



# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)



**2023**

# GENERAL ELECTIONS **REPORT**

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## **CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)**

### **SECTION ONE**

#### **BACKGROUND**

Nigeria's general elections have been marked by both advancements and difficulties. While Nigerians have had the chance to exercise their rights to vote and choose their leaders thanks to the democratic process, there have been worries about electoral fraud, voter suppression, and violence throughout campaigns and election days.

The electoral organization in charge of planning and supervising general elections in Nigeria is the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). INEC is essential to maintaining the fairness, legitimacy, and transparency of the electoral process. Its duties include voter registration, monitoring of party congresses, election administration, and the declaration of election results.

The 2023 General Elections was like every other election that has been held. There are 176846 polling units, 93469008 registered voters, and 18 political parties, according to INEC. In Nigeria, the presidential, gubernatorial, and legislative seats at the federal and state levels are normally up for election during the general elections. Both large and not-so-large political parties take part in the electoral process by fielding candidates for public offices.

Elections for federal and state offices are crucial occurrences that influence Nigeria's political climate and system of government. The purpose of these elections is for Nigerian citizens to choose representatives and leaders who will fill various government positions.

Elections for the President of Nigeria and members of the National Assembly (which consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives) are held at the federal level. The President is the head of state and government, and the elected members of the National Assembly are in charge of passing laws, approving budgets, and supervising the executive branch. Governors, members of state legislatures, and local government officials are all elected at the state level in Nigeria. Periodically, elections are held in Nigeria in accordance with the rules and laws governing the nation's elections, which are established by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). Voter registration, political campaigning, voting, and results announcement all fall under the electoral process. It is significant to note that Nigerian elections have changed over time as attempts have been made to increase openness, credibility, and inclusivity.

Although difficulties still exist, including questions regarding electoral integrity, improvements have been made to Nigeria's electoral system. The use of technology to increase the effectiveness and transparency of the voting process is one of these, along with voter education initiatives and electoral reforms.



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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA), a reputable group of observers that has observed previous elections in the nation, put in place a solid plan for carrying out electoral activities that are scheduled to take place before, during, and after the elections. Stakeholders' engagements held across the 6 geo-political zones in Nigeria. CTA observed the Mock Accreditation, collection of PVCs by citizens and conducted voter education in some communities. In order to keep stakeholders informed of the findings on the ground between February 25 and March 18, 2023, CTA deployed observers during the Mock Exercise as well as 2000 observers across the country's 36 states, including the Federal Capital Territory.

The CTA opened her Situation Room in Abuja for the Presidential and National Assembly Elections while it equally, opened a Situation Room in Asaba, Delta State for the Governorship and State's Houses of Assembly Elections.

On February 25, 2023, Nigerian voters chose a president and vice president in the country's presidential election. The All-Progressives Congress's candidate and former governor of Lagos State, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, won the contested election with 36.61% of the votes, or 8,794,726 total votes. Atiku Abubakar, a former vice president of the People's Democratic Party, and Peter Obi, a former governor of Anambra State, were the runners-up. Both candidates immediately disputed the results; Obi claimed he had won.

Interestingly reports from CTA observers indicated that 98% of the polling units had a political party presence with the top three representation being; 95.8% from the All-Progressive Congress (APC), 93.4% from the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and 65.6% from Labour Party (LP)

State elections were originally set for two weeks later on March 11, but were moved up by a week and held on March 18 instead. Other federal elections, such as those for the House of Representatives and the Senate, were held on the same day as the presidential.

In the final press conference for the presidential and national assembly elections, CTA released a detailed report from field observers across the country that stated that the percentage of challenges with the B-VAS was at 24%, mostly due to poor network at some locations that caused the B-VAS to be slow, the inability of the B-VAS to capture fingerprints, wrong password, low batteries, and the refusal of the presiding officers to upload results at the polling units after the elections.

There were reports of tension from some polling units arising from the late arrival of personnel and materials, incomplete election materials, intimidation by party thugs, forced extension of voting hours, non-availability of result sheets, double voting by some



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persons, vote canvassing, undue assistance by party agents to aid voters thumbprint, unnecessary hoarding of voting materials by ad-hoc staff for unjust reasons, insufficient security and poor crowd control among others.

Opposition arose as state results were beginning to be revealed on February 26 at the national collation centre in Abuja because the results data had not yet been properly uploaded to the I-rev prior to their announcement. The Abubakar, Obi, and Rabi'u Kwankwaso campaigns questioned and eventually officially rejected the declared election results on 28 February as a result of these circumstances as well as criticism of INEC from some observers and civil society organizations.

After compiling all of the results from states on March 1st, INEC chairman Mahmood Yakubu proclaimed Tinubu the winner. Abubakar, Obi, and Rabi'u Kwankwaso responded by rejecting the findings and pledging to contest them at the tribunal.

Similarly, Governorship Election results were announced in various state capitals by INEC Returning officers at the close of elections. Except for a State like Adamawa where the Resident Electoral Commissioner embarrassed the Commission and in fact, the country by personally announcing the result from a sheet of paper when voting and collation have not been concluded in some Local Government Areas and Wards.

The Centre for Transparency Advocacy salutes the tenacity of Nigerians on coming out to vote and make sure that their votes count.

**Faith Nwadishi**

**Executive Director**



## **SECTION TWO**

### **PRE-ELECTION ACTIVITIES**

#### **1. STAKEHOLDERS' ENGAGEMENT/MEETINGS**

The Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA) plays a vital role in promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance in Nigeria. During the 2023 General elections, the CTA recognized the importance of engaging with stakeholders across the six geo-political zones, by conducting stakeholder meetings, aimed at fostering dialogue, gathering perspectives, and enhancing preparations for the upcoming elections.

The CTA recognizes that effective elections require the involvement and collaboration of various actors, including political parties, civil society organizations, election management bodies, security agencies, media organizations, religious bodies and the public.

The stakeholder meetings served as platforms for constructive dialogue and knowledge exchange. They provided an opportunity for participants to discuss electoral reforms, identify areas that require improvement, and suggest actionable recommendations. The CTA encouraged stakeholders to share their experiences, insights, and expertise, fostering a collaborative environment that enhances the quality of election planning and implementation.

Furthermore, these meetings allowed the CTA to raise awareness about the significance of transparency, accountability, and integrity in the electoral process. By engaging stakeholders from diverse backgrounds, the CTA promoted a shared understanding of the principles that underpin free and fair elections. It facilitated discussions on topics such as voter education, electoral violence prevention, voter registration, campaign financing, and the role of the media in ensuring unbiased coverage.

Meetings were held in Benin City- Edo State for the South-South, Enugu in Enugu State for the South East, Kano in Kano State for the North- West, Gombe in Gombe State for the North East, Abuja – FCT for the North Central and Ibadan in Oyo State for the South West. There was equally a stakeholder meeting in Asaba, Delta State. The meetings enabled robust conversations and interactions for citizens to express their concerns, expectations and way forward for sustainable democracy through a credible electoral process.



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## Pictures from South-South Stakeholders Meeting



*Cross section of Participants at the meeting*



*Engr Faith Nwadishi, Executive Director, CTA in a media interview*



*Participants at the meeting*



*Members at the high table*

## Pictures from South-East Stakeholders meeting



*Participants at the meeting*





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*Members of the high table*

### *Pictures from South-West Stakeholders meeting*



*The Executive Director  
CTA rendering her speech*

*Members of the High table*





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***Pictures from North-West Stakeholders meeting***



***Cross-section of participants at the meeting***



***Members of the high table***



***CTA Executive Director giving her opening remarks***

***Picture from North-East Stakeholders meeting***



***Participants at the meeting***



## CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

### *Pictures from North-East Stakeholders meeting*



*Members of the high table*



*A glimpse at participants at the meeting*



*A picture of CTA National coordinators, North -Central Zonal and States coordinators.*

### **1. MONITORING OF PVC COLLECTION**

CTA conducted two vox pops in the FCT to engage the masses on their registration and collection of their PVCs. The CTA sent observers in some selected states to observe the collection of PVCs by citizens. This was one of the pre-election engagements by CTA.

Find link below to watch videos on the observation of both registration and collection of PVC.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tRVX-0qYzHM&t=65s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVTApX2Tn5I>



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### 1. MOCK ACCREDITATION EXERCISE

As part of INEC's preparations towards the 2023 General Elections, a test run of the use of the B-VAS was done through a mock exercise that was conducted on Saturday, February 4 2023 in 436 polling units across Nigeria; 12 per state and 2 within the FCT.

To observe this process, CTA deployed one hundred and sixty-five observers across selected polling units in the country including the FCT. Reports from observers indicated enthusiasm and confidence in the use of the B-VAS.

Reports from the field indicated that the accreditation exercise was peaceful and successful but more awareness needed to be created for those who transferred, migrated or are posted to new polling units. Observers and voters that participated strongly believed that the deployment of the B-VAS will greatly check-mate vote buying and eliminate incidents of ballot snatching on election days.



*Some pictures from field observers in Abuja (FCT)*

### MOCK ACCREDITATION ANALYSIS

The Accreditation commenced at an average time of 8:30 am, adhering to a predefined schedule. The process of accrediting an individual voter was efficiently completed within a time frame of fewer than 5 minutes. A significant majority, specifically 58%, of the designated accreditation centres observed by CTA were strategically situated within educational institutions. Furthermore, to ensure a smooth electoral process, a minimum of three officials from the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) were present at each polling unit, accompanied by a minimum of two security personnel. Impressively, the overwhelming majority, approximately 91.8%, of the respondents reported that they encountered no issues with the Biometric Voter Authentication System (BVAS), while expressing satisfaction with the professionalism exhibited by officials that were present.

*(See annex—for infographics)*



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### **1. MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS**

CTA had a robust media engagement with over 50 media appearances and 120 media mentions. During the elections, the Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA) actively engaged with different media both conventional and online to ensure transparency and promote informed decision-making by establishing partnerships with media organizations to disseminate accurate and unbiased information to the public.

The CTA held press conferences, published press releases and conducted briefings to provide updates, share research findings, and fact-check to debunk false information related to the elections which helped to combat misinformation and ensure accurate reporting, proffer recommendations and address media queries. It was an opportunity for the CTA to advocate for transparency and highlight any concerns or irregularities that needed attention.

Equally, the CTA Executive Director Faith Nwadishi appeared at different Television stations like the NTA and AIT as Guest Analyst before, during and after the elections. There were numerous media interviews where she made useful contributions to the elections.

**(See annex—for media links of the media engagements)**

### **2. RECRUITMENT OF OBSERVERS**

The CTA, being an organization dedicated to promoting transparency and accountability, recognized the significance of recruiting observers who were unbiased and not affiliated with any political party or group. By doing so, CTA aimed to enhance the credibility and integrity of the observation process, valuable insights into the conduct of the electoral process and ensure the protection of democratic principles in Nigeria.

2000 Election Observers were recruited across the country and were fully accredited by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). Observers were recruited based on the number of LGAs in the states, however, there were at least three observers in each senatorial district.

### **3. TRAINING AND DEPLOYMENT OF OBSERVERS**

The CTA mobilized, trained and deployed a total of 2000 field observers across Nigeria. These observers were strategically deployed across the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). There was a Training of Trainers that was followed by a step-down training across Nigeria.

The training was a hybrid structure hence some people attended physical training while others were trained virtually. This was necessitated due to the high risk of insecurity in certain areas or states and the need to train all accredited observers.

Observers were selected and deployed based on the number of Local Government Areas in each state. However, every state has three observers in each senatorial district for even coverage.

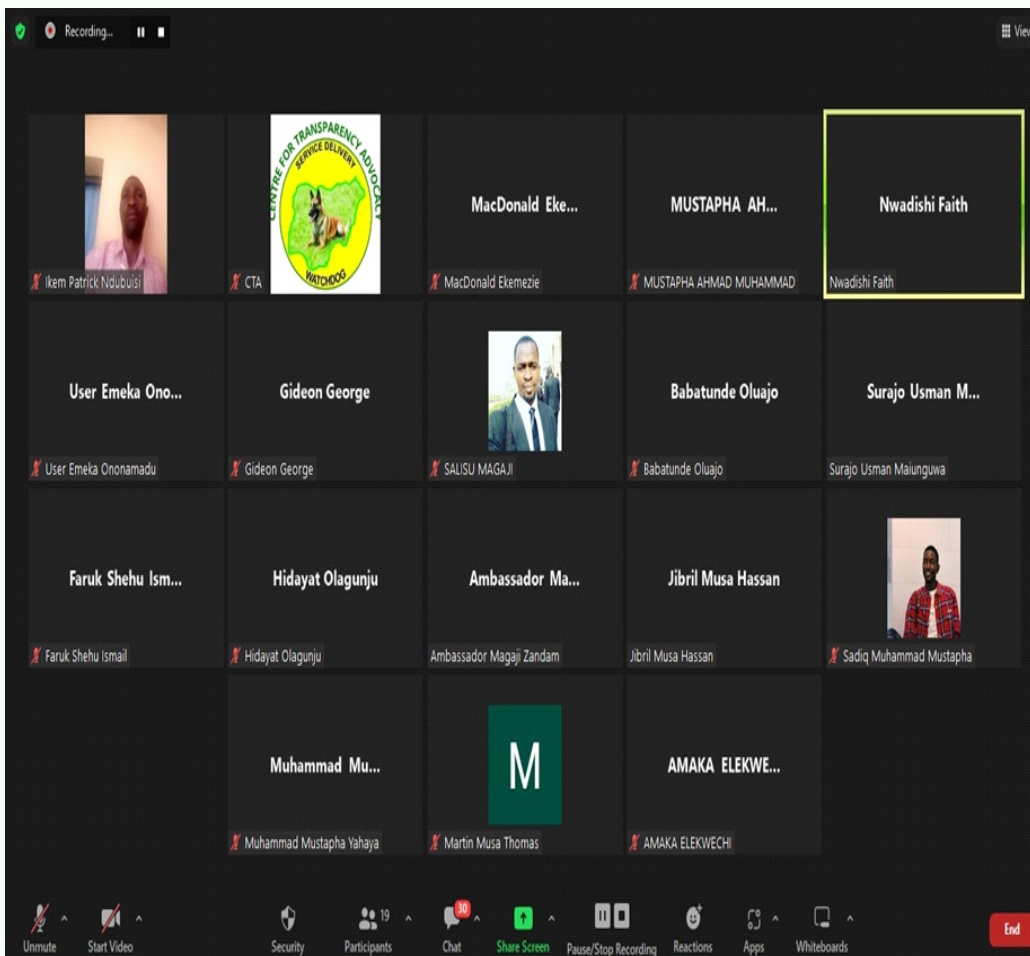
Seasoned trainers were engaged to train the observers across the country. They include



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1. Ezenwa Nwagwu, a seasoned Trainer and Election Expert
2. Babatunde Oluajo, a veteran in the field of elections. An election observer spanning the 4<sup>th</sup> Republic and social commentator on elections
3. Emeka Ononamadu, a strong civil society activist, the immediate past Resident Electoral Commissioner for Enugu State, an election administrator and Election Expert
4. Faith Nwadishi, an election observation expert, team lead, a regular Election Analyst on national and international Television, radio and print. A gender expert in elections and a seasoned trainer.
5. MacDonald Ekemezie, a veteran election observer, communication expert and trainer.

### *Picture from the Virtual training the State Coordinators*





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*Adamawa state*



*Kano state*



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*Plateau state*



*Katsina state*



*Gombe state*



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*Niger State*

***Pictures from FCT observers training***







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***Pictures of participants at the training***



***Mr. Babatunde Oluajo training participants on the overview of election observation***



***Mr. Emeka Onanamadu training participants on understanding INEC guidelines for Election observation***



***Participant trainees taking the observer's pledge***



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***The CTA Executive Director led the trainees to take the observer's pledge***

### **1. VOTER EDUCATION**

The Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA) is an organization that is committed to promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance in Nigeria. In line with this objective, organized an inclusive campaign aimed at educating voters and persons with disabilities (PWD) in the Karshi community of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

The aim was to enlighten citizens about the importance of participating in the electoral process and educate them on the voting procedures and the provisions made by INEC for persons with disabilities during the elections.

### ***Voter Education with PWDs at Karshi Community, Abuja***





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### ***Group photographs of participants with Madam Faith Nwadishi, Executive Director of CTA.***

**OPENING OF SITUATION ROOM:** On the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023, CTA conducted a press conference to officially open its situation room which was located in Denis Hotel, FCT, Abuja. This was to help monitor reports of the happenings from deployed observers nationwide during the Presidential and National Assembly elections. The CTA had another Situation Room at Golden Tulip Hotel Asaba, Delta State for the Governorship and State Assembly Elections.



### ***The Executive Director of CTA Faith Nwadishi with some members of the CTA Election Expert Team***



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***Some of the CTA Election Expert team members during the opening of the CTA 2023 General Elections Situation Room. From left, Professor Alex Asigbo, Faith Nwadishi, Professor Anthony Kola- Olusanya, Professor Emmanuel Remi Aiyede and Babatunde Oluajo***



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## **SECTION THREE**

### **ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES/REPORTS PRESIDENTIAL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS REPORT**

The scheduled Presidential and National Assembly Elections were successfully held in Nigeria on February 25th, 2023, despite facing significant challenges. These challenges included widespread insecurity and attacks on numerous INEC facilities across the country since 2019, resulting in a climate of fear and uncertainty leading up to the elections.

During the elections, there were certain areas of concern such as INEC's preparedness, logistical arrangements, security measures, and the conduct of political actors in ensuring free, fair, credible, inclusive, and conclusive elections.

Findings from our field observers, deployed across the country, shed light on various aspects of the electoral process. One key observation was the delayed arrival of INEC officials and materials at some polling units, resulting in a delayed start to voter accreditation and voting. The hurried setup of polling units due to the delays led to instances where polling officials failed to adequately brief voters on proper voting procedures. However, in 53% of the observed polling units, the officials and materials arrived between 7 am and 8:30 am.

Security personnel arrived generally with INEC personnel, however, some were not present at some polling units until around 9-10 am, although their behaviour was generally professional when they did arrive. Despite these challenges, voter turnout was impressive, and voters conducted themselves peacefully, following the prescribed voting guidelines.

Regarding the Biometric Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) and the conduct of INEC officials, priority was given to vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, nursing mothers, persons with disabilities, and the elderly. However, some INEC ad hoc staff demonstrated a lack of familiarity with the BVAS operation, resulting in issues such as incorrect codes and poor network connectivity. The BVAS worked effectively in 76% of the observed polling units, although there were instances where ad hoc staff failed to upload the results as required by the guidelines.

In certain regions of the country, there were reports of political parties and their agents engaging in acts of intimidation and harassment towards voters, particularly those perceived to support rival candidates. Additionally, incidents of open vote buying and selling were observed, involving various methods such as cash transfers, food vouchers, and the collection of personal account details. Despite efforts to address these practices, they continue to persist in the political landscape.

Furthermore, there were unfortunate incidents of violence, including physical injuries and the destruction of voting materials, reported in some states during the elections.



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### **FIELD REPORTS FROM CTA OBSERVERS**

The Presidential and National Assembly Elections were held across Nigeria on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

The elections were held as scheduled, despite the relative state of insecurity across the country and attacks on at least 52 INEC facilities in different locations across the country. Other acts of violence reported in the run-up to the elections include the assassination of aspirants and abduction of party stalwarts, disruptions of party campaign events and other acts of violence which created a general climate of fear and uncertainty in the build-up to the elections.

However, despite these challenges, CTA noted the efforts of INEC and its officials to perform its constitutional duties of conducting the elections as scheduled.

Recall that in our pre-election assessment, we raised concerns about the preparedness of INEC, logistics, security, and the role of political actors in delivering free, fair, credible, inclusive and conclusive elections.

The following are the findings from our field observers deployed across the country:

#### **Time of arrival of INEC Officials and materials/ Commencement of voting**

Reports from our field observers deployed indicated that INEC officials and materials generally arrived on time at the majority of polling units observed. Although INEC proposed commencement of accreditation is for 8:30 am, on average, polling officials and materials arrived at polling units before 10:30 am. As a result of the late arrival of INEC officials and voting materials at some polling units, the commencement of voter accreditation and voting started after the 8.30 am scheduled time. The late arrival of electoral materials and officials in some locations caused delays in the election process, with some concluding as late as 1:00 am the following day as was observed in some areas of Bauchi State.

However, reports from our observers across 982 polling units reported across the country, showed that INEC officials and materials arrived between 7 am and 8:30 am in 53 per cent of the polling units.

The late arrival of INEC officials at some polling units necessitated the need for the setup of the polling units to be hurriedly done and this, in some cases, made the polling officials forget to properly brief the electorates on the proper voting procedures.

#### **Presence/performance of Security Agents**

While security personnel were expected to be on the ground before the commencement of the voting process, our observers noted that in some of the polling units, security personnel were not present until about 9 – 10 am. On average, there were about 4 security personnel in most of the polling units where our observers were deployed. Generally, observers reported that the security personnel behaved and conducted themselves professionally.

#### **Voter Turnout/ Conduct of Voters**

Voter turnout was generally impressive. In most cases, voters came out earlier than the arrival of INEC officials, materials and security personnel. They mostly conducted themselves peacefully and in accordance with voting guidelines.



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### **Performance of BVAS/Conduct of INEC Officials**

Our observers reported that INEC officials in line with the electoral guidelines gave preferences to pregnant women, nursing mothers, PWDs and the elderly. However, our observers also noted that in some cases, INEC ad hoc staff demonstrated insufficient familiarity with the operation of the BVAS. Observers reported that wrong codes and poor network were some of the challenges faced by the ad-hoc staff

Reports from our observers across 982 polling units showed that the BVAS worked well in 76 per cent of the polling units. However, there were reported cases of Ad hoc staff not uploading results at the end of polls as stipulated in the guidelines.

### **Conduct of Political Parties/ Political Party Agents**

98% of the polling units had a political party presence with the top three representation to be; 95.8% from the All-Progressive Congress (APC), 93.4% from the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and 65.6% from Labour Party (LP)

Reports from the field indicated in some parts of the country, that political parties and their agents were observed to be involved in acts of intimidation and harassment of voters, especially those suspected to be sympathetic to candidates other than theirs. In some of these cases, these acts were perpetrated in full public glare and in the presence of security personnel. Some parts of Lagos State were hugely reported to have been affected by this as was corroborated by media and observers reports.

### **Vote Buying and Selling and Other Malpractices**

Reports from observers indicated that the incidence of open vote buying and selling assumed a new dimension, cash transfers, food vouchers, name and account details collation. This in our view, may not be unconnected with the deployment of the BVAS for the elections to check-mate electoral fraud and possibly, the effect of the naira redesign policy. Given the mutative nature of vote buying and selling, the phenomenon appears far from being eradicated from the polity.

### **Violence**

In addition to acts of intimidation and harassment, there were cases of violence reported from some states in the country. These include physical injuries and the destruction of voting materials. Violence was reported in certain locations in Kogi State, including Ayingba in Dekina LGA, where three people lost their lives, and instances of ballot box snatching occurred. Also, there were attacks on INEC staff and observers by thugs in Doma LGA of Nassarawa State. While there were threats of attacks by Boko Haram in Gwoza area of Borno State.

It is important to note that these findings cut across the Presidential and National Assembly Elections. The results for the National Assembly Elections were declared at the various constituencies by the designated Returning Officers.

After the collation of all the Presidential Election results from the 36 states and the FCT on March 1st, INEC chairman Professor Mahmood Yakubu the Chief Returning Officer for the Presidential Election, returned the APC candidate, Bola Ahmed Tinubu the winner. Atiku Abubakar of the PDP, Peter Obi of Labour and Rabi'u Kwankwaso of NNPP responded by rejecting the results and pledging to contest them at the tribunal.



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## PICTURES FROM ACROSS THE STATES AND FCT DURING THE ELECTIONS From Abuja-FCT







# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)





# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

## PICTURES FROM OTHER STATES From Yobe State





# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)





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## From Ogun State



## From Kogi State



*CTA Coordinator in Kogi state with other observers*

## From Benue State





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### **GOVERNORSHIP AND STATE ASSEMBLIES' ELECTIONS**

On March 18, 2023, the Gubernatorial and State House of Assemblies elections took place, following controversies and tensions resulting from the previous Presidential elections. The Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA) deployed election observers across the country to observe the process. The CTA set up a Situation Room in Asaba Delta State and mobilized her election expert team members to observe the election and monitor reports from field observers across the nation.

The CTA findings indicated improvements in the timeliness of the arrival of INEC officials and materials, although some delays were reported. Security personnel were generally present but occasionally late. Voter turnout was low, possibly due to dissatisfaction expressed by some citizens with the previous election and concerns about security. INEC officials generally adhered to guidelines, although some lacked familiarity with certain rules. There were instances of violence, disruptions, and voter suppression in some polling units. Political parties and their agents were accused of disregarding the law, and vote buying was widespread.

While our observers report indicated strengths and challenges during the elections which we highlighted in our various statements on the conduct of the 2023 Presidential and National Assembly Elections, the elections did throw up interesting results like never before seen since 1999 when the current democratic journey began. Some politicians lost elections in their strongholds while opposition candidates won the governorship and House of Assembly elections against ruling parties in Kebbi State, the Governorship and State Houses of Assembly Elections were declared inconclusive due to a higher number of cancelled polling units compared to the margin of votes between the leading contestants. Similarly, the elections and collation in Adamawa state were rescheduled to allow elections to hold in some areas where infractions were reported. However, Adamawa State took a twist when the Resident Electoral Commissioner for Adamawa State Barrister Hudu Ari in the full glare of television with security watching bizarrely announced the result of an election yet to be concluded.

### **FIELD REPORTS FROM OBSERVERS**

#### **PREPARATIONS OF INEC**

- 1. Logistical arrangements/Arrival of personnel and materials:** The hiccups that nearly marred the Presidential and National Assembly Elections on February 25 were mitigated during the Governorship and State Assembly Elections. All arrangements to move personnel and materials seemed modified resulting in a better logistical arrangement and movement of personnel and materials to polling units in good time. On average, materials and personnel arrived early while accreditation and voting commenced in most polling units at about 8:30 am.



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**INEC STAFF:** We commend INEC for initiating the process of sanctioning some of its errant election officials for misconduct in the last elections. This is not enough as we expect that more Electoral Officers and Adhoc staff should be sanctioned where they are found wanting in the governorship election. Integrity should be the watchword for INEC staff as Nigerians do not expect anything less. INEC as an institution and its staff must live above the board. Finally, it is important that the Resident Electoral Commissioner for Adamawa State Barrister Hudu Yunusa Ari be sanctioned as his actions were clear

1. embarrassment to the nation and compromised the integrity of the governorship election in Adamawa State.
2. **Electoral violence:** The level of electoral violence and voter suppression noticed in the Governorship Election left a sore taste in our electoral bud. It was appalling to see thugs having free reign, destroying voting materials and harassing citizens at polling units.
  - a. The media was awash with reports of the attempted assassination of the PDP Governorship candidate in Delta State, as well as the Labour Party candidate in Lagos State before the election. Politicians used every opportunity to gain an advantage by sponsoring thugs to suppress votes, intimidate citizens and even harm perceived opponents.
  - b. However, the CTA noted better synergy between security agencies across the board to ensure the safety of citizens, INEC personnel and materials before, during and after the governorship and State Assembly elections.
  - c. There were some infractions at a few hotspots in Abia State especially the LGAs of Obingwa, Isiala Ngwa North and Isiala Ngwa South.

### **VOTER TURNOUT AND PARTICIPATION**

1. Voter turnout was noticeably low in many states but voter suppression is implicated in the final outcome for the reported number of voters. We consider the Gubernatorial and Houses of Assembly elections very important hence elections are local.
  2. Our observers noted that the few citizens that came out to vote conducted themselves with utmost decorum while ensuring that their votes counted.
- 4. MONEY POLITICS/VOTE BUYING:** It has become imperative to say no to money politics, all forms of inducement and money laundering associated with our politics and elections. Citizen's choices must never be



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subverted by the negative use of money to influence votes including the criminal purchases of PVCs by politicians. This noticeable menace was clearly observed during the election. this appeared in different forms; outright purchase of the Voters' PVC, food, physical exchange of money or bank transfers.

We recognize clearly that the symbolic presence of law enforcement agents at polling units during the election has not deterred vote buying. It is, therefore, important that a more result-oriented method like covert operations be adopted to curb this menace. An early warning flagging by the Central bank and Commercial institutions will as well alert anti-graft agencies to track illicit money intended to usurp the wills of the people through the rigging of elections induced by money.

**5. MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION THROUGH THE MEDIA/SOCIAL MEDIA:** Social media has no doubts made communication easy in real-time, but it also has its dark sides. Fake news hatched by unscrupulous elements to distort information and create chaos were rife with fake results paraded through social media leading up to the declaration of the election results, different flyers and unsubstantiated news items were bandied about and spread across the screens.

**6. BVAS:** Our observers reported noticeable improvement in the deployment and use of the BVAS compared to the presidential election. The INEC personnel also showed remarkable improvement in the use of the BVAS machine. We equally, noted that most results were uploaded through the BVAS to the I-rev, thereby reducing the tension, controversy and mistrust associated with the Presidential Election.

Results from the various states were announced at the state capitals and various designated constituency offices by the INEC Returning officers.

