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INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The Anambra state Gubernatorial election, one of the off-season elections in today Nigeria's electoral calendar held the 6th of November 2021.

The Anambra state Gubernatorial election was held against the background of increased and almost unprecedented socio-economic cum security crisis. This was aggravated with nationalist and separatist agitations rocking the nation, especially the spate of violence that was recorded in Eastern Nigeria in general and Anambra state in particular.

The security situation prior to the election in Anambra State had created a state of uncertainty and cast doubts as to the possibility of conducting election in such a tensed atmosphere. Some reports had it that scores of people had lost their lives in different parts of Anambra State in the run up to the election. Among those killed gruesomely was Dr. Chike Akunyili, the husband of late Prof. Dora Akunyili. Other acts of violence included the kidnapping of political party candidates and top politicians, the burning of police stations, burning of INEC facilities, burning of security outstations, including the intimidation of citizens in lawful political gatherings across Anambra State. The declaration of the seven days sit at home order pronounced by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in no small measure also heightened fears of the elections being marred by violence.

This background notwithstanding, the Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA) deployed 64 Observers across the 21 Local Government Areas of Anambra State on Election Day.

Executive Summary

Irrespective of the fear of violence apprehensions and general state of uncertainty that pervaded the November 6, 2021, Anambra State Governorship Election, Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA) deployed 64 field observers across the 21 Local Government Areas of Anambra State on Election Day. Prior to the election day, CTA was involved and still engaged in observing the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise in Anambra State. In the same manner, CTA engaged various critical stakeholders before the election. The stakeholders include security agencies, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), National Orientation Agency (NOA), religious and traditional leaders, Town Union and Market women, professional bodies, and the media. CTA held a stakeholder meeting on the 19/10/2021 at Finotel Classy Hotel Awka to ascertain preparedness of the stakeholders in the electoral value chain for the election.

Anambra State, with a voting population of 2,252,471 with 326 Registration Areas, has 5720 Polling units. Materials were not deployed in 86 of PUs due to zero voters registered. There were eighteen (18) gubernatorial candidates.

on average, information from our observers that were deployed to the field during the election indicated that polling units opened at 8.30 am. INEC Officials and materials in most places arrived as early as 7.30 am. There were, however, some exceptions where officials and materials came after 8.30 am. Equally, materials arrived late, and voting did not commence on time in the rescheduled polls in Ihiala on Tuesday, 9/11/2021.

There were reports of skirmishes between security agencies and elements opposed to the election in Ihiala, leading to delays and no elections in some communities like Luli and Orsumohu.

Without prejudice to the few exceptions where voter accreditation and voting started later than 10 am, reports from our observers indicated that, on average, voter accreditation and voting commenced



between 8.30 am, and 10.00 am. However, this was not the case in the rescheduled Ihiala election, where accreditation and voting started in some places in the afternoon.

Our observer reports indicated that in many of the polling units, vote buying was becoming more brazen and was a major feature of this election. INEC, the Security Agencies, and other stakeholders need to work out measures to effectively address this ugly phenomenon.

Generally, CTA noted that the fear resulting from threats by criminal gangs and the IPOB declaration of sit-at-home was responsible for some of the delays and citizens' apprehension towards the election. The voter turnout was one of the lowest in the history of governorship elections in Anambra State; less than 12 percent of eligible voters turned out to cast their votes.

Remarkably, INEC introduced the use of different colour codes on the ballot sheets for different Local Government Areas. Also, CTA noted that for the first time, the Director General of NYSC visited Corps members in the field to encourage them.

Total Registered voters- 2,466,638

Total nos of PVCs collected-

Total accredited voters- 253,388

Total votes cast- 249,631

Total valid votes- 241,523

Total Rejected votes- 8108

Professor Chukwuma Soludo of the All-Progressive Grand Alliance was declared winner by the returning Officer having polled a total of—votes to beat other opponents.

HISTORY OF ANAMBRA STATE AND STATISTICS

Anambra State was carved out from the old Anambra State on 27th August 1991 but possesses a history that stretches back to the 9th century AD, as revealed by archaeological excavations at Oraukwu and Ezira. It has a land area of 4,887sq km with an estimated population of over 5 million in 2014. It has 21 local government areas (LGAs), consisting of 177 autonomous communities. The Capital and the seat of Government is Awka. The indigenous ethnic group in Anambra state is the Igbos which is about 98% of population and a small population of Igala about 2% of the population who live in the Northwestern part of the state. (<https://cirddoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Anambra-State.>)

Anambra's political history can be described as varied. Until the early 21st century, it was marked by considerable unrest. Having a long list of "firsts" in Nigerian history, it has been known by the sobriquet as "The Light of The Nation". On 29 May 1999, [Chinwoke Mbadinuju](#) was sworn in as civilian governor of Anambra state, after many years of military rule. His administration was marred by deep problems: the most notable was withholding of teachers' salaries in the school. The teachers finally conducted a ten-month strike in all the government secondary schools in the state. [\[62\]](#)

Before Mbadinuju's rule, secondary education had been free of charge. But his administration imposed a tuition fee of 3,000 Naira per term for all secondary schools, which led to an unprecedented massive demonstration by secondary school students from all over the state. Many people attribute Mbadinuju's failure to political godfathers; his successor also struggled. On 26 May 2003, [Chris Ngige](#) was sworn in as the new governor of the state, but he was removed in March 2006 after [Peter Obi](#) of APGA filed charges against him of electoral malpractice. The Court of Appeal in Enugu asserted that Ngige's apparent victory in the 2003 election was fraudulent and ordered him to leave the seat. [\[63\]](#)



Obi was ousted by a faction of the [Anambra State House of Assembly](#) on 2 November 2006 and replaced by [Virginia Etiaba](#), his deputy.[64] On 9 February 2007, Mrs. Etiaba handed power back to Obi after the Court of Appeal had nullified Obi's removal.[65]

On 14 April 2007, [Andy Uba](#) of PDP was "elected" as the new governor of the state and, on 29 May, was sworn in. Reported to be massively rigged, the election was widely criticised. On 14 June 2007 the [Supreme Court of Nigeria](#) ruled that [Peter Obi](#)'s tenure had not ended; therefore there was no vacancy in the governorship. It removed Andy Uba from office and replaced him with his predecessor Obi.[66]

On 6 February 2010, [Peter Obi](#) was re-elected governor for a second term of four years, after a hot contest with [Chris Ngige](#), a former governor of the state; Prof. [Charles Soludo](#), a former governor of the [Central Bank of Nigeria](#); and [Andy Uba](#), who was a strong voice in the state's politics.[citation needed] Other contenders included Mrs [Uche Ekwunife](#), Prince Nicholas Ukachukwu, and many others. Twenty-five contestants ran for the office. Obi was affirmed as the winner of the election, having more than 30% votes above the immediate runner-up. Chief [Willie Obiano](#) was sworn in on 17 March 2014 after winning 16 November 2013 election. Governor [Willie Obiano](#) of All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) was sworn in for a second term in office on 17 March 2018 after the victory at 18 November 2017 election (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anambra_State)

PREPARATIONS TOWARDS THE ELECTION

- 1. ACCREDITATION/MOBILIZATION OF OBSERVERS:** Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA) applied to INEC through its portal for accreditation. This was done simultaneously with the mobilization of observers from Anambra State covering the 21 LGAs. They were complimented by the Expert team comprising of the media, academia, lawyers, election experts and CTA staff. CTA deployed 64 observers; at least 3 per Local Government Area. The observers were trained before deployment on election day.
- 2. CVR:** While CTA was preparing for the election, CTA mobilized citizens to observe the CVR in 32 states and the FCT. This activity is still ongoing except for Anambra State where it was suspended by INEC 60 days to the governorship election following the provisions of the 2010 Electoral Act as amended. The activity is going on in other states and will be resumed in Anambra State after the election.
- 3. SITUATION /SECURITY REPORT:** The security challenges in Anambra state obviously had a serious impact on the election. The spate of killings led to fears that contributed significantly to voter apathy and low turnout for the election.
- 4. STAKEHOLDERS MEETING AND INTERACTIONS:** We visited Awka in the last weeks of September to interact with security agencies and the National Orientation Agency. This was also to invite them to the stakeholders meeting as was scheduled then. CTA had a fruitful meeting with the Director of National Orientation Agency, Anambra State. He gave an overview of their interactions and created awareness in the communities regarding the election. He also informed that political campaigns did not go on as it should due to security scare and numerous court cases arising from political parties' primaries. However, the planned meetings with the security agencies could not be held due to the postponement of the stakeholders meeting owing to the precarious security situation in Anambra State. The stakeholders meeting was originally scheduled to hold on October 8, 2021. The stakeholders meeting eventually held on October 20, 2021, in Awka.
- 5. MEETING/BRIEFINGS BY INEC:** CTA attended briefing by INEC where it demonstrated the use of the I-VED for CVR and transmission of election results. There were two meetings presided by the INEC Chairman at the Commissions headquarters to brief the civil society and the media on the Commission's readiness to conduct the election.



PRE-ELECTION POLITICAL SITUATION

MISINFORMATION AND FAKE NEWS

There were a lot of misinformation in the run up to the election. Many of the misinformation were from political parties seeking to improve their fortunes. However, CTA called on the people to be wary and screen the information they received about the security situation in the state and the activities of INEC. There was no bloodshed in Anambra State as the security personnel deployed took effective charge and provided adequate security. No soldiers were seen escorting fake voters into Anambra State as that was Fake News. There were no indiscriminate arrests of political party leaders as was spread and INEC did not write any results for any political party and did not endorse any candidate as was spread.

EFFORTS BY SOUTHEAST GOVERNORS AND THE PEACE COMMITTEE

The Southeast Governors' Forum, traditional rulers, religious leaders and the Peace Committee put up effective pressure on IPOB to call off the sit at home and to get the candidates and their political parties to sign a peace accord. The effort was sustained to reassure voters in Anambra State of their safety during the election. With the claims by the Governors in the South East that other unidentified criminal gangs and cultist groups were operating under IPOB directives to engage in their criminality, the Governors were called upon to step up security efforts to ensure that the criminals are brought to book.

THE ACTIVITIES OF INEC

The CTA commended the Election Management Body for adopting one of our recommendations in previous elections which is the appropriate identification of party agents. For the Anambra State Governorship Election, INEC issued tags with photographs of the agents for easy identification. Nobody can claim to be an agent of any political party and by that means cause trouble at any polling unit or collation centre when they are not. Furthermore, the introduction of colour codes for the Local Government Areas was another amazing innovation of the Commission, which meant that each Local Government Area had a distinct colour of ballot papers. So far, we can verify that INEC has deployed all required sensitive and non-sensitive materials to their locations. The sensitive materials had arrived the LGAs headquarters from the Central Bank and were moved to the RACs from where they will move to the Polling Units.

CONDUCT OF SECURITY AGENCIES

With the heavy deployment of security in Anambra State, there were no reports of security personnel interference in the electoral process. Also, there were no reports of harassment by security forces of innocent citizens.

POLITICIANS

Politicians and party supporters went about their campaigns peacefully without significant breach of security or inflated hate speeches outside the usual political jabs among political parties and supporters. This was highly commendable and continued through the election day. However, CTA cautioned on the involvement in vote buying and called on politicians, voters, and parties not to support or indulge in this cankerworm about to destroy our democracy. Politicians were urged to be up and doing especially in the deployment of party agents. Deploying the actual people accredited by INEC as party agents for the election is critical and important for the process.

CTA was concerned that women are still not considered as candidates by the political parties, with 18 candidates no female and 7 female deputies, means that we are only paying lip service to women's inclusion



STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

The Executive Director of Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA) Ms. Faith Nwadishi welcomed the participants that attended the meeting despite the short notice and fear of insecurity that led to the postponement of the meeting from the earlier scheduled date. She apologized for the postponement and the inconveniences that might have caused the participants.

“It is with great pleasure that I welcome everyone to this meeting. I sincerely apologize on the inconveniences suffered by anyone here due to the postponement of this meeting as was earlier scheduled. The shift in date was because of security challenges existing then in and around Anambra State and we could not afford to endanger the lives of people. We are sorry for that”.

She said that the Centre for Transparency Advocacy, an accredited Domestic Observer Group like many other stakeholders is preparing for the election with the mandate to contribute its quota towards a free, fair, peaceful, and credible governorship election in Anambra state. CTA is among the 72 accredited Domestic observer group and 5 international observer groups. To this effect, CTA has been engaging various stakeholders to gauge the pulse and preparations of the citizens and the Election Management Body towards the election. It is important to note that this governorship election is the 7th since 1999.

She believed that the meeting was an opportunity for stakeholders to freely have a genuine and honest conversation such that the outcome of the meeting will add value towards a free, fair, peaceful, and credible election. She advised that the security agencies should fair in interacting with voters and members of the public while INEC should stand firm without compromise in the discharge of its duties as the electoral umpire. Equally, she asked that vulnerable groups should be accorded fair treatment, protect their rights and be given the opportunity to vote and be voted for.



Cross section of participants at the stakeholder's meeting in Awka.

She concluded by admonishing the people of Anambra state in these words: “that citizens should shun voting buying and selling which undermines the election, that candidates should campaign based on issues and not for heating up the polity and creating fears in the heart of people who want to vote. Also, security agencies should assure the masses of adequate protection within the election periods. Having a credible, free and fair election is first, the primary responsibility of Ndi Anambra and all other stakeholders”

GOODWILL MESSAGES: There were goodwill messages by the National Orientation Agency and the security agencies present which include The Nigerian Police, Nigeria Immigration Service, Department of State Security Services, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, The Federal Road Safety Corps, and Anambra Vigilante. The civil society, religious groups, traditional institutions, and the organized private sector were in attendance including CTA observers for the Anambra State November 6, 2021, Governorship Election. The goodwill message was also an opportunity for the different groups present to present their perspectives and preparedness towards the governorship election in Anambra State on November 6, 2021.

The security agencies commended CTA for holding the stakeholder's meeting amid fears of insecurity in Anambra state. They pledged to support CTA and assured of adequate security on election day and beyond. The National Orientation Agency said it will continue to collaborate with CTA on civic education and other enlightenment activities connected to the Anambra State Governorship election. (see full report in the Annex)

OBSERVERS TRAINING

After full mobilization of field observers, CTA organized a hybrid training both virtual/online and physical simultaneously. The physical training was conducted at the Funsurge Hotels Awka on November 4, 2021. The purpose of the training was to prepare the observers for field observation on election day.



Training of election observers in Awka.

The highlights of the training were

1. OVERVIEW OF ELECTION OBSERVATION AND EXPECTATIONS FROM OBSERVERS
2. UNDERSTANDING INEC GUIDELINES FOR ELECTION OBSERVATION
3. Code of conduct for observers
4. Security Flash points
5. Using the Checklist
6. Administering of the Observers pledge

MONITORING DISTRIBUTION OF SENSITIVE MATERIALS

CTA joined other observer groups and stakeholders to observe the distribution of sensitive materials at the premises of the Central Bank, Awka on November 5, 2021.

CTA verified that INEC deployed all required sensitive and non-sensitive materials to their locations. The sensitive materials had arrived the LGAs headquarters from the Central Bank and were moved to the RACs from where they moved to the Polling Units on election day.



Inspecting sensitive materials at the Central Bank premises Awka preparatory to the Governorship Election.



Cross section of participant during security briefing in Awka by the Nigeria Police a day before election with the media and CSOs.

OPENING OF CTA's SITUATION ROOM/PRESS BRIEFING

CTA's situation room is hereby open and we invite you to another press conference here at the close of polls tomorrow.



