PREO #4
ANAMBRA 2017 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION
KEY FINDINGS OF REPORTING PERIOD FOUR
November 3 – November 9, 2017

On 18 November 2017, the people of Anambra state will go to the polls to elect a governor that will lead the state in the next four years. As opportunities for successful election abound, so also some challenges. Can INEC and related agencies explore the opportunities and defy the odds to administer a free, fair and credible election in Anambra state that will pass the electoral integrity test? This report engages this poser by examining preparations for the election based on YIAGA’s WTV observation of pre-election observation analysis. This report is the final in a series of four (4) released by YIAGA on its pre-election observation. The report also harmonizes findings from the first, second and third reporting phase. The report focuses on vital pre-election issues such as Permanent Voters’ Card (PVC) distribution, voter education and mobilization, political party campaigns, media and hate speech, electoral security, as well as interventions aimed at facilitating the participation of disadvantaged groups such as youth, women and people with disabilities (PWDs). Our findings suggest that preparations for credible elections in the state are on course. However, there is room for improvement. We highlight some of the areas that require improvements and offer suggestions on the way forward.

The 1999 Constitution of Nigeria (as amended), the Electoral Act No. 6 2010 (Amendment) Bill 2017 and INEC’s regulations as may be issued specifically for the conduct of the Anambra election, will regulate the conduct of the election. Generally, the electoral outlook seems positive, with various stakeholders living up to expectations to a large extent. INEC monitored party primaries, conducted continuous voter registration, displayed the register within stipulated time, distributing PVCs beyond Local Governments (LGAs) up to the Ward level and conducting civil education for the electorate and training of electoral staff. Political parties had their primaries, nominated candidates and now on the field canvassing for votes in a generally peaceful manner. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are also involved in sensitizing and educating the electorate on the significance of participation and the need to eschew electoral violence. Media reportage has been largely professional, devoid of sensationalism and hate speech. Security agencies are issuing assurances about their capability and readiness to provide electoral security. Marginalized groups such as youth, women and PWDs are craving for more political space of inclusion and participation.

SUMMARY FINDINGS

1. In 92% of the 21 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Anambra state, YIAGA observed increase in the level of preparations by INEC for the November 18 election;

2. The level of voter education programs or campaigns by INEC and CSOs received a boost compared to the first, second and third reporting periods;

3. Across the 21 LGAs, voter education program and messaging targeted at special interest and marginalized groups, such as youth, women and people with disabilities (PWDs) remain minimal and non-existent in some LGAs;

4. Youth and women groups were mainly engaging the political space through canvassing for votes for political parties and candidates;

5. The use of derogatory languages against candidates on the basis of their gender, age and faith remains minimal in all LGAs observed.

6. Reports on violent physical or verbal attacks on political party rallies and meetings remains relatively few. However, there were reports on vandalism or disruption of property belonging to candidates or supporters. This was observed in only 14% of the 21 LGAs.

7. Political campaigns have been dominated by four political parties. They are All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), All Progressives Congress (APC) and United Progressive Party (UPP).
RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to address these and related concerns before the election, this PREO report considers the following recommendations pertinent:

1. INEC should continue to act with utmost professionalism and impartiality. This requires strict compliance with the regulatory framework of the election in all circumstances, no matter the odds or pressures from any quarters.

2. Election logistics matter a lot. INEC must show utmost professionalism in the timely, effective and secure deployment of its staff, materials (sensitive and insensitive) and other resources needed for the election. The management of election logistics in the Anambra election is defining factor in determining the integrity of the election.

3. INEC needs to invest more resources in stakeholders engagement and confidence-building. These are pivotal to winning stakeholders trust in the electoral processes and outcomes, which is critical for the legitimacy of the election.

4. INEC in collaboration with the National Orientation Agency (NOA) should also intensify efforts geared towards voter education and mobilization. There’s need for targeted voter education for special interest and marginalized groups like youth, women and PWDs. The interventions should be decentralized to local governments and if possible to the ward level. Voter education should emphasize benefits of voting, dangers of electoral violence and other related issues. This has potential not only to increase level of participation of the people in the election, but also reduce, if not eliminate, electoral violence and observable high rate of spoilt/rejected ballots in previous elections.

5. The media should intensify its voter education and mobilization efforts. More importantly, however, they should provide access to all political parties and candidates, be fair in their coverage and reportage, and should under no circumstances allow themselves to be used for the propagation of hate speeches in whatever form.

6. YIAGA would like to call on political parties to openly shun hate speech, inflammatory language and divisive rhetoric based on age, origin, gender, religion and disability; all Nigerians have the right to exercise their franchise in an environment without threat to their safety or character.