### **PICTURES FROM THE ELECTION**

*From Delta State – Asaba*





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### *From Ogun State*



### *From Benue state*







## **CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)**

### **REPORT FROM STATES**

#### **NORTH-CENTRAL**

##### **NIGER STATE**

The state consists of 25 Local Government Areas (LGAs), and a total of 54 observers were deployed across the state to observe the elections. However, there was a low turnout of voters. Observers reported several challenges, including voter apathy, malfunctioning of the BVAS machine, incidents of violence, disruption of voting, vote buying and selling, and missing names of registered voters from the electoral register.

The performance of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) officials showed improvement compared to past elections. The security agencies demonstrated professionalism and were vigilant in addressing threats during the voting process. Overall, voters conducted themselves peacefully and orderly, although there were isolated incidents of violence in some polling units, which were resolved by the security agencies.

The challenges encountered during the elections included the low turnout of voters, issues with BVAS machine malfunctioning in some polling units, scarcity of naira notes due to the cashless policy introduced by the federal government, and poor internet service leading to delayed payment of observers' stipends

##### **-KOGI STATE**

The Presidential and National Assembly Elections in Kogi State, had high voter turnout, primarily consisting of youths and women. The elections were marred by vote trading, with party agents collecting voters' account details for monetary transfers after they voted. Violence was reported in certain locations, including Ayingba in Dekina LGA, where three people lost their lives, and instances of ballot box snatching occurred. Security personnel were not adequately present or proactive in preventing violence. Some BVAS machines malfunctioned, and INEC officials faced challenges in operating them. Reports were not immediately transmitted after the vote-counting process. The State House of Assembly Elections in Kogi State experienced low voter turnout, possibly due to a lack of confidence in INEC's neutrality following the conduct of presidential elections.

##### **KWARA STATE**

During the elections, there were reports of violence and irregularities in four polling units, leading to the cancellation of results in those areas. However, overall, the election was conducted peacefully in Kwara State, with different



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political parties participating.

INEC declared the winners of the National Assembly positions in the state, all from the All-Progressive Congress (APC). The Presidential results were collated and submitted to the National collation centre.

The use of the Biometric Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) for voter accreditation was generally successful, although there were some challenges in a few polling units, resulting in slow accreditation and voting processes.

The security during the elections was satisfactory to some extent, although there were instances where only one security officer was present at polling units, indicating a need for improved security arrangements.

Several observations were made during the elections, including a discouragement of eligible voters due to internal migration of voters, issues with voter card availability, non-compliance with COVID-19 protocols, lack of transparency in posting election results, increased vote buying, inadequate security presence, late arrival of INEC officers in some polling units, and delays in real-time transmission of election results. For the Governorship and State House of Assembly elections, results were collated, with the All-Progressive Congress (APC) winning the Governorship position and 23 out of 24 House of Assembly seats. The People's Democratic Party (PDP) won in OYUN LGA.

Observations and recommendations include addressing voter migration issues, ensuring the availability of voter cards, complying with COVID-19 protocols, providing adequate security, and improving transparency in posting election results.

### **- NASSARAWA STATE**

During the Presidential and National Assembly elections, 46 observers, including citizen observers and one person with a disability, were deployed in the 3 Senatorial zones and 11 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Nasarawa State.

Various issues and challenges were observed during the elections, including low voter turnout, the absence of Braille materials for the blind, incomplete ballot papers at a polling unit (which was later resolved), slow functioning of the Biometric Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) causing complaints, insufficient security agents in some polling units, and delays due to late arrival of materials. There were also incidents of ink shortage, difficulties in transmitting votes from polling units to servers, conflicts between youths and agents in a polling unit, and variations in voter turnout between different polling units.

For the Governorship and State Assembly elections, the same number of observers was deployed, and the same polling units were covered. There was a slight improvement in the conduct of these elections compared to the previous ones, with materials arriving at polling units earlier. However, there were still challenges observed, including attacks on INEC staff and observers by thugs in Doma LGA, delays in vote counting until the feeding of staff and security agents was provided,



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open sharing of food items as incentives causing disagreements, shortage of ballot papers in some polling units, issues with BVAS rejecting voter cards, and incidents of incomplete ballot papers and non-original result sheets causing chaos (which were later resolved).

Despite these challenges, the elections in Nasarawa State were conducted peacefully, without any reports of ballot box snatching, violence, or riots

### **- BENUE STATE**

During the Presidential, Senatorial, and House of Representatives elections, there was a high turnout of voters, and the atmosphere was relatively peaceful in most polling units. For the Governorship and House of Assembly elections, the turnout of voters was low compared to the number of collected PVCs. Despite some challenges such as the late commencement of elections and discrepancies in the number of ballot papers, voters exhibited good conduct and orderly behaviour. Elections in Kwande LGA were shifted to March 21, 2023, due to an error on the ballot papers. The elections were conducted peacefully on the rescheduled date.

### **- PLATEAU STATE**

During the Presidential/National Assembly election, the election was relatively peaceful, although some cases of election vices, such as attempted vote buying, occurred in certain polling units, however, vigilant youths and law enforcement officers resisted such attempts.

For the State Governorship/House of Assembly elections, there was a low turnout compared to the Presidential/National Assembly elections. The elections in Plateau State were relatively peaceful, with only attempts to manipulate results at the state collation centre causing delays in the announcement of the final results. Observers reported peaceful conduct of the elections in their respective polling units and shared pictures showing sparsely populated polling units across the state.



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### **NORTH-EAST**

#### **- BORNO STATE**

The elections in Borno State were held in all 27 Local Government Areas, which was a significant improvement from previous elections affected by Boko Haram's security threats. Extensive security measures were put in place to ensure the safety of the voting process. The election generated enthusiasm among the people, particularly due to the candidacy of Senator Kashim Shettima, a former Governor of Borno State. While there was an attack by Boko Haram in Gwoza, it did not hinder the voting process, and observers were allowed to carry out their duties without obstruction. The results were eagerly anticipated by all parties involved, and vote buying was observed. Overall, the election was considered peaceful compared to previous ones, and improvements were noted in INEC's activities, particularly in staff deployment and timely distribution of election materials. However, voter turnout was low due to voter apathy.

#### **- GOMBE STATE**

In the 2023 election in Gombe State, there were records of money politics and excessive spending by the major parties, particularly the APC, were observed, with allegations of vote buying, bribery, corruption, and sponsorship of candidates. Religious influence also played a significant role, with religious clerics from both Muslim and Christian backgrounds influencing public opinion and endorsing specific candidates. Bribery and corruption were pervasive from party primaries to the general election, and the media played a crucial role in shaping public perception and influencing the election outcome.

However, there is a need to address challenges such as money politics, bribery, corruption, and religious manipulation to ensure fair and credible elections in the future.

#### **- BAUCHI STATE**

The report from field observers shows that the electoral infrastructure was well-organized and accessible, including provisions for persons with disabilities, promoting inclusivity. The polling process was conducted in an orderly and transparent manner, with professionalism demonstrated by polling officials. Voters were able to cast their votes freely without intimidation, and ballot secrecy was maintained.

The observers noted an impressive voter turnout, highlighting the enthusiasm and active participation of the electorate, emphasizing the significance of the democratic process. Satisfactory security measures were observed, ensuring a safe environment for voters and electoral staff. Although minor disturbances were reported, security personnel promptly addressed them. During the vote-counting



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process, observers witnessed transparency, with representatives from political parties and independent observers present.

The accuracy of the count and adherence to established procedures were generally satisfactory. The compilation and announcement of results were conducted in a timely and transparent manner, adhering to legal requirements and promptly sharing results with the public. However, the report also identifies some challenges and concerns. While security measures were generally adequate, isolated incidents of violence and intimidation were reported in certain polling stations. The late arrival of electoral materials and officials in some locations caused delays in the election process, with some concluding as late as 1:00 am the following day. Insufficient BVAS (Bimodal Voter Accreditation System) in certain locations with large numbers of registered voters also contributed to delays.

Based on the observations and challenges identified, there is a need to strengthen electoral security through measures such as training security personnel, improving intelligence gathering, and enhancing coordination among relevant agencies. Additionally, the need for enhanced voter education programs, particularly targeting marginalized communities and remote areas, to ensure citizens are aware of their rights and the importance of their participation. Lastly, recommend that the electoral body make proper logistic arrangements to enhance the quick conclusion of the electoral process.

### **- ADAMAWA STATE**

For the Governorship election, there were issues of vote buying, low voter turnout, instances of BVAS bypass in some units, the selling of PVCs by voters (primarily women) at various prices, voter apathy, and cases where voters were unable to vote despite having valid PVCs and being on the voter register due to BVAS failures.

Despite the challenges, there were some successes, including effective communication by the CTA, the attendance of INEC representatives at observer training, immediate response and arrests made by the EFCC upon reporting open vote buying, and the overall peaceful conduct of the elections.

The Presidential election results were declared at the state collation centre, while the Governorship election was declared inconclusive by INEC due to vote cancellations and manipulation of results by returning officers. A re-run election took place in 69 polling units, as announced by INEC.



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### **NORTH-WEST**

#### **- KATSINA STATE**

The elections held in Katsina State, Nigeria, include the Presidential, Senatorial, Governorship, and State House of Assembly elections. There were various challenges faced during the elections, such as the late arrival of INEC staff and delayed voter accreditation. There was also mention of the prevalence of money politics and vote buying by party agents, who distributed items due to the cashless policy. Additionally, political thuggery was a significant issue.

Despite the initial difficulties, the security agencies exhibited impartiality and maturity, ensuring a peaceful electoral process. The Biometric Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) generally functioned well, with some isolated cases of device failures and power malfunctions, which were promptly addressed.

In the Governorship and State House of Assembly elections, observers were deployed to different wards. The conduct of INEC officials was commendable, and their understanding of electoral procedures, including BVAS usage, improved compared to the presidential election.

The elections witnessed a high voter turnout, and the overall atmosphere remained relatively peaceful, with no major incidents of violence or disruption. While some polling units encountered issues with BVAS, the security agencies maintained excellent surveillance and professionalism.

#### **- KEBBI STATE**

During the Presidential and National Assembly Elections, as well as the inconclusive Governorship and State Houses of Assembly Elections in Kebbi State, CTA observers were deployed to various local government areas to monitor the electoral processes.

In the Presidential and National Assembly Elections, there was a large turnout of voters, and the newly created polling units helped accommodate the high number of voters. However, logistical challenges persisted, with delayed distribution of election materials, particularly in urban areas. Observers were granted unrestricted access, and the Biometric Voters Accreditation System (BVAS) functioned effectively in most places, although there were a few cases of malfunction.

The upload of election results on the IREV portal faced delays due to human factors and technical issues. Overall, security agents displayed professionalism, and there were no significant incidents of violence or voter intimidation. The conduct of INEC officials varied but was generally competent, although some challenges arose in managing polling units with a large number of voters. While there were instances of vote buying, it was not as prevalent as in the governorship elections.

The Governorship and State Houses of Assembly Elections were declared inconclusive due to a higher number of cancelled polling units compared to the margin of votes between the leading contestants. Voter turnout was low, particularly in urban areas, possibly influenced by the outcome of the Presidential Election and INEC's failure to provide real-time result updates. Logistics improved, and observers had unrestricted access. The BVAS worked well, but issues with result upload and human factors persisted. Security agents maintained good conduct, but there is a need for increased personnel in polling units to protect the ballots. Election-related violence was minimal, with most cancelled results



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attributed to political actors seeking cancellation rather than genuine crises. INEC officials generally performed competently, although challenges arose in managing crowded polling units. Vote buying was prevalent across parties, with politicians offering various incentives in exchange for votes.

### **- KANO STATE**

The Presidential and National Assembly Elections were held on February 25, 2023, while the Governorship and State House of Assembly elections were held on March 18, 2023. The elections were considered highly competitive, and they required the support of all stakeholders, including civil society organizations, to ensure a free, fair, and credible electoral process.

The conduct of INEC Officials, the officials demonstrated commendable conduct, and no reports of misconduct were recorded during the election. Their understanding of electoral procedures and the use of the Biometric Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) improved compared to the presidential election, possibly due to capacity-building initiatives by INEC.

Security personnel played a vital role in maintaining peace and order, particularly in polling units where tensions were high. The conduct of security officials was commendable, as they remained non-partisan and supportive during the election.

There was a low turnout of voters, but the general atmosphere of the election was relatively peaceful. Voting proceeded smoothly without major incidents of violence or disruptions, although there were reports of ballot box snatching and destruction in specific local government areas and wards. Additionally, cases of vote-buying were reported in some polling units.

The INEC officials and security personnel generally arrived at their assigned polling units before 8:30 am, an improvement compared to the presidential election. Timely arrival facilitated the smooth functioning of the electoral process.

The observers reported satisfactory functionality of the BVAS in many polling units, representing progress from the issues experienced during the presidential election. The upload of result sheets directly to the IREV portal also improved with minimal challenges.

Accreditation and voting commenced early in several polling units, starting as early as 8 am in various local government areas. Early commencement supported the timely conclusion of voting and counting of votes, resulting in the early closure of polling units.

The election proceeded peacefully overall, with only a few polling units reporting incidents. However, after the conclusion of the election and the declaration of results, supporters of the winning party engaged in violent activities, including burning and destroying offices of the opposition party and looting nearby shops. Security operatives were deployed to restore normalcy, and arrests were made in connection with the incidents.



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## **SOUTH-WEST**

### **- LAGOS STATE**

The Lagos State Gubernatorial and State House of Assembly election, held on March 18, 2023, had a low turnout compared to the previous Presidential and National Assembly election. The incumbent Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of the APC emerged as the winner, defeating candidates from the Labour Party and the PDP. There were records of violence, voter intimidation and harassment and destruction and snatching of ballot boxes but it did not significantly affect the outcome. Overall, voter disillusionment and disinterest in the governorship election were cited as possible reasons for the low turnout. Sanwo-Olu was declared the Governor-Elect of Lagos State.

### **- EKITI STATE**

In Ekiti state, the Governorship election was not conducted as it had already taken place in July 2022. The only election held was for the House of Assembly. However, the turnout for the House of Assembly election was low compared to the presidential and National Assembly elections. Party agents had to go door-to-door to encourage voters to participate.

Overall, the election was peaceful, with only a few incidents of voter protest due to perceived discrepancies. All observers reported peaceful conduct of the elections in their respective polling units.

### **- ONDO STATE**

For the presidential and House of Assembly elections held in Ondo State, there was a significant voter turnout across the local government areas during the presidential election. Reports from various local governments indicate instances of massive vote buying, malfunctioning BVAs in some areas, difficulties in locating polling units due to merging, and a reduction in violence and voter intimidation attributed to a scarcity of monetary incentives during the election.





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### **SOUTH-SOUTH**

#### **- BAYELSA STATE**

The Bayelsa state elections experienced delays in the commencement of polls due to the late arrival of INEC officials and sensitive materials. There were instances of BVAS (Bimodal Voter Accreditation System) failures, resulting in authentication issues and transmission failures. While the election was generally peaceful, pockets of violence and disruptions occurred in various polling units. Vote trading was observed, with party agents openly buying and selling votes. Security personnel played a commendable role in protecting materials but were not firm in preventing vote trading. INEC's logistical lapses, including the late opening of polls and incomplete voting materials, affected the overall election process.

#### **- EDO STATE**

Observers reported that while INEC officials were late in arriving at some polling units, security personnel and party agents were present. There were challenges with logistic issues, including delayed distribution of materials and mix-ups. The BVAS performed well, but there were isolated cases of device failure and ad-hoc staff displaying poor knowledge of the voting process.

Security agents were generally civil, and party agents were present across polling units, but some engage in interference and vote buying. There were instances of violence that occurred in some polling units, resulting in disruptions and arrests.

Polling units concluded accreditation and voting by 2:30 pm, with sorting, counting, and result declaration following. Challenges with uploading results to the IREV portal were encountered. The election was relatively peaceful, with an impressive turnout and minimal vote buying.

Recommendations include alternative plans for material deployment, opening the IREV portal for real-time result viewing, prosecution of electoral offenders, and improved sorting and packing of materials prior to election day.

Overall, the election was relatively peaceful, with adherence to guidelines by stakeholders. Improvements in logistics, transparency, and security measures are suggested for future elections.

#### **- RIVERS STATE**

The report provided by observers in Rivers State stated that despite the delayed start of the election, a large number of citizens, including elderly and disabled individuals, turned out to vote with some party agents who were also present at the polling units. Several polling units experienced inconclusive elections as a significant number of registered voters were unable to cast their votes. Instances of violence, ballot paper snatching, and missing result sheets were reported, leading to the abrupt closure of some polling units. Vote trading was detected in certain areas, but voters generally exercised their choice independently. Security personnel were generally calm and sought to maintain orderliness, although some polling units lacked adequate security presence.



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The Governorship and State House of Assembly elections were affected by the outcome of the presidential and National Assembly elections, leading to low voter turnout due to a lack of confidence in the electoral system. Some polling units experienced delays, but overall, the process was more efficient compared to the previous election. However, some polling units didn't have elections due to the absence of INEC officials or the presentation of fake materials. In most polling units, only one BVAS (Biometric Voter Accreditation System) device was provided, which caused concerns among voters. This resulted in a low turnout as voters wanted to verify the status of the BVAS.

Some of the major issues faced; violence occurred in some polling units due to the presence of fake materials. Ballot papers and boxes were snatched, leading to fighting among party agents and preventing voters from casting their votes. Some issues arose when results were refused to be uploaded at polling units, further escalating tensions. Vote trading was prominent in many polling units, with party agents offering money to influence voters. Prominent political figures even used POS machines to transfer money for people to vote for their party. Security personnel were unevenly distributed across polling units, with some having only one or two personnel, while others had none. In some cases, security personnel were unable to control the behavior of voters and party agents, leading to disruptions. Some INEC officials and ad-hoc staff arrived late at polling units, while others didn't report at all, which resulted in the cancellation of elections in those units. There were also reports of incorrect report sheets being presented, causing crises and leading to no elections.

Some of the recommendations include increased security personnel at polling units, improved training for INEC/ad-hoc staff, programming BVAS devices for offline result uploads, deploying more staff to polling units with larger voter populations, ensuring functional BVAS devices at all units, and better logistic arrangements. Voter education and sensitization should be conducted in rural areas and security personnel be granted the authority to address disruptive individuals.



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### **SOUTH-EAST**

#### **- ANAMBRA STATE**

From the field report, INEC made adequate preparation which could not be followed later due to Nigerian factors. Promises made earlier for transparent conduct of elections could not be translated into efficient election management thereby intriguing the trust people had in INEC.

Some of the issues observed and recommendations from the elections were;

- Late arrival of election materials leading to late commencement and closing of polls at some polling centres.
- Uploading results in some places to the INEC's result portal was difficult due to the use of non-trained staff/officials.
- Though the collation of election results was done manually, there were some incidences of manipulation in some collation centres.
- The elderly pregnant women nursing mothers and physically challenged were given the opportunity to cast theirs before others.

Security personnel on election duty were civil and operated within the confine of their profession and electoral guidelines. However, there was still a need for improvement in Security-Personnel Civil Relationship to consolidate mutual understandings for peaceful co-existence.

- There is a need for political parties to train/educate their party agents on the rules of their engagement as some of them were after chasing money leading to voting racketing-buying of votes.
- some of Media Practitioners and Civil Society Members were in the field just for their pursues, chasing political party officials for monetary gain/ purposes. This unethical conduct affected their honour and respect accordingly.

The 2023 Nigeria General Elections have come and gone but its effects and impact remain the discussion in the street and other public gatherings. The above observations and suggestions if synthesized would be of immense benefit to further research work.

#### **Enugu State**

### **ENUGU STATE CENTER FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA) REPORT ON PRESIDENTIAL AND GUBERNATORIAL GENERAL ELECTIONS (2023)**

The Centre for Transparency Advocacy in Enugu State observed the recent concluded general elections organized and conducted by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for Presidential and Gubernatorial Elections in Enugu State and across the country. Enugu State is comprised of three (3) Senatorial zones, seventeen (17) Local Government Areas and Two Hundred and Sixty-one (261) political wards where elections were successfully conducted in a peaceful manner without any serious violence. Though, there were records of pre-election threats and violence from separatist groups. A team of local CTA election observers were trained and deployed to designated polling units and political wards across the 17 Local Government Areas in Enugu State. They were deployed to observe and report back the information through a checklist provided by CTA.

ELECTION OBSERVATION: INEC distributed Elections materials on time to most of the polling units except for some shortfalls as a result of transportation and poor road network. BVAS were used the during accreditation of voters in each polling unit. There were special gadgets provided for persons with disability. Pregnant women and the elderly were given



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preferential attention.

**SECURITY:** Security agencies played a key role during the elections. The presence of the security personnel helped to maintain orderliness all through the process of accreditation, voting and collation of results at different polling units. However, there were records of low turnout of voters in most areas due to fear of possible security breaches.

**CONCLUSION** The overall conduct of the election was commendable, but there were challenges of late accreditation and late voting due to late arrival of election materials in some polling units.

### **Abia State**

Centre for Transparency Advocacy Abia State observed all the phases of the 2023 General Elections in the seventeen (17) Local Government Areas of the state which was organized, and conducted by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for Presidential and Gubernatorial Elections in Abia State and across the country.

Abia State is made up of three (3) Senatorial zones out of the seventeen (17) Local Government Areas and One Hundred and eighty-four (184) political wards where elections were successfully conducted.

There were several hotspots and violence in the battle LGAs of Obingwa, Isiala Ngwa North and Isiala Ngwa South. Thankfully, there were no records of deaths due to the elections.

The Center for Transparency Advocacy (CTA) selected and trained fifty-five citizens as election observers. These observers were deployed to designated polling units and political wards across the 17 Local Government Areas in ABIA State. They were deployed to observe and report back the information through checklists provided by CTA. The introduction of the Checklist was an innovation by CTA and it helped to streamline activities of the election observers and weeded out fake observers from the group.

### **DURING ELECTION OBSERVATION:**

**PRESIDENTIAL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION:** However, during the Presidential election, election materials arrived very late in most polling units across the 17 LGAs. In some places, materials did not arrive by 10 am and materials did not come to some LGAs at all (Isiala Ngwa South). Accreditation was smooth but uploading of results on BVAS failed to go through across the entire state forcing polling officials to upload manually.

INEC attributed the lateness of the arrival of materials during the Presidential and National Assembly Elections to bad road network especially in Abia South senatorial zone and poor



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communication in Abia North senatorial zone.

### **GUBERNATORIAL AND STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION:**

During the Gubernatorial and State House of Assembly elections, election materials were distributed early by INEC to most polling units. BVAS machine was used for Voters' accreditation and uploading of results in all polling units across the state and election. There were special gadgets provided for persons with disability while pregnant women and elderly were given preferential attention to vote ahead of other voters.

### **SECURITY:**

CTA Abia state commend the Security agencies for the vital roles they played in ensuring the integrity and sanctity of the 2023 General elections in Abia state. Personnel of security agencies (Police as the lead agency, Military and Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps) worked in collaboration with election officials across the state to maintain orderliness all through the process of accreditation, voting and collation of results at different polling units as well as prevent massive electoral fraud in Abia state. It was the security agencies that apprehended several ballot box snatchers, as well as those who it was alleged manually doctored the results of the elections.

The case of the Gubernatorial election in Abia state is still fresh in mind where the security personnel provided security that enhanced the boldness of Prof. Nnenna Oti, to announce the winner of the 2023 Gubernatorial election in Abia state.



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## **SECTION FOUR**

### **POST-ELECTION**

It is important to note that some things went well in this election despite the avoidable challenges. This election could go down in history as staging upsets in areas traditional to certain politicians. Some perceived strong politicians were roundly defeated in their strongholds. Seating governors lost elections to little-known politicians and unexpectedly, some less politically fancied Nigerians were elected to the National Assembly.

The surge and enthusiasm shown by Nigerians in deciding who will lead them is worthy of commendation. The resilience of the youth, the dedication of the Civil Society and in fact, the commitment of the media should not be overlooked. This is worthy of commendation too.

The seeming disappointment of the citizens towards the outcome of the Presidential election due to no upload of results to the IREV created an ugly face of this election. However, CTA commends Nigerians for exercising their franchise.

The efforts of INEC were also sabotaged by some of its staff in connivance with some politicians. It was alleged that they hoarded result sheets and gave them out to the highest bidders who may have used the result sheets to compromise the actual outcomes of polls from the polling units.

By the end of the 2023 General Elections, due to violence, some Nigerians lost their lives. They include Mr. Festus Idahosa a 33-year-old Nigerian and 43-year-old Mrs Elizabeth Owie, a mother of three who lost their lives in Edo State. INEC staff were manhandled and practically begged for their lives in some parts of the country. This is regrettable and should not be the norm.



## **SECTION FIVE**

### **MAJOR ISSUES ARISING FROM THE ELECTIONS**

The 2023 General Elections were faced with a range of major issues arising from Pre, during and post-election activities. While the specific issues can vary from state to state, here are some recurring challenges and concerns that were been observed during the elections:

1. Voter suppression was a significant issue in the elections. Tactics such as intimidation, violence, and the deliberate disenfranchisement of certain groups were reported, particularly in areas like Lagos State and Rivers State among others. with political tensions which seek to manipulate the electoral process.
2. Pre, during and post-election-related violence was also reported. This violence includes clashes between supporters of different parties, attacks on candidates and their supporters, and even the destruction of election materials and INEC property which was recorded in states like Imo State where INEC facilities were seen burnt down and vandalized by hoodlums and attacked by unknown gunmen
3. The lack of adequate security and insufficient protection for voters, candidates, and electoral officials was reported which came in the form of intimidation, violence, and disruptions in the voting process. Some polling units did not have the presence of security personnel. This led to low voter turn-out most especially during the Governorship and State House of Assembly elections.
4. Vote Buying and Electoral Fraud: Vote buying, where politicians or their agents offer material incentives in exchange for votes, was seen as prevalent even with the cashless policy, party agents were seen collecting account numbers. canvassing was also an issue because top politicians were seen canvassing by showing off their ballot papers after thumb printing in secret which is against the law. This practice undermines the integrity of elections and compromises the democratic process.
5. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), was reported to have had recurring problems with uploading results to the INEC result portal by INEC and adhoc staff in the field. Addressing these issues is crucial for Nigeria's democracy to thrive. By implementing electoral reforms, enhancing security measures, promoting transparency and strengthening institutions will work towards free, fair, and peaceful elections that reflect the will of its citizens.



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## **SECTION SIX**

### **GENERAL ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY**

The 2023 general election is the seventh general elections under the Fourth Republic. It promised to be a critical election because it was to bring about a change in the geographical origin of the next president according to the elite consensus that came in the throes of the crisis that attended the annulment of the June 12, 1993 presidential elections. President Muhammadu Buhari from northern Nigeria had to oversee a return of the presidency to the south. Secondly, it also held the possibility of an alternation of the party in government. The latter is largely the result continuous exercise of power by the All-Progressives Congress party which took power from the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in 2015. As things unfolded, it promised to be an election where the youth vote was likely to be deciding factor. The "Obedient movement" had galvanized the Nigerian youth in the spirit of the #endsars movement to vote for Peter Obi who had emerged as the Presidential flag bear of the Labour Party.

For the election, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) registered 93.5 million voters, who were expected to come out in their numbers to elect the president and members of the National Assembly on 25 February 2023; and Governors and members of the State Houses of Assembly on 18 March 2023. The Presidential election was contested by eighteen political parties and conducted under the new Electoral Act 2022. The Act allowed INEC to use of technology for the conduct of elections and INEC used the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System, BVAS for fingerprint and facial biometric identification and authentication of the voters. Thus, in the INEC raised public confidence and trust; Nigerians hoped that the elections would be a major improvement compared to previous ones in respect of integrity. The manipulation of the results between the polling units and the collation centres was expected to be eliminated by uploading of results sheets at the polling units in real time to INEC's IREV Portal. With this level of transparency aided by technology, it was expected that the manipulation of election results that had characterised previous elections would not happen. The results sheets uploaded to the IREV portal would be the reference point for verifying any claim of manipulation. Because this arrangement had been text run in several off-season elections, including gubernatorial elections in Anambra, Ekiti, and Osun states, a positive shift from the ugly past was expected for the 2023 elections. the commission activated 2,673 additional permanent voter card registration centres nationwide, introduced simultaneous accreditation and voting system and created additional polling units nearer to the electorates. It also embarked on continuous engagements with election stakeholders such as security agencies, political party leaders, civil society groups and the media towards improving the electoral processes. It activated 2,673 additional permanent voter registration centre nationwide, introduced simultaneous accreditation and voting system and created additional polling units to bring them nearer to the electorates.

However, the electoral environment was bedevilled by the paralyzing twin experiences of the scarcity of fuel and naira notes. The former was the result of the increase in the cost of importing fuel and the latter owes to the naira redesign policy of the Central Bank of Nigeria. The situation attracted public demonstrations in several cities across the country. Furthermore, **politically motivated violence was commonplace in certain parts of the country.** As the **Punch** editorial noted, the activities of





## **CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)**

members of the NURTW are pronounced in “Lagos and other South-West states, where the governors have been legitimising touting and extortion of transporters by their favoured transport union factions”. In most of states, the governors have suspended the activities of the Unions and replaced them with Park Management Committees (PMCs). However, faction leaders of the unions are often appointed chairmen of these PMCs. For instance, in Lagos State, Musiliu Akinsanya (MC Oluomo) was appointed chair of the PMC, shortly after he was suspended by the national body of the union for inciting the state chapter against the national body. In Lagos, thugs chased the deputy governorship candidate of the People's Democratic Party, Funke Akindele on 24 January 2023 out of the Ikosi fruit market forcing her to stop campaigning. A member of the security team was reportedly stabbed during the incident. Given the situation, a great burden was on the electorate to brave the odds and venture out to vote on election day. In November 2022, the National Security Adviser, Babagana Monguno, said his office recorded 52 cases of political violence across 22 states in just one month.

