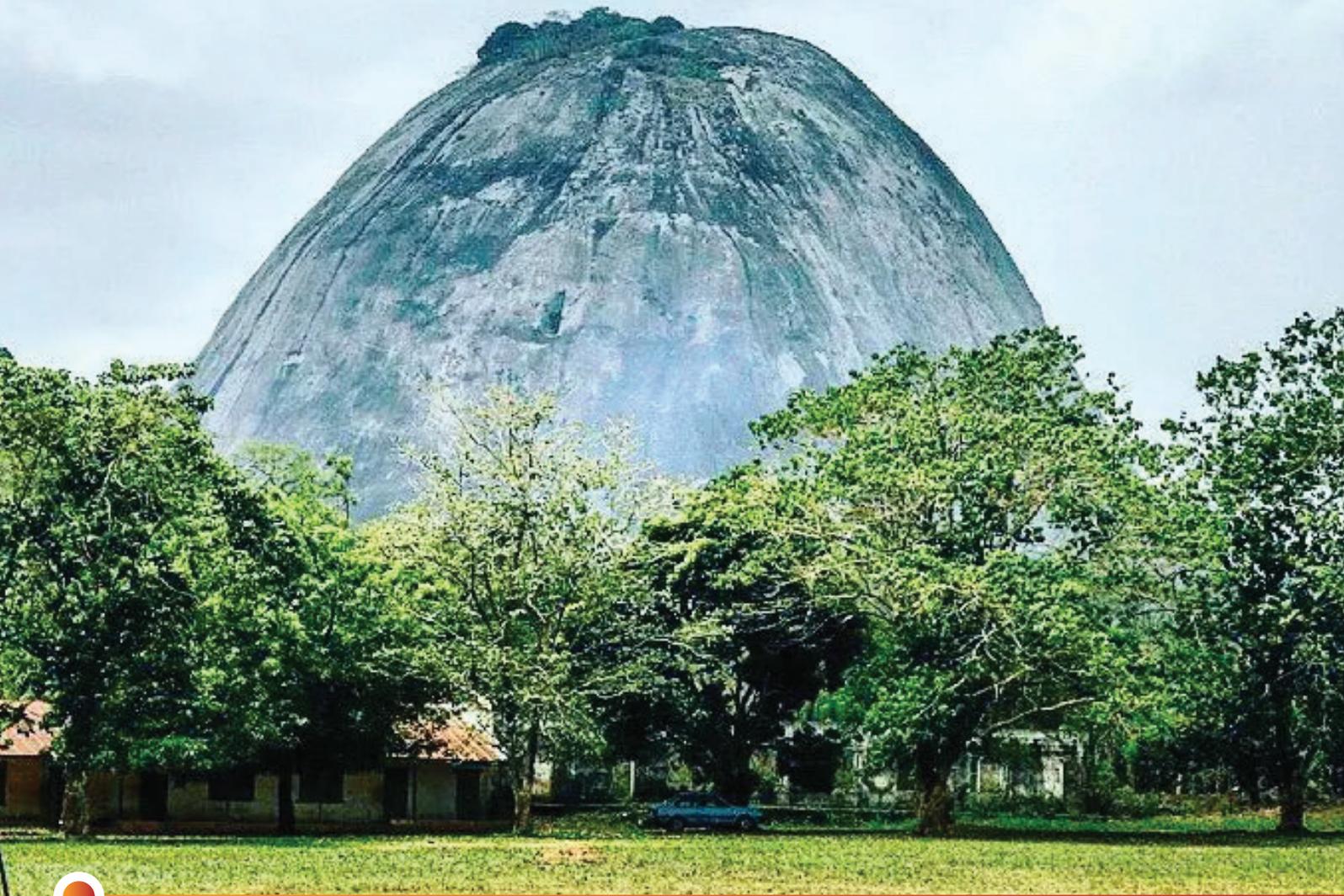




**WATCHING THE
VOTE**
ORG
Making Votes Count...



Yiaga Africa's Watching the Vote Second Pre-Election Observation (PREO) Report

Ekiti 2022: Governorship Election

May 9th 2022



Executive Summary

The 2022 Ekiti State gubernatorial election will take place on June 18, 2022, to elect a new Governor for Ekiti State. The primaries were conducted between January 4 to 29, 2022 where the governing All Progressives Congress (APC) party nominated Mr. Abiodun Oyebanji in a direct primary on January 27 while the People's Democratic Party (PDP) nominated Mr. Bisi Kolawole in an indirect primary on January 26. Both candidates of the APC and PDP have served in the government of Ekiti state in different capacities. The APC candidate; Mr. Abiodun Oyebanji was the former Secretary to the State Government while PDP's Mr. Bisi Kolawole was the former Commissioner for Environment. Though the primaries for these two parties were contentious and resulted in certain intra-party conflicts, there seem to be some resolutions to the conflicts as both parties have accepted the candidates as their legitimate party nominees for the election.

Beyond the APC and the PDP, the emergence of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) with former governor Segun Oni as its candidate appears to have changed the political contest in the state. Traditionally, the governorship of the state since its creation in 1996 has been rotated between the APC (and its forebears) and the PDP, which have been alternating the position with none being able to succeed itself. Interestingly, the SDP is positioning itself as a third force with a supposed large following, contesting to win the election. Beyond these 3 parties, there are 13 other recognized political parties contesting in the race. In all, only 16 out of the 18 recognized