Media briefing by the CTA on the eve of election

ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES /PRESS BRIEFING

Time of arrival of INEC Officials and materials

On the average, reports from our observers deployed to the field indicated that polling units opened at 8.30 am. INEC Officials and materials in most places arrived as early as 7.30 am. There were however some exceptions where officials and materials arrived after 8.30am.

It is believed that the fear resulting from threats by criminal gangs and the IPOB declaration of sit at home was responsible for some of delay as many drivers engaged by the Commission did not turn up warranting emergency arrangements being made to achieve the goal. It must be noted that materials eventually arrived in all Polling Units in the furthest parts of the State at about 10am.



Election official explaining the use of the B-VAS before commencement of voting.

Time of commencement of accreditation and voting

Most of the reports from our observers indicated that on the average voter accreditation and voting commenced between 8.30am and 10.00am. This is without prejudice to the few exceptions where voter accreditation and voting started later than 10am.

Our observers reported cases of malfunction of the BVAS which was largely due to network and operational issues. We noted that at some point when voters were advised to smile or change positions so that people behind them were not captured, the BVAS functioned better.



Voting in progress

Performance/Conduct of INEC Officials

CTA notes that in this election, INEC has demonstrated its capacity to incrementally improve the election management process in the country. Our observers reported marked improvement in the performance of INEC officials during the election. Observers also noted the cooperation extended to election observers. However, it was noted that many of the ad hoc staff were not used to the BVAS and were unable to handle the device to promptly aid accreditation.

Time of arrival and Conduct of Security Agents

Generally, the security agents arrived on time. In many of the polling units, our observers reported security agents arriving before the commencement of the accreditation and voting.

On the average there were 4-5 security agents per polling unit. However, while moving round, our observers reported effective security cordon on the state pointing that all major roads had checkpoints and noted that as of 4.00pm on polling day, the security agents at the checkpoints were professional discharging their duties effectively.

Voter turnout

Despite the fear of violence occasioned by the declaration of sit at home by IPOB before the election, voter turnout was largely impressive. We therefore commend the electorate for their courage and determination in turning out enmasse despite all odds to exercise their franchise.

Conduct of Political Parties/Voters (Vote buying and vote selling)

Our observer reports indicated that in many of the polling units, vote buying was becoming more brazen and was a major feature of this election. INEC, the Security Agencies, and other stakeholders need to work out measures to effectively address this ugly phenomenon. There were 18 political parties fielding candidates but at the polling units, there were between 2-5 political parties whose agents were present.



It must be pointed out that our observers reported that to ensure that security personnel at the booths did not disturb their vote buying, provisions were made for them (Security Agents) and they received money and allowed the crime to go on freely. At Awka Ward 7, PU 001 and 002 the security personnel (Police and Civil Defence) were called together and given money which they received and shared peacefully. However, at Ward 01, Agu Awka, PU 008 Arroma junction 1, quarrel ensued nearing fisticuffs between the Police and Civil Defence personnel on the sharing formula. Indeed, it was a very embarrassing sight.

Conclusion

It is believed that the outcome of the election reflected the wishes of the people of Anambra State. CTA, therefore, Congratulates the people of Anambra State.

Finally, we commend INEC and all stakeholders for ensuring a free, fair, and credible election so far. Extension of voting time to 4 pm by INEC due to malfunctioning of the BVAS in some centres and the rescheduling of the election in Ihiala to Tuesday 9/11/2021 to ensure every voter that turned outcast their votes is quite commendable. We urge the Commission to note the several reasons why the BVAS malfunctioned and take steps to improve the performance in subsequent elections.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That INEC should continue to be a neutral and unbiased umpire as reflected in this election
2. That traditional rulers, religious leaders, Town union leaders should continue to speak to their people especially the youth to shun violence even after the election.
3. That security agencies should up their acts and protect the people and should not let the country down.
4. INEC should liaise with agencies like the National Orientation Agency, Town unions and CSO on voter education and sensitization.

Faith Nwadishi

Executive Director

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MEDIA LINKS

<https://www.nairaland.com/6811777/anambra-guber-security-agencies-cta#106904113>

National Light Newspapers, vol 27, NO 18, Monday October 25, 2021 Page 5

NTA News Awka, 20/10/2021

LEADERSHIP NEWSPAPER edition of 21.10.21

ANNEX AND GALLERY



Enthusiastic voters checking their names through the voters register.



The Executive Director of CTA Faith Nwadishi with other Observers at the INEC Observers briefing in Awka.

Below; The Executive Director CTA with the Director General of the National Youth Service Corps .





The team of CTA Observers under the leadership of the Executive Director, Faith Nwadishi preparing to move to the field

Below: With security agencies and the media





Top: Dignitaries at the signing of the Peace Accord.

BELOW: At various engagements and interactions with security agencies.



Top: An Election official demonstrating voting procedures before commencement of voting.



Below: The CTA Team led by the Executive Director on election day.



Opening of the CTA Election Situation Room



Interaction with security agencies.



CTA CONTACTS AND SOCIAL HANDLES

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ANNEX

PRESS RELEASE.

CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA) CALLS FOR A PEACEFUL ELECTION AS IT PREPARES TO MEET WITH STAKEHOLDERS TOWARDS THE ANAMBRA STATE NOVEMBER 6, 2021, GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION.

The Anambra state Governorship Election as we are all aware has been scheduled by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to hold on Saturday, November 6, 2021. It is barely 5 weeks from now to the date of the election. The Centre for Transparency Advocacy, an accredited Domestic Observer Group like many other stakeholders is preparing for the election with the mandate to contribute its quota towards a free, fair, peaceful, and credible governorship election in Anambra state. To this effect, CTA has been engaging various stakeholders and citizens to gauge the pulse and preparations of the citizens and the Election Management Body towards the election.

SECURITY SCARE AND PALPABLE FEAR OF ELECTION BOYCOT

The Centre for Transparency Advocacy is watching with keen interest the security situation and developments in Anambra State in respect of the upcoming governorship election. The security challenge in Anambra State is degenerating daily thereby casting fears as to the feasibility of conducting election in such a tensed atmosphere. Some reports have it that about 12 people have lost their lives in different parts of Anambra State in the last one month and the most recent being the gruesome murder of Dr Chike Akunyili, the husband of late Dora Akunyili. CTA condemns this and calls on the security agencies to track and apprehend the actors involved in this heinous crime. CTA also condemns the killing of a driver to a member of the National Assembly, the burning of police stations, killing of security personnel and citizens including the intimidation of citizens in lawful political gatherings across Anambra State.

In the same manner, we observed that many citizens have expressed fears of possible low voter turnout and apathy which might be because of alleged threats from some people perceived as members of IPOB.



For this reason, also, INEC might find it difficult to obtain the services of the Road Transport Workers NURTW and NARTO in Anambra State. The members fear that their vehicles may be destroyed if deployed on election day.

SUSPENSION OF THE STAKEHOLDER'S MEETING AT AWKA

To this end and because of the security concerns in Anambra State currently, CTA has cancelled a stakeholder's meeting scheduled to hold on October **CAMPAIGNS**

It should be most worrisome that the rancor and disputes emanating from political parties' primaries is affecting party campaigns as majority of the parties are still in court seeking to know of the rightful candidates to be presented for the election. This uncertainty is mostly noticed among the frontline contenders and therefore, election campaigns have been low key.

At this point, it is also important that political parties shun rancor within their ranks and among themselves while conducting their campaigns and rallies without threat to public safety.

CTA therefore calls on the security agencies to protect INEC staff, election materials, facilities, and the citizens including election workers before, during and after the election. The security agencies, Town Unions should work in synergy to allay the fears of citizens from security threats and assure them of their safety now and after the election.

8 in Awka. It is instructive currently to urge stakeholder's including religious leaders, traditional council, market women and associations, security agencies, the civil society to think deeply about safety concerns as the election day approaches.

LAST LINE: AMENDEMENT OF THE 2010 ELECTORAL ACT

As the National Assembly has reconvened and is expected will continue with the harmonization of the amendments for the Electoral Act, the Centre for Transparency Advocacy urges the members to do the wishes of the people by passing a law that has the interest of the people. INEC and majority of Nigerians have consistently informed Nigerians that electronic transmission of result is possible. The Election Management Body has equally, assured Nigerians that they are capable and ready to deploy technology to achieve credible, free, and fair elections in Nigeria. The hour is now, the National Assembly should play the role of true Statesmen and women and the representatives of the people.

Let the will of the people prevail

Faith Nwadishi

Executive Director

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ACTIVITY: Stakeholder's meeting

VENUE: Finotel Classy Hotel Awka

DATE: 20/10/2021

PURPOSE OF MEETING: Reviewing the preparedness of critical stakeholders towards the November 6 Anambra State Governorship Election

Introduction:

The meeting commenced with self-introduction by participants and an opening prayer.

WELCOME SPEECH BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CTA

The Executive Director of Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA) Ms. Faith Nwadishi welcomed the participants that attended the meeting despite the short notice and fear of insecurity that led to the postponement of the meeting from the earlier scheduled date. She apologized for the postponement and the inconveniences that might have caused the participants.

“It is with great pleasure that I welcome everyone to this meeting. I sincerely apologize on the inconveniences suffered by anyone here due to the postponement of this meeting as was earlier scheduled. The shift in date was because of security challenges existing then in and around Anambra State and we could not afford to endanger the lives of people. We are sorry for that”.

She said that the Centre for Transparency Advocacy, an accredited Domestic Observer Group like many other stakeholders is preparing for the election with the mandate to contribute its quota towards a free, fair, peaceful, and credible governorship election in Anambra state. CTA is among the 72 accredited Domestic observer group and 5 international observer groups. To this effect, CTA has been engaging various stakeholders to gauge the pulse and preparations of the citizens and the Election Management Body towards the election. It is important to note that this governorship election is the 7th since 1999.

She believed that the meeting was an opportunity for stakeholders to freely have a genuine and honest conversation such that the outcome of the meeting will add value towards a free, fair, peaceful, and credible election. She advised that the security agencies should fair in interacting with voters and members of the public while INEC should stand firm without compromise in the discharge of its duties as the electoral umpire. Equally, she asked that vulnerable groups should be accorded fair treatment, protect their rights and be given the opportunity to vote and be voted for.

She concluded by admonishing the people of Anambra state in these words: “that citizens should shun voting buying and selling which undermines the election, that candidates should campaign based on issues and not for heating up the polity and creating fears in the heart of people who want to vote. Also, security agencies should assure the masses of adequate protection within the election periods. Having a credible, free and fair election is first, the primary responsibility of Ndi Anambra and all other stakeholders”

GOODWILL MESSAGES: There were goodwill messages by the National Orientation Agency and the security agencies present which include The Nigerian Police, Nigeria Immigration Service, Department of State Security Services, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, The Federal Road Safety Corps, and Anambra Vigilante. The civil society, religious groups, traditional institutions, and the organized private sector were in attendance including CTA observers for the Anambra State November 6, 2021, Governorship Election. The goodwill message was also an opportunity for the different groups present to present their perspectives and preparedness towards the governorship election in Anambra State on November 6, 2021.

The security agencies commended CTA for holding the stakeholder's meeting amid fears of insecurity in Anambra state. They pledged to support CTA and assured of adequate security on election day and beyond. The National Orientation Agency said it will continue to collaborate with CTA on civic education and other enlightenment activities connected to the Anambra State Governorship election.



INTERACTIVE AND CONVERSATION SESSION

NATIONAL ORIENTATION AGENCY (NOA): The State Director of NOA Barrister Charles Nwoji spoke on the need for people to pay attention to the messages they received from the meeting and cascade to other levels especially in the various communities. He expressed his worried about the insecurity in Anambra state of late. However, he advised that people should not be discouraged but rather should move on and support the electoral process and democracy for the good of Anambra people. He said that NOA is fully prepared for the election as it has carried out series of voter education across the wards in the 21 LGAs of Anambra State.

He encouraged the electorates to come out and vote even when Anambra state is known for voter apathy. He informed that only 1/5 of registered voters cast their votes in the last election while 22% of votes from that 1/5 was voided. He called Anambra people to come out and vote. While advocating that PWDs should be fairly treated in election matters

NIGERIA SECURITY AND CIVIL DEFENCE CORPS (NSCDC): According to the Deputy State Commandant of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, Mr ...the best approach should be to adopt best practices in electoral matters to achieve outcomes that will promote democracy and transparent elections. "For us at the NSCDC, security is crucial in elections and therefore, the command is prepared and ready for the elections". He called on the traditional rulers to be involved in security while guiding the youth to the path of peace. He continued by call for all hands be on deck. importantly, he called for dialogue with those that feel aggrieved in the interest of security of the state. He said that security is the responsibility of everyone. "We shall thread the road to peace as we expect balance reportage from the media including social media." The NSCDC will be deploying about 15,0000 personnel drawn from neighbouring commands in readiness for the election.

VIGILANTE: CSP (rtd) Tagbo the Deputy Commandant of the Anambra Vigilante in his contribution said that the Vigilante are the core of grass root security with about 20 personnel in each of the 179 communities in Anambra state. He, therefore, advised that the Vigilante should be integrated into election security because of the need to share intelligence. He condemned vote trading and urged everyone to be involved in covering the field for a credible and peaceful election. Equally, he informed that the Vigilante will be deploying personnel with the support of the village and market vigilante that will be supervised by the police. He asked people not to fear but should come out to exercise their civic rights by voting on election day

FEDERAL ROAD SAFETY CORPS (FRSC): The representative of the corps said that the command has a duty to perform not minding the threats and perceived insecurity in the state. The FRSC will be in synergy with other security agencies especially, the Nigerian the police while their core mandate will be in certifying the vehicles that will be used for logistics as the command is ready to assist INEC in delivering credible and peaceful election in Anambra State.

NIGERIA IMMIGRATION SERVICES: The Nigerian Immigration is in support of INEC and commended INEC for insisting on the election date. He said the NIS has capacity to identify non –Nigerians and have been able to intercept PVCs for Non- Nigerians in readiness for the election. To this end, no Nigerians will be closely monitored during the election as they will not be allowed to vote. According to him, the NIS will be deploying its personnel during the election to complement the police across polling units. Finally, he advised for a moral rebirth among Nigerians.

ANAMBRA STATE ALMAGATED TOWN UNION (ASATU): The group is ready and will continue to educate and enlighten the citizens on the need for a peaceful election. They pleaded with the security agencies not to have personnel carrying arms within the voting areas as this may discourage especially, the



women from coming out to vote. She noted that the women make up a large proportion of the registered voters and therefore, should be encouraged to come out to cast their votes.

NIGERIA POLICE: Represented by the Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of operations said that the police have set out an operational framework that will see to a peaceful election in Anambra state. That he has been holding meetings with the traditional rulers, town union, youth leaders to refrain from violence. He agreed that with the help of community leaders, the election in Anambra state will be peaceful. In the same manner, he informed that police personnel from other states will be mobilized to Anambra state for effective policing and security during the election. He promised that the police have training of their personnel to act professionally during the election.

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOs): Ugochi Ehiaturu who spoke on behalf of the CSOs said that some CSOs carried out security threat assessment in collaboration with security agencies in Anambra State. She identified some of the flash points as; Aguata LGA, Idemili North and South LGAs, Onitsha North, Nnewi North and South, Ogbaru, Orumba North and South. She advised that more security personnel should be deployed to these identified flash points. She concluded that the CSOs in Anambra State had various stakeholders' engagements across the state and therefore debunked the security scare as she said that people are not only willing to cast their votes but will come out to vote on November 6, 2021.

