REPORT OF THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTION

INEC

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ELECTORAL COMMISSION

REPORT OF THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTION

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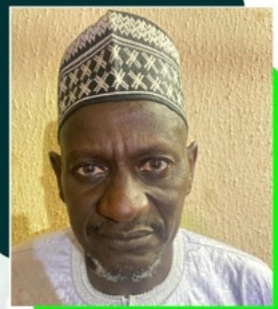
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Abbreviations and Acronyms

A	Accord
AA	Action Alliance
AAC	African Action Congress
ACRV	Average Cost Per Register Voter
ADP	Action Democratic Party
ABIS	Advanced Biometric Identification System
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AEOs	Assistant Electoral Officers
ADC	African Democratic Congress
AIT	African Independent Television
APC	All Progressives Congress
APGA	All Progressives Grand Alliance
APIs	Application Programmable Interfaces
APM	Allied Peoples' Movement
APOs	Assistant Presiding Officer(s)
APP	Action Peoples Party
AREVOs	Assistant Revision Officers
AS	Administrative Secretary
AU	African Union
ASTOs	Assistant State Training Officers
ATBU	Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi
BaSED	Basic Security for Election Duty
BP	Boot Party
BPP	Bureau for Public Procurement
BVAS	Bimodal Voter Accreditation System
CAN	Christian Association of Nigeria
CAVS	Continuous Accreditation and Voting System
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CDD	Centre for Democracy and Development
CDS	Community Development Service

CLP	Community Life Project
CO	Collation Officer(s)
CoR	Certificate of Return
COVI	Cost per Registered Voter Index
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease 2019***
CP	Commissioner of Police
CPS	Chief Press Secretary
CROGE	Collation and Returning Officer for the Governorship Election
CROMS	Collation and Returning Officers' Management System
CROPE	Collation and Returning Officer for the Presidential Election
CSOs	Civic Society Organisations
CSRVS	Collation Support and Result Verification System
CTA	Chief Technical Adviser
CTC	Certified True Copy
CVE	Civic and Voter Education
CVR	Continuous Voter Registration
DAs	Data Administrators
DAI	Development Alternatives Incorporated
DDCM	Direct Data Capture Machine
DOs	Desk Officers
DPO	Divisional Police Officer
DSS	Department of State Services
EA	Electoral Act
ECA	Electoral Cycle Approach
ECES	European Centre for Electoral Support
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EDS	Election Day Support
EFCC	Economic and Financial Crimes Commission
EMB	Election Management Body
EMS	Election Management System
EMSC	Election Monitoring and Support Centre

EOPs	Electoral Operations Department
EOs	Electoral Officer(s)
EOSC	Electoral Operations Support Centre
EPM	Election and Party Monitoring Department
EPP	Election Project Plan
EPPC	Election Project Plan Committee
ERM	Election Risk Management
ESP	Election Security Personnel
ESTA	Election Security Threat Assessment
EST	Electoral Security Training
EU	European Union
EU-EOM	European Union Election Observation Mission
EU-SDGN	European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria
EVMAT	Election Violence Mitigation and Advocacy Tool
EVR	Electronic Voters' Register
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
FBOs	Faith Based Organisations
FC	Federal Constituency
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
FEDPOLY	Federal Polytechnic
FES	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
FM	Frequency Modulation
FMBN	Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria
FOMWAN	Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria
FRSC	Federal Road Safety Corps
FTIs	Federal Tertiary Institutions
GAP	General Administration and Procurement
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
GSM	Global System for Mobile Communications
HB-ESP	Handbook for Election Security Personnel
HoDs	Heads of Department

HQ	Headquarters
ICC	International Conference Centre
ICCC	INEC Citizens Contact Centre
ICCES	Inter-Agency Consultative Committee in Election Security
ICPC	Independent Corrupt Practices Commission
ICT	Information Communication Technology
ICT/VRC	ICT and Voter Registry Committee
ID	Identity Card
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IEC	Information, Education & Communication
IFES	International Foundation for Electoral Systems
JNI	Jama'atu Nasril Islam
IMS	Institute of Media and Society
INECPRES	INEC Portal for the Recruitment of Election Staff
INEC	Independent National Electoral Commission
INEC-TBOT	INEC Training Bot
IPAC	Inter-Party Advisory Committee
IPMAN	Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria
IPSAS	International Public Sector Accounting Standards
IPC	International Press Centre
IPOs	Investigating Police Officers
INEC-SANS	INEC Security and Alert Notification System
IReV	INEC Results Viewing Portal
IT	Information Technology
IVED	INEC Voter Enrolment Device
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
LED	Light Emitting Diodes
LGAs	Local Government Areas
LGATECH	Local Government Technical Support Staff
LGTOs	Local Government Training Officer(s)
LICVEP	Local Government Inter-Agency Committee on Voter Education and Publicity

LMS	Learning Management System
LP	Labour Party
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MWUN	Maritime Workers' Union of Nigeria
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NAF	Nigerian Air Force
NARTO	National Association of Road Transport Owners
NASS	National Assembly
NBS	Nigeria Bureau of Statistics
NCS	Nigeria Customs Service
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHF	National Housing Fund
NIBSS	Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System
NICVEP	National Inter-Agency Committee on Voter Education and Publicity
NIMC	National Identity Management Commission
NIN-SIM	National Identification Number- Subscriber Identity Module
NIREC	Nigeria Inter-Religious Council
NNPC	Nigeria National Petroleum Company
NNPP	New Nigeria Peoples Party
NOA	National Orientation Agency
NRM	National Rescue Movement
NSCDC	Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps
NSR	National Situation Room
NUJ	Nigeria Union of Journalists
NURTW	National Union of Road Transport Workers
NYSC	National Youth Service Corps
OCB	Open Competitive Bidding
O/C SSS	Officer-in-Charge State Security Service
O/C NSCDC	Officer-in-Charge Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps
OMIS	Operations Management Information System

PFRAS	Parties' Financial and Auditing Reporting System
PMS	Park Management System
PAPS	Political Affairs Peace and Security
PAOs	Public Affairs Officers
PEAM	Pre-Election Assessment Mission
PBAs	Principal Business Areas
PDP	Peoples Democratic Party
PO	Presiding Officer(s)
PRP	Peoples Redemption Party
P&M	Planning and Monitoring
PPA	Public Procurement Act
PPFT	Political Party Finance Tracking Form
PRE/NASS	Presidential/National Assembly
PRVs	Preliminary Register of Voters
PUs	Polling Units
PVC	Permanent Voters' Card
PWD	Persons with Disability
RACs	Registration Area Camps
RACOs	Registration Area Collation Officers
QR	Quick Response
RAs	Registration Areas
RATECHs	Registration Area Technical Support Staff
REC	Resident Electoral Commissioner
REVOs	Revision Officers
RFQ	Request for Quotation
RO	Returning Officer(s)
SA	Special Adviser
SC	State Constituency
SCIA	Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs
SCOPE	State Collation Officer for the Presidential Election
SCRs	Smart Card Readers
SD	Senatorial District

SDP	Social Democratic Party
SERVICOM	Service Compact with All Nigerians
SHoA	State House of Assembly
SICVEP	State Inter-Agency Committee on Voter Education and Publicity
SIEC	State Independent Electoral Commission
SMS	Short Messaging Service
SOP	Standard Operation Procedure
SPA	Strategic Plan of Action
SP	Strategic Plan
SPIP	Strategic Plan Implementation Programme
SPOs	Supervisory Presiding Officers
SRACs	Super Registration Area Camps
STOs	State Training Officers
TEI	The Electoral Institute
ToT	Training of Trainers
TMG	Transition Monitoring Group
TM-ESP	Training Manual for Election Security Personnel
UKAID	United Kingdom Department for International Development
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNIABUJA	University of Abuja
UNIBEN	University of Benin
UNILORIN	University of Ilorin
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VEP	Voter Education, Publicity, Gender, and Civil Society Department
VIN	Voter Identification Number
VIPs	Visually Impaired Persons
VPs	Voting Points
VPS	Voting Points Settlements
VR	Voter Register
YIAGA Africa	Youth Initiative for Advocacy, Growth and Advancement Africa
YPP	Young Progressive Party
ZLP	Zenith Labour Party

Foreword

The 2023 General Election held in February and March was the seventh successive election since 1999 in the four-year constitutionally-mandated Electoral Cycles for election of officers into the executive and legislative arms of government at Federal and State levels.

This report documents the major activities the Commission carried out in the preparation and conduct of the General Election, beginning from mid-2019. This early preparation was in keeping with what has become the Commission's practice of long-range systematic planning and execution of the country's elections since 2010.

Notable milestones in the preparations for the 2023 General Election include the mid-term review of the Commission's 2017-2021 Strategic Plan (SP), formulation of a new 2021-2026 SP and Strategic Plan Implementation Programme (SPIP) and the formulation of the 2023 Election Project Plan. It also included a thorough review and enhancement of the Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC), which, is an integrated planning, monitoring, implementation, early warning and field support tool, first established in 2017. This involved the review and integration of the Commission's four key monitoring and implementation mechanisms, namely the Election Management System (EMS), the Election Risk Management Tool (ERM), the Election Operations Support Centre (EOSC) and the INEC Security and Alert Notification System (I-SANS).

Again, as has since become the Commission's tradition, it interacted several times with critical stakeholders in the electoral and democratic processes, both local and international. Among these stakeholders were political parties, civil society organisations, the media and security agencies. Others included the Bar and Bench, the legislature and government departments such as the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation Limited (NNPCL). The Commission also met with some international development partners such as the European Union and USAID. Not least, we also reached out to other Election Management Bodies on the African Continent and beyond to learn lessons that would enable us to improve and enhance our service delivery.

One key outcomes of the Commission's interaction with these stakeholders was the replacement of the Smart Card Reader (SCR) with the INEC Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) for voter accreditation using the twin option of fingerprints or facial biometric authentication of voters at the PUs The same system is used as the INEC Voter Enrollement Device during voter registration.

The BVAS which also has the application to scan and upload PU results to the INEC Result Viewing (IReV) portal eliminated the possibility of anyone being able to vote more than once or do so using someone else's Permanent Voters' Card (PVC).

However, the significant progress the Commission achieved in the deployment of technology would not have been possible without the commitment of Commission members, the support of its experienced Resident Electoral Commissioners RECs) and the dedication of our hard-working management and staff. It would also not have been possible without the support of millions of our ad-hoc staff drawn from young graduates undergoing the mandatory national service (i.e. National Youth Service Corps -NYSC) and other ad-hoc staff from the public service and tertiary institutions.

I must equally express our appreciation for the support and cooperation we received from all three arms of government, i.e. the executive, legislature and judiciary and from non-governmental organisations such as the transport unions, Civil Society Organisations, and the media. The security agencies also played a key role in securing the process, personnel and materials thereby creating the enabling environment that made the conduct of the 2023 General Election possible.

Finally, I must also reiterate the Commission's willingness to learn useful lessons from the successes and challenges of the past as we all strive to make our elections more credible, transparent and inclusive.

Professor Mahmood Yakubu
Chairman
Abuja
February 2024

Acknowledgments

The successful conduct of elections in a large, populous and diverse country like Nigeria requires considerable human and material resources. This report of the 2023 General Election is an account of how the leadership, management, and staff of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) planned, monitored and implemented the country's most technologically-driven election since 1999. It also tells the story of how the Commission interacted with several stakeholders in Nigeria's democracy, both domestic and international and learnt lessons on how to deliver on its commitment to free, fair, transparent and credible election.

Several institutions, groups and individuals deserve commendation for their roles in the production of this report, which is the fourth since the 2011 General Election when INEC began the publication of general election report for public dissemination. First and foremost, our thanks as members of the Committee that produced the report must go to the Commission's Chairman, Professor Mahmood Yakubu. He, together with other members of the Commission, gave us the opportunity to produce this historical document containing useful information about the planning, organisation, and execution of the 2023 General Election. Second, our gratitude goes to the three personal aides to the Chairman: Professor Mohammad J. Kuna (Special Adviser), Professor Bolade M. Eyinla (Chief Technical Adviser) and Mr. Rotimi Oyekanmi (Chief Press Secretary) for carrying out the difficult task of compiling, editing and in many cases re-writing the reports of the election received from the 20 Departments and Directorates of the Commission, as well as the Commission's 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory offices.

Next, the Committee's gratitude goes to all its members, my colleague National Commissioners, Professor Abdullahi Abdu Zuru and Mr. Sam Olumekun, as well as the Resident Electoral Commissioners for Benue and Lagos State, Professors Sam Egwu and Ayobami Salami and other members, including Professor Ibrahim Sani, Director of Research at The Electoral Institute (TEI) and staff of the Planning, Monitoring and Strategy Department. This report would not have been possible without their invaluable inputs.

Our special thanks must go to the Secretary of the Committee and Director of the Commission's Secretariat, Mrs. Maryam Iya Musa, and members of her team, namely, Mrs. Anne Aderibigbe, Mrs. Helen Ogundana, Mr. Terungwa Awuhe, Mr. Joe-Stans Aondongu Toryem, Mrs. Thelma Essien Npanam, Mrs. Aisha Orulebaja-Ayola, Mrs. Aisha A. Yabo, Miss Bose Fashina, Mrs. Favour Simon, Miss Stephanie Faga-Ishwa and Miss Ramatu Sadiq.

Finally, we thank numerous other staff and organisations that have in one way or the other contributed to the success of this report. This report will, without doubt, provide useful information and insight into the planning, processes and conduct of the 2023 General Election which, for the first time since the 2007 election, held as scheduled.

Mohammed Kudu Haruna
National Electoral Commissioner
Chairman, 2023 General Election Report Committee

Executive Summary

As all election managers and observers know, the end of one electoral cycle heralds the beginning of another. This dictum has operated time and again and was clearly demonstrable after the 2019 General Election. Accordingly, as a springboard to advancing its operations, processes and procedures in the conduct of elections, the Commission took deliberate steps to review the conduct of the 2019 General Election not in isolation, but with the engagement of its field officers at all levels and a wide range of electoral stakeholders. These review meetings were held with the sole aim of improving the management and conduct of elections to be held within the 2019-2023 Electoral Cycle. The outcome of the various review engagements resulted in a total of 178 recommendations spanning 14 thematic areas. Recommendations that required the Commission's administrative action and amendments to the election legal framework were expedited. The Commission went further to review its 2017-2021 Strategic Plan (SP) and Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) to appraise the implementation of 47 key actions and over 650 activities. The major challenges that militated against the full realisation of the plan were identified and categorised into five thematic areas. Lessons learnt from the 2017-2021 review formed the launching pad for the formulation of the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan (SP) and Strategic Plan Implementation Programme (SPIP).

Similarly, the formulation of the 2023 Election Project Plan (EPP) was dependent upon a comprehensive review of the 2019 EPP. The 2023 EPP was a comprehensive and in-depth project plan for the conduct of the 2023 General Election. It provided the Commission and other electoral stakeholders with the template for the coordination and execution of roles, activities and timelines for the planning, organisation, and delivery of the election. Specifically, it articulated the administrative, operational, logistic, financial, and environmental requirements for the delivery of the election into 29 executive and 1,462 elective legislative positions nationwide.

It is important to draw attention to some key pre-2023 general election activities. First, there was the conduct of Off-Cycle, Bye-Elections and Re-run Elections between August 2019 and July 2022 to fill executive and legislative positions in 145 constituencies nationwide. Second, there was the challenge, from December 2019 to late 2020, of conducting some of these elections in the context of the global COVID-19 Pandemic that tasked the Commission to develop a policy on conducting elections within the prevailing atmosphere of the pandemic and develop innovations to meet the public safety exigencies in line with advisories by national and global health authorities.

Third, several other innovations by the Commission in the 2019-2022 period peculiarly made the 2023 General Election unique. It was the first general election to be conducted after the amendment of the Electoral Act 2022. Furthermore, the Presidential and National Assembly election, for the first time in two Electoral Cycles 2010-2015 and 2015-2019, held on schedule without postponement as a result of logistics or other challenges. Moreover,

voter access to polling units was expanded countrywide after 25 years when in June 2021 the Commission converted the 56,872 Voting Points and Voting Point Settlements into full-fledged Polling Units, bringing the number of polling units in Nigeria to 176,846. In addition to expanding voter access to polling units, the Commission also relocated 749 polling units from inappropriate to more appropriate public facilities or open spaces to guarantee unencumbered access for all voters. Sequel to the forgoing, there was voter migration and inadvertently, de-congestion of some over-crowded polling units. This exercise is on-going as some polling units are still congested as a result of voter reluctance to relocate mainly for security consideration.

Within the same period under review, the Commission developed and deployed new technologies. For instance, the Commission automated certain aspects of the electoral process and procedures by creating portals for a hybrid training platform, Virtual Library, Continuous Voter Registration (CVR), CVR Live Locator, Candidate Nomination, Media Accreditation Management System, RATECHs Management System, Observer Management System and Political Party Agent Management System. The INEC Voter Enrolment Device (IVED), used as a registration device during CVR, was transformed with a few add-ons into an accreditation device as the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) on Election Day, to accredit voters and upload of polling unit results to the INEC Results Viewing (IReV) portal, capture the Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates for the 176,846 polling units nationwide. The conduct of a BVAS functionality mock accreditation exercise on the eve on the election enabled the Commission to test-run the system ahead of the 2023 General Election.

Careful steps were taken in the planning and build-up to the 2023 General Election. Unarguably, legal framework creates the ambit that defined the operations and processes of the Commission's activities for the election. The Electoral Act 2010 (as amended) was the governing law for elections in Nigeria early from 2010 to 2022; however, with the early signing into law of the Electoral Act 2022 on the 25th of February 2022, an enhanced electoral legal framework for conduct of election in Nigeria that sought to address several lingering issues that posed significant challenges to the management of the entire electoral process became operational, introducing about 80 new provisions addressing a wide range of pertinent issues, some of which were referred to in this report. Furthermore, the Commission inaugurated an 18-member Strategic Plan Committee with specific terms of reference, which included the design, development and production of the 2022 – 2026 Strategic Plan (SP) and Strategic Plan Implementation Programme (SPA). Five key objectives of the plan were enhancing electoral operations and infrastructure, advancing voter and civic education, strengthening political party registration and monitoring, enhancing engagement with national and international stakeholders and strengthening the Commission's institutional structures and memory. These strategic objectives served as a roadmap for INEC's activities for the period 2022-2026.

To ensure trust, effectiveness, credibility, and accountability of the INEC Strategic Plan, a robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework which included routine data collection, surveys, monitoring progress, management reviews, as well as holding stakeholder engagements

were planned and implanted. The Commission's capacity for strategic planning, effective implementation, and real-time monitoring of electoral activities was strengthened through the Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC) which comprises four (4) key tools i.e. the Election Monitoring System (EMS), Electoral Risk Management (ERM), INEC Security Alert and Notification System (INEC-SANS) and the Electoral Operations Support Centre (EOSC). Evidence of the Commission's deliberate effort at electoral planning is the 2023 EPP, which is the third EPP document following that of 2015 and 2019. The 2023 EPP had 1,495 activities and sub-activities, divided into 1,303 pre-election, 80 election and 112 post-election activities. The Plan's overarching goal is to ensure that the 2023 General Election was conducted in a free, fair, credible and inclusive manner, thereby reinforcing the gains and progress that the Commission made in the conduct of elections and the management of the electoral process since 2010. The Plan outlined five (5) specific objectives. As part of its planning for the 2023 General Election, and in view of the new electoral legal framework, the Commission's 2019 Regulations, Guidelines and Manuals for the conduct of elections were all reviewed and updated. The Commission also revised and enhanced its inclusivity measures by updating its IDP and Gender policies as well as by deploying assistive voting devices.

In recognition of the essence of competence and efficiency, the Commission held various categories and levels of training to build the capacity of both its regular and ad-hoc staff. Training was organised for 74 TEI/Commission Headquarter (TEI/HQ) Master Trainers, 37 State Training Officers (STOs), 37 Assistant State Training Officers (ASTOs), and 774 Local Government Training Officers (LGTOs) as well as specialised training workshops for Operations, VEP, ICT/VR, Legal and ADR and other categories of regular staff. The Commission also trained other categories of election personnel such as 27,963 Supervisory Presiding Officers (SPOs), 798,255 Presiding Officers (POs) and Assistant Presiding Officers (APOs) and 24,292 Collation/ Returning Officers (COs/ROs). The Commission's Election and Party Monitoring Department in collaboration with the Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC), conducted training for Polling Agents of political parties. Security personnel were not left out of the Commission's training plans. In collaboration with the security agencies, the Commission mapped out a comprehensive cascade training schedule for security personnel. In the same vein, the Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC) held a series of training for Administrative Secretaries (AS) and HoDs across the 36 States and FCT, and a nationwide implementers' workshop which drew participants from over 50 organisations, including political parties, civil society and international organisations. The Commission's introduction of the INEC Training Bot and the INEC e-School enabled technology-driven online training.

In the period between 2019 and 2023, but especially towards the 2023 General Election, the Commission engaged with relevant stakeholders to apprise them of the various technological innovations, plans and policies for the election. These engagements consisted of the regular quarterly, and then special meetings with political parties, civil society organisations, security agencies under the auspices of the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security

(ICCES), the media, as well as specific Ministries, Departments and Agencies. Furthermore, the Commission met with its International Development Partners, traditional rulers and religious leaders, and Heads of various Election Observation Missions to the 2023 General Election.

The Commission implemented the 2019 revised edition of its Communication Policy. The Voter Education and Publicity (VEP) Department followed the guidelines and standards outlined in the Commission's Revised Communication Policy (2019). Information flow was from top to bottom, which was replicated in the States where off-cycle elections were conducted during the period. Arrangements and other logistics information were communicated to both internal and external stakeholders and the general public. Voter enlightenment and sensitisation programmes were carried out using various communication platforms. A number of Implementation and capacity-building workshops were held for both staff of the Commission and stakeholders. Voter education materials in various languages were also produced in both hard and electronic copies. Audio and video jingles were produced, Radio, television and social media engagements were organised. Youth votes count outreach, road shows and carnivals were held. The "INEC Online TV" was created in the build-up to the General Election for disseminating information.

Funding for the 2023 General Election was key for the implementation of electoral activities. Section 81(2,3&4) of the Constitution provides that the required funding to meet the expenditure of the Commission be released directly from the Consolidated Revenue of the Federation. In line with the provisions of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), the Commission's budget proposal for the 2023 General Election was submitted to the Presidency and duly transmitted to the National Assembly for appropriation. The Commission also received support in kind from Development Partners channeled through their implementing parties for electoral activities as determined by the Commission, such as in training, capacity-building, civic and voter education, production of voter information, education and voter communication materials and engagement with stakeholders. Other key activities in the build-up to the election were the registration and de-registration of political parties; the conduct of the CVR from June 2021 to July 2022; the display of register of voter; the production delivery and collection of Permanent Voters' Card (PVC); the conduct of party primaries and submission of list of candidates; the monitoring of political party campaigns; the procurement of electoral materials; logistics and delivery of election materials; and the accreditation of election observers, media and polling agents.

However, the implementation of electoral activities were not without challenges, the most devastating of which was the spate of attacks on Commission's personnel and facilities by thugs, unknown gunpersons, and arsonists nationwide. During the period between the 2019 General Election and 12th December 2022, the Commission suffered over 50 attacks on its buildings and facilities in various LGAs and State Offices across 15 States of the federation in which vehicles, office equipment and election materials were destroyed. Furthermore,

currency swap by the Central Bank of Nigeria and the limit placed on cash withdrawals from banks constituted encumbrances on the Commission's operations for the payment to some unbanked service providers and the ability of particularly transport providers to service and fuel vehicles in boats and motorcycles in readiness for Election Duty. The prevailing fuel scarcity across the country and inadequate numbers of vehicles and boats for the transportation of election personnel and materials within the required timeframe posed a great challenge to the logistics plan for the election. This is more so considering the size and diversity of Nigeria, as well the state of national infrastructure. Indeed, election is the largest and most complex logistics undertaking in Nigeria involving the simultaneous movement of personnel and material to 176,846 polling units across 8,809 wards spread across 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in 36 states and FCT.

On the 25th of February 2023, the nation held the Presidential and National Assembly Elections. These elections were notable for their peaceful and orderly conduct, marked by the absence of significant instances of violence, with over 25% of registered voters casting their ballots. Polls opened on time in most polling stations and was generally smooth and orderly. There were some reports of technical glitches with the BVAS, although these were addressed by the roving technical staff assigned to address such issues. The counting, collation, and declaration of results process was largely peaceful, transparent, and credible nationwide. The National Situation Room and Collation Centre were operational during the election. While the former was tailored to serve as the nerve centre for monitoring the conduct of elections across the 774 LGAs nationwide, the latter served as the venue for National Collation of results emanating from States. Throughout the electoral process, Election Monitoring Support Centres (EMSCs) in every state served as a vital source of field information and intervention.

The National Situation Room was also set up for the conduct of the Governorship and State Houses of Assembly Elections, held on the 18th March 2023. This time, it was replicated in all 36 states. The Situation rooms both at the national and State level were managed by a team of experts from INEC, the security agencies and other relevant organisations. The EMSC set up by INEC provided real-time information from the field across the 36 States. The opening of polls, voting process, performance of the BVAS, counting, collation and declaration of results were generally smooth and orderly. However, there were challenges which included the late arrival of election materials at some PUs, inadequate security personnel, violence and intimidation. In most cases, these were addressed on Election Day or the following day and where they were not immediately addressed, supplementary elections were conducted for the affected constituencies on 15th April 2023.

