lack of credibility of the electoral process, and the violent reaction to the outcomes especially in the Western region, was one of the factors which contributed to the demise of the first republic; which came in the guise of the first military coup of January 15, 1966.

THE SECOND REPUBLIC

As a result of the civil war and years of military rule trailing the first republic, elections and all related processes were held in abeyance until 1979 when the military-supervised transition to civil rule ended with a general election which produced the National Party of Nigeria (NPN)-led Presidency. Again, the political actors failed to learn from the reality of long years of military rule; they continued to act in ways, which defied the established rules of democratic conduct by rigging elections, and refusing to be true

democrats by accepting the outcomes of elections as reflection of the supreme will of the people.

For instance, when the NPN presidential Candidate, Alahaji Shehu Shagari was declared winner in the 1979 general elections, many people were of the opinion that he did not meet the full requirement to be declared winner. He only obtained the simple majority of the total votes cast in the federation but failed to get 25 percent of the total votes cast in the thirteen states of the federation. Shagari obtained 25 percent of the votes in twelve states but got only 19 percent in the thirteenth state. Awolowo, the Presidential candidate and leader of the UPN, led other defeated candidates and their party to challenge the declaration in the electoral tribunal and later in the Supreme Court. But the challenge was to no avail. The controversy led to a strong anti-NPN, anti-Shagari sentiments in several states controlled by other parties. The moment the NPN succeeded in consolidating power at the center, the attraction it held was strong enough to tear other Parties asunder. The history of the second Republic consequently brimmed with interparty and intraparty schisms and federal state conflicts. Again, the politicians proved not to have the capacity to manage democratic process, especially in the 1983 elections, which led to the demise of the second Republic. The military could not but seize the ensuing instability as a yardstick to strike and again truncate democracy in 1983.

THE THIRD REPUBLIC

The transition program of the Military Rulers towards the establishment of the civilian rule as the third Republic was more elaborate and deliberate than was that towards the second republic. The goal was to prevent a recurrence of the previous mistakes.

One of the most unique aspects of the transition was the decision to create two political parties, wholly runned and finance by the state. But after what turned out to be the most successful, the freest and fairest election in the history of the Nigerian democratic life crashed at the mercy of Military dictatorship, they ruled the country again until after the death of Gen Sani Abacha who ruled as Head of State from 1995 to 1998, and was succeeded by the Abubakar Abdulsalami regime, that the transition process, which began in 1999 became a reality to put in place a democratic administration.

THE FOURTH REPUBLIC

Although the post-1999 transition to civil rule has continued uninterrupted, the electoral process has remained problematic. After the 1999 general elections, the subsequent elections of 2003, and 2007 were marred by grave irregularities, violence, rigging and declaration of results which did not reflect the will of the people.

Consequently, the debate about the need to clean up Nigeria's electoral system found expression in the formation of the Justice Muhammd Uwais Committee on Electoral Reform set up by Olusegun Obasanjo. The Committee made several far reaching recommendations, a number of which formed the basis for the push for reform. The appointment of Professor Attahiru Jega as Chairman of INEC in 2010 also helped restore some confidence in the process; a much cleaner voter register was used for the 2011 general elections won by the then Acting President Goodluck Jonathan. Despite these efforts, electoral impunity, particularly electoral violence continued to mar the good efforts towards making outcomes legitimate and acceptable. Specifically, 800

people were killed in Northern Nigeria, including youth corps members, after partisan supporters went on rampage over the 2011 Presidential results.

Nonetheless, 2015 was a game changer in the history of Nigeria's elections on account of the introduction of technology in the form of the Smart Card Reader for the verification of the biometrics of voters. Although the general elections of 2015 also experienced similar hitches like other elections, stakeholders were unanimous about the game changing role of the Smart Card Reader in terms of enhancing the credibility of the electoral process. As such, the various assurances of INEC that the 2019 elections would be credible were anchored around the mandatory use of the card readers, better logistics deployment and synergy with the security agencies to protect the electoral terrain and by extension guarantee the sanctity of the vote. The outcome still was not impressive as many Nigerians still feel that their votes did not count.

C. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF KEY ELECTION STAKEHOLDERS

In the build up to the 2019 general elections, there were many debates about the role of the various stakeholders in the electoral process. While the jury is out on how well these various stakeholders played their respective roles, preliminary findings point to a mixed performance amongst the myriad of stakeholders in the electoral process.

INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC)

INEC was established in accordance with section 153(f) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. As stipulated in Part I of the Third Schedule to the 1999 Constitution, the function of the Commission are listed to include to organize, undertake and supervise all elections to the offices of the President and Vice-president, the Governor and Deputy Governor of a state, and to the membership of the Senate, the House of Representatives and the House of Assembly of each State of the Federation. INEC is also mandated to register political parties and monitor their organization and operation, including their finances. INEC is equally saddled with the responsibility of arranging for the annual examination and auditing of the funds and accounts of political parties, and publish a report on such examination and audit for public information. In the area of voter registration, the Commission is similarly required to conduct the registration of persons qualified to vote as well as prepare, maintain and revise the register of voters for the purpose of any election.

It is also within the purview of INEC to monitor political campaigns and provide rules and regulations, which would govern the political parties. In practice, these roles require a lot of human, financial, technical resources, which one Commission may not be able to muster. As such, it was clear that the Commission had become over-tasked by the time it was putting finishing touches to the logistics for the elections. Although INEC itself kept on insisting that it was ready for the elections, the reality was apparent when the Commission had to announce just hours before the elections that it had to postpone the elections by one week from February 16 to enable the Commission finalize its logistics deployment. The late postponement of the elections precipitated heavy economic costs for the country and for individual voters, a good number of whom had

traveled to the points where they registered across the country to cast their votes. Businesses were shut down, which reflected in the figure put out by the Nigeria Chamber of Commerce and Industry to the effect that Nigeria lost over \$1billion to the late announcement of the postponement of the elections.

In terms of performance, INEC has received mixed verdicts from Nigerians and the international community about the way it managed the 2019 general elections. The Commission itself has called for a post-election reassessment of the roles of INEC in the electoral process vis-à-vis the many tasks the Commission is saddled with. For the 2019 general elections, INEC had to update the voter register, and it ended up capturing 84,004,084 million voters according to the Commission's website. After collecting this massive drove of voter data, the Commission had to go on to print Permanent Voter's Card for each, with 72,775,502 voters picking up their PVCs. Then in the area of logistics, INEC had to make arrangements to deploy materials to 119,973 Polling Units across the federation.

The 2019 general election scheduled initially to hold on 16th February was held on Saturday, 23rd February, 2019 as rescheduled by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). The INEC records showed that there were Eighty-Four Million, Four Hundred and Eighty-Four Thousand (84,484,000) registered voters across the Country. A further breakdown of voters by Geo-Political Zones according to INEC shows:

- I. South-South: 12,841,279,
- II. North-Central: 13,366,077
- III. South-East: 10,057,130
- IV. South-West: 16,292,212
- V. North-West: 20,158,100
- VI. North-East: 11,289,293.

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOS)

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) did a lot to bridge the many gaps in the work of INEC. The CSOs also stepped up to the challenge of low voter education by designing and disseminating messages about the importance of voting as a civic obligation of the citizen. They also did a lot in campaigning against electoral infractions like vote buying; hate speech, violation of the electoral laws and the flouting of campaign finance rules. In the area of non-partisan citizen election observation, several civic groups deployed observers throughout the entire electoral process, beginning from the pre-election phase to the Election Day. Various CSO Situation Rooms were set up across the country to get real time trends in the electoral process, and to provide early warning data, which helped in mitigating the outbreak of violence to a large extent.

Their tireless effort has contributed towards positioning the 2019 electoral process in a far positive light. Though one area where the CSOs did not get their voices quite heard was in the pre-election era when the legal framework in the form of the Electoral Act Amendment Bill, which was passed into law by the National Assembly, was repeatedly denied assent by the President. CSOs did not appear to have a coherent strategy towards responding to the situation, knowing that the legal framework for the elections is what creates the foundational basis for integrity, credibility and transparency of the elections.

SECURITY AGENCIES AND INVOLVEMENT OF THE MILITARY

Security is one area which has generated a lot of debate relating to the credibility of the 2019 elections. Despite the existence of an Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Elections Security, which was supposed to be under the control of INEC during electioneering periods, the system has not satisfactorily addressed the allegations on partisanship on the part of the security agencies during elections.

It is unclear the extent of deployment of the military, although the Army launched what it called Operation Python Dance, which saw soldiers being sent across the country supposedly to provide security for the election. Additionally, the Army created its own Situation Room and announced that it would obey President Muhammadu Buhari's instructions to deal ruthlessly with ballot box snatchers. President Buhari had before the elections warned that ballot box snatchers risk paying with their lives – a statement which raised a lot of eyebrows and was widely criticized as a way of encouraging security personnel to carry out extrajudicial killing of electoral offenders, who should ordinarily be apprehended and charged to Court to face punishments of fine or imprisonment, if found guilty.

In the 2019 elections, the performance of the security agencies has come under intense scrutiny by the main opposition party over claims that security colluded with the ruling party to intimidate and suppress voters in the opposition strongholds. In Lagos and Rivers State for instance, opposition politicians are making claims that the security agencies did not allow for a free and fair electoral process, on account of their eagerness to do the bidding of the party in power at the federal level. These allegations and counter allegations have further raised questions about the roles of specific agencies, including the military in the electoral process.

THE MEDIA

The Electoral Act provides for the obligation of government owned media to remain impartial in their political broadcast and to promote equal access to the respective registered political parties on a daily basis. There are sanctions that range from fines to closure prescribed for non-compliance to these regulations. Nonetheless, the regulations in the 2019 General Elections could be said to be largely not complied with. In effect, the regulating agency could not monitor and affect the sanctions.

The emergence of social media could be said to be more dangerous and injurious than a medium for peace and stability. Private bloggers/online media really exacerbated the climate and made the already existing tensed atmosphere unbearable and unmanageable. Hate speeches and fake news became very rampant, and was used by political parties to malign their opponents. It was observed that state-owned media found it difficult to insulate themselves from being partial. This is because some of the managers of this media houses were card carrying members or sympathizers of the ruling party and these had impact on the discharge of the functions of their office. While the ruling APC seemed to have sufficient logistics for its operations, the other parties did not seem to have sufficient funds to execute their campaigns.

CARITAS/ JDPC NIGERIA

In order to ensure an impartial report on Nigeria's 2019 General Elections, JDPC/Caritas Nigeria plunged fully into work developing a robust Elections Monitoring and Observation system, whose capillary and transparent nature helped to garner information on the 2019 elections. To this end, JDPC/Caritas Nigeria developed an Application which was used to observe elections as a part of a thorough observation system.

As mentioned hitherto, the method of the 2019 election observation by the JDPC/Caritas of the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria was slightly different as a result of the deployed Application. The novel Election Monitoring Application featured an exclusive platform for each diocese, and even down to each local government area, ward and polling unit. This was to encourage a detailed reporting scheme. Each accredited observer, under their respective dioceses, was given access to the Election Monitoring Application so as to carry-out an '*on the spot*' observation of the election at the polling unit level. A series of questions bordering around certain indicators such as Timeliness (both of the electorate and INEC officials), Security, voters turn out, voting pattern, Electoral malpractices (financial inducements, rigging), (mis) conduct by electoral staff, security personnel, etc, were featured and answered. These are synchronized and uploaded. At the central coordination is the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria Situation Room constituted and facilitated by Caritas Nigeria on behalf of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria. At the situation room, data from the various polling units in the various dioceses are collated and carefully analyzed, with voting trends established and reported to the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria.

In order to ensure a transparent reporting, Caritas Nigeria commenced its work months before election period, reviewing the legal framework, monitoring voter registration and candidate registration, evaluating the work of election management bodies, assessing the political campaigns, ensuring accreditation of election observers, and following media coverage of the election.

On election days, the long-term observation team was supplemented by a large number of short-term citizen observers whose task was to follow up on developments at polling stations and monitor the vote count. The purpose of the observation missions was to arrange full-time coverage of all polling units. Accredited observers were trained on what to look for and asked to fill out standard forms and checklists hosted on the Election Monitoring System that were used to assess national trends.

At the end of the observation process using the Election Monitoring System, dioceses presented reports conveying their findings and assessments of the election process through the various JDPCs which highlighted the conformity of the electoral process to the National Electoral Acts, international standards, and also underscored the specific weaknesses of the elections and recommendations for improvement.

JDPC noted the resilience, dedication and patriotism of Nigerians in the conduct of the Presidential and National Assembly elections held on Saturday, 23rd February 2019 despite the abrupt postponement and its distressing economic impact on them. The Nigerian youth, under the National Youth Service Corp were exemplary in their work under very difficult conditions too.

ELECTION OBSERVATION REPORT METHODOLOGY FROM CARITAS/JDPC SITUATION ROOM

The following analysis is based on the data harvested from the Caritas Nigeria Election monitoring app as fed in by observers deployed to the field on the election-day.

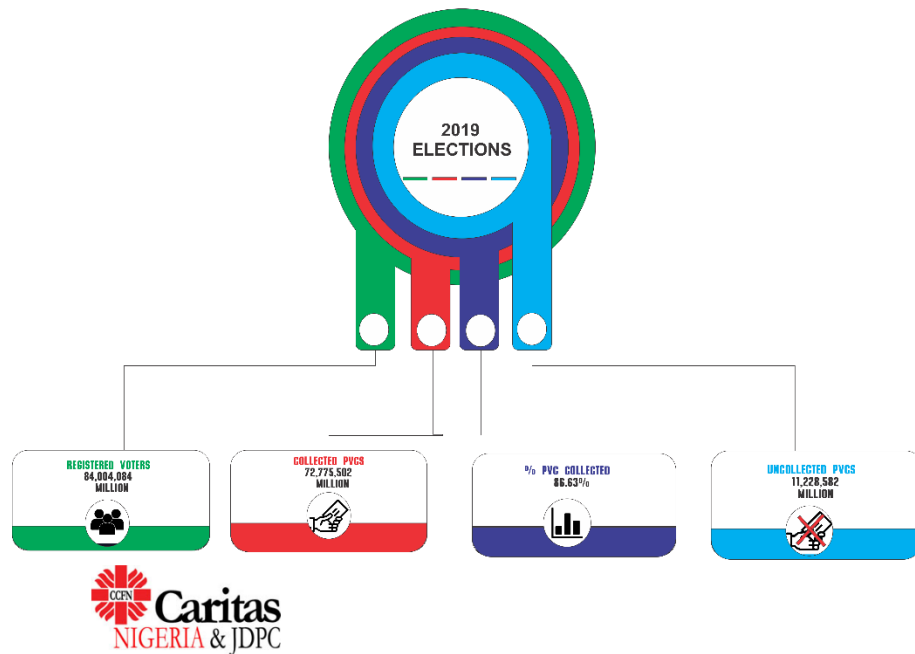
For purpose of consistency, the analysis sample is taken across the six geopolitical regions.

The analysis is based on seven key parameters which were derived from the observation checklist that observers deployed on the field and include the following:

- Timeliness: How early election materials were deployed to voting units (bar chart)
- Accountability: How much the exercise ensured that all votes were accountable (bar chart)
- Credibility: of the entire exercise (bar chart of scores allotted)
- Intimidation: Any pointers to voter intimidation in the voting centres (summed as a pie chart across all the observed wards)
- Support: The level of support received at the voting centres (bar chart)
- Transparency: summed as a pie chart across observed wards
- Fairness: Performance score is summed as a pie chart from all the observed wards.

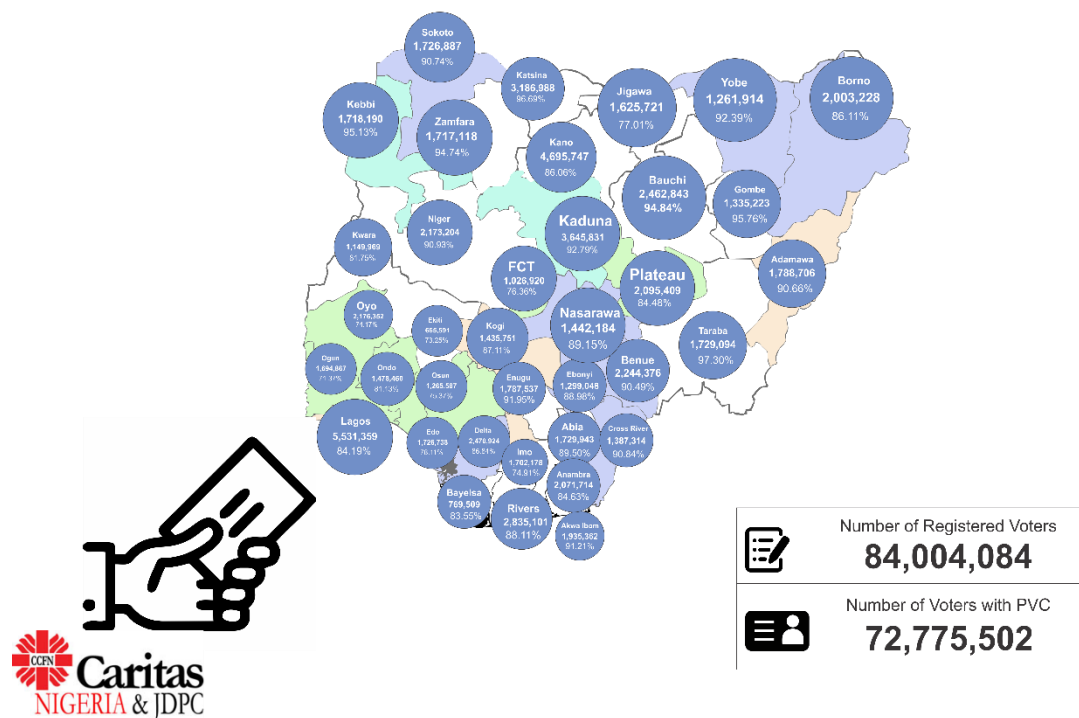
Figure 1.0

TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS AND PVC COLLECTION FOR THE 2019 GENERAL ELECTIONS



PVC Collection Rate Per State

For 2019 General Elections



CHAPTER TWO

ELECTION OBSERVATION REPORTS

The truth that free and fair election is the keystone to every promising democratic society cannot be overemphasized. Nigeria practices democracy, which entails that her citizens exercise their franchise by voting their representatives into the executive and legislative arms of government, as epitomized in the 2019 General Elections.

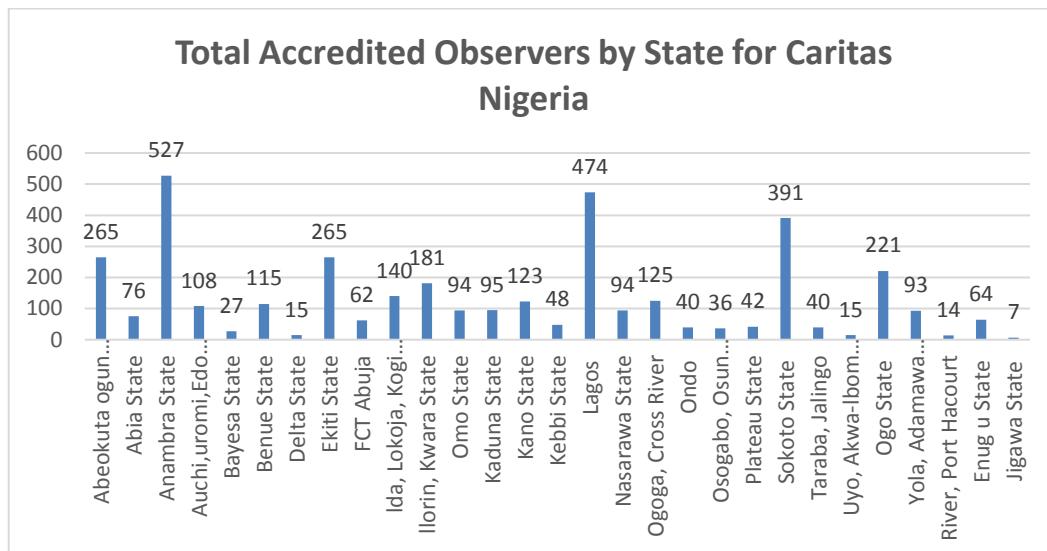
The sixth quadrennial elections since the end of military rule in 1999 began on Saturday, the 23rd February, 2019.