political parties made it to the list contained in the notification released by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on March 14, 2022.

With about five weeks left until the highly anticipated election, voter education and campaigns have intensified. The Watching The Vote (WTV) project continued its second round of pre-election observations. The findings from the second round of the pre-election observations revealed that election preparatory activities are ongoing by INEC. Voter education activities conducted by INEC remain consistent across the state. The WTV Pre-Election Observation (PREO) report also captured the activities of other key election stakeholders like Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Political parties and security agencies, and the National Orientation Agency (NOA). The summary findings reveal ongoing voter education and the commencement of active campaigns in the state. The WTV LTOs also report voter inducement in some LGAs..

Yiaga Africa's WTV specifically trained and deployed Long-term observers (LTO) in the 16 LGAs to observe the pre-election environment until June 15, 2021. The subsequent section contains detailed reports of the observation findings and relevant recommendations for this reporting period.

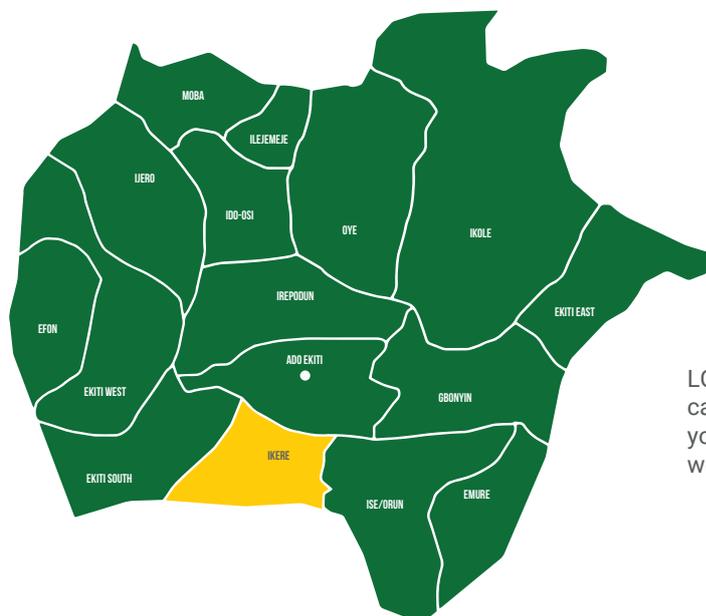
Key Observation Findings

1 Election Preparatory Activities by INEC

In the second reporting period, the WTV observation report reveals visible preparatory activities undertaken by INEC ahead of the election. Some of the ongoing preparatory activities observed include recruitment and shortlisting of Ad'Hoc staff who will assist with election day administration and consultations with stakeholders. The WTV LTOs observed at least one election preparatory activity in each of the 16 local government areas of Ekiti State. The preparatory activity observed includes the conduct of voter education, recruitment of Ad'Hoc staff, and consultation with relevant election stakeholders