The report is organised into 13 chapters covering the issues highlighted in the proceeding paragraphs in a thematic manner. It also provides critical statistics covering the preparation, conduct and outcome of the election. This report is therefore both an account of the 2023 General Election and valuable lessons for the conduct of future elections in Nigeria.

Chapter 1

Introduction

01

The 2023 General Election is the seventh successive general election since the return of democracy to Nigeria on the 29th of May 1999. This came after 16 long years of military rule that followed the coup of the 31st December 1983, which ended the short-lived Second Republic that, in turn, lasted for only four years and three months, from the 1st of October 1979. However, the Second Republic was even more short-lived than the First which the military overthrew on the 15th of January 1966, a little over only five years after Independence from British colonial rule that formally ended on the 1st of October 1960.

That we have had 24 years of seven uninterrupted periodically elected governments since 1999 is testimony to the faith Nigerians have apparently developed in democracy, as opposed to the military rule their country had been used to up until May 1999. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), the current version of Nigeria's election management bodies that have existed since before Independence, has played a central role in deepening democracy in the country.

Among INEC's nine constitutional mandates that include conducting elections, registering voters and political parties and delimitation of electoral constituencies, the most important is, of course, the conduct of elections, if only because the free, fair, and credible choice of governments by the people is a central pillar of democracy. Most fair-minded observers of our elections would agree that INEC has done a fairly good job of carrying out that mandate since 1999.

Except for the 2003 and particularly 2007 General Elections which, even its greatest beneficiary, the late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, admitted in his inaugural speech was seriously flawed, each of the elections since 1999 has generally been an improvement over the previous one. That of 2015, conducted under the chairmanship of Professor Attahiru Jega, is widely regarded as a, if not the, watershed; it was the first General Election in Nigeria in which an incumbent President lost.

However, even that election was not without its challenges, one of which was its postponement by six weeks (from the 14th of February to the 28th of March 2015) for reasons of insecurity in the Northeast and much of the Northwest geo-political zones of the country. In this respect, this year's General Election made history of sorts because it was the first since 2007 to be conducted on its initial scheduled date of the 25th of February at least at the national level (Presidential and National Assembly elections). The state level elections of Governors and members of State Houses of Assembly that were to have followed two weeks later, had to be shifted by a week due to litigation surrounding the Commission's accreditation machines, the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS).

The significance of holding the Presidential and National Assembly elections on schedule for the first time since 2007 is not to be underestimated if only because the background of insecurity against which this year's election took place was worse and more widespread than in previous elections. Facilities, personnel, and materials of the Commission were apparently systematically

targeted for destruction. Between 2019 and December 2022, the Commission suffered up to 50 violent attacks across 15 States in virtually all the six geo-political zones of the country.

As has since become the Commission's practice, preparations for the 2023 General Election began not long after the 2019 General Election ended. The preparations started with process review meetings with field officers and stakeholders such as political parties, the security and other government agencies, civil society organisations, the media and transport unions. The meetings deliberated on a wide range of administrative, operational, logistic, funding, security and other issues aimed at improving the planning, management, and conduct of elections held during the 2019-2023 Electoral Cycle.

One positive outcome of these meetings was that the Commission was able to conclude its review of the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan (SP) and Strategic Plan Implementation Programme (SPIP), formulate its new 2022-2026 SP and SPIP, as well as conclude the 2023 Election Project Plan (EPP), well over eighteen months before the date set for this year's General Election.

As we all know, the current Commission under the Chairmanship of Professor Mahmood Yakubu, had, at the beginning of his first tenure which started on the 9th of November 2015, introduced the innovation of fixing the country's General Election on the third Saturday of February of the election year, in line with the forward-looking practice in democracies elsewhere, including in Ghana, Kenya and the United

States, the oldest Presidential democracy.

This 2023 General Election fell on the 25th of February of that year, and as earlier pointed out, it held on schedule. The early planning for the election enabled the Commission to make an early choice of election technology and systems appropriate to the country's circumstances, test and deploy them to make them familiar with the public and ensure their integrity.

The flagship among the Commission's choice of technology was the BVAS designed by our own engineers for the accreditation of voters using either their fingerprints or facials. The machines were tested in several bye-elections and off-season Governorship elections, and they proved their mettle.

There was also the INEC Results Viewing (IReV) portal for real-time viewing of Polling Unit (PU) results which the Commission had deployed across 105 constituencies where it conducted off-season elections, beginning from a Nasarawa State House of Assembly constituency in August 2020.

Other portals the Commission introduced ahead of the General Election included those for pre-registration of voters, accreditation of election observers, domestic and international, and of media reporters, and the registration of candidates for elections.

Together, these technological innovations made the 2023 General Election easier for all stakeholders. The innovations also made it more inclusive and more transparent.

The technological innovations apart, the 2023 election was the first to be held under

a brand-new Electoral Act since 1999. The law under which the 1999 election was conducted was merely amended in 2010. Attempts to further amend it ahead of the 2015 and 2019 general elections were unsuccessful. However, one year ahead of the 2023 General Election, the 2010 Act was repealed and a new one was enacted by the National Assembly and signed into law by President Muhammadu Buhari on the 25th of February 2022. This enabled the Commission to release the Timetable and Schedule of Activities for the 2023 election the following day.

The 2022 Electoral Act was not just timely; it was also widely acclaimed as the most progressive electoral legal framework to date for, among other things, its inclusivity, approving the Commission's discretionary use of electronic devices to accredit voters and upload Polling Unit results to the INEC Results Viewing Portal (IReV), making it mandatory for political parties to complete their primaries and submit the names of their candidates to the Commission 180 days to the election, and for empowering it to review election results to ensure they are made voluntarily and in accordance with the law and its regulations, guidelines and manuals for elections.

Not only was the general election conducted under a law widely acclaimed as progressive; but for the first time in 25 years, many voters were able to cast their votes in Polling Units (PUs) closer to their residences or places of work than had hitherto been the case. Until 2021, the country had only the 119,974 PUs created in 1996. Several attempts by subsequent Commissions to increase the number to match the increase in the country's population failed, mostly due to the politicisation of an exercise that should have ordinarily been administrative and procedural.

Learning from the lessons of those failures, Professor Yakubu, upon his return as Chairman in December 2020, led the Commission to engage early and widely with a broad range of stakeholders to expand voter access to PUs early in 2021. At the end of the exercise, voter access to PUs was expanded wherein the total number of PUs increased from 119,974 to the current 176,846.

1.1. Inauguration of the Commission

Professor Yakubu's first tenure started on the 9th of November 2015, along with five other members, namely Hajiya Amina Zakari, Alhaji Baba Shettima Arfo, Dr. Muhammed Mustapha Lecky, Professor Anthonia Taiye Okoosi-Simbine and late Prince Solomon Adedeji Soyebi. At that time the tenure of one National Commissioner, Ambassador Lawrence Nwuruku, was yet to expire.

The Chairman and the six National Commissioners were joined by the second batch of six a little over a year later, on the 5th of December 2016, to be precise. These were Professor Okechukwu Obinna Ibeanu, Dr. Adekunle Ladipo Ogunmola, Engineer Abubakar Ahmed Nahuche, Malam Mohammed Kudu Haruna, Mrs. May Agbamuche-Mbu and AVM Ahmed Tijjani Muazu (rtd). Much later Barrister Festus Okoye joined the Commission on the 21st of July 2018, to replace Ambassador Nwuruku, whose tenure had by then expired.

Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu being sworn-in by President Muhammadu Buhari for a second term in office on 9th December 2020.

It was with this full complement of 13 members that the Commission conducted the 2019 General Election in March. Eight months later, on the 8th of November 2020, the tenure of the Chairman ended. However, he was quickly renominated for a historic second term; before him no Chairman in the Commission's long history had served more than a term. He was sworn in for his second term on the 9th of December 2020.

A little under two years later, i.e., the 4th of December 2022, the tenure of the five members who joined the Commission in December 2016 also expired. A year before then, however, one of them, namely, Engineer Nahuche, had resigned his appointment on personal grounds.

The batch of five Commissioners whose tenures ended in November 2020 were replaced in two batches. The first batch was appointed on the 15th of September 2021, and it consisted of Professor Abdullahi Abdu Zuru, Professor Sani Muhammad Adam (SAN) and Dr. Baba Bila. This batch was closely followed on the 25th of October 2021 by Professors Muhammad Sani Kalla and Kunle Cornelius Ajayi.

The batch of six whose tenures ended in December 2021 were replaced by Professor Rhoda H. Gumus, Major-General Modibbo Abubakar Alkali (rtd.), Mr. Sam Olumekun and Mr. Kenneth Nnamdi Ukeagu. Barrister May Agbamuche-Mbu and Malam Mohammed Kudu Haruna were re-appointed for a second term. All six were sworn in on the 23rd of February 2022.

L-R: National Commissioners Prof. Sani Adam, Prof. Abdulahi Abdu Zuru and Dr Baba Bila being sworn in on 15th September 2021

National Commissioners, Prof Kunle Ajayi (in suit) and Prof Sani Kallah being sworn-in on 25th October 2021

National Commissioners Mallam Mohammed Haruna, Mr. Sam Olumekun mni, Prof. Phoda Gumus, INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yaku-bu, National Commissioners, Mrs. May Agbamuche-Mbu, Mr. Kenneth Ukeagu and Major General Abubakar Alkali (rtd), after the swear-ing-in of six National Commissioners by President Muhammadu Buhari in February 2022.

All this meant that the Commission had its full complement of 13 members one year before the 2023 General Election. It also went into the election short of only two of the full complement of 37 Resident Electoral Commissioners.

1.2. The New Commission: Vision, Challenges and Opportunities

The Report of the 2023 General Election chronicles how the leadership, management, and staff of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) planned, monitored, and implemented, against several great odds, what is the country's most technologically driven and inclusive election since 1999. It is also a testimony to the enormous efforts invested by the Commission and several stakeholders in the political and electoral process to ensure the conduct of a free, fair, credible, and inclusive election. Several challenges were, however, unprecedented. For one thing, insecurity was worst and more widespread in the current Electoral Cycle than in previous Cycles, in which the Commission's personnel and facilities became subjected to repeated attacks. The redesign of our currency so close to the election created an acute cash crunch the country had not witnessed since the early eighties, whereas several key aspects of our operations could only be implemented with cash. There were also intermittent and inexplicable fuel shortages.

Box 1: Planning the 2023 General Election and Challenges

The Report of the 2023 General Election chronicles how the leadership, management, and staff of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) planned, monitored, and implemented, against several great odds, what is the country's most technologically driven and inclusive election since 1999. It is also a testimony to the enormous efforts invested by the Commission and several stakeholders in the political and electoral process to ensure the conduct of a free, fair, credible, and inclusive election. Several challenges were, however, unprecedented. For one thing, insecurity was worst and more widespread in the current Electoral Cycle than in previous Cycles, in which the Commission's personnel and facilities became subjected to repeated attacks.

Despite these and other challenges, the Commission proceeded with the election on schedule. Recall that the Presidential election in 2011, 2015 and 2019 were all postponed for sundry reasons. This was the first time since the 2007 that the Presidential and NASS election will hold as scheduled without any major security breach or incidence and a return was made within 72 hours. On Election Day, over 80% of our Polling Units opened before 10am and the biometric accreditation of voters using the BVAS for fingerprint and facial recognition to prevent identity theft stood at 98%. Although there was delay in the real time upload of the PU results of Presidential election on the portal due to a technical glitch that was later resolved, the first results were uploaded on the IReV by 8.55pm on Election Day and over 70% of the total results were uploaded by 28th of February 2023 when the election result was finally declared, and a winner returned. The real time uploading of the PU results of the National Assembly election as well as the subsequent Governorship and State Houses of Assembly elections was accomplished without incidence.

As the Chairman pointed out in his opening remarks on the first of a series of a month-long meetings with our field officers and other stakeholders, the Commission had approved to review the General Election for its lessons for future elections on the 4th of July 2023. This year's General Election is, despite the mixed opinions about it, the fairest reflection of Nigeria's complex multi-party democracy. Today more parties have won elections at various levels of government than in any other election since 1999. Also, some political parties lost elections in their presumed strongholds and in several States today, different parties control the legislative and executive arms of Government.

The 2023 General Election is perhaps the best planned and most innovative election in Nigeria. The election witnessed the highest number of eligible voters and voting locations across the country with the participation of over one million election duty officials and deployment of enormous logistic requirements including over 100,000 vehicles and about 4,000 boats protected by gunboats. Given the meticulous preparations for the election, the transparency of the entire electoral process, from the casting of the vote, the publication of the number of collected Permanent Voters Card for the election down to the polling unit level for the first time ever, the presence of security personnel, party agents, election observers and the media along the entire voting process and result collation chain, as well as the layers of stringent checks and control put in place by the Commission before making a declaration and return for an election, the outcome of the election, based on immutable provisions in the electoral legal framework is a true reflection of the wishes of the electorate.

Chapter 2

Background to the 2023 General Election

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2.1. Debriefing and Process Reviews of the 2019 General Election

The 2019 General Election was concluded on the 27th of April 2019 with the conduct of the supplementary election in Ajeromi – Ifelodun Federal Constituency in Lagos State. Thereafter and in keeping with its already established practice since 2011, the Commission embarked on a comprehensive review of the election over a five-week period from the 28th of May to the 12th of July 2019. To be sure, the policy on post-election audit and review which is designed to promote accountability, provide opportunities to learn lessons, address shortcomings and build institutional memory on election management, was approved by the Commission on the 13th of July 2017. The purpose of such debriefing is to create a framework for reporting, reviewing, and auditing elections conducted by the Commission. The post 2019 General Election debriefing process was therefore undertaken with the objective of identifying the successes and failures and to learn vital lessons for improving the quality of the 2023 General Election and the electoral process in general. During the review consisting of internal debriefing sessions and external engagements with relevant electoral stakeholders, the Commission evaluated and assessed its policies, programmes, activities, processes, and procedures before, during and in the period immediately after the election.

The post-election review exercise was undertaken in two phases premised on the Commission's commitment to openness and transparency. First were the internal review meetings involving all Staff and Officials of the Commission in the 774 Local Government and 36 State and FCT Offices across the Federation, followed by an in-house debriefing sessions involving the Commission, the 37 Resident Electoral Commissioners and Administrative Secretaries, as well as the Directing Staff of the Commission at the Headquarters and Electoral Officers in the 774 Local Government Areas. Next was the Commission's engagement with key electoral stakeholders to receive feedback on their activities and observation of the election. The stakeholders included leaders of political parties, security and other agencies within the ambit of the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES), media executives, representatives of Civil Society Organisations, Persons with Disability (PwDs), Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), as well as State Collation Officers for the Presidential Election (SCOPEs) that in most cases also acted as Collation and Returning Officers for the Governorship Elections (CROGEs), selected Collation Officers for the National and State Assembly elections and selected Collation Officers for specific constituencies in the general election.

The internal review meetings were based on a bottom-up approach and consisted of presentations and discussions on all aspects of the election by the staff and officials of the Commission at the State and FCT Offices under the leadership of the Resident Electoral Commissioners. To successfully do this, a standard template was adopted to guide presentations and to interrogate strengths and weaknesses in the planning,

conduct and management of the election. This was followed by a no-holds barred meeting with the 774 Electoral Officers that presided over the management and conduct of the election in the 774 Local Governments across the country, the 37 Administrative Secretaries and Directors at Headquarters and Resident Electoral Commissioners, as well as a meeting of the Commission itself during which the various processes and procedures, including the challenges encountered in the planning and management of the elections were assessed and evaluated.

The Commission's engagement with major electoral stakeholders in state and society focused on identifying and analysing the successes achieved, the lessons learnt, and the challenges encountered in the pre-election, election, and post-election period to learn important lessons for improving the management and conduct of future elections.

The findings of the review resulted in 178 recommendations organised around 14 thematic areas as follows:

a. General State of Preparedness (21 Recommendations).

b. Voter Registration and PVC Collection (15 Recommendations).

c. Voter Education, Publicity and External Relations (12 Recommendations).

d. Political Parties and Election Observation (20 Recommendations).

e. Electoral Personnel: Recruitment, Training, Deployment & Remuneration (22 Recommendations).

f. Transportation: Movement of Personnel and Materials (6 Recommendations).

g. ICT, Smart Card Readers, CVR and Internet Services (11 Recommendations).

h. Procurement and Deployment of Election Materials (12 Recommendations).

i. Election Day Processes (9 Recommendations).

j. Reverse Logistics: Retrieval of Field Assets (7 Recommendations).

k. Security Challenges and Recommendations Before, During and After the 2019 General Election (6 Recommendations).

l. Election Monitoring and Support Centre (8 Recommendations).

m. Impact of Legal Framework (11 Recommendations).

n. General Issues (18 Recommendations).

Box 2: Post Election Review Meetings

The internal review meetings were based on a bottom-up approach and consisted of presentations and discussions on all aspects of the election by the staff and officials of the Commission at the State and FCT Offices under the leadership of the Resident Electoral Commissioners. To successfully do this, a standard template was adopted to guide presentations and to interrogate strengths and weaknesses in the planning, conduct and management of the election. This was followed by a no-holds barred meeting with the 774 Electoral Officers that presided over the management and conduct of the election in the 774 Local Governments across the country, the 37 Administrative Secretaries and Directors at Headquarters and Resident Electoral Commissioners, as well as a meeting of the Commission itself during which the various processes and procedures, including the challenges encountered in the planning and management of the elections were assessed and evaluated.

The 178 recommendations were categorised into three broad areas. First were the recommendations that the Commission could implement administratively, followed by those that required implementation through extensive consultations with relevant stakeholders and lastly were others that can only be implemented by working with the relevant government agencies and the National Assembly to anchor them in law either by new provisions or amendment to the electoral legal framework.

Based on this categorisation, 107 of the 141 recommendations requiring administrative action in the Commission's operations, processes and procedures were pursued and mostly implemented, while seven were partially implemented and 27 were not implemented. Out of the 25 recommendations that needed to be implemented through extensive consultations with relevant stakeholders, including political parties, civil society organisations, security and regulatory agencies, the media and other non-state actors, 17 were implemented, two were partially implemented, while six were not implemented. Lastly, four of the 12 recommendations that needed to be addressed by an amendment to the electoral legal framework were fully implemented through new provisions or amendment to the extant provisions in the Electoral Act, 2022. Two of these recommendations were partially adopted and six were not adopted. Overall, 128 out of 178 or 72% of the recommendations were implemented.

Among the major recommendations implemented through administrative actions by the Commission were:

a. Establishment of sub-zonal stores in Kano and Lagos to ease the logistic challenges in the storage, distribution and deployment of electoral and related materials;

b. Renovation of some of the Commission's buildings, offices, and stores nationwide;

c. Proper identification and geo-referencing of all PUs and RAs nationwide;

d. Acquisition and deployment of new technologies to accommodate on-line voter registration; and

e. Enforcement of Section 225 A of the Fourth Alteration to the 1999 Constitution relating to the status of registered political parties.

The major recommendations implemented through Commission's consultations and engagements with relevant stakeholders included:

a. Creation of additional 56,872 new PUs nationwide, thus increasing the number of PUs from 119,974 to 176,846;

b. Relocation of 749 inappropriately located PUs away from private properties, royal palaces, and places of religious worship to public spaces accessible to all citizens;

c. Engagement with State Governments through the National Economic Council (NEC) on the renovation and rehabilitation of public buildings used for electoral purposes;

d. Collaboration with relevant stakeholders to promote their buy-in on the introduction and deployment of election technologies, advocate for desirable reform of the electoral legal framework, ensure a secured electoral environment and the expansion of the scope, latitude, and dissemination of voter education messages; and

e. Review of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with key stakeholders on the timely and effective implementation of electoral activities.

The major recommendations implemented by the introduction of new provisions or amendment to the electoral legal framework, especially the Electoral Act, 2022 were:

a. Strengthening the mechanisms for campaign finance regulations and monitoring;

b. Early release of funds to the Commission for the conduct of a general election;

c. Increasing the time-line for the conduct of party primaries for the nomination of candidates and the submission of the list and other details of nominated candidates for election;

d. Empowering the Commission on modalities for the conduct of an election, transmission of election result and to review the declaration of an election result and return of a candidate; and

e. Strengthening of the regulations governing the appointment and accreditation of agents by political parties.

Box 3: Recommendations of the Post-Election Review Meetings

The 178 recommendations were categorised into three broad area. Based on this categorisation, 107 of the 141 recommendations requiring administrative action in the Commission's operations, processes and procedures were pursued and mostly implemented, while seven were partially implemented and 27 were not implemented. Out of the 25 recommendations that needed to be implemented through extensive consultations with relevant stakeholders, including political parties, civil society organisations, security and regulatory agencies, the media and other non-state actors, 17 were implemented, two were partially implemented, while six were not implemented. Lastly, four of the 12 recommendations that needed to be addressed by an amendment to the electoral legal framework were fully implemented through new provisions or amendment to the extant provisions in the Electoral Act, 2022. Two of these recommendations were partially adopted and six were not adopted overall, 128 out of 178 or 72% of the recommendations were implemented.

2.2. Review of the 2017 – 2021 Strategic Plan (SP), Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) and Formulation of the 2022 – 2026 Strategic Plan (SP) and Strategic Plan Implementation Programme (SPIP)

As part of the preparations for the 2023 General Election, the Commission developed the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan (SP) and Strategic Plan Implementation Programme (SPIP). In doing so, the Commission undertook a comprehensive review of the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan and Programme of Action to appraise the level of implementation of the 47 key actions and over 650 activities and identified the major challenges that militated against the full realisation of the Plan. These are categorised into five thematic areas as follows: -

2.2.1 Electoral Legal Framework

The electoral legal framework is not only at the core of the operations of all Election Management Bodies (EMBs), but also the canvass on which the entire electoral and democratic processes depend. It determines the nature, eligibility, and vehicles for political contests, outlining here in broad terms, and there in more specific terms, the processes, procedures, time-lines, and sanctions for political and electoral activities. In Nigeria, the electoral legal framework consists of the relevant provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), the Electoral Act, 2022 and regulations and guidelines of the Commission detailing more explicitly, the provisions of both the Constitution and Electoral Act. The Electoral Act, 2022 is a product of several attempts, since 2012 by the Commission and various stakeholders to reform some of its provisions to improve the legal framework for the conduct of elections. The following sections provide a brief history of the attempts at reforms

ending with summary of 10 key provisions of the 2022 Act.

2.2.1.1. Delayed Amendments to the Substantive Legislation

When the 2017-2021 SP and SPIP were approved by the Commission in 2017, there was uncertainty as to the outcome of the proposed amendments to the 2010 electoral legal framework submitted to the National Assembly in 2012, 2014 and 2018. The fluid situation meant that the Commission had to rely on the 2010 Electoral Act (as amended) in developing the plan and this impacted negatively on the review of subsisting regulations, guidelines, and manuals for the conduct of elections. Not only did it prevent the early development of these regulations, guidelines, and manuals, it also hindered the effective planning and delivery of certain processes and procedures, particularly those around electoral technology.

2.2.1.2. Electoral Dispute Adjudication

The plan was also impacted by the numerous electoral disputes before, during and after the General Election. Of key significance was the number of cases and incidents of conflicting judgements from Courts of coordinate jurisdiction on the same or similar facts before them on both pre- and post-election challenges. The development gave the inadvertent impression that the elections were poorly resourced or planned, which reflected negatively on the image of the Commission.

2.2.1.3. Registration and Regulation of Political Parties and Candidate Nomination Processes

The registration of political parties, the monitoring of their operations including the nomination of candidates and the submission of the list of such candidates flows from the electoral legal framework. It was evident that many political parties did not demonstrate sufficient knowledge on the extant legal requirements for nomination of candidates and in some cases out-rightly breached either the provisions of the legal framework or even their own constitutions and guidelines. Some of the parties sponsored candidates that did not emerge from valid primaries which often resulted in litigation in which the Commission was always joined as a nominal defendant. Furthermore, many of the political parties kept poor records of their statutory books and did not observe internal party democracy, had difficulty in maintaining a membership register, all of which severely tasked the Commission's capacity to regulate their activities, especially around campaign finance regulations.

2.2.1.4. Prosecution of Electoral Offenders

The Commission has an important but severely limited role in the prosecution of electoral offenders. The power of arrest and investigation of such offenders resides with the Police. In several instances, the Investigating Police Officers (IPOs) are frequently transferred out of the jurisdiction or assigned to other duties thereby delaying or stalling the investigative process. This often results in the late transmission of case

files to the Commission for prosecution and difficulty in securing attendance of ad-hoc electoral staff as witnesses and inability to

obtain and present necessary exhibits from State offices during trial.

Box 4: Monitoring Political Parties and Challenges

The registration of political parties, the monitoring of their operations including the nomination of candidates and the submission of the list of such candidates flows from the electoral legal framework. It was evident that many political parties did not demonstrate sufficient knowledge on the extant legal requirements for nomination of candidates and in some cases out-rightly breached either the provisions of the legal framework or even their own constitutions and guidelines. Some of the parties sponsored candidates that did not emerge from valid primaries which often resulted in litigation in which the Commission was always joined as a nominal defendant. Furthermore, many of the political parties kept poor records of their statutory books and did not observe internal party democracy, had difficulty in maintaining a membership register, all of which severely tasked the Commission's capacity to regulate their activities, especially around campaign finance regulations.