From the reports of our observers across the country, JDPC adjudged the Presidential, National Assembly, Governorship and State Assembly elections as not particularly smooth, as various cases of violence/violation of election procedures in most parts of the country were recorded.

In accordance with the principles of non-partisan citizen election observation, and in line with extant guidelines issued by INEC to observers, JDPC deployed 3823 trained and accredited citizen observers across the six geo-political zones of the country for the February 23, 2019 Presidential and National Assembly elections. JDPC observers were deployed to randomly selected Polling Units (PU) and report on the electoral processes using a checklist of questions focusing on key Election Day processes, as enacted in the guidelines for the 2019 general elections endorsed by INEC. In addition to the work of the accredited observers, JDPC observation effort similarly collected important process and incident data from 5000 citizen poll watchers keeping an eye on the process across the states in the six geo-political zones.

Figure 2.0

A Diagrammatic Representation of JDPC INEC Accredited Observers for 2019 General Election across Nigeria.



OBSERVATION REPORTS (SOUTHWEST)

A LAGOS

Lagos, Nigeria's commercial and economic hub has the second highest number of voters by state. JDPC deployed 474 observers to keep an eye on key Election Day processes in the 20 Local Government Areas (LGAs) and 37 Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs). JDPC observers reported several hitches, including violence in several PUs across the State, which were duly documented.

The hitches began with the late arrival of INEC poll officials as voting commenced at about 2.00pm in some polling units, which should have been closure time. In some Polling Units, actual voting ended as late as 3.00pm and in some cases, 4:30pm extending the counting and collation to a much later time. In some places, Polling Officials arrived before the election materials. According to the observers, the late arrival of officials and materials impacted negatively on the commencement of accreditation. There were numerous instances of smartcard reader malfunction and delays in addressing the challenge during accreditation and voting.

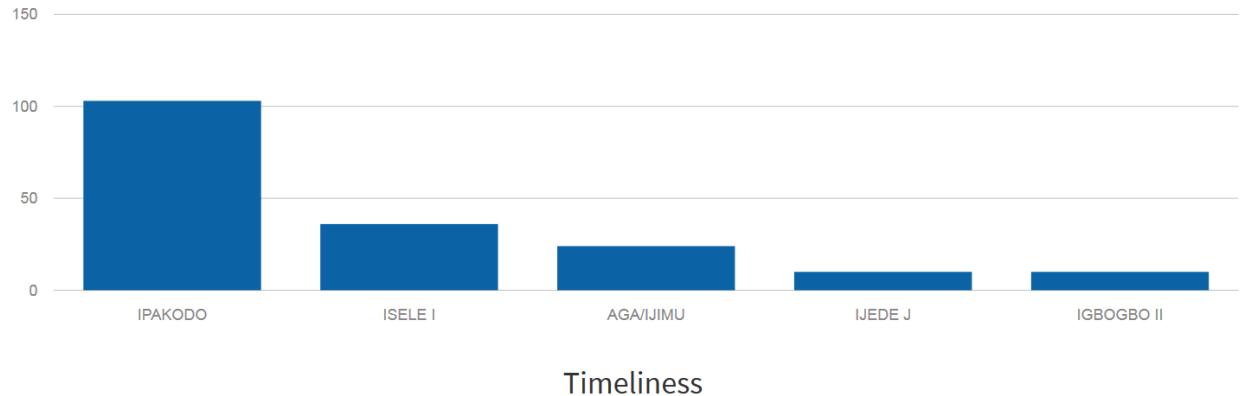
Also, the elections were disrupted by widespread incidents of violence in various PU around Isolo/Oshodi and Surulere/Aguda LGA. Cases of ballot box snatching and burning were on the rise. Mob attacks were also witnessed, with individuals who had come out to exercise their franchise suffering varying degrees of injuries as a result of the attacks. JDPC observers reported other challenges in the electoral process to include the lack of adequate knowledge about the electoral process, especially with regard to voting, counting and ballot paper accounting. This lack of capacity on the part of INEC ad hoc staff in turn affected the pace of the accreditation and voting which was already hampered by their late arrival. Observers also reported problem of insufficiency of basic election materials at polling units, which resulted in situations where materials like stamp pads, ink and voting cubicles were not available.

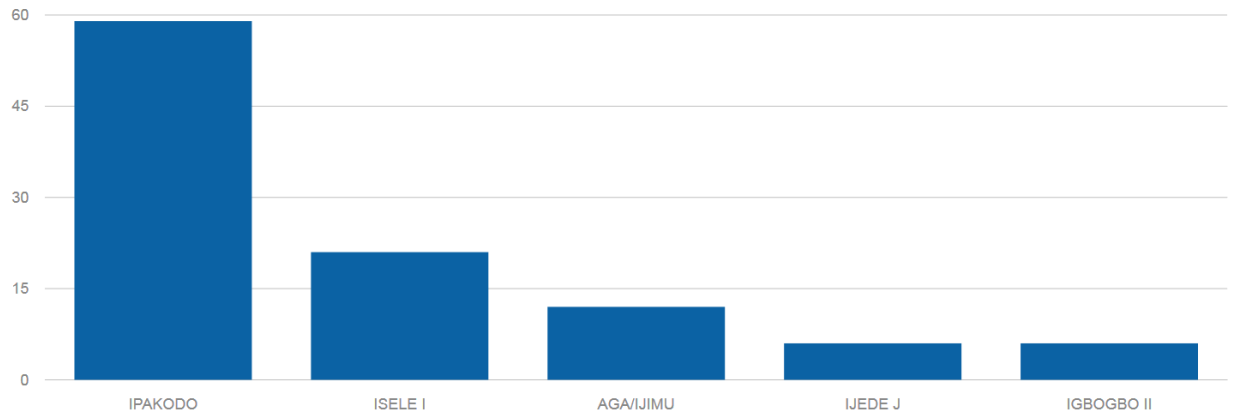
There were scanty deployments of security personnel in a plethora of PUs. As a matter of fact, so many PUs had no single security operative to keep an eye on the electoral process. There was a remarkably low turnout of voters as observed. There were also reports of infractions on the electoral laws and the sanctity of the ballot, as party agents carried on with campaigns at the polling areas, while trying to influence the decision of voters. They were also issues of vote buying and selling in PUs around Ejigbo and Langbasa areas of Lagos State.

On the positive side, the process of vote counting was quite transparent in the areas observed, as no major incident was noted.

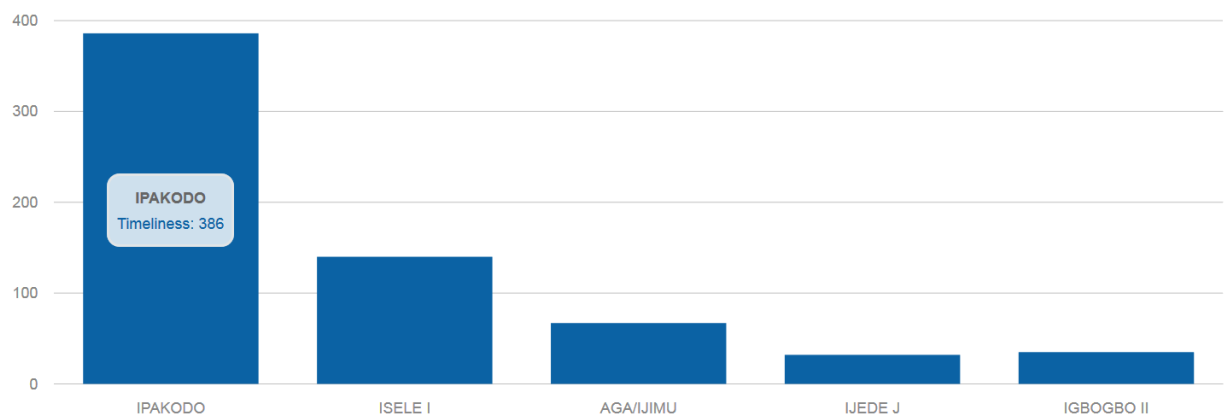
In the South West region, Ikorodu LGA of Lagos State

Election activities were recorded from the six wards namely: Ipakodo, Isele I, Aga/Ijimu, Igede J and Igbogbo II.

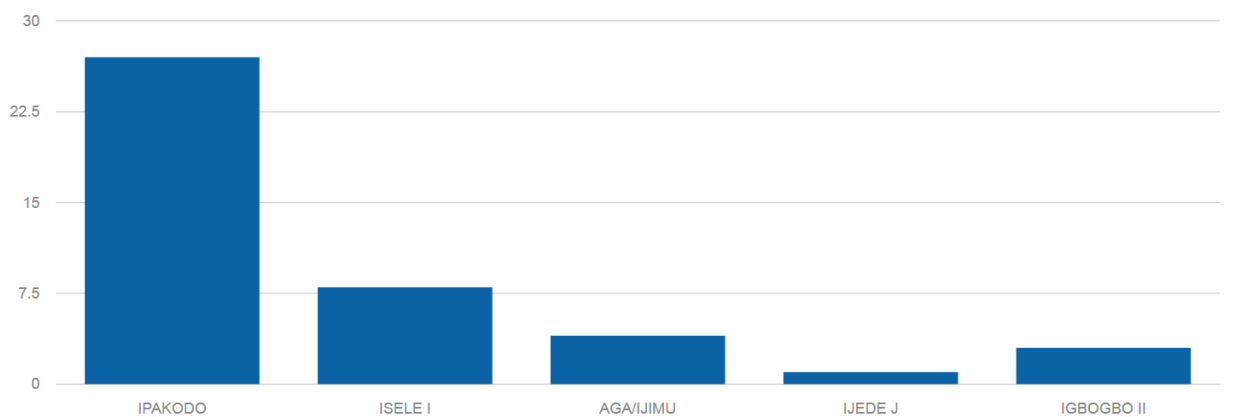




Accountability

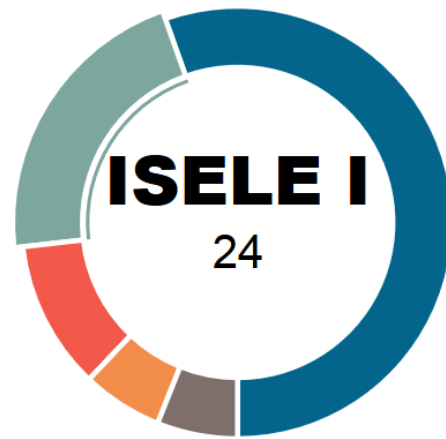


Credibility



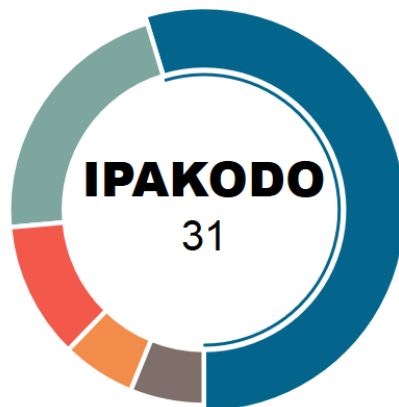
Support

Ipakodo scored very high across all the indicators for timeliness (103/200), accountability (59/60), credibility (386/400) and support (27/30) while Ijede J had very poor showing across the same indicators (timeliness – 10/200; accountability – 6/60; credibility – 32/400; and support – 1/30).



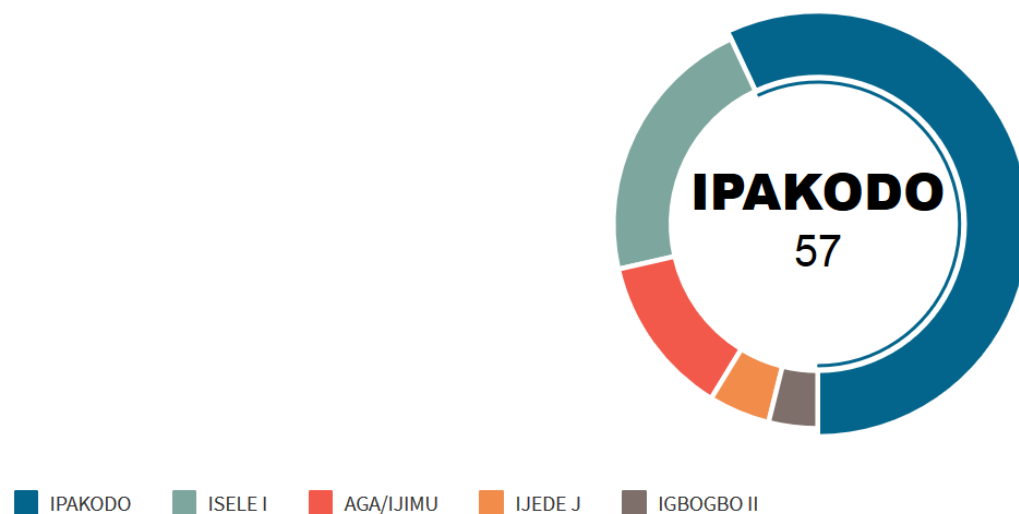
IPAKODO ISELE I AGA/IJIMU IJEDE J IGBOGBO II

Intimidation



IPAKODO ISELE I AGA/IJIMU IJEDE J IGBOGBO II

Fairness



Transparency

In the same vein, while the records for intimidation, fairness and transparency were encouraging for Ipakdo, Isele I and Aga/Ijimu wards, they were very poor in Ijede J and Igbogbo II wards.

B OGUN STATE.

Abeokuta

Two hundred and sixty-five (265) observers were deployed across the eleven local government areas in both Central and Western Senatorial Districts of Ogun State. Abeokuta South, Abeokuta North, Odeda, Obafemi / Owode, Ifo and Ewekoro were the coverage area from the Central Senatorial District. Egbado South, Egbado North, Imeko- Afon, Ipokia and Ado-Odo/Ota) were also coverage areas from the Western Senatorial district.

The simultaneous accreditation and voting to some extent, prevented ballot box stuffing compared to the previous elections in Nigeria and Ogun state in particular. Hence, the number of accredited voters and vote cast corresponded in the majority of polling units monitored across the two Senatorial Districts.

Reports from our monitors across the two Senatorial Districts indicated that about 95% of the INEC officials arrived their assigned polling stations before 8 am, and voting commenced before 9 am in many polling stations. There was improvement compared to previous elections.

The numbers of security personnel varied from one polling station to another. Some polling stations had three while some had four. Although the restriction of vehicular movement was not totally adhered to in the morning as majority of the vehicle without identification plate numbers moved around unperturbed. But it was different when the sorting and counting began. We commend the entire members of Ogun State Inter Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) for their quick response and intervention anytime we put a call across to any of the mobile phone numbers made

available by INEC. Though there is room for improvement in subsequent elections. The majority of the INEC official in more than 80 percent of the polling unit waited for the stipulated time (8am) before the commencement of the accreditation and voting. Hence, they all completed their setup well ahead of time. The Presiding Officers were more organized in their approach and the voter education was well organized.

Most of the card readers did not perform very well. In most polling units, the card readers could not verify the finger prints of the accredited voters, so they had to resort to validation by thumb printing on the provided space on the manual voter register.

The arrangement of the polling booth in some polling stations gave room for parties to engage in vote buying. This was noticed in Ward 14 unit 15, Ward 7 unit 3 and 4, Ward 12 unit 23 in Abeokuta South Local Government. Vote buying took a new dimension, as some of the party agents came to the polling area with lists of names mobilized to vote in a particular units and monies to be paid after the vote. Some negotiations also took place right at the polling area.

Generally, the popular participation of electorates was very low compared to the registered voters of 2,375,003; in which only 708,807 participated and voted, which is barely 29.8 % of the registered voters who participated in the gubernatorial election. Total void votes stand at 20,969 which is around 3% of the total vote cast, which is higher than the difference between the winner and the runner-up at 19,519 (2.7%). On the average, the turn-out of the eligible electorates was high.

There was peaceful coexistence among the party agents representing various political parties at the polling units. Misunderstandings were resolved amicably. Although, in Abeokuta South, Ward 1 Polling Unit 5, there was shortage of ballot papers for registered voters and the political party agents insisted that election would not commence unless INEC officials resolve the situation. The challenge was attended to.

Ijebu- Ode Ogun State

Generally, card readers were not authenticating at most of the polling stations. Most INEC ad hoc staff had to resort to manual authentication. The turnout of voters for the elections was lower than expected. But the general atmosphere could be described as calm and quiet. Voters who turned out were really enthusiastic and determined to exercise their civic duties, except for few centers bereft of security personnel. But for many other centers, security personnel were generously deployed. Also, there was on and off presence of military men around strategic places; patrolling, stopping and checking vehicles.

They were few places during elections where posters were still stuck to walls around the polling stations. But there were very few attempts to induce voters with money (vote buying). Ballot papers and other election materials arrived early in most Local Governments. Only in few Local Governments did accreditation start between 9.00am to 10am.

Figure 2.1



		FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Time of arrival at Polling Units.	7AM-7:30AM	54	56%
	7:35-8AM	15	16%
	8AM-8:30AM	20	21%
	8:35AM-9AM	5	5%
	9:05 UPWARD	2	2%
	TOTAL	96	100%

Performance of INEC Officials

INEC is highly commended for providing enough collapsible booths for voters' secrecy, except for few places. According to statistics, 98% of the polling units had collapsible tents raised there.

Figure 2.1

		FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Was the voting cubicle set in a way to protect the secrecy of voters	YES	94	98%
	NO	2	2%
	TOTAL	96	100%

In few polling units, party agents were noticed directing voters to thumb for parties of their interest. Some of the party agents changed their identity cards from the one given by INEC. They were wearing another one with their logo and party name boldly written which some other agents construed as a campaign in disguise. It is necessary that Party Agents be advised to stick within their constitutional roles as only observers, not canvassers for votes or voters' guide. The use of NYSC as INEC ad hoc staff was quite commendable. Most of them discharged their duty competently. It is of the essence that they are trained thoroughly, most especially on computing and recording of polling results. They were still complaints of missing names on the voter's registers. For example, in Moslem Primary School, Oke Ode Ago-Iwoye, (Ward 8) Ijebu North Local Government, 165 names were missing on their registers with 765 names pasted. INEC should find a way of addressing this issue in future elections.

In few polling stations such as Ikenne and Ago Iwoye, there were mix up of names and pictures on the registers, different from those on the PVC.

Ekiti State

Ekiti Diocesan JDPC deployed 265 Observers which comprised INEC Accredited Observers at designated Polling Units and JDPC recognized Community-based Observers (aka invisible observers) for the Presidential and National Assembly Elections. For the House of Assembly Election, the Organization deployed 68 Observers comprising of 5 Roving Observers and 63 Polling Units Observers. The observers were trained on the safety, techniques, ethics and reportage of observation through the use of **KoBoCollect ToolBox** Application.

This report is derived from the thorough analysis of the feedbacks from the deployed observers who completed the Observation Checklists and submitted reports.