GENERAL COMMENTS

SECURITY: Participants agreed that there are fears arising from threats and insecurity in the entire state especially, in Anambra South where most of the contestants are from. They equally agreed that a lot depends on security agencies to assure people of adequate security before, during and after the election.

Participants noted with dismay that the Independent National Electoral Commission was not represented at a crucial meeting like this even when there are clear indications and evidence that the Commission was invited. They reasoned that it would have been a good opportunity for INEC to tell Anambra people how prepared they are for the election.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Anambra State Governorship Election should hold but with assurances of adequate security
2. That INEC should truly be a neutral and unbiased umpire
3. That citizens should come out and cast their votes
4. That traditional rulers, religious leaders, Town union leaders should speak to their people especially the youth to shun violence
5. That security agencies should uphold their acts and protect the people and should not let the country and agencies down.
6. The media should report facts and appropriately.

**WELCOME SPEECH BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA) DURING THE STAKEHOLDER'S MEETING IN PREPARATION TOWARDS THE NOVEMBER 6 ANAMBRA STATE GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION HELD AT FINOTEL HOTEL AWKA ON OCTOBER 20, 2021.****Protocols**

It is with great pleasure that I welcome everyone to this meeting. I sincerely apologize on the inconveniences suffered by anyone here due to the postponement of this meeting as was earlier scheduled. The shift in date was because of security challenges existing then in and around Anambra State and we could not afford to endanger the lives of people. We are sorry for that.

The Anambra state Governorship Election as we are all aware has been scheduled by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to hold on Saturday, November 6, 2021. The Centre for Transparency Advocacy, an accredited Domestic Observer Group like many other stakeholders is preparing for the election with the mandate to contribute its quota towards a free, fair, peaceful, and credible governorship election in Anambra state. CTA is among the 72 accredited Domestic observer group and 5 international observer groups. To this effect, CTA has been engaging various stakeholders to gauge the pulse and preparations of the citizens and the Election Management Body towards the election. It is important to note that this governorship election is the 7th since 1999.

Anambra State has 21 LGAs, 11 Federal constituencies, 3 senatorial Districts, 326 Registration Areas (wards) and 5,720 polling units. There are 2,525,471 registered voters in Anambra State, and it is expected that election will happen in all the 5,720 PUs with all eligible voter participating. 18 candidates from 18 political parties will be contesting the election.

This meeting will afford us the opportunity to have a conversation with stakeholders, genuinely interact, examine issues and the situation in relation to the governorship election. A key outcome expected from this meeting is the commitment from stakeholders to ensure a peaceful, credible, free, and fair election on November 6, 2021.

It is our belief that INEC will serve the interest of the people while building on their recent successes in the last off-season elections especially the Edo and Ondo States governorship elections by the deployment of improved technology such as the Bi-modal Voter Accreditation System (B-VAS) that replaced the Smart Card Reader to achieve transparency in the electoral process. We hope this success shall be replicated in Anambra State.

It is important as stakeholders to ensure that all voices are heard especially those of the vulnerable groups such as women, youth and people with disability in the electoral process to engender better democratic practices which in turn will help the Electoral Umpire to fashion a credible pathway to elections and the electoral process.

Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA) will be deploying 64 observers made up of indigenes of Anambra state and other experts to the 21 Local Government Areas of Anambra state with at least 3 observers per Local Government. These observers will be trained on Election Observation and adherence to INEC Election Guidelines and the Covid-19 Protocols. There will be other citizens observers at PUs who will be reporting on the activities at the PUs where they will be voting. We hope that participants here will use this opportunity to report what will be happening at their PUs as citizen observers. CTA will also be setting up a Situation Room in Awka on election day to receive reports from the field observers.



In conclusion, we advise that citizens should shun voting buying and selling which undermines the election, that candidates should campaign based on issues and not for heating up the polity and creating fears in the heart of people who want to vote. Also, security agencies should assure the masses of adequate protection within the election periods. Having a credible, free and fair election is first, the primary responsibility of Ndi Anambra and all other stakeholders

The Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA) is registered as a non-profit, non-Governmental, non-partisan and non-religious organisation with a mission is to promote the benefits of transparency and accountability in public service and to cause a reawakening in the society to imbibe the tenets of transparency and accountability in Nigeria.

CTA an accredited election observer equally operates as a critical watch dog in the electoral value chain and is involved in election observation in Nigeria

CTA most sincerely appreciates the quality collaboration from the Anambra State Director of National Orientation Agency (NOA) Barrister Charles Nwoji, INEC, the security agencies, traditional rulers, religious leaders, professional organisations, CSOs, and other participants who in one way or the other has added value to this meeting.

Once again, I sincerely welcome everyone and wish you fruitful deliberation.

Thank you.

Faith Nwadishi.

**MEDIA LINKS**

<https://www.nairaland.com/6811777/anambra-guber-security-agencies-cta#106904113>

National Light Newspapers, vol 27, NO 18, Monday October 25, 2021 Page 5

NTA News Awka, 20/10/2021

LEADERSHIP NEWSPAPER edition of 21.10.21

**PRE-ELECTION STATEMENT ON THE ANAMBRA GUBERNATORIAL ELECTIONS ON 5TH NOVEMBER
2021 BY THE CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA)****BACKGROUND**

The Anambra state Gubernatorial election is coming up against the background of increasing and almost unprecedented socio-economic cum security crisis. This is coupled with nationalist and separatist agitations rocking the nation, especially the spate of violence that has been recorded in Eastern Nigeria in general and Anambra state in particular.

The security situation prior to now in Anambra State had created a state of uncertainty and cast doubts as to the possibility of conducting election in such a tensed atmosphere. Some reports had it that scores of people had lost their lives in different parts of Anambra State in the run up to today. Among those killed gruesomely was Dr. Chike Akunyili, the husband of late Prof. Dora Akunyili. Other acts of violence included the kidnapping of political party candidates and top politicians, the burning of police stations, burning of INEC facilities, burning of security outstations, including the intimidation of citizens in lawful political gatherings across Anambra State. The declaration of the seven days sit at home order pronounced by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in no small measure also heightened fears of the elections being marred by violence.

Anambra State, with a voting population of 2,252,471 with 326 Registration Areas, has 5720 Polling units. Materials will not be deployed 86 of these PUs due to zero voters. There are eighteen (18) gubernatorial candidates.

This background notwithstanding, the CTA wishes to observe as follows as we move close to the elections tomorrow.

MISINFORMATION AND FAKE NEWS

There has been a lot of misinformation in the run up to this election. Many of the misinformation are from political parties seeking to improve their fortunes. However, we call on the people to be wary and screen the information they receive about the security situation in the state and the activities of INEC. There is no bloodshed in Anambra State as the security personnel deployed have so far taken effective charge and provided adequate security. No soldiers were seen escorting fake voters into Anambra State as that is Fake News. There are no indiscriminate arrests of political party leaders as being spread and INEC has not written any results for any political party and has also not endorsed any candidate as being spread. Only the people of Anambra will decide their next Governor and that power is effectively in their hands.

EFFORTS BY SOUTHEAST GOVERNORS AND THE PEACE COMMITTEE

While we appreciate the Southeast Governors' Forum, traditional rulers, religious leaders, and the Peace Committee on the effective pressure put on IPOB to call off the sit at home and to get the candidates and their political parties to sign a peace accord. We urge that the effort should be sustained so that voters in



the Southeast will be reassured of their safety even early enough before the 2023 elections. With the claims by the Governors that other unidentified criminal gangs and cultist groups were operating under IPOB directives to engage in their criminality, we call on the Governors to step up security efforts to ensure that the criminals are brought to book.

THE ACTIVITIES OF INEC

The CTA commends the election management body for adopting one of our recommendations in previous elections which is the appropriate identification of party agents. For this election, INEC has issued tags with photographs of the agents for easy identification. Nobody can claim to be an agent of any political party and by that means cause trouble at any polling unit or collation centre when they are not. Furthermore, the introduction of colour codes for the Local Government Areas is another amazing innovation of the Commission, which means that each Local Government Area will have a distinct colour of ballot papers. So far, we can verify that INEC has deployed all required sensitive and non-sensitive materials to their locations. The sensitive materials had arrived the LGAs hqs yesterday from the Central Bank and are being moved today to the RACs from where they will move tomorrow to the Polling Units. We shall be expecting polling to open by 8am on the average in most polling centres in the state and the Ad hoc staff to be very professional in the handling of the new device, Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS).

CONDUCT OF SECURITY AGENCIES

With the heavy deployment of security in Anambra State, there have not been any reports of security personnel interference in the electoral process. Also there have not been reports of harassment by security forces of innocent citizens. We therefore commend the security personnel and encourage them to conduct themselves professionally as they have been doing so far. The personnel are encouraged to as much as possible be friendly with the local people as they have come to provide security and not be a threat to the people. We also call for inter-agency cooperation among the different security agencies and the issues of command and control be resolved in time to avoid issues of unruly behaviour amongst personnel over who is in charge and should give instructions.

POLITICIANS

So far, politicians and party supporters have been going about their campaigns peacefully without significant breach of security or inflated hate speeches outside the usual political jabs among political parties and supporters. This is highly commendable, and we wish such will be the order of the day tomorrow during the actual election. We caution on the involvement in vote buying and call on politicians, voters and parties not to support or indulge in this cankerworm about to destroy our democracy. However, we urge politicians to be up and doing especially in the deployment of party agents. Deploying the actual people accredited by INEC as party agents for the election is critical and important for the process.

We are concerned that women are still not considered as candidates by the political parties, with 18 candidates no female and 7 female deputies, means that we are only paying lip service to women's inclusion

CTA's preparation

Deployed 64 observes, trained them, conducted a stakeholder meeting here at Awka, followed up on other activities, attended the stakeholders meeting by INC chairman and the IGP, was at the central bank to observe the distribution of materials, was the police HQ to attend the police briefing.

**CONCLUSION:**

INEC has assured a smooth free and fair elections, introducing new technology and other measures to safeguard the electoral process. CTA will be deploying 64 election observers to observe the conduct of the elections across the state. They will be stationed at selected polling units to observe the entire process from the arrival of polling officials to the declaration of results at the polling unit level.

We are aware of Anambra's history of serial voter apathy; hence, we encourage the citizens of Anambra state to change the tide and come out en-mass to exercise their right and vote the candidate of their choice. We strongly urge voters to vote responsibly and desist from selling their votes.

While we commend the media for the timely report so far, we encourage media personnel to consistently provide credible information on the election and security situation in the state to dispel the misinformation being circulated in the social media space and encourage voters turn out.

We wish to also appeal to election observers to adhere to the code of conduct for election observers, resist the urge to interfere with the process and effectively report events and situations witnessed.

Finally, we wish to encourage the security operatives to collaborate with each other and discharge their duties professionally in a manner that does not interfere with the electoral process or the rights of voters.

CTA's situation room is hereby open, and we invite you to another press conference here at the close of polls tomorrow.

We look forward to a peaceful and successful elections tomorrow. Thank you.

Faith Nwadishi

Executive Director

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT ON
OBSERVATION OF THE ANAMBRA STATE GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION
HELD ON 6TH NOVEMBER 2021 BY CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY**

Issued: 6pm 6/11/2021 at Awka, Anambra State

Preamble:

The Anambra state Gubernatorial election, one of the off-season elections in today Nigeria's electoral calendar held the 6th November 2021.

The Anambra state Gubernatorial election held against the background of increasing and almost unprecedented socio-economic cum security crisis. This is coupled with nationalist and separatist agitations rocking the nation, especially the spate of violence that has been recorded in Eastern Nigeria in general and Anambra State in particular.

The security situation prior to now in Anambra State had created a state of uncertainty and cast doubts as to the possibility of conducting election in such a tensed atmosphere. Some reports had it that scores of people had lost their lives in different parts of Anambra State in the run up to today. Other acts of violence included the kidnapping of political



party candidates and top politicians, the burning of police stations, burning of INEC facilities, burning of security outstations, including the intimidation of citizens in lawful political gatherings across Anambra State. The seven days sit at home order pronounced by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in no small measure heightened fears of the elections being marred by violence.

This background notwithstanding, the CTA deployed 64 election observers. Our preliminary observation report is as follows-

Time of arrival of INEC Officials and materials

On the average, reports from our observers deployed to the field indicated that polling units opened at 8.30 am. INEC Officials and materials in most places arrived as early as 7.30 am. There were however some exceptions where officials and materials arrived after 8.30am.

It is believed that the fear resulting from threats by criminal gangs and the IPOB declaration of sit at home was responsible for some of delay as many drivers engaged by the Commission did not turn up warranting emergency arrangements being made to achieve the goal. It must be noted that materials eventually arrived in all Polling Units in the furthest parts of the State at about 10am.

Time of commencement of accreditation and voting

Most of the reports from our observers indicated that on the average voter accreditation and voting commenced between 8.30am and 10.00am. This is without prejudice to the few exceptions where voter accreditation and voting started later than 10am.

Our observers reported cases of malfunction of the BVAS which was largely due to network and operational issues. We noted that at some point when voters were advised to smile or change positions so that people behind them were not captured, the BVAS functioned better.

Performance/Conduct of INEC Officials

CTA notes that in this election, INEC has demonstrated its capacity to incrementally improve the election management process in the country. Our observers reported marked improvement in the performance of INEC officials during the election. Observers also noted the cooperation extended to election observers. However, it was noted that many of the ad hoc staff were not used to the BVAS and were unable to handle the device to promptly aid accreditation.

Time of arrival and Conduct of Security Agents

Generally, the security agents arrived on time. In many of the polling units, our observers reported security agents arriving before the commencement of the accreditation and voting.

On the average there were 4-5 security agents per polling unit. However, while moving round, our observers reported effective security cordon on the state pointing that all



major roads had checkpoints and noted that as of 4.00pm on polling day, the security agents at the checkpoints were professional discharging their duties effectively.

Voter turnout

Despite the fear of violence occasioned by the declaration of sit at home by IPOB before the election, voter turnout was largely impressive. We therefore commend the electorate for their courage and determination in turning out enmasse despite all odds to exercise their franchise.

Conduct of Political Parties/Voters (Vote buying and vote selling)

Our observer reports indicated that in many of the polling units, vote buying was becoming more brazen and was a major feature of this election. INEC, the Security Agencies, and other stakeholders need to work out measures to effectively address this ugly phenomenon. There were 18 political parties fielding candidates but at the polling units, there were between 2-5 political parties whose agents were present. It must be pointed out that our observers reported that to ensure that security personnel at the booths did not disturb their vote buying, provisions were made for them (Security Agents) and they received money and allowed the crime to go on freely. At Awka Ward 7, PU 001 and 002 the security personnel (Police and Civil Defence) were called together and given money which they received and shared peacefully. However, at Ward 01, Agu Awka, PU 008 Arroma junction 1, quarrel ensued nearing fisticuffs between the Police and Civil Defence personnel on the sharing formula. Indeed, it was a very embarrassing sight.

Conclusion

Finally, we commend INEC and all stakeholders for ensuring a free, fair, and credible election so far. The extension of time of voting to 4pm by INEC due to malfunctioning of the BVAS in some centres to ensure every voter that turned out cast their votes is quite commendable. We urge the Commission to note the several reasons why the BVAS malfunctioned and take steps to improve the performance in subsequent elections. We do hope that the free and fair process will be replicated during the collation process, with the result expected to be electronically transmitted.