2.2.2. Operational Challenges

The conduct of elections and the management of an electoral process are no easy tasks especially in a country like Nigeria with complex geo-spatial and socio-political contexts. The sheer number of electoral constituencies, polling units, registered voters, and difficult terrains coupled with poor infrastructure makes the organisation of elections to always pose an operational challenge. These challenges are not insurmountable, and in successive Electoral Cycles, the Commission has taken active steps to address these through systematic planning, deployment of technology, training and capacity building, stakeholder

engagements, and enhancing the security of electoral personnel and materials as the sections below indicate.

2.2.2.1. Logistics Planning and Support

The elaborate logistic requirements for the implementation of the 2017-2021 SP and SPA were challenged by several issues, prominent of which is transportation. To address this problem, the Commission entered an MoU with the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) and the National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO). However, the non-enforcement of some provisions of the MoU

in the contractual arrangement between the INEC State/FCT offices in some jurisdiction led to delays in moving electoral personnel and materials, especially on Election Day. This is in addition to the problem of non-activation of all RACs and access to difficult terrains that continue to impede timely deployment and retrieval of such personnel and materials. The timely production, procurement, distribution, and deployment of both sensitive and non-sensitive election materials were equally affected by the overtly centralised procurement planning, storage, distribution and retrieval processes.

2.2.2.2. Infrastructural Support

Weak infrastructural support for the 2017-2021 SP and SPA affected implementation of the plans, resulting in poor management of RACs which served as staging posts for electoral operations. This created leakages, non-compliance and losses of certain reusable materials. Local Government Area Offices were reportedly overstretched with obsolete electoral stores items making it difficult and sometimes impossible to receive new materials. Some ICT equipment and facilities were reportedly either outdated due to constant technological innovations and developments or lacking proper maintenance. Certain critical ICT infrastructure lacked effective power backups which had implication for seamless data migration and consolidation and the periodic installation of appropriate upgrades without interruption. Internet and Intranet network capacity and use at the Headquarters and the State/FCT Offices remain poor and epileptic, while several locations for the Commission's activities were yet to be fully covered by

GSM Networks, which affected smooth communication for electoral operations. It also emerged that the Commission has no system for periodic audit of its equipment and facilities due to non-availability of an efficient inventory management system.

2.2.2.3. Electoral Staff Management

Electoral staff recruitment, training, deployment, and remuneration remained challenged throughout the period of the plan and could rightly be termed a recurring one. The number of ad-hoc staff required for conduct of electoral exercises especially General Election is enormous leaving the Commission constantly dependent on other agencies. The short-list of such persons is often not presented timely enough for effective training. Training for election duty which takes place over a shorter and inadequate time-line often lacks basic materials and takes place in unconducive classroom environment in some instances. Consequently, some of the deployed staff from such crashed cascade training exhibit poor technical and process skills in undertaking their roles and responsibilities on Election Day. In addition, there were reports of alleged substitution of trained staff prior to commencement of elections which further compounded the situation. The Electoral Institute is yet to operationalise its e-library services nor received required synergy from other relevant departments of the Commission and to establish a robust database management system to support effective delivery of e-training of electoral staff.

2.2.2.4. Election Security

Securing elections has its own unique challenges as the security agencies in charge of election security are not subject to the control of the Commission. This challenge is not limited to physical security of the premises, materials, personnel, candidates, voters, observers, and media but to the overall electoral process. While the Commission has put in place the ICCES as an advisory body on election security, the actual command and control of security agents during election is outside the body with the Police as the lead agency. Managing violence and other incidents before, during and after elections falls squarely in the hands of the statutory security agencies. The lack of full complement of security personnel required for electoral exercises, logistics for moving them, prompt payment of approved allowances and ensuring compliance with the code of conduct for security agents are the major challenges with securing elections. Basic election security training and knowledge of fire prevention and control measures among staff and stakeholders, as well as the effective deployment of fire-fighting equipment has not been adequately enforced under the plan, resulting in fire incidents both at Headquarters and some State/FCT and LGA offices.

2.2.2.5. Compliance Monitoring

Compliance monitoring and evaluation of planned activities is another major challenge encountered in the implementation of this plan. A plan is as good as its implementation. To this end, key performance indicators (KPIs) developed along with the plan and annexed to it provided the template for quarterly tracking of the output from the activities being undertaken while evaluation was reserved for the end of the programme period. Many activity holders did not use the KPIs to monitor their activity outputs and outcomes. The COVID-19 Pandemic situation further compounded the full implementation of the plan and its programme of action.

2.2.3. Human Capital and Organisational Challenges

2.2.3.1. Documentation, Processes and Procedures

There is poor record keeping with respect to the volumes of documents in the Commission's possession. Although the records ought to have been digitised, but this is not the case as the document archiving system has not been fully implemented despite INEC's Archiving and Documentation Policy. The Commission under this plan has also been unable to produce a biometric-based nominal roll of its workforce and lacks the necessary technology for the selection, training, deployment and tracking of both permanent and ad-hoc staff to enhance transparency and integrity of the electoral process. The Commission's cascade training methodology does not meet the challenges of effective electoral training and require additional resources to actualise the institutionalisation of periodic and on-line trainings.

2.2.3.2. Training and Capacity Building

The Commission's job rotation or posting

policy designed to improve performance and address concerns of frequent movement of Training Officers at field office levels have gradually been implemented. There is need to streamline capacity building workshops, seminars and conferences as Departments consistently requested for them irrespective of whether they are relevant or not. Such capacity building efforts should be based on proper needs assessment and should aim at professionalizing the workforce such that the permanent staff should reasonably be able to undertake basic and complex electoral duty assignments at short notice.

Collaboration, team building, and cooperation remain a major challenge to efforts to achieve organisational results across the departments and field offices. This is evident in activities that were undertaken by lead departments or were undertaken without the collaborating input of other supporting departments.

The inability to conclude the organisational change management efforts of the Commission which began in 2013 continues to impact subsequent change plans. A change management agenda needs be implemented to bring the process of plan implantation and implementation to alignment with the vision and purpose of the Commission.

2.2.3.3. Staff Welfare

The delay in processing staff promotions, entitlements, and non-inclusion of retired staff in the INECPRES portal featured as a challenge. The periodic review of honoraria and allowances for electoral duty to reflect current economic realities and a refreshed

INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu met with the Commission's Staff on 9th November 2022 to discuss welfare issues and the need to ensure free, fair and credible 2023 General Election.

commitment to recognising and rewarding outstanding staff performance has not been implemented. There are continued complains by staff of not being registered with the National Housing Fund (NHF) and the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN) and about non-remittance of their monthly NHF deduction. The rigorous enforcement of the INEC Staff Conditions of Service and Rules of Procedure remain challenging.

2.2.4. Funding and Financing Electoral Activities

2.2.4.1. Appropriation, Cash Releases and Budget Performance

The Commission's annual budget continues to operate on "Envelope System" template provided by the Budget Office through budget call circulars. The approach sometimes delays the appropriation process, and impact on the ability of the Commission to fund some of its key activities on demand. For example, some of the unperformed

activities were attributed to lack of funding approval. Furthermore, there are hardly any in-house tools for effective budget performance monitoring either by Finance and Account or Planning and Monitoring Departments. The Commission's Annual Financial Statement is often delayed or issued in arrears due to non-audited compliance reports that could attract public accounts committee sanctions. Additionally, the Commission is yet to fully implement the IPSAS Accounting Manual.

2.2.4.2. Procurement Planning and Approval Processes

Procurement challenges impacted not only the contracting process, but also the operationalisation of planned activities of the Commission. The design, procurement, storage, distribution, and the rest of the operational chain were affected by problematic procurement time-lines. The Procurement Department which managed the entire procurement planning processes was over stretched to its limits in the run-up to the 2019 General Election. Quality control became such a challenge so much so that necessary stress tests could not be carried out on some critical equipment and infrastructure before delivery and deployment to field with negative consequences. Contractors and vendors reportedly breached their contractual obligations during the tight window to supply some not-fit-for purpose consumables and material. The price intelligence guide often does not reflect the market trends and the Department had difficulty in securing the services of trainers from the Bureau for Public Procurement (BPP) to further strengthen the capacity of its officers.

2.2.5. Communication

The Commission recognised the important role of communication both internally and externally and accordingly formulated a communication policy. A major challenge to effective implementation of the Plan is the need for constant and uninterrupted horizontal and vertical communication among its various officials and continuous engagement with all relevant and stakeholders.

2.2.5.1. Internal Communication

This involves communication between the leadership, senior management, and field offices at all levels necessary for understanding the vision and mission statement of the Commission. It has a direct impact on collaborative team-building efforts and employee engagement. It is vertical when information flows from top to bottom and feedback flows from bottom upwards. It is horizontal when it flows across organs and departments. Effective internal communication improves productivity, enhances collaborative teamwork among Departments and boosts organisational growth and learning. This plan was challenged by the poor presence of these drivers of organisational performance. The workforce has a limited understanding of the extant communication policy resulting in low synergy among the Departments with observable territoriality.

2.2.5.2. External Communication

Sustained stakeholder engagement and effective use of traditional and new media platforms have proved useful in external

communication. This is in addition to structured engagement with the leadership of political parties, security agencies, CSOs, the Media, Voters, Development Partners, Election Observer Missions, and others. The Commission had utilised its SERVICOM unit, FOIA Desk and the ICCC platform to further engage with the public albeit at its own cost. Improving voter turn-out at elections with the associated issue of unclaimed PVCs remains a challenge for the Commission's strategic planning efforts. The Commission had to manage the issue of media owners' interest vis-à-vis coverage of its activities. The policy of NIN-SIM connectivity impacted on some of the Commission's public outreach platforms.

2.2.6. Lessons Learnt from the Review of the 2017 - 2021 Strategic Plan (SP) and Strategic Plan of Action (SPA)

Notwithstanding the challenges recorded in the implementation of the 2017 – 2021 SP and SPA, some important lessons were learnt that proved useful in the formulation of the 2022 – 2026 SP and SPIP. These are: i) Early planning to achieve the Plan's strategic objectives in order to enhance the integrity of the electoral process and limit human errors; ii) Adherence to regulatory compliance for political parties campaign finance; iii) Enforcement of quality control in the procurement processes; iv) Addressing the identified gaps in skills, knowledge and processes; v) Improved capacity of senior management staff to take ownership and provide leadership in holding officers accountable for performance, under-performance or outright non-performance of planned activities; vi) Establishment of

a performance scorecard system or high level management dashboard for constant monitoring and reporting on the plan implementation; vii) Institutionalisation of the Election Project Plan (EPP) tool to make the planning and implementation of general elections more deliberate and predictable; viii) Alignment of the budget plan based funding pattern to strengthen the effective implementation of the Plan's strategic objectives; ix) Pursuit of the full integration and operationalisation of the three monitoring platforms of EMS, EOSC and ERM into the EMSC as approved by the Commission; and x) Constant and continuous engagement with relevant stakeholders to resolve operational, technological, logistics, security and jurisprudential challenges.

Consequent upon these lessons, the Commission took some measures that were aimed at achieving defined strategic objectives and in improving the level of implementation of planned activities in the formulation of the 2022 – 2026 SP and SPIP. These included: -

a. Strengthening administrative processes to ensure cooperation among Commission's Departments and Directorates with the institution of appropriate penalty for non-compliance.

b. Prioritisation of the implementation of activities with adequate funding.

c. Elimination of noticeable delays in granting approval for implementation and funding of activities.

d. Review of the application of the Procurement Act to INEC given its

peculiar circumstances as an Election Management Body implementing time-bound activities.

e. Prioritise the digitalisation of key management operational processes and procedures.

f. Tweak the Strategic Objectives in line with current goals and realities.

g. Implementation Strategy to include implantation processes for ownership and buy-in by all stakeholders.

h. Ensure the full integration of the Commission's monitoring platforms and the effective operationalisation of the Election Management Support Centre.

i. Conduct of Change Management Workshop.

j. Effective and periodic monitoring and evaluation of the SP and SPIP.

2.3. Review of the 2019 and the Formulation of the 2023 Election Project Plans (EPP)

The development of the first Election Project Plan (EPP) as comprehensive plan for the management and conduct of elections in Nigeria was established by the Commission for the 2015 General Election. The Plan enabled the Commission to develop and institute unified planning templates, time-lines, performance indicators and benchmarks for undertaking its electoral activities and implementing its decisions. This in turn not only facilitated

the diligent implementation and execution of roles, activities, and time-lines to achieve administrative and operational efficiency and cost optimization, it encouraged inter-and intra-departmental synergy and considerably reduced competition and rivalry over territoriality within and between the Departments and Directorates of the Commission.

Following from the example of the 2015 EPP, the 2019 EPP ensured that the General Election was planned as a specific project having Commission-wide activities that identified the key factors for the successful conduct of credible elections. It was on this basis that specific roles and responsibilities were assigned to task holders in the various Departments and Directorates. It is also important to note that unlike the 2015 EPP whose workability was met with some level of scepticism and even resistance, the 2019 EPP was more widely accepted and acknowledged as an effective project planning and implementation instrument for the management of elections. This is perhaps attributable to the fact that the Plan made serious effort at addressing persistent internal administrative and departmental fencing and territoriality in the planning, management, conduct and monitoring of electoral activities. It also provided clear indications of the roles and responsibilities of every Department, Directorate and Unit of the Commission in the conduct and delivery of the election. With an overarching objective of conducting a credible and peaceful general election and based on six specific objectives, the Plan was anchored on 14 cardinal assumptions consisting of nine Principal Business Areas (PBAs), 14 broad activity areas, 231 activity areas and 948 medium level and thousands of lower-

level tasks as shown in Table 2.1. These activities and tasks were categorised into the pre-election, election and post-election phases and disaggregated and rendered into a set of implementable, time-bound, and owner-identifiable tasks whose execution were closely monitored and supported. The effective implementation of the 2019 EPP is clearly demonstrated in its significant contribution to the successful conduct of the 2019 general election.

Table 2.1: Activity Areas in the 2019 EPP			
S/N	Activity Category	Activity Areas	Medium Level Tasks
1	Legal Framework	3	6
2	Electoral Boundaries & Delimitation	16	6
3	Recruitment of Personnel	1	6
4	Logistics	30	182
5	Security	11	30
6	Staff Training	30	181
7	Voter Registration & Register Update	43	151
8	Election Observers & Other Stakeholders	4	9
9	Political Party, Candidates	5	20
10	Voter Education & Media	27	96
11	Budget, Funding & Financing	27	71
12	Pre-Election Dispute Resolution	6	13
13	Readiness Assurance	26	166
14	Election Technology Update	2	11
	Total	231	948

The 2023 Election Project Plan is a comprehensive and in-depth project plan for the conduct of the 2023 General Election. It provided the Commission and other electoral stakeholders with the template for the execution of roles, activities and time-lines for the planning, organisation, and delivery of the election. Specifically, it articulated the administrative, operational, financial, and environmental requirements for the delivery of the election into 29 executive and 1,462 elective legislative positions nationwide.

Box 5: Review of the 2019 EPP

Following from the example of the 2015 EPP, the 2019 EPP ensured that the General Election was planned as a specific project having Commission-wide activities that identified the key factors for the successful conduct of credible elections. It was on this basis that specific roles and responsibilities were assigned to task holders in the various Departments and Directorates. It is also important to note that unlike the 2015 EPP whose workability was met with some level of scepticism and even resistance, the 2019 EPP was more widely accepted and acknowledged as an effective project planning and implementation instrument for the management of elections. This is perhaps attributable to the fact that the Plan made serious effort at addressing persistent internal administrative and departmental fencing and territoriality in the planning, management, conduct and monitoring of electoral activities. It also provided clear indications of the roles and responsibilities of every Department, Directorate and Unit of the Commission in the conduct and delivery of the election.

The plan was formulated by a 33-member Election Project Plan Committee (EPPC) inaugurated by the Chairman on 10th June 2021. The Committee was charged with the responsibility of formulating the plan and developed the plan over a period of six months from June to December 2021. The Committee was given the mandate to: i) Undertake a review of the 2019 EPP; ii) Develop the 2023 EPP; and iii) Develop the required framework for the periodic monitoring and evaluation of the approved plan. In doing this, the Committee relied on three key documents. These are: i) The 2017-2021 Strategic Plan (SP) and Strategic Programme of Action (SPA); ii) The 2022 - 2026 Strategic Plan and Strategic Plan Implementation Programme (SPIP); and iii) The report of the Review of the 2019 General Election which included 178 recommendations for enhancing the quality and delivery of the 2023 General Election and other future elections.

Against the background that the success of an election is determined by the extent to which a large percentage of polling units open on schedule on Election Day, followed by a situation where collation and transmission of results are transparent, seamless, and credible, the 2023 EPP made seven critical recommendations with the required actions to guide the implementation of the plan. These are: -

a. Implementing electoral legal framework provisions and time-lines.

b. Timely procurement of election materials and services.

c. Surveillance of the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergencies on electoral activities.

d. Inventory, storage, and state of election materials.

e. Activation of the EMSC performance management dashboard.

f. Change management training and institutional capacity building.

g. Enhancing internal and external communication.

Chapter 3

Pre-2023 General Election Activities

03

3.1 Conduct of Off-Season Elections and Lessons Learnt

In between the 2019 and 2023 General Elections, the Commission conducted elections to fill executive and legislative positions in 145 constituencies nationwide. These elections held between August 2019 and July 2022 beginning with the conduct of the by-election in the Pengana State Constituency of Plateau State on the 3rd of August 2019 and ending with the Osun State off-cycle Governorship election on the 16th of July 2022. The elections comprised of seven off-cycle/end of tenure governorship elections, six chairmanship and 62 Councillorship Area Council election in the Federal Capital Territory, 36 Court-ordered re-run elections because of the judgement of the Election Petition Tribunals and Appeal Courts and 34 by-elections occasioned by the death or resignation of a serving member of the National and State Assemblies. The year-by-year distribution and type of election conducted within this period is shown in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1: Off-Cycle, Court-Ordered and Bye-Elections, 2019-2022						
S/N	Year	Governorship	Senatorial District	Federal Constituency	State Constituency	FCT Area Council Chairman	FCT Area Councillorship
1	2019	2	2	1	3	0	0
2	2020	2	7	13	29	0	0
3	2021	1	0	2	6	0	0
4	2022	2	0	3	4	6	62
	Total	7	9	19	42	6	62

The conduct of some of these elections within the context of the prevalent global COVID-19 Pandemic from December 2019 to late 2020 was particularly challenging for the Commission. In fact, the Commission had to suspend all regular and non-essential activities from March to August 2020 resulting in the postponement of already scheduled elections and creating uncertainties about on-coming off-cycle governorship election in Edo and Ondo States. Given the Constitutional requirement for the conduct of both elections, the Commission developed a policy on conducting elections within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and deployed certain innovations to meet the public safety exigencies of conducting election during the health emergency. Apart from the huge resource requirements for the conduct of these elections amidst funding constraints from the Federal Government, the Commission had to contend with the issue of designing and implementing appropriate measures and strategies to protect the health and well-being of voters, candidates, officials, and other stakeholders involved in the electoral process. This was particularly so in the areas of voter registration, training, voter education and stakeholder engagements, Election Day operations, political party activities including primaries, nomination, and submission of list of candidates and

polling agents, rallies, and campaigns as well as election observation and security. Some of the measures and strategies include:

a. The mandatory use of face masks/face covering for everyone involved in the electoral process.

b. The provision of infra-red thermometers at the registration area, LGA/Area Council and State collation centres to measure the temperature of all electoral personnel.

c. Provision of personal protective equipment for polling officials and hand sanitisers, methylated spirit, and ancillary items at the polling units

d. Enforcement of the rules of physical distancing at the venue of all electoral activities through the creation of a two-tier queuing system and other crowd control measures

e. Review of the transportation matrix for the deployment of electoral personnel in conformity with COVID-19 requirements.

f. Reducing the contact points in the handling and delivery of sensitive and non-sensitive election materials

g. Adjustment of the commencement and closing of the voting period from between 8:00am and 2:00pm to 8:30am and 2:30pm to accommodate the necessary activities in setting up the polling unit.

h. Deployment of appropriate electoral technology in all areas of electoral process and election management, with reference to voter registration, voter accreditation, uploading of polling unit results to the IReV, training of election officials and security personnel, as well as candidate management and election observation, media, and polling agent accreditation processes to mitigate the health risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

i. Mandatory publication of election results in every polling unit on Form EC60 and uploading of the image of the Form EC8A to the IReV Portal to enhance transparency.

j. Recruitment of persons with disability as election officials and provision of assistive voting devices such as tactile voting guide, magnifying glasses, and voter education materials in Braille to promote inclusivity.

k. Addressing the issue of continued overcrowding in certain polling units despite expansion of voting access through the migration of registered voters from overcrowded to sparsely populated polling units.

l. Reviewing and strengthening the MOU with transport unions to include the Marine Transport Workers Union of Nigeria to facilitate timely and efficient forward and backward logistics for the deployment of election personnel and materials.

3.2. Expansion of Voter Access to Polling Units

One enduring challenge in the electoral process is the adequacy in the number of Polling Units and their locations across the country. As the basic structure of the electoral system where voters contact the Commission during elections, it is important that polling units are well-organised, secure, and conducive to voters on Election Day. Despite the expanding number of registered voters which was projected at about 50 million in 1996, and rising to 60.82 million in 2003, 61.56 million in 2007, 68.83 million in 2015 and 84 million in 2019, the number of Polling Units remained fixed at 119,974. This lack of correlation between the increasing number of registered voters and the static number of Polling Units has resulted in congested Polling Units on Election Day and lack of Polling Units in many developing suburban and newly established settlements. The effects have been low voter turnout and voter apathy, insecurity at the Polling Units, disruption of elections and, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, unsafe voting environment.

The Commission has overtime tried to manage the challenge of congestion at polling units caused by increase in voting population, emergence of new settlements due to demographic shifts, urbanisation etc. The boldest attempt was in 2014 when the Commission created additional 30,027 polling units that were later discarded because of unfounded allegations of lop-sidedness in their distribution. This situation led to the introduction of Voting Points (VPs)/Voting Points Settlements (VPS) that were basically sub-units of the parent PU but with a poll team supervised by the Presiding Officer (PO). Despite this, the issues of congestions were not totally resolved as there were still polling units with over 10,000 voters with the problem of congestion, delays, disruptions, violence, and apathy.

Following wide ranging consultations with all relevant stakeholders and extensive fieldwork by INEC officials in the State/FCT and LGA/Area Council offices, the Commission finally resolved the problem of expanding voter access to polling units in June 2021 by converting the 56,872 Voting Points and Voting Point Settlements into full-fledged Polling Units. This brought the number of Polling Units in Nigeria to 176,846 and reduced the average number of voters per polling unit from 700 in the 2019 General Election to 529 for the 2023 General Election as shown in Table 3.2.

National Commissioner, Mrs May Agbamuche-Mbu, INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, National Commissioners, Barrister Festus Okoye and Air Vice Marshal Ahmad Mua'zu at the unveiling of the document on new approved Polling Units in Abuja on 16th June 2021

Table 3.2: Comparison of Number of Registered Voters, Number of PUs, and Average Voter Per PU, 2019 & 2023							
S/N	State	No of Registered Voters in 2019	No of PUs in 2019 GE	Average No of Registered Voters Per PU	No of Registered Voters In 2023	No of PUs in 2023 GE	Average No of Registered Voters Per PU
1	Abia	1,932,892	2,675	723	2,120,808	4,062	522
2	Adamawa	1,973,083	2,609	756	2,196,566	4,104	535
3	Akwa-Ibom	2,119,727	2,980	711	2,357,418	4,353	542
4	Anambra	2,447,996	4,608	531	2,656,437	5,720	464
5	Bauchi	2,462,843	4,074	605	2,749,268	5,423	507
6	Bayelsa	923,182	1,804	512	1,056,862	2,244	471
7	Benue	2,480,131	3,688	672	2,777,727	5,102	544
8	Borno	2,315,956	3,932	589	2,513,281	5,071	496
9	Cross River	1,527,289	2,283	669	1,766,466	3,281	538
10	Delta	2,845,274	3,624	785	3,221,697	5,863	549
11	Ebonyi	1,459,933	1,785	818	1,597,646	2,946	542
12	Edo	2,210,534	2,627	841	2,501,081	4,519	553
13	Ekiti	909,967	2,195	415	987,647	2,445	404
14	Enugu	1,944,016	2,958	657	2,112,793	4,145	510
15	Gombe	1,394,393	2,218	629	1,575,794	2,988	527
16	Imo	2,272,293	3,523	645	2,419,922	4,758	509
17	Jigawa	2,111,106	3,527	599	2,351,298	4,522	520
18	Kaduna	3,932,492	5,101	771	4,335,208	8,012	541
19	Kano	5,457,747	8,074	676	5,921,370	11,222	528
20	Katsina	3,230,230	4,901	659	3,516,719	6,652	529
21	Kebbi	1,806,231	2,398	753	2,032,041	3,743	543
22	Kogi	1,646,350	2,548	646	1,932,654	3,508	551
23	Kwara	1,406,457	1,872	751	1,695,927	2,887	587
24	Lagos	6,570,291	8,463	776	7,060,195	13,325	530
25	Nasarawa	1,617,786	1,495	1082	1,899,244	3,256	583
26	Niger	2,390,035	3,185	750	2,698,344	4,950	545
27	Ogun	2,375,003	3,213	739	2,688,305	5,042	533
28	Ondo	1,822,346	3,009	606	1,991,344	3,933	506
29	Osun	1,680,498	3,010	558	1,954,800	3,763	519
30	Oyo	2,934,107	4,783	613	3,276,675	6,390	513
31	Plateau	2,480,455	2,631	943	2,789,528	4,989	559

32	Rivers	3,215,273	4,442	724	3,537,190	6,866	515
33	Sokoto	1,903,166	3,035	627	2,172,056	3,991	544
34	Taraba	1,777,105	1,912	929	2,022,374	3,597	562
35	Yobe	1,365,913	1,714	797	1,485,146	2,823	526
36	Zamfara	1,717,128	2,516	682	1,926,870	3,529	546
37	FCT	1,344,856	562	2393	1,570,307	2,822	556
	Total	**84,004,084**	**119,974**	**700**	**93,469,008**	**176,846**	**529**

In addition to expanding voter access to PUs, the Commission also relocated 749 PUs from inappropriate locations to appropriate public facilities or open spaces to guarantee unencumbered access for all voters. In so doing, the Commission removed 232 polling units from private properties, 145 from royal palaces, 21 from Churches, nine from Shrines and six from Mosques. The other 336 Polling Units were relocated from their original location to another location for sundry reasons including distance, difficult terrain, congestion, communal conflict, new settlements, and general insecurity.