1. Ekiti State Electoral Statistics

- i) Number of Local Government Areas – 16
- ii) Number of Wards – 177
- iii) Number of Polling Units – 2,195
- iv) Number of Voting Points – 2,803
- v) Number of Registered Voters – 899,919

1. Breakdown Of Ekiti State Electoral Statistics Across LGAs

Figure 2.2

S/N	LGA	NO OF WARDS	NO OF PU	NO VOTING POINTS
1.	ADO-EKITI	13	207	455
2.	EFON	10	119	119
3.	EKITI EAST	12	95	163
4.	EKITI WEST	11	184	187
5.	EKITI SOUTH- WEST	11	188	191
6.	EMURE	10	93	101
7.	GBONYIN	10	103	148
8.	IDO/OSI	11	139	160
9.	IJERO	12	138	180
10.	IKERE	11	86	151
11.	IKOLE	12	182	200
12.	ILEJEMEJE	10	91	91
13.	IREPODUN/IFELOD UN	11	160	198
14.	ISE/ORUN	10	108	128
15.	MOBA	11	112	136
16.	OYE	12	190	195
		177	2,195	2803

2. Of all the wards across the 16 LGAs, 44% of the entire wards had the presence of JDPC observers during the presidential and national assembly elections spread evenly among them, while only about 18% of the wards had the presence of JDPC observers during the Governorship and State House of Assembly Elections.
3. INEC officials arrived the polling units impressively early. According to JDPC observers, over 90% of the polling stations witnessed the arrival of INEC officials between 7am-8am, while only a slight number of units witnessed the arrival of INEC officials after 8am. It was also observed that INEC officials came along with complete voting materials. No polling agent had cause to complain about the materials provided. They all expressed satisfaction in the voting process from start to finish. All collapsible tents at different units were well pitched to protect secrecy during voting. However, INEC can improve on the design of the voting cubicle in such a way as to reduce the rate of vote buying. Both accreditation of voters and voting went hand in hand hitch free. Those with disabilities and other special cases were treated with considerable preferences.

Although there were few electoral malpractices as it relates to intimidation of voters, voter's inducement, vote buying and selling, etc. voting also ended a bit late, as about ninety-five 95% of polling units stopped voting between 2-4pm as opposed to the actual regulation of 2pm prompt.

4. PERFORMANCE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AS ANNOUNCED BY INEC

- i) Accredited Voters –395,741
- ii) Total Votes Cast – 393,709
- iii) Rejected Votes - 12,577
- iv) Total Valid Votes – 381,132

5. GENERAL REMARKS ABOUT THE ELECTIONS

- a) The percentage of total votes cast Vis a Vis the number of registered voters was just about 43.74%. The turnout was below average.

INEC performed credibly well with regards to discharge of its duties generally.

Oyo State

After one week of postponement of 2019 Presidential and National Assembly elections, eligible voters across the country trooped out peacefully to cast their votes for those that will administer the affairs of the country for the next four years.

The Justice, Development and Peace Commission, Catholic Archdiocese of Ibadan, deployed one hundred and Eighty-five (185) observers to twelve (12) local government areas of the State, namely; Ibadan North, Ibadan North/East, Ibadan South West, Ibadan South/East, Ibadan North/West, Akinyele, Lagelu, Ona-Ara, Egbeda, Iddo, Oluyole and Ibarapa East Local Government.

In Oyo State, eligible voters were seen across the polling centres as early as 6:45am, waiting anxiously for the arrival of the officials of the independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). Unfortunately, in most of the polling centres observed, the officials did not arrive as scheduled i.e. by 8am.

The election, which recorded a low turn-out of voters commenced late in Ibadan North, Akinyele, Ibadan South East, Ibadan North East, Iddo, Ibadan South west and Egbeda. In Akinyele Local Government specifically at UNA Primary School Ijaye, ballot papers for the senatorial candidacy were not brought by electoral officials. The residents therefore decided not to cast their votes. All these contributed to the late voting in those areas.

However, the Resident Electoral Commissioner for Oyo State, Barrister Mutiu Agboke, complied with the order of the INEC chairman to extend the time within which voters can cast their vote. Aside the poor turnout of voters, the late arrival of INEC personnel and materials in some of the council areas marred the smooth running of the polls in the State. Despite INEC's earlier disclosure that the Card Readers have been enhanced and that their efficiency can now be guaranteed, some of the card readers were still slow and malfunctioning in some of the polling centres visited.

In spite of the full presence of security personnel in major roads of the metropolis; there were poor responses to distress calls from polling centres by security agents as hoodlums threatened the smooth electoral process with sporadic shooting into the air from one polling unit to another. Also, Hoodlums were noticed around the polling centres in the metropolis, downing hot drinks and hard drug, a situation which posed a serious threat to the security in the areas.

Campaign activities were noticed around the polling centres, as posters and souvenir of candidates were openly displayed. For Ward 1; unit 007 Lagelu Local government area, one of the leaders of ADC, was seen openly assisting the aged women to cast their vote and as a result influencing their decision, while APC party agent was busy campaigning openly for their candidates at the polls

On the secrecy of the ballot, INEC provided Voting cubicles in virtually all the polling centres; however, there were palpable rowdiness around the voting areas, compromising the secrecy of the ballot in some centres. To curb the menace, some centres used ropes to cordon off the voting area.

It was also observed that unlike the previous elections, officials of the Independent National Electoral commission, (INEC) complied with the directive of the commission to give preference to pregnant women, the aged and people living with disabilities at the polling centres.

In Ona Ara Local Government Ward 11 unit1, and in Egbeda Local government ward 1 unit 005, there were alleged buying and selling of votes from eligible voters for between N500 and N1000 by both All Progressive Congress (APC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP). In Ibadan South/East, ward 8 units; 31, hoodlums attempted to disrupt the voting process, however prompt response by Security agents returned normalcy to the centre.

Report of the 2019 Gubernatorial and State House of Assembly Elections in Oyo State

On Saturday 9th March 2019, eligible voters in Ibadan Metropolis trooped out to exercise their franchise in voting for the next Governor and thirty- two (32) State House of Assembly Members, who will be saddled with the responsibility of administering the affairs of the Pacesetter State for the next four years beginning Wednesday May 29th, 2019.

The election, which was supposedly peaceful, was marred by low turn-out of voters and pockets of violence in some parts of the metropolis.

Prior to the polls, there was alignment and re-alignment of forces among political gladiators in the State to improve their chance in the Gubernatorial and State House of Assembly polls in the State.

Unlike the Presidential and National Assembly Elections, there was noticeable improvement in the performance of the Electoral body; there was early arrival of personnel and materials at the polling units before commencement of elections slated for 8.00am. There was also an improved performance of the smart card readers and prompt response in a few areas where challenges were observed concerning the device. On the openness and transparency, INEC officials did not fully comply with this instruction, especially concerning the pasting of detailed information concerning the centre and the result of the polls from the centres.

On the sanctity and secrecy of ballot, unlike the previous election, INEC used rope to condone off the voting cubicle area from the crowd to protect the secrecy of the ballot and reduce exposure of voters to any eventual danger after the polls in some polling units.

On inclusiveness, preference was given to women, aged and People Living with Disability (PLWD) in line with the instruction given by the commission at the polling units. However, there is need to further improve on this especially by making the polling environment and voting materials comply with the global best practice for PLWD.

Like the Presidential and National Assembly polls, the turn-out of voters was abysmally low compared to the number in the voter register throughout the metropolis.

The rule to restrict the movement of people by the security agents, was fully adhered to in city centres and major roads, but motorcycle riders had a field day in the interiors.

This unpleasant development aided the easy movement of hoodlums who were seen harassing and intimidating eligible voters at various polling centres.

Eligible voters, we also noticed conducting themselves in an orderly manner; in some centres they created enabling environment for themselves and the INEC officials by renting canopies and chairs to protect them from scorching sun while performing their civic responsibilities. There was no noticeable incident of vote buying and selling in all the polling units. In most of the centres observed, eligible voters were seen keeping vigil at the polling centres awaiting the end of the polls and counting before their departure.

Security operatives were seen to be well coordinated and civil in their conduct. Armed military officers were seen at all the flashpoints in the metropolis to nip in the bud any attempt to disrupt the process. The presence of security personnel were very noticeable as unarmed Police, Civil Defence and other para- military forces were seen manning the polling centres and cooperating with the INEC officials to ensure smooth voting exercise. Unlike the experience during the presidential election, their response to distress calls from the polling centres were very prompt and effective.

It was also noticed that posters of candidates of virtually all the major political parties littered the polling centres violating the electoral law.

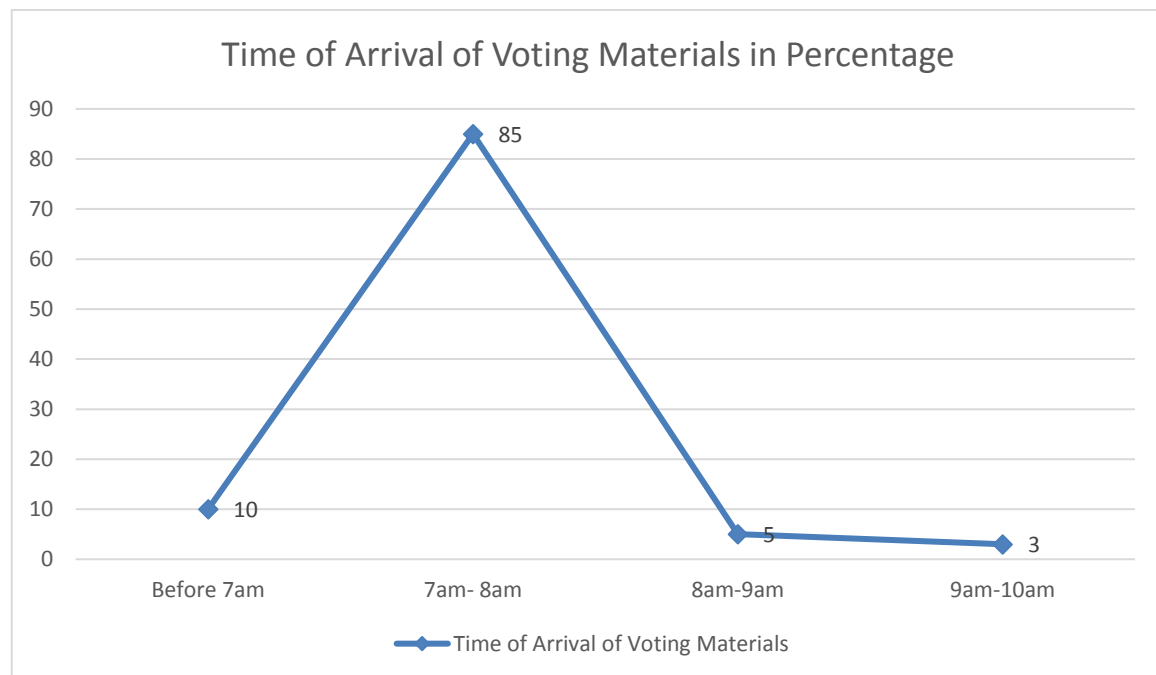
The election was well coordinated by the electoral body. However, the issue of apathy among youth and the elites should be a major concern to all relevant stakeholders. There is a need for all relevant stakeholders to go to the drawing board and come up with intensive and effective voter education that will address this problem.

OSUN STATE

Accredited to observe the election in all the 30 LGAs of the state with 30 accredited observers, Justice Development and Peace Makers Centre trained and deployed 30 observers to all the 30 LGAs of Osun State in order to gather first-hand information on the main election proceedings of 23rd of February, 2019 in randomly sampled 120 wards, and 350 polling units across the State with a followed up to each of the 30 LGAs Collation Centre but unavailability of INEC Identity tags for our observers reduce the amount of results gathered.

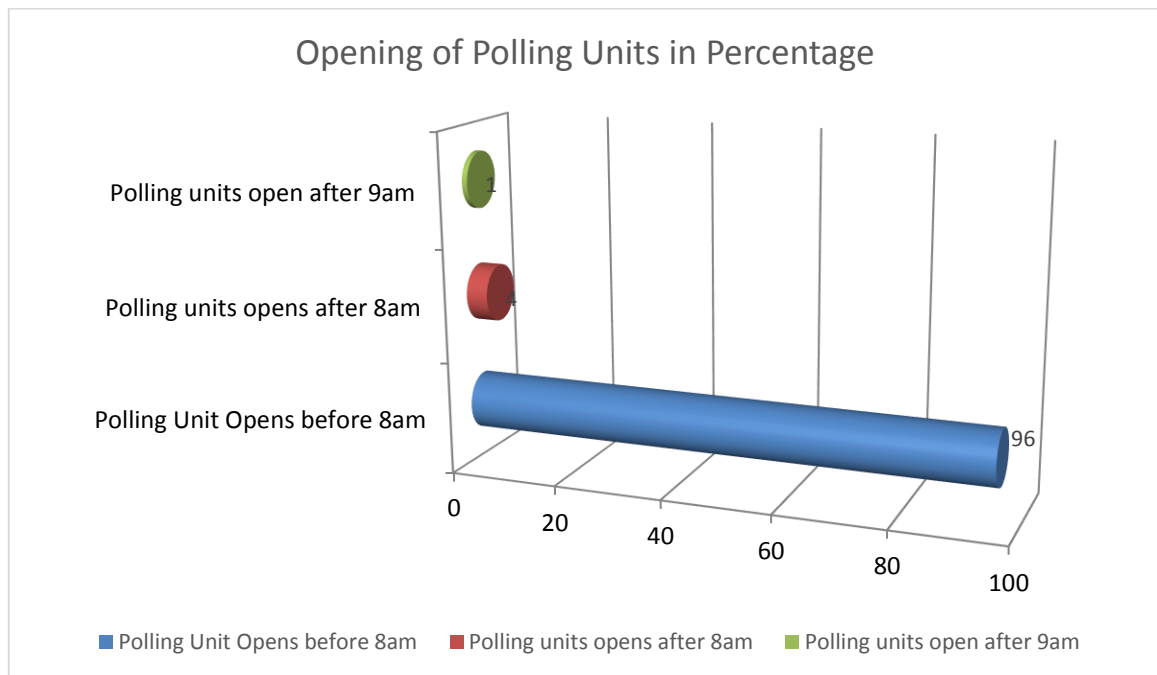
On the Election Day, it was observed that about 85% of the total polling units opened before 8am. At Ward 2, polling Unit 7 in Orolu LGA, the INEC officials even arrived before 7am. The INEC officials were seen at the polling unit setting up of election materials to be used. They were also seen pasting voter's registers and the polling unit information on the walls of the polling Centers. The election materials were properly packaged and intact as the INEC officials showed the observers and party agents the state of the materials before opening them. Party agents were satisfied.

In Ward 6, Polling Unit 10, during the counting of Votes, a thumb printed ballot paper exceeding the provided space generated debates between INEC Official, Party Agents and the Voters, before it was later rejected. Also, in some Polling Units, Election Material were above the number of registered Votes like Ward 2, PU 6, Iwo LGA, Ward 4 PU 11, Osogbo LGA, Ward 8, PU 9, Osogbo LGA, Ward 13 PU 6, Iwo LGA and Ward 1 PU 1 in Olorunda LGA.

Figure 2.3

The polling unit set up in terms of arrangement of election materials in majority of the voting centres visited was well arranged.

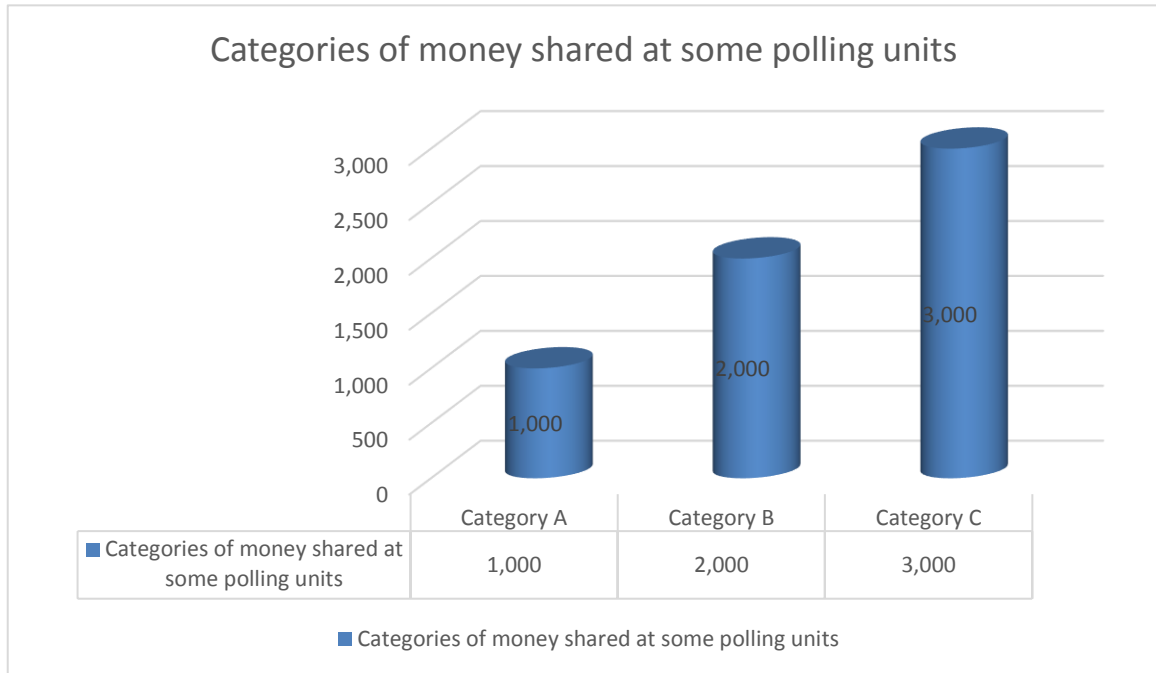
The entire polling units were demarcated using rope in order to restrict frivolous movement of voters. The ballot box was also placed in full view of the public in close vicinity to the voting cubicle, this enhanced secrecy of voting. Minimum of three INEC officials were seen at different polling units across the state, explaining the voting process to the electorate before the commencement of the election in the entire polling unit.



In most of the polling units across the state, accreditation of voters commenced at exactly 8am. There was no cases of omission of voter's name on the voters register. The process of voting and accreditation went smoothly in most of the polling unit visited by our observers across the 30 LGAs in the State and INEC officials conducted themselves in an orderly manner. However, there were few cases where the arrangement of ballot box and the cubicle were not in line with INEC's directives which stated that the cubicle must not be far away from the ballot box in order to prevent vote buying. This was however prevalent in almost all the polling units in Ede North LGA.

There were many cases of vote buying at various polling units across the state although they are not immediately obvious. Tallies and other means of identification were used to exchange money in designated locations that were mostly at least 300 meters away from the polling stations. There were also secret discussions among different groups during voting which eventually promoted vote buying during the election. It was alleged by locals that the amount used in buying the vote vary from each polling units to another and also depended on the negotiating power of anyone who desires to sell the vote and the party who wish to buy vote. It was also alleged by locals at Ward 5 PU 1 in Boriye Local Government, that some party agents were sharing ranging from Five Hundred Naira (₦500) to Five Thousand Naira (₦5,000) depending on the status of the Votes. Some groups were given certain amount ranging from One Hundred Thousand Naira (₦100,000) to Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira (₦250,000) per group.

Apart from money inducement by Political Parties through various Agents, some other ways like offering of raw foods immediately after voting, mobilization of voters by provision of buses to convey them to their polling units were arranged by some Political parties in order to get votes.