Faith Nwadishi

Executive Director

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**FINAL STATEMENT ON OBSERVATION OF THE ANAMBRA STATE GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION
HELD ON 6TH NOVEMBER 2021 BY CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY**

Issued: 5pm 19/11/2021 in Abuja

Preamble:

Amid the tense situation and uncertainties that permeated the environment before November 6, 2021, it was not certain that the governorship election would hold despite several assurances by the Independent National Electoral Commission. The election, which started on November 6, 2021, was eventually concluded on Tuesday 9th of November 2021, due to the postponement in the Ihiala Local Government Area. Professor Chukwuma Soludo of the All-Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA) was declared the winner and returned as elected by the Returning Officer, Professor Florence Obi. It is important to note that out of about 2.5 million registered voters in Anambra State, less than 12 % of the voters came out to vote.

The Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA) deployed 64 election observers. Our final observation statement is as follows-

Time of arrival of INEC Officials and materials

As noted in our preliminary report, on average, information from our observers deployed to the field indicated that polling units opened at 8.30 am. INEC Officials and materials in most places arrived as early as 7.30 am. There were, however, some exceptions where officials and materials came after 8.30 am. Equally, materials arrived late, and voting did not commence on schedule in Ihiala on Tuesday, 9/11/2021.

There were reports of skirmishes between security agencies and elements opposed to the election in Ihiala, leading to delays and no elections in some communities like Luli and Orsumohu.

Generally, CTA noted that the fear resulting from threats by criminal gangs and the IPOB declaration of sit-at-home was responsible for some of the delays and citizens' apprehension towards the election.

Time of commencement of accreditation and voting

Without prejudice to the few exceptions where voter accreditation and voting started later than 10 am, reports from our observers indicated that, on average, voter accreditation and voting commenced between 8.30 am, and 10.00 am. However, this was not the case in the rescheduled Ihiala election, where accreditation and voting started in some places in the afternoon.

Deployment of Technology

Our observers reported cases of malfunction of the BVAS, mainly due to network and operational issues. We noted that at some point, when voters were advised to smile or change positions so that people behind them were not captured, the BVAS functioned better. However, our observers reported that the BVAS functioned better at the rescheduled Ihiala election. This



could be attributed to how INEC officials took note of the earlier technical issues and rectified them before deploying to Ihiala.

Performance/Conduct of INEC Officials

CTA notes that INEC has demonstrated its capacity to improve the election management process in the country incrementally in this election. Our observers reported marked improvement in the performance of INEC officials during the election. Observers also noted the cooperation extended to election observers. However, it was noted that many of the ad-hoc staff were not used to the BVAS and could not handle the device to aid accreditation promptly.

Time of arrival and Conduct of Security Agents

Generally, the security agents arrived on time. In many polling units, our observers reported security agents arriving before the commencement of the accreditation and voting.

On average, there were 4-5 security agents per polling unit. However, while moving around, our observers reported an effective security cordon on the state, pointing that all significant roads had checkpoints and noted that as of 4.00 pm on polling day, the security agents at the checkpoints were professional in discharging their duties effectively. The same scenario was replicated in Ihiala during the rescheduled election on 9/11/2021.

Voter turnout

Despite the fear of violence occasioned by the declaration of sit at home by IPOB before the election, voter turnout was largely impressive. We, therefore, commend the electorate for their courage and determination in turning out despite all odds to exercise their franchise. However, CTA noted that voter turnout in Anambra State has progressively retrogressed at each election. The voter turnout in this election was abysmally low, were less than 12 % of the registered voters came out to vote.

Conduct of Political Parties/Voters (Vote-buying and vote-selling)

Our observer reports indicated that vote-buying was becoming more brazen in many polling units and was a significant feature of this election. INEC, the Security Agencies, and other stakeholders need to address this ugly phenomenon effectively. There were 18 political parties fielding candidates, but there were between 2-5 political parties whose agents were present at the polling units. Our observers reported that provisions were made for the security personnels to ensure no disturbance of their vote-buying activities at the booths. They received money and allowed the crime to go on freely. Notably, at Awka Ward 7, PU 001 and 002, the security personnel (Police and Civil Defence) were called together, given the money, which was shared peacefully. However, at Ward 01, Agu Awka, PU 008 Arroma junction 1, a quarrel ensued nearing fisticuffs between the Police and Civil Defence personnel on the sharing formula. Indeed, it was a very embarrassing sight.

Observer Groups

CTA commends especially the Domestic Observer Groups that deployed hundreds of field observers on the election day despite the fears and uncertainties. The different observer groups like CTA before the election had engaged stakeholder's, security agencies and INEC in other



forums in preparation for a peaceful and credible election. The role of election observers is critical in the electoral process leading to innovations and positive changes in election management.

Conclusion

It is believed that the outcome of the election reflected the wishes of the people of Anambra State. CTA, therefore, Congratulates the people of Anambra State.

Finally, we commend INEC and all stakeholders for ensuring a free, fair, and credible election so far. Extension of voting time to 4 pm by INEC due to malfunctioning of the BVAS in some centres and the rescheduling of the election in Ihiala to Tuesday 9/11/2021 to ensure every voter that turned outcast their votes is quite commendable. We urge the Commission to note the several reasons why the BVAS malfunctioned and take steps to improve the performance in subsequent elections.

Faith Nwadishi

Executive Director

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EC14B (II)

SYNOPSIS OF GROUP OBSERVATION FORM

(An election observation reporting form for Accredited Observers)

Please submit this form via email within 72 hours after the elections!!

Email: info@cta.org.ng

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA) Abuja

TYPE OF ELECTION: Governorship

NO. OF OBSERVERS DEPLOYED: 64

LOCATION(S) OBSERVED: 21 LGAs of Anambra State

1. Election Environment

- i. How the Political Environment?
 - a) Peaceful b) Tense c) Uncertain
- ii. What sort of incidences of Violence are prevalent?
 - a) Ballot Snatching b) Intimidation c) Vote buying d) Fighting
- iii. What were the challenges observe during the Elections?
 - a) Logistics b) Security c) Violence d) Card Reader-BVAS
- iv. How objective is the media in their coverage of the Election
 - a) Objective b) Biased c) Fair

2. Logistics (Election material distribution and election official's deployment)

- i. Where sensitive materials sorted into RA's?
 - a) Yes b) No
- ii. Was transportation of election staff consistent with COVID -19 containment protocols? (7-14 for buses, and from 12 to 6 for boats)
 - a) Yes b) No



3. Election Operations

3.1 RAC activities

- i. Please indicate the COVID-19 measures observed at the RAC
 a) Facemask b) Social Distancing c) use of hand sanitizers d) None
- ii. How do you rate the set-up of the RAC? (adherence to COVID-19 safety protocol)
 a) bad b) average c) good

3.2 Polling unit operation

- i. Opening of Polling Units
 a) On time b) a bit Late c) very Late
- ii. Where the polling units adequately secured (presence of security)?
 a) Yes b) No.
- iii. On the average, how many poll officials present in most polling units?
 a) One b) Two c) Three d) four
- iv. How many of the Polling unit staff were women?
 a) 1 out of 4 b) 2 out of 4 c) 3 out of 4 d) all women e) None
- v. How many of the Polling unit staff were PWDs?
 a) 1 out of 4 b) 2 out of 4 c) 3 out of 4 d) none
- vi. Was there under age voting?
 a) Yes b) No
- vii. How effective were the cardreaders? BVAS
 a) Slow b) Fast c) mixed
- viii. Any preference for PWDs, Nursing and aged voters at Pus visited?
 a) Yes b) No
- ix. What type of assistive tools did you see at the polling units?
 a) Election Day written instructions (EC30E PWD) b) magnifying glasses
 c) Braille ballot
- X. Were poll officials kitted with PPEs, gloves at the polling unit?
 a) Yes b) No
- XI. Did voters adhere to physical distancing at the polling unit
 a) Yes b) No



XII. Did poll officials implement the two-tier queuing system at the Polling Unit (one outside and the other in the voting area)

a) Yes b) No

XIII. Did voters and staff wear face mask at polling units?

a) Yes b) No

XIV. Did poll officials read out the Voter Code of Conduct (VCC) to voters?

a) Yes b) No

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

a) bad b. average c. good

3.3 Collation activities

i. How do you rate the set-up of the collation centre? (accessibility)

b) bad b. average c. good

ii. How do you rate the set-up of the collation centre? (adherence to COVID-19 safety protocol)

c) bad b. average c. good

4 General questions

i. General Assessment of the entire process

a) good b. fair c. poor

ii. Any Other Comment (provide general comment on key areas not mentioned above)



Most of the reports from our observers indicated that on the average voter accreditation and voting commenced between 8.30am and 10.00am. This is without prejudice to the few exceptions where voter accreditation and voting started later than 10am.

Our observers reported cases of malfunction of the BVAS which was largely due to network and operational issues. We noted that at some point when voters were advised to smile or change positions so that people behind them were not captured, the BVAS functioned better.

CTA notes that in this election, INEC has demonstrated its capacity to incrementally improve the election management process in the country. Our observers reported marked improvement in the performance of INEC officials during the election. Observers also noted the cooperation extended to election observers. However, it was noted that many of the ad hoc staff were not used to the BVAS and were unable to handle the device to promptly aid accreditation.

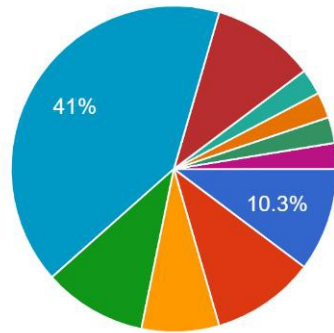
Generally, the security agents arrived on time. In many of the polling units, our observers reported security agents arriving before the commencement of the accreditation and voting with an average of 4-5 security agents per polling unit. Our observer reports indicated that in many of the polling units vote buying was becoming more brazen and was a major feature of this election.

Finally, we commend INEC and all stakeholders for ensuring a free, fair, and credible election so far. The extension of time of voting to 4pm by INEC due to malfunctioning of the BVAS in some centres to ensure every voter that turned out cast their votes is quite commendable.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

39 responses

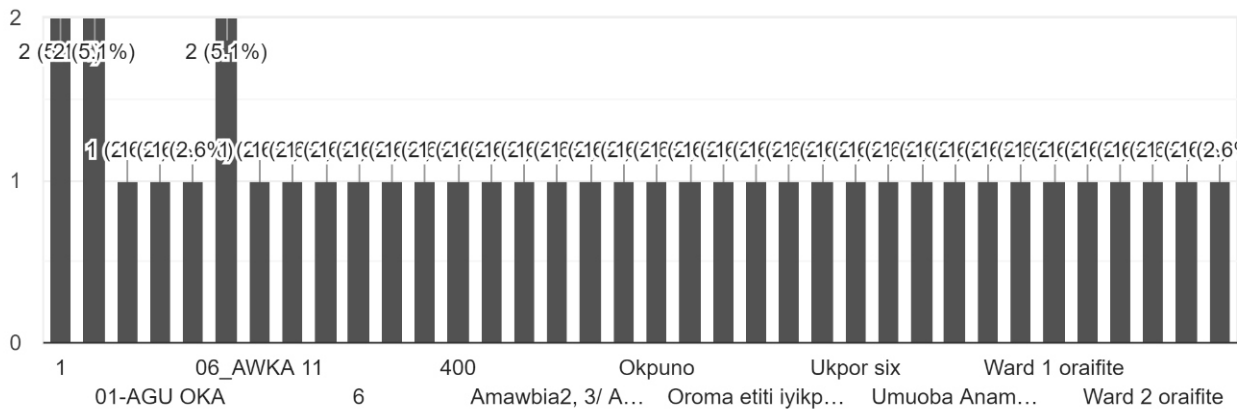


- Aguata
- Anambra East
- Anambra West
- Anaocha
- Awka North
- Awka South
- Ayamelu
- Dunukofia

▲ 1/3 ▼

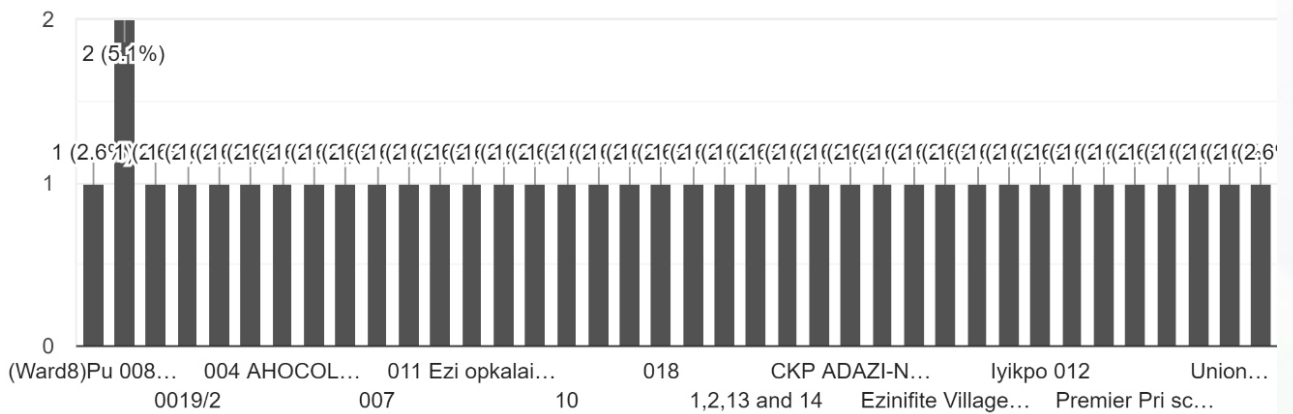
WARD

39 responses



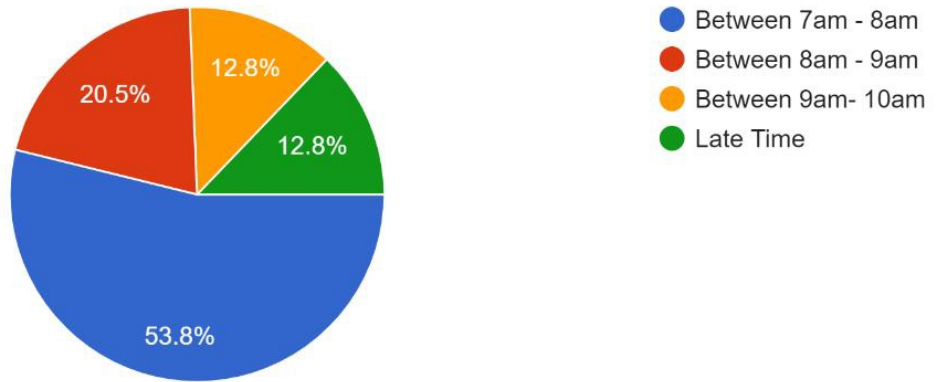
POLLING UNIT / VOTING POINTS

39 responses



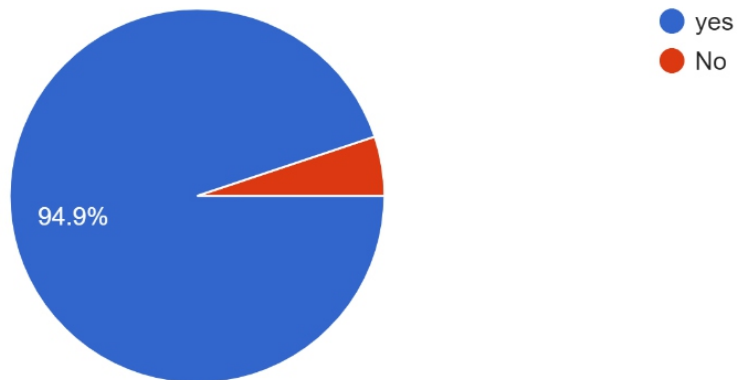
Time of Arrival of Observer at Polling Unit