Box 6: Expansion of Voter Access to PUs

Following wide ranging consultations with all relevant stakeholders and extensive fieldwork by INEC officials in the State/FCT and LGA/Area Council offices, the Commission finally resolved the problem of expanding voter access to polling units in June 2021 by converting the 56,872 Voting Points and Voting Point Settlements into full-fledged Polling Units. This brought the number of Polling Units in Nigeria to 176,846 and reduced the average number of voters per polling unit from 700 in the 2019 General Election to 529 for the 2023 General Election... In addition to expanding voter access to PUs, the Commission also relocated 749 PUs from inappropriate locations to appropriate public facilities or open spaces to guarantee unencumbered access for all voters. In so doing, the Commission removed 232 polling units from private properties, 145 from royal palaces, 21 from Churches, nine from Shrines and six from Mosques. The other 336 Polling Units were relocated from their original location to another location for sundry reasons including distance, difficult terrain, congestion, communal conflict, new settlements, and general insecurity.

3.3. Voter Migration / De-congestion of Overcrowded Polling Units

Following the creation of additional 56,872 new Polling Units by the Commission in June 2021, the new Polling Units were made available for registration during the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise from June 2021 to July 2022. At the end of the exercise, several voters registered into the new Polling Units, while others transferred their registrations to them. Following the CVR exercise and the subsequent de-duplication process, the configuration of the 176,846 Polling Units and the tentative number of registered voters across the swatch of Polling Units are as shown in Table 3.3.

S/N	No Registered Voters	PUs
Table 3.3: Voter Population in PUs by Clusters of Registered Voters		
1	0 Voter	362
2	1-50 Voters	14,590
3	51-500 Voters	77,994
4	501-999	63,212
5	1,000 – 4,999	20,633
6	5,000 – 9,999	51
7	10,000 and above	4
	Grand Total	176,846

According to this categorisation, there are 20,688 PUs with a registered voter population of 1,000 and above. This implies that these PUs will be overcrowded and congested on Election Day without the ability of the Commission to resort to the old method of creating Voting Points at such PUs. Furthermore, given the available number and cost of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS), deploying more systems to such overpopulated PUs while there are sparsely populated PUs close by may not be feasible. Consequently, the Commission considered and approved the migration of voters from overcrowded to sparsely populated PUs in the same location. This decision was influenced in part by the observation during the off-cycle governorship elections in Anambra, Ekiti and Osun states. While some of the original PUs was still overpopulated, the newly created PUs in the same location had very few voters in them. Consequently, on Election Day, hours after the new PUs with few voters would have completed voting, the original Polling Units are overwhelmed with large number of voters struggling to cast their vote. It was arising from this observation that the Commission approved the redistribution of voters from the overcrowded to sparsely populated PUs located in the same place – that is from the "original mother" overcrowded PUs to the newly created less-populated PUs. The final registered voters across the swatch of PUs for the 2023 General Election to facilitate a pleasurable voting experience for voters and ensure minimum disruption in the voting process on Election Day are as shown in Table 3.4.

Table 3.4: Voter Population in Polling Units by Clusters of Registered Voters for the 2023 General Election

S/N	State	0 Reg Voter	1 – 50	51 – 500	501 – 999	1,000 – 4,999	5,000-9,999	10,000 & Above	Total PUs
1	Abia	12	405	1,615	1,670	360	0	0	4,062
2	Adamawa	4	140	1,624	2,276	60	0	0	4,104
3	Akwa Ibom	0	35	1,758	2,481	79	0	0	4,353
4	Anambra	6	473	3,009	1,860	372	0	0	5,720
5	Bauchi	6	261	2,779	1,962	415	0	0	5,423

6	Bayelsa	2	101	1,235	836	70	0	0	2,244
7	Benue	10	168	1,923	2,906	95	0	0	5,102
8	Borno	12	307	2,523	1,872	357	0	0	5,071
9	Cross River	0	96	1,285	1,822	78	0	0	3,281
10	Delta	4	488	2,184	2,613	574	0	0	5,863
11	Ebonyi	4	266	1,034	1,450	192	0	0	2,946
12	Edo	1	94	1,882	2,301	241	0	0	4,519
13	Ekiti	0	122	1,611	686	26	0	0	2,445
14	Enugu	4	471	1,734	1,526	410	0	0	4,145
15	Gombe	0	16	1,536	1,229	206	1	0	2,988
16	Imo	38	476	1,671	2,486	87	0	0	4,758
17	Jigawa	3	90	2,074	2,183	172	0	0	4,522
18	Kaduna	8	419	2,913	4,395	276	1	0	8,012
19	Kano	10	965	4,021	5,525	701	0	0	11,222
20	Katsina	12	364	2,703	3,231	342	0	0	6,652
21	Kebbi	5	50	1,534	2,058	96	0	0	3,743
22	Kogi	0	17	1,618	1,657	215	0	1	3,508
23	Kwara	1	72	963	1,733	118	0	0	2,887
24	Lagos	3	1116	4,994	6,407	799	6	0	13,325
25	Nasarawa	11	129	1,051	1,956	105	4	0	3,256
26	Niger	10	133	1,944	2,722	141	0	0	4,950
27	Ogun	0	29	2,618	2,006	387	2	0	5,042
28	Ondo	2	199	1,816	1,719	197	0	0	3,933
29	Osun	0	69	1,712	1,939	43	0	0	3,763
30	Oyo	0	178	2,971	3,019	221	1	0	6,390
31	Plateau	6	372	2,103	1,718	790	0	0	4,989
32	Rivers	1	702	3,119	2,317	723	4	0	6,866
33	Sokoto	8	83	1,585	2,261	54	0	0	3,991
34	Taraba	34	361	1,456	1,148	598	0	0	3,597
35	Yobe	11	291	1,150	1,100	271	0	0	2,823
36	Zamfara	1	50	1,446	1,929	103	0	0	3,529
37	FCT	11	446	935	1,180	249	1	0	2,822
Total		240	10,054	74,129	82,179	10,223	20	1	176,846

3.4. Deployment of New Technologies in the Electoral Process

The choice, pilot-testing, procurement, and deployment of electoral technology was crucial to the conduct of the 2023 General Election. It is for this purpose that the Commission took an early decision on the choice, role, and scope of the technology to be deployed for the election. Acutely aware that political actors will often try to undermine the electoral process by attacking the deployment of electoral technology and casting doubts on its suitability and functionality, the Commission engaged with electoral stakeholders, especially the leaders of political parties and voters to familiarise them with the range of chosen technologies.

3.4.1. Portals

To automate certain aspects of the electoral process and procedures, the Commission developed and deployed the following on-line portals towards the 2023 General Election:

i.   INEC e-learning Portal designed as a hybrid training platform to enable the Commission to train Ad-Hoc staff on-line and to provide an interactive on-demand training resources and assessment for all category of Ad-Hoc staff.

URL: https://elearning.inecnigeria.org

ii.   INEC Virtual Library designed as an on-line portal that enables the Commission to digitise, catalogue and index electoral related documents, reports, articles, and research papers.

URL: https://vlibrary.inecnigeria.org

iii.   INEC On-line CVR Portal designed as an on-line platform for the purpose of Continuous Voter Registration

URL: https://cvr.inecnigeria.org

iv.   CVR Live Locator designed as a system that enables Voter Registration Officers identify a specific coordinate and location where an IVED machine is deployed for the purpose of voter registration and notify prospective registrants where an IVED machine is located and available for registration.

URL: https://locator.inecnigeria.org

v.   INEC Candidate Nomination Portal designed for the purpose of candidate management whereby political parties can obtain, complete and submit the required forms on-line for nominating candidates for elections.

URL: https://icnp.inecnigeria.org

vi.   INEC Media Accreditation Portal designed for the management of the accreditation of Media Organizations seeking to cover Election Day activities.

URL: https://imap.inecnigeria.org

vii.   Technical Staff Management System designed to manage the deployment of technical staff (RATECHs) for Election Day support of BVAS and other technologies deployed for Election.

URL: https://itsms.inecnigeria.org

viii. INEC Observer Management System designed to manage the accreditation of Election Observers

URL: https://observergroups.inecnigeria.org

ix. INEC Political Party Agent Management System designed to manage the accreditation of Political Party Agents.

URL: https://pollingagents.inecnigeria.org

INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu visits the venue of the Training for Officials of Political Parties on the use of INEC's Candidate Nomination Portal for the 2023 General Election in Abuja.

3.4.2. IVED/BVAS

The INEC Voter Enrolment Device (IVED) is a new registration machine designed by INEC in-house Engineers around the concept of a Tablet computer to replace the old, lap-top based Direct Data Capture Machine (DDCM). The new IVED which is compatible with the Android Operating System and integrated to the on-line registration portal is more compact, mobile, and efficient than the DDCM. It can also be deployed on

Hon. Chairman, INEC, Prof Mahmood Yakubu (3rd left), National Commissioners Prof Okechukwu Ibeanu (left), Mrs May Agbamuche-Mbu, Mr Festus Okoye and Air Vice Marshal (rtd) Ahmad Mu'azu during the unveiling of the INEC Voter Enrolment Device and Bimodal Voter Accreditation System at the INEC headquarters, Abuja on 24th June 2021.

Election Day for the accreditation of voters and the uploading of the polling unit result to the IReV portal.

The IVED is transformed into the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) on Election Day to replace the Smart Card Reader. Designed to improve and strengthen the voter verification, authentication and accreditation process, the devise was first deployed in September 2021 for the Isoko South I State Constituency election in Delta State. Thereafter, the devise was deployed in Governorship elections in Anambra, Ekiti and Osun State as well as in the FCT Area Council elections and other bye-elections. The deployment of the devise in these elections enabled the Commission to appraise and apprise its functionality and address the challenges associated with the use of such electoral technology.

3.4.3. IReV

A key provision in the Electoral Act 2022 is Section 50(2) which empowers the

Commission to transmit election results in accordance with the procedure determined by it. Prior to the enactment of the new Act and convinced that the introduction of technology in result management is better than the best entirely manual process, the Commission has been exploring ways of improving the integrity of the collation and results transmission process. In the run-up to the 2023 General Election, the Commission developed and deployed the INEC Results Viewing (IReV) portal (www.inecelectionresults.ng or www. inecelectionresults.com) as a dedicated web portal to enable the public to view uploaded polling unit results as soon as they are finalised on Election Day. This is done by uploading the scanned copies of the completed Form EC8A (Polling Unit Election Result Sheet) to the portal. The portal was first deployed on a pilot basis during the Nasarawa Central State Constituency election in August 2020 and thereafter in 105 other bye- and Off-Cycle elections in various constituencies across the country. The Commission utilised the opportunity of these elections to refine the platform in uploading polling unit results on the portal on Election Day to increase public confidence in the electoral process. For the 2023 General Election, results were unloaded to IReV for the presidential and national assembly elections as well as the governorship and State Constituency Elections. Table 3.5 shows uploads of the 2023 presidential election results nationwide.

Table 3.5: State by State Data of Uploads of Presidential Election Results to the IReV Portal				
S/N	State	Total No. of PUs	PUs with Result	Percentage
1	Abia	4,062	3,634	89.46%
2	Adamawa	4,104	4,071	99.20%
3	Akwa Ibom	4,353	4,231	97.20%
4	Anambra	5,720	4,776	83.50%
5	Bauchi	5,423	5,413	99.82%
6	Bayelsa	2,244	2,166	96.52%
7	Benue	5,102	4,795	93.98%
8	Borno	5,071	5,032	99.23%
9	Cross River	3,281	3,280	99.97%
10	Delta	5,863	5,674	96.78%
11	Ebonyi	2,946	2,922	99.19%
12	Edo	4,519	4,511	99.82%
13	Ekiti	2,445	2,445	100.00%
14	Enugu	4,145	4,143	99.95%
15	Fct	2,822	2,763	97.91%
16	Gombe	2,988	2,985	99.90%
17	Imo	4,758	4,138	86.97%
18	Jigawa	4,522	4,290	94.87%
19	Kaduna	8,012	7,599	94.85%
20	Kano	11,222	10,117	90.15%

21	Katsina	6,652	6,574	98.83%
22	Kebbi	3,743	3,483	93.05%
23	Kogi	3,508	3,391	96.66%
24	Kwara	2,887	2,472	85.63%
25	Lagos	13,325	13,217	99.19%
26	Nasarawa	3,256	3,129	96.10%
27	Niger	4,950	4,861	98.20%
28	Ogun	5,042	4,727	93.75%
29	Ondo	3,933	3,929	99.90%
30	Osun	3,763	3,549	94.31%
31	Oyo	6,390	5,813	90.97%
32	Plateau	4,989	4,980	99.82%
33	Rivers	6,866	5,973	86.99%
34	Sokoto	3,991	3,422	85.74%
35	Taraba	3,597	3,155	87.71%
36	Yobe	2,823	2,715	96.17%
37	Zamfara	3,529	3,068	86.94%
	Total	**176,846**	**167,443**	**94.68%**

3.4.4. Geolocation of Polling Units

As the location where votes are cast by voters on Election Day, PUs constitute the primary structure for elections in Nigeria. The exact location of the 176,846 PUs nationwide is not only important for the purpose of electoral planning, timely delivery of election materials and opening of polls on Election Day, it is also very useful for voters and election observers. In the run-up to the 2023 General Election, the Commission's staff from headquarters in collaboration with officials in the State and Local Government Offices worked to physically locate each of the 176,846 polling units across the country. In the process, the GPS coordinates of the polling units were captured, registered into the satellite, and overlaid on GIS map to build requisite database to facilitate their easy location by electoral stakeholders on Election Day. The exercise was particularly useful in assisting voters to locate their PU using Google Maps.
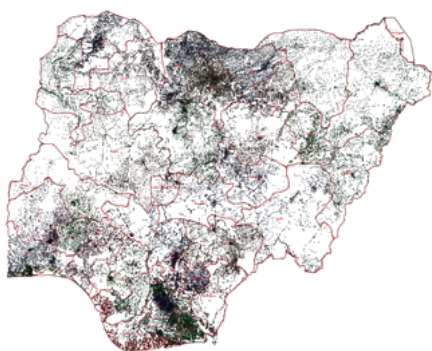
Figure 3.1: Geolocation of Polling Units Nationwide (Green Dots Represent PUs)

To view the map, visit: www.electionspotter.com

3.4.5. Mock Accreditation

In preparation for the 2023 General Election, the Commission undertook a mock accreditation exercise to test the functionality of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS). This was first undertaken on the 28th of May and the 4th of July 2022 in the run-up to the Ekiti and Osun off-cycle governorship election and then nationwide on the 4th of February 2023. Apart from affording the Commission the opportunity to showcase the system nationwide, the exercise was designed to assess its operational capacity under varied conditions and environment. During the February functionality test, the mock exercise was specifically designed to assess the effectiveness of the system in the aftermath of the hardware and software improvements after the Osun Governorship Election.

The mock exercise was conducted in 436 selected Polling Units in two (2) Local Government Areas in each of the 109 Senatorial Districts nationwide. During the exercise which was observed by party agents, journalists, and civil society organisations, it was established that the BVAS successfully accredited all voters that came out either through the Fingerprint or Facial and authentication system in a period of between 20 and 30 seconds.

One of the crucial lessons learnt from the exercise include the need to ensure that only well-trained personnel are recruited and deployed as Presiding and Assistant Presiding Officers at the polling units and as Local Government and Registration Area Technical Support staff and Supervisors. Prior to such deployment, the Commission must provide such personnel with adequate training and retraining on the proper handling and use of the BVAS for the purpose of voter accreditation and uploading of election results. Another lesson learnt is the importance of conducting an integrity test on all the BVAS to ensure that only fully functional and properly configured systems are deployed for the general election.

INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu (right), National Commissioner, Prof. Sani Kallah (3rd right) and other staff members watch as a voter undergoes a Mock Accreditation process in Ekiti State on 30th May, 2022

Chapter 4

Planning for the 2023 General Election

04

The 2023 General Election was one of the, if not the best, planned election in the history of the Commission. Leveraging on well set practices by the Commission since the 1999 General Election, the planning for the election began soon after the conduct of the 2019 General Election. Drawing on the EMSC's three monitoring zones – Green, Amber and Red – planning for 2023 began immediately after 2019 through the implementation of some of the monitoring mechanisms such as process reviews and stakeholder engagements, electoral materials audit, identification and sorting of reusable election materials, assessment of storage facilities, assessment of electoral materials requirements for the 2023 General Election, the review and formulation of planning documents, the review of regulations/guidelines/manuals and related operational documents for elections, identification of proposed areas for electoral reforms, the review of old and formulation of new KPIs based on the new planning documents for the monitoring of the election, and related issues.

4.1. The Legal Framework: The Electoral Act 2022 and the Electoral Process

The legal framework for the 2023 General Election played a significant role in ensuring integrity, transparency, and credibility of the process. Passed into law on the 25th of February 2022, the Electoral Act 2022, not only provided an enhanced electoral legal framework for conduct of election in Nigeria, but also sought to address several lingering challenges to the management of the entire electoral process identified by the Commission and other stakeholders. The New Act introduced about 80 new provisions addressing wide ranging issues such as the independence of the Commission, the time-frame for the publication of notice of elections, the conduct and management of political party primaries and campaigns, the development and management of electronic databases for the register of voters as well as for election results, the power of reviewing election results and declarations by the Commission, clarification of the meaning of over-voting, the involvement of political appointees in partisan politics, the death of candidates in the middle of an election, the deployment of election technology, as well as the management of results, to mention but a few. To appreciate the far-reaching contributions of the 2022 Act, it is important to briefly recount the 2010 legal framework and some of its constraints.

4.1.1. The 2010 Legal Framework

The Electoral Act of 2010 was the governing law for elections in Nigeria from 2010 to 2022. It was a significant piece of legislation that introduced several reforms into the electoral process, including provisions on funding, independence of the Commission, conduct of political party nomination processes and election campaigns amongst others. The 2010 Electoral Act was amended about five times by the 6th National Assembly to enable the Commission to conduct a fresh voter registration exercise as well as the General Election in February and March of 2011. However, since the 2011 General Election, the Commission and other stakeholders in the political and electoral processes have identified several

gaps and challenges in the 2010 Act that needed to be addressed to enhance the credibility, transparency, and inclusivity of elections. The Commission then made comprehensive submissions to both the 7th and 8th National Assemblies for the reform of the legal framework. These reforms were not effected during the 2011-2015 and 2015-2019 Electoral Cycles. It was only during the 2019-2023 Electoral Cycle that some of these suggestions for reform were incorporated into the existing legal framework as the new 2022 Electoral Act.

4.1.2. Overview of the Electoral Act, 2022

The Electoral Act of 2022 was passed essentially to address some of the identified weaknesses and gaps in the 2010 Act, thereby providing a better and more encompassing framework for the conduct and management of elections and the electoral process. Some of these weaknesses and gaps arose over the years in the preparation, planning and conduct of both general as well as other off cycle /supplementary elections by the Commission. In more specific terms, the Act further strengthened the financial autonomy of the Commission when in section 3 (3) it directed that the release of funds for general elections be made not later than one year to the election. Similarly, sections 28 (1) and (2) provided for the commission to publish the Notice of Election for a general election not later than 360 days to the election, giving the Commission and political parties sufficient time to plan for the election and conclude the candidate nomination process. The time-frame for the notice of election in respect of by-elections, however, remains as in the old Act.

By far one of the most significant new provisions in the 2022 Act is section 29(1) that made it mandatory for political parties to submit the list of their validly nominated candidates to the Commission 6 months or 180 days to a general election. This is a very significant provision as it gives the Commission sufficient time to finalise the printing and deployment of balloting instruments to locations for the conduct of a general election. The new Act had similarly extended the time-frame for campaigns by political parties, providing that party campaigns shall begin 150 days before polling day and end 24 hours prior to Election Day.

Other novel provisions include the provision to establish a central database of electronic register of voters and electronic national register of election results (Section 62[2]); a subsection on over-voting that now defines over-voting in terms of the discrepancy between the number of accredited voters and the number of votes cast (Section 51 [2]), provisions on the Commission's powers to review the results of an election declared under duress, the incorporation of technology in the result management processes of the Commission such as those in sections 24, 25, 27, 41-42, 46-47, 50-51, 56, 60-62, 65-71, 141 & 146-148.

Overall, the new Act has substantially cured some of the major challenges and encumbrances in the conduct and management of elections and the electoral process in Nigeria. It tremendously helped in the conduct of the 2023 General Election.

S/N	Section	Key Provision
table title		**Table 4.1: Key Provisions of the Electoral Act, 2022**
1	Section 3(3)	States that funds for general elections must be released at least one year before the election.
2	Section 29(1)	Stipulates that parties must conduct primaries and submit their list of candidates at least 180 days before the general elections.
3	Section 34	Gives political parties power to conduct a primary election to replace a candidate who died during an election.
4	Section 47	Gives legislative backing for smart card readers and any other voter accreditation technology that INEC deploys.
5	Section 50	Gives INEC the legal backing for the transmission of election results as determined by the Commission.
6	Section 51	Says that the total number of accredited voters will become a factor in determining over-voting at election tribunals.
7	Section 54(2)	Makes provisions for people with disabilities and special needs.
8	Section 65	States that INEC can review results declared under duress.
9	Section 94	Provides that election campaign shall start 150 days to the Election Day and end 24 hours before the election.
10	Section 84	Stipulates that political appointees, such as ministers, commissioners, special advisers, etc. at federal, state or LGA level must resign the political appointment and relinquish the position before they can be eligible to participate in the electoral process either as a candidate or as a delegate.

4.1.3. Implications of the Key Provisions for the Management and Conduct of Elections

Overall, the new Act provided support to the Commission's effort towards institutionalizing electoral planning, reinforced its independence, enhanced its monitoring capabilities over political parties, and generally provided for a better legal framework for the deployment of technology in the electoral process. In addition, the Act has also provided a better working framework for cooperation between the Commission and security agencies on electoral matters, just as it provided a broader scope for the monitoring of political party and campaign financing. In addition, it enhanced the Commission's control over the declaration of results process through the provision of a review mechanisms in instances where its officials make declarations under duress. These and related provisions in the EA 2022 have greatly enhanced planning, funding, monitoring as well as the management of the electoral process.