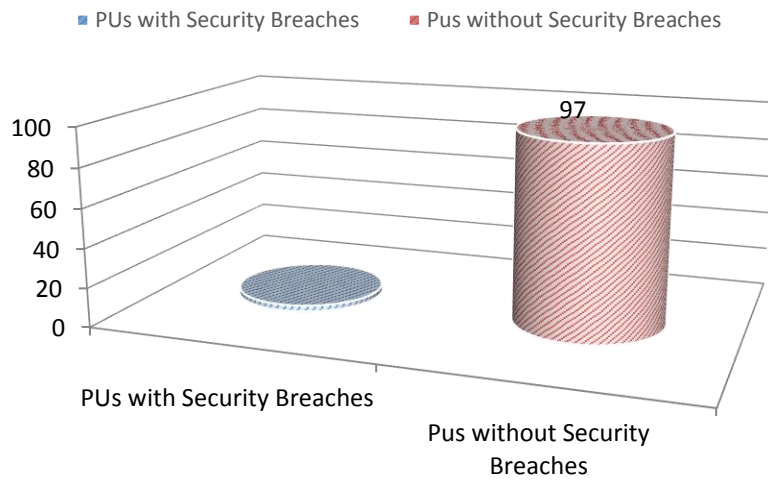


The counting of the ballot papers were sorted according to the political parties voted by the voters. And the results were publicly announced by the Presiding Officer at the entire polling unit. More so, political party agents also appended their signatures on the result sheets and the result was pasted on the wall for the public to see at different polling units. There was 100% agreement of party agents with the results at the polling units.

There was 100 % compliance in all polling units that we deployed observers to the new regulation of INEC on the non-use of phone or camera at the voting cubicle which underscores it as the best election conducted in recent times.

Most of the political party's agents present at the polling units were calm except that many of them contributed to the vote buying process. In some polling units in Ede, many agents were seated close to the ballot boxes in order for them to know who actually voted for their party for them to give returns.

PERCENTAGE OF PUS WHERE SECURITY BREACHES WERE OBSERVED.



98% of the Security agents generally conducted their affairs with high sense of integrity. They did not interfere in the process and ensured security of polling officials, materials as well as the voters and the vicinity of the polling stations and collation centres.

CHAPTER THREE

ELECTION OBSERVATION REPORT FOR NORTH WEST

KADUNA STATE

Issues Arising from the Elections

Articulating the outcome of the General Elections so far, our observer's reports from the field imply that the processes were marred with gross irregularities across the areas covered suggesting that our election is still far away from being free, fair and credible; hence the mandate of the people was violated and/or abused.

In effect, the evidences from the just concluded General Elections in Kaduna State and the country at large demonstrates that there were some deficiencies with INEC and its adhoc staff in logistics and preparations for the elections. This is confirmed by the evidence of ineffective mastery of the process and technology i.e. the inability of adhoc staff to operate the card reader, write and compile (summative results) elections results at Polling Units and Collation Centres. It is obviously evident that Nigerians will no longer afford to tolerate this level of disenfranchisement which is a serious rape on citizens' will.

Flaws/Failures

Some polling units in Kaduna State were located in residential buildings and voting was done in the open. Voters in some polling units (PU 001) in Sabon Tasha Ward were aided by un-identified agents. Irregularities was equally noticed in some polling units which included vote buying in parts of Kaduna South and Kagarko where monies between N500-N5,000 were paid, including providing party agents with smart phones worth N13,500,00 to monitor the elections. Food drinks were seen shared in some polling units across the state, which was also a form of inducement.

Most polling units do not follow the rules of counting and sorting after votes cast while many returning officers served as electoral officers. In some cases, voters gave a helping hand to fasten the process. Voters were equally not given the freedom required for an open secret balloting.

The security Agents

As reported by our observers, most of the polling booth/units were manned by not less than one police man and woman. Soldiers were more visible patrolling in and out of the polling units and collation centres during elections. Despite security challenges being experienced in Kajuru LGA, election took place in most areas including Maro, Idon, Crossing, Kajuru, Kasuwan Magani Wards except for Chikun Ward which most people had deserted due to high rate of Kidnapping and banditry. However, results still came from some parts of that same Ward which was opposed by APC agents during

presentation at the local government office of INEC. There was no incidence of violence reported from the field. However, for fear of the unknown, many voters remained at home especially during the gubernatorial elections.

Political Parties

In Kaduna State we had 31 candidates for gubernatorial position. There was very low voters' education by most of the political parties which affected a wide range of eligible voters. About 89% of the total political parties filed in their state chairmen as the sole flag bearers. Earlier the APC had serious issues emanating from the conduct of their primaries that led to several people decamping from the APC to other political parties. It is at this dispensation that the new political nomenclature; Direct and Indirect primaries were invented. As a result, the anomaly gave room to impunity thereby promoting adoption of candidates, which was a contravention of one of the core elements of internal democracy.

The following are some of the political parties that filed in candidates during the 2019 General Elections in Kaduna State: ACCORD, APC, MEGA party, PDP, Labour Party, YPP, PDM, ADC, UPP, APGA, SDP, PRP, AA, KOWA, DPP, ACPN etc. However, not many citizens have heard or know most of these political parties except for APC, PDP, SDP and PRP as at the time of the election. In going forward, our capacity has to be strengthened to meet present challenges faced during the 2019 general elections.

Campaigns were an outstanding feature of the 2019 General Elections. The inability of political parties to address issues that are important to Nigeria and the citizens was obvious. Most candidates were known by citizens and there were no robust debates and/or campaigns to the grassroots; hence, many uneducated voters voted wrongly in Kaduna.

INEC Performance

The election management organ, INEC underestimated the logistics challenges and technical complexity of completing the task in the limited timeframe available, particularly in a diverse country like Nigeria. The registration was not comprehensive, as it could not capture every eligible voter. There was also misplacement of names in the appropriate Polling Units. The time provided for registration was inadequate as claimed by voters, the issue of distance of the INEC office affected many eligible voters not to register etc.

There were complaints of poor training of election adhoc staff (youth corps) and the eventual replacement of those trained with others that were not trained and that posed a serious challenge on efficiency in operating the Card Reader and compilation of results/data. However, those hitches were improved upon during the gubernatorial election due to large outcry by citizens.

At Collation Centre 18/10/04/001 Television Ungwan Maichibi Ward, Kaduna South LGA, it was reported that Card Reader failed severally, 351 PVCs were not authenticated while 258 succeeded however, and all were allowed to vote.

INEC must place take it as a point of priority for a continuous voters' education meanwhile INEC should begin the effort of amending some provisions of the electoral law to cater for independent candidacy, issues of internal democracy such as qualification of a candidate, time for replacing a candidate, issues of results cancellation, reasons to adjudge election as inconclusive etc. The challenge with the procedures of distribution of both temporary and permanent voter's cards was marked by confusion and was inconsistent.

Voters

In our experiences with past elections, there was high rate of voters' apathy and or disillusionments hence this was as a result of lack of confidence in the entire process. Many had resolved to fate that election in Nigeria can never be without irregularities such as ballot stuffing, manipulation of the card reader and above all electoral violence that bedeviled the exercise.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KANO

Following its accreditation by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Abuja to serve as domestic election observer for the 2019 elections, Justice Development and Peace Caritas Advocates Kano Diocese with the Support of His Lordship Rt Rev Dr. John Namazah Niyiring OSA Catholic Bishop of Kano, trained and deployed 100 Field Observers, to observe the elections in Kano State. They served as both stationed and mobile observers in 14 LGAs: Bichi, Bebeji, Fagge, Gwale, Kano Municipal, Kumbotso, Rano, Doguwa, Nassarawa, Ungogo, Gezawa, Bebeji, Tarauni and Gabasawa, cutting across the 3 Senatorial Zones of Kano State. The observers were assigned to specific Polling Units/Voting Points (PUs/VPs) to watch and document the conduct of the elections using structured checklists. Through this, firsthand information was collected across the sampled PUs/VPs, Wards and LGAs across the State.

Based on the data collected from the field, the following were observed:

- **Arrival of INEC Officials, Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Materials:** JDPCA commends INEC for its commitment towards the deployment of INEC ad-hoc staff, but observed that PUs officials in various wards and LGAs arrived at their respective places of assignment at 9.00am on the average as against 8.00am prompt which is the stipulated commencement time of accreditation and voting.
- **Use of Smart Card Readers (SCR):** While all PUs and VPs observed had SCRs, a central requirement for general elections in Nigeria, there were incidences of malfunctioning of the SCR in some PUs and VPs which led to either late commencement of accreditation and voting or halting of the process in some instances. Therefore, this subsequently resulted in late closure of accreditation and voting and partly affected voter turn-out. There were a few

cases of individuals whose names did not appear in the voter register but were nonetheless verified by the SCR.

- **Conduct of the Voting:** The election was largely peaceful, the turnout was good and priority was accorded to elderly voters and/or people with special needs. Some polling units had many voting points - which led to congestion. For example, Gesti Asabiti, Tudun Murtala Cikin Gari, Dakata Primary School in Nasarawa LGA were very congested because of the number of voting points in the PUs.
- **Presence and Conduct of Security Personnel at Polling Units:** JDPCA observer team also commends all security personnel who participated during the elections, but notes that while some PUs had relatively adequate security personnel, there were PUs with inadequate or no security presence throughout the accreditation, voting and counting processes. In Sabon Gari East Ward: Zawai Primary School, Maikwatashi Primary School, Danwaire Primary School all in Fagge LGA, there was very few security personnel. On the conduct of security personnel, it is pertinent to note that security agents conducted themselves in professional manner both at the PUs and collation centres.
- **Adherence to Secrecy in Voting:** While the INEC has done very well in terms of providing both sensitive and non-sensitive materials to PUs, there were PUs for example Dakata Primary School, Tudun Murtala Cikin Gari, Getsi Asibiti in Nassarawa LGAs, there was no cubicle. Furthermore, Rumfa Primary School, Zawai Primary School, Danwaire Primary School, Maikwatashi in Fagge LGA had many voting points, but there was no cubicle, which jeopardize the relevance of secrecy. This played a significant role in hindering secret voting as stipulated in the Electoral Act 2010 (As Amended).
- **Conduct of Party Agents:** Party agents must be commended for conducting themselves in a peaceful and tolerable manner and cooperating with INEC officials, observers and security agents towards the successful conduct of the elections. JDPCA observer team also frown at some party agents of the ruling party (APC) in some PUs in Gabasawa LGA who violate the electoral act by inducing voters with cash on the polling unit

SOKOTO STATE

JDPC Sokoto deployed 391 observers to various polling units across the state during the February 23rd Presidential elections, the March 9th Gubernatorial elections and the 23rd March supplementary elections in Sokoto. Observation was carried out from time of arrival of INEC polling officials, through the accreditation and voting processes down to the sorting and counting of ballots at the RACC centres. As voting progressed, issues and incidents were reported to the Caritas Nigeria Situation Room, and further extended to the appropriate quarters for redress.

Some of the issues identified were as follows:

- Late arrival of polling officials in many Polling Units across the state
- Malfunctioning and failure of card readers in virtually all Polling Units, particularly with respect to authentication of accredited voters.

- Voting by proxy in very many polling units
- Disorderly processes in many polling units, owing to insufficiency and inefficiency of security agents who in many cases were reported to not be doing anything about the rowdy situation
- Underage voting
- Vote buying
- Manipulation of results from polling units before getting to the wards and, in some cases, at the ward collation centres
- Relocation of ward collation centres and, in some cases, polling units without prior notice to stakeholders
- Restriction of observer access to ward collation centres.



Analysis of
Presidential Election C

Sheet 1: Analyzed Data from Presidential Election Observation

▪ **Gubernatorial elections**

46 observers were deployed to various polling units across the state, as in the presidential election. The following are a summary of their observations.

- Malfunctioning of card readers
- Voting by proxy
- Underage voting
- Non-neutrality of polling unit a location
- Vote buying

Sheet 2: Data Presentation for Governorship Election

Some of these issues were corrected following appropriate escalation, while some others persisted. Generally, despite recording a great drop in the turnout of voters, who believed that the outcome of the presidential election didn't reflect their actual votes, the governorship election showed great improvements in the process during the governorship elections, compared to the presidential elections, considering the early arrival of polling officials in virtually all polling units, improvement on the part of the security in limiting the incidents of vote buying and disorderliness at the polling units.

Supplementary elections

Supplementary elections took place in about 136 polling units across Sokoto State (22 out of 23 LGAs, and in 65 of the 244 wards in the state), and JDPC Sokoto deployed 19 observers to observe the elections in selected PUs across the state. Reports from these observers shows that polls generally opened early in most polling units, voter

turn-out was appreciable, and there were few disruptions resulting from smartcard reader malfunctioning, though the authentication failures still persisted. The reports also reflected smooth conduct of the elections. This may be attributed largely to the heavy presence of security agents in each of the polling units.

The downside to the supplementary elections includes the fact that the list of affected PUs was not published early enough to enable proper preparation. Also, some malpractices were observed, including the regular vote buying and inducement of voters, underage voting, and voting by proxy, which appears to be as a result of poor understanding of the provisions of the electoral guidelines by voters and party agents.

Generally, in comparison, the electoral processes have improved progressively, though there is still a great need for improvement.

CHAPTER FOUR

ELECTION OBSERVATION REPORT, SOUTH EAST

ONITSHA, ANAMBRA STATE

JDPC Onitsha trained and deployed 527 election observers to the 10 LGAs in Anambra State. In addition to this, about 10 others used 3 JDPC printed vehicles for roving observation. JDPC Onitsha also consolidated INEC's enlightenment campaign by carrying out voter education across all boards. Though, there were few challenges in the polling units across 10 LGAs in Anambra state covered by JDPC Onitsha, the election as conducted by INEC and observed by JDPC Onitsha covered on the 23rd February 2019 was adjudged free, fair and credible.

Some of the polling unit officials arrived quite on time across the polling units with non-sensitive materials. But in some areas within Onitsha North LGA, a good number of them arrived even after 9am.

Between the hours of 8.30am and 9.30am, voters had already queued for accreditation and voting while INEC officials were setting up the polling units. There was an exception where the election process commenced lately due to card reader malfunctioning. In most cases, verification and authentication were stifled but eligible voters whose names were on the voter register were allowed to vote.

There was thin presence of security personnel in some wards, but there was no recorded incidence of security challenges luckily. Voters were courageous and went about their businesses of voting without fear of harassment and intimidation. In some wards in Ayamelum LGA, there were no security personnel in some polling units and where they were present; no more than 2 security men manned a centre with more than 4 voting points. Eligible voters came out in their numbers to their respective polling units to cast their votes, against all odds. Voters stayed even after voting to ensure that their votes counted.

In some polling units, party agents did not wear their identity tags. In some other wards, especially in Inland Town Ward 11, Oye hall Ojoto, units 017 to 020, there was a very apparent incident of vote buying even to the tune of N10, 000. There were also massive incidents of voting by proxy in areas like Ifite Agbaje Abatete 021, 022, and 023.

One of the major challenges faced by INEC in the conduct of this election was non-authentication of eligible voters with the use of card readers. In most of the polling units in Onitsha North, Onitsha South, Anambra East, Anambra West, Oyi, Idemili North, Idemili South, Ayamelum, Ogbaru and Dunukofia LGAs where JDPC Onitsha observed elections, cards readers brought for the verification and authentication were malfunctioning leading to manual authentication. There were instances of late replacement of card readers while voters waited for a long time before commencement of accreditation and voting.

Regarding time of closure of the poll, in some places where INEC officials commenced voting late, they insisted on regulating time for the poll instead of making up for the lost time.

AWKA, ANAMBRA STATE

While in the field, apart from some minimal violence witnessed, we noted that the conduct of the election was to greater extent free, fair, peaceful and credible. This was commendable.

There were lots of improvements on the time of arrival of INEC ad hoc staff with election materials, though it took them a longer time to set up the place for election proper. To this effect, accreditation and election did not start at the expected time in many polling booths. There were a lot of mix-ups in the voters' registers pasted at various polling booths, as many voters' names were at variance with the numbers on their PVCs. This disenfranchised many voters who gave up walking round in search of their names.

There were also issues of militarization of the entire process. Furthermore, there were failures in the SCR at the initial stage resulting to the late commencement of the election, which gave rise to postponement. In some areas voters incident forms were used as against the former promise by INEC that only card readers will be used for accreditation.

There were incidents of ballot box snatching and kidnapping of the EO at Ndiokolo in Orumba North LGA. We witnessed both secret and open vote buying in some areas like 006 and 007 of Nwannebo Primary School Ekwulobia.

Away from the few occurrences as stated above, the elections were generally free, fair, peaceful and credible. The State house of Assembly election witnessed very serious voter apathy mainly because people were highly disappointed with the outcome of the Presidential election because generally, the announced result did not truly represent the will of the people.

NSUKKA, ENUGU STATE.

On the 23rd of February and 9th of March 2019, JDPC Nsukka, joined her colleagues from other dioceses across Nigeria to observe the elections. Prior to the elections, JDPC collaborated with the Political Enlightenment Commission (PEC) to engage the public on voter education, using the radio and touring deaneries.

Apart from mobilizing our people to go out en masse and vote, JDPC Nsukka trained election observers from across the parishes. 70 persons took part in the training. And 64 out of the 70 persons we trained got INEC IDs as accredited observers under JDPC platform. These 64 persons were deployed officially to observe elections across 7 Local Government Areas in Nsukka zone.

Our elections observers were getting ready to go to the polls and at the same time observe the presidential and national assembly elections on 16th February 2019, when suddenly the elections were postponed by INEC a few hours to the time. Some of the observers did not even know the elections had been called-off until they got to the polling units. The postponement of the elections did influenced our efforts to mobilize voters negatively. However, the observers themselves were not deterred at all.

On Saturday 23rd February 2019, our observers went to the field to carry out their assignment. From the reports we collated from across our diocese, the Presidential and National Assembly elections were very peaceful and fair. The polling officials and voting materials did not arrive punctually in most of the polling units under our watch, delaying the accreditation of voters up to 9am. This lateness, of course, resulted in the late closure of the election.

Voter apathy evidenced in very low turnout marred the February 23rd elections, as observed. In many of the observed polling units, only about 1/3 of the registered voters were accredited. The accreditation with Smart Card Reader worked in some places, in few other areas it did not work optimally. In some areas, the SCR failed to work, necessitating manual accreditation. Furthermore, there were pockets of vote-buying in varied ways in some polling units. In all the polling units under the watch of observers, PDP won the Presidential and National Assembly elections.

The governorship and State house of assembly elections held on 9th March, were as peaceful, free and fair as that of February 23rd elections. APC boycotted the elections following the call made by APC governorship candidate, Senator Ayogu Eze asking his supporters not to go out and vote for reasons yet unknown. There were no APC agents in any of the polling units under our coverage. Generally, the elections were peaceful in Nsukka zone and Enugu State at large.

