



Results Verification Statement on the Anambra 2017 Gubernatorial Election Sunday, November 19, 2017 Delivered at Finotel Hotel, Awka

Protocols

Introduction

Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives us great pleasure to welcome you to the Youth Initiative for Advocacy, Growth & Advancement (YIAGA) **WatchingTheVote (WTV) Results Verification Statement** for the 2017 governorship election in Anambra. This press briefing is the fourth in series hosted by YIAGA WTV for the 2017 Anambra governorship election. This briefing covers the accuracy of the official results as announced by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

On the eve of election day, YIAGA raised awareness of three critical issues: the need for adequate and professional security across the state and particularly in “black spots”; the need for polling officials to ensure official results are publicly posted at all polling units using INEC FORM EC 60E; and for INEC to provide access to observers, political parties, and the media to all collations centres at the ward, local government area (LGA), and state levels.

Yesterday, the people of Anambra state went to the polls to elect a governor that will lead the state for the next four years. This morning YIAGA issued a detailed PRELIMINARY statement on the conduct of accreditation, voting, and counting. This statement noted that most elements of the electoral process at polling units was generally conducted according to regulations, but highlighted concerns about: the late deployment of INEC staff and materials to polling units; the accreditation of one (1) in four (4) voters whose permanent voters card (PVC) was authenticated, but whose fingerprints could not be authenticated by the card reader; and secrecy of the ballot and vote buying and bribery.

Now, YIAGA is verifying the official results for the Anambra 2017 gubernatorial election as announced by INEC. YIAGA is able to provide independent verification of the results because WTV data is based on the parallel vote tabulation (PVT) methodology – the gold standard for citizen election observation. On Election Day, WTV deployed **500 stationary observers to a representative statistical sample of 250 polling units** across all 21 LGAs of Anambra state. This enables YIAGA to provide **timely and accurate information on the conduct of accreditation, voting, and counting** as well as to **independently verify the official results for the Anambra gubernatorial election** as announced by INEC. The results verification statement is based on reports from 244 of 250 (98%)

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sampled polling units. YIAGA continues to receive reports from its observers on ground and will include this data in its final report.

YIAGA undertook WTV to provide the general public, governorship candidates, political parties, and INEC with independent information on the conduct of the election and to help ensure the official results for the Anambra gubernatorial election truly reflect the ballots cast at polling units. YIAGA is committed to confirming the official results if they reflect the ballots cast at polling units and exposing manipulation if the results are changed during the collation process.

#WatchingTheVote Election Day Observation

YIAGA's WTV initiative employed the parallel vote tabulation (PVT) methodology for Election Day observation. This is the gold standard for citizen observation and provides accurate and timely information on the conduct of the accreditation, voting, and counting at polling units and is able to independently verify the accuracy of official election results. For the PVT, YIAGA deployed 500 trained and accredited stationary observers in teams of two to a representative statistical sample of 250 polling units across Anambra.

The sampled polling units were determined by established statistical principles to ensure the resulting information is representative of the state and unbiased. The sample includes polling units in every one of the 21 LGAs in Anambra. The number of sampled polling units in each LGA is based on the percentage of polling units and registered voters in the LGA. For example, Aguata LGA has 6.5% of all the polling units in Anambra (300 of 4,608) and 6.8% (17 of 250) of WTV's sampled polling units in Aguata LGA.

All observers were carefully recruited according to established criteria to ensure that they are independent and non-partisan. All observers had to attend a thorough training on how to observe the process and send in observation reports via coded text messages using their mobile phones. All observers had to sign a pledge of neutrality and were given a code of conduct to which they must adhere when observing. Finally, all observers had to participate in two simulation exercises before election day to demonstrate that they were fully prepared to observe.

YIAGA's WTV observers witnessed the entire process on Election Day. They deployed to polling units at 7:00am and observed setup, accreditation, voting, and counting. Every stationary observer sent in coded text messages containing their reports to YIAGA's data centre located here at Finotel Hotel, Awka, Anambra. Throughout the day they sent in a total of ten text messages on the conduct of the election – including sending the official results for their assigned polling station as announced by the INEC officials.