39 responses



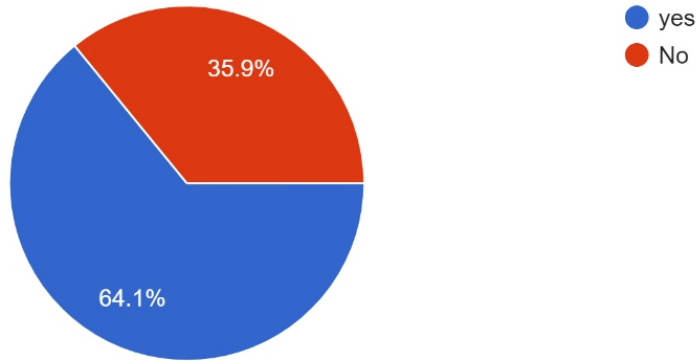
Polling Unit is within a Neutral Environment

39 responses



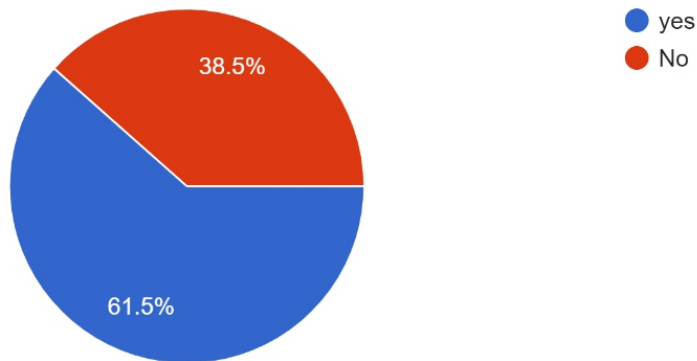
INEC Officials arrived between 7.00am and 8.30am

39 responses



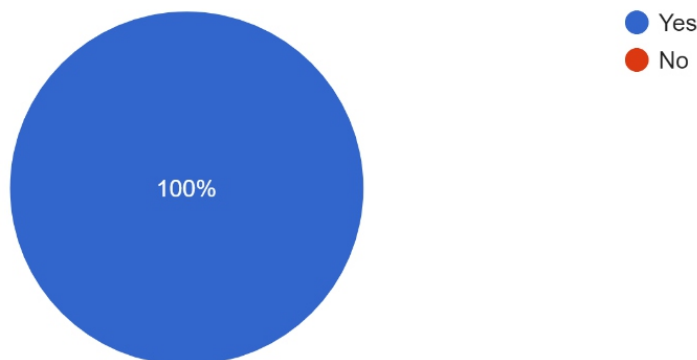
Election materials arrived polling units between 7.00am and 8.30am

39 responses



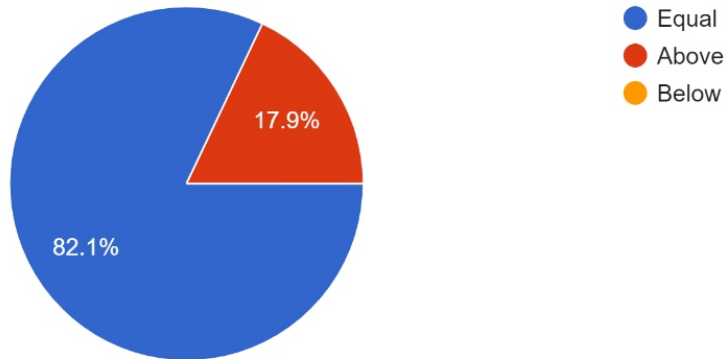
Election materials were properly packaged and intact

39 responses



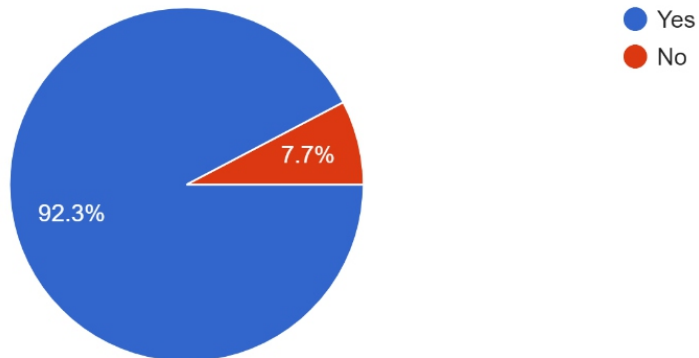
Election materials were equal or above the number of registered voters

39 responses



INEC Officials were present before opening of Polls

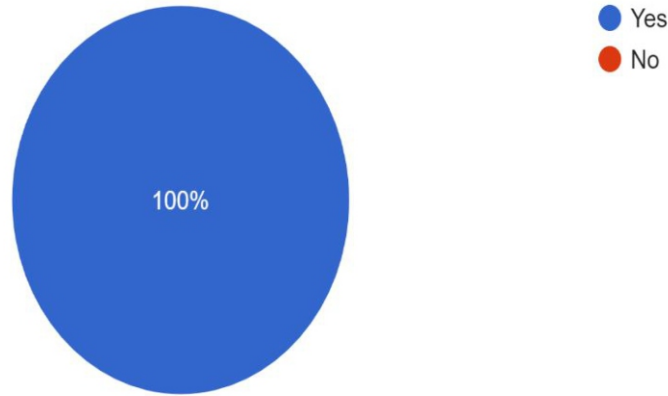
39 responses





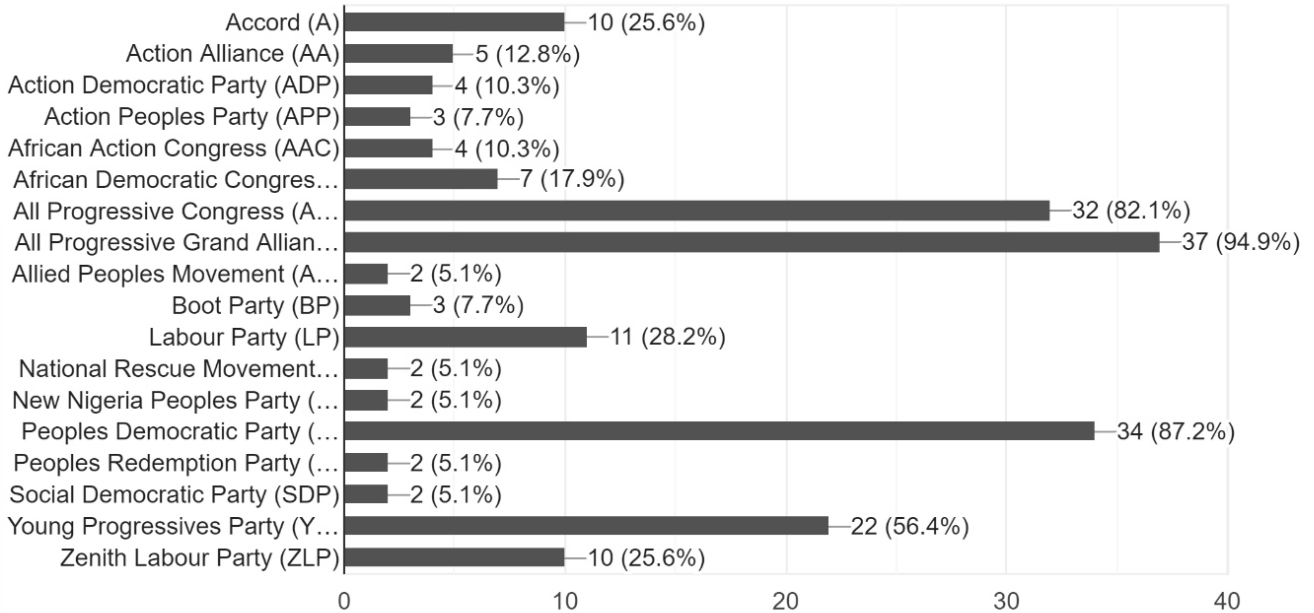
Political Party Agents were present at the Polling Unit

39 responses



Please tick the political Party Agents Present

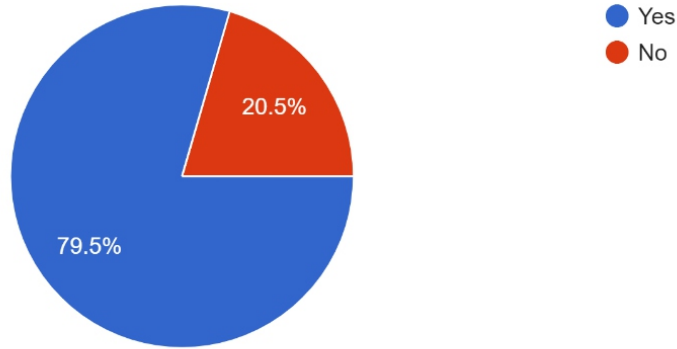
39 responses





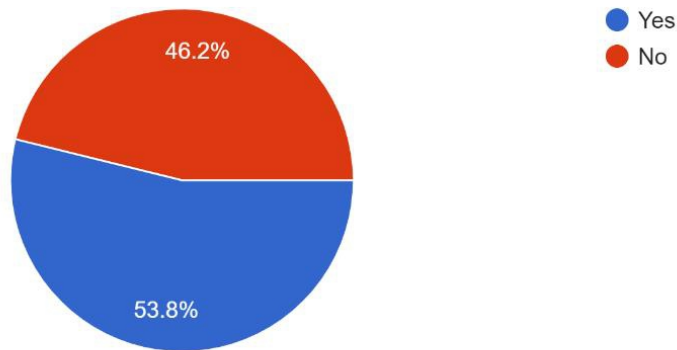
Campaign materials were removed from the Polling Unit

39 responses



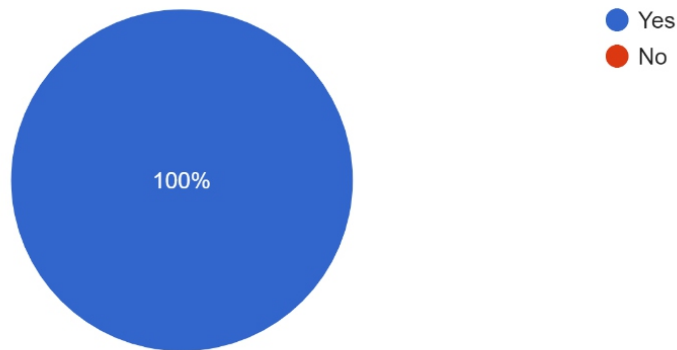
Polling Unit was divided into sub-units

39 responses



Ballot Boxes were located in full view of the public

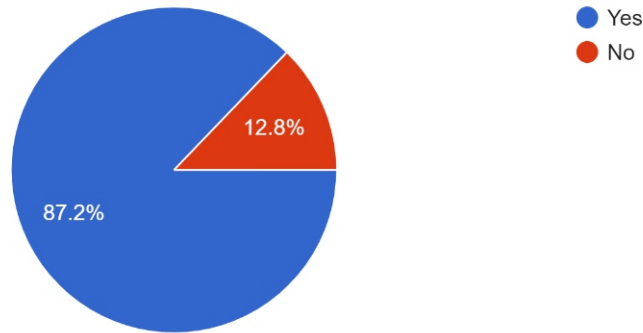
39 responses





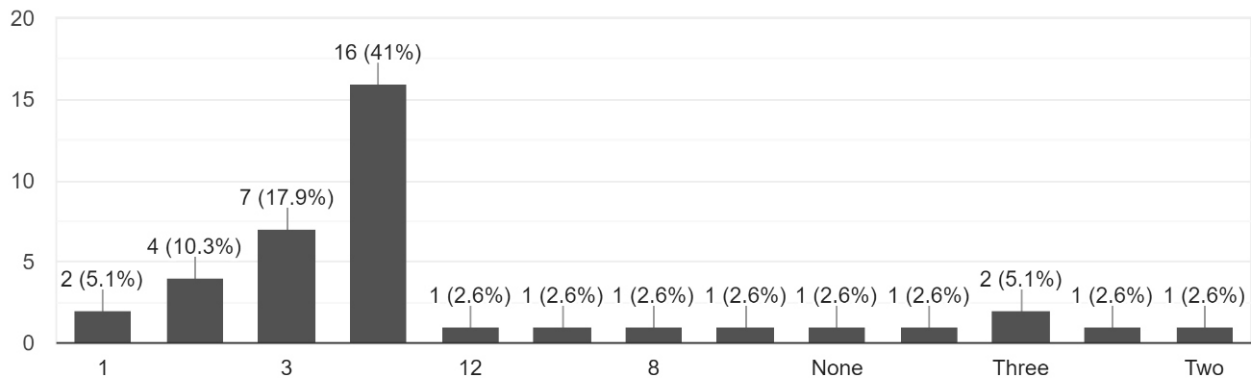
Polling Booth was enclosed

39 responses



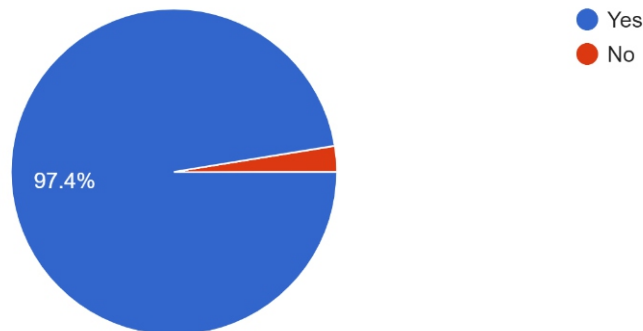
How many INEC Officials were present at the Polling Unit

39 responses



Security Personnel were present at the Polling Unit

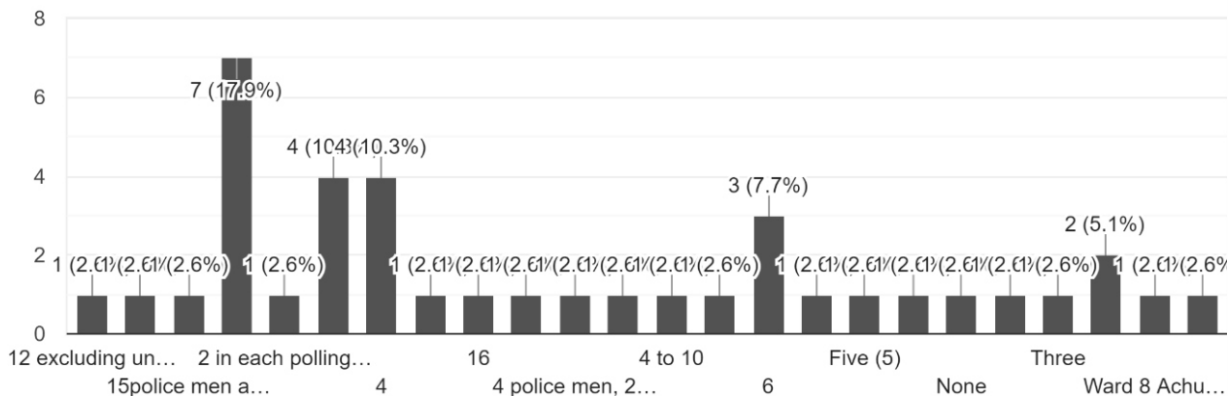
39 responses





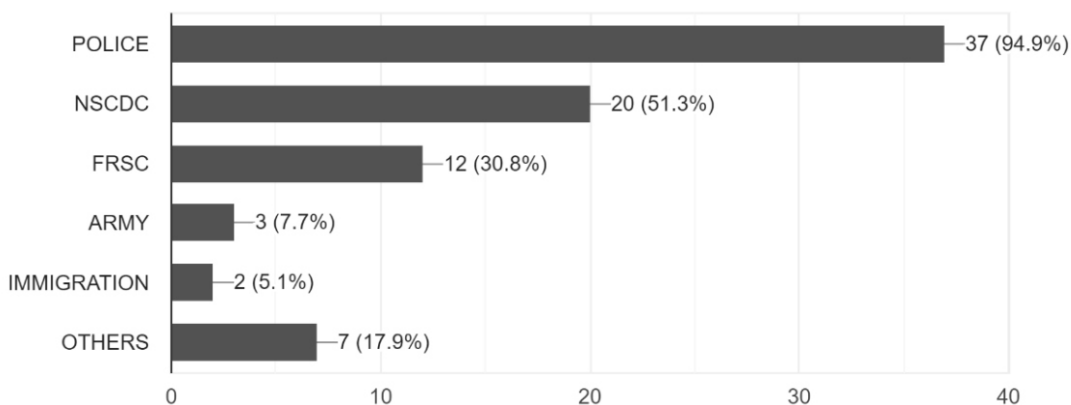
Please specify the number of security personnel's present at the polling unit