Below are the results of the presidential and governorship elections in the polling units under our reportage between the winner and the first runner-up:

2019 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS

1. PDP: 4346
2. APC: 435

GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION RESULTS

1. PDP: 7521
2. APC: 217

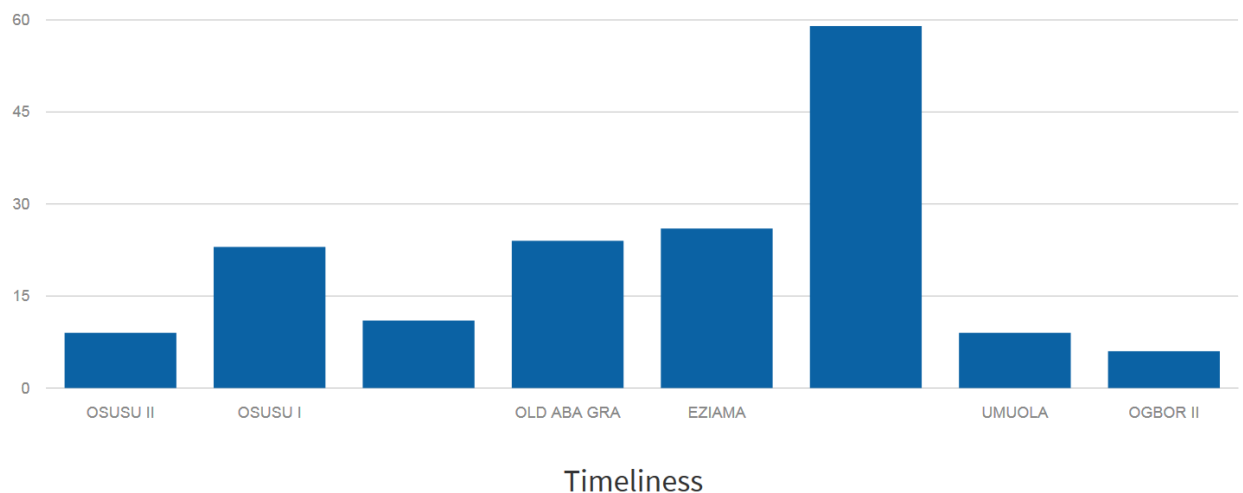
ABIA STATE

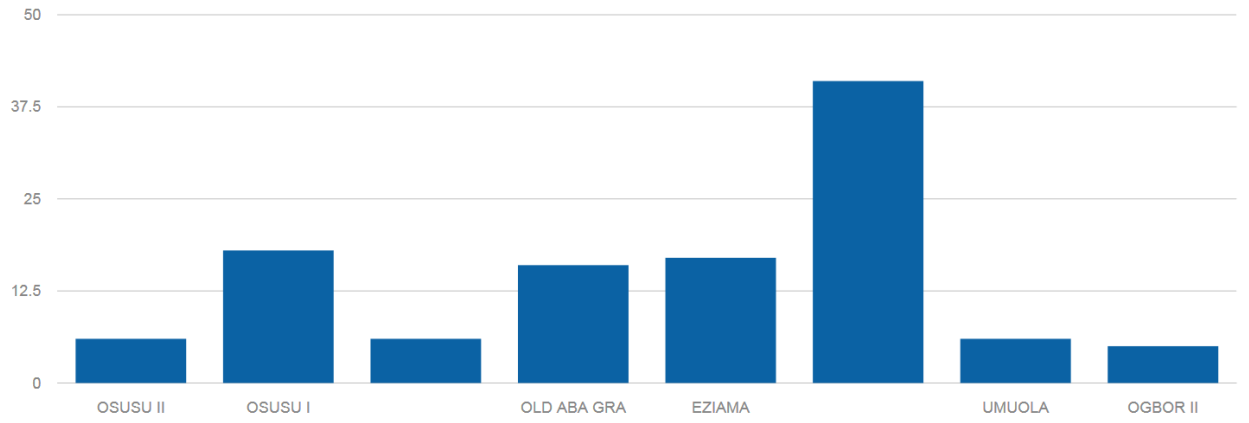
ABA NORTH LGA.

The wards covered included Osusu I, Osusu II, St Eugenes, Old Aba GRA, Eziamma, Ariara Market, Umuola and Ogbor II.

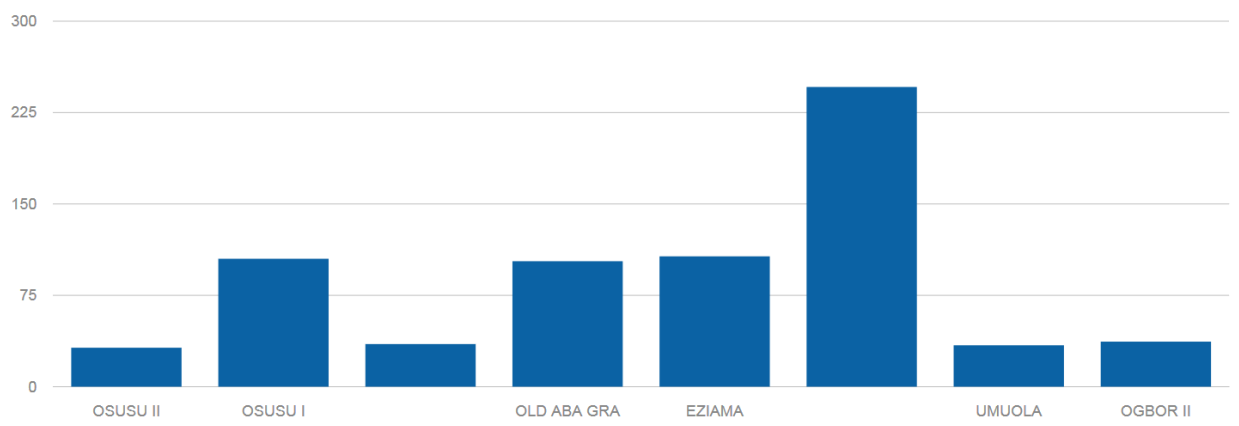
There were huge contrasts in the indicator scores across the eight wards. While Ariara market consistently scored high in terms of timeliness (59/60), Accountability (41/50), Credibility 246/400 and Support 12/20, the reverse was the case for Ogbor II, Osusu II and Umuola. The same pattern was repeated in the areas of Intimidation, transparency and fairness.

In the rest of the wards (Osusu I, Old GRA and Eziamma), the performance was on the average.

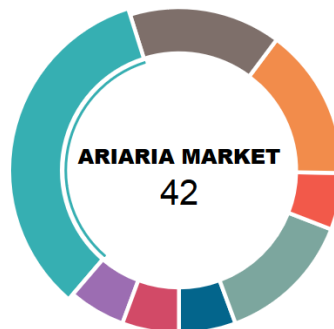




Accountability

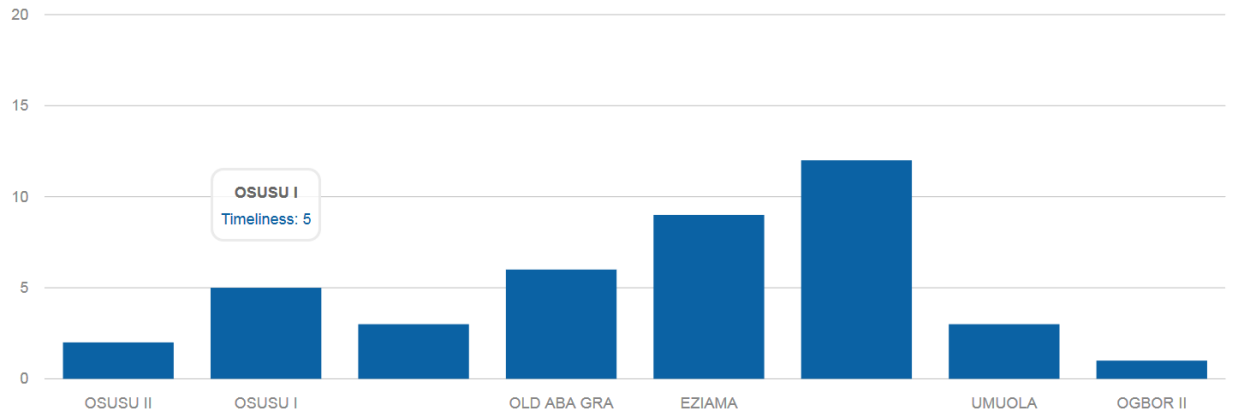


Credibility

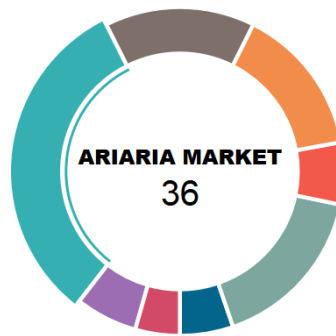


OSUSU II OSUSU I ST.EUGENES BY OKIGWE RD. OLD ABA GRA EZIAMA ARIARIA MARKET UMUOLA OGBOR II

Intimidation

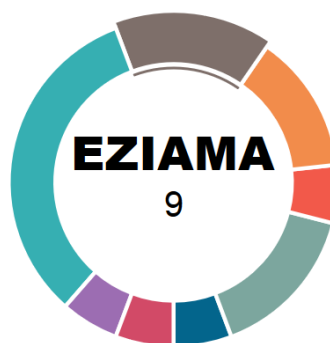


Support



OSUSU II OSUSU I ST.EUGENES BY OKIGWE RD. OLD ABA GRA EZIAMA ARIARIA MARKET UMUOLA OGBOR II

Transparency



OSUSU II OSUSU I ST.EUGENES BY OKIGWE RD. OLD ABA GRA EZIAMA ARIARIA MARKET UMUOLA OGBOR II

Fairness

CHAPTER FIVE

NORTH CENTRAL

NASSARAWA

Nasarawa State had the highest number of cancelled votes in the presidential election. A total of 157,591 votes, out of the 613,720, were cancelled in seven local governments areas said to be 'hostile' population across the state. This is about 25.7% of the total vote. JDPC observers complained about the ordeal of voters in the presidential election around Maraba/Maska axis on the voting day.

The cancellation of votes at Maraba Nasarawa State and in most States across the country after all the sufferings by citizens to vote was unfair. The reason for cancellation of votes in some part of Nasarawa State according to the State Collation Officer (Azubike Nwankwo, the provost of Nigeria defence Academy, Kaduna) of Nassarawa State was 'over voting'. When asked by some political parties at the National Collation Centre to provide the evidence, he gave an example: 'A gentleman with a retinue of aides came to a polling centre and insisted that he and his aides must vote, registered or not.' He was allowed to vote and the results in the Centre was subsequently cancelled. In addition to Nasarawa State, below are the reports from some States in the geographic region.

ABUJA

The Justice, Development and Peace Commission, Catholic Archdiocese of Abuja was amongst the commissions accredited by the Independent National Electoral Commission through the Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria to observe the 2019 General Elections.

The Presidential, National Assembly and Area Council Elections were conducted by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on Saturday, 23rd February, and 9th March 2019 respectively, in all the thirty-six States of the Federation as well as the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The Elections were initially slated for February 16, 2019 but were postponed at the instance of INEC by one week. The Gubernatorial and Houses of Assembly elections were then scheduled to hold on Saturday, 9th March, 2019.

We are to focus, amongst others, on observing the following:

- i. The extent of compliance of all stakeholders with the governing laws and regulations in the conduct of the elections.
- ii. To what extent are the elections free, fair and credible and that there is no voter intimidation and/or violence; and that every vote counted.
- iii. And to what extent, was there no falsification or manipulation of the votes, and that the announced results reflect the choice of the voters.

Having been duly accredited by the electoral umpire, INEC, 131 observers were mobilized and deployed - both 68 INEC accredited JDPC members and the rest (63) to observe the elections in the Area Councils of the FCT.

A total of Ninety-One (91) registered political parties participated in the elections, although only Seventy-Three (73) of these parties fielded candidates for the presidential elections in which the incumbent President and candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR and a former Vice President and candidate of the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP), Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, GCON, are said to be the leading candidates.

General observation of the Chairmanship and Counsellorship Election of the Saturday, 9th March, 2019, JDPC reports as follows:

Arrival Time for Polling Units official with materials was 8.00a.m. The JDPC Abuja observed that majority of the polling unit officials arrived on time with election materials except for few areas where PU official arrived a little late (9.00AM) for example, Kabusa Aleyta Primary School Ward, Polling unit: 012 and Gosa L.E.A Primary School Ward. Polling unit: 005, etc.

The major complaints of the voters, as gathered by members, revolve around the card reader. The performance of the card readers, although not generally unsatisfactory, raised concerns and provided sufficient basis for anxiety among the voting populace. Some of the acknowledged complaints about or concerning the card reader device includes inability to authenticate fingerprints or biometrics. Concerning the malfunctioned card readers, presiding officers commendably resorted to manual accreditation to enable registered voters to cast their ballots.

The majority of opinion is that the smart card device although may not have totally failed the integrity test, but created considerable anxiety among the voting populace resulting upon the reported cases of malfunction and/or outright performance failure of the device. Also observed was the absence of technical assistance needed to resolve issues associated with card reader malfunction. There were also issues of non-availability of back-up card readers in most of the polling units observed. There was no electoral violence reported in the presidential and national assembly elections but there were pockets of violence recorded during the Area Council election in the areas that were observed in the FCT.

It was also observed that the INEC polling booths did not offer sufficient privacy to voters. Party agents and some other persons had public, easy and unrestrained access to voting areas to either supervise voting by voters or to pry into how they were voting. Furthermore, despite the late arrival of INEC officials and voting materials for the presidential election, the turn-out of voters and their enthusiasm for the elections was largely impressive and satisfactory. While that of the chairmanship and counsellorship election was the exact opposite.

The few voters that showed up were able to organize themselves and waited patiently under the scorching sun to exercise their voting right and it helped in the successful conduct. The low turnout of voters for the chairmanship and counsellorship election was due to the perception that the votes of the populace don't count and until INEC wake up to their responsibility of conducting a free, fair and credible election they won't be interested in voting again.

It was observed that majority of the security personnel posted to voting centres generally arrived on time and conducted themselves in a professional manner except for a few of them who were seen to be partisan by collecting bribe from some politicians who were largely from the ruling party (APC). One good example was at Kwali Central Bonugo Ward, polling unit 004.

JOS, PLATEAU STATE

PANKSHIN DIOCESE

The three Dioceses of Jos, Pankshin and Shendam observed the general elections held on 23rd of February, 9th March and the supplementary on 23rd March 2019, with the exception of Jos South. Over 270 other observers were engaged in citizens' observation across the entire State. Other accredited observers were in Mikang and Langtang North (in Shendam Diocese).

Presidential/National Assembly Elections

The general atmosphere was peaceful, free and fair, with an impressive turn out of voters who showed great determination to exercise their civic responsibility and also waited for the sorting, counting and announcement of results in most polling units and voting points. There was a high level of participation of women in all polling units observed. However, Observers noted some challenges.

Arrival of PU Officers in most polling units was late thus, accreditation of voters and voting commenced quite late too (8:30 – 11am). Voting and counting lasted up to the late hours of the night in areas like Kuru, Hwolshe and Jarawan Kogi (Jos East).

In all the LGAs, observers noted that card readers malfunctioned during the exercise and this affected the number of successful accredited voters and delayed the exercise in most areas till early hours of Sunday and even Monday morning for instance in Bassa LGA.

In parts of Jos North and South like Tafawa Balewa (Afodume Street) and Zawan B (Bukuru) etc, many voters could not exercise their franchise as their voting units/points were switched and could not be located; this got most voters frustrated and agitated.

Some INEC Adhoc Staff displayed incompetence in the discharge of their responsibilities, giving room for unnecessary interference by individuals and party agents who were on ground to satisfy party interests in areas of Jos North. This almost triggered serious problems in Alikazaure Ward.

In some polling units in Jos North like Masallacin Idi, voters were intimidated and forced into voting against their choices, this scared others, making them to stay away from the exercise completely as they received threats.

In Jos North, Naraguta B Ward (Dogon Dutse), there was an invasion of a polling unit by thugs which was almost chaotic but for the timely response of security personnel. We commend the security personnel for being on ground and ensuring peaceful and orderly processes

People with disabilities, the aged, pregnant and lactating mothers were given due consideration to vote without stress. Our Observers were well kitted, giving them relevance in the process.

Gubernatorial /State House of Assembly Election

As part of our mandate to promote good governance and democracy in Plateau State, we continued with the task of observing the just concluded gubernatorial and State House of Assembly elections in the State, across the three Dioceses of Jos, Pankshin and Shendam on Saturday, 9th March 2019. With the exception of Jos South, with 14 observers accredited by INEC, over 270 other observers were engaged in citizens' observation across the entire State. Other accredited observers were in Mikang and Langtang North (in Shendam Diocese).

The exercises were conducted under a generally peaceful atmosphere. Reports show that the processes were mostly free and fair. Turn out of voters was abysmally low in most polling units across the State unlike what we recorded during the previous elections where electorates came out with great determination to exercise their civic responsibility and also waited for the sorting, counting and announcement of results in most polling units and voting points. There was a general record of low spirit and even the level of participation of women in polling units observed to be discouraging. This according to the general opinion of observers shows that the electorates have lost confidence in the electoral process based on the outcome of the previous elections and the huge gaps seen.

Compared to the previous elections, we recorded an early arrival of INEC staff and election materials (7:30 -9:00am) of PU Officers in most polling units thus, accreditation of voters and voting commenced in good time (8:30 – 9:30 am). Most polling units finished accreditation and voting before 12 noon but had to wait till 2pm to begin sorting and counting.

Unlike the previous elections, observers noted that there was an improvement on the efficiency of both ad-hoc staff and card readers, though few polling units still experienced failure of card readers in Jos east and Riyom LGAs and also few cases of incompetence displayed by some PU officers in the discharge of their duties.

These elections recorded a very high incidence of vote buying (at the rate of N500-N2000) in most polling units especially in Kuru, (Jos South), Nefur Arena (Pankshin), and parts of Barkin ladi to mention but a few. Multiple voting was also observed in Turu A (Jos South), Jwak (Mangu), Apata (Jos North), Kadima (Jos South), Alikazaure (Jos North) among others.

Due to the too many political parties on the ballot sheets and poor understanding by electorates, so many votes were invalidated.

Supplementary

The supplementary elections across the State was held on Saturday, 23rd March, 2019 in 40 polling units, 19 wards in 9 Local Government Areas of the State. Elections in these areas were generally peaceful but turn out of voters was not impressive. Other anomalies experienced in the previous elections like late arrival of materials and polling officers were not encountered.

We commend INEC for ensuring that People with disabilities, the aged, pregnant and lactating mothers were given due consideration to vote without stress.

LOKOJA, KOGI STATE

JDPC observers Lokoja was on ground to observe the process in Kogi central and west Senatorial Districts made up of 12 Local Government Areas which are the areas under her coverage. The February 2019 was adjointed as relatively free, fair and credible in the areas of our observations with the following details:

Interestingly most of the polling officials arrived right in time. Most polling officials arrived before 08.00am all our observers reported that officials arrive with the election materials. Accreditation and voting went on simultaneously as voting commenced in the various polling units between the hours of 8.30am and 9.30am. Most voters were already on ground as early as 7am in most polling units.

In Kogi west and central, sufficient security personnel were present even before polling officials arrived. There were between 3 to 10 joint security operatives in the various polling units.

Reports from our observers indicate that there was a relatively high rate of voter turnout in most polling units of JDPC Lokoja observation. There were between 300 and 2,000 voters who turned out. This is however based on the number of voting points in a polling unit.

Party agents were identified with their tags. However, there were suspected persons who impersonated as party agents. There were also indications that some parties illegally printed tags for party agents thereby creating multiple party agents in a polling unit. The agents were violent, but with the help of military on patrol, they were controlled. There were indications from our observers that party agents worked together to buy votes from voters, however some voters turned down moneys offered to them. For instance, in Unit 13 Ward 'A' Lokoja LGA several voters rejected moneys. Voting ended as early as 01:30pm to 2:00pm in most polling units. However, counting of votes extended into the mid nights in some cases due to too many voting centres in a polling unit. A good example was the polling unit in Ganaja primary school Ajaokuta with 21 voting centres.

There were minor recorded cases of violence, intimidation and harassment in the areas observed by JDPC Lokoja team. Despite the success of the election in most polling units as observed by JDPC Lokoja there were series of challenges among which are:

- a. Too many voting centers in some of the polling units. Whereas many large communities have no polling units. For instance, Ganaja unit in Ajaokuta had 27 voting centres as a result of the over populated voter register (13,000) making it too cumbersome for voters to locate their voting centres and those who located their centers had difficulties voting due to so much crowd. In fact, large communities had 500 units. Gadumo, Commissioner Quarters and environs, Legislative quarters, 200 units. Jimbe, and so many other communities all have Ganaja as their polling unit.
- b. Several presiding officers who were corps members were not competent doing the jobs

- c. High prevalence of vote buying in most of the polling units. Absence of armed security men, EFCC, ICPC made it possible for vote buying to thrive.