4.2. Formulation & Implementation of the 2022 – 2026 Strategic Plan (SP) and Strategic Plan Implementation Programme (SPIP)

As has become the practice for the Commission since the 2011 General Election, the end of one Electoral Cycle announces the beginning of another Cycle. The 2022-2026 SP and SPIP marked the third in the series of Strategic Plans the Commission had developed and implemented since 2012. These plans arose from and are embedded in the Commission's continuous efforts to improve the conduct of elections and the management of the electoral process through the periodic reviews of electoral operations and activities, lesson learning engagements with staff and stakeholders in the electoral and political processes after general elections; the production of new knowledge through continuous research and innovation; the deployment of technology; stakeholder engagement as a key element in enhancing the transparency and credibility of the Commission, as well as training and capacity building programmes for staff, political parties and the media. It was against this background that the Commission established an 18-person 2022-2026 Strategic Plan Committee to review the 2017-2021 SP/SPA and formulate a new 2022-2026 SP/SPIP. The Committee's membership included: -

i.   AVM Ahmed Tijani Muazu (rtd.) National Commissioner Chairman

ii.   Prof. Okechuckwu O. Ibeanu National Commissioner - Member

iii. Dr. Adekunle L. Ogunmola National Commissioner - Member

iv. Mr. Sam O Olumekun National Commissioner - Member

v.   Barr. Kashim G. Gaidam Resident Electoral Commissioner - Member

vi. Mr. A. T. Yusuf Director (Electoral Operations) - Member

vii. Mr. Iro Gambo Director (Voter Registry) Member

viii. Mr. Abdulhamid Buba Director (Human Resource Management) - Member

ix. Mr. Oluwatoyin Babalola Director (Legal Services) - Member

x.   Mr. Chidi Nwafor Director (ICT) Member

xi. Mr. Nick Dazang Director (Voter Education & Publicity) - Member

xii. Mr. Aminu Idris Director (Election & Party Monitoring) - Member

xiii. Prof. Bolade M. Eyinla (Chief Technical Adviser to Chair/INEC) - Member

xiv. Prof. Mohammad J. Kuna (Special Adviser to Chair/INEC) - Member

xv. Mr. Rotimi L. Oyekanmi (Chief Press Secretary to the Chair) - Member

xvi. Mr. Okechukwu Ndeche Esq. (External Consultant) - Member

xvii. Prof Etannbi E.O. Alimeka (External Consultant) - Member

xviii. Mr. Paul B Omokore Director (Planning & Monitoring) - Secretary

The Committee's terms of reference were: -

a. To comprehensively review the 2017 – 2021 Strategic Plan (SP) and the Strategic Plan of Action (SPA);

b. To assess the impact of the 2017 – 2021 Strategic Plan (SP) and Plan of Action (SPA) on processes, programmes and outcomes of the 2019 General Election against the recommendations of the 2019 Observer's Report as well as those of the Commission's 2019 Election Review Report;

c. To identify and evaluate the strategic issues emanating from the implementation of the 2019 Election Project Plan (EPP) and related electoral activities;

d. To identify threats, weaknesses, gaps, uncompleted actions/programmes as well as opportunities of the 2017-2021 SP/SPA;

e. To design, develop and produce the 2022 – 2026 Strategic Plan (SP) and Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) including schedules for validation retreats with stakeholders;

f. To produce draft copies of the findings of the Review Report on the 2017 – 2021 Strategic Plan with key recommendations;

g. To produce draft copies of the 2022 – 2026 Strategic Plan (SP) and Strategic Plan of Action (SPA);

h. To advise the Commission and make recommendations on any other related matters that may not have been considered here;

i. To co-opt any member or Staff of the Commission that it feels can contribute to its speedy conclusion of the above tasks; and

j. To submit its Report within 40 days from the date of its inauguration.

The Committee started work on the ToRs in earnest, beginning with a thorough review of the 2017-2021 SP/SPA, breaking down into four sub-committees to facilitate its work. The review assessed the strengths, weaknesses, and challenges of central planks of the 2017 SP/SPIP as well as the 2019 EPP. It reviewed the electoral legal framework, operations and logistic preparations for elections in the period under review, election staff management issues, voter education and publicity efforts, election security, compliance monitoring processes, human capital and organizational challenges, training and capacity building, funding of electoral activities, procurement processes, as well as communication. Leveraging on the lessons learnt from the review of these core processes, the Strategic Plan Committee proposed to the Commission that the 2022-2026 Plan's central

objective should be to provide electoral operations, systems, and infrastructure to support the delivery of free, fair, credible, and inclusive elections. In making this recommendation, the Committee identified the strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and implementation status of the previous Plan and took adequate steps to address these issues in formulating the 2022-2026 Plan.

Section 2.2 of this Report has provided a comprehensive account of the review of the 2017-2021 Plan as well as the processes of the formulation and status of the implementation of the 2022-2026 SP and SPIP. As such, both need not detain us here. Suffice it to say that the planned activities for this period up to the 2023 General Election have been successfully implemented. Since the General Election, several other activities such as the post-election reviews and stakeholder engagements have been concluded while Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi Governorship elections scheduled for the 11th of November 2023 have been conducted. The Commission is currently planning to conduct about 30 by-and court ordered re-run elections across the country.

4.2.1. Background and Objectives of the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan for the 2022-2026 period was designed to support the Commission in achieving its mission, which is to serve as an independent and effective Election Management Body (EMB) dedicated to conducting free, fair, credible, and inclusive elections. The strategic goals of the Plan therefore sought to further consolidate systems and frameworks that would enable the Commission to achieve its core

values such as autonomy, transparency, integrity, and credibility, to mention but a few. These values are critical in guiding the Commission's mandate and functions as specified in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and the Electoral Act 2022. By aligning with its mission, vision, and core values, the Strategic Plan aims to provide a strategic framework for the Commission's activities over the 5-year period, 2022-2026. Such a framework provides the basis for the conduct of elections and the management of the electoral process.

There are five (5) key objectives of the 2022-2026 Plan embedded within an overarching theme: the provision of electoral operations systems, infrastructure, and support for the conduct of free, fair, credible, and inclusive elections in Nigeria. These objectives were:

a. Enhancing Electoral Operations and Infrastructure: The primary goal was to develop and maintain robust electoral operations systems and infrastructure capable of facilitating the delivery of free, fair, credible, and inclusive elections. This objective aimed at improving the efficiency and transparency of the electoral process, deepening electoral integrity, and widening citizen participation in the electoral process;

b. Advancing Voter and Civic Education: The focus is on enhancing voter and civic education to promote widespread awareness and understanding of democratic election processes. By empowering citizens with knowledge, this objective seeks to increase voter turnout, active participation in

the electoral process, and a deeper appreciation of democratic principles.

c. Strengthening Political Party Registration and Monitoring: This objective aims to streamline the registration process for political parties and ensure their operations align with electoral regulations and guidelines. By closely monitoring political parties, the aim is to uphold the integrity of the political landscape and maintain a level playing field for all participants.

d. Enhancing Engagement with National and International Stakeholders: The goal is to foster meaningful and constructive relationships with relevant stakeholders both nationally and internationally. By engaging with various entities, this objective seeks to leverage resources, expertise, and knowledge to enhance the electoral process and promote best practices.)Strengthening Institutional Structures and Memory: This objective focuses on enhancing the institutional capacity of INEC to effectively carry out its mandate. By investing in training, technology, and organizational development, this objective aims to equip INEC with the necessary tools to perform its duties efficiently and with excellence.

These strategic objectives are designed to serve as a roadmap for INEC's activities during the Plan period, enabling the Commission to work towards conduct of credible, transparent, and inclusive elections. In more specific terms, the Plan was to (a) provide electoral operations, systems, and infrastructure that facilitate the delivery of free, fair, credible, and inclusive elections with four key outcomes: (i) formulation of election planning tools for all elections, (ii) reviewing regulations, guidelines and manuals for electoral activities, (iii) submission of proposals to the National assembly for electoral legal reforms, and (iv) reviewing and implementing Election Day staff management processes and systems such as INECPRESS and OMIS; (b) improve voter/civic education and promote knowledge of sound democratic election processes also with four key outcomes: (i) developing an enhanced voter and civic education framework, (ii) strengthening the Inter-Agency Committees on Voter Education and Publicity at the National State and Local levels, (iii) reviewing/ developing and deepening the frameworks for the participation of women, youth, persons with disability (PwDs) as well as for internally displaced persons (IDPs), and (iv) improved collaboration with stakeholders for the effective delivery of voter and civic education; (c) to register political parties and monitor their operations with the following outcomes: (i) registering and de-registering political parties in accordance with extant laws, (ii) enhancing the capacity of the Commission to monitor the activities of political parties, (iii) ensuring political parties' compliance to the regulatory framework, and (iv) reviewing and implementing the framework for monitoring party conventions, congresses, candidate nomination, party and campaign finances; (d) to engage with relevant national and international stakeholders on the electoral and democratic processes as a key plank in enhancing the Commission's operations with the following outcomes: (i) the formulation and implementation of policies guiding

interaction with relevant stakeholders, (ii) ensuring sustained engagements with other election management bodies and electoral assistance institutions, (iii) establishing platforms for sustained stakeholder engagements, and (iv) improved framework and capacity of the Inter-Agency Committee on Election Security (ICCES); and (e) strengthening INEC institutionally for the effective delivery of its mandate, also with four key outcomes: (i) enhancing the overall performance of the organisation by making processes more efficient, effective and coordinated, (ii) enhancing internal and external communication, particularly

drawing on the use of social media, (iii) enhancing the professionalisation and skills set of the workforce through improved coordination, efficiency and effectiveness of systems and processes, (iv) enhancing the framework for the planning, monitoring, implementation, early warning and support for electoral processes and field activities through the EMSC Dashboard.

As demonstrated across this Report, several of these outcomes have been implemented. This became a central element in the successful planning, conduct and management of the 2023 General Election.

Box 7: Workings of the 2023 EPP Committee

The Committee started work on the ToRs in earnest, beginning with a thorough review of the 2017-2021 SP/SPA, breaking down into four sub-committees to facilitate its work. The review assessed the strengths, weaknesses, and challenges of central planks of the 2017 SP/SPIP as well as the 2019 EPP. It reviewed the electoral legal framework, operations and logistic preparations for elections in the period under review, election staff management issues, voter education and publicity efforts, election security, compliance monitoring processes, human capital and organizational challenges, training and capacity building, funding of electoral activities, procurement processes, as well as communication. Leveraging on the lessons learnt from the review of these core processes, the Strategic Plan Committee proposed to the Commission that the 2022-2026 Plan's central objective should be to provide electoral operations, systems, and infrastructure to support the delivery of free, fair, credible, and inclusive elections. In making this recommendation, the Committee identified the strengths, weaknesses, challenges and implementation status of the previous Plan and took adequate steps to address these issues in formulating the 2022-2026 Plan.

INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu delivers his address at the Stakeholders' Validation Meeting for the 2022 Revised Framework and Regulations for Voting by Internally Displaced Persons

4.2.2. Monitoring and Evaluating Progress of the Plan

A monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework was crucial to assess the level of implementation of the Plan. Towards this, the SPIP became the key guiding document in which the entire range of activities were itemised for each Department, Directorate and Unit of the Commission with time-lines, costs, and an implementation schedule. These activities were then tracked by the EMSC's monitoring zones – Green, Amber and Red – to ensure compliance. The Directorate of Planning and Monitoring, operating under the office of the Commission's Chairman, along with the Commission's Standing Committee on Planning, Monitoring, and Strategy were tasked to monitor implementation, with periodic assessment of status of implementation to address unforeseen or unanticipated.

4.2.3. Implementation of the 2023 Election Project Plan (EPP) and Integration of Key Tools into the Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC)

The Commission has institutionalised the development of the Election Project Plan (EPP) as an electoral planning and monitoring mechanism for conduct of general, off-cycle (governorship) and other by- elections. The EPP is developed within the framework of the Commission's existing SP and SPIP. More specifically, the 2015 and 2019 EPPs, which served as the basis for managing the 2015 and 2019 general elections, were aligned with the Commission's 2012-2016 and 2017-2021 SPs and SPIPs. Both the SP and the SPIP provide the broad objectives and then more specific activities itemised on departmental basis but linked together in terms of implementation sequence. The vehicle for the detailed compliance monitoring and reporting of activity statuses by implementation levels is the task of the EMSC.

The Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC) was established in 2017 with the aim of creating a dynamic and integrated planning, implementation, monitoring, early warning, and support framework for electoral activities. It provides the Commission with a 360-degree view of the entire electoral planning process, drawing attention to gaps, identifying potential risks, and generally providing data on the status of all electoral activities. The EMSC has three monitoring 'zones' in a typical Electoral Cycle for a general or Off-Cycle election: the Green, the Amber and the Red. Each monitoring zone has a number of indicators – referred to as Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) – to monitor which are expected to provide data on the status of implementation. For the 2023 General Election, the EMSC monitored nearly 700 KPIs. The EMSC is composed of four elements: the Election Monitoring System (EMS), the Electoral Operations Support Centre (EOSC), the Election Risk Management Tool (ERM) and the INEC Security Notification and Alert System (I-SANS).

The decision to integrate three monitoring and support tools, which sometimes operated at cross-purposes, was based on the recommendation of the 2015 Election Project Planning Committee. As a result, the EMSC was set up with a permanent secretariat under the Planning and Monitoring Directorate, with secretariats established in the 36 State and FCT Offices to ensure coordinated operations. Through the establishment of the EMSC, the Commission strengthened its capacity for strategic planning, effective implementation, and real-time monitoring of electoral activities, thereby enhancing the overall integrity and success of the electoral process.

This integration, however, did not go very far in the run-up to the 2019 General Election, with a number of adverse implications for the monitoring, implementation and management of key electoral processes. The internal reviews after the 2019 General Election very clearly indicated the need for this task to be urgently revisited. This was even more urgent and necessary, for since 2019, a key tool, the INEC Security and Alert System (I-SANS), has been added to the existing three, namely, the Election Risk Management (ERM), the Electoral Operations Support Centre (EOSC), and the Election Management System (EMS). I-SANS seeks to geo-locate and track security threats to personnel and electoral materials in real time. Taken together, these tools fully addressed the key objectives of the EMSC, which is to enable the planning, monitoring, implementation, early warning, and field support to key electoral activities, personnel and electoral materials so as to prevent low scale operational problems becoming major crises.

For the 2023 General Election, efforts and resources have been expended on the processes for the optimization of the EMSC operational structure with a substantial degree of progress. The composite units of the EMSC; EMS, EOSC, ERM, and ISANS are innovations that have greatly assisted the Commission in the management of elections. They are all ICT based solutions and clear demonstrations of how ICT can empower an EMB to manage electoral processes.

The EMSC has a dashboard that monitors over 650 indicators across the Electoral Cycle. This monitoring starts in earnest once the Commission announces the Timetable and Schedule of Activities for an election, although, for a general election, it begins much earlier to cover post-election issues such as reverse logistics, audit of re-useable election materials, storage facilities, post-election reviews, reviews/formulation of previous SPS/SPIPs and EPPs, and so on. The EMSC's dashboard typically generates data that enables the Commission to assess the implementation status of the activities and processes leading to an election.

The composite units of the EMSC – EMS, ERM, EOSC, and I-SANS – are innovations that have greatly assisted the Commission in the management of elections. They are all ICT based solutions and clear demonstrations of how ICT can empower an EMB to manage electoral processes. Since 2011 General Election, the Commission has maintained the trajectory to improve on its processes and these tools have played critical roles towards improving the effectiveness, efficiency and coordination of electoral processes and activities in the context of information services they provide to the Commission. These services included: election readiness reports, early warning signals, intelligence on threats/risks and electoral supports which are provided through the various dashboards. The operations of the composite units assist the Commission to better understand the information provided and to facilitate the decision-making processes.
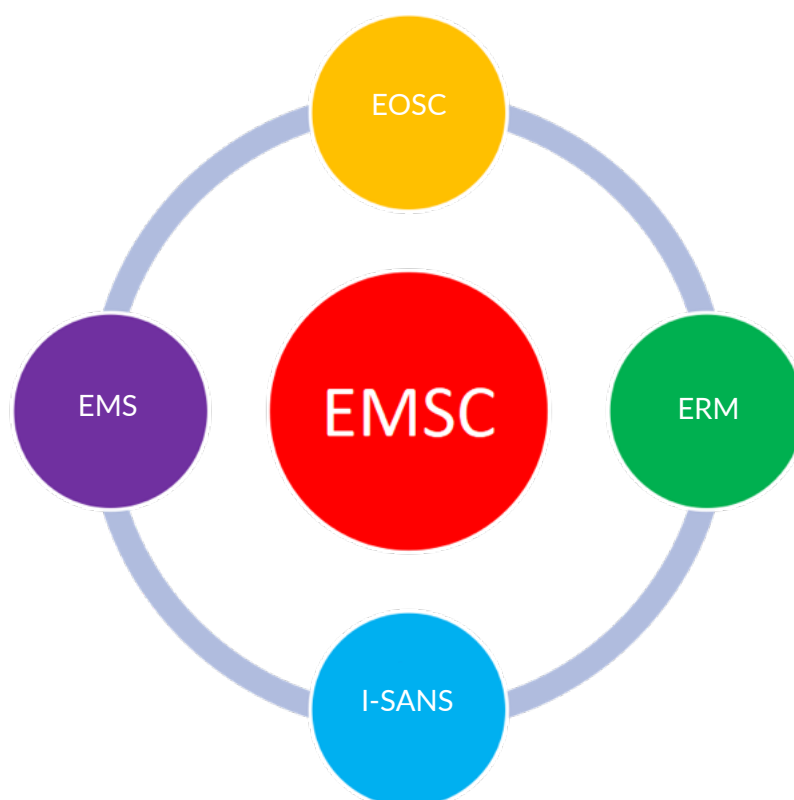
Figure 4.1: Integration of the Commission's Planning Tools into the EMSC

The objective of the integration was to (a) link the various tools to an enhanced EMSC dashboard through APIs (Application Programmable Interfaces) for data integration, sharing and analyses across the platforms; (b) undertake the development of a single integrated dashboard for all the composite units of the EMSC; and (c)

continue with the subsidiarity of the various tools/dashboards to function as designed for the various composite units.

While the enhanced EMSC Dashboard for the 2023 General Election was not completed before the election, objectives (a) and (c) were achieved.

Box 8: Components of the Election Monitoring and Support Centre

The Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC) was established in 2017 with the aim of creating a dynamic and integrated planning, implementation, monitoring, early warning, and support framework for the electoral activities. It provides the Commission with a 360-degree view of the entire electoral planning process, drawing attention to gaps, identifying potential risks and generally providing data on the status of all electoral activities. The EMSC has three monitoring 'zones' on a typical Electoral Cycle: the Green, the Amber and the Red. Each monitoring zone has a number of elements – referred to as Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) – to monitor which are expected to provide data on the status of implementation. For the 2023 General Election, the EMSC monitored nearly 700 KPIs. The EMSC is composed of four elements: the Election Monitoring System (EMS), the Electoral Operations Support Centre (EOSC), the Election Risk Management Tool (ERM) and the INEC Security Notification and Alert System (I-SANS)

4.2.4. Development and Structure of the 2023 Election Project Plan (EPP)

In developing the 2023 Election Project Plan (EPP), the Commission conducted a thorough review of the 2019 EPP as clearly indicated in Section 2.3 above. Suffice it to draw attention here to the fact that in implementing the 1,495 activities and sub-activities outlined in the plan, divided into 1,303 pre-election, 80 election, and 112 post-election activities, several key challenges came to light. These challenges were categorised into five thematic areas, as follows:

a. Electoral Legal Framework: The first thematic area focused on challenges related to the electoral legal framework. This included identifying areas where existing electoral laws and regulations needed improvement or amendment to address emerging issues and ensure the integrity of the electoral process.

b. Operational Challenges: The second thematic area encompassed operational challenges encountered during the implementation of the EPP. These included issues related to logistics, technology, and administrative processes, where inefficiencies or shortcomings were identified and needed to be addressed for smoother operations.

c. Human Capital and Organisational Challenges: The third thematic area highlighted challenges related to human capital and organisational aspects of the Commission. This covered matters such as capacity building, staffing, and organisational structure, with a focus on strengthening the workforce's skills and ensuring an effective and efficient organisational setup.

d. Funding and Financial Electoral Activities: The fourth thematic area cantered around challenges related to funding and financial management of electoral activities. This included identifying financial constraints and exploring ways to secure adequate resources for the successful execution of electoral processes.

e. Communication: The fifth thematic area addressed communication challenges. This involved examining communication strategies and methods used during the implementation of the 2019 EPP, identifying areas for improvement, and formulating more effective approaches for disseminating information to stakeholders and the public.

By categorising these challenges into thematic areas, the Commission was better focused to address each area's specific issues. Through a comprehensive review and analysis of the challenges faced during the previous election cycle, the Commission aims to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, and credibility of the 2023 electoral process, fostering a more transparent and inclusive democratic experience for all stakeholders.

4.2.5. Objectives of the 2023 Election Project Plan

The Plan's overarching goal is to ensure the 2023 General Election was conducted in a free, fair, credible, and inclusive manner, thereby reinforcing the gains and progress that the Commission made in the conduct of elections and the management of the electoral process since 2010. The Plan outlined the following specific objectives:

a. Harmonisation of Activities and Needs: One of the specific objectives involves harmonising the activities and requirements of all departments and directorates within the Commission, creating an implementable plan for the 2023 elections. This promotes seamless coordination and cooperation among various units, streamlining efforts for a well-organised electoral process.

b. Adherence to Global Professional Standards: Another specific objective is to organise the 2023 elections in alignment with the highest global professional standards. By following international best practices, the Commission aims to enhance the credibility and integrity of the electoral process, gaining international recognition and respect.

c. Delivery of Cost-Effective, Credible General Election: The Plan's third objective revolves around conducting a cost-efficient yet high-quality general election in 2023. Striking a balance between managing costs and delivering excellence is crucial for resource optimization without compromising the electoral process's quality.

d. Inclusivity and Level Playing Field for All Stakeholders: The fourth specific objective centres on ensuring inclusivity, with the aim of engaging all stakeholders in the electoral process. Creating a level playing field for all candidates and political parties fosters fairness and competition, thereby cultivating trust and confidence in the electoral outcome.

e. Accountability and Responsibility of INEC Staff: The final specific objective emphasises the importance of accountability and responsibility among all INEC staff involved in the conduct of the 2023 General Election. Promoting a culture of accountability ensures that all actions and decisions are executed with the utmost integrity and professionalism.

These specific objectives guide the Commission's endeavours in planning, executing, and monitoring the electoral process, ultimately contributing to the enhancement of democratic governance in Nigeria.

4.3. Timetable and Schedule of Activities for the 2023 General Election

The timetable and schedule of activities for the 2023 General Election was released by the Commission on the 26th of February 2022, one year before the election, as has been the practice since 2015. The Schedule itemised 14 major activities based on the electoral legal framework that had to be implemented for the election, beginning with the notice of election on the 28th of February 2022 in line with section 28 (1) of the Electoral Act 2022, that enjoins the Commission to issue a Notice no later than 360 days before the General Election to the date of Election which was 25th February 2023 (Presidential and National Assembly) and 11th March 2023 (Governorship and State Houses of Assembly) in line with sections 76 (1 & 2), 116 (1 & 2), 132 (1 & 2) and 178 (1 & 2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended).

INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu (2nd right), joined by National Commissioners Mrs. May Agbamuche-Mbu (left), Prof. Rhoda Gumus (3rd left), Mallam Mohammed Haruna, Mr Kenneth Ukeagu and Secretary to the Commission, Mrs. Rose Oriaran-Anthony, to present the Timetable and Schedule of Activities for the 2023 General Election, at the Commission's headquarters, Abuja in February 2022.

TIMETABLE & SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

FOR 2023 GENERAL ELECTION

By virtue of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), tenure of the President, Vice President, Governors and Deputy Governors of States of the Federation (except Anambra, Bayelsa, Edo, Ekiti, Imo, Kogi, Ondo and Osun States) will expire on the 28th day of May 2023 while the National and State Assemblies will stand dissolved on the 8th day of June 2023.

Pursuant to Sections 76(2), 116(2), 132(2) and 178(2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), elections to the said offices shall hold not earlier than One Hundred and Fifty (150) days and not later than Thirty (30) days before the expiration of the term of office of the last holder of that office. In line with this provision and the Regulations of the Independent National Electoral Commission (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission"), the Presidential and National Assembly elections shall hold on Saturday 18th February 2023 while the Governorship and State Assembly elections shall hold on Saturday 4th March 2023.

The Commission is empowered by Section 28(1) of the Electoral Act 2022 to issue Notice for the elections not later than Three Hundred and Sixty (360) days before the date of the elections.

In exercise of the powers conferred by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) and the Electoral Act 2022 and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, the Commission hereby issues this Timetable and Schedule of Activities for the 2023 General Election.

	Activity	Date	Remark
1	Notice of Election	28th February 2022	Section 28(1) of the Electoral Act 2022 provides not later than 360 days before the election.
2	Collection of Forms EC9 (Formerly CF001) and EC9A, 9B, 9C, 9D & 9E (Formerly CF002) for the election by Political Parties from INEC website.	1st March 2022	Collection by Political parties to be issued to their candidates.
3	Conduct of Party Primaries including resolution of disputes arising from the Primaries.	Commencement date 4th April 2022 End 3rd June 2022	To enable Political Parties democratically nominate candidates for the election as required by Section 84 of the Electoral Act 2022.

4	Submission of Forms EC9 and EC9A, 9B, 9C, 9D & 9E online (Nomination Portal).	**Presidential & National Assembly** 9.00am 10th June 2022 – 6.00pm 17th June 2022 **Governorship & State Houses of Assembly** 9.00am 1st July 2022 – 6.00pm 15th July 2022 Access code for the submission of nomination forms shall be available for collection from 5th June 2022 at the Commission's Headquarters.	Section 29(1) of the Electoral Act 2022 provides for not later than 180 days before the election. EC9 (Personal Particulars of Candidates). EC9A, 9B, 9C, 9D & 9E (Names/List of Nominated Candidates).
5	Publication of Personal Particulars of candidates (EC9) by the Commission.	**Presidential & National Assembly** 24th June 2022 **Governorship & State Houses of Assembly** 22nd July 2022	Section 29(3) of the Electoral Act 2022 provides for publication within 7 days of the receipt of Form EC9.
6	Last day for withdrawal by candidate(s)/replacement of withdrawn candidate(s) by Political Parties.	**Presidential & National Assembly** 15th July 2022 **Governorship & State Houses of Assembly** 12th August 2022	Section 31 of the Electoral Act 2022 provides not later than 90 days to the election.
7	Last day for submission of Nomination forms (EC13A, 13B, 13C, 13D & 13E) by Political Parties.	**Presidential & National Assembly** 8th August 2022 **Governorship & State Houses of Assembly** 18th August 2022	To enable Political Parties comply with Section 30(1) of the Electoral Act 2022.
8	Publication of final list of nominated candidates by the Commission.	**Presidential & National Assembly** 20th September 2022 **Governorship & State Houses of Assembly** 4th October 2022	Section 32(1) of the Electoral Act 2022 provides at least 150 days before the day of election.
9	Commencement of campaign by Political Parties in public.	**Presidential & National Assembly** 28th September 2022 **Governorship & State Houses of Assembly** 12th October 2022	Section 94(1) of the Electoral Act 2022. Campaign in public by every political party shall commence 150 days before polling day and end 24 hours prior to that day.