2 Voter Education by INEC, NOA and CSOs

The WTV project monitored and tracked voter education activities conducted by key election stakeholders such as INEC, NOA, and CSOs. This includes voter education messages targeted at mobilizing and sensitizing marginalized groups such as Youth Women and Persons Living with disabilities (PWD). The WTV LTOs reported being exposed or heard of general voter information dissemination activities conducted in **Ado Ekiti, Efon, Ekiti East, Ekiti South, Ekiti West, Emure, Gboyin, Ido/Osi, Ijero, Ikole, Ilejemeje, Irepodun/Ifeledun, Ise/Orun, Moba, and Oye LGA**. This was however not observed in Ikere LGA.



LGAs where Voter information campaigns targeted at women, youth and PWDs by INEC were recorded

Voter Information Campaigns Targeted at the Marginalised Communities

The WTV observation reveals voter information targeted at youth, Women, and PWDs as follows:

- WTV LTO witnessed/heard of a voter information campaign targeted at women in Ado Ekiti, Ekiti East, Ekiti South, Ekiti West, Gboyin, Ido/Osi, Irepodun/Ifelodun, and Ise/Orun LGA by INEC, NOA, and CSOs.
- Voter information campaigns targeted at youth by INEC were in Ado Ekiti, Ekiti East, Ekiti South, and Irepodun/ Ifelodun LGA, by NOA in Ado Ekiti, Ekiti South Ekiti West Gboyin, Ido/Osi, Irepodun/Ifelodun and Ise/ Osun LGA, and in Ado Ekiti, Ekiti East, Ekiti West, Gboyin, Ido/Osi, Irepodun/Ifelodun and Ise/Orun LGA by CSOs.
- Specific voter education campaign targeted at PWDs was also observed by WTV LTOs only in Ado Ekiti, Ekiti East, Ekiti South, Ekiti West, Efon, Gboyin, Ido/Osi, and Irepodun/Ifelodun and Ise/Orun LGA by INEC, NOA, and CSOs

3 Campaign Activities by Political Party

Activities of political parties with regard to the campaign intensify as the date of the election draws closer. The report of the observation has shown significant political party campaign activities across the state. These campaign activities include rallies and meetings and canvassing for votes through radio jingles, campaign posters, and billboards. Specifically, the WTV observers reported having heard or witnessed campaign activities by the APC in all the 16LGA and by the Accord Party in 11 LGAs. **The LGAs include Ado Ekiti, Efon, Ekiti East, Ekiti South, Ekiti West, Emure, Gboyin, Ido/Osi, Ijero, Ikole, and Irepodun/Ifelodun LGA. Political campaign activities of the PDP and SDP were witnessed or heard of in all the LGAs except for Ikere, Mopa, and Oye LGA's.**

4 Indicators of Voter Inducement

The act of voter inducement is gaining ground in the upcoming Ekiti election. This was buttressed by the Civil Society community, while calling on political actors to shy away from channeling resources toward voter inducement, at the Yiaga Africa's CSOs parley. **The findings from this reporting period reveal that buying and selling of Permanent Voters Cards (PVC) is ongoing in Ekiti South West and Ekiti West LGAs.** Other acts of inducement observed are the distribution of money and gift items in Ikere, Ilejemeje, Irepodun/Ifelodun, Ado Ekiti, Efon, Ekiti South West, Ekiti West, Gboyin, Ido/Osi, and Ijero LGAs.



WTV LTOs witnessed or heard of buying and selling permanent voter cards (PVC) is ongoing in the state.