Report on the State House of Assembly Election

Since the election of the Presidential and National Assembly and that of the State House of Assembly were not held the same day it becomes imperative to take out time to present our observations as the experience of the earlier elections cannot be said to be entirely similar to the later elections. Below is our observation on the March 9th Kogi state House of Assembly elections

Just like the presidential and the National Assembly Elections there was early arrival of materials. Most of the polling officials arrived as early as 7am. Accreditation and voting went on simultaneously as voting commenced in the various polling units between the hours of 8.00am and 8.30am. There was however very low turnout of voters unlike the previous National Assembly and presidential election which witnessed massive turnout

There was presence of security personnel in good numbers in Lokoja town where we had between 5 to 15 security personnel in the various polling units. Despite this there were reported cases of heavy gun shot in Lokoja. In the Local government areas and the villages there were no sufficient numbers of security personnel

Reports from our observers indicate that we recorded very poor turnout and high level of voter apathy. In fact, due to low turnout some polling unit stopped voting as early as 10am as election officials were only resting and waiting for 2pm to start sorting and counting their votes.

Kogi state house of assembly election as observed by JDPC Lokoja Team is characterized by a lot of irregularities. In 013 Buge in Lokoja LGA, the polling officials (National Youth service Corp members) confessed that they were taken somewhere unknown to them to thump print the ballot papers and return to the collation centre. In unit 011 St Mary primary School Ward A there were reported cases of multiple voting. This was made possible by the alleged cooperation of corps members deployed as INEC electoral officials as either presiding officer's (POs) and Assistant Presiding Officers(APOs).

Party agents were identified with their tags. However, there were suspected persons who impersonated as party agents. We had cases where political parties have more than four to five party agents each. Apart from agents we had persons putting on tags carrying logos of political parties. We equally had cases of many party supporters dressed in black and moving from one polling unit to another destroying election material, spraying teargas and shooting guns to chase voters away.

Vote buying and selling thrived so much in the various polling units observed by JDPC Lokoja's Observer team as party agents were visibly sharing money at the polling units. Although many of our observers could not stay to witness when voting ended due to violence and shooting many of the polling unit ended voting between 11am and 01pm due to low turnout of voters. Like never before, the Kogi State House of Assembly election conducted on this day 9th March 2019 commenced very early and peaceful but was marred by high levels of violence, shooting, intimidation of voters, observers, and INEC officials.

Secondly there were reported cases of security personnel aiding thugs to perpetrate mayhem. A good example is in workers' village where armed police men without INEC Tags came in and drove everyone away. These security agencies were also alleged not to be on the people side. This is because one of the observers in unit 13 Marine quarters put a distress call to the police number given during stakeholders meeting but there was no response from the police. This sends bad signals.

KWARA STATE

The accreditation and voting in Ilorin, Kwara State began in all polling units between 8.00am and 8.45am. These were done simultaneously and all those who had their PVCs cast their votes without intimidation. Interested electorates were allowed to wait after casting their votes to know the election result in all polling units. The accreditation and voting ended in all polling units between 2.00pm and 3.50pm.

The card readers functioned very well in all the polling units except in two where the INEC staff reported that the card reader had stopped working due to low battery. However, the problem was resolved after a couple of minutes. All the ballot cast were sorted, counted, recorded and announced to the electorates after the election was concluded in all polling units.

GBOKO, BENUE STATE

The Catholic Diocese of Gboko through its social Pastoral Unit, Caritas Gboko mobilized the diocese on civic education with target to voter education on the 2019 General Elections. With the support from His Excellency Most Revd William Avenya as lead facilitator, the Diocese team on elections trained, mobilized and deployed over 125 observers across the 7 Local Government Areas of Gboko diocese. With 4 Catholic Diocese covering Benue state:

1. Gboko Diocese produced 155 accredited observers.
2. Katsina-Ala 25 accredited observers.
3. Otukpo-0 accredited observers and
4. Makurdi-0 accredited observers.

This accreditation was achieved through CCFN. Failure of INEC to conduct elections on the stipulated day for the Presidential and National Assembly election raised a lot of questions. In spite of all, Benue turned-up en masse to vote for leaders of their choice in the elections of 23 February, 2019. The report contained here is from 7 LGAs of Gboko diocese and its surrounding LGAs nearby as form of solidarity and spillover effects of incidences.

All the activities were achieved in the Diocese with support from His Lordship Most Revd. William Avenya, Catholic Bishop of Gboko who took the lead in our civic mobilization in preparation to the 2019 general elections.

The polls in most units were not opened on time during the Presidential and National Assembly elections on the 23 of February. But the state gubernatorial and House of Assembly elections of 9th of March, 2019 had early turn-up of INEC personnel but poor turn-up of voters. Accreditation and voting was done at the same time in this election, though late arrival of electoral materials were witnessed in some cases of Kwande, Konshisha and Tarka LGAs.

INEC performed average on logistics handling compared to the 2015 elections where, information of movement was issued whereas the presidential was postponed a few hours to the take-off and this had a resounding effect on all elections conducted in this year. It was a complete failure on the use of card reader identification in this election as the electoral umpire resolve to thumb inking for verification.

More security personnel were deployed during the gubernatorial elections compared to presidential and national assembly elections of 2019. The increase of security personnel was during the re-run election in the state. The 2019 election in Gboko diocese was generally peaceful compared to the previous election of 2015.

The experience of vote buying and vote selling had become part of our electoral process as was observed in 2015 and 2019 respectively. Even though much awareness was done on the part of the church, National Orientation Agency, INEC and the media but still, this incidence was seen in many quarters.

The extension of election dates or postponement of the presidential election of 19th to 23 and subsequently extension of the gubernatorial election from the stipulated date to 9th of March cause a breach of trust on INEC's credibility in this year's election.

Re-Run Governorship Election and Some National Assembly Elections

The Governorship election of 2019 was declared inconclusive by the INEC for Benue State, a date was fixed for a re-run between the candidates for Governorship and National Assembly in some federal constituencies. The election witnessed low turn-out in targeted LGAs, and was marred by high-level of vote buying. Violence was witnessed in Kwande and Tarka LGA where an INEC returning Officer for Gboko was shot while returning with her report to Makurdi. But general assessment of the re-run election for Gboko Diocese was peaceful on the part of the electorate. Though, some political manipulations were observed in some areas.

The 2019 elections once again portrayed our political class as underdeveloped through their engagement in various forms of political brigandage and their do-or-die attitude to elections in the state. The citizens in Gboko diocese were organized and played a citizenry role during this election.

CHAPTER SIX

ELECTION OBSERVATION REPORT, SOUTH-SOUTH

EDO STATE

As part of Uromi JDPCI's mission of enhancing justice and promoting integral development, the Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) recruited, trained and deployed 38 INEC accredited election observers and 150 citizen observers across the five Local Government Areas of Edo Central Senatorial District to observe the general elections held on 9th March, 2019. The deployments were done based on sampling of areas with the greatest number of eligible registered voters. The election observers were given check lists to record proceedings at each designated polling unit they were deployed to.

Reports from the field showed that polling officials and election materials arrived at the polling zones across the three senatorial districts on time (7:00am) for most parts except for wards 3 and 5 in Esan West Local government area where the materials arrived at about 8:20am and in ward 7, unit 7 (Ahia primary School) Esan South East Local Government Area where there was disagreement among party agents and INEC officials about the inadequate sensitive and non-sensitive materials that were allocated to the ward. The Supervising Coordinator was called in to calm the situation and accreditation and voting commenced at 10:20 am. There was heavy presence of security personnel and party agents of most of the political parties with candidates for the election.

Accreditation and voting commenced at about 8:00am across all the polling stations in Edo Central Senatorial District. The turnout of voters was generally low across the polling units sampled and where Uromi JDPCI deployed observers to. There were cases of persons whose accreditation failed and allowed to vote even when their voter's cards were not authenticated by the Card reader. There were also large scale incidences of vote buying in several wards across the five Local Government Areas in Edo Central Senatorial District. In most centres, the polling stations were well divided into polling units and the ballot boxes to be used for voting were displayed in full view of the public.

Generally, at each polling unit, averages of four polling officials were present. The polling units were accessible and easy to locate. Our Observers also reported that the polling officials addressed the voters on the voting process before accreditation and voting began. The voters register for each polling unit was displayed for the eligible voters that registered in the units to check for their names before accreditation and voting. The presiding officer in each polling unit stamped and signed every ballot paper before being given to each voter. In wards one, two, three and six in Esan South East Local government area, and ward 9 unit 11 in Esan West Local Government Area, the card reader malfunctioned and could not read the finger prints of some voters who queued up to cast their votes. Reports gathered from Uromi JDPCI observers also showed that the elderly and physically challenged eligible voters were given preference to cast their votes.

Incidences of violence between party agents were recorded by our observers in wards 4 unit 7 and wards 3 in Esan North East Local Government Area (Girls model Primary School, Uromi). Sporadic gun shots were fired by several detachments of mobile police men to scare mischief makers who had approached the polling units to make trouble. The Army was later called in to quell the violence. There were also incidences of financial inducement to voters sponsored by either of the major parties to facilitate the nefarious activity of vote buying.

In Esan Central Local Government Area precisely in Eko Ojemen Primary School, there were sporadic gun shots by some hoodlums and snatching of ballot boxes. Still in Esan Central Local Government Area, some voter's complained to our election observers that party agents thumb printed on their behalf when they called them for assistance at Emiala Primary School. In Esan South East Local Government Area, Ward 3 unit 4, Our Observer noticed that some voters were intimidated to vote for the ruling party. Cases of harassment were also reported in Esan West Local Government Area Precisely at Ward 7 unit 15. APC party agents and their supporters instructed voters to openly display their ballot papers so as to know who they voted for and this was done in the presence of security personnel and INEC ad-hoc staff. In the words of the Observer, it was "operation vote and show". This brazen act was done throughout the voting process.

The police officers deployed to the polling unit did not have the capacity to protect electorate from intimidation and to prevent vote buying. This was observed from their show of indifference to the complaint of votes who could not cast their votes because some party agents thumb printed on their ballot paper while they try to put it down on the cubicle to vote. Also when people showed their ballot papers after voting to party agents the police looked helplessly.

The police could not apprehend even a single person among all those who voted and showed their ballots openly to party agents so as to be able to collect money after voting. INEC ad-hoc staff did not display adequate knowledge of the voting guidelines and completion of the requisite forms. It was observed that some of the presiding officers filled-in results into the wrong forms i.e. Presidential results for senatorial forms before realizing their mistake. It was also observed that the number of those who failed authentication and yet voted were more than those who were successfully authenticated by the card reader.

PORT-HARCOURT, RIVERS STATE

Introduction

The Presidential/National Assembly elections and the Governorship/State Houses of Assembly elections were conducted in Rivers State, South-South, Nigeria on the 23rd February 2019 and 9th March, 2019 respectively.

Prior to the elections exercises JDPC – PH were involved in the various stakeholders' meetings organized by INEC and other relevant agencies (NOA) and the national body, Caritas Nigeria. JDPC, Port Harcourt also organized similar sensitization for their members towards a free, fair, non-violent and credible election in Nigeria, particularly Rivers State.

JDPC observers noted that Presidential election in Rivers and other South-southern states record high casualties raising fear about future elections and safety of the Nigeria people and Nation. Heavy troops of military and police (F-SARs especially) were said to be deployed to maintain peace and protect both votes and polling personnel, yet they could not stop the killing of more than 15 people on the day of election. Their presence in that number was questionable as they were found in many places to be involved in some forms of molestation, killings and forceful inducement of the electorates. During the Governorship/State Assembly election in the state, a PDP returning officer for Khana LGA was killed by security agents identified as F-SARS. The video clips are already viral. Many others escaped with bullet wounds.

Our observers in Degema reported that a presiding officer and mother of two, Ibisaki Amachree were killed on their way to deliver polling results from their polling units to the collation centre. Bonny Island was like a war zone. Contending actors refused to allow election officials to move materials from the local government secretariat of the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC. In the Governorship/House of Assembly Elections, the military were heavily engaged, disrupting and falsifying results at the LGA collation centres. This they did by force, thus leaving party agents and INEC adhoc staff at their mercy. However, the result collated from the polling units remained the authentic results which INEC finally relied on in declaring the results and eventual winners.

It should be noted that APC have no candidate for the Governorship/House of Assembly elections. Their agents which served during the presidential/NASS elections were seen at the polling units supporting and or representing the candidates of 'AAC' as agents. More disturbing is the fact that 'AAC' as a party was not known in Rivers State and their candidates too. They never campaigned, had no campaign bill boards to suggest their presence in the state or to woo the electorate in the state for votes during the elections.

There were incidences of voter's inducement through vote buying in some polling units' surroundings. Generally, there was voter apathy in both presidential and Governorship elections which could be as a result of the body language of the main opposition party in the state prior to the elections. Some card readers malfunctioned.

BOMADI

Due to the limited number of accredited observers and citizen observers, only Yenagoa, Ogbia, Nembe, Sagbama, Ekeremor, Southern Ijaw, Brass and Okolokuma/Okpokuma Local Government Areas in Bayelsa State were covered in the just concluded elections. In Delta state, only Patani and Burutu Local Government Areas were covered.

INEC staff in the various L.G.As we observed arrived the venue a little late with the materials for the elections (about 8:30-9:30AM). More so, election materials were incomplete in some L.G.As observed. There were pockets of conflict and hijacking of election materials too. Card Readers were at first not functioning. The insufficient

materials in some units resulted to the slow process of accreditation and voting. INEC staff were sufficiently on ground in all the polling units. There was a massive involvement of women in the electoral process.

Accreditation and voting went on simultaneously as prescribed by INEC. The timing differed in various polling units, ranging between 8:45AM-10:00AM. Voters who were accredited were allowed to cast their votes in a very coordinated and peaceful way.

There was a tensed environment in almost all the polling units as party agents and electorate were anxious to hear the results of their units. In some of the units, sorting and counting was done in collation centers due to tension experienced in the units towards the end of the elections. Party agents and observers were allowed to go in to observe the process which was smooth and peaceful. However, most of the electorates were not privilege to hear the results of those units since results were only pasted in the early hours of the next day. No unit election was declared inconclusive in all the units we observed except for Nembe L.G.A that recorded incidents of electoral violence. There was a consistent spate of gunshots and carrying of several harmful objects to intimidate voters.

It is very sad to note that we experience in some unit's vote buying by some political parties majorly by APC and PDP. In fact, some electorate apparently came to vote just to be paid between #4,000 to #6,000.

One of the challenges encountered was the lack of resources to run the transportation, feeding and accommodation Majority of the places are riverine and the transportation cost is very high.

We observed that several of the party agents lack sufficient knowledge about the principles of a voting. They could not decipher between what is valid and invalid vote. This caused a lot of disagreement and tension in several polling units during collation. More so, many have little or no knowledge of the electoral process. Party agents should not just be picked arbitrarily but persons who have a good knowledge of the electoral process.

OGOJA, CROSS RIVER

Ogoja Diocese spans through all the 11 Local Government Areas in both Northern and Central Senatorial Districts of Cross River State. Deployed to observe the 2019 elections were 77 INEC accredited observers along with 7 citizen observers, with focus on strategic and flash points PUs. On a general basis, the polls can be adjudged to be credible. Below are certain detailed observation made in the PUs covered.

Arrivals of polling officials and materials were late from 8:50 am to 10:30am. In two of the wards they arrived at 11:30 am and 12:15 respectively.

Unarmed security men were in sight in most urban PUs - Police, Civil Defense and FRSC, etc. but there were no security personnel in the rural areas. Armed soldiers only blocked the major highways preventing movements during the presidential and national assembly elections, but were driving around, at some points to stop and search motorists.

Accreditations and voting commenced simultaneously, and no one on the queue was prevented from voting. However, in most PU card readers were not used, not because they malfunction, but because voters resorted to multiple votes. More appalling was the fact that no arrest was made. Some voters were displaced as they couldn't find their PUs. Party agents were seen soliciting for votes openly, inducing voters with can drinks and promises of cash.

Materials for Oku-Borum-Njua ward, Boki LGA, were hijacked and there were no elections in the PUs. There were sporadic gun shots in Arongba PU of Boki LGA on arrival of materials, but the timely intervention of the Police took custody of the officials and materials. Later the soldiers were called and normalcy was restored as voting commenced unhindered. No arrest was made.

It was reported during the governorship and state house of assembly elections, at Last Motor in Kalime, Etung LGA, that a thug who dared to disrupt the collation of results was gunned down by the military.

There was a case of ballot box snatching in Orimekpang, Boki LGA. In one of the PUs, thugs numbering to 10 invaded, disrupting the voting process destroyed and burnt election materials. In another PU in Obudu the voters chased away the 2 thugs who came to disrupt the process.

Voters' turnout was generally low when compared to the presidential and national assembly elections. This may not be unconnected with the tension created in the first election. For fear of victimization, many had lost confidence in the whole process.

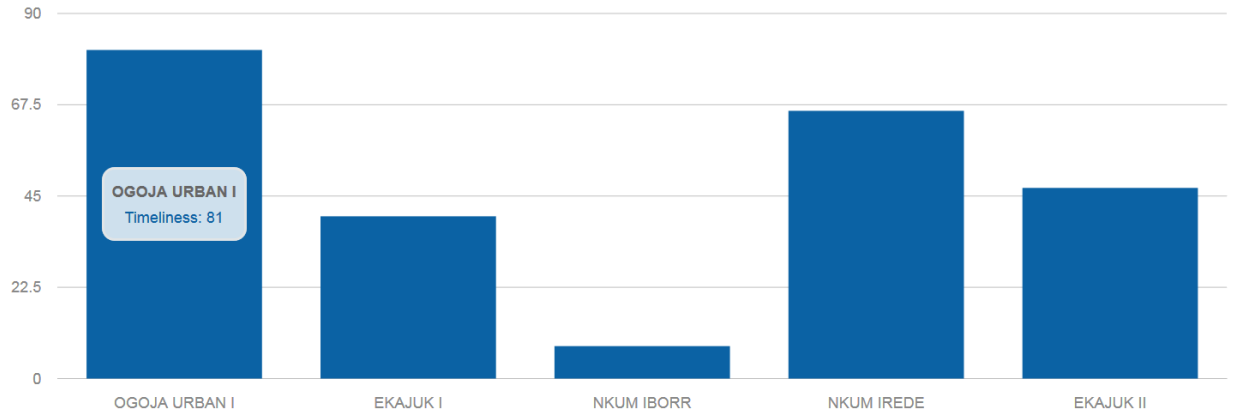
Across all the indicators as represented in the chart below, Ogoja Urban (I) showed impressive performance in

- i. Timeliness 81/90;
- ii. Accountability 57/60;
- iii. Credibility 337/400;
- iv. Support 24/30.