As turned out, several issues undermined the remarkable preparedness of INEC. These included the subversion of the voting process in several places, violence, snatching of B-VAS devices and ballot boxes; disruption of polling in areas perceived as the strongholds of opponents. In the presidential elections, a “glitch” in technology prevented the uploading of results sheets from the polling units to the IREV portal. The polling unit result sheets were not uploaded for days, raising agitations among opposition parties and citizens.

In the event, less than 30 per cent of the registered voters cast their votes during the elections. Only a little above 30 million people out of the 93.4 million registered Nigerian voters turned out for the February 25 Presidential and National Assembly elections. Compared to voter turnout in the 2019 presidential election which was 35.66 percent, it was unexpected. This showed that INEC's effort to increase voter turnout during elections, improve voter knowledge of the permanent voters' card and how to get one, and reduce the number of invalid votes at elections, and encourage ethical voting through voter education may not have yielded the desired result. However, this may also be attributed to the deployment of the B-VAS which apparently shows the actual voting strength of the country.

The presidential election has been challenged in the courts by the candidates and political parties that participated in the election. The controversy around the elections has once again portrayed Nigerian politicians as largely non-democrats, whose conducts disregard the rules of the electoral game, with no commitment to the democratic process.

Reducing the intensity of electoral competition would require changes in the electoral system which has not been the focus of advocates of electoral reform. Experiences around the world show that Nigeria needs to review the current first-past-the-post single-member district system that continues to make the electoral competition a winner takes all game. The introduction of elements of proportional representation will ameliorate the intensity of electoral competition. Politicians should not always see elections as a do-or-die affair. They should avoid acts of desperation. Security agents should shun any corrupt practices and strictly follow the rules of engagements on election security. The media should play their role as watchdog and act professionally during elections. The electorates' confidence in INEC can be built through avoidance of the challenges it encountered that led to its inability to transmit the presidential election results electronically with better planning.



## **SECTION SEVEN**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION**

1. Politicians should respect the peace accord signed by them in all election circles. The peace of the nation should be paramount and bigger than any individual or aspiration of any politician. They should be statesmen and abide by the spirit and letter of the peace accords as signed at all times.
2. Perpetrators of violence, their enablers, funders, and supporters must be unmasked by security agencies, prosecuted, and punished
3. The media, CSOs and all well-meaning citizens must demand that in order to achieve free, fair, and credible elections, INEC must maintain its independence.
4. Every stakeholder must rise to condemn any attempt to coerce the commission and its leadership to jettison the use of BVAS machines even in subsequent elections in Nigeria
5. It is important to note that the new Electoral Act with its many progressive provisions has provided legal backing to the innovations made in the electoral process and must therefore be sustained.
6. International partners and friends are implored to continue to support CSOs, the electoral commission and its leadership, patriotic organizations, and groups to safeguard the incremental progress made in our electoral system
7. Politicians who move with money on election days to buy votes should be apprehended by security agencies and anti-graft agencies. They should be prosecuted and punished severely.
8. INEC should set up a strategic committee to strengthen synergy between the relevant government and anti-graft agencies that is as strong as the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES), to monitor campaign funds and vote buying by politicians.
9. There should be a mechanism by relevant government agencies like the EFCC, ICPC, NFIU, NBC etc. to prevent use of public funds and resources by government officials to influence votes and outcomes of elections.
10. Civil Society Organisations should support INEC and report vote buying during election observation, in fact, make it a priority.
11. All the Transport Unions and other service providers in the electoral value chain should abide by the spirit and letter of the MoU and the contract agreements as signed between them and INEC
12. Vehicles and boats to be deployed on election days be properly tracked by the FRSC to avoid diversion of personnel and materials
13. The security agencies should give adequate protection to the drivers and their vehicles in the course of duty.
14. Nigerians especially the youth should not relent but continue in the march for a new Nigeria where due process is followed, towards the attainment of a free, fair,



## **CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)**

transparent and peaceful election.

15. Aggrieved political parties are encouraged to seek redress in courts and should not heat up the polity by using inciting words that may lead to a breach of peace. The violence of any mode should not be encouraged. We can only have one country that belongs to all of us.
16. INEC at all times must walk through its talk. INEC should follow its guidelines on elections in order not to create the impression of being compromised or partial.
17. INEC should as a matter of priority, set up an enquiry to investigate its staff especially some Resident Electoral Commissioners, the Electoral Officers at the LGAs, supervisory presiding officers and dubious adhoc staff. We ask that all those involved in electoral malpractice should be arrested, prosecuted and punished adequately. This will serve as a deterrent.
18. INEC should have the political will to cleanse itself of these putrid impurities that have cast doubt on its integrity and neutrality. The use of B-VAS for upload of polling unit results should be used in all elections including the transmission of results through the I-Rev in real time.
19. Politicians who feel aggrieved should seek legal means for redress and not heat up the polity by making inciting statements and sponsoring crowds to protest.
20. That the security agencies must investigate and prosecute its officers and men found wanting in the breach of electoral laws during the 2023 General Elections.

### **CONCLUSION**

It is important to note that some things went well in this election despite the avoidable challenges. This election could go down in history as staging upsets in areas traditional to certain politicians. Some perceived strong politicians were roundly defeated in their strongholds. Seating governors lost elections to little-known politicians and unexpectedly, some less politically fancied Nigerians were elected to the National Assembly.

The surge and enthusiasm shown by Nigerians in deciding who will lead them is worthy of commendation. The resilience of the youth, the dedication of the Civil Society and in fact, the commitment of the media should not be overlooked. This is worthy of commendation too.

We note once again that Nigerian politicians have proven to be impervious to change. On the part of Security agents, there were clear evidences of dereliction of duty and complicity with the politicians to deny Nigerians their rights to choose those who govern them as it played out in Adamawa state with the active connivance of the Resident Electoral Commissioner Barrister Hudu Ari. This in no small measure emboldened miscreants to snatch, disrupt and destroy election materials. On a final note, INEC is encouraged to become more proactive and put measures in place to mitigate attempts by enemies of credible elections to truncate our democracy.

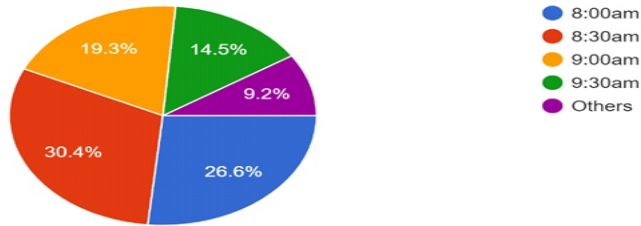
The seeming disappointment of the citizens towards the outcome of the election created the bad and ugly face of this election. Due process is key to a transparent, free, fair, and credible election.



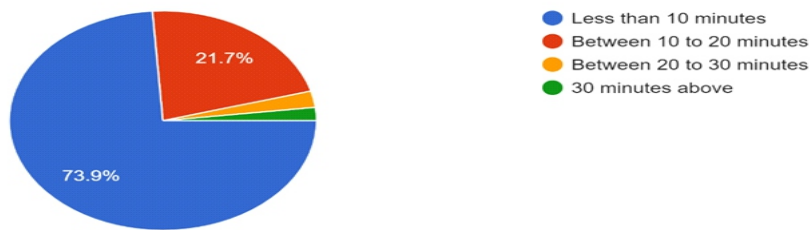
**ANNEX 1**

**1. MOCK ACCREDITATION ANALYSIS**

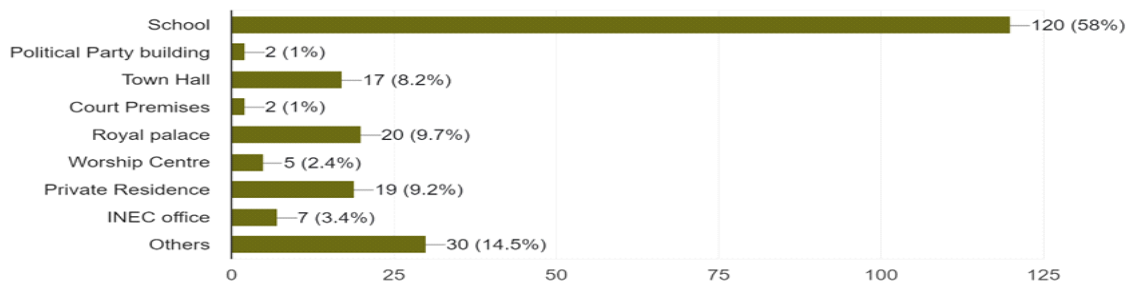
**When did the Accreditation Centre open?**  
207 responses



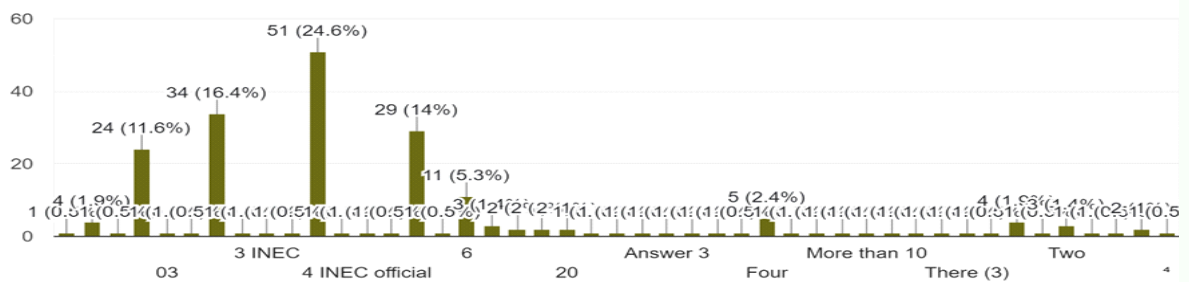
**How Long did it take to register a person?**  
207 responses



**In what type of facility is the Accreditation Centre located? Tick the appropriate**  
207 responses



**How many INEC Officials were present at the Accreditation Centre?**  
207 responses

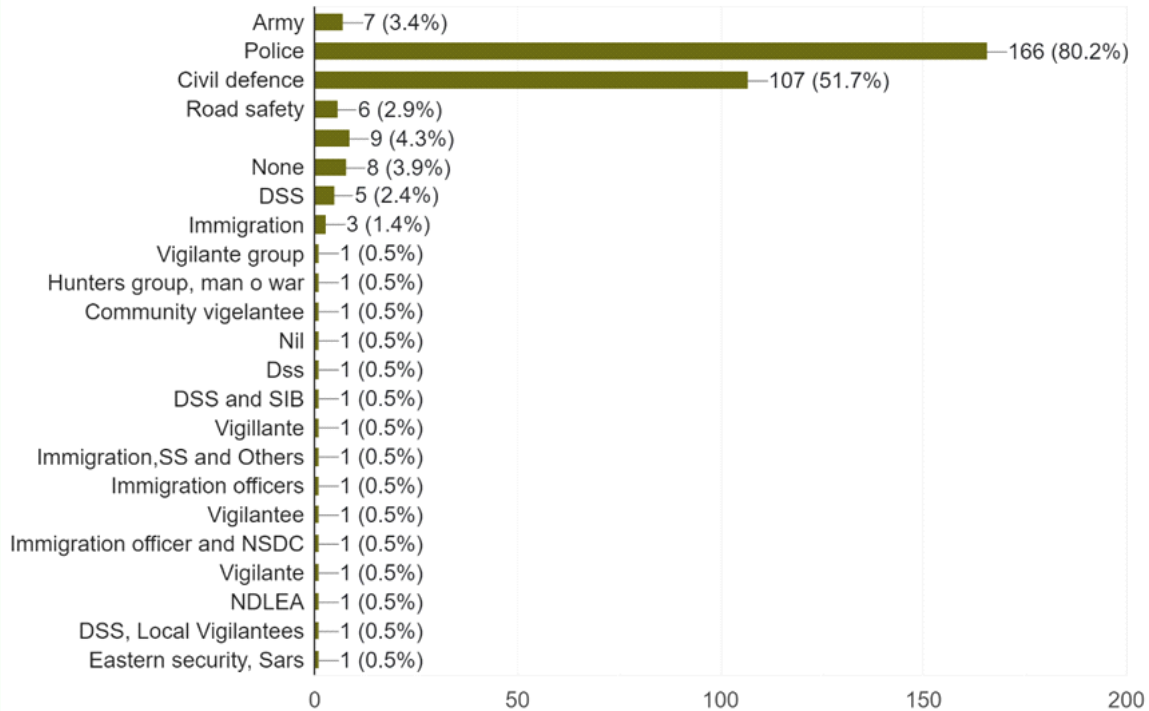




## CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

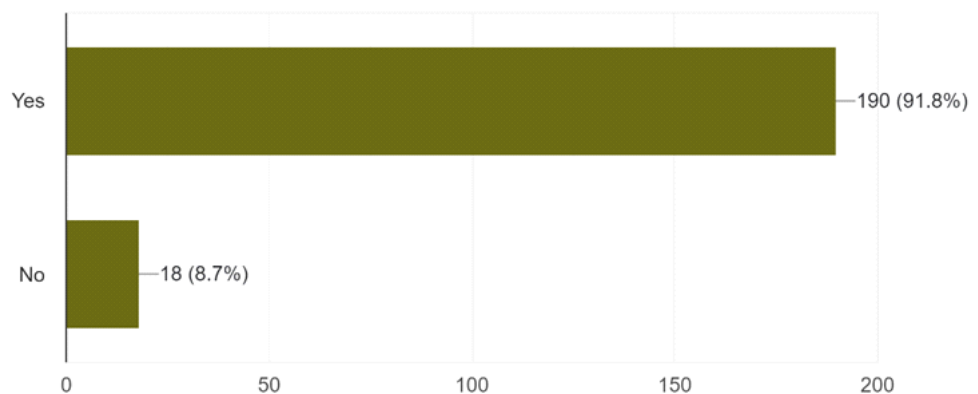
Please tick which security agencies were represented?

207 responses



Is the Accreditation Centre accessible to all, including PWDs, pregnant women, nursing mothers and the aged?

207 responses

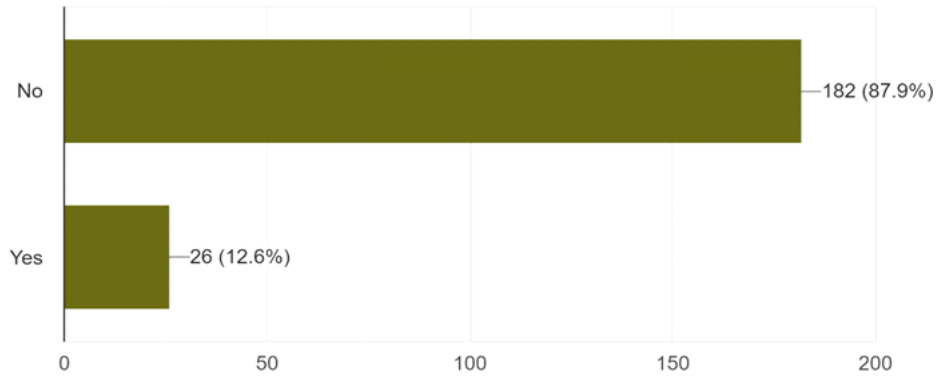




## CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

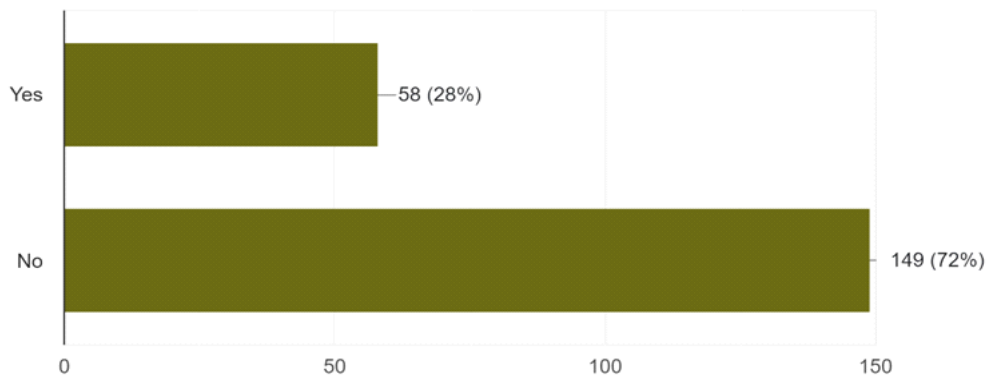
Was there any tension within or around the Accreditation Centre?

207 responses



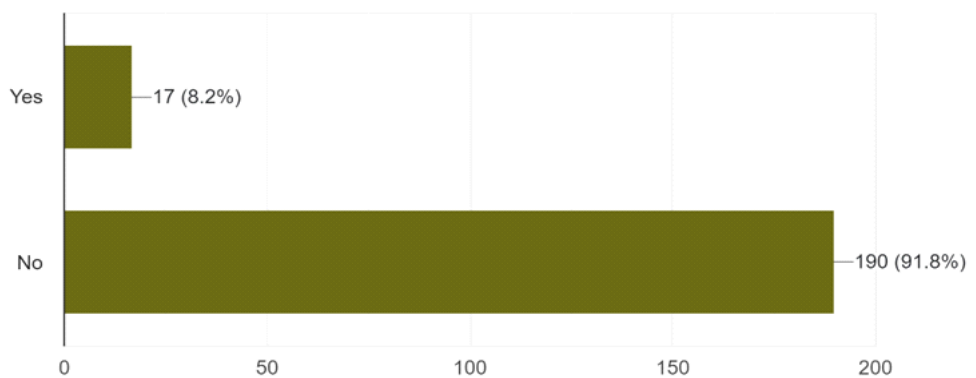
Did you Observe any FAILURE of fingerprint Machine(BVAS) to capture biometrics?

207 responses



Was there any issue with the battery of the BVAS?

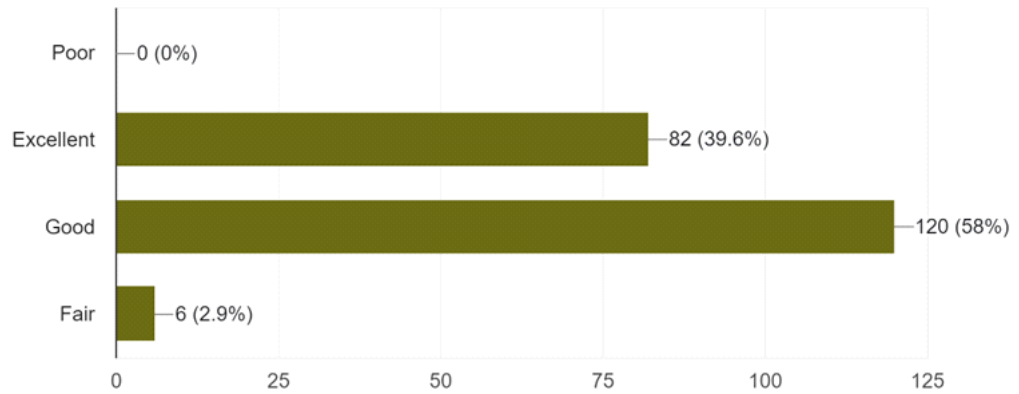
207 responses





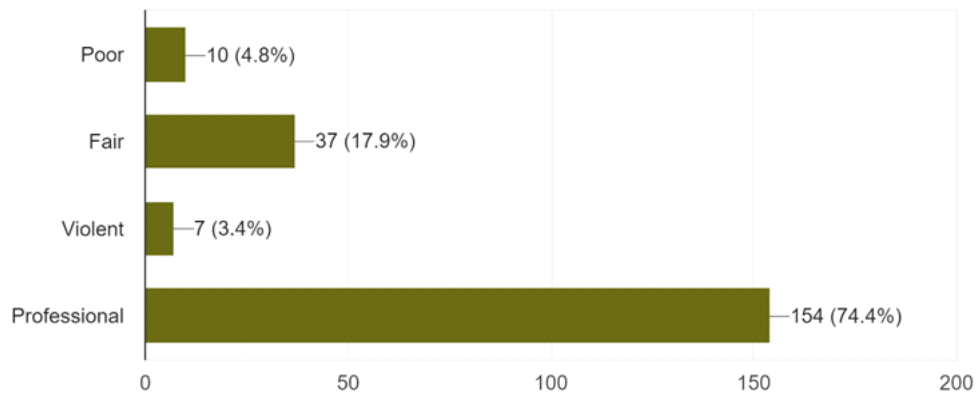
### How would you rate the performance of Accreditation officials?

207 responses



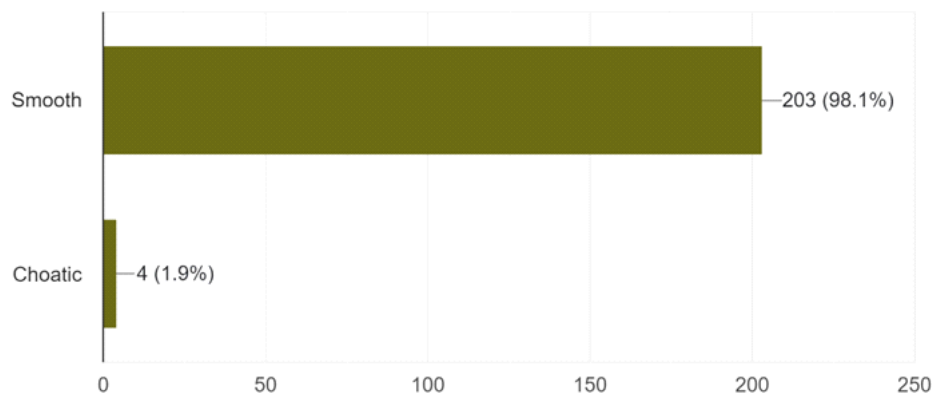
### How would you rate the conduct of security officials

207 responses



### Kindly Rate the entire registration process

207 responses

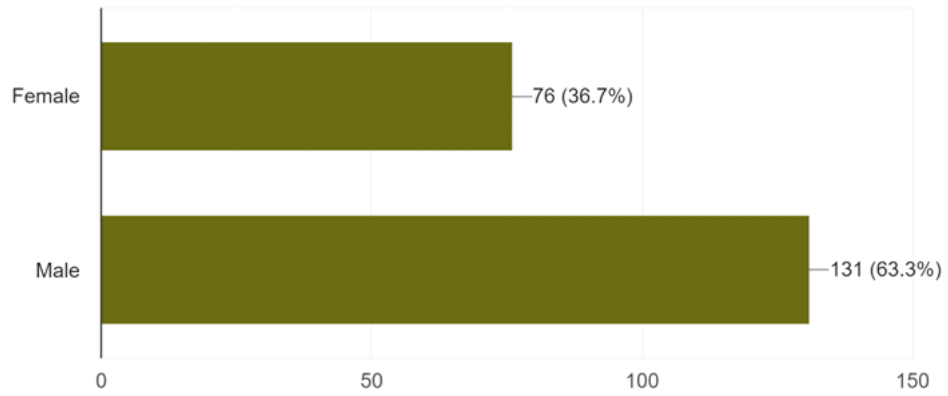




## CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

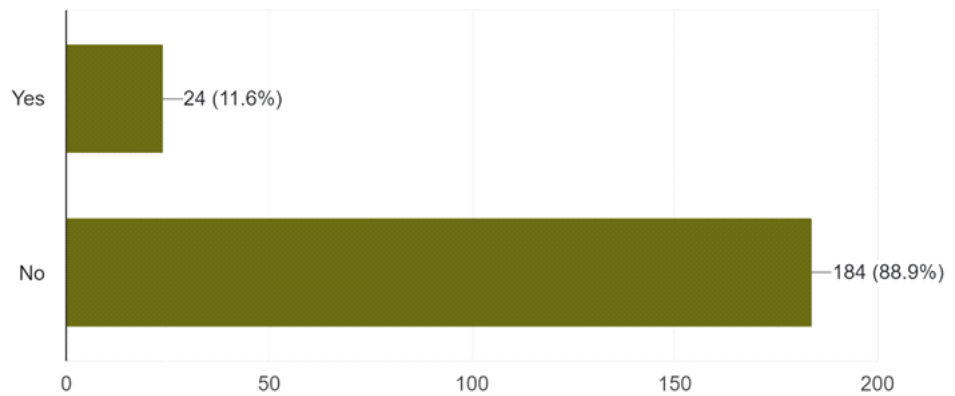
### Gender

207 responses



### Persons with disabilities(PWDs)

207 responses





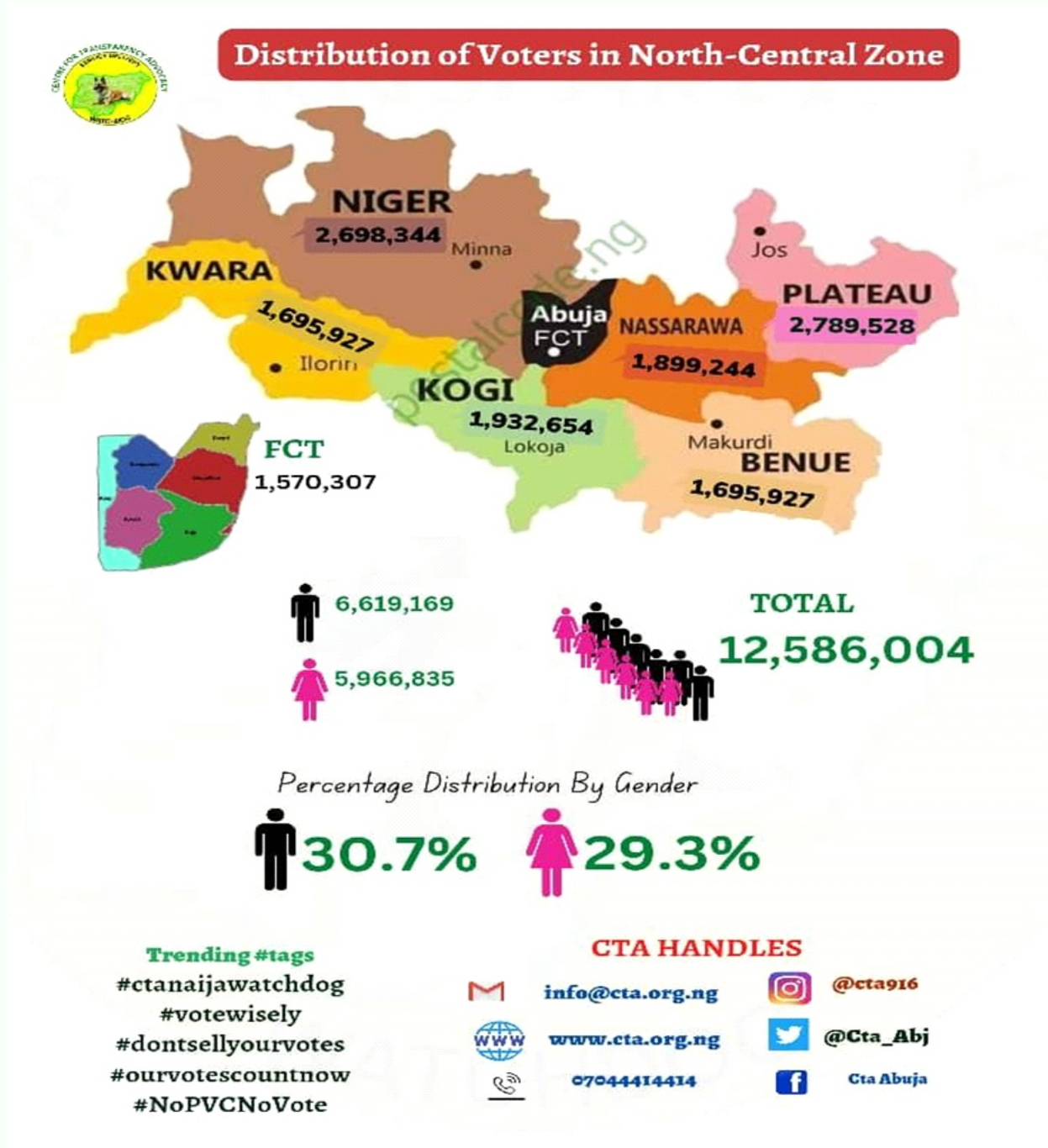


**CENTRE FOR  
TRANSPARENCY  
ADVOCACY (CTA)**

**ANNEX 2**

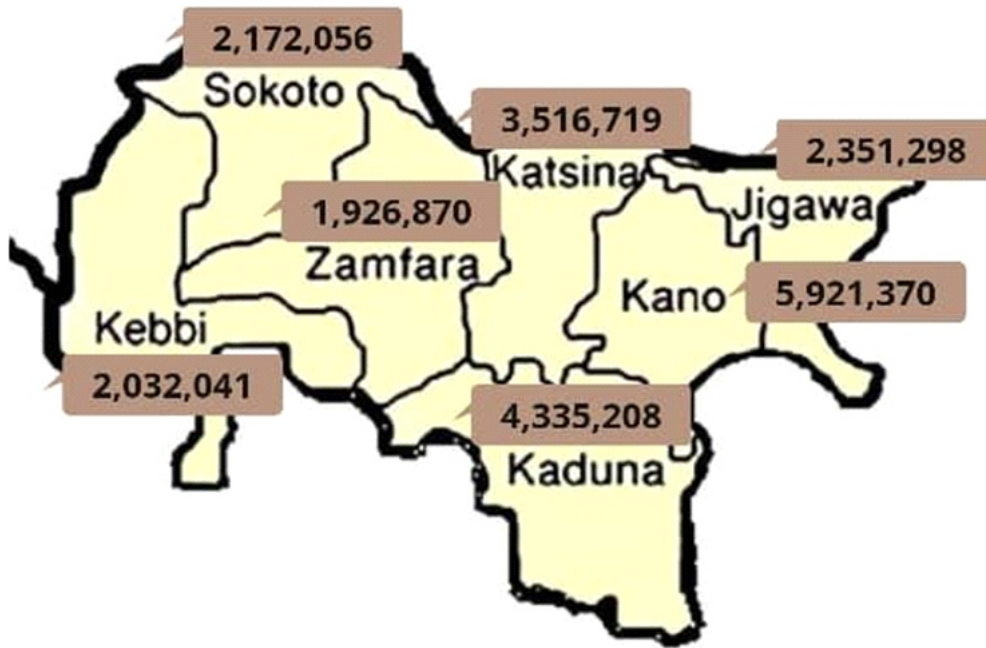
**GENERAL INFOGRAPHICS ANALYSIS**

Geo-political Analysis and distributions





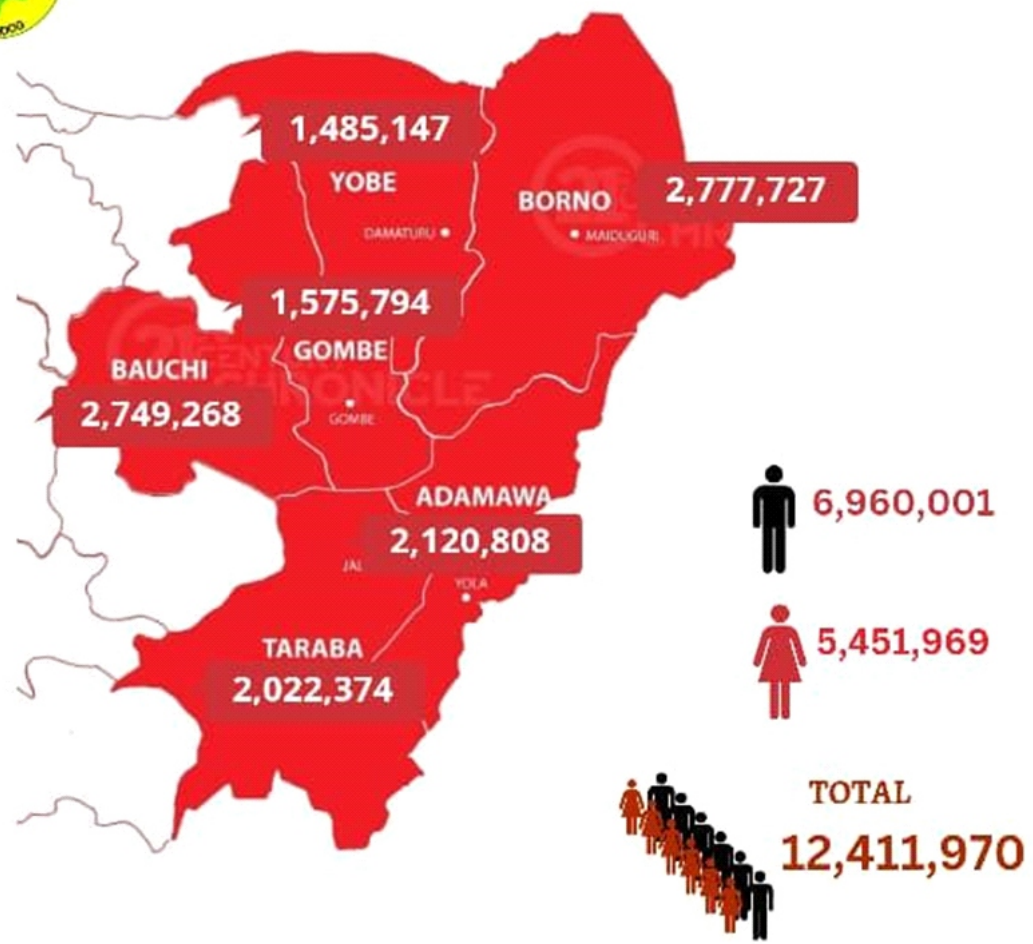
**Distribution of Voters in North-West Zone**



