PREO #2
PRE-ELECTION OBSERVATION
OSUN 2018 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION
KEY FINDINGS OF REPORTING PERIOD TWO
August 17th – 30th, 2018
Executive Summary

The period leading to 2018 Governorship election in Osun State remains a politically charged period with several pre-election activities for the 2019 elections underway. As part of Watching The vote (WTV) long-term observation effort, WTV Long Term Observers (LTO) were deployed to all the 30 Local Government Areas (LGA) in Osun state on July 20, 2018 to observe the activities of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC’s), voter education campaigns, political party campaigns and activities of marginalised groups. This report is the second in series of four and covers the period of August 17 to 30, 2018. The results of the analysis of WTV observation are presented in subsequent sections.
Summary of Findings:

1. There was visible voter education messaging targeted at women, youth and PWDs by INEC and CSOs where not witnessed. However, Voter education messages targeted at women, youth and PWDs were not witness or heard of in Boripe Ila, Ifedayo Irepodun, Odo Otin, Orolu, Olorunda, Osogbo, Atakumosa East, Atakumosa West, Ife East, Ife Central, Ife South, Ife North, Ilesha West, Obokun, Oriade, Ayedaade, Ayedire, Ede South, Egbigo, Irewole, Iwo and Ola-Oluwa LGAs.

2. Youth, women and PWD groups are actively engaging the political space through canvassing for votes for political parties and candidates in Boripe, Ifedayo, Irepodun, Odo-Otin, Orolu, Osogbo, Atakumosa West, Ilesha West, Ilesha East, Ede South, Irewole, Isokan and Iwo LGAs, Boluwaduro, Olorunda, Atakumosa East, Ife East, Ife North, Ife South, Oriade, and Ede South.

3. Political parties’ campaigns especially, campaigns rallies are increasingly dominating the political space in the state. The dominant political parties in the state (ADP, APC, PDP and SDP) have extended their campaign rallies to more LGAs as compared to the WTV first observation period (July 20 – August 16, 2018).

4. Voter inducement through the distribution of money and gift items were still visible in the state. It was either directly witnessed or heard of by 52% of the WTV LTOs (16 of 30) in Boluwaduro, Boripe, Ifedayo, Irepodun, Ila, Irepodun, Odo-Otin, Olorunda, Osogbo, Ilesha West, Ilesha East, Ayedire, Egbigo, Irewole and Iwo LGAs of Osun state.

Recommendations:

1. Targeted voter education and messaging should be sustained by both INEC and CSOs. WTV project also urges the National Orientation Agency (NOA) to invest in voter education as it is part of their mandate, under the law.

2. All electoral actors should intensify campaign activities to discourage the act of voter bribery in the coming elections as indicators abound.

3. Early warning signals should be addressed by relevant security agencies to avoid escalation or spillover to the electoral process. Security agencies should include both state and non state actors in addressing this early warning signs.
**Main Findings**

**Election-Related Preparatory Activities by INEC**

During WTV second Osun pre-election observation period, the WTV LTOs were charged with the responsibility of observing INEC’s preparatory activities, including the collection of Permanent Voter’s Cards (PVCs). WTV found that electoral preparatory activities are ongoing in the state. Over half (91%) of WTV LTOs reported witnessing election preparatory activities undertaken by INEC in the state.

**Voter Information Workshops/Campaigns**

Reports of YIAGA’s WTV LTOs observation revealed that voter education campaigns are ongoing in the state and are conducted by both INEC and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). WTV LTOs were not exposed to voter education workshop by INEC in Boripe, Irepodun, Ila, Odo-Otin, Olorunda, Ife East, Ife Central, Ilesha West, Oookun, Oriade, Ayedade, Ayedire, Ede North, Egedore, Ejigbo, Irewole, Iwo and Ila LGAs and by CSOs in Boripe, Ifedayo, Irepodun, Ila, Odo-Otin, Atakumosa East, Ife East, Ife Central, Ilesha East, Ookun, Ayedade, Ayedire, Ede North, Egedore and Ola-Oluwa LGAs.
Participation of Marginalized and Disadvantaged Groups (Youth, Women and PWDs)

The WTV project tracked targeted voter education and information to marginalized groups in the state. The WTV LTOs reported observing very visible voter education messages targeted at women, youth and PWDs by both INEC and CSOs in Boluwaduro, Boripe, Ifedayo, Ifelodun, Irepodun, Odo-Otin, Olorunda, Orolu, Osobgo, Atakumosa East, Atakumosa West, Ife North, Ife South, Ilesha East, Ilesha West, Obokun, Ede North, Ede South, Egbedore, Ejigbo, Isokan, Iwo, and Ola-Oluwa LGAs.

Activities of Youth, Women and PWD Groups

In this reporting period, youth and women groups were reported to have been actively involved in canvassing for votes in the state. WTV LTOs reported witnessing/hearing of women’s groups canvassing for votes in Boripe, Ifedayo, Ifelodun, Odo-Otin, Orolu, Osobgo, Atakumosa West, Ilesha West, Ilesha East, Ede South, Irewole, Isokan and Iwo LGAs, and youth groups canvassing for votes in Boluwaduro, Boripe, Ifedayo, Irepodun, Odo-Otin, Olorunda, Osobgo, Atakumosa East, Atakumosa West, Ife East, Ife North, Ife South, Ilesha West, Ilesha East, Oriade, Ede South, Irewole, Isokan and Iwo LGAs. Only Four (4) WTV LTO reported hearing of a PWD/PWD group canvassing for votes in Boluwaduro, Osobgo, Ilesha East and Oriade LGAs.

Political Party Campaigns

During the reporting period, WTV LTOs observed political parties’ activities, posting of party or candidates’ posters and media ads, party meetings and rallies. Similar to the reports from the first reporting period, the All Progressives Congress (APC), People’s Democratic Party (PDP) and Social Democratic Party (SDP) and were observed to be holding more rallies among all the 48 political parties contesting in the election.
Voter Inducement

WTV LTOs observed inducements through sharing of money, gift items and its kinds by candidates or their supporters in state. This incidence were recorded in Boluwaduro, Boripe, Ifedayo, Irepodun, Ila, Ifelodun, Odo-Otin, Olorunda, Osobgo, Ilesha West, Ilesha East, Ayedire, Ejbigo, Irewole and Iwo LGAs of the state.

EARLY WARNING SIGNS

Violent Physical or Verbal Attacks

WTV LTOs heard of violent physical or verbal attacks on political party rallies/meetings in Boluwaduro, Ilesha West, Atakumosa West and Ife East LGA.

Vandalism or Destruction of Properties

WTV LTOs observed destruction of properties or materials related to the election in Boluwaduro, Ilesha West, Irewole and Isokan.
Conclusion

WTV findings from this reporting period reveals that political parties have intensified their campaign activities in state; the menace, voter inducement is still ongoing in the state; and there are early warning signs of violence that needs to be addressed by relevant electoral stakeholders as stated in the recommendations. Finally, this being the WTV second observation period and report out of the four reports the project will be releasing on the Osun pre-election environment. YIAGA WTV will continue to observe the Osun 2018 pre-election environment and will duly share its findings with the public periodically.

METHODOLOGY

YIAGA’s WTV has closely monitored the pre-election environment processes since July 20th 2018. This entailed deploying LTOs in each of the 30 LGAs of Osun state to gather systematic information about the pre-election environment, including early warning signs of electoral violence. To achieve this, YIAGA WTV LTOs are 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, youth and people with disability 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 shared with relevant election stakeholders for needed response.

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. YIAGA, therefore, encourages users of this report to independently corroborate and respond appropriately to trends identified in this report.