39 responses



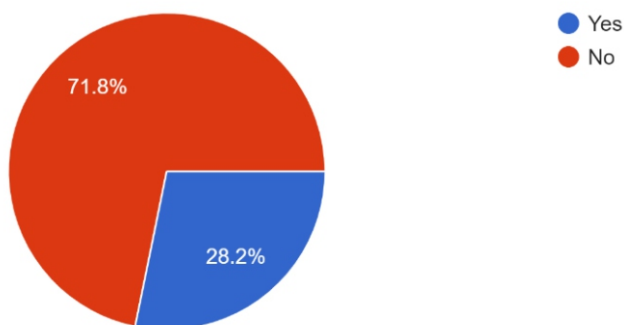
Please tick the security personnel's present

39 responses



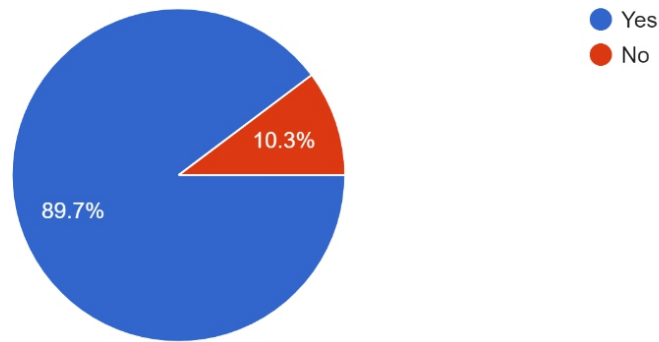
Did you notice any security agent with firearms within the polling unit?

39 responses



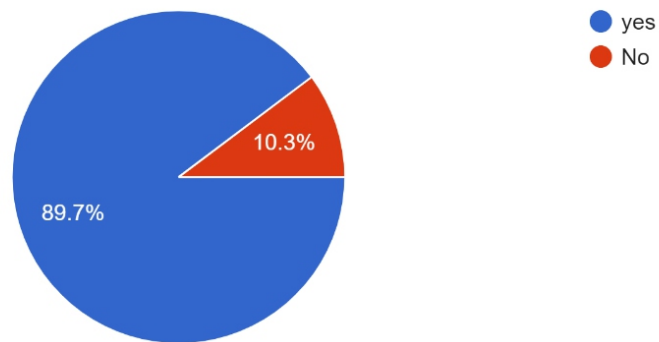
Polling Unit is easy to locate and accessible to all voters including the PWDs

39 responses



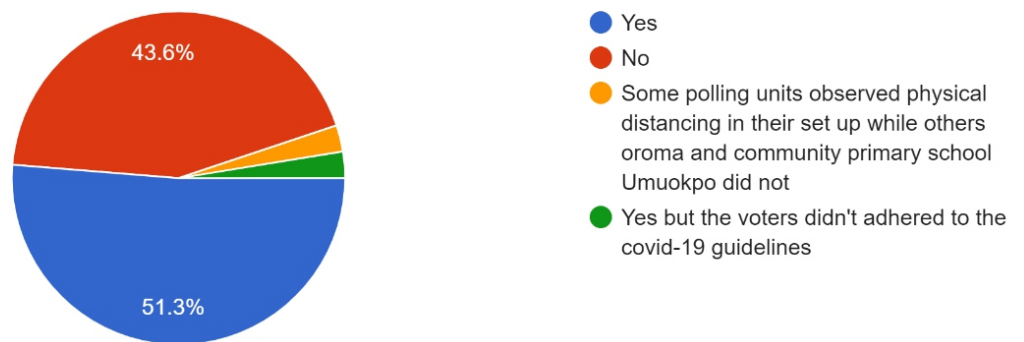
INEC Officials explained the voting process to the voters/electorate?

39 responses



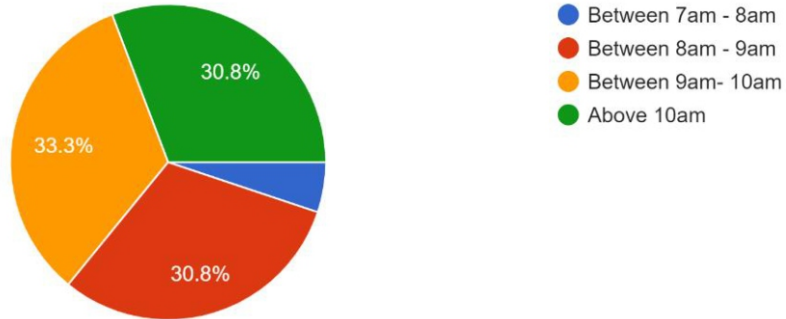
Was the polling unit set-up according to COVID19 guidelines?

39 responses



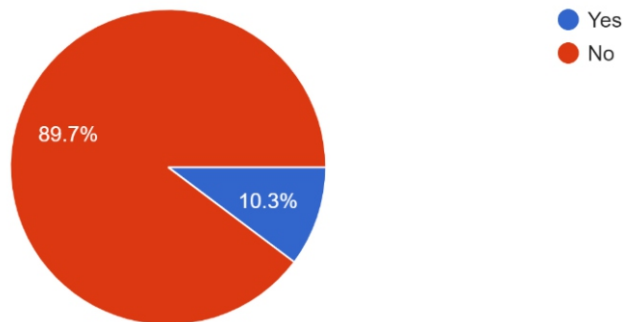
What time did the Accreditation of voters start?

39 responses



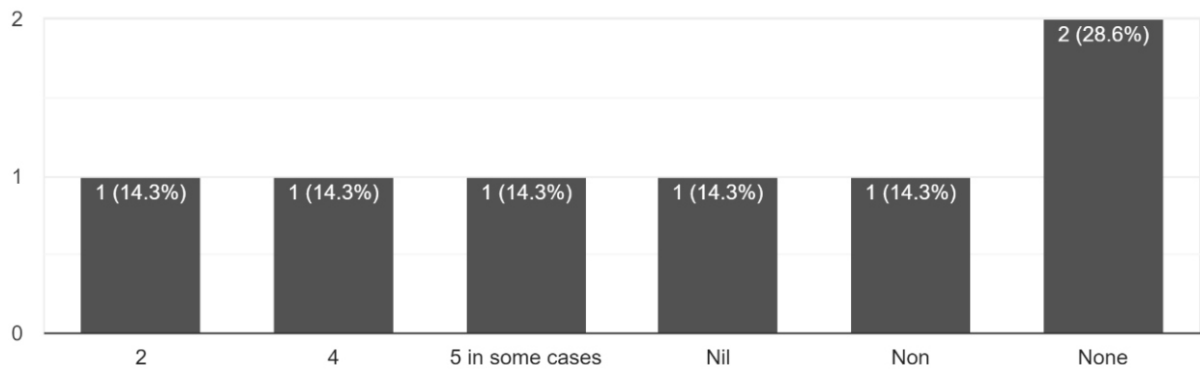
Were there cases of omission of any voter's name on the Register?

39 responses



If answer to above is yes, please state the number of cases

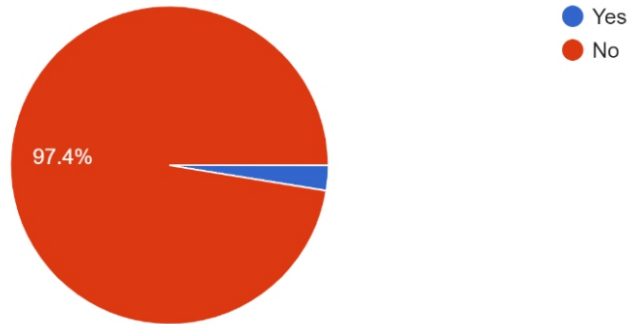
7 responses





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

39 responses



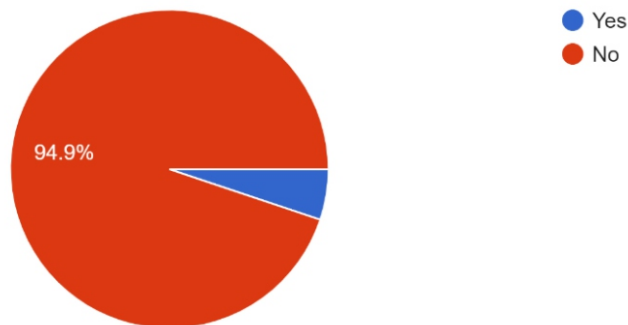
If answer to above is yes, please state the number of cases

3 responses



Were there issues of fake PVCs presented for accreditation?

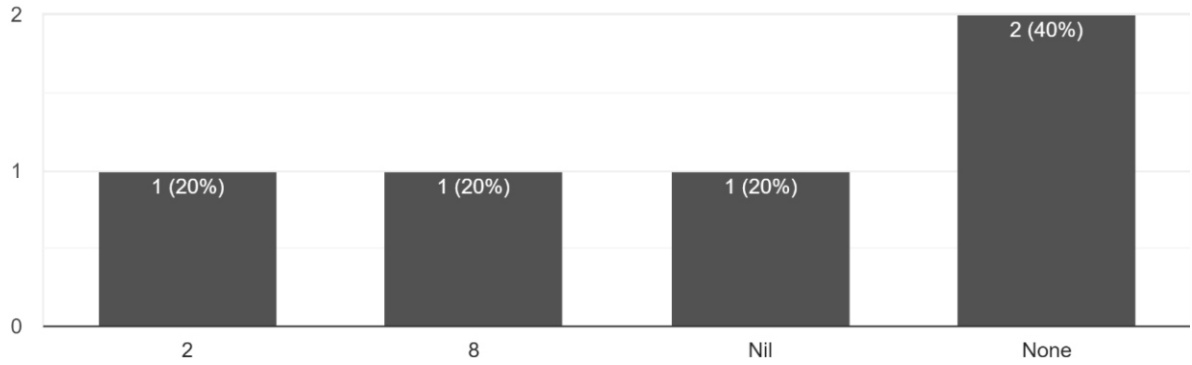
39 responses





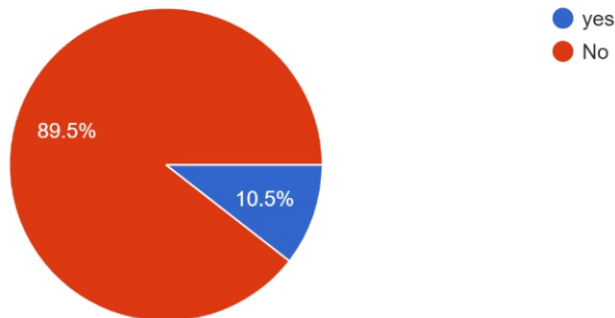
If answer above is yes, please state the number of cases

5 responses



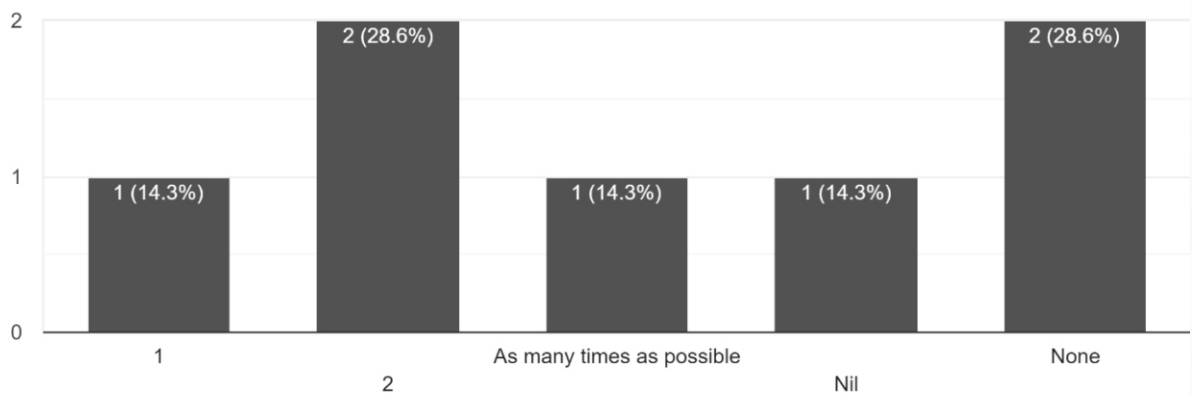
Were eligible voters with valid PVCs refused Accreditation because their names were not on the Voters' Register?

38 responses



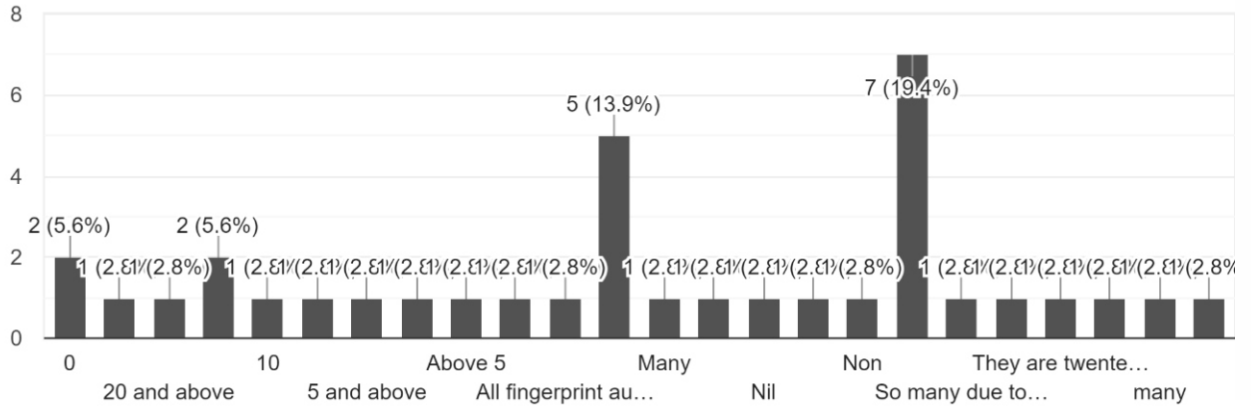
If answer to above is yes, please state the number of cases

7 responses



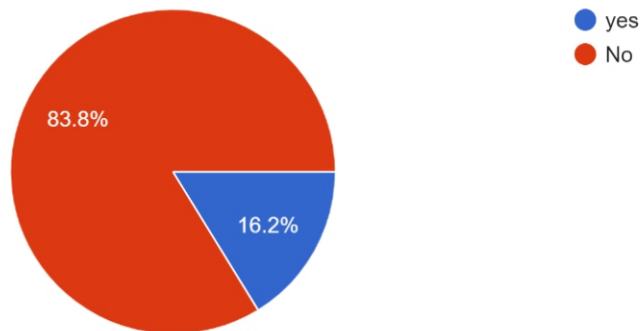
How many reports of failed fingerprints' authentication occurred at the polling Unit?