*Percentage Distribution By Gender*



**Distribution of Voters in North-East Zone**



Percentage Distribution By Gender



**Trending #tags**  
 #ctanaijawatchdog  
 #votewisely  
 #dontsellyourvotes  
 #ourvotescountnow  
 #NoPVCNoVote

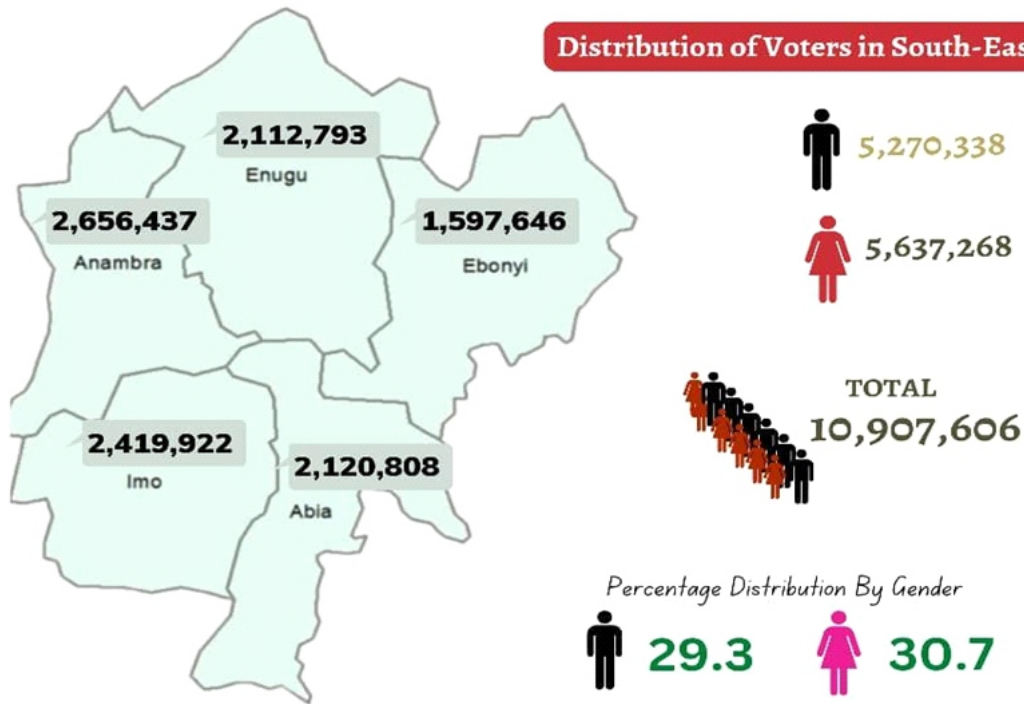
**CTA HANDLES**

 [info@cta.org.ng](mailto:info@cta.org.ng)   
  @cta916  
 [www.cta.org.ng](http://www.cta.org.ng)   
  @Cta\_Abj  
 07044414414   
  Cta Abuja

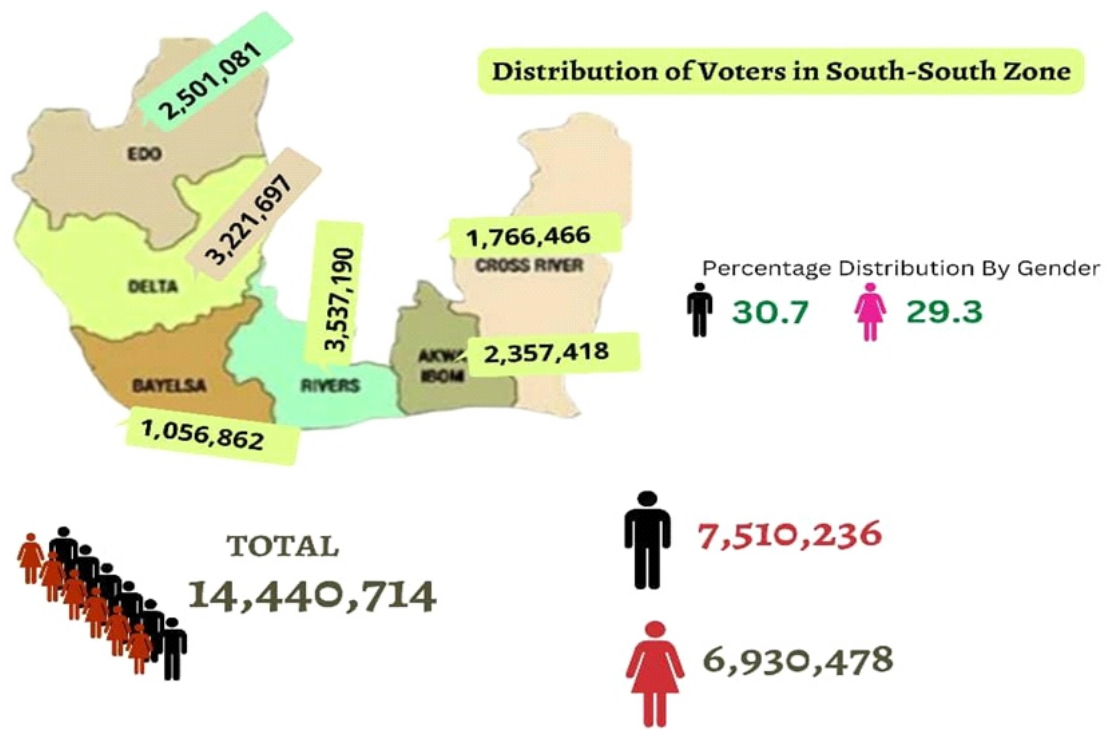


# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

## Distribution of Voters in South-East Zone

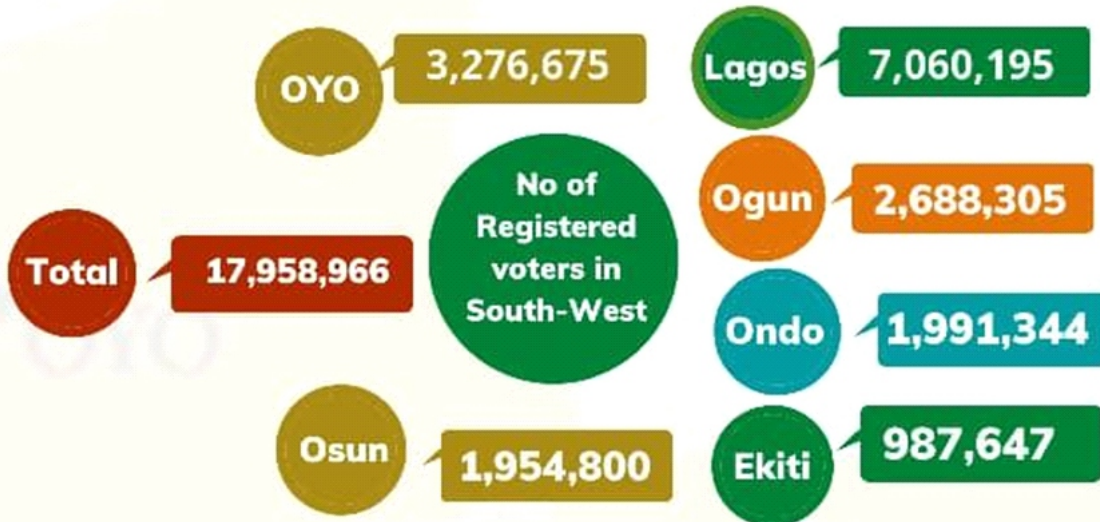


## Distribution of Voters in South-South Zone

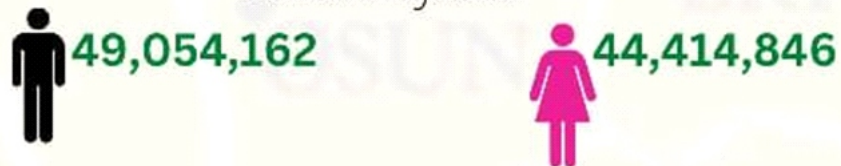




## Distribution Voters in South- West Zone



### Distribution By Gender



### Percentage Distribution By Gender



### Trending #tags

#ctanaijawatchdog  
#votewisely  
#dontsellyourvotes  
#ourvotescountnow  
#NoPVCNoVote

### CTA HANDLES

[info@cta.org.ng](mailto:info@cta.org.ng)
 @cta916  
[www.cta.org.ng](http://www.cta.org.ng)
 @Cta\_Abj  
 07044414414
 Cta Abuja



**ANNEX 3**

**2023 CTA GENERAL ELECTION INFOGRAPHICS REPORT  
(PRESIDENTIAL)**

**1,416 RESPONSES FROM THE 2000  
OBSERVERS CTA DEPLOYED ACROSS THE  
36 STATES INCLUDING FCT**

**STATE**

1,416 responses

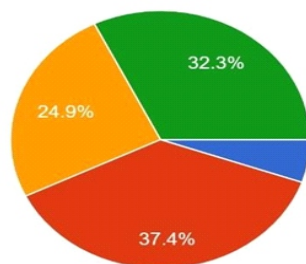


- Jigawa
- Kaduna
- Kano
- Kastina
- Kebbi
- Kogi
- Kwara
- Lagos
- Abia
- Adamawa
- Akwaiborr
- Anambra
- Bauchi
- Bayelsa
- Benue
- Borno
- Cross River
- Delta
- Ebonyi
- Edo
- Ekiti
- Enugu
- Gombe
- Imo
- Nasarawa
- Niger
- Ogun
- Ondo
- Osun
- Oyo
- Plateau
- Rivers
- Sokoto
- Taraba
- Yobe
- Zamfara
- FCT

▲ 1/5 ▼

**What time did the Accreditation of voters start?**

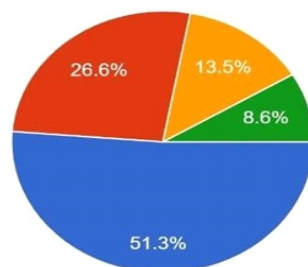
1,416 responses



- Between 7am - 8am
- Between 8:30am - 9:00am
- Between 9am- 10am
- Above 10am

**Time of Arrival of Observer at Polling Unit**

1,416 responses

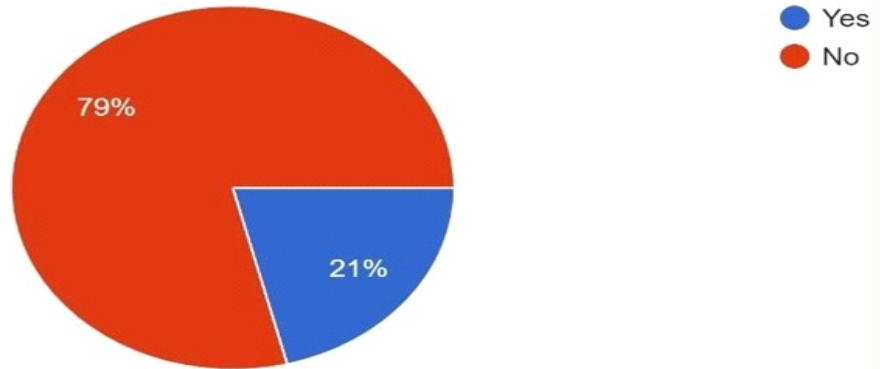


- Between 7am - 8am
- Between 8am - 9am
- Between 9am - 10am
- Late Time



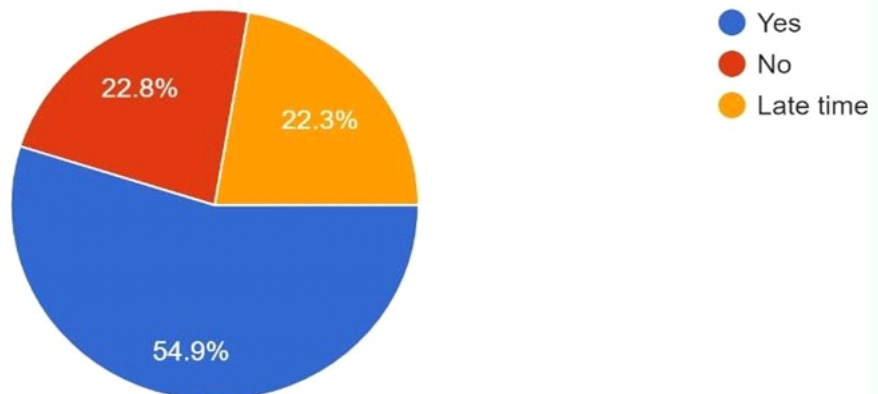
### Is the polling unit a new polling unit?

1,416 responses



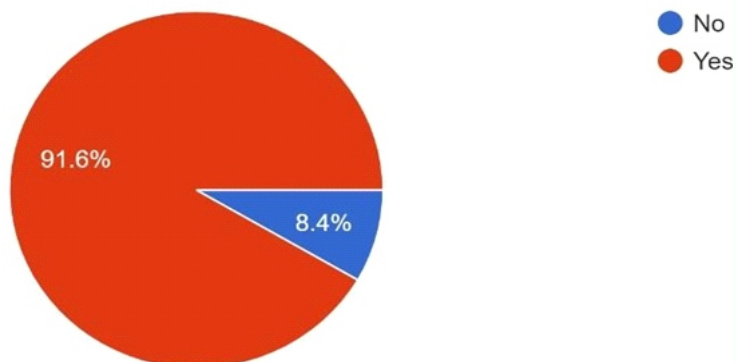
### INEC Officials arrived between 7.00am and 8.30am

1,416 responses



### Polling Unit is within a Neutral Environment?

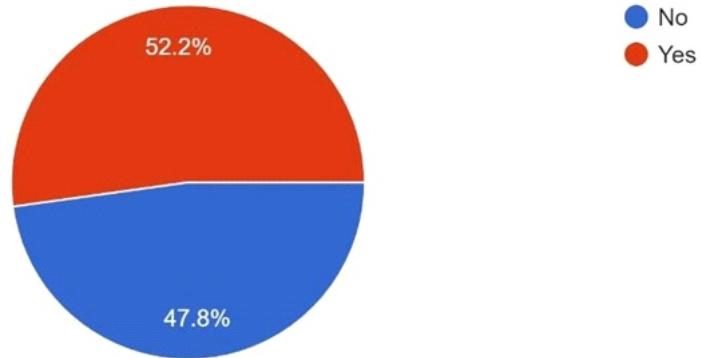
1,416 responses



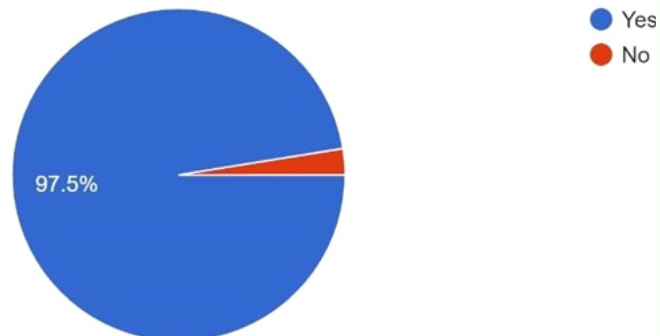


## CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

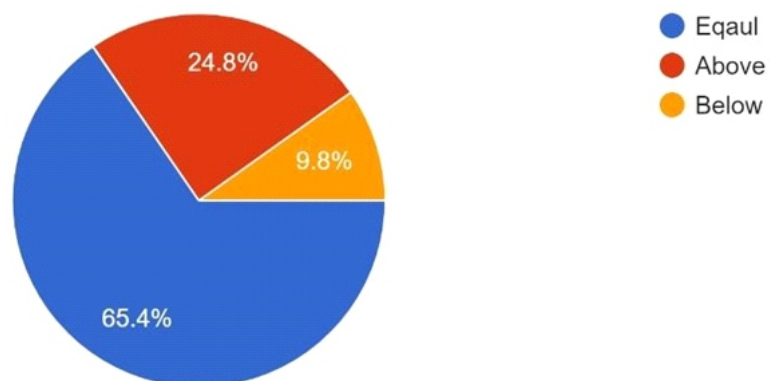
Election materials arrived polling units between 7.00am and 8.30am  
1,416 responses



Election materials were properly packaged and intact?  
1,416 responses



Election materials were equal or above the number of registered voters?  
1,416 responses



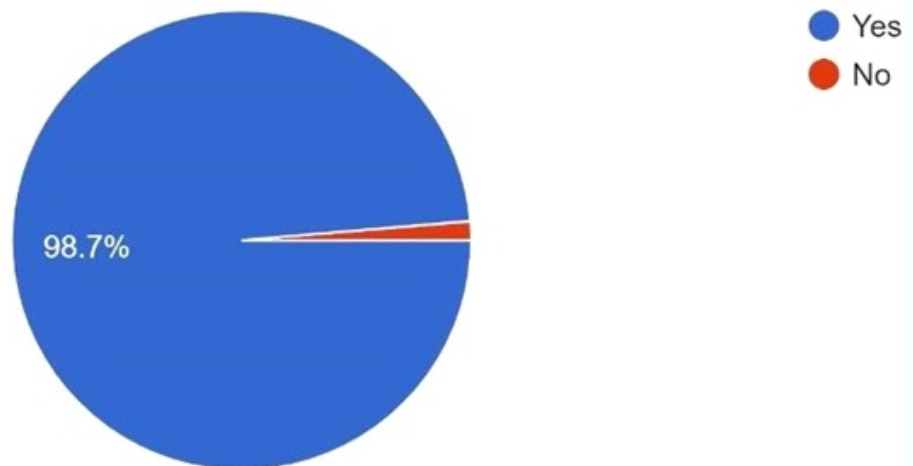




## CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

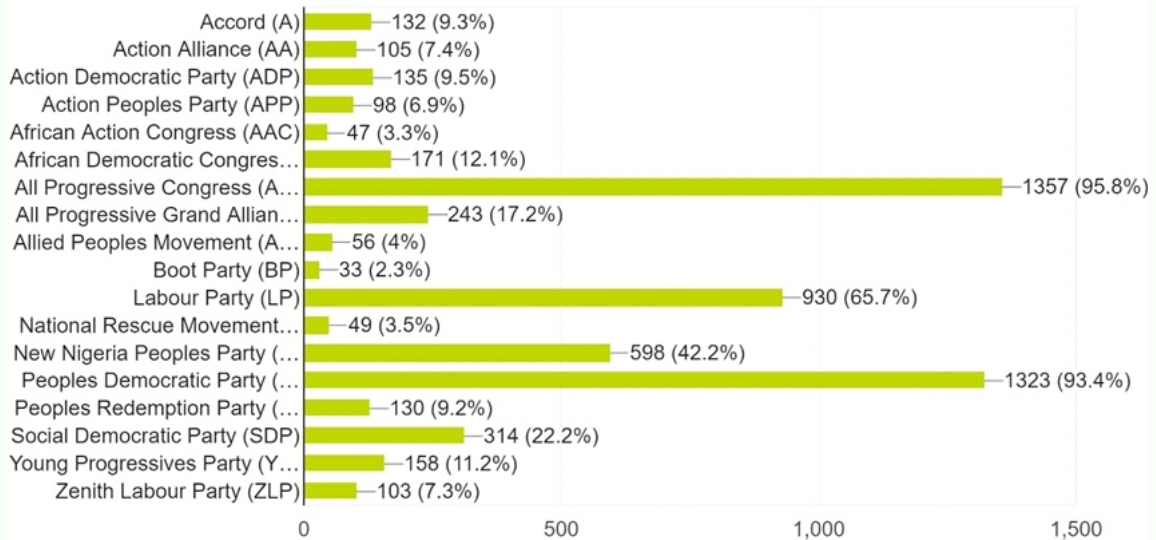
### Political Party Agents were present at the Polling Unit?

1,416 responses



### Please tick the political Party Agents Present

1,416 responses

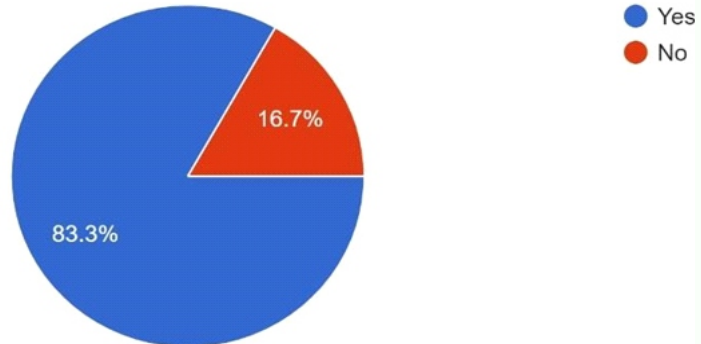




## CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

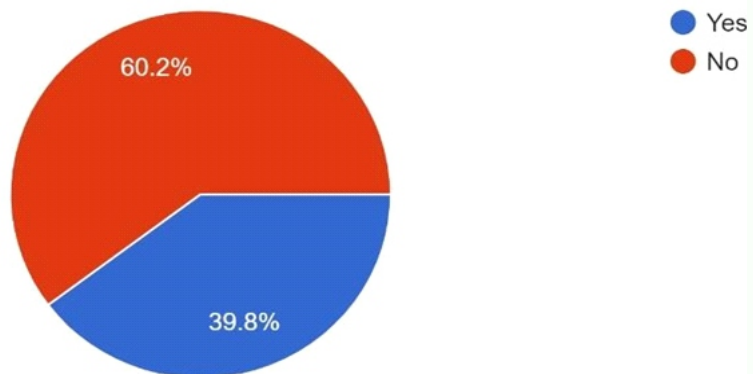
Campaign materials were removed from the Polling Unit ?

1,416 responses



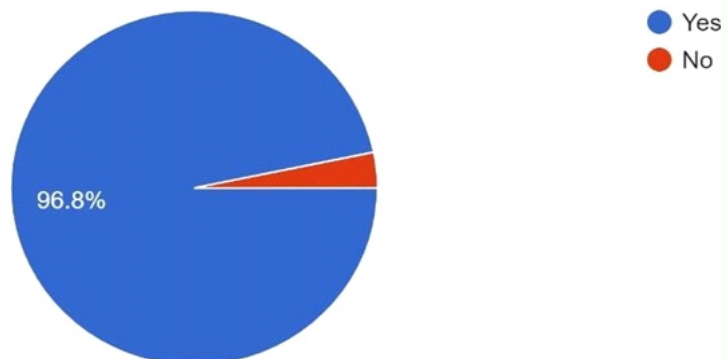
Polling Unit was divided into sub-units?

1,416 responses



Ballot Boxes were located in full view of the public?

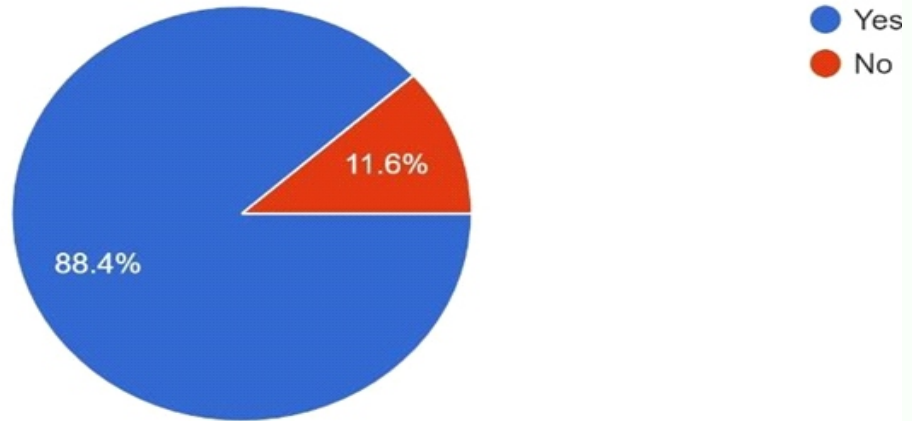
1,416 responses





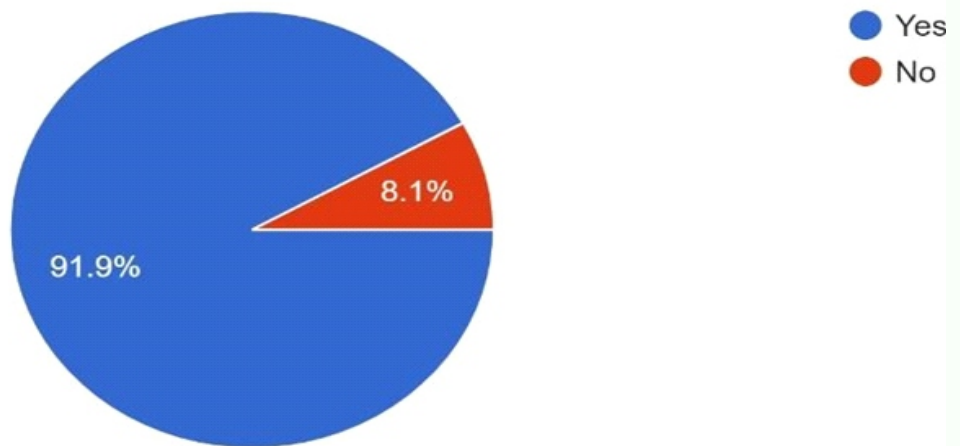
### Polling Booth was enclosed?