For turnout, the vote for each candidate/political party and rejected votes, the PVT produces an estimated range based on the untainted polling unit results. The PVT produces an estimated range rather than a specific percentage because results are collected from a representative statistical sample of polling unit. This range is calculated using long established statistical formula. However, because the PVT is based on the untainted results from polling units, the official results must fall within the PVT's estimated range for them to reflect the ballots cast at polling unit. Thus, if the official results fall within the PVT's estimated ranges, then the official results accurately reflect the ballots cast at

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polling units. However, if the official results fall outside the PVT's estimated ranges, then the official results were changed. YIAGA is committed to confirming the official results if they reflect the ballots cast at polling units and exposing manipulation if the results are changed during the collation process.

It is important to note that a PVT is not an exit poll. An exit poll involves asking voters for whom they voted. For the PVT no voters were asked how they voted. YIAGA WTV observed witnessed the entire election day processes of accreditation, voting, counting through the announcement and posting of official results of the polling unit. The figures they reported were the untainted official results for the polling unit as announced by the polling officials.

Results Verification

Based on reports from 98% (244 of 250) sampled polling units YIAGA's statistical analysis shows that All Progressives Congress (APC) should receive between 20.4% and 24.6% of the vote, All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) should receive between 52.2% and 57.8% of the vote; Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) should receive between 15.8% and 19.2% of the vote; United Peoples Party (UPP) should receive between 1.1% and 2.3% of the vote while all other political parties should receive less than 1% of the vote.

Table 1: Comparison of INEC Official Results with YIAGA WTV Estimates for Select Political Parties for the Anambra 2017 Gubernatorial Election						
Party	INEC	YIAGA WTV				Match
	Official Result	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimated Range		
				Lower Limit	Upper Limit	
APC	23.4%	22.6%	2.2%	20.4%	24.8%	✓
APGA	55.4%	54.9%	2.8%	52.1%	57.7%	✓
PDP	16.6%	17.6%	1.8%	15.8%	19.4%	✓
UPP	1.9%	1.6%	0.6%	1.0%	2.2%	✓

Note: The other 33 parties received less than 1% of the vote.

Source: YIAGA WTV Anambra 2017

For every one of the 37 political parties contesting the Anambra 2017 gubernatorial election the INEC official result is consistent with the YIAGA WTV estimate (specifically, it falls within the YIAGA WTV estimated range). Had the official results been changed at the ward, LGA or state collation centres, the official results would not have fallen within the YIAGA WTV estimated ranges. Because the official results fall within the estimated ranges, governorship contestants, parties, and voters should have confidence that INEC's official results for the Anambra 2017 gubernatorial election reflect the ballots cast at polling units.

It is important to highlight the counting process at polling units was transparent and included representatives from the three political parties that received the most votes.

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- At 96% of polling units an APC party agent signed the EC.8A results form, at 99% of polling units an APGA party agent signed the EC.8A results form, and at 95% of polling units a PDP party agent signed the EC.8A results form.
- Further, at 92% of polling units APC, APGA, and PDP party agents were given a copy of the EC.8A results form.
- At 93% of polling units the polling official posted the official polling unit results for the public to see.

INEC's official results for turnout and rejected ballots are also consistent with YIAGA WTV estimates. YIAGA is able to estimate that turnout is between 21.1% and 24.7% ($22.8\% \pm 1.7\%$) while INEC's official result is 21.7%. Similarly YIAGA estimates rejected ballots are between 4.2% and 5.8% ($5.0\% \pm 0.8\%$) while INEC's official result is 5.9%.

