PREO #3
PRE-ELECTION OBSERVATION

OSUN 2018 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION

KEY FINDINGS OF REPORTING PERIOD THREE
August 31st - September 13th, 2018
Executive Summary

YIAGA AFRICA’s Watching The Vote (WTV) is the largest non-partisan and independent movement of citizens observers committed to electoral integrity and playing an active role in the Osun 2018 governorship election. On August 3rd 2018, YIAGA’s WTV deployed Long-Term Observation (LTOs) to Osun state to observe the pre-election environment. This report is the third in a series of four (4) to be released by YIAGA, which also highlights findings of observations from the first and second reporting phase. In the previous pre-election environment’s report, we presented our findings regarding activities of major political actors, voter education campaigns, activities of marginalized groups and threats of violence. Now, in the third period, the concerns in pre-election observations include building early warning signs, informed advocacy and documenting stakeholders’ engagements in the pre-elections environment.
Summary of Findings:

1. Compared to the first and second reporting period, there is an impressive preparations by Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) across the entire state (29 of the 30 LGAs);

2. Voter education activities undertaken by both INEC and CSOs were observed during the current reporting period. However, YIAGA WTV LTOs were not exposed to voter education workshop by either INEC or CSOs in Olorunda, Atakumosa East, Ife South, Ife Central, Ife East, Ilesha West, Oriade, Ayedaade, Ayedire, Ede North, Egbedore, Ejigbo, Iwo and Ola-Oluwa LGAs;

3. Voter education programming and messaging targeted at marginalized groups such as: youth, women and people with disabilities (PWDs) has been consistently observed by WTV LTOs since August 3rd 2018 in Atakumosa East, Atakumosa West, Boluwaduro, Ede North, Ede South, Ife South, Ife North, Ifedayo, Ifelodun, Ilesha West, Irepodun, Isokan, Odo-tin, Ola-Oluwa, Orolu and Osogbo LGAs;

4. Partisan Senior Civil Servants were observed canvassing for votes for political candidates’ in Boluwaduro, Osogbo, Atakumosa East, Irewole and Iwo LGAs;

5. Violations of the Electoral Act were observed in some LGAs of the state. These include;
   - Voter inducement through the distribution of money and gift items by politicians and their supporters in Boluwaduro, Boripe, Ifedayo, Ifelodun, Irepodun, Odo-Otin, Olorunda, Osogbo, Ife East, Ife North, Ife South, Ilesha West, Ayedire, Ejigbo, Irewole and Iwo LGAs of the state,
   - Violent physical/verbal attacks in Boluwaduro, Ifedayo, Ifelodun, Ila, Irepodun, Osogbo, Ilesha West, Atakumosa West, Atakumosa East and Ife North LGA. Inciting statements in Orolu and Iwo LGAs and
   - Vandalism or destruction of properties in Ilesha West, Isokan. Atakumosa West, Atakumosa East, Ifedayo, and Iwo LGAs

6. Hate speech, violence or intimidation against candidates or people because of their age was reported in Boluwaduro LGA and hate speech against political candidates or their supporters because they have a disability was reported in Atakumosa West LGA.
Summary of Recommendations:

1. YIAGA would like to call on political parties to openly shun hate speech, inflammatory language and any form of violence in all the phases of the electoral process. Security agencies should reprimand;

2. YIAGA calls on all political parties to engage in issue based campaigns and shun from luring voters with unsustainable gifts that would not lead to economic development of the State;

3. YIAGA calls on Senior Civil Servants to act with utmost professionalism and abstain from mainstream politics;

4. YIAGA calls on all registered voters in Osun State who have not collected their permanent voters card (PVCs) to do so from now to Wednesday, September 18th, 2018.

Key Findings

Election-Related Preparatory Activities by INEC

The WTV LTOs continued to observe INEC’s preparatory activities, including the collection of Permanent Voters Card (PVCs) in the third observation period of the WTV Osun pre-election observation. The LTOs reported that electoral preparatory activities are ongoing in 29 of the 30 LGAs. Over half (94%) of WTV LTOs reported witnessing election preparatory activities undertaken by INEC in the state.

Voter Education Workshops/Campaigns

Voter information/education workshops or campaigns are important means to ensure that eligible voters get the requisite information that ensures they understand how to exercise their right to participate in the electoral process. Report of this observation period revealed that voter education campaigns are ongoing in the state. However, YIAGA WTV LTOs were not exposed to voter education workshop by either INEC or CSOs in Olorunda, Atakumosa East, Ife South, Ife Central, Ife East, Ilesha West, Oriade, Ayedaade, Ayedire, Ede North, Egbedore, Ejigbo, Iwo and Ola-Oluwa LGAs.
Targeted Voter Information Massages and Campaigns

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, Ila, Irepodun, Olorunda, Odo-Otin, Orolu, Osogbo, Atakumosa East, Atakumosa West, Ife North, Ife South, Ife West, Ilesha West, Obokun, Oraide, Ayedade, Ede North Ede South, Ejigbo, Irewole, Isokan and Ola-Oluwa LGAs.

Activities of Youth, Women and PWD Groups

Within the reporting period, YIAGA’s WTV findings indicate a heightened increase of activities of women and youth groups canvassing for votes. The reports identified directly witnessing or having heard of women groups actively engaging in the electoral process and canvassing for votes in 19 LGAs. The LTOs also reported to have witnessed or heard of youth groups actively canvassing for votes in 22 LGAs. The LTOs reported to have witnessed or heard of PWDs or PWD groups actively canvassing for votes in 7 LGAs.

Political Party Campaigns

The 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 and second reporting period, the Action Democratic Party (ADP), All Progressives Congress (APC), People’s Democratic Party (PDP) and Social Democratic Party (SDP) were observed to be holding more rallies among all the 48 political parties contesting in the election.
Violation of the Electoral Laws

Voter Inducement

Voters, inducement through sharing of money, gift items and its kinds by candidates or their supporters were observed and reported by WTV LTOs. 20 of the 31 WTV LTOs observed this incidence in Boluwaduro, Boripe, Ifedayo, Ifelodun, Irepodun, Odo-Otin, Olorunda, Osogbo, Ife East, Ife North, Ife South, Ilesha West, Ayedire, Ejigbo, Irewole and Iwo LGAs of the state.

Inflammatory or Inciting Statement

WTV LTOs heard of any candidate inciting or encouraging their supporters to commit acts of violence in Orolu and Iwo LGA.

Violent Physical or Verbal Attacks

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

Vandalism or Destruction of Properties

WTV LTOs observed destruction of properties or materials related to the election in Ilesha West, Isokan. Atakumosa West, Atakumosa East, Ifedayo, and Iwo.
Hate Speech

YIAGA’s LTOs reported to have heard of hate speech against political candidates or their supporters because of their faith in Ede LGA. YIAGA LTOs also reported to have directly or indirectly observed hate speech, violence or intimidation against candidates or people because of their age in Boluwaduro LGA. The LTOs reported to have directly witnessed or heard of hate speech against political candidates or their supporters because they have a disability in Atakumosa West LGA.

Partisan Senior Civil Servants

Under the public service rules (2008 edition), engaging in partisan political activities is classified as a serious act of misconduct. For public servants desirous in engaging in partisan activities, the rule requires that such people resign from service before engaging in partisan politics. YIAGA’s LTOs reported to have directly observed or heard of senior civil servants canvassing for votes for political candidates’ in Boluwaduro, Osogbo, Atakumosa East, Irewole and Iwo LGAs.
METHODOLOGY

YIAGA’s WTV has closely monitored the pre-election environment processes since August 3rd, 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.