1,416 responses



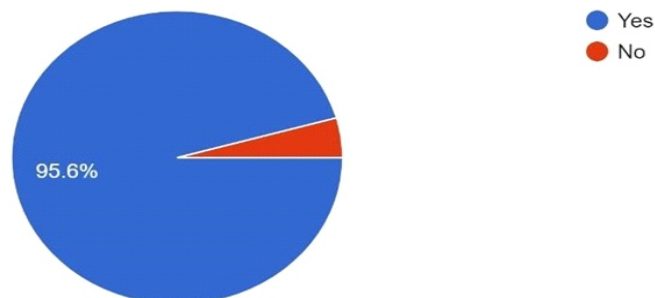
### Security Personnel were present at the Polling Unit

1,416 responses



### Polling Unit is easy to locate and accessible to all voters including People with Disability (PWDs?)

1,416 responses

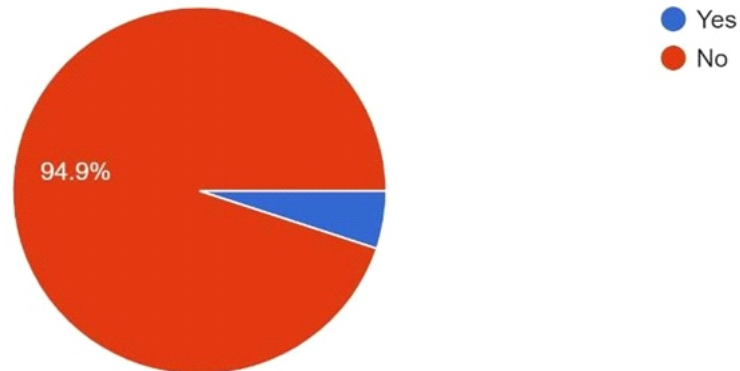




## CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

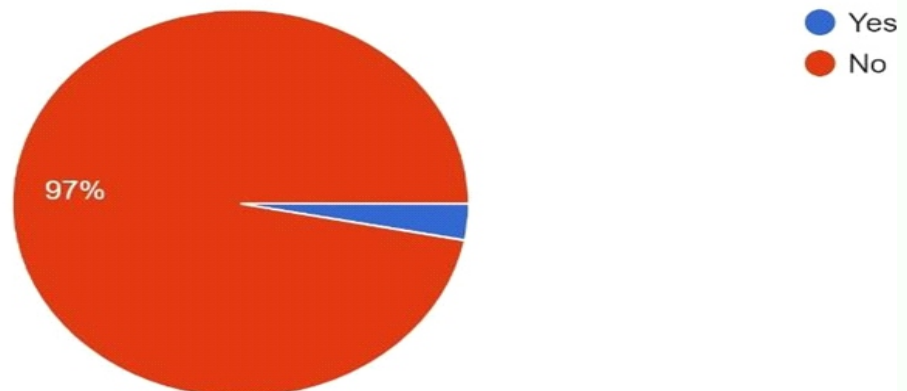
Was any person accredited to vote who did not present a permanent Voter's card?

1,416 responses



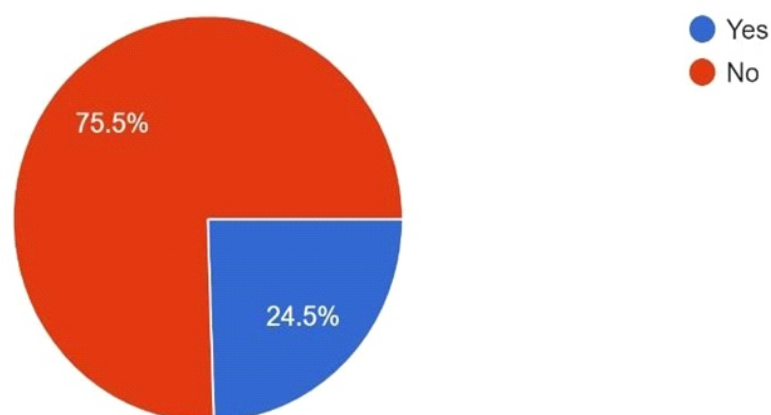
Were there issues of fake PVCs presented for accreditation?

1,416 responses



Were there any challenges with the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System(BVAS)?

1,416 responses

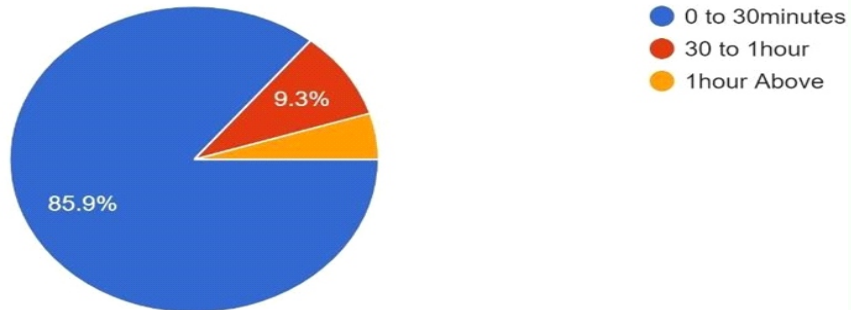




## CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

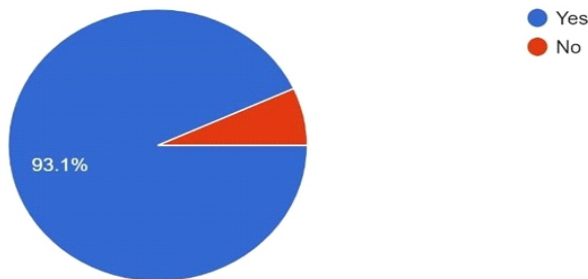
And how long did it take to fix the BVAS?

1,416 responses



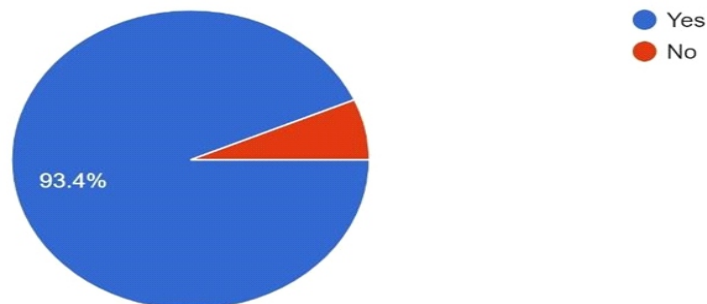
Did INEC Officials mark/tick next to the name of every accredited voter on the Voters' Registers?

1,416 responses



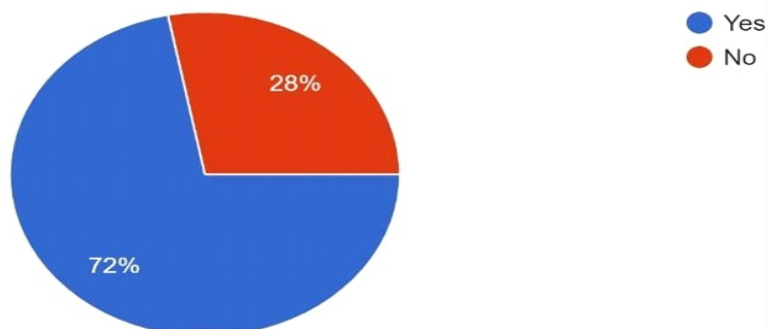
Were old persons, pregnant women, Nursing Mothers, PWDs given priority to vote?

1,416 responses



Were voters with sight disability helped with braille guide?

1,416 responses

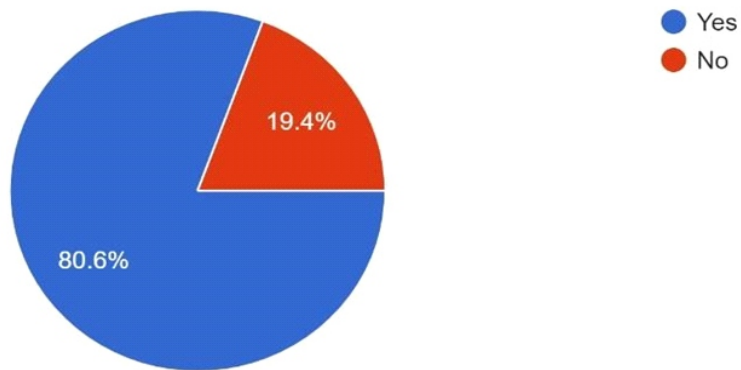




## CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

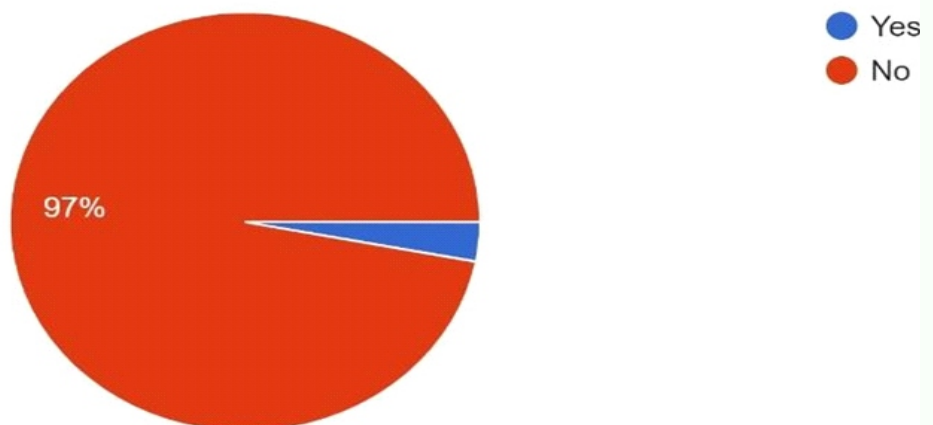
Were Voters with finger Disability accredited in accordance with the INEC guidelines?

1,416 responses



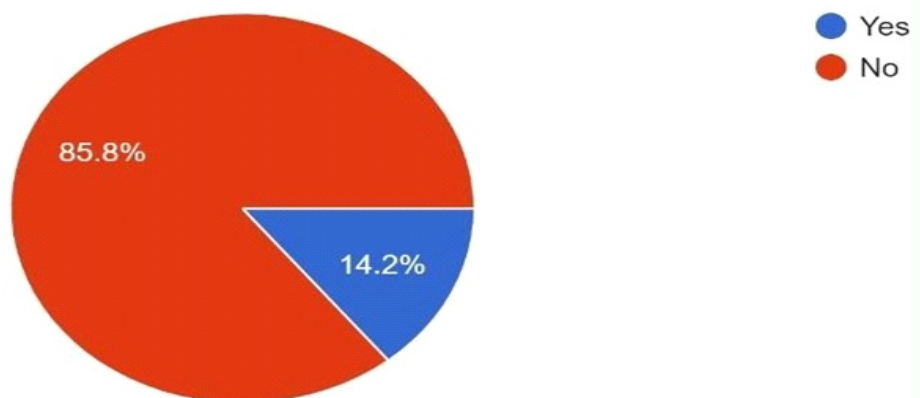
Did you witness any case of Group voting?

1,416 responses



Was there any tension within or around the Polling Unit?

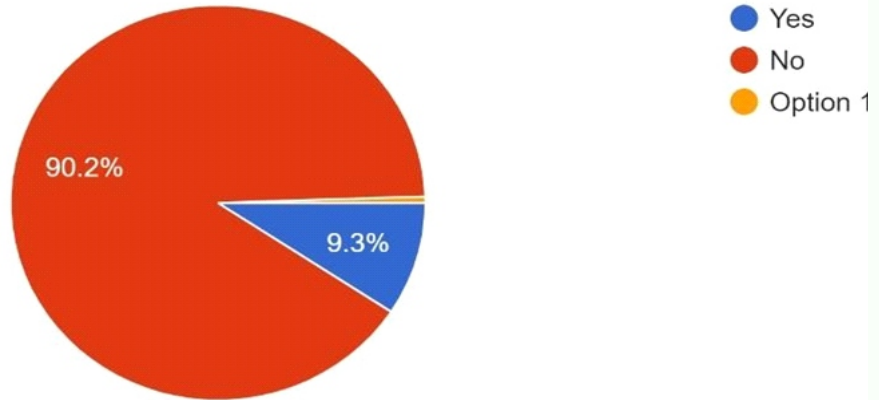
1,416 responses





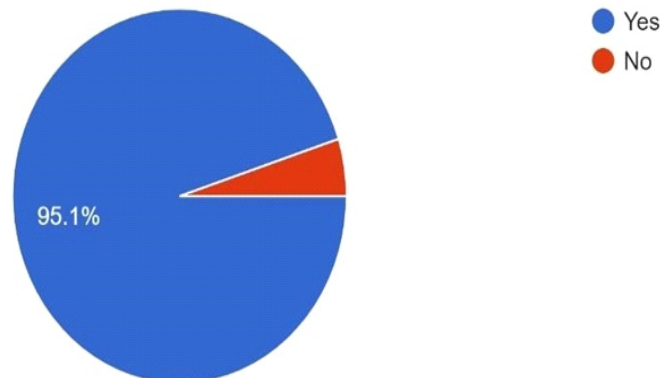
### Did you experience any Vote Buying?

388 responses



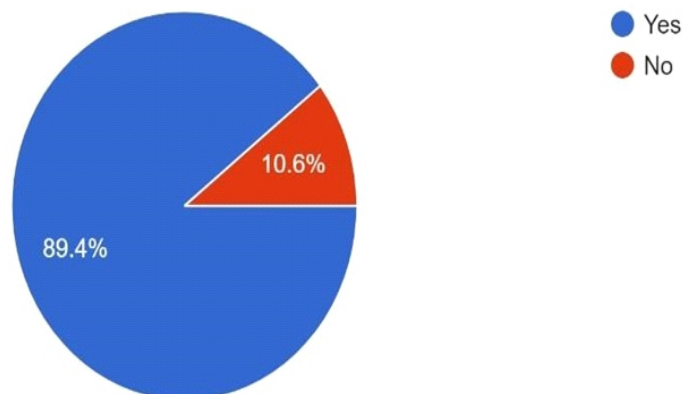
### Did the Presiding Officer announce publicly the results of each of the parties/candidates?

1,416 responses



### Did you observe the political party agent(s) append their signatures on the result sheets?

1,416 responses

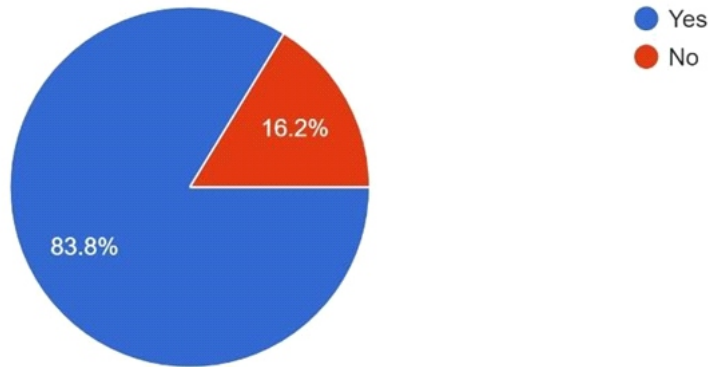




## CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

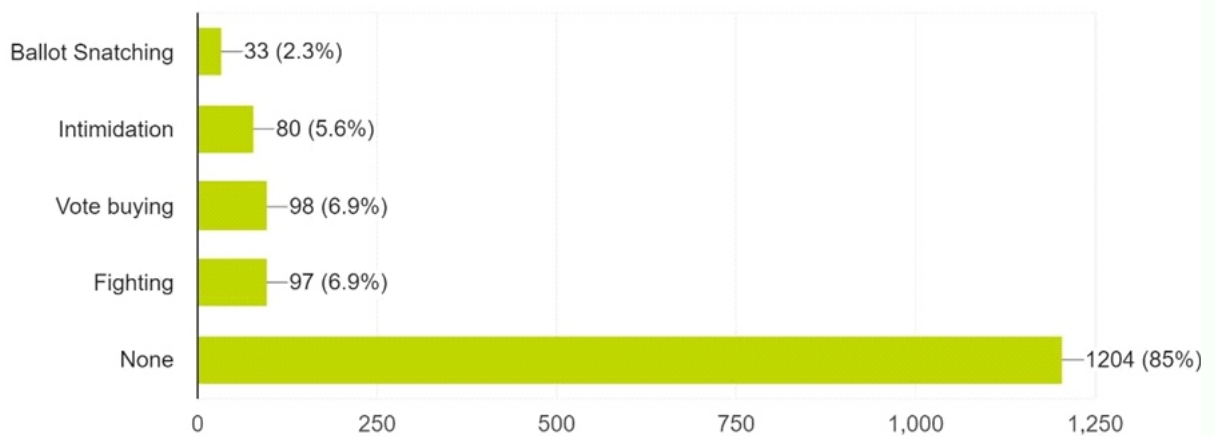
Did the Presiding officer deliver a copy of the result sheet to the police officer present at the polling Unit?

1,416 responses



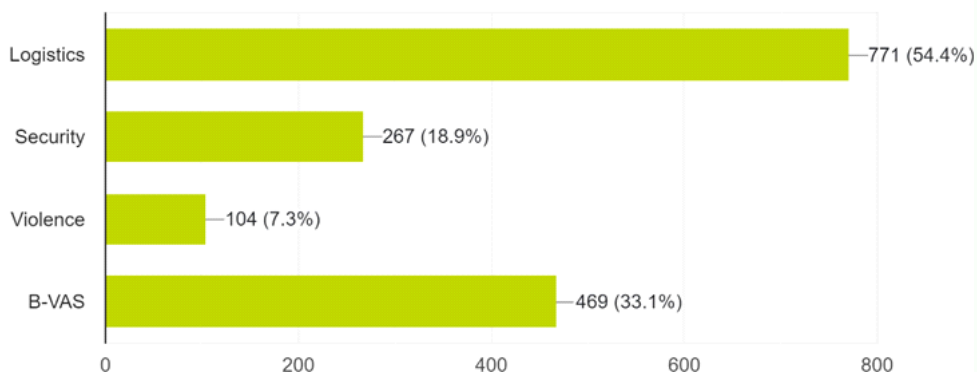
What sort of incidences of Violence are prevalent?

1,416 responses



What were the challenges observed during the Elections?

1,416 responses



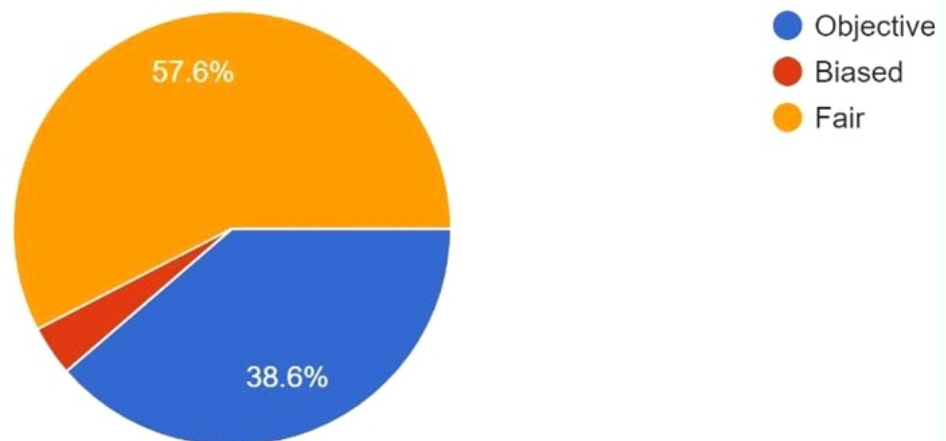




## CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

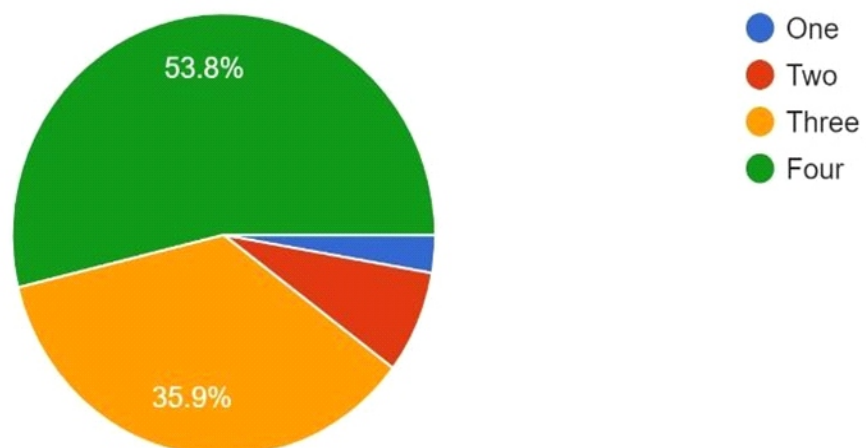
How objective is the media in their coverage of the Election

1,416 responses



On the average, how many poll (INEC) officials present in most polling units?

1,416 responses

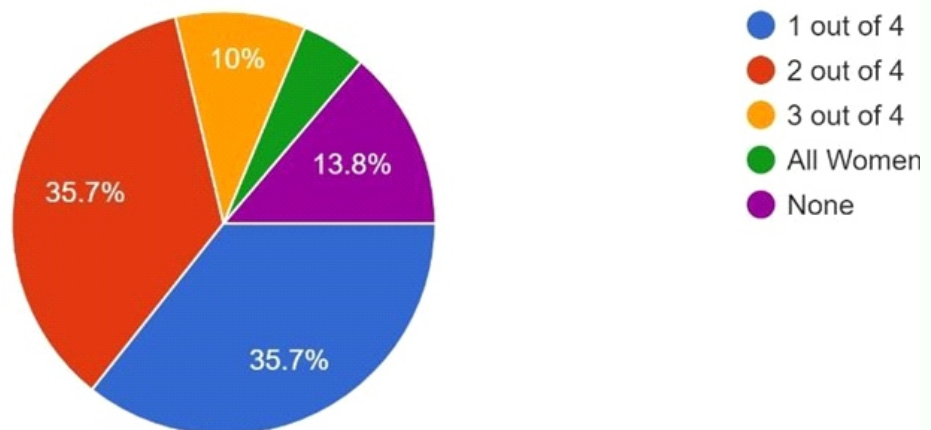




## CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

How many of the Polling unit staff (INEC) were women?

1,416 responses

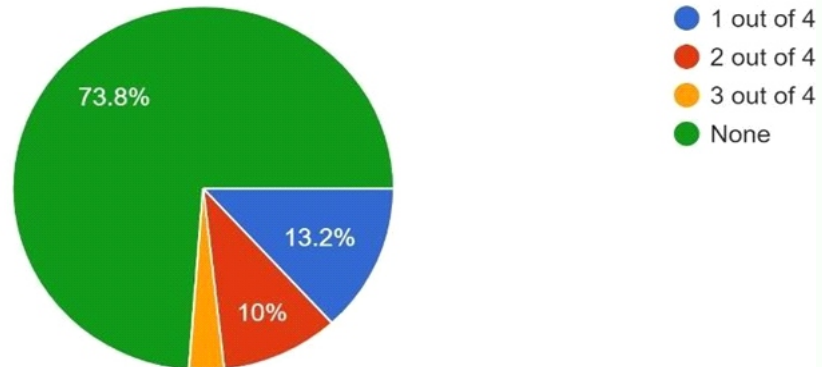




## CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

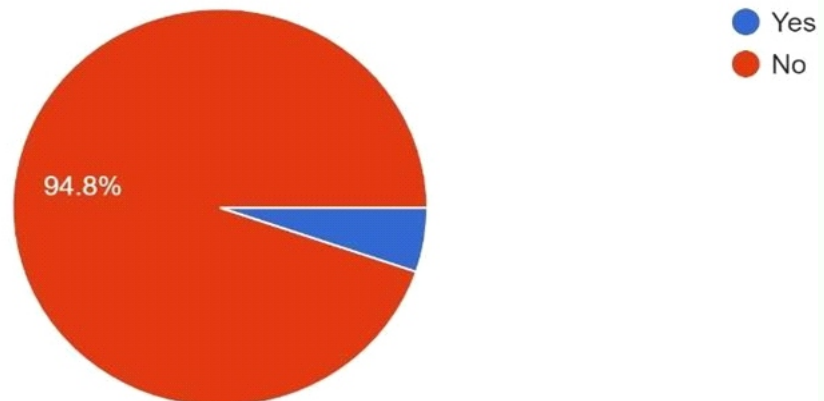
How many of the Polling unit staff were PWDs?

1,416 responses



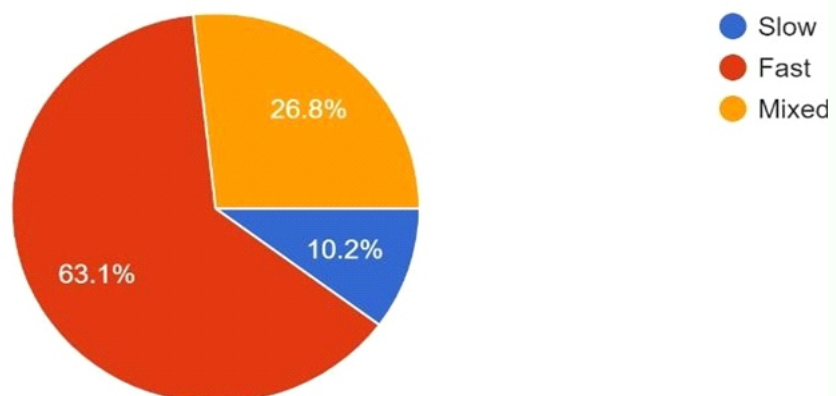
Was there underage voting?

1,416 responses



How effective were the B-VAS?

1,416 responses

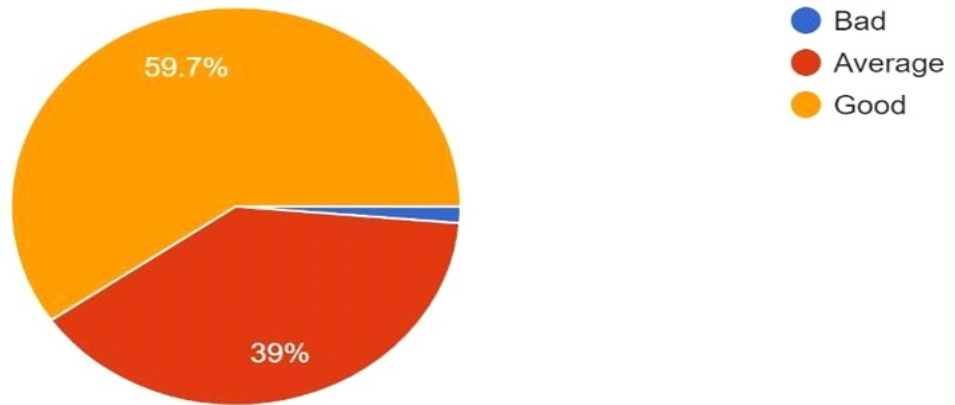




## CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

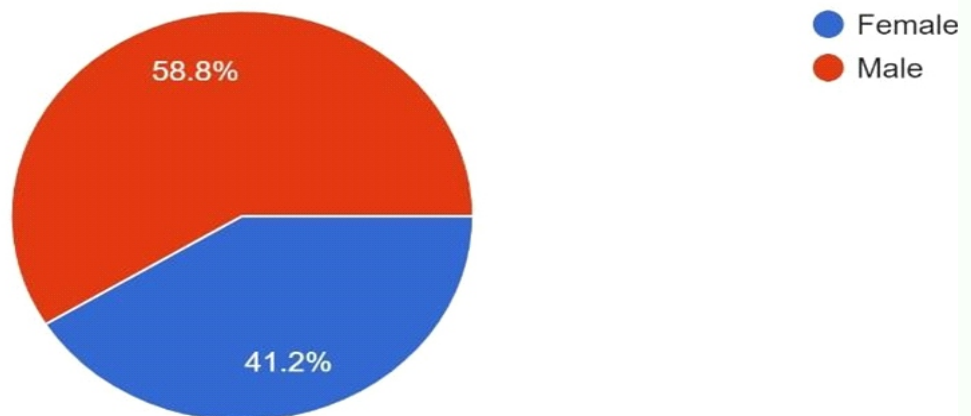
On an average, how do you rate INEC poll official performance?