36 responses



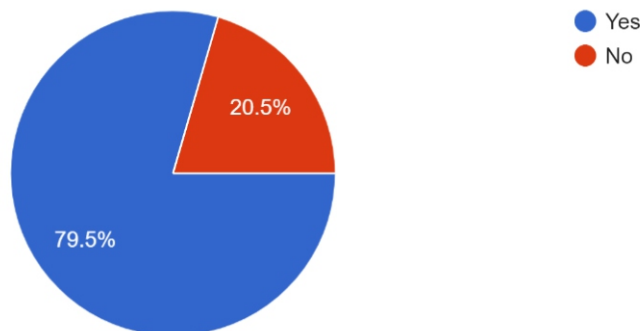
Were incident forms filled for Voters with valid PVCs whose fingerprints failed authentication?

37 responses



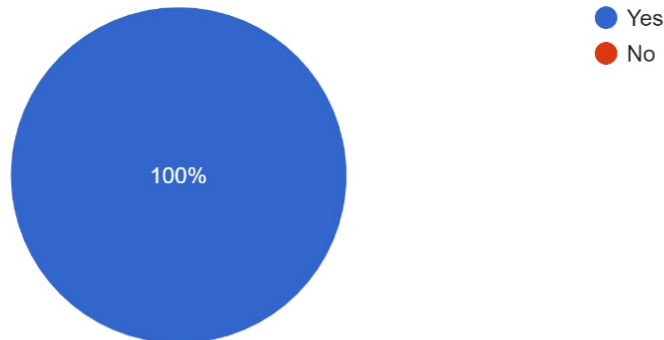
Were there any challenges with the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System(BVAS)

39 responses



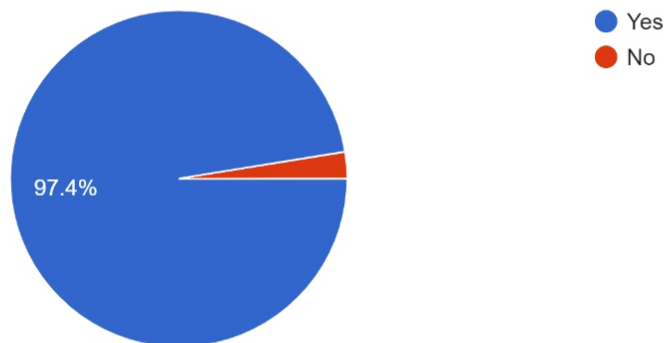
Did INEC Officials mark/tick next to the name of every accredited voter on the Voters' Registers?

39 responses



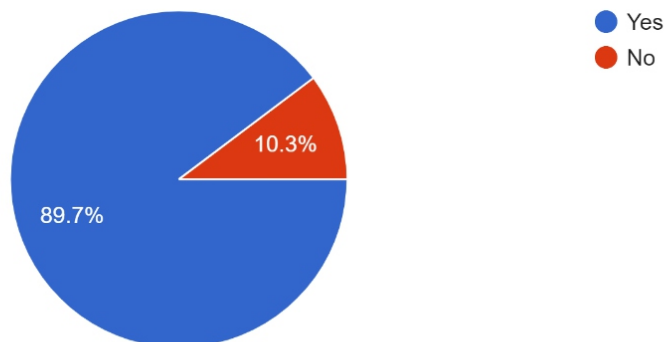
Did INEC Officials mark/tick the cuticle of the voter's left hand with ink after the accreditation was concluded?

39 responses



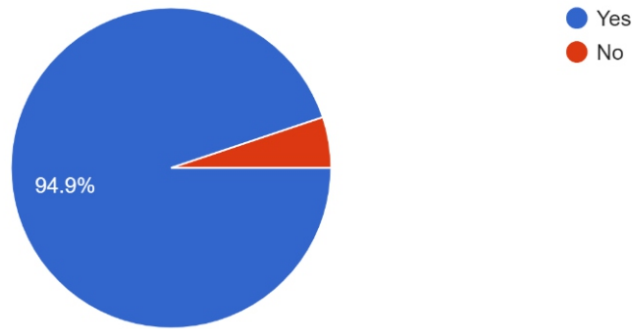
Were Voters with finger Disability accredited in accordance with the INEC guidelines?

39 responses



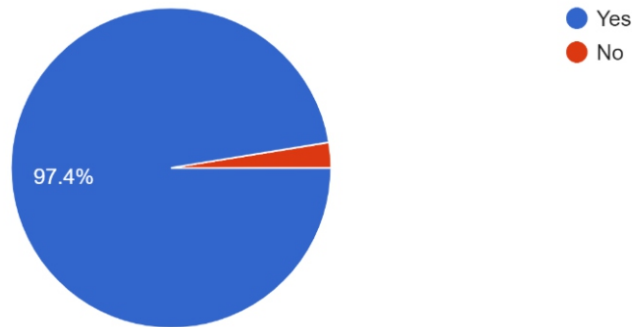
Did the INEC Officials display to the voters that the Ballot Box(es) was empty before the voting commenced?

39 responses



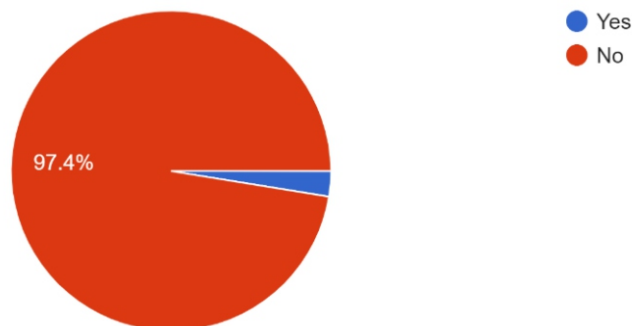
Were Ballot Papers stamped and signed before issue to accredited voters?

39 responses



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

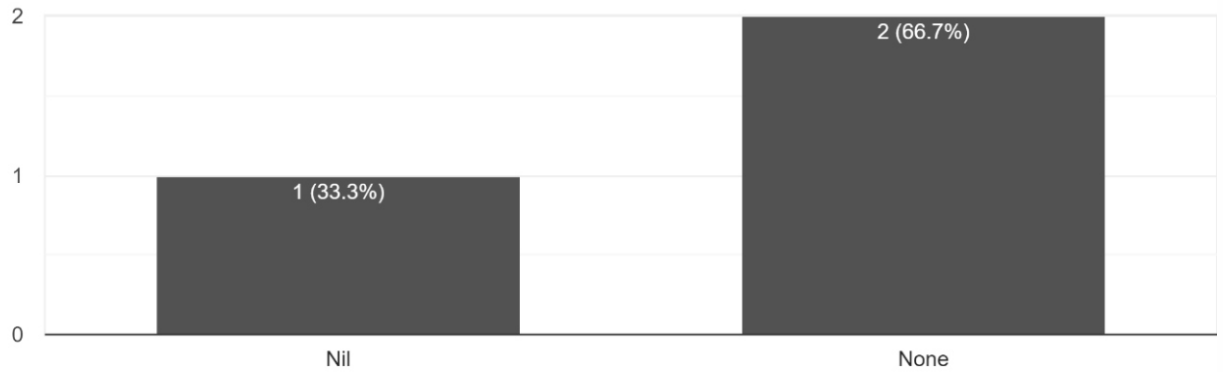
39 responses





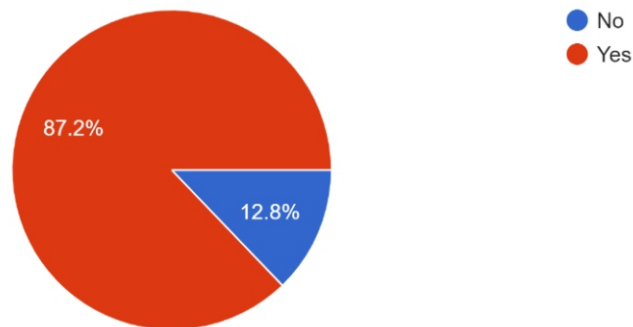
If the answer to above is Yes, please state the number of cases

3 responses



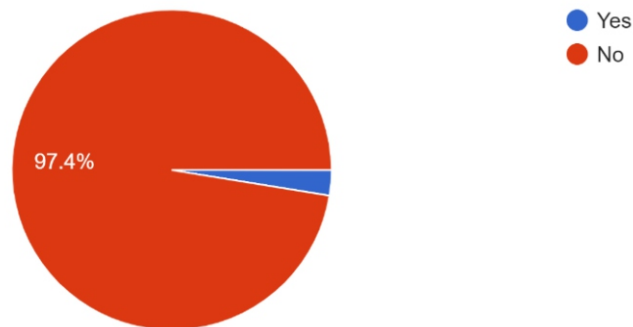
Were polling booths located in a way to enable voters mark their ballot papers in Secret?

39 responses



Did Voters cast votes illegally outside the polling booth?

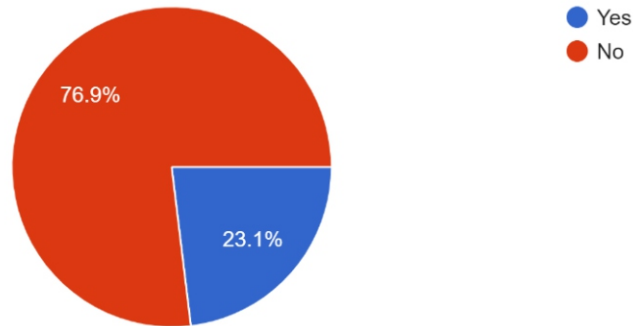
39 responses





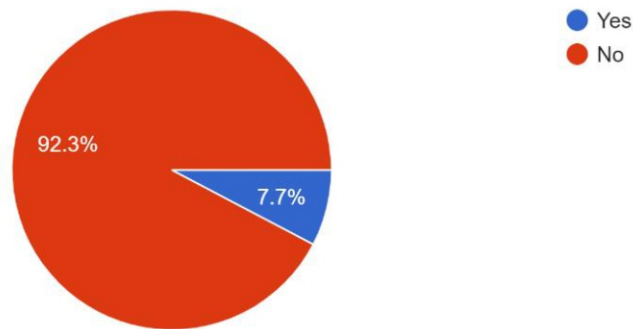
Were voters allowed to use telephones and other electronic devices in the polling booth?

39 responses



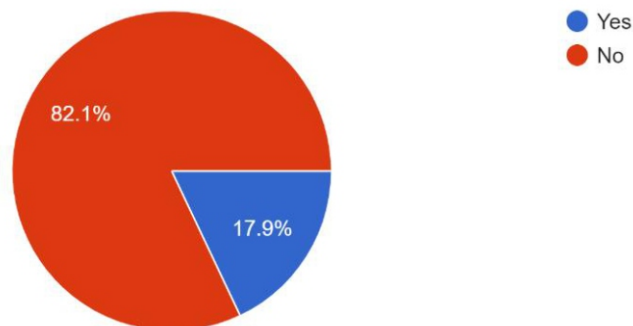
Did you witness any case of Group voting?

39 responses



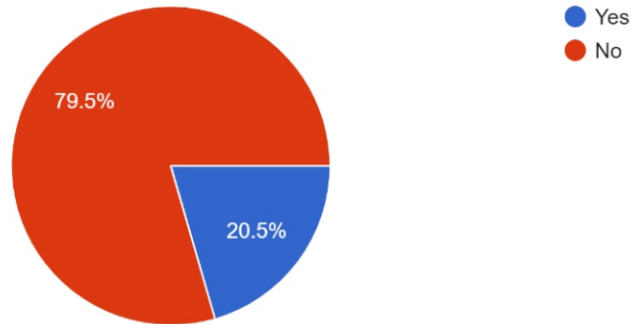
Did any person other than the Presiding Officer assist more than 3 voters?

39 responses



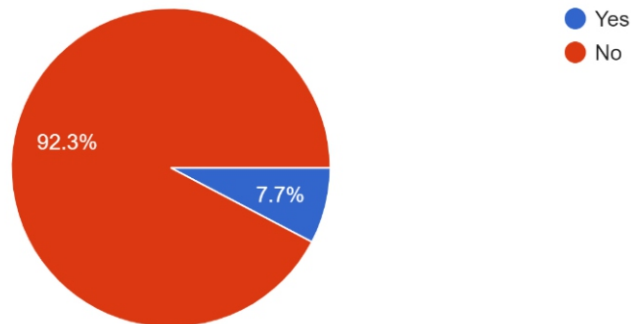
Was there any tension within or around the Polling Unit?

39 responses



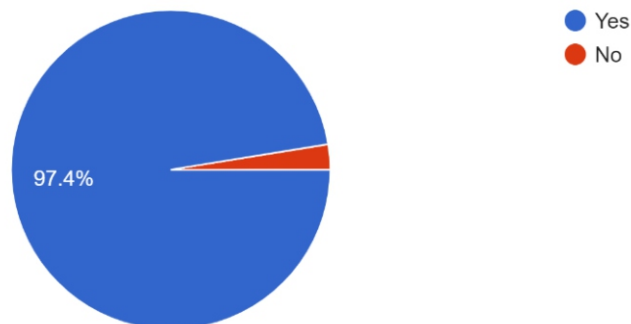
Did you observe unauthorized persons in the polling units /voting points?

39 responses



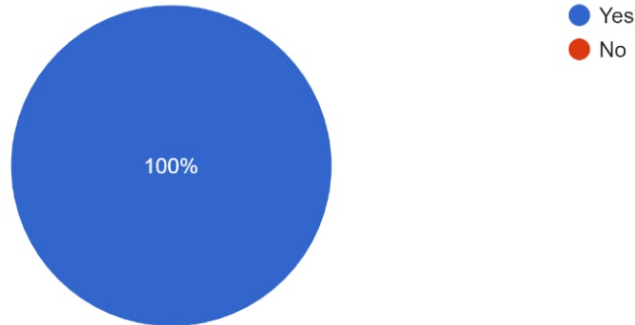
Were ballot papers sorted according to political parties picked by the voters?

39 responses



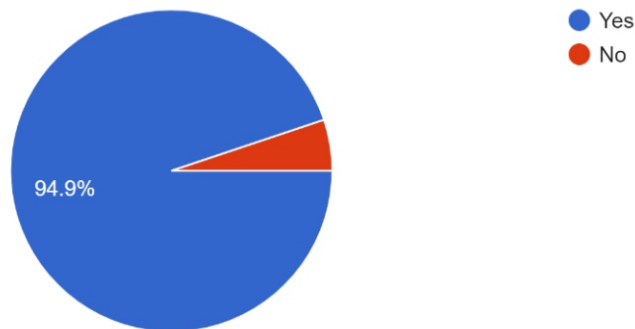
Did the Presiding Officer announce publicly the results of each of the parties/candidates?

39 responses



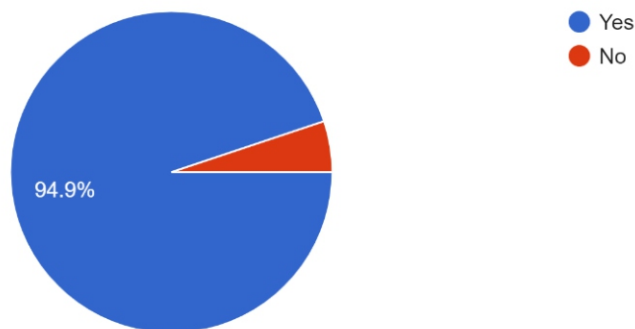
Did you observe the political party agent(s) append their signatures on the result sheets?