Key Recommendation

Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)

1. INEC should intensify its voter education activities or programs across the state. The Commission can partner with the NOA, CSOs, and other key stakeholders to expand voter education efforts across the state. This should include targeted voter education for women, young people, and those with impairments.
2. INEC should invest in publicizing the locations of the new polling units.
3. INEC should carry out sensitization programs on the use and deployment of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS)
4. INEC should focus on training Ad'hoc staff on the use of the BVAS machine, to avoid challenges encountered in the FCT Area Council Election

National Orientation Agency (NOA)

5. The National Orientation Agency should continue to engage more in partnerships with INEC and Civil Society organizations (CSOs) for the conduct of voter education across the state. NOA should also design targeted voter education messages specifically for the marginalized groups (women, youths, and people with disabilities)

Political Parties

6. Political parties should engage more in voter education, issue-based debates and sensitization of citizens
7. Rather than bribing and inducing voters with money and gift items, political parties and candidates should focus on issues-based campaigns.

Media

8. Media organizations should ensure a fair reporting of all political parties' activities by giving candidates and parties equal access to the media platforms.

Security

9. As a vital stakeholder in the conduct of the free, fair, and credible election, security agencies should ensure sufficient security provisions ahead of the election

Citizens

10. Voters should refuse any form of inducement by politicians as the election approaches but engage political parties and candidates based on issues that they care about and only vote for parties/candidates who have a clear agenda for the development of the stat

Methodology

Yiaga Africa Watching the Vote recruited and trained 25 long-term citizen observers (LTOs) and deployed them across the 16 LGAs of Ekiti State to systematically observe the pre-election environment in their various local governments. The observation also includes monitoring early warning signs of electoral violence that may influence the outcome of the election in Ekiti State. The observers are equipped with a checklist to record the relevant information and provide verifiable findings of the pre-election happening in their various LGAs. The LTOs send reports of their observation bi-weekly on a standard set of questions at the local government level, while the others serve as mobile observers within the state and they report critical incidents only. All 25 LTOs are also recruited from their LGAs of residence where they are expected to monitor electoral activities: voter education and information, political campaign activities, activities of marginalized groups (youth, women, and PWDs), election-related violence, and critical incidents all around the clock. Additionally, they track activities of electoral stakeholders like; INEC, political parties, NOA, CSOs, as well as women, youths, and PWDs.

All findings from the LTOs are transmitted to the WTV data centre via coded SMS and are thereafter analyzed and reported periodically. Yiaga Africa PREO findings are obtained from the entire LGAs within the state and not from a representative of the entire state, thus providing an indication of emerging trends during the pre-election period. Unlike the WTV election-day observation methodology that relies on sample-based observation, Yiaga Africa's WTV PREO uses a more traditional approach that investigates the activities in LGAs of Ekiti State.