1,416 responses



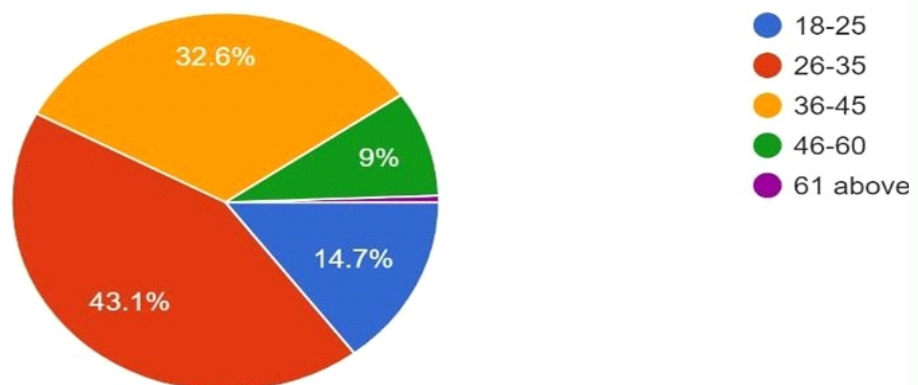
Gender

1,416 responses



Age

1,416 responses

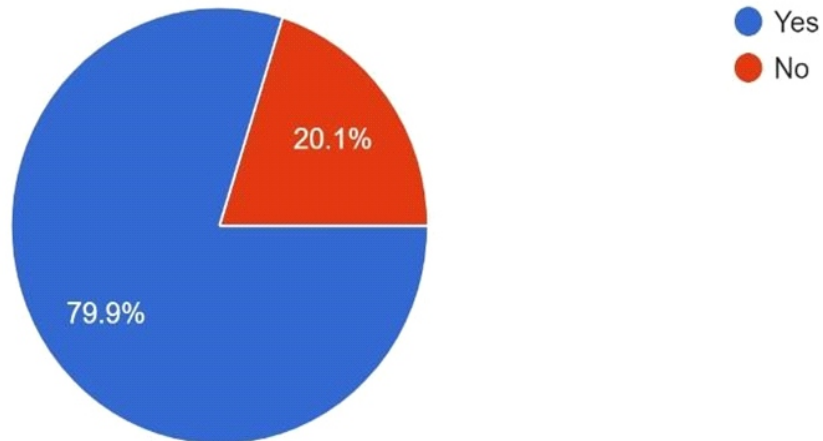




## CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

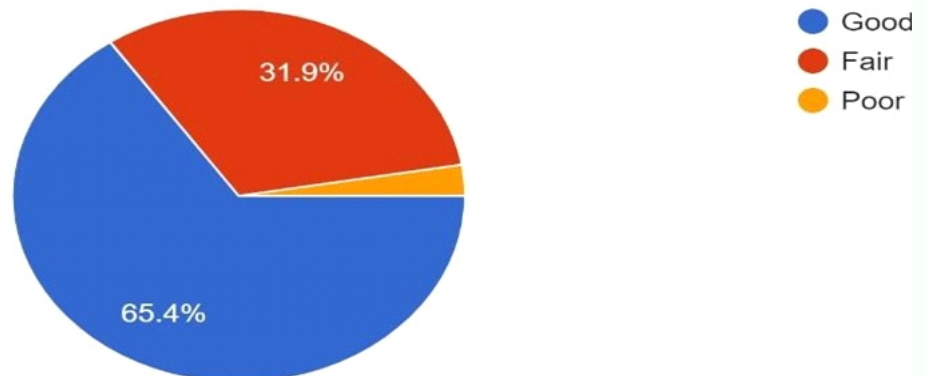
Did the Presiding office(PO) upload the result immediately after the polls??

1,313 responses



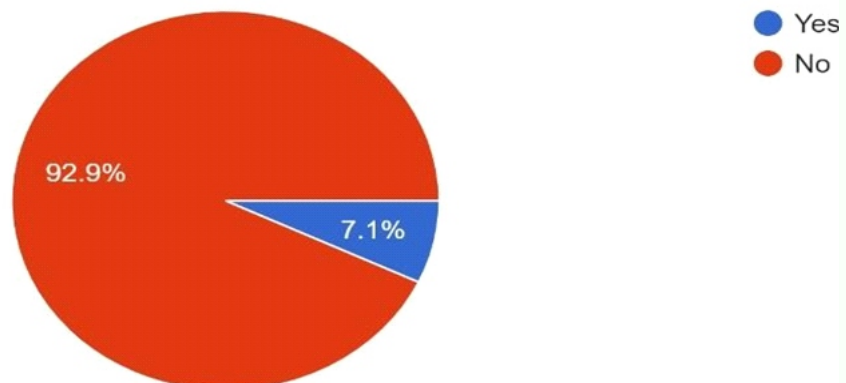
General Assessment of the entire process

1,416 responses



Persons with disabilities(PWDs)

1,416 responses





## ANNEX 4

### 2023 CTA GENERAL ELECTION INFOGRAPHICS REPORT (GOVERNORSHIP)

1,313 RESPONSES FROM THE 2000 OBSERVERS CTA DEPLOYED ACROSS  
THE 36 STATES

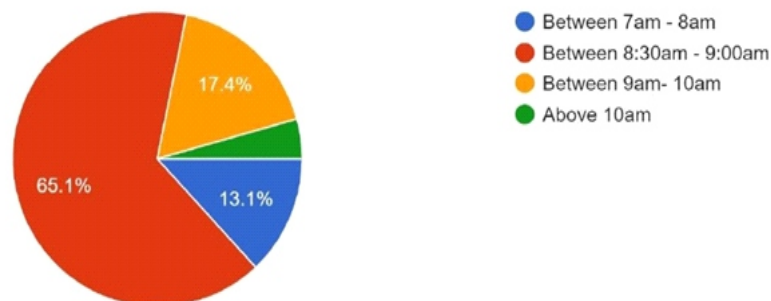
#### STATE

1,313 responses



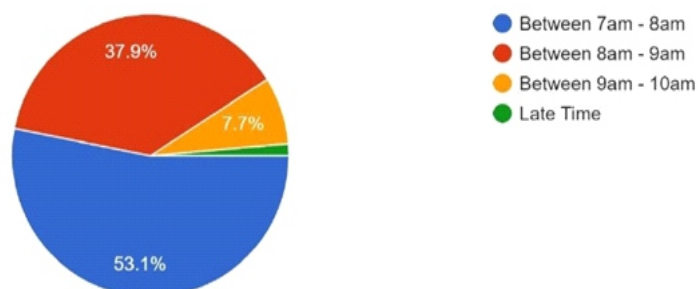
#### What time did the Accreditation of voters start?

1,313 responses



#### Time of Arrival of Observer at Polling Unit

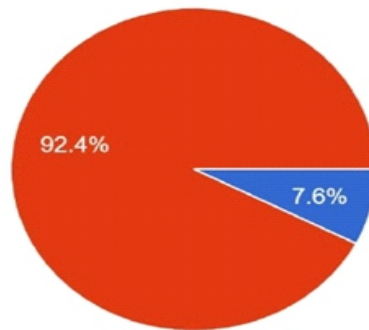
1,313 responses





### Polling Unit is within a Neutral Environment?

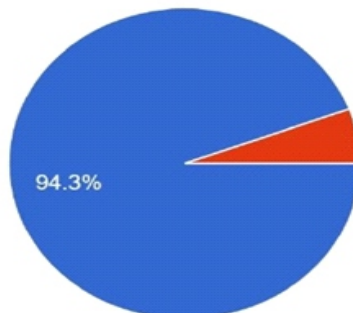
1,313 responses



● No  
● Yes

### INEC Officials were present before opening of Polls?

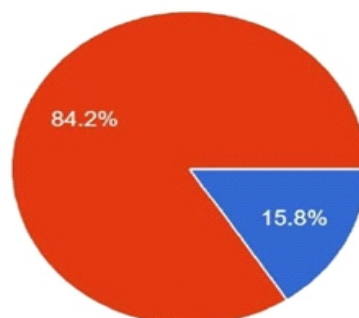
1,313 responses



● Yes  
● No

### Election materials arrived polling units between 7.00am and 8.30am

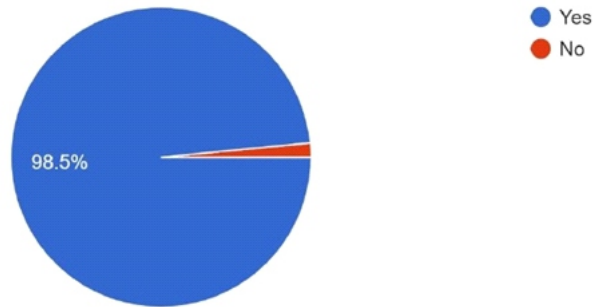
1,313 responses



● No  
● Yes

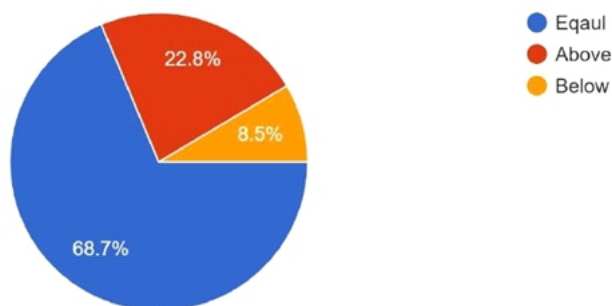
### Election materials were properly packaged and intact?

1,313 responses



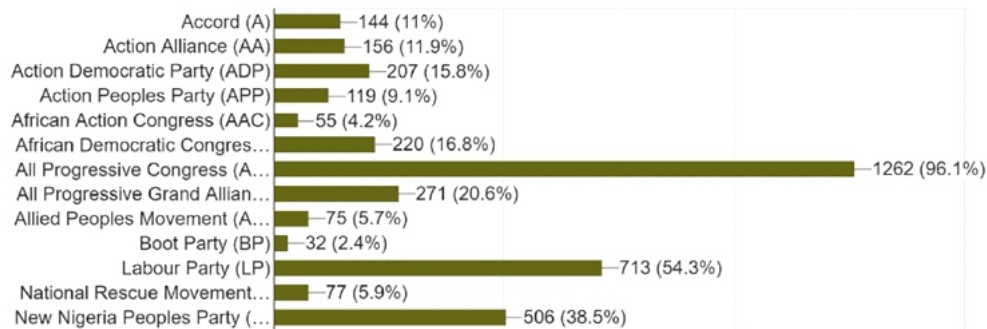
### Election materials were equal or above the number of registered voters?

1,313 responses



### Please tick the political Party Agents Present

1,313 responses

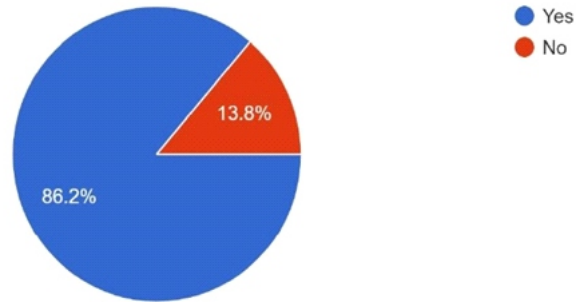






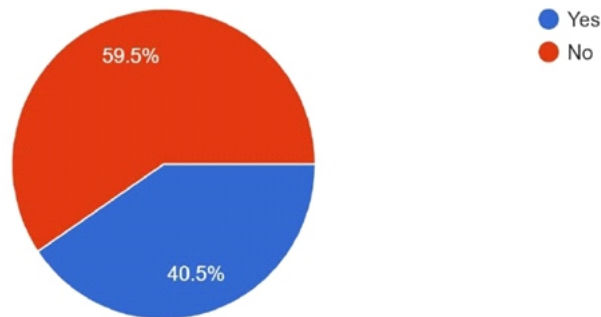
Campaign materials were removed from the Polling Unit ?

1,313 responses



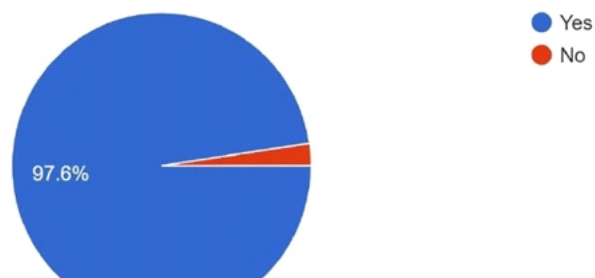
Polling Unit was divided into sub-units?

1,313 responses



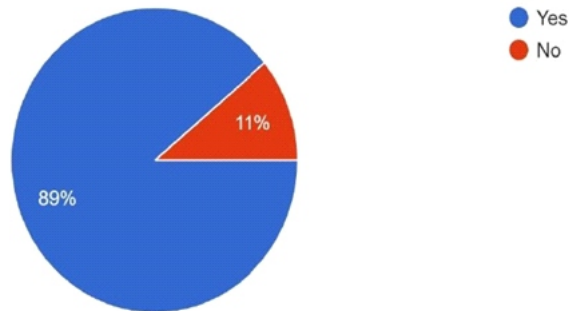
Ballot Boxes were located in full view of the public?

1,313 responses



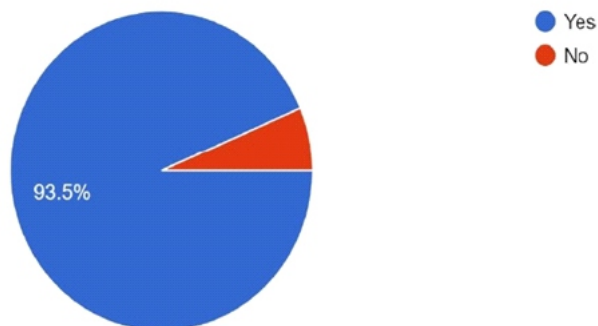
### Polling Booth was enclosed?

1,313 responses



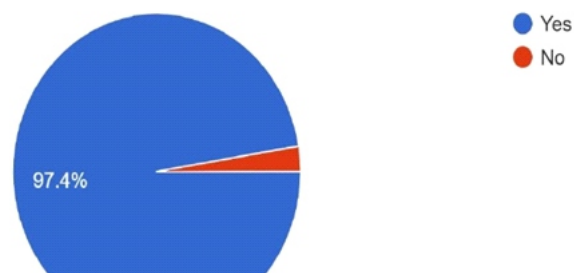
### Security Personnel were present at the Polling Unit

1,313 responses



### Polling Unit is easy to locate and accessible to all voters including People with Disability (PWDs?)

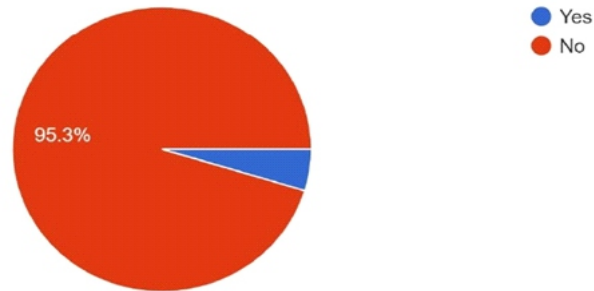
1,313 responses





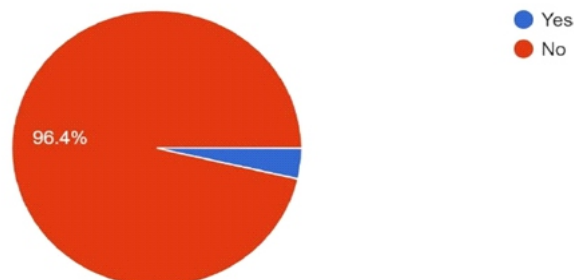
Was any person accredited to vote who did not present a permanent Voter's card?

1,313 responses



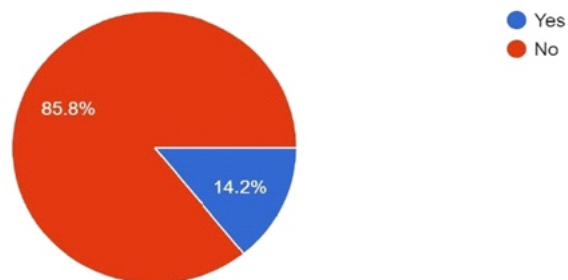
Were there issues of fake PVCs presented for accreditation?

1,313 responses



Were there any challenges with the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System(BVAS)?

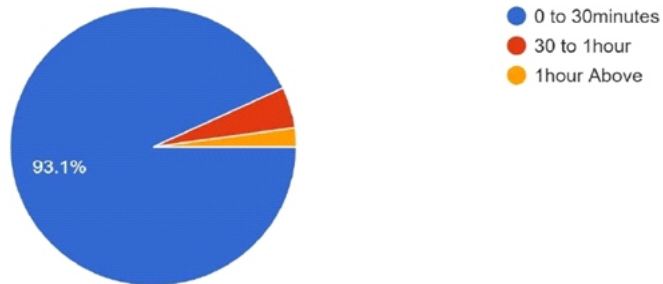
1,313 responses





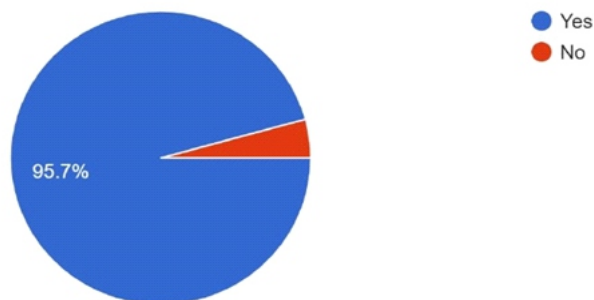
And how long did it take to fix the BVAS?

1,313 responses



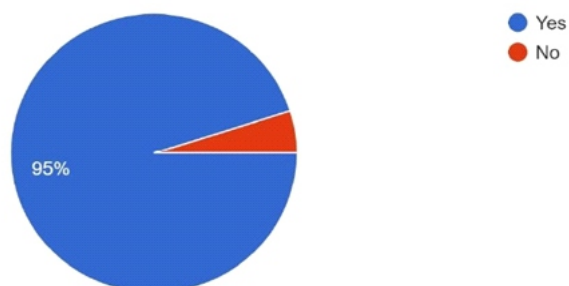
Did INEC Officials mark/tick next to the name of every accredited voter on the Voters' Registers?

1,313 responses



Were old persons, pregnant women, Nursing Mothers, PWDs given priority to vote?

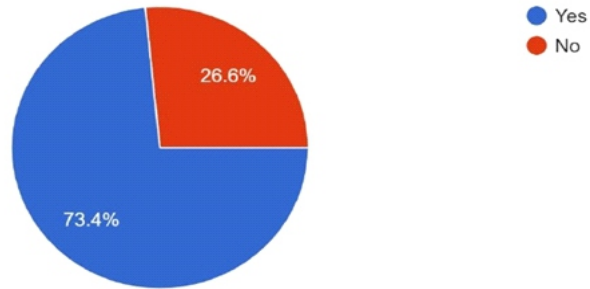
1,313 responses





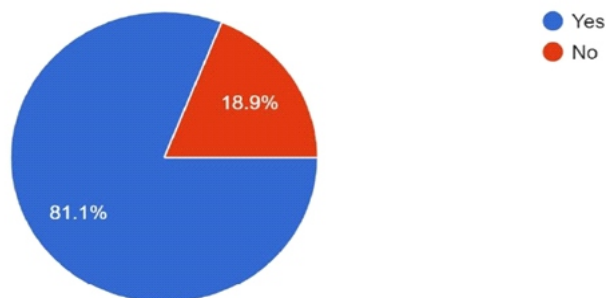
Were voters with sight disability helped with braille guide?

1,313 responses



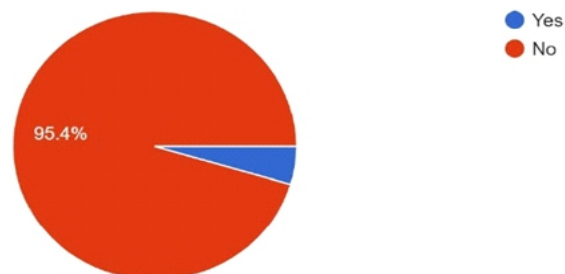
Were Voters with finger Disability accredited in accordance with the INEC guidelines?

1,313 responses



Was any person allowed to vote who did not present a Permanent Voter's Card (PVC)?

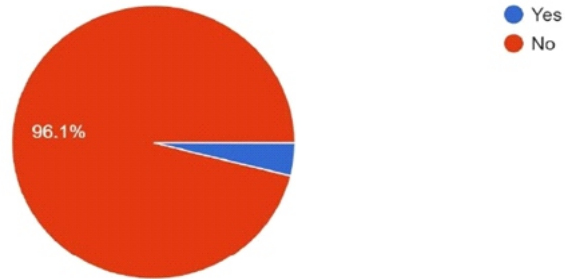
1,313 responses





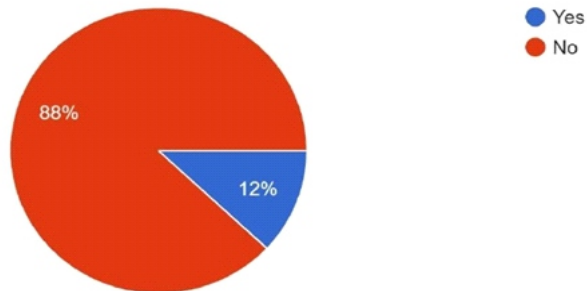
Did you witness any case of Group voting?

1,313 responses



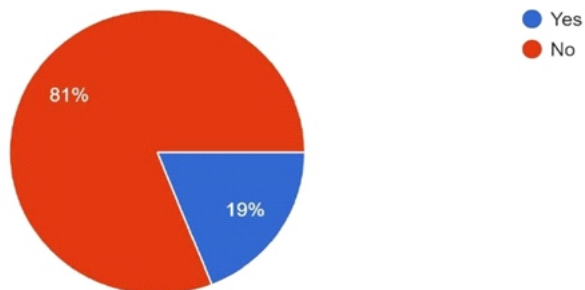
Was there any tension within or around the Polling Unit?

1,313 responses



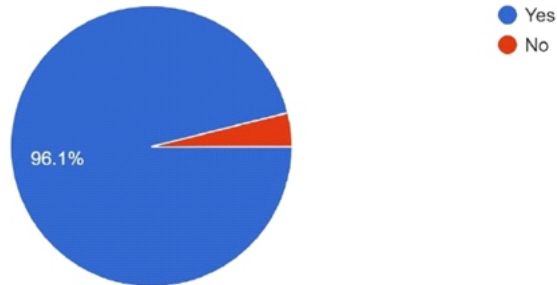
Did you experience any Vote Buying?

1,313 responses



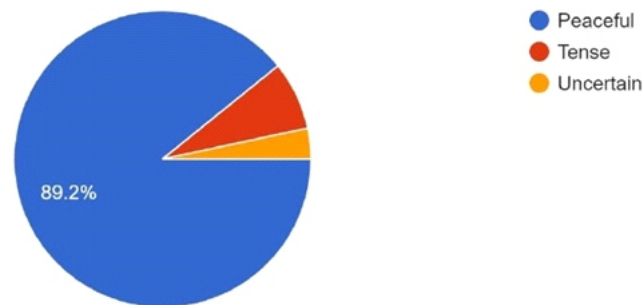
Did the Presiding Officer announce publicly the results of each of the parties/candidates?

1,313 responses



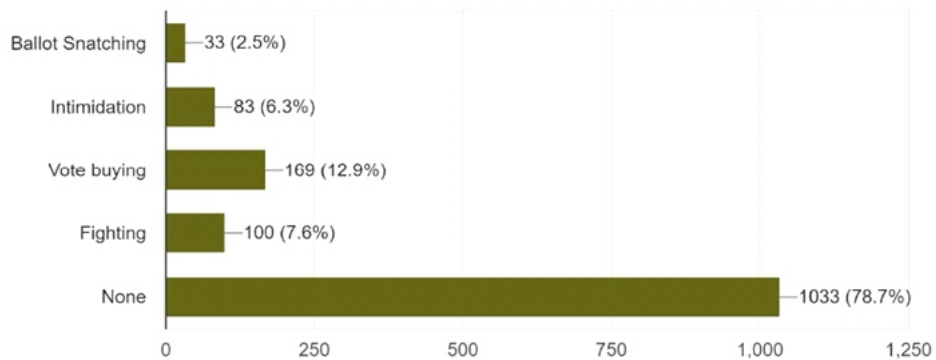
How was the Political Environment?

1,313 responses



What sort of incidences of Violence are prevalent?

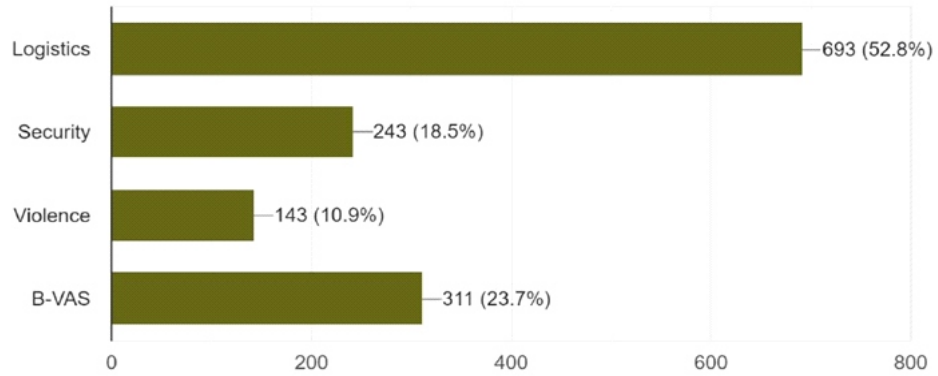
1,313 responses





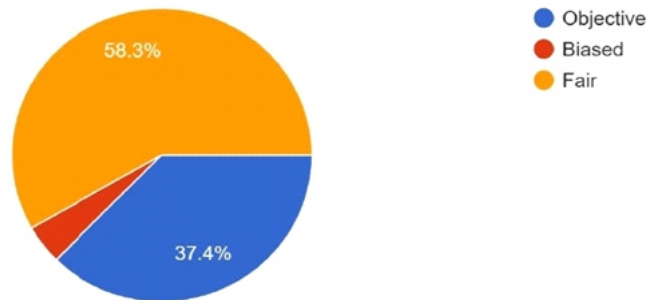
**What were the challenges observed during the Elections?**

1,313 responses



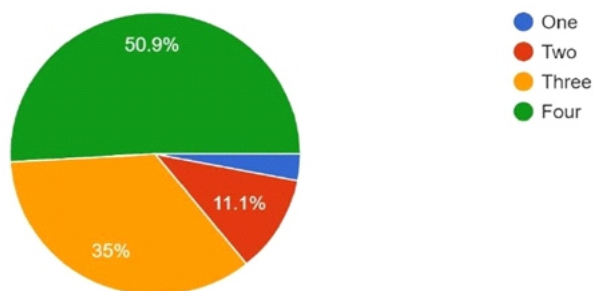
**How objective is the media in their coverage of the Election**

1,313 responses



**On the average, how many poll (INEC) officials present in most polling units?**

1,313 responses

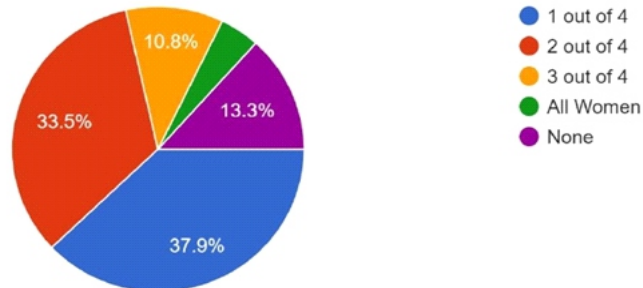






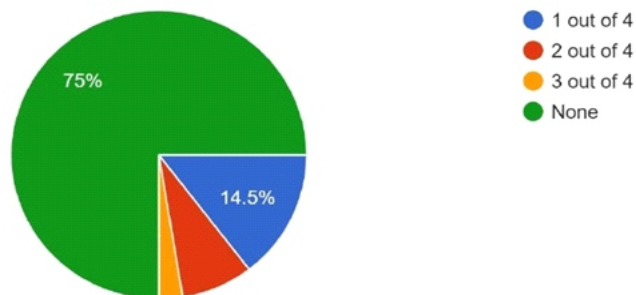
How many of the Polling unit staff (INEC) were women?

1,313 responses



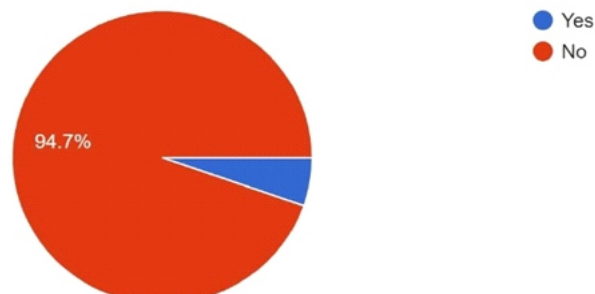
How many of the Polling unit staff were PWDs?

1,313 responses



Was there underage voting?

1,313 responses

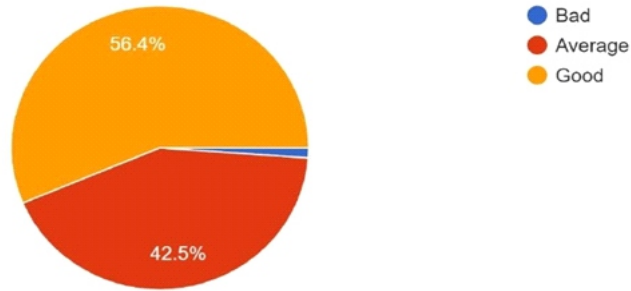




# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

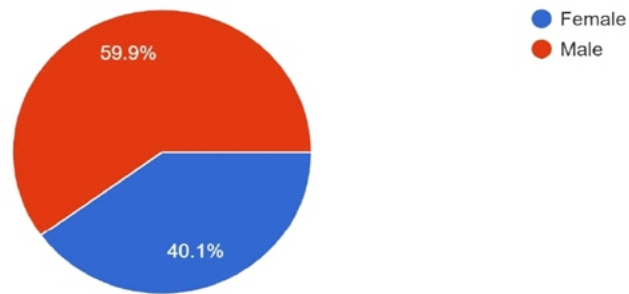
On an average, how do you rate INEC poll official performance?