39 responses



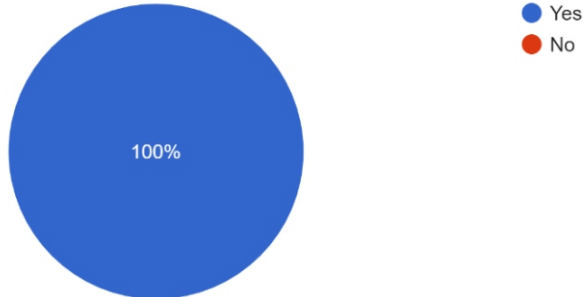
Did the Presiding Officer paste the Form EC60E at the polling Unit for the public to see? (Please add a picture if possible)

39 responses



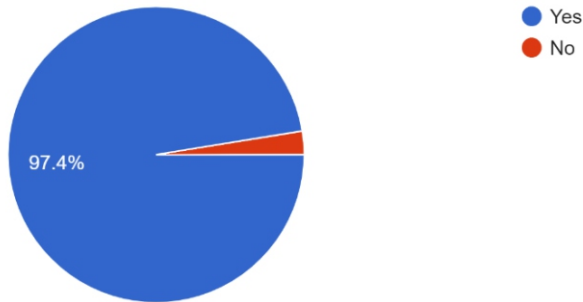
Did the pasted Form EC60E correspond/match with the results declared by the Presiding officer?

39 responses



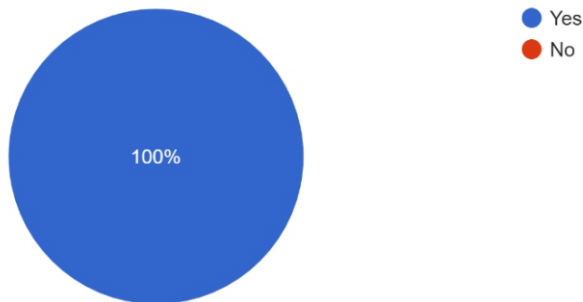
Did the Presiding officer deliver a copy of the result sheet to the police officer present at the polling Unit?

39 responses



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

39 responses



GENERAL COMMENTS

General Complaint/ Complaints at the polling unit 37 responses



- None
- It takes time to accredit voters
- The election acceding capturing machine took time in one voter's.
- Low performance of B-VAS machine and poor performance of adhoc staff
- The BVAS was malfunctioning
- No complaints at the polling unit
- Difficulties in using BVAS
- There was delays in accreditation because of slow performance of the BVAS and struggling by voter to get accredited.
- Malfunctioning of the BVA made the entire process slow and people become very frustrated
- So far the process was calm and peaceful.
- People were furious with the BVAS
- Network issue
- Poor Network on the use of Accredited machine
- Network issues
- The challenges with the BVAS delayed the process of accreditation and voting and caused a bit of tension among voters who were anxiously waiting to cast their votes. Voting time was extended however, the information was not effectively passed across the polling units causing some to close earlier than others, which is capable of causing tension at polling centers
- Technical issue of card reader and finger authentication.
- My complain that day is the INEC machine is not working properly
- The election went well
- Lateness
- Not really effective because of voters desire to vote first
- Late arrival of election materials.
- General complaints is usually about Bivas Machines not working which ultimately delayed accreditation in some areas especially Osuma (ward8 PU 006) and (ward7PU 005)
- Many complained about the poor Network on the use of BAVs machine
- The Election was peaceful
- Unable to capture by the card reader
- The malfunctioning of the BVAS was a general complain during the electoral process.
- No police officer in the polling unit vote buying Bvas not working optimally
- The slow process of the accreditation due to malfunctioning of the bimodal
- The only complaints are the temporary uprising from the NPF personnel and the party agents settling him with a drink and attempted vote buying by the pdp party agent
- I complaint that inec machen is too slow
- BVAS caused many challenges which consequently resulted to tension among voters who came to vote,
- No complaints
- Inability of the BVAS to authenticate/accredit voters
- The BVAS was the major problem to the presiding officer



- There was a high level of vote buying, The Police and sister security where part of the person who made the vote buying easy, The issue of BVAS hanging, failing to Capture was a general issue within the polling units, most especially polling Unit with high number of registered voters. The Police that are stationed on polling Unit are supposed to have an official communication garjet to make communication easy just in case of emergency
- The election was peaceful and free of violence

Personal Evaluation of INEC Officials, Party Agents, Voters and Security Officials

38 responses

- Satisfactory
- None
- INEC Official perform very well which the election to be successful and the party agents and voters conduct themselves in an orderly manner
- The INEC officials do their best.the Election was peaceful, calm and encouraged. The security officials guilds and help in directing accredited voter's on line too . they make sure that life and voting material are protected .The party Agent was present too .their is know problems accept technical captured machine challenged. But was controle d by INEC officials.
- Inec officials were lousy at first, but picked up when they could not bear the voters rage. Party agents conducted themselves in a goo manner as some of them kept the Hope's of voters high. Security officials where seen around the voting place. They equally assisted to bringing normalcy during the counting of results. Security officials were professional. Most INEC officials didn't know much on the usage BVAS
- Everyone knew their duty and kept to it
- Good and Commendable.
- The INEC officials performed their duties effectively. The party agents were busy canvassing votes for their various party. The voters were more interested in which party that pays the most before they'd cast their votes. The security officials conducted themselves in an orderly manner and carried out their task effectively.
- They were of very good conduct
- They were all cooperating and it was a tension less election
- Inec official tried their best but fail to recognize PWDs. Voters patiently waited despite delay on the accreditation process.
- INEC staff were initially cordial in relating with voters and explaining the process but they became frustrated as time went by because of the challenges they were experiencing with the BVAS. When the tension became high at some polling units like Oroma unit 10 and community primary school Umuokpo, they were unable to control the crowd interference with voters' choice, and seemed helpless against the situation.
- Some INEC officials in Uroma (presiding officer, unit 10)were rude to Observers, refusing to fully respond to questions and blatantly stated that they are busy. Party Agents: They were present with their tags carrying their names, picture and party names, assisting with the process by helping to mount voting booth and calming agitate d voters. while some



wore their tags around their necks, others had them in their pockets, which they only showed when asked to identify themselves. They were carrying out secret vote buying in some location and open in others (community primary school unit 1, Umuokpo). Voters: Initially, voters turnout was low, which was expected due to the initial security threat experienced running up to the election, but the population grossly increased later in the day with voters anxious to cast their votes. Some were motivated by the amount party agents were spending to buy votes. The conduct of voters towards the election was fair as despite the challenges with the BIVAS, most voters patiently waited for hours to cast their votes. The interest to know the outcome of the vote was also palpable as they, both old and young, sat back after casting their votes to wait for collation of results. Security Officials: The stationed security officials were relaxed and cooperating among themselves. They were mostly seen in clusters sitting or standing away from the voting booth. Although they were cordial with voters, they seemed too friendly with party agents and some observers. While some were seen crowding around some party agents, some others were asking observers for tips.

- INEC officials came very late at the pooling unit at 11.58 and that makes them end the voting by 5.08 pm Party agents, voters and security personnel were there on time waiting for the commencement of voting.
- They all tried
- They humbled themselves well
- The first presiding officer was not effective with the machine so she was changed
- They were not so strict.
- The conduct of the police Officers and the Ad-hoc were relatively commendable. apart from the incident highlighted above which brought about suspicious of over voting and manipulation but it was too minor to be so. The atmosphere was generally peaceful except hitches arising from the Slow pace or failure of the Accreditation machine. Voter turnout was moderate and motivated by the desire to cast votes and get some financial tips from Political Parties. Many could not vote
- My Observation is that some Adhoc staff are not familiar with the operation of the Bivas.it could be as a result of Improper training or lack of understanding of the technical operation of the BIVAS
- Inec official tried their best but never recognize disable, pregnant and aged one, voters were patient enough despite slow functioning of accreditation machine. Security official d tried their best
- Good
- Yes
- There was one of the INEC kit who we interrogated before he introduce himself and show us his identity card. The security official all mind there assignment while the party agent were peace in the conduct. The voters were very happy as they were casting there vote.
- The inec officials arrived late, party agents hanging around in curiosity, voters follows the guidelines and no armed security officials in polling unit



- The voting was peaceful, inec officials lacked enough man power, party agents were few and they agreed to the results counted, security agents present where unarmed and voters were satisfied with the process.
- The INEC officials voter's and some security personnel's knew their duty and abided to it
- They all tried
- INEC officials tried their best to make sure the exercise was successful, The party agents were all present with their pictures on their tags, The security Officials were all present to secure the environment.
- Each individual and personnel's were in their respective positions and knew their own function
- The INEC officials carried out their duties effectively, party agents made several efforts in coercing voters to vote in their favour. The voters and security officials conducted their duties effectively.
- There was an Inec official that was not putting on Inec kit and there was no identification on him until I interrogated him then he brought his identity card.
- Some of the adohoc staff where not properly taught how to us the BVAS and when some of them sees observers they seem to see them as a threat and as such will just look for a way to tell u we are busy we can't answer any questions. INEC should learn to tell their staffs that Observer is just a way of them improving on their election activities not the other way round.
- Ok
- INEC officials ware prompt, most party agents ware seen without tags

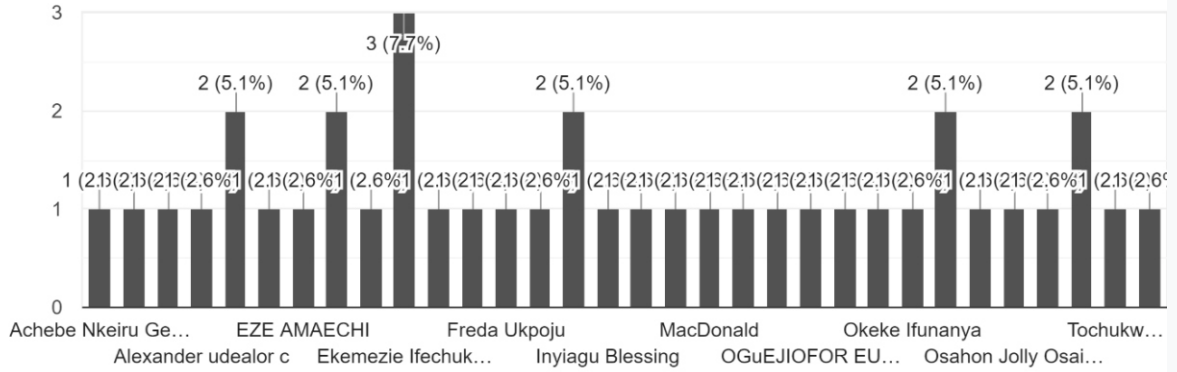
Please give a brief evaluation of the adherence to the COVID guidelines by INEC officials, party agents, security and voters

- responses
- None
 - The voters should not stay close to each other
 - The covib-19 role's was not taking by voter's
 - Covidn19 protocols were observed as most voters came with facemask. The INEC officials equally issued hand sanitizer to eligible voters. Although there is close proximity of voters.
 - Social distance was not observed. And voters didn't wear nose mask
 - The officials wore a face mask and voters were sanitised before casting their votes
 - The polling unit was organized, there wasn't much adherence to the COVID 29 guidelines. The BIVAS had issues on and off again
 - The Covid 19 Protocols were not observed as voters struggle to get accredited.



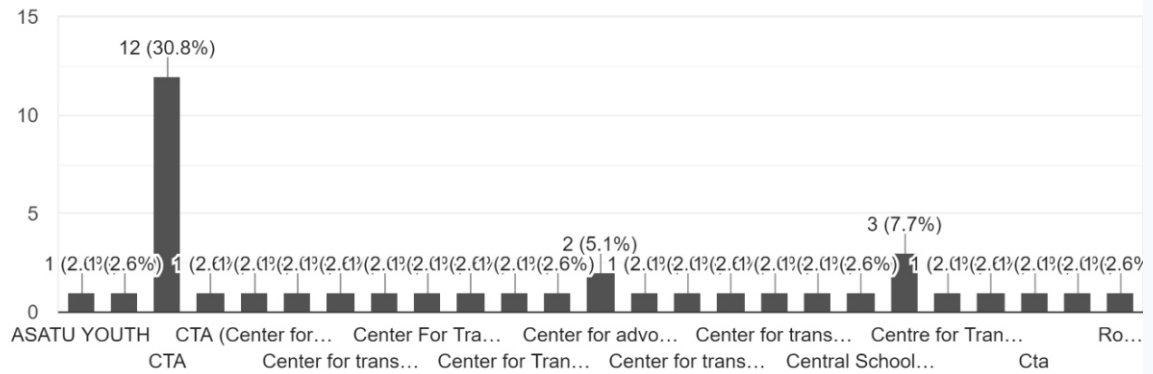
Observer's Name

39 responses



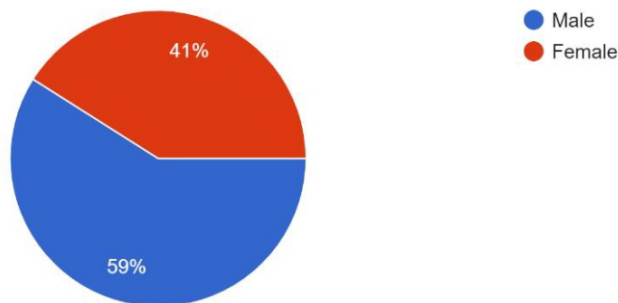
Name of Organization

39 responses



Gender

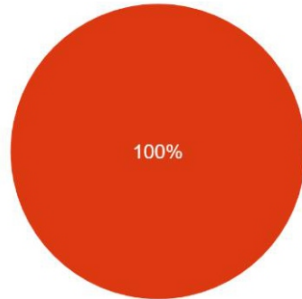
39 responses





Persons with disabilities(PWDs)

39 responses



- Yes
- No



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

CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY (CTA) The Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA) was founded in 2005 but was registered as a Non-Profit, Non-Governmental and Non-Religious organisation under the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) in Nigeria in 2012. Our mission is to promote the benefits of transparency and accountability in public service and to cause a reawakening in the society to imbibe the tenets of transparency and accountability in Nigeria. One of its key roles is advocating for transparency in the value chain of the extractive sector, People's rights, values as well as to monitor service delivery as rendered by government and agencies to conform to global standards and best practices. CTA is privileged to work with a large repertoire of media partners.

Importantly, the covenant of CTA is premised on advocating openness in running government business, assessing, and verifying on-going and completed physical projects and ascertaining the quality-of-Service Delivery by Federal, State and Local Governments, Ministries/Departments and Agencies (MDAs). CTA works towards achieving reforms in the extractive industry and community interventions that support contract transparency, Zero Gas Flare, and beneficial ownership reforms as well as working to mitigate unintended consequences arising from the extractive industry resources.

CTA equally operates as a critical watch dog in the electoral value chain and is involved in election observation in Nigeria. We enjoy strategic partnership with other organisations notably, Women in Extractives, Koyenum Immalah Foundation, Network on Good Governance, Contract Transparency Network, the Media, and other Civil Society Organisations. Centre for Transparency Advocacy is certified by NGOsource. Centre for Transparency Advocacy has produced CONTRAWATCH (public radio program). This project was supported by FOSTER until it wound up in March 2021, thereby leaving a vacuum in continuing the advocacy on Contract transparency. However, CTA has continued with the advocacy and engagement for policy change and implementation through the deployment of FOI to demand for contract transparency in the mining sector in Nigeria.

Faith Nwadishi

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