Observations

1. **Accurate official results:** The INEC official results for every candidate fall within the WTV estimated range giving confidence that the results announced reflect the ballots cast at polling units. Further, INEC's turnout and rejected ballot figures are consistent with the WTV estimates announced earlier today.
2. **Accessibility of results collation centres:** The results collation centres were accessible to accredited observers and journalists. It was obvious the electoral commission took deliberate steps to address concerns expressed by YIAGA WTV and other observers in the pre-election period.
3. **Quality of results counting and collation:** Our data reveals procedural lapses and poor handling of counting and data entry by the polling officials and collation officers. This no doubt impacts on the quality of the result collation process.
4. **Data issues:** The existence of multiple voting points at some polling units as well as multiple polling units at some locations creates data issues for INEC official reporting results. Further there are some anomalies in the results as announced by INEC (for example 40 polling units with zero rejected ballots).
5. **Timeline for announcement of results:** The delay in the collation and announcement of results at the state collation centre raised unnecessary suspicion amongst key election stakeholders.

Conclusion

YIAGA calls on the winning candidate and his supporters to be magnanimous in victory. For those candidates who did not win, we urge them to accept the results because they reflect the votes cast. YIAGA calls upon all candidates, all parties and all Nigerians to show political maturity and to maintain the peace.

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YIAGA recommends that INEC take all necessary steps to address challenges seen in Anambra's poll. This includes to improve distribution of materials and to re-double efforts to train ad-hoc staff particularly around arrival, opening and election day responsibilities. YIAGA further recommends, as WTV had during the Ondo 2016 polls, to improve the ability of the card readers to reliably verify voter fingerprints and ensure voter accreditation procedures are adhered to.

Again, YIAGA thanks the many Nigerians, especially our observers across the state, who volunteered to serve as non-partisan election observers on behalf of all the people of Anambra. YIAGA commends the dedication of the permanent INEC staff in Abuja and Anambra state who were patient to conclude voting for Anambrarians seeking to exercise their franchise, even late into the evening yesterday. YIAGA also appreciates the collaboration of our development partners and their commitment to Nigerian initiatives to ensure credible elections in our country.

Through the WTV initiative, YIAGA is committed to promoting more credible elections by providing independent information on the conduct of elections and independently verifying the accuracy of election results. #WatchingTheVote is For All Nigerians, Beholden to No One, and Driven By Data.

Long live Anambra state, long live Nigeria.
Thank you.

--- End ---

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About YIAGA

YIAGA is a non-governmental organization promoting democracy, constitutionalism and youth participation in Africa. YIAGA achieves its goal through research, capacity development and policy advocacy. YIAGA operates as a citizens' movement poised with the onerous mandate of enhancing the quality of democratic governance, public accountability and civic participation. YIAGA has been

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involved in election observation since 2007 and it is one of the leading organizations working on elections in Nigeria.

The YIAGA **Watching The Vote (WTV)** is a citizen-led election observation initiative aimed at enhancing the integrity of elections in Nigeria using technological tools like SMS and evidence-based research methodology tools for election observation. The initiative is designed to promote credible elections and boost citizens' confidence in the electoral process through citizens observation of electoral activities in the electoral cycle. YIAGA is enhancing the quality of democracy in Nigeria using Watching The Vote as a platform for promoting cutting-edge electoral policies, credible elections, civic participation and democratic consolidation.

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Appendix I

YIAGA's WTV PVT is able to provide timely and accurate information on accreditation, voting, and counting as well as to independently verify the official election results because observers are deployed to a representative statistical sample. The sample is carefully constructed according to well-tested and long-established statistical principles.

For the 2017 Anambra gubernatorial election, 500 stationary observers are deployed to a representative statistical sample of 250 polling units located in all 21 local government areas (LGAs). The PVT sample of polling units is truly representative of all of the polling units because the percentage of sampled polling units for each LGA is similar to the percentage of all polling unit for each LGA. For example, Aguata LGA has 6.5% of all the polling units in Anambra (300 of 4,608) and 6.8% (17 of 250) of the sampled polling units in Aguata LGA. While not identical, the percentages for every LGA are very close clearly demonstrating that the PVT sample is representative of the entire state.