1,313 responses



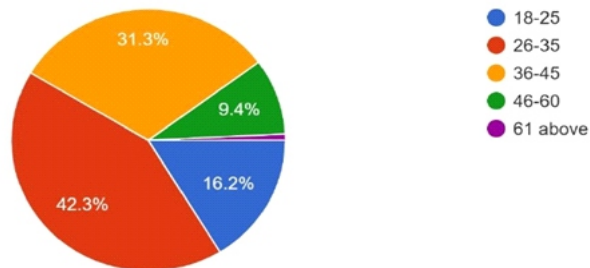
Gender

1,313 responses



Age

1,313 responses

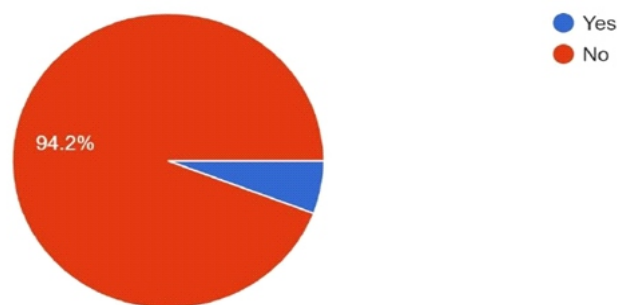




## CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

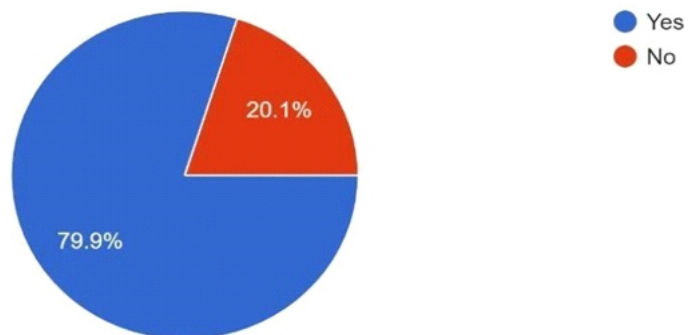
### Persons with disabilities(PWDs)

1,313 responses



### Did the Presiding office(PO)r upload the result immediately after the polls??

1,313 responses

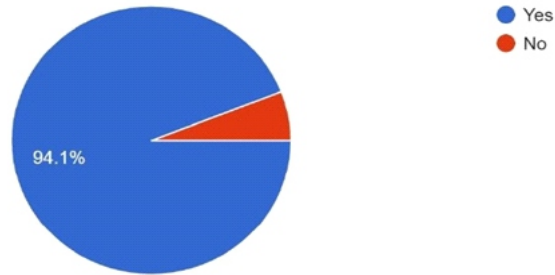




# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

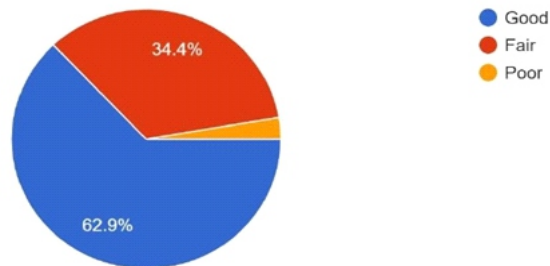
## Did the Party Agents collect a copy of the signed result sheet?

1,313 responses



## General Assessment of the entire process

1,313 responses





## **CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)**

### **ANNEX 5**

#### **MEDIA LINKS**

**PRESS CONFERENCE ISSUED BY THE CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY ON THE COMMENCEMENT OF ELECTIONEERING CAMPAIGNS BY POLITICAL PARTIES FOR THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTIONS**

[https://fb.watch/fR7yTwn-\\_8/](https://fb.watch/fR7yTwn-_8/)

<https://thenationonlineng.net/2023-ngo-to-politicians-campaign-with-clear-blueprint/>

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/09/show-nigerians-how-youll-solve-energy-insecurity-challenges-presidential-candidates-asked/>

<https://expressday.ng/2023-cta-wants-political-party-manifestos-to-become-legal-documents/>

<https://www.blueprint.ng/2023-cta-charges-political-parties-on-issue-based-campaign/>

<https://independent.ng/2023-politicians-must-campaign-with-clear-blueprint-on-how-to-solve-nigeria-crisis-cta/>

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202209300025.html>

<https://von.gov.ng/2023-cso-tasks-politicians-on-issue-based-campaigns/>

<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2022/09/30/make-your-position-on-fuel-subsidy-public-group-urges-tinubu-atiku-obi/>

<https://dailytrust.com/candidates-parties-must-sign-electoral-promises-undertaking-cta>

<https://thenationonlineng.net/2023-ngo-to-politicians-campaign-with-clear-blueprint/>

<https://www.newtelegraphng.com/2023-cta-tasks-political-parties-on-issue-based-campaigns/>

<https://www.nannews.ng/2022/09/30/group-promises-to-mobilise-5m-votes-for-tinubu/>

**PRESS CONFERENCE ON INEC PREPARATIONS AND THE USE OF BVAS TOWARDS THE 2023 ELECTIONS**

<https://dailytrust.com/2023-inec-battles-litigations-as-candidates-flood-courts/>

<https://radionigeria.gov.ng/2022/10/14/group-seek-more-protection-for-inec-chairman/>

<https://youtu.be/PAiaV3wkjHw> (News hour Ttv)

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/10/political-class-yet-to-show-commitment-to-new-electoral-act-says-cta/>

<https://dailytrust.com/2023-ex-rec-group-raise-alarm-over-plan-to-scuttle-polls>

<https://youtu.be/7jmgv8MIRrk> (TVC)

<https://www.blueprint.ng/2023-cso-warns-against-plot-to-remove-inec-chairman-stop-bvas-others/>

<https://independent.ng/plot-to-remove-inec-chairman-stop-bvas-now-may-truncate-2023-general-elections-cta-warns/>

<https://independent.ng/2023-inec-chairmans-removal-suspension-of-e-transmission-of-results-recipe-for-crisis-analysts/>

<https://thenationonlineng.net/2023-nigerians-advised-to-resist-attempts-to-stop-use-of-bvas/>

<https://www.nairaland.com/7384006/political-class-yet-show-commitment>

<https://nigerianobservernews.com/2022/10/group-faults-alleged-plot-to-stop-electronic-transmission-of-election-results/>

<https://nnn.ng/group-faults-alleged-plot-to-stop-electronic-transmission-of-election-results/>

<https://guardian.ng/politics/persistent-alleged-rigging-plans-of-ruling-party-on-the-slab/>

**INEC ON VOTERS REGISTRATION**

<https://inecnews.com/inec-seeks-civil-societys-support-for-credible-voters-register/>

**VOX POP BY CTA ON PVC COLLECTION**

<https://youtu.be/iVTApX2Tn5I>

**PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE MATTERS ON THE ATTACK OF INEC OFFICES**



## **CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)**

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**MEDIA PRESENCE ON THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTION**

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**OTHER MEDIA PRESENCE ON DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTIONS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Febuary at Radio Maria 91.3 fm the Executive Director Madam Faith Nwadishi Executive Director Centre for Transparency Advocacy on political events in the country
- 22<sup>nd</sup> February the Executive Director was live on NTA discussing the 2023 General Elections, ensuring peaceful conduct

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### PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF CTA SITUATION ROOM

[\(57\) 2023 Polls: CTA Deploys 2000 Observers Nationwide. - YouTube \(CAN news\)](#)

[NigeriaDecides: CTA deploys 2, 000 observers, urges security agencies to be neutral | Nigerian Pilot News](#)

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<https://independent.ng/nigeriadecides2023-why-security-agents-must-maintain-neutrality-cta/>

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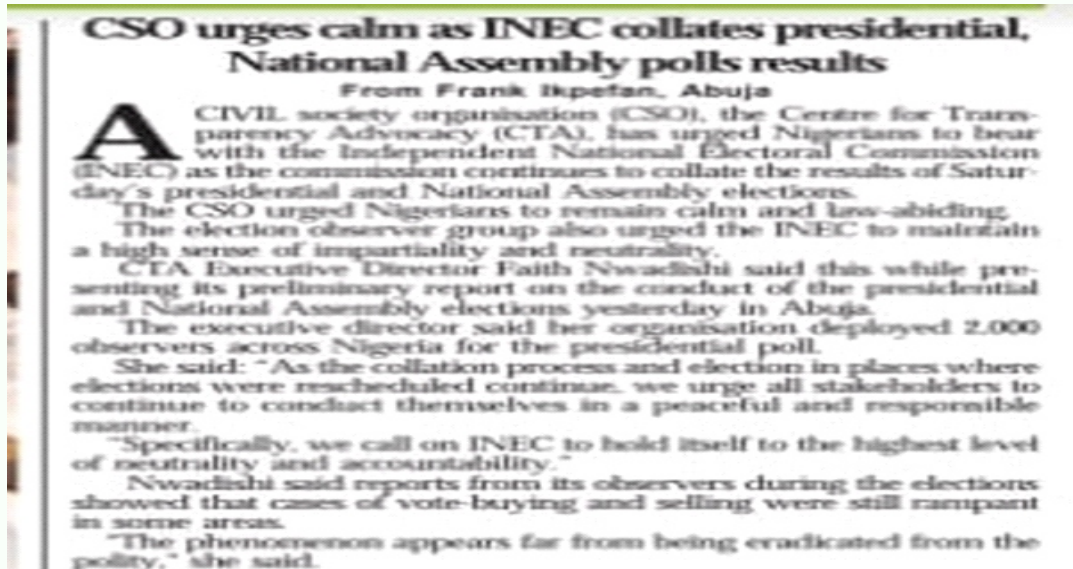
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**ED'S MEDIA APPEARANCE ON NTA ON THE RESCHEDULE OF THE STATE ELECTIONS**

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**THE ED ON NTA SPEAKING ABOUT THE PRESIDENTIAL AND NATIONAL**



## **CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)**

### ASSEMBLY ELECTION RESULTS

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### PRE-ELECTION STATEMENT ON THE GUBER AND SHOA AND SETTING UP THE SITUATION ROOM IN DELTA STATE

<https://fb.watch/jk3yS82t2r/>

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[Governorship polls: Integrity should be your watch word, CTA tells INEC staff | Nigerian Pilot News](#)

### POST-ELECTION ON THE GUBER AND SHOA

[CTA urges INEC to review disputed results in governorship election | Nigerian Pilot News](#)



## **CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)**

### **PRESS RELEASES**

### **TEXT OF PRESS CONFERENCE ISSUED BY THE CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY ON THE COMMENCEMENT OF ELECTIONEERING CAMPAIGNS BY POLITICAL PARTIES FOR THE 2023 GENERAL**

**ELECTIONS Venue:** CTA's conference room, FCT, Abuja

**Date:** 29/9/2022

**Protocol:** It is with great pleasure that I welcome all our media partners to this very important press conference.

#### **Introduction**

The 2023 elections are a few months away. It is important to remind our politicians and every stakeholder that the world is watching us as we prepare for this important political activity.

According to the Independent National Electoral Commission's (INEC) election calendar, campaigns by political parties in public as provided by Section 94(1) of the Electoral Act 2022 officially commenced nationwide yesterday September 28, 2022. As a watchdog, we hope that the media will continue to play its critical role of educating citizens, strengthening our electoral process and our democracy, hence the need for this press conference to set an agenda for the campaigns and in turn hold political parties accountable to their campaign promises.

As we move into the campaign period, we expect that the political atmosphere will be charged. It is imperative therefore, that political parties make their campaigns issue based and convince Nigerians to vote for their candidates based on sound proposals of alternative solutions to the issues that are of utmost concern to Nigerians. CTA is expecting that campaigns and manifestoes would be tailored but not limited to the underlisted agenda.

The Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA) urges political parties, candidates, and their supporters to operate within the confines of the law and the provisions of the Independent National Electoral Commission's rules and regulations.

#### **SETTING THE AGENDA**

1. **SECURITY:** In recent years, Nigeria has been inundated with severe security challenges that has almost brought the everyday activity of Nigerians to a halt. Sacred security institutions, infrastructure, Very Important Persons, Schools, worship centres, Children and Nigerian citizens have been left to the mercy of bandits, kidnappers, and sundry criminals. The Centre for Transparency Advocacy is calling on the political parties and their candidates to tell Nigerians in realistic terms how they intend to end insurgency, banditry, kidnapping and other criminalities. Citizens are eager to know the solutions that political parties are proffering to the lingering security challenges.

2. **ENERGY:** Nigeria is a major producer of crude oil and gas that should ordinarily translate to economic blessing and energy boost. Nigeria is equally blessed with wind power and other natural resources that will enhance the energy needs of Nigeria if harnessed and put in good use. This year alone, the National grid has failed about seven times subjecting Nigerians to darkness, less productive and darkness notwithstanding the abundance of natural gas that could power the nation as



## **CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)**

alternative source of energy. CTA is asking that elimination of gas flare and high cost of petroleum products be made a campaign issue. Energy options have become imperative. Political parties should consider and in fact include discussions on fuel subsidy and domestic consumption of fuel in their campaigns. Our ask is that political parties and their candidates should tell Nigerians how they will cushion the effect of high energy cost, whether fuel subsidy will stay or go and how they will provide renewable energy options since that is where the world is going now.

**3. EDUCATION:** It is sad that Nigerian university students have been kept at home for over 7 months due to strike by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU). Within this period, other unions at tertiary institutions had embarked on strike actions that are inimical to the education system in Nigeria. Political parties and their candidates should make it a point to tell Nigerians how they will mitigate the protracted strikes in the education system and other ills bedeviling the Nigerian education sector from the Primary, post primary and tertiary levels. Foreign educational institutions are cashing out on the rot of our system, encouraging Nigerian youth to seek alternative education in foreign lands. What is the way out?

**4. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ANTI-CORRUPTION:** Amid dwindling resources arising from oil theft, non-remittances of revenue to the government-by-government agencies. The dwindling fiscal outlook has put the country in a financial quandary. The economic future of Nigeria is linked to fiscal responsibility. The fiscal choices we make today has implications for the future. Political parties and candidates need to tell Nigerians in their campaigns how they will strengthen the fiscal policies to encourage growth and productivity.

**5. GENDER AND INCLUSIVENESS:** Political parties and candidates should include in their campaigns a clear path to inclusive governance and gender sensitivity in their government if elected.

**6. Protection of civic space:** Citizens need structures to organize and participate. This will help build progressive institutions. Enacting and promoting harsh policies and limiting participation are part of the issues hampering development and repressing civic space. Participation of citizens is crucial for impact but reducing civic space has damaged made this challenging. The campaigns should address this issue by outline what steps they intend to take to create a more conducive environment for civic space.

**7.** CTA will be tracking election campaigns promises and will be giving an update periodically in the same vein, we urge citizens and the media to monitor and track campaign promises made by political office holders to hold them accountable.



## **CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)**

### **Conclusion**

Issue-based campaign is essential for safe electioneering. In turn, this will create the atmosphere for the successful deployment and conduct of all electoral activities. Campaigns should be devoid of hate speech; abusive, intemperate, or slanderous language; insinuations or innuendoes likely to provoke violent reaction; physical attack on supporters of one party by another or destruction of campaign materials etc. In addition, security authorities should guarantee adequate protection for the populace during this time and election period. All other stakeholders should be responsible for ensuring that elections are credible, free, and fair.

Thank you.

Faith Nwadishi

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## **CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)**

### **Text of press conference held by Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA) on protecting the use of BVAS and delivering a free and credible elections in Nigeria's 2023 General elections**

**14/10/2022**

It is my pleasure to welcome CSOs and media partners, to this very important but crucial press conference.

Recent disclosures and developments have again activated in us the responsibility to speak in defence of our country, Nigeria, and her democracy. The 2023 general election, which is 133 days away, is upon Nigeria and Nigerians. There is no doubt that Nigerian's election administration has witnessed a steady improvement in credibility, acceptability, and inclusivity, from the conduct of 2015 and 2019 as well as the 103 off cycle elections and by elections after the 2019 general elections.

#### **INEC PREPARATION**

The timetable released by Independent National Electoral Commission in February 2022 identified 14 critical activities to be accomplished by the Commission leading to the election day. According to INEC releases to the public so far, nine (9) out of the fourteen (14) activities have been successfully accomplished and campaign by political parties and candidates has since commenced nationwide.

CTA is pleased to state that so far, we are impressed with the level of preparation and accomplishment by the Independent National Electoral Commission the recent of which is the upsurge during the just concluded continuous voter registration exercise. We have observed the innovations introduced by the Electoral Body to increase transparency and ensure credibility of the electoral process. These innovations especially those leveraging on technology to improve voter accreditation, result management have so far increased voter's confidence in the electoral process.

CTA observes that some of the pre-election activities are exuding hope and confidence that the process of 2023 general election is on a cheering trajectory. According to the national Chairman of INEC, prof. Mahmoud Yakubu, the cleaning up of the voter registration data using the Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) that combines the fingerprint and the facial authentication of registered voters is completed. 2.7 million invalid registrants were cleaned up from the system. These include those who are underage, those who had no reason to register as provided by law and those who registered twice. This act has shown that the Commission is on the right cause to getting a credible voters register. CTA notes that there can't be credible elections without a credible register of voters. We therefore commend the Commission for taking steps necessary to protect the integrity of the Register of Voters.

#### **ROLE OF POLITICIANS**

While INEC has shown sign of progress, we note with surprise that the political class have not produced complimentary progress to add to the confidence of Nigerians. For instance, they are yet to show commitment to the new Electoral Act and its provisions and continue in their old ways of heating up the polity using hate speeches and not addressing issues. You may recall that CTA in a press conference on 29th September 2022 set an agenda for the campaigns. We are yet to see the political parties addressing any aspect of the agenda.



## **CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)**

### **COALITION OF UNITED POLITICAL PARTIES (CUPP) ALLEGATIONS**

On -14th September 2022 CUPP made startling revelations on the attempt to compromise INEC voter register. About four weeks later, the same CUPP made another damning revelation on the attempt to compromise the 2023 general elections. Before we delve into the substance of CUPP's revelations, CTA puts on record that President Buhari is a beneficiary of a free election in 2015 and 2019 made possible by the card reader technology introduced by INEC. The president has also promised repeatedly that he will bequeath a legacy of a free, fair and credible elections in 2023. As a beneficiary of free election, one of which led to the defeat of an incumbent, Nigerians strongly believe that there is nothing that will make the President to renege on that important promise to Nigerians.

However, Nigerians woke up on Wednesday to allegations by Coalition of United Political Parties (CUPP) about a purported plan by some politicians to compromise the 2023 elections. They alleged a plan to pressurize INEC to deactivate the BVAS from its server as well as stop the electronic transmission of results.

The CUPP alleged that having not received the approval of the INEC leadership to have the BVAS deactivated, these politicians have now activated the move to remove the INEC leadership.

As citizens and stakeholders with an equal stake in the political events in the country, CTA finds the allegation by CUPP as both worrisome and scary. It is scarier because we are aware of INEC's attempt to clean up the voter register, there was no public knowledge of what the security agencies did on the first allegation other than what CUPP claimed to be the arrests of those suspected to have leaked the information to CUPP.

CTA therefore strongly condemns such plans and urges Nigerians to rally around INEC and its current leadership to resist any attempt to halt the use of the BVAS machines as well as protect INEC chairman and National Commissioners from any form of intimidation, harassment, and undue pressure. Nigerian's must insist on the use of the BVAS and the electronic transmission of results from the polling units. We deserve a better democracy with credible election as its foundation. Nigerians will no longer fold their arms and watch any electoral progress we have made wiped out by the real enemies of our democracy.

For emphasis, as an observer group we can attest to the following as the benefits of the BVAS. They include:

1. Elimination of multiple accreditation that was observed in previous elections. Now, you are sure that the person who is accredited is the voter and the bearer of the card.
2. It has increased public confidence in the outcome of elections as shown in the recent off cycle elections. People tend to be more confident now with the protection of the process of accreditation using technology.
3. It has eliminated the use of the Incident Form.
4. Results can be uploaded after collation to the INEC Result Viewing (IREV)



## **CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)**

Portal

### **Our Resolve:**

1. We call on media, CSO and all well-meaning citizens to demand that in order to achieve a free, fair, and credible elections, INEC must maintain its independence. Every stakeholder must rise to condemn any attempt to coerce the commission and its leadership to jettison the use of BVAS machine.
2. It is important to note that new Electoral Act with its many progressive provisions has provided legal backing to the innovations.
3. we call on our international partners and friends to continue to support CSOs, the electoral commission and its leadership, patriotic organizations, and groups to safeguard the incremental progress made in our electoral system
4. we must remain vigilant as Nigerians.

Thank you

Faith Nwadishi

Executive Director, CTA

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## **CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)**

### **PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY HELD ON THE 23RD OF DECEMBER 2022 AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF CTA ON THE PREPAREDNESS OF INEC TOWARDS THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTIONS.**

#### **PROTOCOLS**

##### **Gentlemen of the Press.**

It is with great pleasure that I welcome all our media partners to this very important press conference.

##### **Introduction**

The 2023 elections will hold across the country on February 25, 2023, for the Presidential and National Assembly while the Governorship and States House of Assembly Elections will hold on March -- 2023. It is important to remind the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and every stakeholder that the world is watching us.

**SECURITY AND BURNING OF INEC FACILITIES:** The Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA) condemns in strong terms the ugly and alarming trend of burning INEC offices and materials in recent times. This dangerous and criminal act if unchecked could pose a grave danger to the 2023 General Elections. The CTA views this act of arsons as unpatriotic and wonders why some people have constituted themselves to enemies of our democracy, peace, and common sense. As at last count there has been about 42 incidents and attacks in 14 states of the federation. The type of attacks includes bandits' attacks, Post-Election Attacks, Boko haram, Thuggery on election day, Unknown Gun men and Hoodlums, End SARS, among others. The spate of arson and vandalization should be put to an end now by the security agencies. Sadly, a greater number of the attacks are in the Southeast. We cannot afford this going towards the 2023 General Elections. All men and women of goodwill should condemn these senseless attacks while joining hands to quench this ugly trend.

##### **Recommendations:**

1. The security agencies should up their acts at this critical moment in our nation's history and apprehend, prosecute, and punish offenders. They should be treated as criminals.
2. Also, intelligence gathering with cooperation with community members should be encouraged at this time. INEC personnel and facilities including other critical infrastructures related or not related to elections must be protected by the security agencies.

**MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION THROUGH THE MEDIA/SOCIAL MEDIA:** The social media has become a harbinger of fake news hatched by unscrupulous elements to distort information and create chaos as we approach the 2023 General Elections. This should not be reinforced by the mainstream media in any guise. Neutrality by the mainstream media is key to dousing the negative effects of misinformation. It is also important that news should not be misrepresented or suppressed due to pecuniary or political interests of media owners including government owned media. Adverts and news items should be thoroughly



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vetted before they are exposed to the public.

### **Recommendation:**

1. Inciting and hate speeches must be kept off the airwaves, this includes abusive languages of any sort and tirades with religious or tribal connotations.

**MONEY POLITICS:** It is gratifying to note that the Election Management Body has intensified efforts to mobilize the relevant government agencies in combating the menace of money politics in Nigeria. This is commendable as we move closer to the 2023 General Elections. It has become imperative to say no to money politics, all forms of inducement and money laundering associated with our politics and elections. Nigerians should insist that citizens' choices must never be subverted by the negative use of money to influence votes including the criminal purchases of PVCs by politicians. The INEC Chairman recently emphasized this during a town hall meeting with security agencies, anti-graft agencies and the civil society. This is the route to take to decency and responsible politics.

The symbolic presence of law enforcement agents at polling units on election days has not yielded any significant result. Their presence does not and has not deterred vote buying as they simply look the other way while politicians have a field day. It is, therefore, important that a more result-oriented method like covert operations be adopted to curb this menace. An early warning flagging by the Central bank and Commercial institutions will as well alert anti-graft agencies to track illicit money intended to usurp the wills of the people through rigging of elections induced by money.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Politicians who move with money on election days to buy votes should be apprehended by security agencies and anti-graft agencies. They should be prosecuted and punished severely.
2. INEC should set up a strategic committee to strengthen synergy between the relevant government and anti-graft agencies that is as strong as the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES), to monitor campaign funds and vote buying by politicians.
3. There should be a mechanism by relevant government agencies like the EFCC, ICPC, NFIU, NBC etc. to prevent use of public funds and resources by government officials to influence votes and outcomes of elections.
4. Civil Society Organisations should support INEC and report vote buying during election observation, in fact, make it a priority.

**LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS:** One of the greatest challenges faced by INEC on election days is the timely movement of personnel and materials. This has severely hampered operations, leading to delay in commencement of elections or outright shifting of election date as witnessed in the 2019 General Elections. According to the INEC Chairman "In order to ensure that personnel and materials will be at the polling units on Election Day awaiting the arrival of voters rather than the other way round, INEC requires large numbers of vehicles, including motorcycles, tricycles, boats, and canoes in the riverine areas which cannot be met from its internal resources. It was for this reason that the Commission signed the first MoU with the NURTW in January 2015". CTA notes that INEC has expanded this pool by bringing in NARTO



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and the Maritime Workers Association. A commendable move in the right direction. INEC will be requiring over 100,000 vehicles and about 4,200 boats that will be accompanied by naval gunboats to be able to cover the 774 Local Government Areas, 8,809 electoral Wards and 176,846 polling units across Nigeria. In the past, even with signed MOUs, some of the transport owners have played pranks that seriously jeopardized the electoral process and elections. This time around, in the words of the INEC chairman, “They must see their role as a national call to duty by ensuring that there is no failure on their part, especially on the eve of elections when it is too late for the Commission to make alternative arrangement. The Unions should keep an eye on your members to ensure that when they take personnel and materials to designated locations, they also bring them back at the end of the elections. Your contract is for both forward and reverse logistics.”

### **Recommendations:**

1. All the Unions and service providers should abide by the spirit and letter of the MoU and the contract agreements as signed.
2. That the vehicles and boats to be deployed be properly tracked by the FRSC to avoid diversion of personnel and materials
3. That the security agencies give adequate protection to the drivers and their vehicles in the course of duty.

**PVC COLLECTION:** The CTA is impressed with the zeal and enthusiasm shown by citizens that have trouped to INEC offices across the 774 LGAs to collect their Permanent Voters Card. However, we have noticed that citizens are facing challenges in some locations in the bid to collect the PVC. We appeal that INEC personnel should devise a means to make the collection seamless while citizens should not by any means do things that will mar the smooth collection of the cards.

There are reports that politicians are buying off PVC cards from citizens or asking citizens to give out their card numbers. This is condemnable and uncalled for. As a citizen, you should realize that The PVC is your pride, hold it firmly.

### **Recommendation:**

1. INEC and the National Orientation Agency should intensify information dissemination regarding collection of PVCs
2. Make the collection less cumbersome
3. Punish erring officials who might be collecting money to issue out the PVCs
4. Citizens should not sell their cards

**PEACE ACCORD:** It is important at this juncture to remind the politicians of the Peace Accord that they voluntarily signed. This has become important as the heat of the elections and campaigns have intensified. Campaign caravans are attacked including the defacing of campaign posters and billboards. This worrisome act has led to The Chairman of INEC, Mahmood Yakubu, calling on security agencies to act swiftly by arresting and prosecuting the perpetrators of election-related violence in accordance with the law. He further described them as Merchants of violence that cannot be treated as petty criminals anymore.”

It is reported that within a month – 8 October to 9 November, a total of 52 election-related acts of violence were recorded in 22 states. This number is scary and must not



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be allowed to fester. We call on Nigerians to shun violence as we have only one country that we can call our own.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Politicians should respect the peace accord signed by them. Peace of the nation should be paramount and bigger than any individual or aspiration of any politician. They should be statesmen and abide by the spirit and letter of the peace accord.
2. Perpetrators of violence, their enablers, funders, and supporters must be unmasked by security agencies, prosecuted, and punished

### **CONCLUSION**

As we move closer to the elections, we call on all stakeholders to support INEC towards achieving a credible, peaceful, fair, inclusive, and conclusive elections in 2023.

Thank you.

**Faith Nwadishi**

**Executive Director, CTA**

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PRESS STATEMENT

13/02/2023



## **CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)**

### **PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY HELD ON THE 23RD OF DECEMBER 2022 AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF CTA ON THE PREPAREDNESS OF INEC TOWARDS THE 2023 GENERALELECTIONS.**

#### **PROTOCOLS**

##### **Gentlemen of the Press.**

It is with great pleasure that I welcome all our media partners to this very important press conference.

##### **Introduction**

The 2023 elections will hold across the country on February 25, 2023, for the Presidential and National Assembly while the Governorship and States House of Assembly Elections will hold on March -- 2023. It is important to remind the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and every stakeholder that the world is watching us.

**SECURITY AND BURNING OF INEC FACILITIES:** The Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA) condemns in strong terms the ugly and alarming trend of burning INEC offices and materials in recent times. This dangerous and criminal act if unchecked could pose a grave danger to the 2023 General Elections. The CTA views this act of arsons as unpatriotic and wonders why some people have constituted themselves to enemies of our democracy, peace, and common sense. As at last count there has been about 42 incidents and attacks in 14 states of the federation. The type of attacks includes bandits' attacks, Post-Election Attacks, Boko haram, Thuggery on election day, Unknown Gun men and Hoodlums, End SARS, among others. The spate of arson and vandalization should be put to an end now by the security agencies. Sadly, a greater number of the attacks are in the Southeast. We cannot afford this going towards the 2023 General Elections. All men and women of goodwill should condemn these senseless attacks while joining hands to quench this ugly trend.

##### **Recommendations:**

1. The security agencies should up their acts at this critical moment in our nation's history and apprehend, prosecute, and punish offenders. They should be treated as criminals.
2. Also, intelligence gathering with cooperation with community members should be encouraged at this time. INEC personnel and facilities including other critical infrastructures related or not related to elections must be protected by the security agencies.

**MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION THROUGH THE MEDIA/SOCIAL MEDIA:** The social media has become a harbinger of fake news hatched by unscrupulous elements to distort information and create chaos as we approach the 2023 General Elections. This should not be reinforced by the mainstream media in any guise. Neutrality by the mainstream media is key to dousing the negative effects of misinformation. It is also important that news should not be misrepresented or suppressed due to pecuniary or political interests of media owners including government owned media. Adverts and news items should be thoroughly



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vetted before they are exposed to the public.

### **Recommendation:**

1. Inciting and hate speeches must be kept off the airwaves, this includes abusive languages of any sort and tirades with religious or tribal connotations.

**MONEY POLITICS:** It is gratifying to note that the Election Management Body has intensified efforts to mobilize the relevant government agencies in combating the menace of money politics in Nigeria. This is commendable as we move closer to the 2023 General Elections. It has become imperative to say no to money politics, all forms of inducement and money laundering associated with our politics and elections. Nigerians should insist that citizens' choices must never be subverted by the negative use of money to influence votes including the criminal purchases of PVCs by politicians. The INEC Chairman recently emphasized this during a town hall meeting with security agencies, anti-graft agencies and the civil society. This is the route to take to decency and responsible politics.

The symbolic presence of law enforcement agents at polling units on election days has not yielded any significant result. Their presence does not and has not deterred vote buying as they simply look the other way while politicians have a field day. It is, therefore, important that a more result-oriented method like covert operations be adopted to curb this menace. An early warning flagging by the Central bank and Commercial institutions will as well alert anti-graft agencies to track illicit money intended to usurp the wills of the people through rigging of elections induced by money.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Politicians who move with money on election days to buy votes should be apprehended by security agencies and anti-graft agencies. They should be prosecuted and punished severely.
2. INEC should set up a strategic committee to strengthen synergy between the relevant government and anti-graft agencies that is as strong as the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES), to monitor campaign funds and vote buying by politicians.
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### **CONCLUSION**

As we move closer to the elections, we call on all stakeholders to support INEC towards achieving a credible, peaceful, fair, inclusive, and conclusive elections in 2023.

Thank you.

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PRESS STATEMENT  
13/02/2023





## **CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)**

PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY HELD ON THE 13TH OF FEBRUARY 2023 AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF CTA ON THE CONCLUDED MOCK TRIAL OF THE B-VAS BY INEC PREPARATORY TO THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTIONS.

### **PROTOCOLS**

Gentlemen of the Press.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome all our media partners to this very important press conference.

#### **Introduction**

In 11 days time, the 2023 elections will be held across the country on February 25, 2023, for the Presidential and National Assembly while the Governorship and States House of Assembly Elections will hold on March 11, 2023.

The Centre for Transparency Advocacy embarked on meeting with critical stakeholders across the six Geo-Political zones in Nigeria. Interesting findings and recommendations will be cited in our reports subsequently.

As part of INEC's preparations towards the 2023 General Elections, a test run of the use of the B-VAS was done through a mock exercise that was conducted on Saturday February 4 2023 in 436 polling units across Nigeria; 12 per state and 2 within the FCT. One hundred and sixty-five observers were deployed to 165 selected polling units across the country including the FCT by The Centre for Transparency Advocacy to observe the process. Reports from observers indicated enthusiasm and confidence in the use of the B-VAS.

#### **REPORTS FROM THE FIELD.**

Reports from across the States indicate that, the accreditation exercise was peaceful and successful but more awareness needs to be created on those that were migrated to other polling units. Observers and voters that participated strongly believe that the deployment of the B-VAS will greatly check-mate vote buying especially on election day. It is also believed that the B-VAS will eliminate the incidents of ballot snatching. The CTA noted that in most polling units that were observed, the accreditation process was peaceful and no chaos was recorded as most of the machines used worked very well. It took between 1-2mins for accreditation of voters. Upon the request from observers present at Area10/Post office, the BVAS was subjected to a test of double accreditation and it was found that the BVAS can recognize any form of double accreditation, as the BVAS alerted that the individual had been accredited earlier.

The CTA acknowledges that the BVAS is really an improvement over the previous card reader and undoubtedly will reduce electoral malpractice in Nigeria.

The process was generally smooth and peaceful but the turn-out of prospective voters was relatively poor due to low publicity and mobilization. Though there were cases of some that turned out to find out that their names were not among those slated for the mock accreditation. However, the INEC official explained that the BVAS had been configured to allow for 1250 voters per BVAS and in decongesting the PUs, Voters



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were moved to another BVAS which will be labelled accordingly.

Some voters came out expecting to vote electronically but were disappointed with their expectations from INEC. For them, the BVAS should be an electronic voting machine, and not just an accreditation device only.

Our observers across the states noted that some PVCs could not be accredited by the B-VAS because the cards are already faded. That is, the numbers or pictures are already fading away and could not be captured by the B-VAS.

Interestingly also, in Tashamota Wushishi LGA of Niger State, some voters were of the view that the mock exercise was an actual election; that there was not going to be another election after the mock exercise.

The CTA observers in Nassarawa, Benue and a few other states, reported that INEC officials and security agents did not allow observers access to the polling units and accreditation centers because they did not have INEC tags. For us, this was not supposed to be the case since INEC did not and have not issued tags for this exercise, rather the accreditation letters carried by the observers should have sufficed.

The CTA, seriously noted that many people were not aware of the mock exercise leading to a low turnout in some areas. There was also a misconception that officials wanted to use the exercise to copy their PVC numbers so that they would not be able to vote on election day. This should not have happened if there was adequate awareness creation in the communities.

### **EMERGING ISSUES AND TRENDS TO WATCH OUT FOR**

1. Voters that have been moved to new voting units should be informed early enough through voter education before the elections. INEC should come out clear to signal the modalities including number of voters required per unit specified in alphabetical order.
2. Violence: One of our observers was manhandled at Ika North East Ute-Okpu primary school by some suspected political thugs on the suspicion that she was a supporter of one of the political parties. Her phone was taken away, though later retrieved and the pictures deleted. The police at the PU did not intervene during her harassment. She was, however, saved through the intervention of the community elders who identified her as an observer. She went later to the clinic for treatment.

#### **Recommendations:**

More sensitization on the use of the BVAS and relocation of names to decongest the PUs

Proper enlightenment and training of party agents

More sensitization of security agents on the dos and don'ts at PUs on election day and the rights of Observers

More attention should be paid to potential flash points across the country

#### **CONCLUSION**

CTA commends INEC in their overall conduct of the BVAs and notes improvement in



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the performance of the BVAS but cannot say same for the political class whose party agents were at some of the polling units.

As we move closer to the elections, we call on all stakeholders to support INEC towards achieving credible, peaceful, fair, inclusive, and conclusive elections in 2023.

Thank you.

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PRESS STATEMENT

13/02/2023



## **CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)**

### **CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA) PRELIMINARY STATEMENT ON THE OBSERVATION OF THE CONDUCT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

The Presidential and National Assembly Elections held across Nigeria on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

The elections held as scheduled, despite the relative state of insecurity across the country and attacks on at least 52 INEC facilities since 2019 in different locations across the country. Other acts of violence reported in the run up to the elections include the assassination of aspirants and abduction of party stalwarts, disruptions of party campaign events and other acts of violence which created a general climate of fear and uncertainty in the build up to the elections.

However, despite these challenges, CTA noted the efforts of INEC and its officials to perform its constitutional duties of conducting the elections as scheduled.

Recall that in our pre-election assessment, we raised concerns on the preparedness of INEC, logistics, security, and the role of political actors in delivering a free, fair, credible, inclusive and conclusive elections.

The following are the preliminary findings from our field observers deployed across the country:

#### **Time of arrival of INEC Officials and materials/ Commencement of voting**

Reports from our field observers deployed indicated that INEC officials and materials generally did not arrive on time at the majority of polling units observed. Although, INEC proposed commencement of accreditation is for 8:30am, on the average, polling officials and materials did not arrive the polling units before 10:30am. As a result of the late arrival of INEC officials and voting materials, the commencement of voter accreditation and voting started after the 8.30am.

However, reports from our observers across 982 polling units so far reported across the country, showed that INEC officials and materials arrived between 7am and 8:30am in 53 percent of the polling units.

The late arrival of INEC officials necessitated the need for the setup of the polling units to be hurriedly done and this, in some cases, made the polling officials to forget to properly brief the electorates on the proper voting procedures.

#### **Presence/performance of Security Agents**

While security personnel were expected to be on ground before the commencement of the voting process, our observers noted that in most of the polling units, security personnel were not present until about 9 - 10am. On the average, there were about 4 security personnel in most of the polling units where our observers were deployed. Generally, observers reported that the security personnel behaved and conducted themselves professionally.

#### **Voter Turnout/ Conduct of Voters**

Voter turnout was generally impressive. In most cases, voters came out earlier than the arrival of INEC officials, materials and security personnel. They mostly conducted themselves peacefully and in accordance with voting guidelines.



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### **Performance of BVAS/Conduct of INEC Officials**

Our observers reported that INEC officials in line with the electoral guidelines gave preferences to pregnant women, nursing mothers, PLWDs and the elderly. However, our observers also noted that in some cases, INEC ad hoc staff demonstrated insufficient familiarity with the operation of the BVAS. Observers reported that wrong codes and poor network were some of the challenges faced by the ad-hoc staff. Reports from our observers across 982 polling units showed that the BVAS worked well in 76 percent of the polling units. However, there were reported cases of Ad hoc staff not uploading results at the end of polls as stipulated in the guidelines.

### **Conduct of Political Parties/ Political Party Agents**

Reports from the field indicated in some parts of the country, that political parties and their agents were observed to be involved in acts of intimidation and harassment of voters, especially those suspected to be sympathetic to candidates other than theirs. In some of these cases, these acts were perpetrated in full public glare and in the presence of security personnels.

### **Vote Buying and Selling and Other Malpractices**

Reports from observers indicate that the incidence of open vote buying and selling assumed a new dimension, cash transfers, food vouchers, name and account details collation. This in our view, may not be unconnected with the deployment of the BVAS for the elections and possibly, the effect of the naira redesign policy. Given the mutative nature of vote buying and selling, the phenomenon appears far from being eradicated from the polity.

### **Violence**

In addition to acts of intimidation and harassment, there were cases of violence reported from some states in the country. These include physical injuries and destruction of voting materials.

### **Conclusion**

As the collation process and election in places where elections were rescheduled continue, we urge all stakeholders to continue to conduct themselves in a peaceful and responsible manner. Specifically, we call on INEC to hold itself to the highest level of neutrality and accountability



## **CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)**

**Press statement  
03/03/2023.**

**CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)  
3<sup>RD</sup> PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE OBSERVATION OF THE CONDUCT OF  
THE PRESIDENTIAL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS HELD  
ON 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

Gentlemen of the Press,  
Colleagues and compatriots

The Presidential and National Assembly Elections held as scheduled across Nigeria on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023. The results have since been announced by the Chief Returning Officer and the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission Professor Mahmood Yakubu.

Fellow compatriots, some incidents during the election and thereafter leading to the collation and announcement of the Presidential Election result have cast doubts on the transparency of the process leading to the emergence of a winner but the gains from this election cannot be wished away.

The Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA) mobilized and deployed 2000 field observers across Nigeria.

These elections deployed technology as its safeguard, and according to our observers, the ratio of challenges emanating from the B-VAS was at 24 percent majorly from poor network leading to slowness of the B-VAS, the inability of the B-VAS to capture finger prints, wrong pass word, low batteries and the refusal of the presiding officers to upload results after elections at the polling units claiming wrong codes among others.

There were reports of tension from polling units arising from late arrival of personnel and materials, incomplete election materials, intimidation by party thugs, forced extension of voting hours, non-availability of result sheets, double voting by some persons, vote canvassing, undue assistance by party agents to aid voters thumb print, unnecessary hoarding of voting materials by adhoc staff for unjust reasons, insufficient security and poor crowd control among others.

**The Good, the Bad, the Ugly:** It is important to note that some things went well in this election despite the avoidable challenges. This election could go down in history as staging upsets in areas traditional to certain politicians. Some perceived strong politicians were roundly defeated in their strong holds. Seating governors lost elections to little known politicians and unexpectedly, some less politically fancied Nigerians were elected to the National Assembly.

The surge and enthusiasm shown by Nigerians in deciding who will lead them is worthy of commendation. The resilience of the youth, the dedication of the Civil Society and in fact, the commitment of the media should not be overlooked. This is worthy of commendation too.

The seeming disappointment of the citizens towards the outcome of the election created the bad and ugly face of this election. Due process is key to transparent, free, fair, credible election.

- 1. Our Commendation to the resolute Nigerians:** The Centre for Transparency Advocacy commends Nigerians especially the Nigerian youth that thronged various polling units across Nigeria to cast their votes. We align



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with you in expressing our collective disappointment in the process leading to the final outcome of the Presidential Election (especially) on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, 2023. The outcome may not have met with our expectations; however, we call on Nigerians to exercise restraints and eschew any form of violence. Same appeal goes to the political parties that feel shortchanged after entrusting a lot of confidence in the process during the build-up the Presidential Election. Certainly, there are windows for redress and CTA will encourage that you seek for such.

2. **Non- upload of polling unit results through the B-VAS in real time:** The Nigerians hoped strongly on the promises made by Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on different occasions that elections results will be transmitted via the B-VAS in real time as was done in the last off-season elections. Nigerians strongly believed that the B-VAS will be the real game changer. The B-VAS only worked well to the extent of accreditation and perhaps, showing the actual voting strength in Nigeria. Fellow compatriots, to the disappointment of Nigerians, polling unit results were not uploaded in real time at the end of elections and collations at the polling units as promised. INEC officials on the field claimed they had no codes to transmit the results and, in a statement, issued by INEC said that there were technical glitches. These explanations did not sway Nigerians from strongly believing that some of the staff of the electoral umpire were compromised. Some results that were uploaded were either mutilated or had people's photographs and in fact, unreadable.
3. **Sabotage by Some INEC field officers and Electoral Officers at the Local Government Areas:** These set of Nigerians have always set the clock of democracy back due to their fraudulent activities in connivance with dubious politicians. The role of Resident Electoral Commissioners at this time should be interrogated as some of them are alleged to be partisan and in connivance with politicians to derail due process. You may recall that CTA and other CSOs condemned the appointment of some partisan Resident Electoral commissioners leading up to the election. It appears that these set of INEC officials habitually work at variance with set guidelines and orders from the INEC headquarters. It was alleged that they hoarded result sheets and gave them out to highest bidders who apparently used the result sheets to tamper with actual outcomes of polls from the polling units. It was also alleged that these same group of INEC staff hoarded the codes and access to the B-VAS hence the non-transmission of results from the polling units as stipulated by law. This is unacceptable and should be discouraged.
4. **Violence, Intimidation and voter suppression:** It was most disheartening to watch and see Nigerians die during this election. Mr. Festus Idahosa a 33-year-old Nigerian and 43-year-old Mrs. Elizabeth Owie, a mother of three lost their lives in Edo State. Security agencies watched to the consternation of citizens while election materials are destroyed, citizens bared from casting their votes and outright intimidation in Lagos and parts of Rivers State. We have seen videos where Youth Corps members and INEC adhoc staff were subjected to physical torture just to force them to change result figures to favour certain candidate. This is unacceptable and highly condemnable. We



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salute the courage of Mrs. Jennifer Ifedi who was stabbed yet insisted to vote. The CTA most sincerely condole with the families that lost loved ones in this election and those that sustained various degrees of injuries. We wish you all quick recovery and the fortitude to bear the loss.

### **OUR RESOLUTION**

1. The CTA calls on Nigerians especially the youth not to relent but to continue in the march for a new Nigeria where due process is followed, towards the attainment of a free, fair, transparent and peaceful election.
2. We call on aggrieved political parties to seek redress in courts and should not heat up the polity by using inciting words that may lead to breach of peace. Violence of any mode should not be encouraged. We can only have one country that belongs to all of us.
3. The CTA calls on INEC to walk through its talk. That INEC should follow through its guidelines on elections in order not to create the impression of being compromised or partial.
4. That INEC should have conducted fresh election in areas where the rescheduled elections did not hold as was announced by INEC due to voter suppression, voters' intimidations and violence also where materials arrived late making it impossible for elections to hold in those areas as scheduled.
5. INEC should as a matter of priority, set up an enquiry to investigate its staff especially some Resident Electoral Commissioners, the Electoral Officers at the LGAs, supervisory presiding officers and dubious adhoc staff. We ask that all those involved in electoral malpractice should be arrested, prosecuted and punished adequately. This will serve as a deterrent.
6. INEC should have the political will to cleanse itself of these putrid impurities that has cast doubts to its integrity and neutrality. The use of B-VAS for upload of polling unit results should be used in the March 11, 2023 Governorship and States Houses of Assembly Elections.
7. Politicians' who feel aggrieved should seek legal means for redress and not heat up the polity by making inciting statements and sponsoring crowds to protest.
8. That the security agencies must investigate and prosecute its officers and men found wanting in the breach of electoral laws

### **Conclusion**

We implore Nigerians to be patient. Nigerians should be vigilant as the elections are not yet over. March 11, 2023 is the Governorship and States House of Assembly Elections. Do not be discouraged, go out and vote for candidates of your choice. We believe that INEC will do the right thing. We urge all stakeholders to continue to conduct themselves in a peaceful and responsible manner. Specifically, we call on INEC to hold itself to the highest level of neutrality and accountability and reassure Nigerians that Osun and Ekiti can be replicated in the forthcoming Governorship and



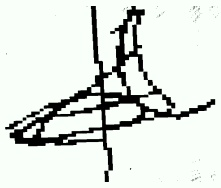


## **CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)**

House of Assembly elections.

CTA shall be observing the governorship and house of assembly elections and calls on all stakeholders to ensure that the elections are peaceful.

**Faith Nwadishi**



**Executive Director, CTA**

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## **CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)**

### **Centre for Transparency Advocacy Pre-Gubernatorial and State House of Assemblies Election Statement at Golden Tulip Hotel, Asaba, Delta State**

**Asaba: 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2023**

Gentlemen of the press,  
Nigerians in preparations for the 2023 general elections had high hopes given the promises and the incremental improvements witnessed during the off-season elections made possible with the introduction of technological innovations into the electoral process. This technological innovation was also deployed for the presidential and national assembly elections. Energized by the prospect of having their votes count, a new layer of Nigerians especially the youths became politically active in a manner never witnessed in the political history of the country.

Two weeks after the elections, there are still mixed feelings about the process and the outcomes of the election, a good number of the citizens are of the view that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) failed to fulfill some of the promises it made with regards to the electronic transmission of election results. Already there are court cases challenging these perceived infractions against the electoral act. While we commend the litigants for following due process in ventilating their grievances, we call on the citizens to remain law-abiding as we await the outcome the judicial processes.

It is against this background that the INEC is set to conduct the Gubernatorial and State Houses of Assembly Elections on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.

The Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA), an independent civic organization that has been actively involved in the observation of the Nigerian electoral process from its inception and an accredited Domestic Observer Group deployed 2000 observers who sent in reports in real time; making it possible for CTA to have firsthand information as to what happened on election day.

While our observers report indicated strengths and challenges during the elections which we highlighted in our various statements on the conduct of the 2023 Presidential and National Assembly Elections, the elections did throw up interesting results like never before seen since 1999 when the current democratic journey began. In line with our usual practice, the CTA is opening its Situation Room here in Asaba considering that there will be no elections in Federal Capital Territory. The CTA has deployed 2000 trained election observers across the length and breadth of the country, including the 25 LGAs that make up Delta State. These observers have been trained on Election Observation and adherence to INEC Election Guidelines.

As Nigerians go to the polls again tomorrow, we want to call the attention of all and sundry to the following important issues-

#### **PREPARATIONS OF INEC**

- 1. Logistical arrangements:** The hiccups that nearly marred the Presidential and National Assembly Elections on February 25 should not for any reason rear its ugly head during the Governorship and State Assembly Elections on Saturday. All arrangements to move personnel and materials must be top-notch.



## **CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)**

2. **INEC STAFF:** We commend INEC for initiating the process for sanctioning some of its errant election officials for misconduct in the last elections. This is not enough as we expect that more Electoral Officers and Adhoc staff should be sanctioned. Integrity should be the watch word for INEC staff. Nigerians do not expect anything less. INEC as an institution and its staff must live above board. Finally, It is important that the Electoral Officers at the LGAs be on top of their game by promptly mobilizing members of the NURTW to move personnel and materials to polling units in good time.

### **PREPARATIONS BY SECURITY AGENCIES AND ELECTORAL VIOLENCE**

1. **Electoral violence:** The level of electoral violence and voter suppression noticed in the last election left a sore taste in our electoral bud. It was appalling to see thugs having free reign, destroying voting materials and harassing of citizens at polling units.
2. The media was awash with reports of the attempted assassination of the PDP Governorship candidate in Delta State, as well as the Labour Party candidate in Lagos State. We call on security agencies to investigate and apprehend those behind such heinous acts.
3. The CTA calls for better synergy between security agencies across board to ensure safety of citizens, INEC personnel and materials before, during and after the elections on Saturday.

### **VOTER TURNOUT AND PARTICIPATION**

1. Voter turnout was noticeably high but voter suppression is implicated in the final outcome for the reported number of voters. We consider the Gubernatorial and Houses of Assembly elections very important hence we implore citizens to take it very seriously.
2. We call on citizens to shun vote buying and trading. They should come out in their numbers to exercise their franchise.
3. Citizens should conduct themselves with utmost decorum while ensuring that their votes count.

### **MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION THROUGH THE MEDIA/SOCIAL MEDIA:**

The social media has no doubts made communication easy in real time, but it also has its dark sides. Fake news hatched by unscrupulous elements to distort information and create chaos are often spread through the social media.

Before, during and after the presidential and National Assembly elections leading up to the declaration of the election results, different flyers and unsubstantiated news items were and are still being bandied about and spread across the screens.

We appeal that this should not be reinforced by the mainstream media in any guise.



## **CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)**

Neutrality by the mainstream media is key to dousing the negative effects of misinformation.

### **POLITICIANS AND THE NEED TO ENSURE A PEACEFUL ELECTION**

- 1. MONEY POLITICS/VOTE BUYING:** It has become imperative to say no to money politics, all forms of inducement and money laundering associated with our politics and elections. Citizen's choices must never be subverted by the negative use of money to influence votes including the criminal purchases of PVCs by politicians.
- 2.** We recognize clearly that the symbolic presence of law enforcement agents at polling units on election has not deterred vote buying. It is, therefore, important that a more result-oriented method like covert operations be adopted to curb this menace. An early warning flagging by the Central bank and Commercial institutions will as well alert anti-graft agencies to track illicit money intended to usurp the wills of the people through rigging of elections induced by money.
- 3. Hate speech:** We are just few hours to the election day. Campaigns ended yesterday at midnight across the nation. We noted with dismay, the unguarded use of intemperate language and violence during the campaigns. We call on politicians and their supporters to be at their best behaviour and resist any urge to breach the peace.
- 4.** Politicians should resist the urge to indulge voter intimidation and suppression under whatever guise.

**PEACE ACCORD:** Once again we remind the politicians of the Peace Accord they voluntarily signed and rein-in their supporters; respect other candidates, desist from using abusive words and above all, shun violence as we have only one country that we can call our own.

### **CONCLUSION**

The CTA set up an Election Day Situation Room in Asaba for the March 18<sup>th</sup> Gubernatorial and State Assembly Elections to receive reports in real time from the field observers. The CTA encourages citizen to exercise their civic responsibilities by voting candidates of their choice. They should remember that the Gubernatorial and Houses of Assembly candidates are the ones closer to the grassroots, hence utmost care should be taken in choosing those who occupy such positions. We still believe in the ability of INEC to deliver a free, fair, credible and conclusive election. We also insist on the continued deployment of the BVAS which has proven to be a game changer in the conduct of the elections.



## **CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)**

### **Centre for Transparency Advocacy Gubernatorial and State House of Assemblies Election Preliminary Statement at Golden Tulip Hotel, Asaba, Delta State**

#### **Asaba: 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2023**

The Gubernatorial and State House of Assemblies elections, the second and the last of the 2023 General Elections cycle held on the 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2023. Although, the Gubernatorial elections took place in 28 states of the Federation, the State Houses of Assembly Election, took place in the 36 States of the Federation.

The elections which were shifted from 11<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of March, 2023 as a result of the court ruling permitting the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to reconfigure the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BIVAS) in readiness for the Gubernatorial and State House of Assemblies elections.

The election was foreshadowed by controversies following the conduct and results of the Presidential elections. This is in addition to the stoking of ethnic, sectional and regional embers by the various political parties and their supporters which in no small measure contributed to the heating-up the polity thereby exacerbating primordial divides across the country.

It is against this background that the Gubernatorial and State Houses of Assembly election was held.

The Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA) in the run up to the elections, held a stakeholder meeting and also set up its Situation Room all in Asaba. In addition, the CTA deployed 2000 trained election observers across the length and breadth of the country, for the purpose of getting real time reports on the conduct of the elections from polling units where our observers were stationed across Nigeria.

The following are the preliminary findings from our field observers deployed across the country:

#### **Time of arrival of INEC Officials and materials/ Commencement of voting**

There was remarkable improvement on the time of arrival of INEC officials and materials as reported by our field observers. However, there were reports of late arrivals in some polling units across the states but not significant enough to cause delay in early commencement of voting, many polling units were opened around 8.30 am.

In some polling units, INEC ad-hoc personnel were seen waiting for voters to come for commencement of voting activities after set up. We equally noticed at a polling unit by Golden Tulip Hotel, Mariam Babangida Road, Asaba, that polling officials deliberately did not commence accreditation of voters early, despite setting-up in good time. However, after an intervention from an INEC supervisor, the two voters around were accredited and allowed to vote at about 9:10 am.

Across the states, reporters from our observers showed that in about 82 percent of the polling units, INEC officials and materials arrived between 7am and 8:30

#### **Presence/performance of Security Agents**

Just like in the last elections, our observers noted that in most of the polling units, security personnel were not present until about 9 - 10am. On the average, there were about 2 security personnel in most of the polling units where our observers were deployed. Generally, observers reported that the security personnel behaved and



## **CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)**

conducted themselves professionally. However, there were reports of tardiness on the part of security agencies in different parts of the federation.

### **Voter Turnout/ Conduct of Voters**

Reports from our field observers across the country indicated low voter turnout. This may not be unconnected with the mixed feelings generated from the conducts of the February 25 election as well as latent fear of insecurity.

Particularly young persons and first-time voters expressed disappointment in the outcome of the Presidential Election felt that their votes did not count and therefore, may have lost confidence in today election.

### **Performance of BVAS/Conduct of INEC Officials**

INEC officials in line with the electoral guidelines gave preferences to pregnant women, nursing mothers, PLWDs and the elderly. However, our observers also noted that in some cases, INEC ad hoc staff continue to demonstrated insufficient familiarity with the guidelines especially time of opening and closing of polls. Some officials closed polls as early as 1 pm, sorted ballots and announced results before 2:30 pm.

Reports from our observers showed that the BVAS worked well. However, there were reported cases of Ad hoc staff not uploading results at the end of polls as stipulated in the guidelines.

### **Violence/Disruptions and Voter Suppression**

Reports from our observers showed that despite assurances from security agencies, there were widespread violence in many polling units across the country. Instances of thugs attacking polling official's unit in States like Ogun, Lagos, Imo, Kaduna, Ebonyi, Delta to name a few were recorded.

### **Conduct of Political Parties/ Political Party Agents**

Political party agencies and politicians have continued to act with disdain as if they are above the law.

### **Vote Buying and Selling and Other Malpractices**

Reports from our field observers indicated that vote buying have mutated to a new high.

### **Conclusion**

We note that once again that Nigerian politicians have proven to be impervious to change. On the part of Security agents, they are clear evidences of dereliction of duty and complicity with the politicians to deny Nigerians their rights to choose those who govern them. This has in no small measure emboldened miscreants to snatch, disrupt and destroy election materials. On a final note, INEC is encouraged to become more proactive and put measures in place to mitigate attempts by enemies of credible elections to truncate our democracy.

Faith Nwadishi



# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

## PICTURES Election Day Activities





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# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

CTA preliminary statement in Asaba Delta State. (Governorship and State House of Assembly)





# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

CTA third Press Statement in Abuja



FCT observers training





## CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)





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## OBSERVERS TRAINING





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# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

## Election Day Activities



Abuja-Fct



# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)





# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)





# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)



Ogun state





# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)



*Ebonyi state*



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# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)



*Benue state*



# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)



Kogi state



# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)



Lagos state



Rivers state



# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)



Osun state



Ekiti state



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### OBSERVERS TRAINING FROM OTHER STATES.



*Kastina state*



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*Plateau state*





# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)



*Niger state*



## CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

Opening of the situation room for the Presidential and National Assemble Elections in FCT





## CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

### Signing of the Peace Accord





# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)





# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

## Presidential Election Day pictures





# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)







## CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

Press conference on attack on INEC's offices







## CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

### Allegation against INEC



Press Conference on the attack of INEC's offices





# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)





# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

North- Central Stakeholders meeting





# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

North-East Stakeholders meeting





# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

## North- West stakeholders meeting





# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

South-East stakeholders meeting





# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)





# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

South-South stakeholders meeting







# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)





# CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

## South- West stakeholders meeting





## CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)

### Voters education





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#dontsellyourvote  
#votewisely  
#ourvotesnowcount  
#NoPVCNoVote  
#ctanaijawatchdog



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