7. In the final analysis, sovereignty rests with the people. The electorate must strive hard to play their part in deciding who governs them through voting. The newly registered electorate should make effort to get their PVCs. All stakeholders must continue to mobilize them to do so.
**METHODOLOGY**

YIAGA’s WTV closely monitored the pre-election environment and electoral activities between September 27 – November 9 2017. This entailed deploying LTOs in each of the 21 LGAs of Anambra State to gather systematic information about the pre-election environment, including early warning signs of electoral violence. To achieve this, YIAGA WTV LTOs were equipped with a checklist to observe and report on the electoral and political environment in the state. All YIAGA WTV LTOs are recruited from the LGAs within which they reside to observe electoral activities relating to voter education, political campaign activities, activities of marginalized groups (youth, women, and PWDs) and election-related violence in the pre-election period. Their reports cover activities of the INEC, political parties, National Orientation Agency (NOA), CSOs, women and youth groups. The observers report on their observation findings on a bi-monthly basis via coded text messages to a YIAGA data centre. Within reporting timeframes, observers also report on early warning signs and critical incidents demanding urgent attention as soon as they happen. The reports are compiled and analysed by YIAGA WTV team and shared with relevant election stakeholders for needed response. In addition to the LTOs, YIAGA also deployed a team of electoral experts to observe the political environment and preparations of electoral stakeholders for the election. The team conducted consultations and interviews with relevant election stakeholders. YIAGA WTV pre-election observation (PREO) findings are not statistically representative of the entire state but does provide an indication of emerging trends during the pre-election period. Unlike the WTV election day observation methodology, YIAGA does not rely on sample-based observation to carry out its PREO.

**MAIN FINDINGS**

**ELECTION-RELATED PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES BY INEC**

INEC is central to the administration of elections in Nigeria. It has the mandate of managing pre-election activities like continuous voter registration, voter education, distribution of PVC, e.t.c. In 19 LGAs out of 21 LGAs, WTV LTOs observed an increase in the level preparations for the November 18 polls. The LTOs also reported the distribution of Permanent Voter Cards in 17 of out of the 21 LGAs of Anambra state. However, WTV LTOs reported to have heard of buying and selling of PVCs in 3 out of 21 LGAs.

19/21 LGAs Observed or heard any form of election preparatory activity undertaken by INEC

17/21 LGAs Observed/heard of PVC distribution in Anambra state.

WWW.WATCHINGTHEVOTE.ORG
Voter Information Workshops/Campaigns

Voter information/education workshops or campaigns are important tools for voter sensitization and public outreach. YiAGA's WTV LTOs reported seeing limited civic/voter education activities in the state. However, they noted that where it occurred, voter education was conducted through radio and peer-to-peer outreach. WTV LTOs were directly exposed to voter education workshops by INEC in about a quarter (22%) of the 21 LGAs, and to voter information by CSOs in only 15% of LGAs.

Voter information campaigns or workshop undertaken INEC, NOA and CSOs in both first, second, third and fourth reporting periods

Voter information workshops by INEC:

- Period #1: 4%
- Period #2: 11%
- Period #3: 16%
- Period #4: 22%

Voter information workshops by NOA:

- Period #1: 0%
- Period #2: 0%
- Period #3: 0%
- Period #4: 0%

Voter information workshops by CSOs:

- Period #1: 11%
- Period #2: 4%
- Period #3: 16%
- Period #4: 15%
PARTICIPATION OF MARGINALIZED AND DISADVANTAGED GROUPS  
(YOUTH, WOMEN AND PWDS)

Generally, electorates should be exposed to civic and voter education, irrespective of age, gender or disability. To promote inclusion, voter education and information should target marginalized and disadvantaged groups. WTV LTOs reported few interventions aimed at enhancing the capacity of women and PWDs in the upcoming election by INEC and CSOs. Voter education messaging in the Anambra elections has been generic and does not response to needs of marginalized and disadvantaged groups.

Activities of Youth, Women Groups

In this reporting period, youth groups were reported to have been actively involved in canvassing for votes in 45% of the 21 LGAs while women groups were visibly campaigning for votes in 44% of the 21 LGAs. No PWDs group was sighted or heard canvassing for votes in all 21 LGAs in Anambra state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political Party</th>
<th>Period #1</th>
<th>Period #2</th>
<th>Period #3</th>
<th>Period #4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APC</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POP</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APGA</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPP</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>70%</td>
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POLITICAL PARTY ACTIVITIES IN ANAMBRA STATE

During the reporting period, WTV LTOs were also asked to monitor political parties’ activities such as: posting of party or candidates’ posters and media ads, party meetings and rallies. The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) were observed to be holding more rallies (in 89% of the 21 LGAs) than any other political party, followed by the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) party (in 88% of the LGAs).
HATE SPEECH

The WTV LTOs also focused on observing the use of derogatory language or statements that incite hate or violence against a targeted individual or group by all electoral actors, especially political parties. This is useful for identifying early warning signs for violence and opportunities for conflict mitigation. The WTV LTOs observed major political activities such as: candidate rallies, political gatherings, media reports and statements by candidates and parties, directly and indirectly for inflammatory and divisive rhetoric directed at individuals based on their age, origins, gender, religion and/or physical disabilities. The LTOs reported to have heard violent physical or verbal attacks on political party rallies/meetings in 7% of the 21 LGAs, vandalism or disruption of property belonging to candidates or supporters (14%) of the 21 LGAs.