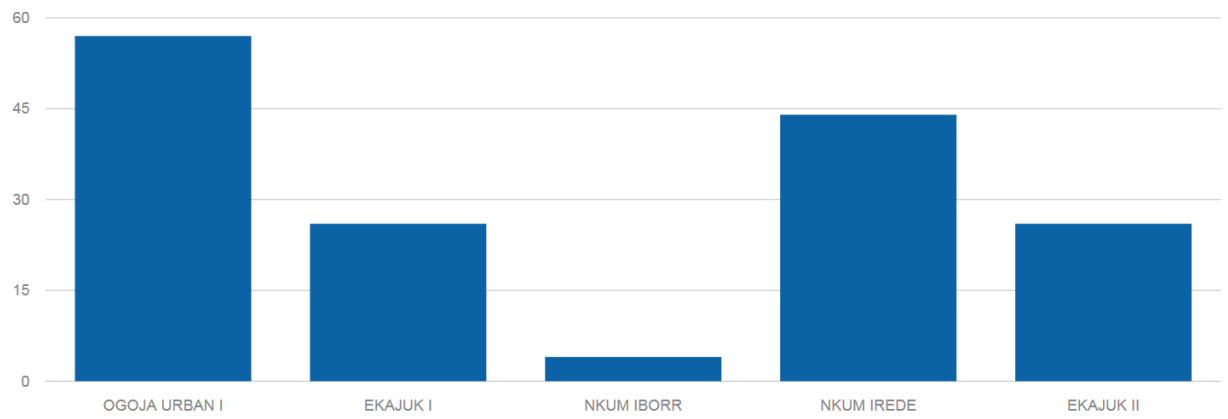
In contrast, Nkum Ibarr recorded very poor performance

- i. Timeliness 8/90;
- ii. Accountability 4/60;
- iii. Credibility 35/400;
- iv. Support ;)

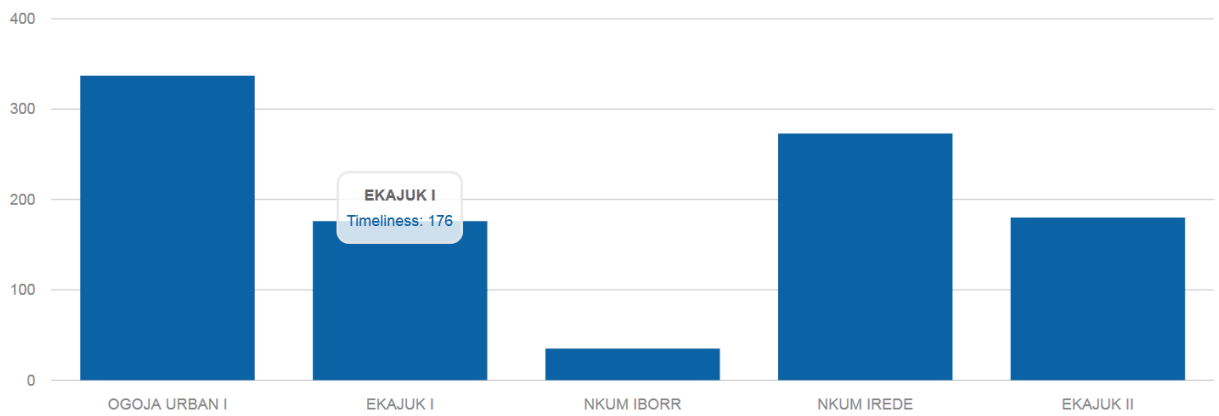
The other wards: Ekajuk I, Ekajuk II and Nkum Irede showed average and above-average performance in all the indicators.



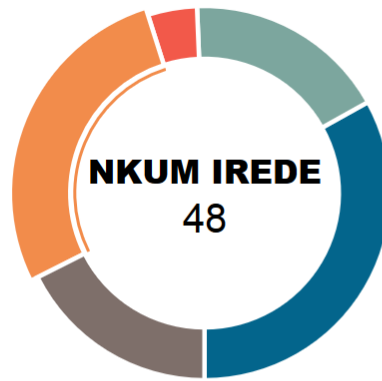
Timeliness



Accountability

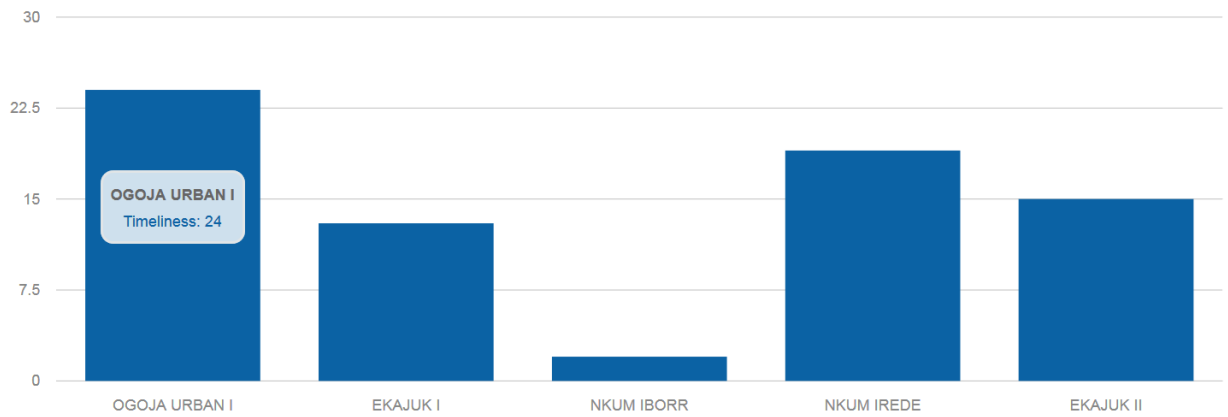


Credibility

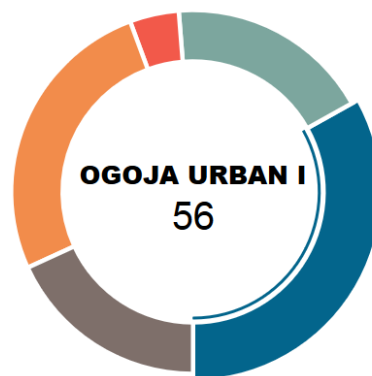


OGOJA URBAN I EKAJUK I NKUM IBORR NKUM IREDE EKAJUK II

Intimidation

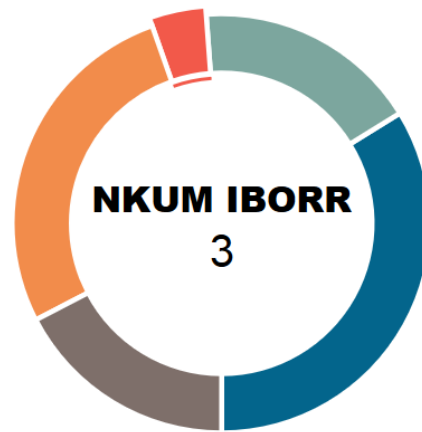


Support



OGOJA URBAN I EKAJUK I NKUM IBORR NKUM IREDE EKAJUK II

Transparency



OGOJA URBAN I EKAJUK I NKUM IBORR NKUM IREDE EKAJUK II

Fairness

CHAPTER SEVEN

ELECTION OBSERVATION, NORTHEAST

Election observation in the NE region was averagely poor. Taraba state was the only state where election was observed. Within the state, only two LGAs had any form of activity. Out of 10 wards, only one ward in Tikari was observed.

JALINGO-TARABA STATE

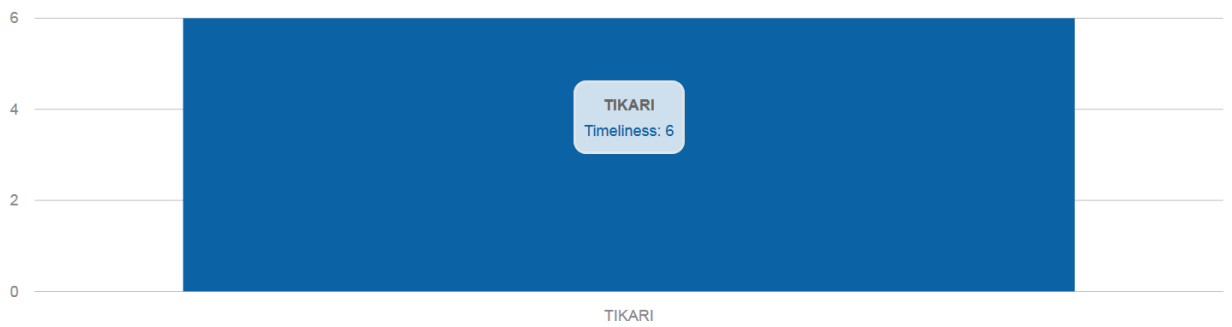
We observed that polling officials arrived early in most units; like Mayo-Gwoi ward, unit 009, they arrived at 7:50am, Kambu B unit 34. 7:32am, A1 zing unit 01 6:00am and so on. While in some units both the Ad-Hoc staff and the materials arrived the venue lately.

The accreditation and voting were carried out simultaneously. In most polling units, there were issues with card readers. However, those card readers were fixed for smooth accreditation. Though a few of the Ad-Hoc Staff knew their job, most were confused as regards their function. We strongly suggest that Ad-Hoc staff should be properly trained to carry out this noble task effectively. In Jatau, Bali Local Government Area, voters came out in great numbers but were disallowed to exercise their civic right. Voters came out early as usual; however, the turnout was very low due to the killings of some persons the previous day (a day to the election).

The presence of security was not much felt as the number was insignificant in most polling units. Consequently, six buses were intercepted in Lau with electoral materials heading to Karim Lamido, the Local Government Area of the APC Governorship candidate. Other ugly facts include: the Chairman of PDP, Zango Kombi ward was attacked in Iware. Ballot boxes for Gborbegha/Atsaga polling unit, Bantaje ward were snatched, 001/002 NTA – one voter was shot by army and another was shot with an arrow by APC thugs and many others sustained various degree of injuries. In addition, ballot boxes were snatched in Angwan Kasa by APC thugs as the counting was going on just to mention but a few.



Timeliness



Accountability

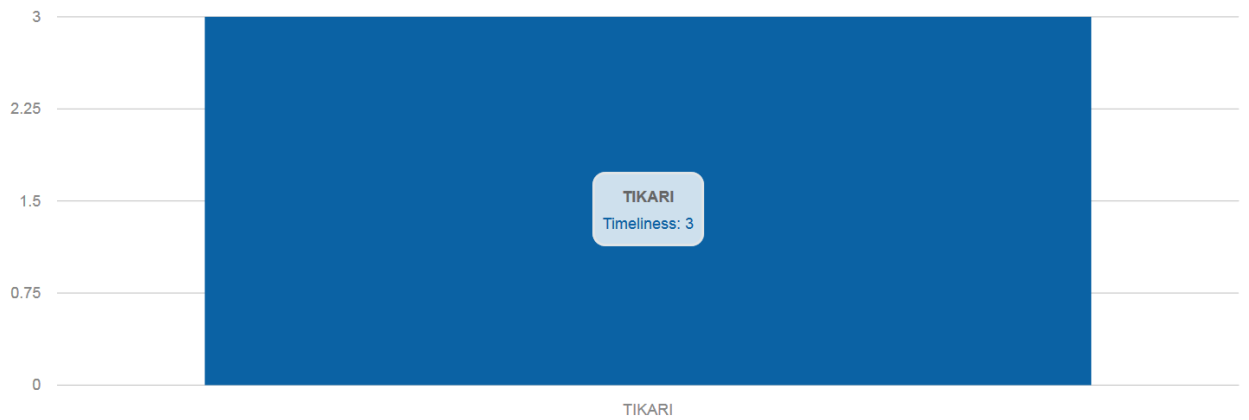


Credibility



■ TIKARI

Intimidation



Support



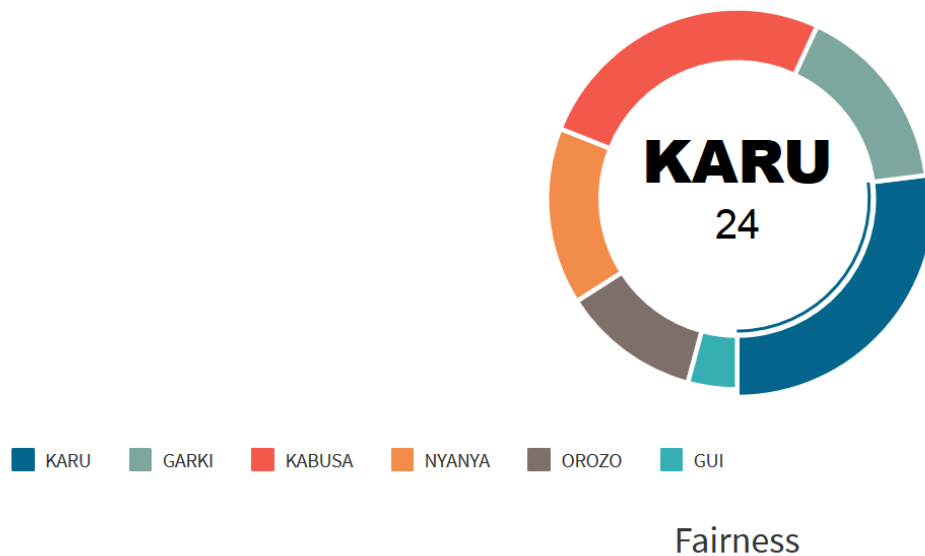
■ TIKARI

Transparency



■ TIKARI

Fairness



YOLA: ADAMAWA STATE

The 2019 Presidential and National House of Assembly Elections was generally peaceful in Adamawa State. The people of Adamawa state came out en-masse to choose the candidates of their choice despite the postponement/shift of the election dates. The election in the state recorded success as most voters were able to cast their votes even in the areas affected by the insurgency. It was observed that; the *Continuous Accreditation and Voting System (CAVS)* made the voting easier for voters, as most voters were pleased with the development. There was a huge turn-out of voters on the day of election; this could be attributed to the increased Voters education within the state. Awareness and sensitization campaign by Government Agencies, Religious Leaders and NGOs played a vital role in the massive turn out of voters. Adamawa State is considered a flash point looking at the fact that; Atiku Abubakar of the PDP, who is a major contender, is from Adamawa State and Aisha Buhari the wife to the president is also an indigene of Adamawa State.

In the early hours of Saturday 23rd February 2019 at about 7:00am, the military, police and civil defense were seen patrolling on that day ensuring the safety of citizens and major public roads were closed by the Nigerian police force limiting movement of vehicles as a result some voters had to trek (about 2 km) to their voting points. Despite the road blocks by the police people were willing to participate in the election. The enthusiasm and spirit of citizenship was felt as some people shared their passion for a better Nigeria.

In most of the polling units observed, INEC officials and election materials arrived polling units between 7:30am and 8:30am. In general, accreditation and voting in Adamawa state commenced after 8:00 am with most voting points starting at about 9:00 am. While some part of the state such as GOMBI and TOUNGO Local government started accreditation and voting at about 12:00 noon, while some voters were seen at the polling unit at about 7:00 am.

In the polling units observed by JDPC observers, report indicates that there was a huge turnout of voters, who are ready to cast their votes. The turnout was impressive

considering the postponement of the election. Generally, some polling units experienced failure with the smart card readers leading to delay in accreditation and voting. While others, such as Ajiya ward, the polling unit number 02-20-005; has two voting points and only one smart card reader was functional. Lugere ward with polling unit number 02-20-08-006 also experienced smart card ready failures. (Note both units are in Yola north LGA of Adamawa State.)

The presence of Security personnel is applaud-able as security personnel were seen at the polling unit observed within the state capital. However, at some polling unit (karewa /014; modire/ 02-04-08-004) it was observed that the security personnel were not adequate and as such, INEC officials and security personnel were unable to control the crowd of voters present.

It was observed in polling some units in Gadabawa ward, Yola north LGA Adamawa State that; Some security personnel were aiding and watching electorates as they cast their vote. It is presuming that the security personnel were intimidating voter. It was also observed that some couples did pair-voting (i.e. some men were seen accompanying their wives to the voting cubicle)

The use of NYSC corps members for election is a welcome development; it has improved on the credibility of the electoral process as most of the corps members used by INEC displayed neutrality. Corps members enjoyed the wide acceptance of the people of Adamawa state in the polling unit observed. In some part of the state it was observed that money was given to some party agents at the venue or polling units and voters were induced with money ranging from 500- 2000 as gratification.

In Dakir bobbo ward in Girei local government of Adamawa State, the polling unit was not located at the primary school within the community but located in front of a house belonging to a Girei Stakeholder. Based on the report from our observer, the presence of the owner of house at election venue influenced the voters.

Gubernatorial and State House of Assembly Elections.

The Gubernatorial and State House of Assembly Elections were conducted on the 9th of March, 2019 across the 29 states of the federation including Adamawa state. The race between four major contending political parties namely APC, PDP, ADC and SDP to the seat of Governance was so tensed. The atmosphere in Adamawa State was that of uncertainty as to who will emerge winner at the end of the elections. There were high expectations by all the parties to win.

The Adamawa State Gubernatorial Election which was held on the 9th of March 2019 across the length and breadth of the state was declared inconclusive by the resident electoral commissioner (REC) Mr. Gaidam kassim of the independent national electoral commission INEC in Adamawa state. The pronouncement was due to some irregularities in 44 polling units in the state.

Following the announcement by the resident electoral commissioner (REC) Mr. Kassim Gaidam at about 2 am on Monday 11th March 2019, Most of the resident of Adamawa State woke up that same morning dismayed upon hearing the news. The news dampened the spirit of enthusiastic citizens and the good people of Adamawa state who were waiting to hear who will be the next governor of the state.

CHAPTER EIGHT

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

GENERAL CONCLUSION

From the data gathered from JDPC observers deployed across the country, it is clear that the Nigerian people have a preference for democracy as the vehicle for the realization of the nation's many aspirations. This was clearly apparent in the electoral process, which saw Nigerians participating in good numbers, despite the odds and challenges inherent in the process. JDPC also concludes that the mindless violence unleashed against voters in some states must be met with a firm resolve of government to investigate and prosecute those responsible.

RECOMMENDATIONS

JDPC however deems it necessary to recommend as follows:

1. That there should be an independent inquiry into the poor management of the electoral process by INEC with a view to determine the following:
 - The underlining causes for logistics lapses with a view of itemizing operational deficiency that led to the initial postponement of elections on the 16th of February and logistical challenges with the rescheduled elections on 23rd February 2019. In addition to this, INEC is expected to inquire into the activities of its staff with respect to late arrivals to polling station; lack of understanding of processes by ad hoc staff; and the allegations of collusion between staff and politicians.
 - The failure of the Smart card readers in identified polling units should be interrogated with a special audit of the results of polling units.
2. JDPC calls on INEC and security agencies to ensure accountability for acts inimical to the integrity and credibility of the polls especially individuals involved in the burning of INEC offices, election materials, and other electoral offences. Particular instances of contrived and voter suppression due to violence must be thoroughly investigated and perpetrators and their sponsors punished to the full length of the law. These allegations must be thoroughly investigated to restore faith in the process and address lingering social fractures that reinforce feeling of exclusion.
3. JDPC Nnewi calls on the Inspector General of Police to urgently investigate allegations into Police overreach in identified locations in the state. We ask that such officers be held personally accountable for infringing on the rights of citizens in the exercise of their franchise.

4. A major risk factor in this election has been impunity and rascality of the political class. INEC cannot deliver free and fair election without committed support by the political class. The level of violence, hate speech and general toxic political environment contradicts the commitment to the Peace Accord signed by political parties and candidates prior to the elections. Politicians should commit to respecting the rules of the election and under the current circumstance ensure that their followers do not act outside of the law with respect to election returns.
5. Absence of robust enforcement of election rules encourages impunity. Nigeria should urgently undertake the process of strengthening the framework for electoral accountability.
6. INEC should endeavor to train and re-train ad-hoc staff that will be deployed to polling units during elections and ensure that they deployed efficient staff.
7. INEC situation room help lines in the various states be made public as access points for addressing multiple cases of smartcard reader malfunction.
8. Voter education by INEC, NOA and CSOs should begin very early and should be continuous to address the problem of voters who have scanty knowledge about the voting process
9. JDPC calls on INEC and security agencies to ensure accountability for acts inimical to the integrity and credibility of the polls especially individuals involved in the burning of INEC offices, election materials, and other electoral offences.
10. JDPC calls on the Inspector General of Police to urgently investigate allegations into Police overreach in identified locations across the Country. We ask that such officers be held personally accountable for infringing on the rights of citizens in the exercise of their franchise.
11. JDPC Call on the international community to continue to lend their voices in defense of the integrity of the result. In particular, we urge the United States and the United Kingdom to follow through on their earlier statement that they will sanction individuals whose actions undermine the election or have led to the death of citizens.
12. JDPC strongly holds that the Country is ripe enough to go digital hence we advocate for electronic voting as this will drastically reduce meddlesomeness by unscrupulous individuals, parties and groups.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Pictures from

1. Oku- Borum- Njua Ward of Boki LGA, CRS, showing destruction of election materials
2. Voting in progress Ekajuk 1 polling unit, Ogoja
3. Photo showing election in progress.