10		Last day for submission of names of Polling Agents for the Election to the Electoral Officer of the Local Government Area by Political Parties through the Commission's dedicated portal.	**Presidential & National Assembly** 30th December 2022 **Governorship & State Houses of Assembly** 6th January 2023	Section 43 of the Electoral Act 2022 provides for not later than 14 days before the election.
11		Publication of official Register of Voters for the election by the Commission.	12th January 2023	Section 10(4) of the Electoral Act 2022
12		Publication of Notice of Poll by the Commission.	30th January 2023	Section 44 of the Electoral Act 2022 provides for not later than 14 days before the election.
13		Last day for campaigns by Political Parties.	**Presidential & National Assembly** 23rd February 2023 **Governorship & State Houses of Assembly** 9th March 2023	Section 94(1) of the Electoral Act 2022. Campaign in public by every political party shall commence 150 days before polling day and end 24 hours prior to that day.
14		Date of Election	**Presidential & National Assembly** 25th February 2023 **Governorship & State Houses of Assembly** 11th March 2023	Sections 76 (1) & (2), 116 (1) & (2), 132 (1) & (2) 178 (1) & (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) empower the Commission to appoint dates for Presidential, Governorship, National Assembly and State House of Assembly elections not earlier than 150 days and not later than 30 days before the expiration of the term of office of the last holder/before the House stands dissolved.

3

4.4. Review of the 2019 Regulations, Guidelines and Manuals

With every general election, the Commission reviews, and re-issues its Regulations, Guidelines and Manuals not only in the light of lessons learnt from the conduct and management of elections, but also in response to judicial pronouncements or case laws on the Commissions field operations'. Furthermore, with specific reference to the 2023 General Election, a new Electoral Act was signed into law in February 2022, a fact which makes the review of these regulations even more pertinent and urgent. It was in this background that the 2019 Regulations and Guidelines for the Conduct of Elections as well as various Manuals were reviewed to ensure conformity with new Electoral Act 2022. The following sub-sections briefly discuss a few of these reviews.

4.4.1. Review of the 2019 Regulations and Guidelines for the Conduct of Elections

The Regulations and Guidelines for the Conduct of Elections (2019) derived from the 1999 Constitution (as amended) and the Electoral Act 2010 (as emended) formed the legal framework governing the entire electoral process in the 2015-2019 Electoral Cycle. These provided the rules and procedures for voter registration, candidate nomination, campaign finance, polling station setup, vote counting, and dispute resolution. These documents were designed to uphold the principles of free and fair elections and safeguard the integrity of the electoral system. An evaluation of

the effectiveness and impact of the 2019 electoral regulations reveals both successes and challenges. The regulations played a crucial role in promoting transparency and accountability, reducing electoral malpractices, and maintaining public trust in the electoral process. With the passage of the new Act, the review of the 2019 regulations and guidelines became imperative. Thus, the old 2019 Regulations and Guidelines were totally reviewed to reflect the new provisions of the Electoral Act 2022 as well as the new technologies that the Commission had developed to help manage the electoral process.

Besides the review of the Regulations and Guidelines, the Manual for Election Workers was also extensively reviewed. The conduct of free, fair, credible, and inclusive election is presumed contingent upon comprehensive, concise, and very apt training materials and resources.

4.4.2. Regulations and Guidelines for Political Parties and Election Observation

With the successful conduct of the 2019 General Election, it became imperative to review the effectiveness, implementation status, and impact of the regulations and guidelines governing political parties and election observation. This task became even more urgent and necessary with the passage of the new Electoral Act 2022. It is for this reason that the regulations guiding political parties and election observation were reviewed.

There were several new provisions in the Electoral Act 2022 that had to be reflected in the regulations guiding the operations of political parties. Thus, section 75 (1) and (3) now stipulates that applications for registration as new political parties ends 12 months before a general election, just as the time for the Commission to respond to applications was extended from 30 to 90 days in S.75 (3). Other areas revised in line with the EA 2022 include: the development of database of the logos of political parties to enhance the registration of political parties; increasing the time-lines for notifying the Commission of mergers between parties from 90 days to 9 months before a general election (S.81[2]); mandatory maintenance of a register of members and making it available to the Commission not later than 30 days before dates fixed for party primaries, congresses and conventions (S.77); and giving the Commission 21 days' notice of any convention, congress, conference or meeting for the purpose of mergers and the election of executive committees, failure of which renders such conventions etc. invalid (S.82 [1]). On the monitoring of political party congresses, primaries and conventions, S.83 (1) and (4) enjoins parties to provide the required information or face a penalty; all primaries for aspirants to all election positions must be monitored by the Commission (S.84 [1]), where the mode or procedure for the nomination of candidates was specified as direct, indirect or by consensus (S.84 [2]). On party finances, the Regulations reinforced the provisions of Section 225 (3) (a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) that banned political parties from holding or retaining funds or other processes outside of Nigeria (S.85 [a] & [b]). Similarly, the new Regulations directs all political parties to submit detailed annual statement of their assets/liabilities as well as an analysis of sources of funds and other assets, together with statements of its expenditure including hard and soft copy of its list of members in a manner to be determined by the Commission (S.86 [1]). The Regulations also reflect changes introduced in Section 87 (1) of the Act which empowered the Commission to place limits on the amount of money or other assets that individuals can contribute to a political party or a candidate and to demand such information on the amounts donated and source of the funds. Several other new Sections such as 88 (2, 3, 4 & 5), 89 (1, 2 & 3) and 90 (1, 2, 3 & 4) helped in empowering the Commission to address of the key issues in reviewing the old Regulations.

Pursuant to these changes in the principal act, the Commission designed a standard reporting format and check-list for monitoring political party primaries, congresses, and conventions. Moreover, provisions on the conduct of political party campaigns (S.92 [1, 2 & 3]) and political broadcasts (94 [1, 2,]) that enjoins political parties to commence public campaigns 150days before polling day and to end 24 hours before Election Day were significant in ensuring some level playing field for political contests.

Box 9: The 2022 Electoral Act and Political Parties

...there were several new provisions in the Electoral Act 2022 that had to be reflected in the regulations guiding the operations of political parties. Thus, section 75 (1) and (3) now stipulates that applications for registration as new political parties ends 12 months before a general election, just as the time for the Commission to respond to applications was extended from 30 to 90 days in S.75 (3). Other areas revised in line with the EA 2022 include: the development of database of the logos of political parties to enhance the registration of political parties; increasing the time-lines for notifying the Commission of mergers between parties form 90 days to 9 months before a general election (S.81[2]); mandatory maintenance of a register of members and making it available to the Commission not late that 30 days before dates fixed for party primaries, congresses and conventions (S.77); and giving the Commission 21 days' notice of any convention, congress, conference or meeting for the purpose of mergers and the election of executive committees, failure of which renders such conventions etc. invalid (S.82 [1])...

4.5.3. Inclusivity Measures: IDP Policy, Gender Policy, Deployment of Assistive Voting Devices, Voting Rights for Prison Inmates, and Diaspora Voting

The 2023 General Election incorporated various inclusivity measures to ensure the participation and representation of all eligible citizens. Inclusivity measures by the Commission are wide-ranging and began far back in 2012 with its gender policy. Started by the Commission in 2014, this review aims to assess the effectiveness and impact of these measures, which include policies addressing internally displaced persons (IDPs) and gender equality, the deployment of assistive voting devices for persons with disabilities, voting rights for prison inmates, and initiatives for enabling diaspora voting. By analysing the success and challenges of these measures, we can identify areas for further improvement and promote a more inclusive electoral process in the future.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Policy: The IDP policy aimed at addressing the voting rights of citizens displaced by conflict or natural disasters. A detailed voting and result management protocol was developed and approved by the Commission with the active participation of stakeholders. This had led to a revised and vastly improved IDP Policy that was used during the 2023 General Election. Similarly, the Commission's gender policy was revised before the 2023 General Election, and its objective was to expand and enhance the participation of women in the electoral process.

In collaboration with civil society organisations such as TAF-Africa and Inclusive Friends, the Commission identified registered voters with disability by state, type of disability and polling unit across the country. This was to ensure that the Commission deployed Assistive Voting Devices such as magnifying glasses and Braille ballot guides in some of the off-cycle elections as well as in the General Election.

INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu delivers his address at the Stakeholders' Validation Meeting for the 2022 Revised Framework and Regulations for Voting by Internally Displaced Persons

Thus, 15,771 magnifying glasses were deployed out of a total of 16,071 that were required in PUs across the country, while 5,958 Braille ballot guides were deployed to polling units where they were needed across the country as indicated in Table 4.3 below.

Voting Rights for Prison Inmates: In the 2023 General Election, specific measures were taken to ensure that prison inmates who were eligible to vote exercised their voting rights. By enabling inmates to participate in the electoral process, this measure aimed to uphold democratic principles and promote civic engagement among incarcerated individuals.

Diaspora Voting Initiatives: The 2023 General Election included initiatives to enable diaspora voting, allowing eligible citizens living abroad to cast their votes. These measures sought to ensure that citizens outside the country could actively participate in the democratic process and have their voices represented in the election.

Although much remains to be done to deepen and expand inclusivity of youth, women, and people with disability in the electoral process, substantial progress has been made by the Commission, and it is committed to continuing this effort in the coming Electoral Cycles.

S/N	State	No. of Voters with Albinism	No. of Polling Units with Magnifying Glass	No of Visually Impaired Voters	No. of Polling Units with Braille Ballot Guides	No. of Voters with Hearing Impairment	No. o Polling Units with Ec30pwd Posters	No. of Polling Units with Physical/ Mobility Impairment	No. of Voters with Physical Mobility Impairment	No. of Polling Units with Others	No. of Voters with Other Disabilities
								Table 4.2: Distribution of PWDs and Assistive Voting Devices by State and Polling Unit			
1	Abia	319	284	123	100	55	53	168	181	155	242
2	Adamawa	939	548	203	174	171	153	262	385	240	543
3	Akwa-Ibom	367	328	136	128	131	100	186	268	233	300
4	Anambra	437	384	203	184	122	177	383	435	262	450
5	Bauchi	683	512	190	156	160	151	247	245	225	455
6	Bayelsa	215	151	116	55	88	69	124	132	118	329
7	Benue	540	444	181	170	203	170	281	377	200	406
8	Borno	444	359	471	329	133	115	176	204	461	1,313
9	Cross River	282	256	130	119	79	70	148	165	117	278
10	Delta	505	419	287	190	305	221	353	425	603	1,858
11	Ebonyi	199	167	91	85	85	69	159	178	208	519
12	Edo	675	553	174	148	331	250	315	1009	481	990
13	Ekiti	172	159	119	57	90	83	96	116	188	494
14	Enugu	324	280	153	106	149	89	191	217	204	321
15	Gombe	437	323	126	97	165	104	140	374	202	494
16	Imo	428	358	107	104	115	51	212	152	196	365
17	Jigawa	656	448	115	127	56	119	150	261	345	1,132

18	Kaduna	1523	854	141	395	130	205	393	183	707	2,658
19	Kano	1153	904	1263	272	237	272	499	486	679	1,482
20	Katsina	730	548	329	183	298	195	261	1423	467	2,165
21	Kebbi	750	513	207	92	213	97	130	298	234	792
22	Kogi	410	318	105	99	110	76	168	162	139	324
23	Kwara	551	384	106	153	102	130	305	211	287	634
24	Lagos	1294	1,137	208	450	162	423	949	461	1821	3,650
25	Nasarawa	450	358	543	157	519	130	229	1095	296	630
26	Niger	641	446	172	146	146	104	157	273	185	461
27	Ogun	545	476	250	184	117	142	355	233	541	1,232
28	Ondo	346	271	197	99	169	86	174	684	273	487
29	Osun	459	375	126	178	141	190	415	188	930	2,112
30	Oyo	614	542	194	174	219	211	572	567	586	718
31	Plateau	803	648	248	272	298	217	437	319	545	743
32	Rivers	429	382	309	160	238	102	281	504	568	893
33	Sokoto	625	485	169	165	168	114	186	394	833	3,760
34	Taraba	493	349	203	126	132	101	129	292	209	418
35	Yobe	467	296	142	84	106	65	80	218	281	352
36	Zamfara	851	501	109	132	73	118	138	94	486	1,934
37	FCT	394	311	157	108	143	123	276	178	470	629
	Total	**21,150**	**16,071**	**8,103**	**5,958**	**6,159**	**5,145**	**9,725**	**13,387**	**14,975**	**36,563**

Chapter 5

Training and Capacity Building for the 2023 General Election

05

5.1. Staff Training and Development for the 2023 General Election

For the 2023 General Election, the Commission aimed to, and trained over a million ad-hoc staff for the 2023 General Election nationwide. For that reason, enhancing the capacity of the Commission's trainers became necessary. The Commission in collaboration with IFES conducted a 3-day capacity building workshop on Training Management, Administration and Facilitation from the 11th to the 25th of January 2023 for its 922 Trainers, a training that consisted of the 74 TEI/Commission Headquarters (TEI/HQ) Master Trainers, 37 State Training Officers (STOs), 37 Assistant State Training Officers (ASTOs), and 774 Local Government Training Officers (LGTOs). The training was carried out at two levels: on the first level, 148 Master Trainers (74 from TEI/HQ and 74 STOs/ASTOs) were trained from the 11th to 13th of January 2023 at the Ajuji Greenwich Hotel, Gudu Abuja. The second level was the cascade training to the 774 LGTOs in designated states in the geopolitical zones of the country from the 16th -25th of January 2023. This enabled the LGTOs to directly train the SPOs on polling and counting procedures and who, in turn, organised and managed the training of POs and APOs. The Commission also undertook the training of staff for the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) to ensure its successful implementation nationwide from the 21st of June 2021 to the 31st of July 2022. In addition, training was conducted for the Master Trainers on the Commission's new technologies and processes across the 6 geo-political zones

ahead of the 2023 General Election, just as the exercise was cascaded to the Revision Officers/Assistant Revision Officers (REVOs/AREVOs), including specific emphasis on processes and procedures such as collecting, documenting and compiling Claims and Objections from the public on the Voter Register.

5.1.1. The Training Regular Commission Staff

In the build-up to the 2023 General Election, the Commission, through The Electoral Institute (TEI) developed a comprehensive training curriculum for electoral officers. The Commission organised three technical workshops designed to provide an intensive engagement with the content of electoral training documents and resources for the 2023 General Election. A 3-day technical workshop on the Integration of Election Security into the curricula of security agencies' Training Schools held from the 6th – 8th of April 2022 at the Golden Dabis Hotel, Keffi, Nasarawa State was planned and implemented. Similarly, a workshop on the review of the Security Training Manual and Handbook on Electoral Security for Security Personnel, held from the 9th – 11th of August 2022 at the BON Hotel, Kano. Another Technical workshop for the validation of all the reviewed electoral security training documents, held from Monday the 9th to Tuesday the 10th of January 2023 at the Ajuji Greenwich Hotel, Abuja.

All these training programmes were conducted with training materials developed by the Commission. These included Manual for Continuous Voters Registration (CVR);

Handbook for Claims and Objections; Handbook for PVC Collection; Manual for Election Officials; Manual for Training of Election Security Personnel; Election Security Personnel Handbook; Trainers' Guide for Election Officials; Trainers' Guide for Election Security Personnel Training; The BaSED (Basic Security for Election Duty) Handbook; and Political Party Polling Agents Handbook to mention but a few.

5.1.2. Training of Other Categories of Election Personnel: SPOs, POs & Party Agents

On the 11th of February 2023, the Commission commenced the training of the SPOs nationwide. The Hon. Chairman of the Commission, Professor Mahmood

Yakubu, declared the training open at Government Secondary School, Garki Abuja. A total of 27,963 SPOs were trained by the Commission to serve as cascade trainers for the remaining categories of ad-hoc staff required for the 2023 General Election. To maintain standards throughout the Training Chain, the Commission insisted that SPOs must be recruited only from the staff of Federal Institutions and MDAs. While 18,057 persons were short-listed for the SPOs Training, 27,963 were eventually trained.

Table 5.1: Distribution of SPOs Trained by State and Gender for the 2023 General Election							
S/N	States	Number Expected	Number Trained	Male	Female	Excess	PWDs
1	Abia	415	760	454	306	345	0
2	Adamawa	419	510	428	82	91	0
3	Akwa Ibom	444	1077	648	429	633	0
4	Anambra	584	839	447	392	255	2
5	Bauchi	553	652	590	62	99	0
6	Bayelsa	229	282	172	110	53	0
7	Benue	521	771	426	345	250	2
8	Borno	518	907	597	310	389	0
9	Cross River	335	406	262	144	71	0
10	Delta	598	1537	619	918	939	3
11	Ebonyi	301	881	643	238	580	5
12	Edo	462	612	428	184	150	0
13	Ekiti	250	305	175	130	55	0
14	Enugu	424	782	355	427	358	0
15	Gombe	305	474	398	76	169	0

16	Imo	486	729	347	382	243	1
17	Jigawa	462	646	625	21	184	0
18	Kaduna	818	1,033	844	189	215	1
19	Kano	1,145	1,161	823	338	16	5
20	Katsina	679	709	676	33	30	8
21	Kebbi	382	553	510	43	171	0
22	Kogi	359	773	603	170	414	1
23	Kwara	295	569	406	163	274	1
24	Lagos	1,360	1,372	641	731	12	0
25	Nasarawa	333	326	256	70	-7	1
26	Niger	505	628	559	69	123	0
27	Ogun	515	581	350	231	66	0
28	Ondo	401	546	372	174	145	0
29	Osun	384	579	351	228	195	0
30	Oyo	652	1,540	923	617	888	0
31	Plateau	509	1,182	838	344	673	2
32	Rivers	701	1,405	758	647	704	0
33	Sokoto	407	920	721	199	513	0
34	Taraba	368	353	269	84	0	6
35	Yobe	289	600	532	68	311	1
36	Zamfara	361	561	514	47	200	1
37	FCT	288	402	216	186	114	0
Total		18057	27,963	18,776	9,187	9,921	40

The three-day training of POs and APOs commenced in two batches at multiple centres in all the 774 Local Government Areas. The first was conducted from the 14th -16th of February 2023 and Second Batch from the 17th – 19th of February 2023. The SPO trainers facilitated the training on polling/sorting/counting procedures as well as other duties of poll workers on Election Day.

S/N	State	Personnel Expected	Personnel Trained	Male	Female	Excess	Shortfall	PWD
		Table 5.2: Breakdown of Personnel Trained as POs/APOs by Gender and State						
1	Abia	16,573	17,016	5,727	11,289	443	0	0
2	Adamawa	16,744	21,164	14403	6761	4,420	0	0
3	Akwa Ibom	17,760	17,760	9,768	7,992	0	0	0
4	Anambra	23,338	25,008	15,027	9,981	1,670	0	0
5	Bauchi	22,126	23,378	17,694	5684	1,252	0	0
6	Bayelsa	9,156	8,905	4,329	4,576	0	251	3
7	Benue	20,816	30,174	19492	10,682	9,358	0	31
8	Borno	20,690	29,700	18,500	11,200	9,010	0	3
9	Cross River	13,386	15,667	8818	6849	2,281	0	0
10	Delta	23,921	19,979	9,509	10,470	0	3,942	0
11	Ebonyi	12,020	12,068	4034	8034	48	0	12
12	Edo	18,438	13,521	6661	6860	0	4,917	0
13	Ekiti	9,976	10,146	4,954	5,192	170	0	0
14	Enugu	16,912	11,989	4,440	7,549	0	4,923	0
15	Gombe	12,191	17,411	12,322	5,089	5,220	0	0
16	Imo	19,413	17,382	7000	10382	0	2,031	3
17	Jigawa	18,450	18,045	13,796	4,249	0	405	0
18	Kaduna	32,689	50,216	33,018	17,198	17,527	0	0
19	Kano	45,786	46,054	34197	11857	268	0	89
20	Katsina	27,140	27,612	21,012	6,600	472	0	68
21	Kebbi	15271	16,369	13035	3334	1,098	0	0
22	Kogi	14,313	18,710	14,031	4,679	4,397	0	25
23	Kwara	11,779	14,032	8,119	5,913	2,253	0	18
24	Lagos	54,366	53,336	31,150	22,186	0	1,030	0
25	Nasarawa	13,284	13,862	7,020	6,842	578	0	0
26	Niger	20,196	30,457	24,118	6,339	10,261	0	0
27	Ogun	20,571	20,672	10,247	10,425	101	0	0
28	Ondo	16,047	17,940	9,763	8,177	1,893	0	10
29	Osun	15353	17,594	7919	9675	2,241	0	12
30	Oyo	26,071	27,828	19,204	8,624	1,757	0	0
31	Plateau	20355	27,941	16192	11749	7,586	0	44
32	Rivers	28,013	28,318	14,798	13,520	305	0	-
33	Sokoto	16,283	19,724	14,611	5,113	3,441	0	16
34	Taraba	14,676	15,684	9,550	6,134	1,008	0	20

35	Yobe	11518	12,122	7612	4510	604	0	64
36	Zamfara	14398	16,693	13658	3,035	2,295	0	24
37	FCT	11,514	13,778	8,006	5,772	2,264	0	0
Total		721,533	798,255	493,734	304,521	94,221	17,499	442

5.1.3. Training of Collation and Returning Officers

Central to free, fair, credible, and inclusive elections, is the training of Collation and Returning Officers (COs/ROs) for the 2023 General Election. The Commission conducted the COs/ROs training on the 21st and 22nd of February 2023. Selected federal universities from across the federation were used as venues for the training. The training focused on providing basic information on the entire collation process, the Margin of Lead Principle, and the functionality and operations of the BVAS. Practical sessions were also held for completion of Forms EC8A, EC8B & EC8C, EC8D, EC40H & EC40G series and how and when they were to be used. Conditions for declaration/return of winners based on Margin of Lead Principles and Scenario training were also reviewed.

S/N	State	Personnel Expected	Personnel Trained	Male	Female	Excess	Shortfall	PWD
	Table 5.3: Number of Personnel Trained as COs/ROs by Gender and State							
1	Abia	474	371	259	112	0	103	0
2	Adamawa	557	552	515	37	0	5	1
3	Akwa Ibom	770	646	561	85	0	124	0
4	Anambra	771	1128	644	484	357	0	0
5	Bauchi	562	522	510	12	0	40	0
6	Bayelsa	268	230	179	51	0	38	0
7	Benue	673	646	472	174	0	27	0
8	Borno	749	910	813	97	161	0	0
9	Cross River	469	445	376	69	0	24	0
10	Delta	692	612	410	202	0	80	0
11	Ebonyi	405	446	313	133	41	0	0
12	Edo	497	579	454	125	82	0	0
13	Ekiti	413	748	533	215	335	0	0
14	Enugu	614	629	411	218	15	0	0
15	Gombe	313	414	379	35	101	0	1
16	Imo	716	953	584	369	237	0	0
17	Jigawa	685	822	767	55	137	0	1
18	Kaduna	721	930	865	65	209	0	0
19	Kano	1,231	1421	1,294	127	190	0	2
20	Katsina	888	856	774	82	0	32	2
21	Kebbi	543	734	682	52	191	0	0
22	Kogi	567	647	529	118	80	0	0
23	Kwara	458	569	406	163	111	0	0
24	Lagos	755	741	505	236	0	14	0
25	Nasarawa	372	417	273	144	45	0	1
26	Niger	675	708	592	116	33	0	1
27	Ogun	602	602	410	192	0	0	0
28	Ondo	498	518	353	165	20	0	0
29	Osun	761	737	578	159	0	24	0
30	Oyo	862	1,245	832	413	383	0	1
31	Plateau	533	606	415	191	73	0	0
32	Rivers	784	504	317	187	0	280	1
33	Sokoto	589	1019	627	392	430	0	1
34	Taraba	439	362	286	76	0	77	0
35	Yobe	430	440	403	37	10	0	0

36	Zamfara	384	459	444	15	75	0	0
37	FCT	176	124	103	21	0	52	0
Total		**21,896**	**24,292**	**18,868**	**5,424**	**3,316**	**920**	**12**

5.1.4. Training of Political Party Agents

The Commission conducted a two-day ToT workshop in collaboration with the Department of Election and Party Monitoring and Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC) from the 6th to the 7th of February 2023 at Ibeto Hotel, Gudu. The training had 72 Political Party Polling Agents (4 from each Political party) as participants and focused on their roles and responsibilities within the extant electoral legal framework. The essence of the training is to equip them with adequate knowledge to enable them to cascade the learned skills to their agents as they prepare for the elections.