Appendix I: Distribution of All Polling Units and PVT Sampled Polling Units for the Anambra 2017 Gubernatorial Election							
S/N	LGA	Registered Voters	Polling Units	Percent Polling Units	Sampled Polling Units	Percent Sampled Polling Units	Observers
1.	Aguata	122,326	300	6.5%	17	6.8%	34
2.	Anambra East	84,702	200	4.3%	10	4.0%	20
3.	Anambra West	51,086	158	3.4%	9	3.6%	18
4.	Anaocha	96,105	310	6.7%	17	6.8%	34
5.	Awka North	56,284	130	2.8%	7	2.8%	14
6.	Awka South	151,599	255	5.5%	14	5.6%	28
7.	Ayamelum	69,022	173	3.8%	9	3.6%	18
8.	Dunukofia	64,164	146	3.2%	8	3.2%	16
9.	Ekwusigo	75,437	175	3.8%	10	4.0%	20
10.	Idemili North	189,249	306	6.6%	16	6.4%	32
11.	Idemili South	101,501	200	4.3%	11	4.4%	22
12.	Ihala	126,668	278	6.0%	15	6.0%	30
13.	Njikoka	88,793	201	4.4%	11	4.4%	22
14.	Nnewi North	127,975	198	4.3%	11	4.4%	22
15.	Nnewi South	75,392	295	6.4%	16	6.4%	32
16.	Ogbaru	157,664	293	6.4%	16	6.4%	32
17.	Onitsha North	145,921	201	4.4%	11	4.4%	22
18.	Onitsha South	140,381	200	4.3%	10	4.0%	20
19.	Orumba North	63,517	231	5.0%	13	5.2%	26
20.	Orumba South	80,829	192	4.2%	10	4.0%	20
21.	Oyi	89,556	166	3.6%	9	3.6%	18
	Total	2,158,171	4,608	100.0%	250	100.0%	500

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Appendix II

The below table is a comparison of INEC official results with the YIAGA WTV estimates for all 37 political parties contesting the Anambra 2017 gubernatorial election.

Appendix II: Comparison of INEC Official Results with YIAGA WTV Estimates for All Political Parties the Anambra 2017 Gubernatorial Election						
Party	INEC	YIAGA WTV				Match
	Official Result	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimated Range		
				Lower Limit	Upper Limit	
AA	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	✓
ACD	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	✓
ACPN	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	✓
ADC	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	✓
ADP	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	✓
AGAP	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.5%	✓
APC	23.4%	22.6%	2.2%	20.4%	24.8%	✓
APDA	0.5%	0.5%	0.1%	0.4%	0.6%	✓
APGA	55.4%	54.9%	2.8%	52.1%	57.7%	✓
APP	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	✓
BNPP	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	✓
DA	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	✓
DPC	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	✓
GPN	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	✓
HDP	0.0%	0.2%	0.4%	0.0%	0.6%	✓
ID	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	✓
KOWA	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	✓
LP	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	✓
MMN	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	✓
MPPP	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	✓
NCP	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	✓
NDLP	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	✓

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Appendix II: Comparison of INEC Official Results with YIAGA WTV Estimates for All Political Parties the Anambra 2017 Gubernatorial Election						
Party	INEC	YIAGA WTV				Match
	Official Result	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimated Range		
				Lower Limit	Upper Limit	
NEPP	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	✓
NNPP	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	✓
NPC	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	✓
NUP	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	✓
PDC	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	✓
PDP	16.6%	17.6%	1.8%	15.8%	19.4%	✓
PPA	0.7%	0.7%	0.4%	0.3%	1.1%	✓
PPN	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	✓
PPP	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	✓
PRP	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	✓
SDP	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	✓
UDP	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	✓
UPP	1.9%	1.6%	0.6%	1.1%	2.3%	✓
YDP	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	✓
YPP	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	✓

Source: YIAGA WTV Anambra 2017