Figure 1: Presidential Elections: Voting on-going at a Polling unit in Area 3, Garki, Abuja



Figure 2: Presidential/NASS Elections: Voting at the Presidential Villa, Aso Rock, Abuja



Figure 3: Presidential/NASS Elections: Voting at a Polling unit in Bwari Area Council, Abuja



Figure 6: On queue to cast votes in Oshogbo, Osun State



Figure 7: Cross section of observers and participants at the 2019 elections in Gboko, Benue State

A voter casting her vote during the Presidential election





INEC Ad-hoc Staff accrediting a voter during 2019 Presidential Election



Counting of Votes by INEC Ad-hoc Staff during Presidential Election

APPRECIATION

This report is based on the 2019 General elections information received from all JDPC observers across all the Catholic Dioceses in the six geopolitical zones of the country, done in collaboration with Caritas Nigeria. While several individuals also participated, Caritas/JDPC as a body is fully responsible for the content of the reports and presents the information provided herein with the prayer that it is able to contribute to the Nigeria democratic evolution.

A comprehensive election mission is, by its true nature, a convoluted exercise. A big thanks to the Nigerian people for availing themselves in spite of the nation's seemingly endless years of electoral or political failings. It is indeed a rare privilege to witness the enthusiasm of the electorates first hand in their strive towards ensuring that Democracy comes to stay.




For the opportunity to participate in this all important elections, we say a big thank you to INEC.

We also sincerely appreciate the Bishop Chair, Department of Church and society: Most Rev. Matthew Man-Oso Ndagoso - the metropolitan Arch Bishop of Kaduna; the Secretary-General, Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria, Very Rev Fr (Dr) Zakariah Zamjumi; not leaving out the National Director, Church and Society CSN, Uchechukwu Fr. Obodoechina PhD. We deeply thank all JDPC Directors/ Cordinators across Nigeria. Our appreciation also goes to members of the JDPC/Caritas Situation Room, particularly, Dr. Justin Ikor Ekpa, Michael Ibe, Engr. Melody Enumah, Otunba Jide Fadugba and Joe Ukamake, for their support and unwavering resilience and faith for a better Nigeria.

Mark Asu-Obi

Programme Manager, Good Governance
Caritas Nigeria

APPENDIX B: LETTER OF ACCREDITATION FROM INEC

	INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION INEC - HEADQUARTERS Plot 436, Zambezi Crescent, Maitama District, P.M.B 0184, Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria E-mail: commsecretary@inec.gov.ng OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	
INEC/DEPM/GEO/2019/Vol.1/105	28 th January, 2019	
The Coordinator Justice Development and Peace: Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nig. National Office of JDPC/Caritas Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria Durumi 1 Abuja		
ACCREDITATION AS OBSERVER FOR THE 2019 GENERAL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR 16TH FEBRUARY AND 2ND MARCH 2019		
Further to your application requesting to participate as Observer in the above-named Election, I am pleased to convey the Commission's approval of your request.		
2. As an accredited Observer group, you will be allowed access to observe all electoral processes as outlined in the Commission's <u>Regulations and Guidelines for the conduct of Elections</u> (available at INEC website: www.inecnigeria.org).		
3. While noting that the accreditation of your Organization to observe the elections is without financial obligations on the Commission, your accreditation may be withdrawn at any stage there is determination that you have violated the code of conduct for observers as contained in the <u>Guidelines for Election Observation</u> (available at INEC website: www.inecnigeria.org).		
4. Your accreditation is subject to the completion of Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement form.		
5. Your organization is expected to submit a comprehensive Report in hard and soft copies to the Commission at the conclusion of the elections on or before 5 th April, 2019.		
6. Please accept the Commission's best wishes and regards.		
 Mrs. Rose Oriaran-Anthony Secretary to the Commission		

APPENDIX C: PRESS STATEMENT FROM CBCN

INTERIM STATEMENT FROM THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE OF NIGERIA(CBCN) SITUATION ROOM

Preamble:

The Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria, through its agency, Caritas Nigeria, in collaboration with the Justice Development and Peace Commissions, set up a Situation Room for the purposes of collation and aggregation of reports of the 2019 General Elections from field observers selected from 55 dioceses spread across the 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). To this effect, the Catholic Church has actively engaged **3,823 accredited Observers**, and **9,000 Citizen Observers** to enhance data collection and collation during the said 2019 General Elections. Leveraging on the capillary nature of the Church, a widespread information network has been established on the Parish, Deanery, Diocesan and National levels. The situation room focused on the electoral indices logistics, security, Smart Card Reader failure, discrepancies and voter inducements.

General Electoral Disposition

According to INEC report, more than **84 million citizens** were registered; while **72.8 million persons** collected their Permanent Voter's Cards. And about **825,543 Ad hoc Staff, 80,000 vehicles** and **996 boats** for operations and logistics, were deployed across the country to effect hitch-free and credible elections. The situation room observed that there was massive turn-out of voters for the 2019 General Elections which was due to improved voter awareness. Major stakeholders such as the Media, Civil Society Organizations, National and International Observers, the Security, etc. were reasonably engaged during the elections.

General Observations

1. Logistics/Arrival of Electoral Officers

Report of logistical lapses on the part of INEC was widespread, as electoral officers did not arrive on the time stipulated for voting. As a result, many locations, experienced late arrival of voting materials and this impacted negatively on the exercise. Many polling units in the South-South experienced delayed commencement of elections. A similar situation is found in the South-east, most noticeable in Enugu, Anambra and Abia States which reported very low amounts of electoral materials, in addition to the late commencement of voting. This scenario led to slight civil unrests. In the North-Central region: Mararaba, Nasarawa State for instance, voting commenced grossly late; a little after 1:30 pm. Unit 004 of Sabongari, Nasawara State had it even worse; accreditation began at 3:45 pm owing to late arrival of INEC Officials and the materials. A similar situation was reported in many states in the North-west and North-east regions of the country. Nevertheless, at Enuobodo Ward, Umueri town, Anambra East LGA in Anambra State, accreditation commenced in good time and the voting was conducted in an orderly manner.

2. Security:

Reports from across the country indicated some degree of relative neutrality. In many parts of the country, the elections to had been conducted in a relatively conducive atmosphere. In some parts of Edo State like Benin and Uromi, voting was reported to

be peaceful, as voting in many polling units started at exactly 8am. Nevertheless, some areas identified as flash points had slim presence of security officials. Hence, the deployment of security personnel to some areas was not balanced; while some huge populated polling units reportedly had fewer security agents, the reverse was the case in other less populated areas. The Situation Room observed the parlous security situation in the North-East region of the county. In Maiduguri- Borno State, for instance, there were attacks by suspected Boko Haram members in the early morning of the voting day.

In the North-central, a nineteen-year-old young man was shot dead in Ajetachi, Dekina LGA in polling unit in Anyigba for refusing to vote a party contrary to his choice.

The South-east had its own episode of insecurity. In Ndiokolo unit, Orumba North Local Government Area of Anambra State, a Corp member serving as an Ad hoc staff of the Independent National Electoral Commission was kidnapped while on duty. Even more, there were other incidences recorded such as the ballot box snatching at Onuma Imeobi Square ward 6, unit 4, in Onitsha-Anambra state. There were even cases of vote buying and disruption of election in some polling unites.

Similarly, in the South-south, there were reports of several killings and arrests made of suspected thugs who attempted to snatch ballot boxes. In Rivers State specifically, electoral violence were rife and about 6 deaths were recorded, with many voters prevented from voting due to clashes between suspected party thugs. The Situation Room also observed a low turn-out of voters at Akim Primary School on Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida Way, Calabar, Cross-River State, because the residents reportedly had fears about their security. In Akwa Ibom State, Unit 1, Ward 8, Itu LGA, Ikot Ekang, armed men hijacked voting materials and abducted officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission and the Youth Corpers on duty. Two persons were shot by armed men in Bayelsa State. Amukpe, Delta State had a case of unknown gunmen opening fire at a polling unit, with stray bullets killing two persons, leaving several persons injured.

Regardless of the presence of security personnel at the polls, Lagos State, in Baba Ewe Okota in particular, had its episode of electoral crisis and casualty for the reason that the opposition was in an early lead. Cast votes were burnt and voters chased by suspected thugs. In Ibadan, armed men stormed a polling unit, shooting at people and snatching ballot boxes. In Osun State, INEC office was attacked leading to the burning of electoral materials.

3. Smart Card Reader Failure

Despite the Commission's assurances that they were ready for the elections, the Situation Room observed that there were replete reports of technical glitches of Smart Card Readers in certain States in the North, such as Zamfara, Sokoto, Kebbi, Jigawa, Kaduna, FCT, Nasarawa, Ogun, Lagos, Imo and Abia States. This inevitably led to delayed voting in the affected areas as well as resorting to manual accreditation.

4. Discrepancies/Illegal Voter Inducements

The Situation Room expresses concern over the repeated cases of vote-buying during electoral processes in the country. Sadly, inducement reportedly occurred in many polling units across the country; particularly in Benue, Anambra, Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Borno, Niger, Lagos, Edo, and Kwara States, leading to negative impact on the elections and with inadequate number of security personnel in the affected areas. Apart from clouding the judgement of voters, vote buying negatively impacts on the democratic process of free and fair elections. Received reports showed that vote buying influenced voters' free choice.

In terms of electoral discrepancies, the competence and capacity of the Commission were questioned by the electorate in areas such as AYA, in Abuja, where INEC Officials arrived the polling unit with already thumb-printed ballot papers – a situation which they purported to be misplaced ballot papers from Police Force Headquarters (Area 11) polling unit.

Conclusion:

We, therefore, appeal to the INEC to ensure credible procedures and absolute transparency in the electoral processes across the country in order to sustain public trust and confidence in the elections. Governments at all levels, are encouraged to ensure the full engagement of security personnel in quelling clashes during and after the elections. The Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria is grateful to all Nigerians for their resilience and admonishes INEC to improve on the electoral systems and processes for the purposes of credible and transparent future elections in Nigeria.

Signed:

Rev. Fr. Zacharia Nyantiso Samjumi
Secretary General
Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria

APPENDIX D: A COMMUNIQUE BY CBCN ON GOOD GOVERNANCE

GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA AND THE COMMON GOOD

A Communiqué issued at the end of the First Plenary Meeting of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) at the Resource Centre, Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria (CSN), Durumi, Abuja, 10 - 16 March 2019

PREAMBLE

We, the Catholic Bishops of Nigeria, held our First Plenary Meeting for the year at the Resource Centre, Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria (CSN), Durumi, Abuja, 10 - 16 March 2019. Having prayerfully reflected on issues affecting the Church and our Country, we now issue this Communiqué.

2. LENT, A SEASON OF NEW BEGINNINGS

The Holy Season of Lent affords us an added opportunity to pray, to fast and to enhance Christian charity. As we sincerely seek the face of God, let us be steadfast in cultivating those virtues of decency and moral uprightness that will enhance the peace, the unity and the well-being of the whole nation. With the Holy Father, Pope Francis, we pray that the Holy Season of Lent teach us again how to live as children of God, redeemed, led by the Holy Spirit and capable of acknowledging and obeying God's law written in our hearts.

3. GOVERNANCE AND THE COMMON GOOD

The Church in her Social Teaching describes the Common Good as the “sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily”. The pursuit of this good must be based on the respect for the sanctity and dignity of human life and the equality of all people. The Common Good presupposes respect for the human person and requires the social well-being and development of the group itself. Governance worth its name is only possible where there is true justice, equality and peace. It demands virtues, such as, patience, modesty, moderation, charity and efforts to share. In governing, leaders have to focus on the Common Good and ensure that the people and their aspirations, both individual and collective, assume paramount importance. As a matter of justice not charity, political governance has to pay particular attention to the provision of basic amenities, making sound policies and showing concern for the underprivileged of the society who are often deprived of the opportunity to participate in their own development. We therefore enjoin government at all levels in Nigeria to put necessary structures of governance in place and enact appropriate laws that will produce such an environment. We equally insist that the democratic culture of the separation of powers and the independence of the Judiciary be respected.

4. THE CHURCH AS VANGUARD OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

For centuries, the Church has been an advocate of good governance for the Common Good. To this end, we call on all dioceses to promote the Social Teaching of the Church, to simplify and to translate it into concrete actions and to use it for an effective socio-political formation of all the people. Special attention must be paid to young people and

families so that the values espoused in Catholic Social Teaching would be inculcated early into children and young people.

However, because moral authority is crucial for good governance and transparent accountability, we as a Church commit ourselves to exercise authority based on sound Christian moral principles, truly inspired by the example of Christ and guided by His compassion.

4. STATE OF THE NATION

The 2019 General Elections and Our Democracy

The 2019 General Elections have come and gone except in some areas where the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has scheduled supplementary elections for specified reasons. We commend our people for the patriotism and the maturity displayed, and the electorate who in some places came out en masse especially during the Presidential and National Assembly Elections to exercise their rights and perform their civic duties. We equally note the voter apathy that characterized the subsequent Governorship and State Houses of Assembly Elections. We believe that this apathy may not have been unconnected with among other things, the violence, malpractice and the unnecessary militarization of the process, all of which contributed to eroding the people's confidence in the electoral process. We have taken note of those who have been declared winners, and commend the civility of those who rejected the results but have chosen to express their grievances through legitimate means under the law rather than through violence. Whatever the outcome, justice must be seen to have been done. We admonish whoever holds power at the end of the day to remember that power belongs to God and to Him alone. God demands strict accountability for how anyone takes power and uses it, for God cannot be deceived or challenged (Lk 16:2).

Towards a New Political Culture

We affirm that elections are an opportunity for people through the ballot to freely choose those who will serve them. We denounce the unfortunate incident of loss of lives and destruction of property, which is ongoing even now. We however, admonish that elections should not be turned into a battle between warriors fighting to capture power and conquer territory and people at all cost. We observe that many of the challenges that emerged during the electoral process were as a result of inadequate electoral laws, which made implementation problematic and at times offered lacunae for evil minded people to exploit the situation to their own advantage. Even where the rules were clear, they were not always adhered to. One of the reported phenomena during the elections was the crude and reckless use of money to buy votes; showing how desperate politicians and political parties are determined to get political power at all cost. Bad elections do not lead to good governance. We demand that the government acknowledge the inadequacies that characterized the 2019 elections and embark on a course for redress. We urge her to enact, endorse and implement laws and policies that will ensure free, fair and credible elections in the future.

Promoting Good Governance: a Duty for All

We enjoin all Nigerians, leaders and the led, to abide by democratic principles such as respect for human life, human rights and the rule of law. We also encourage the electorate to ensure that those who hold public offices in our country are held accountable. We equally urge all Nigerians to eschew all forms of indiscipline and

corruption and be resolute rather than lose hope in our struggle for a better future and nation.

RECENT KILLINGS IN KADUNA AND OTHER STATES

We have received with deep sorrow, the tragic news of the resurgence of further horrific killings in some parts of Kaduna State, Taraba, Benue, Kogi, Edo, Rivers, Zamfara, Adamawa and other states. Against the backdrop of the violence and bloodshed that characterized the last elections, we are pained that the culture of death is becoming embedded into our daily lives. This persistent devaluation of human life and property poses an existential threat to our personal survival and that of our nation. How can government continue to appear helpless in the face of such shameful tragedy? We strongly appeal to the President, in collaboration with the Governors of Kaduna State and other affected States to seriously take steps to arrest this drift before total anarchy and mayhem consume the entire nation.

EVENTS IN THE CHURCH

We are grateful to God and to the Holy Father, Pope Francis, for appointing Most Rev. Ignatius Ayau Kaigama, formerly, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Jos as the Coadjutor Archbishop of Abuja. Archbishop Kaigama remains the Apostolic Administrator of Jos. We congratulate His Eminence, John Cardinal Onaiyekan for this new development. We felicitate with Most Rev. Albert Ayinde Fasina on his happy retirement as Bishop of Ijebu-Ode Diocese. We wish Bishop Fasina a rewarding retirement. We thank God and the Holy Father for the appointment of Rt. Rev. Msgr. Francis Adesina to the Episcopal See of Ijebu-Ode. His Episcopal Ordination comes up on the 25 April 2019. The Catholic Bishops of Nigeria continue to thank God and the Holy Father for the appointment of Rt. Rev. Msgr. Patrick Eluke as the Auxiliary Bishop of Port Harcourt Diocese. We rejoice with His Lordship, Most. Rev. Camillus Etokudoh and the entire Christ's faithful of Port Harcourt Diocese. The Episcopal ordination of Msgr. Eluke comes up on the 9 May 2019. We recall the happy occasion of the Centenary Celebration of the arrival of the Catholic faith in Kano. We equally thank God for the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Canonical Erection of the Dioceses of Ilorin and Ijebu-Ode. We pray for the continued growth of the faith in these dioceses.

Events in the Universal Church

We note that the World Youth Day was celebrated in Panama in January 2019 with many Nigerian youths, bishops and priests participating. We pray that the entire Church in Nigeria continue to lead and encourage the youths to imitate our Mother, Mary, in seeking, discerning and doing the will of God. On another note, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, organized a summit of all the Presidents of Conferences of Bishops on the theme: "Protection of Minors against Sexual Abuse". As part of our duty of governance as Shepherds of the flock of Christ, we commit ourselves anew to ensuring that minors and vulnerable adults are safe from sexual abuse and offenders are duly prosecuted and given appropriate sanction.

We are happy to announce the 3rd Plenary Assembly of the Regional Episcopal Conferences of West Africa (RECOWA-CERAO), with the theme: "The New Evangelization and the Promotion of Integral Human Development in the Church, Family of God in West Africa". The Assembly takes place in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 13 – 20 May 2019. We equally rejoice with The Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM), which concludes the yearlong

celebration of its Golden Jubilee between 21 and 29 July 2019 in Kampala, Uganda. The theme of the celebration is “Church-Family of God in Africa, Celebrate your Jubilee! Proclaim Jesus Christ your Saviour”. May the Jubilee enhance the proclamation of the good news all over the African continent and bring the joy of salvation to the entire people of God.

8. CONCLUSION: BE PRAYERFUL, BE HOPEFUL, REMAIN FOCUSED

We thank God for keeping us together as a nation. As a people we must be prayerful, hopeful and focused as we journey through another four years in our political history. St. Paul admonishes us: “the night is far gone and the day is close at hand, let us cast the works of darkness and put on the armour of light” (Rom 13:12-13). Strengthened by this biblical injunction, let us rededicate ourselves to the power of God’s word in prayer. Our intensive prayer inflames our hearts in faith and keeps our hope alive. We must continue to pray to God to help us rediscover our common humanity, cultivate respect for one another, enthrone transparency and accountability in the use of our common patrimony and imbibe apostolic charity towards the poor and the vulnerable in the Church and society.

May the Almighty and Merciful God through the intercession of our Mother, Mary, Queen and Patroness of Nigeria lead us along the way of truth, love and peace, Amen.

Most Rev. Augustine Obiora AKUBEZE, Archbishop of Benin City, CBCN President,

Most Rev. Camillus Raymond UMOH, Bishop of Ikot-Ekpene, CBCN Secretary.

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Signed:

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