Appendix

FINAL LIST OF CANDIDATES 2022 Governorship Election

Ekiti State Saturday 18th June 2022



| | POSITION | CANDIDATE | PWD | AGE | GENDER | QUAL. |
|----|---|------------------------------|-----|-----|--------|----------------------|
| 1 |  GOVERNOR | REUBEN BOYE FAMUYIBO | X | 63 | M | SSCE, LLB, BL |
| |  DEPUTY GOVERNOR | OLUMIDE EZEKIEL FALANA | X | 67 | M | BEd. |
| 2 |  GOVERNOR | AJAGUNIGBALA MOSES OLAJIDE | X | 57 | M | FSLC, GCE, BTh |
| |  DEPUTY GOVERNOR | OLUDELE OLUWABUNMI | X | 44 | F | FSLC, NABTEB |
| 3 |  GOVERNOR | OLUWOLE OLUMAYOKUN OLUYEDE | X | 57 | M | FSLC, WAEC, MBBS. |
| |  DEPUTY GOVERNOR | POPOOLA HIDIAT SIMBO | X | 47 | F | FSLC, SSCE, MBA |
| 4 |  GOVERNOR | ELEBUTE-HALLE JOSEPHINE KEMI | X | 40 | F | FSLC, NECO, ND, HND |
| |  DEPUTY GOVERNOR | AFUYE IDOWU SUNDAY | X | 41 | M | FSLC, WAEC, BSc |
| 5 |  GOVERNOR | ABIODUN ABAYOMI OYEBANJI | X | 54 | M | FSLC, SSCE, BSc, MSc |
| |  DEPUTY GOVERNOR | AFUYE MONISADE | X | 63 | F | FSLC, WAEC |
| 6 |  GOVERNOR | BENJAMIN OLUFEMI OBIDOYIN | X | 46 | M | FSLC, SSCE, PTC |
| |  DEPUTY GOVERNOR | OLUWAFEMI ANTHONY FAEJI | X | 61 | M | FSLC, GCE, BSc |
| 7 |  GOVERNOR | FAGBEMI PETER ADEGBENRO | X | 59 | M | FSLC, TCII, NCE, BSc |
| |  DEPUTY GOVERNOR | AKINYEYE OLUWATOSIN EUNICE | X | 46 | F | FSLC, WAEC, HND |
| 8 |  GOVERNOR | CHRISTIANA MODUPE OLATAWURA | X | 62 | F | FSLC, TCII, NCE |
| |  DEPUTY GOVERNOR | IBUKUN SOLOMON OWOLABI | X | 38 | M | FSLC, SSCE, BEd. |
| 9 |  GOVERNOR | DARAMOLA ROWLAND OLUGBENGA | X | 61 | M | FSLC, SSCE, GCE |
| |  DEPUTY GOVERNOR | ONILE IBRAHIM YUSUF | X | 54 | M | FSLC, SSCE, GCE |
| 10 |  GOVERNOR | FATOMILOLA OLADOSU ABIODUN | X | 47 | M | FSLC, SSCE, BA |
| |  DEPUTY GOVERNOR | ADE-AJAYI OLUWATOYIN HANNAH | X | 52 | F | FSLC, GCE, BEd. |
| 11 |  GOVERNOR | IYANIWURA TOPE IFEDAYO | X | 36 | M | FSLC, SSCE |
| |  DEPUTY GOVERNOR | AROWOLO KAYODE WILLIAMS | X | 45 | M | FSLC, SSCE, BEng. |

| | POSITION | CANDIDATE | PWD | AGE | GENDER | QUAL. |
|----|---|----------------------------|-----|-----|--------|---------------------------|
| 12 |  GOVERNOR | OLABISI KOLAWOLE | X | 64 | M | FSLC, WAEC, HND |
| |  DEPUTY GOVERNOR | KOLAPO OLUGBENGA KOLADE | X | 55 | M | WAEC, LLB |
| 13 |  GOVERNOR | AGBOOLA OLANIYI BEN | X | 52 | M | FSLC, WAEC, ND, HND, MBA |
| |  DEPUTY GOVERNOR | OGIDAN TOLULOPE OLUWATOYIN | X | 46 | F | FSLC, SSCE, HND |
| 14 |  GOVERNOR | OLUSEGUN ADEBAYO ONI | X | 67 | M | FSLC, GRADE II CERT., MBA |
| |  DEPUTY GOVERNOR | JAMES OLADIPO OWOLABI | X | 68 | M | FSLC, WAEC, DIPLOMA |
| 15 |  GOVERNOR | ADEBOWALE OLURANTI AJAYI | X | 62 | M | FSLC, GCE, BSc |
| |  DEPUTY GOVERNOR | OLASENI NURENI BABATUNDE | X | 48 | M | FSLC, SSCE, DIPLOMA |
| 16 |  GOVERNOR | ADEOLU KOLADE AKINYEMI | X | 43 | M | WAEC |
| |  DEPUTY GOVERNOR | DAMILOLA AKINTOYE | X | 36 | F | NECO |

 **16**
Political Parties

 **16**
Governorship Candidates

 **14**
Male Candidates

 **2**
Female Candidates

 **0**
PWDs

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