5.2. EMSC/EPP Implementers' Workshops

In its efforts to deepen the implementation, monitoring and tracking of the 2023 EPP, the EMSC undertook the training of All HoDs across the 36 States and FCT in 4 geo-political zones. These trainings took place in Akure, Kano, Gombe, Port Harcourt and Lagos as detailed in table 5.4 below.

a. Provide participants with an overview of the Election Project Plan (EPP) and the role of the Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC) in supporting the implementation of the EPP.

b. Familiarize participants with the legal framework for elections in Nigeria.

c. Discuss the role of election observers in monitoring elections.

d. Explore the use of technology for election monitoring.

e. Discuss the causes of electoral violence and how to prevent and manage it.

f. Promote public education and awareness about the electoral process.

g. The EMSC/EPP implementer's workshops were well-received by participants. They were seen as an important opportunity to learn about the EPP and the role of the EMSC.

h. The workshops had a number of positive impacts, including:

i. They raised awareness of the EPP and the role of the EMSC.

j. They provided participants with valuable information about electoral monitoring.

k. They helped to build relationships between stakeholders.

l. They helped to lay the foundation for a more effective and coordinated approach to electoral monitoring in Nigeria.

The workshops were also effective in achieving their objectives. Participants reported that they had a better understanding of the EPP and the role of the EMSC. They also reported that they were better equipped to monitor elections and to prevent and manage electoral violence.

Overall, the EMSC/EPP implementer's workshops were a success. They helped to lay the foundation for a more effective and coordinated approach to electoral monitoring in Nigeria.

5.3. Nationwide Implementers' Training Workshops for the EMSC/EPP

The EMSC has been working closely with INEC in the lead-up to the 2023 General Election. The EMSC has provided technical assistance to INEC on a range of issues, including voter registration, election security, and vote counting. The EMSC has also trained over 10,000 election observers and other stakeholders on how to monitor elections effectively. The workshops were held in Abuja, Nigeria, in January and February 2023. They were attended by representatives of over 50 organisations, including INEC, political parties, civil society organisations, and international organizations.

The workshops were designed to provide participants with an overview of the Election Project Plan (EPP) and the role of the Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC) in supporting the implementation of the EPP.

The feedback from EMSC/EPP implementers was overwhelmingly positive. Participants reported that the workshops were well-organised and informative. They also appreciated the opportunity to network with other stakeholders involved in electoral monitoring. Overall, the feedback from implementers was very positive. They believe that the workshops were an important step in ensuring that the 2023 general election is free, fair, and credible.

Special Adviser to the Hon. Chairman, Prof. Mohammad Kuna delivers a presentation at the Election Monitoring and Support Centre training workshop for INEC Staff, in preparation for the 2023 General Election.

Table 5.4: Details of the Nationwide EMSC/EPP Implementers' Workshops					
S/N	**Activity – Zonal Training Workshop**	**Date**	**Location/ Batch**	**Number of Participants**	**State & of Participants (Categories: AS, HOD - EOPs, EPM, Legal, ICT, Fin & Acct, ICT, GAP, EMSC DOs)**	**Goals and Objectives**
1	EMSC Reviewed Process and Procedures For Heads of Department	9th – 10th Sept. 2022	Akure – 1st Batch	56	Delta, Ekiti, Ondo, Osun, Ogun, Oyo, Kwara & Lagos	• Familiarise HODs with the EMSC reviewed Processes and Procedures; • Promote a better understanding of the EMSC's optimise indicators; • Strengthen the capacity of HODs for improved validation of the EMSC processes and reporting cycle
2	EMSC Reviewed Process and Procedures For Heads of Department	19th – 20th Sept. 2022	Kano – 2nd Batch	63	FCT, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Niger, Sokoto & Zamfara	
3	EMSC Reviewed Process and Procedures For Heads of Department	23rd – 24th Sept. 2022	Gombe – 3rd Batch	63	Adamawa, Bauchi, Benue, Borno, Gombe, Plateau, Nasarawa, Taraba, Yobe	
4	EMSC Reviewed Process and Procedures For Heads of Department	29th – 30th Sept. 2022	Rivers – 4th Batch	77	Abia, Anambra, Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross-River, Edo, Ebonyi, Enugu, Imo, Kogi & Rivers	
5	EMSC Amber Zone State-Level Implementers Workshop – Briefing & Capacity Building for HQ Monitors	17th Jan 2023	Abuja	37	HQ P&M Staff	Capacity building sessions for HQ officials to monitor and support the implementation of cascade workshops in the state offices.
6	EMSC Amber Zone State-Level Implementers Workshop – National Level Activity	23rd – 24th Jan 2023	Lagos – 1st Batch	80	Adamawa, Bauchi, Benue, Borno, Gombe, Jigawa, Kaduna, Katsina, Kano, Kebbi, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger, Plateau, Sokoto, Taraba, Yobe, Zamfara & FCT	• To sensitise participants on the operational of the EMSC for the 2023 General Election; • To ensure better understanding of the EMSC tools, compliance, roles, duties and responsibilities of personnel on tracking, monitoring and reporting during the Amber and Red zone for the 2023 General Election; and • To generate National Amber Zone baseline readiness report for the 2023 General Election.
7	EMSC Amber Zone State-Level Implementers Workshop – National Level Activity	26th – 27th Jan 2023	Lagos – 2nd Batch	68	Abia, Akwa-Ibom, Anambra, Bayelsa, Cross-River, Delta, Ebonyi, Edo, Ekiti, Enugu, Imo, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Oyo & Rivers	

5.4. Nationwide Training for Operations, VEP, EPM, ICT/VR, Legal and ADR Officers

In addition to the general workshops for EMSC/EPP implementers, there were also specialised training workshops for operations and VEP officers. These workshops focused on the specific skills and knowledge that these officers need to carry out their duties effectively. The ICT/VR officers are responsible for the deployment and maintenance of election technology. They also ensure that the technology is used in a secure and transparent manner. These include training on how to use election technology, how to troubleshoot problems, and how to ensure that the technology is used fairly.

The Legal Officers are responsible for providing legal advice and support to the electoral commission. They also ensure that the electoral process complies with the law. This includes training on electoral law, how to interpret the law, and how to apply the law to specific situations. The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Officers are responsible for resolving disputes that arise during the electoral process. They also promote dialogue and understanding between stakeholders. This includes training on how to mediate disputes, how to build consensus, and how to create a peaceful and harmonious electoral environment.

The training for these officers was essential to ensure that they have the skills and knowledge they need to carry out their duties effectively. The training also helped to build capacity among these officers and to promote a culture of dialogue and cooperation. The training for INEC staff on security measures was essential to ensure that they are aware of the risks they face and that they have the skills and knowledge they need to protect themselves and the electoral process.

The training for security personnel on election security has had a positive impact on the safety of elections in Nigeria. The training has helped to raise awareness of the different types of threats that can occur during elections, and it has provided security personnel with the skills and knowledge they need to respond to those threats. The training has also helped to build cooperation between security forces and INEC staff. This cooperation is essential to ensuring the safety of elections, as it allows security forces to provide support to INEC staff and to respond to threats in a coordinated manner. The training for security personnel on election security has been a valuable tool in the fight to ensure free, fair, and credible elections in Nigeria. The training has helped to raise awareness of the risks, build cooperation, and improve the capacity of security forces to respond to threats.

5.5. Nationwide Security Training for Staff and Security Personnel

The electoral environment before the 2023 General Election posed serious challenges and concern to the Commission. The attacks on the Commission's staff and

facilities nationwide were undoubtedly major drawbacks in the planning of electoral activities, affecting not only the safety and therefore morale of staff, but also placing a burden on the resources for the conduct of the election. The violence threatened to make the deployment of personnel and materials difficult, particularly where the key targets were the Commission's electoral personnel, materials, or facilities. In collaboration with security agencies, the Commission mapped out a comprehensive cascading training schedule on security which commenced with a three-days Training of Trainers (ToT) for election security personnel. The ToT targeted the Commission and ESP Trainers and sought to provide trainees a better grasp of the electoral environment, processes, procedures and relevant electoral legal provisions.

This was then cascaded to the 36 States, the FCT and Senatorial Districts from the 4th -7th of February 2023. All in all, the Commission trained 13,916 participants (366 Commission trainers – 74 TEI/HQ Trainers, 37STOs, 37 ASTOs, 218 LGTOs and 78 ESP Trainers who trained the 13,472 ESP Trainees) for the 2023 General Election. Of the 13,472 trainees, 0.4% (51) were from the ICCES Head Office Abuja, 26.4% from the ICCES State Offices while 73.2% (9,864) were from LGAs Offices of the 109 Senatorial Districts. Prior to the 2023 General Election, the main security challenges were the rising cases of banditry, terrorism, herder-farmer conflicts and kidnappings in the North-west, North-central and Southwest parts of the country; agitations by insurgents and separatist groups' attacks on INEC Offices and facilities

in the Southeast and South-South, and Boko Haram in the Northeast. To mitigate these challenges, the Commission deployed two major tools and tracked potential threats of violence: EVMAT and ESTA, the former having been reviewed and deployed in the Off-Cycle Governorship elections in Anambra, Ekiti and Osun states, as well as in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Area Councils elections.

The key determinations of the workshops were to interrogate the content of the prevailing Training Manual for Election Security Personnel (TM-ESP) and Handbook for Election Security Personnel (HB-ESP); identify gaps, enriching them with new provisions of the Electoral Act 2022 and INEC's Regulations and Guidelines for the conduct of Election 2022; and integrate TM-ESP and HB-ESP into the Training Curricula of the various Security Agencies' training schools in Nigeria. Participants of the workshops were systematically drawn from the personnel of the ICCESS member Security Agencies, INEC Headquarters and State offices, Civil Society organisations (CSOs), Media and Political Parties. Box 3 below, provides the details of the documents examined, reviewed, and validated for the conduct of election security personnel on election duty. Training Manual for Election Security Personnel; Election Security Personnel Handbook; BaSED-Handbook; ESP Trainer's Guide.

5.6. Development and Deployment of On-line Training Resources and Platforms

The use of technology for online training has been a major innovation in the electoral process in Nigeria. On-line training has made it possible to reach a wider audience of stakeholders, including those who live in remote areas or who have limited access to traditional training methods. The Commission has over the years used a number of technologies that assisted its training needs and programmes. These included: video conferencing, webinars, virtual library and E-learning platforms. As a result of these factors, online training has become a more accessible and effective way to train stakeholders on electoral matters. These have helped to improve the capacity of stakeholders to participate in the electoral process and to ensure that elections are free, fair, and credible.

More far-reaching though, is that the Commission developed, deployed, and piloted two On-line resources/platforms for the 2023 General Election training: – the INEC Training Bot and the INEC e-School. The INEC Training Bot (INEC-TBOT) for the 2023 General Election training was hosted on Telegram and the INEC official Facebook page to address the training needs of SPOs, POs, APOs, ROs and COs on their roles and responsibilities in the election. The INEC-TBOT is accessible to registered trainees 24/7 to answer queries and requests. The INEC-TBOT sources (on demand) videos, audio recordings, slides, PDF documents

on the roles and responsibilities of election personnel, operations of technology and management of scenarios during election for users from the INEC Website or directs users to an alternative website where the information is housed. Hence, the INEC T-Bot was deployed and utilised for both physical and on-line training of Ad hoc Staff. The bot facilitates self-learning by committed staff of the Commission and subsequently public users.

The Commission in collaboration with IFES Nigeria, developed the INEC e-SCHOOL. The INEC e-School is an online Learning Management System (LMS) which is accessed by searching the IP address, following the link on the Commission website, or downloading from Google Play and Apple Stores. The platform has three courses: (a) an SPO Course, (b) a PO/APO Course and (c) a CO/RO Course which are specific to the election duty roles and responsibilities of the categories of respective electoral personnel. The Commission deployed and utilised the INEC e-school for the training of Ad hoc Staff. Although the trainees were excited about the innovations, maximum utilisation could not be achieved due to the technical and operational challenges on the platforms. The Commission, with collaborative support from IFES, also, developed and utilised an On-line reporting tool using Question-Pro. The reporting tool was developed to enhance bottom-up evaluation approach for solving electoral training challenges. The reporting tool was successfully piloted but the gains were challenged by the limited training of coordinators.

5.7. Challenges Faced in the Implementation of the 2023 General Election Training Activities

While the entire training was successful analysis of the field reports from Trainers, Co-ordinators and Supervisors brought forward some fundamental challenges recorded during the implementation of Training Department 2023 General Election Activities. The challenges are clearly in two categories: i. administrative and management challenges faced in the process of implementation which the Commission can be conscious about fixing ahead of future trainings; and ii) external such as the Commission's reliance on national infrastructure, Institutions and Agencies for the conduct of elections (see Box 13 details as well as recommendations).

5.8. Election Violence Mitigation and Advocacy Tool & Election Security Threat Assessment (EVMAT & ESTA)

The Election Violence Mitigation and Advocacy Tool (EVMAT) is a survey deployed by INEC in elections to generate opinions on potential triggers of electoral violence before, during, and after an election. The instrument is designed to identify security grey areas and provided factual evidence for the Commission and Security Agencies to develop mitigating strategies against the possible outbreak of violence in an election in Nigeria. The EVMAT has undergone several reviews and deployed across several elections, making it a standardized electoral violence tracking tool. The tool extract information from two categories of respondents- the public and experts. The former refers to all Nigerian citizens, in respective of gender, occupation, tribe, ethnicity, income, etc., who are of constitutional voting age or over (18+) with no specialised or professional skills in either election or electoral security matters. While the later are individuals with fair knowledge of the electoral processes and procedures, grasps of election security issues and challenges such as party officials, police, and other security outfits (All members of INEC Inter-Agency Consultative Committee of Election Security – ICCES), lawyers, media, academia, and CSOs.

The ESTA is an early detection and tracking tool deployed by the Commission to provide field based potential triggers of violence in the build-up to the 2023 General Election. As a robust security threat tracker, ESTA has provided a blow-by-blow factual data of threats that could hinder successful conduct of the 2023 General Election. The security tracking matrix during the 2023 General Election gauged the potential effects of critical issues on the political landscape which could hinder peaceful conduct of elections. The issues covered are Vote-buying, Inter-party Conflicts, Hate Speech, Effect of CBN New Naira Policy, Fuel Crisis, Conflicting Court Judgements, and Anxiety over BVAS. Interesting aspect of the ESTA is that it gave the Commission a weekly update of security situation across the federation from the beginning of the Red Zone to the end (from 15th February

2023 to 16th March 2023 which was five (5) days after the Governorship and State House of Assembly election). Figure 17 below is an outlook of the ESTA Report five (5) days after the conduct of the Saturday 25th February 2023 Presidential/National Assembly Elections for the Southwest Geopolitical Zone.

5.8.1. Election Violence Mitigation and Advocacy Tool

The EVMAT allowed the Commission to map out areas of potential threats of violence for security strategic security responses and deployment. The Commission deployed EVMAT in six (6) states (1 state from each of the 6 geo-political Zones of the federation) and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The States strategically selected are Niger (North Central), Yobe (Northeast), Katsina (Northwest), Imo (Southeast), Lagos (Southwest), and Rivers (South-South) in build-up to the 2023 General Election.

The objective is to provide a barometer for possibility of occurrences of violence in those States. To effectively monitor the electoral atmosphere and administer the tool, personnel were trained at the cascaded methodology workshops both at the Commission's Headquarters and State levels, where supervisors and field agents were trained respectively (figures 15 and 16). The resultant data generated from the research were analysed and shared with the ICCES to provide the necessary security alert for electoral operations before, during and after the 2023 General Election.

5.8.2. Election Security Threat Assessment (ESTA)

The Election Security Threat Assessment (ESTA) is another security tracking matrix that gauges the possible effects of critical issues on the political landscape which could trigger non-peaceful conduct of elections. The Critical issues tracked using the ESTA Tool included Vote-buying, Inter-party Conflicts, Hate Speech, Effect of CBN New Naira Policy, Fuel Crisis, Conflicting Court Judgements, and Anxiety over BVAS. Interesting aspect of the ESTA is that it gave the Commission a weekly update of security situation across federation from the beginning of the Red Zone to the end (from 15th February 2023 to 16th March 2023 which was five (5) days after the Governorship and State House of Assembly election). Figure 17 below is an outlook of the ESTA Report five (5) days after the conduct of the Saturday 25th February 2023 Presidential/National Assembly Elections for the Southwest Geopolitical Zone.

Also, the Commission tracked reported incidences of violence or threats of violence from the print, electronic, and on-line media sources. This was done covering from 1st January to 26th March 2023. Information was triangulated. In other words, an event is only captured when confirmed from at least two or multiple sources. Figure 18 indicated a sample of the tracking done between 20th and 26th February 2023 which had a record of 180 incidences or threats of violence spread across 18 of the 36 states of the federation and FCT. Incidentally, 9 cases involved attacks on INEC facilities, materials, and personnel.
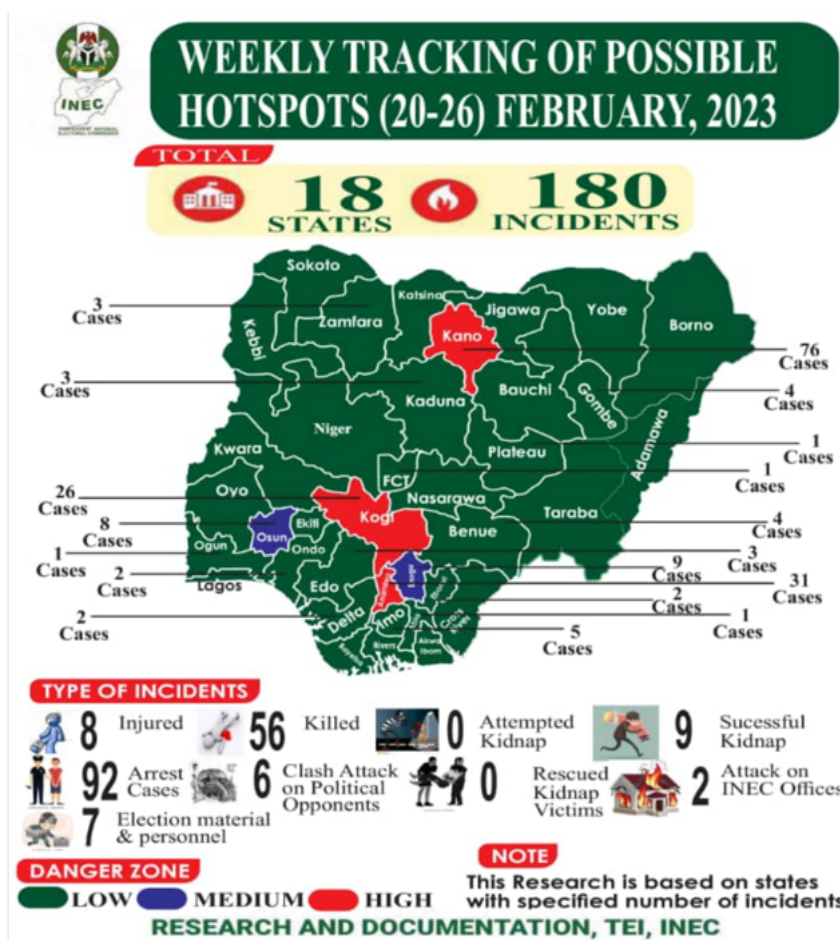
Figure 5.1: Distribution of Incidents of Violence and Threats of Violence Within a One-Week Period (20th - 26th February 2023)

While the entire training programme for election was successful, analysis of field reports from trainers, coordinators, and supervisors brought forward some fundamental challenges recorded during the implementation of 2023 General Election Training Activities. The challenges are in two broad categories: (a) administrative and management challenges related to the implementation of the training programmes which the Commission should fix going forward; and (b) challenges external to the Commission such as its reliance on national infrastructure, institutions, and agencies of government for the conduct of elections.

Some of the major administrative and managerial challenges experienced during the elections included: an overlap of training schedules with the activities of other departments which overstretched and constrained the limited training period; inadequate training venues and facilities, often worsened by the late delivery of the training materials (projectors, public address systems, and flip charts); as well as inadequate number of required ICT staff and BVAS machines to ensure hands on BVAS trainings.

Chapter 6

Stakeholder Engagements for the 2023 General Election

06

In the period between 2019 and 2023 and especially towards the 2023 General Election, the Commission engaged with relevant stakeholders to apprise them of the various technological innovations, plans, and policies for the election. These engagements consisted of the regular quarterly and special meetings with political parties, civil society organisations, security agencies under the auspices of ICESS, the media, as well as with specific Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government. Furthermore, the Commission met with its International Development Partners, traditional institutions, and Heads of various Election Observation Missions to the 2023 General Election such as the AU, ECOWAS, Commonwealth and EU Observation Missions. An overview summary of the objectives and outcome of these engagements are provided in the following sub-sections.

6.1. Political Parties

Political parties are associations that are formed with the explicit and declared purpose of seeking power to enable them to maintain legal control over procedures of governance of a state at various levels. In their quest to fulfil the objective of controlling governmental or state powers, political parties are vital and essential to the successful functioning of electoral democracy. In Nigeria, Section 221 and 229 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) stipulates that only political parties can present candidates for elections and canvas for votes for election to the office of President, Vice President, Governor, Deputy Governor, or Chairman and membership of

a legislative house or of a Local Government Area and Area Council in the Federal Capital Territory. Furthermore, Section 15 b&c Part I of the Third Schedule of the Constitution grants the Commission the power to register political parties and monitor their organisation and operations. In other words, the Commission is vested with statutory regulatory and supervisory powers over the affairs of political parties. In exercising these powers, the Commission holds regular and special meetings and consultations with leadership of political parties, to inform them of its activities and plans and get feedback on all electoral activities. In the period from 2019 to 2023, the Commission met with the leadership of political parties, as it did with other stakeholders, to discuss the following issues:

a.   Conduct of bye-elections;

b.   Pre-election preparations and post-election review of the off-cycle governorship elections in Bayelsa, Kogi, Edo, Ondo, Anambra, Ekiti and Osun states and the FCT Area Council election;

c.   The current state of polling units and the need to expand voter access by creating additional polling units;

d.   Modalities, processes and procedures for the Continuous Voter's Registration (CVR) exercise;

e.   Deployment of electoral technology including the use of the IVED for voter registration, BVAS for voter accreditation and uploading of Form EC8A to the IReV, as a well as the

launch of various on-line portals for pre-voter registration and for submission of the list and particulars of candidate and party agents;

f.   Review of the Electoral Act 2022 and the Regulations and Guidelines for the Conduct of Elections 2022;

g.   The role and responsibilities of political parties and other stakeholders in the areas of voter education and citizens' mobilisation for effective and peaceful participation in the political and electoral processes;

h.   The promotion of inclusivity, with specific reference to women, youths

and persons living with disabilities in the electoral process; and

i.   Addressing the series of attacks on INEC buildings and facilities.

In addition to the engagement with the political parties, the Commission also engages with the Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC) which is a forum comprising of all registered political parties for the purpose of coordinating their interest in the quest for a credible and democratic electoral system. In the pursuit of this objective, IPAC collaborates and maintains an effective line of communication with the Commission to promote transparency, impartiality, and confidence in the electoral process.

Box 10: Stakeholder Engagements for the 2023 General Election

In the period from 2019 to 2023, the Commission met with the leadership of political parties, as it did with other stakeholders, to discuss the following issues: i) conduct of bye-elections; ii) pre-election preparations and post-election review of the off-cycle governorship elections in Bayelsa, Kogi, Edo, Ondo, Anambra, Ekiti and Osun states and the FCT Area Council election; iii) the current state of polling units and the need to expand voter access by creating additional polling units; iv) modalities, processes and procedures for the Continuous Voter's Registration (CVR) exercise; v) deployment of electoral technology including the use of the IVED for voter registration, BVAS for voter accreditation and uploading of Form EC8A to the IReV, as a well as the launch of various on-line portals for pre-voter registration and for submission of the list and particulars of candidate and party agents; vi) review of the Electoral Act 2022 and the Regulations and Guidelines for the Conduct of Elections 2022; vii) the role and responsibilities of political parties and other stakeholders in the areas of voter education and citizens' mobilisation for effective and peaceful participation in the political and electoral processes; viii) the promotion of inclusivity, with specific reference to women, youths and persons living with disabilities in the electoral process; and ix) addressing the series of attacks on INEC buildings and facilities.

6.2. Security Agencies (ICCES)

The Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) established in 2010 is an advisory body for promoting synergy, coordination, and cooperation in election security. It brings together security and other State agencies and institutions responsible for securing elections in conjunction with INEC. Since then, the Committee evolved as an effective and widely accepted body to promote cooperation, coordination, and synergy among its members to address the challenge for election security in Nigeria through the efficient management of resources and effective deployment of security personnel to ensure safe, peaceful, and violence-free elections. Towards the 2023 General Election, the Committee's membership was expanded from 17 to 24 to include the anti-corruption and public enlightenment and safety agencies. The is with the specific objective of evolving an integrated security strategy to meet the challenge of protecting the credibility of the electoral process, ensuring the sanctity of the vote by mitigating the emergent scourge of vote buying and securing the Commission's personnel and facilities. Furthermore, the Committee worked in close collaboration with the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 Pandemic for the conduct of time bound off-cycle governorship elections to ensure the safety of all electoral stakeholders and preclude any default in the constitutional term limit of political office holders during the global health emergency.

Membership of ICCES

i. INEC (Chair)
ii. Office of the National Security Adviser (Co-Chair)
iii. The Nigeria Police Force
iv. Police Service Commission
v. Ministry of Police Affairs
vi. Ministry of Interior
vii. Nigerian Air Force
viii. Nigerian Navy
ix. Nigerian Army
x. Department of State Service
xi. National Intelligence Agency
xii. Defence Intelligence Agency
xiii. Nigeria Customs Service
xiv. Nigeria Immigration Service
xv. National Drug Law Enforcement Agency
xvi. Federal Road Safety Corps
xvii. Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps
xviii. Nigerian Correctional Service
xix. National Youth Service Corps
xx. National Orientation Agency
xxi. National Identity Management Commission
xxii. Independent Corrupt Practices Commission
xxiii. Economic and Financial Commission
xxiv. Federal Fire Service

In the period between 2019 and 2023, ICCES held quarterly and special meetings to discuss and review security preparations for the conduct of off-cycle governorship elections in Kogi, Bayelsa, Edo, Ondo, Anambra, Ekiti and Osun states. In December 2022, the Committee published a revised single, harmonised code of conduct and rules of engagement for member agencies. The document not only provided

common standards of behaviour during electoral duty, but it also brought about significant improvement in the cooperation and synergy between the Police as the lead agency in election security and other agencies in training and for electoral duties. In the run-up to the 2023 general election, the Committee met twice between January and February 2023 to deliberate on the logistics and operational plans for securing the election as well as modalities for the implementation of the joint security strategy for securing voters, election personnel and materials.

The organisational structure of the ICCES at the national level is also replicated in each of the 36 states and FCT, and in the 774 Local Government Areas co-chaired by the Resident Electoral Commissioner

The INEC Chairman, conferring with the National Security Adviser Major General Babagana Monguno (rtd) and Chief of Defense Staff Major General Lucky Irabor during the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security Meeting, held at the National Security Adviser's Office on 8th February 2023

Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security Meeting, held at the National Security Adviser's Office on 8th February 2023

and Commissioner of Police and the Electoral Officer and the Area Commander respectively. Prior to the conduct of each of the off-cycle governorship election, the INEC Chairman also holds a consultative meeting with ICCES at the State level. In the run-up to the 2023 general election, the Committee at the State and LGA level met regularly to review, assess, and address emergent security issues including the identification of the personnel needs to secure the election and development of effective collaboration and coordination among the various Agencies involved in the conduct of election.

For the 2023 General Election, ICCES held all its regular quarterly meetings far-reaching decisions on election security were taken. The last quarterly meeting before the General Election held at the Office of the ICCES Co-Chair, the National Security Adviser (NSA) on Friday, 27th October 2022. The meeting comprehensively reviewed the election security readiness status for the General Election across the services and took important decisions for the provision of security support and the deployment of personnel.

6.3. The Judiciary

In its effort to ensure greater engagement with all electoral stake holders, the Commission, in consultation with the Judiciary and the Development Alternatives Inc, an EU-Supper for Democratic Governance in Nigeria (SDGN) Project Implementing Partner, organized three key training workshops for key stakeholders in the Judiciary: Justices and Judges of the Federal High Court and Courts of Appeal and political parties during which over

Participants of the Capacity Development Workshop for Justices of the Court of Appeal and Election Petition Tribunals, held in Abuja in November 2022.

Representative of the President of the National Industrial Court of Nigeria; Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, FCT, Hon Justice Husseini Baba Yusuf; INEC Chairman Prof, Mahmood Yakubu; Chief Justice of Nigeria, Hon Justice Olukayode Ariwoola, GCON; President, Court of Appeal, Hon Justice Monica Bolna'na Dongban Mensem CFR; and Chief Judge Federal High Court, Hon Justice John Terhemba Tsoho in a group photo, when Commission members paid the CJN a courtesy visit on 1st February, 2023.

500 judicial officers were trained between the 6th to the 12th of November 2022. Similarly, a compendium of legal offences and penalties in the electoral and political processes was presented to Judicial and party officials. The compendium helped a lot in bringing legal offences and penalties together for the first time in a single volume, serving as a one stop reference book. The Commission also planned several meetings with the Trial/Appellate judges, highlighting the innovations introduced by the Electoral Act 2022 in the conduct of elections and the management of the electoral process.

6.4. Civic Associations

Quarterly meetings with civil society organizations and the media were regular throughout the 2019-2023 Electoral Cycle. It was in and through these meetings that the policies of the Commission were disseminated, and where some sensitive ideas and projects were shared for their inputs and suggestions. It is through these meetings that the Commission's ideas and policies on the extension of voter access to polling units, the certification of the voter's register for the 2023 General Election as well as the introduction of the IVED, IReV and BVAS were shared and/or firmed up. Similarly, meetings such as stakeholder consultations on the influence of money on elections in Nigeria and how to address it as well as meetings with transport workers unions were held.

Several other organizations, such as the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), Action Aid, Yiaga Africa and Community Life Project (CLP, Reclaim Naija) have also provided support in key areas leading up to the election. These included the support CDD provided on Media Monitoring, capacity building for staff of the ICCC, training support on strategic communication for staff of the VEP Department as well as the sponsoring of TV and Radio jingles. Similarly, Action Aid had supported the convening of a meeting on election logistics, while Yiaga Africa created an enabling environment for the review of the electoral legal framework. In addition, CLP provided equipment support,

through Interra Networks, to the INEC Call Centre for the 2023 General Election.

One of the most significant engagements by the Commission towards the election was the signing of the Peace Accord by candidates of all political parties under the auspices of the National Peace Committee at the International Conference Centre. Such Peace Accords have been key aspects of our elections since 2015, where candidates, and by implication their supporters, publicly accept to adhere to the rules of the game, eschew violence and agree to resolve all electoral conflicts through legal channels. For the 2023 General Election, the 18 political parties under the leadership of the National Peace Committee led by General Abdulsalami Abubakar (rtd.) international and domestic observers, as well as the Commission witnessed the signing of the 2023 Peace Accord.

6.5. Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government (MDAs)

The Commission pursued an active engagement on the 2023 general election with various Ministries, Departments and Agencies of government in view of their potentially important supportive roles to the electoral process. Specifically, the MDAs provided a wide range of support in terms of advice, expertise and in some cases personnel in the planning, conduct and management of the elections and in facilitating the deployment of national assets and logistics. One of the most significant is the formation of the National Inter-Ministerial Committee on Electoral Logistics, comprising critical logistics and

delivery ministries, including the Armed Forces and Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

6.6. International Development Partners

The Commission regularly engages with the international community to apprise them of its operations and activities. These engagements were both at bilateral and multilateral levels including meetings with the leadership of the Department of Political Affairs Peace and Security (PAPS) of the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), as well as Resident Representatives of the UN Specialised Agencies in Nigeria (UNDP, UN Refugees Commission and UN Women). The Commission also met at various times with the Ambassadors of ECOWAS member states, the EU Delegation, France, Germany, UK and USA. This is in addition to courtesy visits to the Commission by several international guests including the United States Assistant Secretary of State for Bureau of Africa Affairs, the USAID Assistant Administrator in Africa, the African Regional Director of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for West Africa and the Sahel.

In the run up to the 2023 General Election, the Commission extended special invitation to the ECOWAS Commission, African Union, the Commonwealth, and the European Union Commission to observe the election. Consequently, the Commission received the ECOWAS pre-election fact finding mission led by former President of the Electoral Commission of Ghana Dr. Kwado Afari-

Gyan in October 2022, the African Union Special Pre-Electoral Political Mission led by Former Deputy President of South Africa H.E Phumzile Mlanbo Ngouka and the Commonwealth Pre-election Assessment Mission (PEAM) led by Ms. Abiola Sunmonu, Adviser & Head of Africa Section in November 2022. In these engagements, the Commission appraised the international community about its preparations for the conduct of the general election with specific reference to its operations, processes, and procedures. The Commission also received encouragement and useful suggestions based on global best practices in the conduct of free, fair, and credible elections.

Box 10: Stakeholder Engagements for the 2023 General Election

In the period from 2019 to 2023, the Commission met with the leadership of political parties, as it did with other stakeholders, to discuss the following issues: i) conduct of bye-elections; ii) pre-election preparations and post-election review of the off-cycle governorship elections in Bayelsa, Kogi, Edo, Ondo, Anambra, Ekiti and Osun states and the FCT Area Council election; iii) the current state of polling units and the need to expand voter access by creating additional polling units; iv) modalities, processes and procedures for the Continuous Voter's Registration (CVR) exercise; v) deployment of electoral technology including the use of the IVED for voter registration, BVAS for voter accreditation and uploading of Form EC8A to the IReV, as a well as the launch of various on-line portals for pre-voter registration and for submission of the list and particulars of candidate and party agents; vi) review of the Electoral Act 2022 and the Regulations and Guidelines for the Conduct of Elections 2022; vii) the role and responsibilities of political parties and other stakeholders in the areas of voter education and citizens' mobilisation for effective and peaceful participation in the political and electoral processes; viii) the promotion of inclusivity, with specific reference to women, youths and persons living with disabilities in the electoral process; and ix) addressing the series of attacks on INEC buildings and facilities.

Group photo of participants at the 2nd Signing Ceremony of the National Peace Accord for the 2023 Presidential Election, held in Abuja on 22nd February 2023. It was organized by the National Peace Committee.

Chapter 7

Voter Education, Public Enlightenment and Media Relations

07

7.1. Defining the Commission's Narrative on Elections

Following the successful conduct and comprehensive review of the 2019 General Election, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) flagged off its preparations for the 2023 General Election. The Strategic Plan 2017-2021 was extensively evaluated in terms of its strengths, weaknesses and lessons learnt, paving the way for the 2022- 2026 Strategic Plan (SP) and the Election Project Plan (EPP) to consolidate the gains of the immediate past electoral cycle and chart a new course for the next. Subsequently, the Commission embarked on various reforms aimed at improving the electoral system, deepening the application of technology, expanding voter access to polling units and strengthening the electoral legal framework among others.

These reforms paved the way for innovations such as the INEC Result Viewing (IReV) portal which receives polling unit results for public viewing and the multi-purpose Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) which registers voters during the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR); accredits voters through fingerprint authentication or facial recognition and uploads polling unit results to the IReV on Election Day. The Commission also vigorously sought to strengthen the electoral legal framework to back its innovations and block loopholes, which through collaboration with the National Assembly, led to the repeal of the 2010 Electoral Act and the enactment of the new Electoral Act, 2022 which was signed into law by President Muhammadu Buhari on the 25th of February 2022.

7.1.1. Review of the Communications Policy

The maiden INEC Communication Policy which was approved by the Commission in May 2013 was comprehensively reviewed in 2018 leading to the approval of the revised version in 2019. While there has been no fresh review of the policy since 2019, many of the provisions remain relevant and adaptable to the prevailing circumstances of the 2023 General Election.

7.2. Implementation of the 2019 Revised Edition of the Communications Policy

The Voter Education and Publicity (VEP) Department followed the guidelines and standards outlined in the Commission's Revised Communication Policy (2019). Information flow was from top to bottom, which was replicated in the states where elections were conducted during the period. Arrangements and other logistics information were properly communicated to both internal and external publics. Public enlightenment and voter sensitisation programmes were carried out optimally up to the grassroots, using the various communication platforms.

7.3. Voter Education and Enlightenment Campaign: Implementation Meetings

An implementation meeting was held on Thursday 8th September 2022 at Golden Dabis Hotel, Keffi, Nasarawa State, to intimate Heads of Voter Education and Publicity Units from State offices about approved activities and implementation strategies towards the 2023 General Election. Participants which comprised headquarters staff, Electoral Officers, (EOs) Assistant Electoral Officers, Admin (AEOs) and representatives of the National Orientation Agency (NOA) were fully briefed about the Commission's activities geared towards enhancing the electoral process, and the specific changes in the processes. The meeting also served as a platform to sensitize participants on the procedures for safe participation in the electoral process and their responsibilities in getting the messages across to the electorate.

Box 11: Innovations in the Run-Up to the 2023 General Election

These reforms paved the way for innovations such as the INEC Result Viewing (IReV) portal which receives polling unit results for public viewing and the multi-purpose Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) which registers voters during the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR); accredits voters through fingerprint authentication or facial recognition and uploads polling unit results to the IReV on Election Day. The Commission also vigorously sought to strengthen the electoral legal framework to back its innovations and block loopholes, which through collaboration with the National Assembly, led to the repeal of the 2010 Electoral Act and the enactment of the new Electoral Act, which was signed into law by President Muhammadu Buhari on 25th February 2022.

7.3.1. Training of Heads of VEP and Public Affairs Officers in Collaboration with CDD

The Commission collaborated with the Centre for Democracy and Development to organise a training for the Heads of VEP in all State Offices of the Commission between 6th and 7th 2023. The trainings, which were held in Kano and Lagos, focused on:

- Management of information during elections

- Procedures and Processes for nationwide online media accreditation

- Technologies for 2023 General Election

- Issues of Fake News, Misinformation and Disinformation

- Experience Sharing on media interviews.

7.3.2. Capacity Training for Voter Education Officers

The VEP Department embarked on a massive capacity building exercise for Voter Education Desk Officers at the State and LGA levels across the country, to enhance their capacity to implement the Commission's approved enlightenment activities. The Commission, in collaboration with IFES, also trained voter education staff on their roles and responsibilities. Eight hundred and eleven (811) participants, including AEOs Administration who handle voter education at LGA level attended the event.

Participants at the Implementation Workshop on Voter Education in session, Keffi, Nasarawa State

Table 7.1: Details of the Capacity Building Workshops for Assistant Electoral Officers			
S/N	Zone	Venue	Date
1	North-West	Sokoto	Tuesday 18th – 21st October, 2022
2	North-East	Yola	Tuesday 18th – 19th October, 2022
3	North-Central	Keffi	Tuesday 25th – 28th October, 2022
4	South-West	Akure	Tuesday 25th – 28th October, 2022
5	South-South	Calabar	Tuesday 1st – 4th November, 2022
6	South-East	Enugu	Tuesday 1st – 4th November, 2022

7.3.3. Capacity Building for Voter Education Providers

The Commission in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organised a capacity building session for selected voter education providers across the federation. The training was to enable them replicate same within their localities. The training which took place in six locations in the geo-political zones of the federation had 222 participants.

Table 7.2: Details of Workshops for Voter Education Officers			
S/N	Zone	Venue	Date
1	North-West	Sokoto	Monday 17th October, 2022
2	North-East	Yola	Monday 17th October, 2022
3	North-Central	Lokoja	Monday 24th October, 2022
4	South-West	Ibadan	Monday 24th October, 2022
5	South-South	Calabar	Monday 31st October, 2022
6	South-East	Enugu	Monday 31st October, 2022

7.3.4. Design and Production of Voter Education Materials

Messages and materials were designed and developed for voter education and enlightenment in various forms and languages, including animations, infographics, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), pamphlets and fliers on Rights and Responsibilities of voters, Election Offences, Accreditation and Voting Procedures, Collation and Declaration of Results, Dates, Venue and Time of Election. The electronic versions of these materials were uploaded to the Commission's website and social medial platforms.

7.3.5. Audio and Video Jingles

Eight types of audio and video jingles were produced for the 2023 General Election in the following thematic areas:

- CVR (basic facts, requirements, and procedure for participation in the CVR, PVC Collection and its importance).

- Election (voting procedure, basic facts, BVAS and IReV Technology, campaign against violence, vote buying and selling; safety of election officials).

The Commission also engaged the services of some Nollywood celebrities to produce jingles in Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba, English, and Pidgin languages. All the jingles produced were translated into various indigenous languages by INEC States offices and aired locally. Jingles were aired across the country on both state- and privately-owned radio and television stations as well as television networks such as NTA, Channels TV and AIT. This increased citizens' awareness of the processes and procedures for election and consequently enabled them to make informed choices.

7.3.6. Radio, Television, Social Media Engagements and Digital/Strategic Communication Teams

Voter education and enlightenment materials were designed and uploaded to the Commission's various social media and inecnews platforms giving opportunity to citizens, mostly young people to access information about the electoral process. Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, and Instagram were useful platforms for this engagement. A special interactive radio programme titled "Electoral Half Hour" was sponsored in each state per

quarter and used to educate the public on the electoral process and particularly the introduction of technology. In addition, two Strategic Communication Teams were established to support Voter Education and Publicity Department in responding to the issues trending in the traditional and new media about the electoral process and the Commission.

7.3.7. Youth Votes Count Outreach and Outdoor Display of Election Messages, Road Shows and Carnivals

The Commission, in collaboration with the European Union and the Youth Initiative, Advocacy for Growth and Advancement (YIAGA) Africa, successfully conducted the Youth Votes Count campaign for students, youths and other citizens in Lagos and the FCT where different artistes/celebrities performed on stage with focus on voter enlightenment messages. The exercise was effective in mobilising the target groups to get registered, collect their PVC and consequently participate in the election. Similarly, the VEP Department in collaboration with the Procurement Department engaged advertising agents to display voter enlightenment messages on billboards at strategic locations nationwide. Banners containing logos of political parties and correct thumb printing methods were also produced and mounted at all INEC LGA Offices nationwide. Road shows were held across the 6 geo-political zones of the country to sensitise and mobilise the electorate. Furthermore, the Commission participated in the Calabar Carnival which holds every year in Cross River State to create awareness.

7.3.8 Dissemination of Information by Bulk SMS

In the week before each set of elections, messages were sent through the bulk Short Message Service (SMS) to registered voters across the country to remind and mobilise them to participate in the election. They were also informed of basic information about the election.

Participants at the 'YouthVoteCount' Concert. Tafawa Balewa Square, Lagos. 11th June 2022

7.4 Engagements with the Media

The traditional cordial relationship between the Commission and media deepened and blossomed before, during and after the 2023 General Election, in line with its desire to continually "interact nationally and internationally with relevant stakeholders (Objective 4). The Commission's recognition of the media as a strategic partner underscored the deliberate effort to secure the buy-in of the fourth estate of the realm for the various electoral reforms and technological innovations embarked upon immediately after the 2019 General Election. The Office of the Chief Press Secretary to Hon Chairman, in collaboration with the VEP Department and Development Partners, played significant roles in implementing the INEC Communication Policy to attain the Commission's strategic communication goals and bringing top media executives, editors, online publishers and line editors to the table for constructive dialogues with the Commission. Capacity development workshops were also organized for the INEC Press Corps and INEC State Public Affairs officers in collaboration with development partners throughout the period under review. The Commission also deployed its social media platforms – X (Formerly known as Twitter), Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, its official online newspaper - inecnews.com - timely press conferences, releases, and special publications, to disseminate critical information about the preparations for the election, the conduct of the polls and the aftermath. Through these deliberate efforts, the Commission secured the media's support and understanding which manifested in the subsequent, more balanced reportage of its activities throughout the period under review. While the challenges of fake news, misinformation and disinformation remain, much of what would have adversely impacted the narratives around the election were mitigated by the Commission's proactive engagement with the media underscored by its transparency, accessibility, and sincerity.

7.4.1 Strategic Meetings with Media Executives, Online Publishers, and Line Editors

Meetings were held with Media Executives, Online Publishers, and Line Editors in Lagos, between 24th and 25th November 2021 where selected Directors at INEC Headquarters made presentations on the Commission's processes, innovations, and preparations for the 2023 General Election. The interactive session that followed provided the participants with the opportunity to clarify several issues. The Media Executives and Online Publishers that attended the event came from all over the country and expressed satisfaction about the outcome of the initiative. The event was jointly organised with the International Press Centre (IPC) and the Institute of Media and Society (IMS).

7.4.2 Capacity Development for INEC Press Corps Members

The INEC Press Corps comprises over 90 members from the print, broadcast, and online media organisations, who are duly accredited to cover and report on the Commission's activities. Due to their direct constant interactions with and access to the Commission, the important

roles that they play in the dissemination of information about its activities cannot be overemphasised. Since a journalist is as good and as accurate as the quality of information at his disposal, the Commission believes that a proper understanding of its processes and procedures and the laws governing its activities is key to a journalist's ability to report objectively on those activities. For that reason, the Commission organised a capacity development workshop for members of the Press Corps between 26th and 27th September in Lagos where selected INEC Directors presented the majority of the 11 papers that were presented at the event. The European Union facilitated the event under the European Union Support for Democratic Governance II being implemented by the DAI.

7.4.3 The Creation of INEC TV Online

During the build-up to the general election, the Commission created "INEC Online TV" for disseminating information. It could be viewed on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram.

7.4.4. Workshops and Training for Journalists on Conflict Reporting

Considering the critical role of the Media in the coverage of electoral activities, the Commission in collaboration with the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) held workshops in the six geopolitical zones across the country. The workshops were held in two states in each zone. Essentially, the aim of the workshop was to equip media practitioners with basic and fundamental knowledge of the electoral activities and

all legal and regulatory instruments guiding the Commission's activities and the 2023 elections.

As part of its support to the Commission, the Centre for Democracy and Development in collaboration with INEC organised workshops in two locations, Kano, and Lagos for HoDs VEP and Public Affairs Officers (PAOs) on Sensitive Reporting and its effect on the electoral process with focus on the 2023 General Election. The Centre also organised Strategic Communication Training for Management Staff of the Commission and Media monitoring techniques for other staff of the department. The two programmes took place in Abuja. In addition, CDD organised sensitization forums for Journalists in the six geopolitical zones.

7.4.5. Advertisements in the Media

Advertisements were placed in major National Newspapers. Announcements on Radio and Television Stations were also made by the Commission to create awareness on key policies and programmes relating to the elections on National Television stations like Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), Channels Television, Africa Independent Television (AIT). The contents were also uploaded to the Commission's social media platforms. At the state level, Radio and Television stations were equally employed to reach targeted groups.

7.4.6. Media Accreditation for the 2023 General Election

The Commission deployed its On-line Media Accreditation portal introduced in

2019 to accredit media organisations and professionals for the 2023 General Election. Details of those accredited via the portal are:

- Total number of users- organisations/individuals- 4,529

- Total number of organisations -1667, (Local 1630; Foreign 37)

- Total applications received during the period – 947

- Total number of applications approved – 716

- Total number of nominations -10,636

The Total Accreditation Statistics is as follows:

At the close of the Portal on 6th February 2023, 947 applications were received online out of which 716 were approved while 471 organisations concluded the process for 8,521 personnel from 10, 636 nominations.

Manual: For the Media organisations who were unable to complete the online accreditation process, 2,950 manual accreditation tags were printed for distribution to states and the FCT. Consequently, 11,471 persons were accredited for the 2023 General Election, made up of local and foreign Journalists. In addition, special accreditation was done for the National Collation Centre for the Presidential/National Assembly election. Four hundred and forty-five (445) media personnel were accredited for the Collation Centre, including 415 local and 30 Foreign Journalists.

7.4.7. INEC Citizens Contact Centre

The INEC Citizens Contact Centre (ICCC) relocated to the International Conference Centre a few weeks to the Presidential and National Assembly elections. With the equipment provided by the Ford Foundation through Community Life Project (CLP) and facilitated by Interra Networks Limited, the Centre functioned effectively during the period. Call Agents and Situation Room staff were recruited and adequately trained on how to engage with the public during the election. The Centre was fully operational from 7 .00am to 8.00pm prior to the eve of the election and later up scaled to 24 hours from Election Day. It was a beehive of activities during the collation of presidential election results and served as venue for daily briefings of Journalists and other stakeholders which commenced on February 23, 2023. The briefings were well covered by all accredited Journalists (local and international). The proceedings at the Centre were also streamed live by media organisations and INEC TV online. Both Foreign and local television stations conducted live interviews at the Centre. Apart from the coverage of collation of Presidential results and eventual declaration of the winner, the media adequately covered Post–election activities at the ICC which included presentation of Certificates of Return to President and Vice President elect, Senators and Members of House of Representatives elect. The following channels of communication were used to reach out to the public during the period.

7.4.8. Engagements Via Communication Channels

Over 200,000 calls were processed by the ICCC within the period. Fifteen Call Agents were available at every shift running 24 hours to respond to inquiries and receive reports from the public on election related issues. The introduction of short code easy-to-remember 4632 access number was a huge success as close to 99 percent of the calls received were through this channel.

7.4.9. Social Media Analysis (23rd – 28th February 2023 and 15th – 18th March 2023)

Facebook
- Followers 938,487
- Reach   1,112,864
- Gender Participation: Male – 81,50%, Female – 18.50%

Twitter
- Followers   2.8 million
- Impressions 53.8 million

Instagram
- Followers 500,868
- Interactions: 47,500
- Reach: 725,000
- Gender Participation: Male – 65%, Female – 34.3%

7.4.10. Media Monitoring Centre: Challenges of Misinformation, Disinformation and Fake News

The media monitoring centre was established by the Commission during the 2019 General election in collaboration with the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES), to track trending news and opinions published by the print media and aired by broadcast stations. It also monitors public perception about the Commission's activities and the electoral process. The major objective was to identify reports needing urgent attention or responses either through press releases, rejoinders, or other strategic engagement with the media. During the period under review, the social and traditional media platforms were awash with fake news, misinformation, and disinformation on several issues bordering on registration of under-age voters in some States, electronic transmission of results, discovery of PVCs in forests and shrines, vote buying, and ballot box stuffing during the elections among others.

However, the Commission's proactive and regular dissemination of information about its policies and activities through the mainstream media, social media platforms and online newspaper (inecnews.com) countered fake narratives as much as possible.

7.4.11. Engagements with Electoral Stakeholders

The electoral system requires regular interactions between the Commission and critical stakeholders to enable the former to inform, educate and enlighten the latter on the various aspects of the electoral process, thereby enabling and empowering them to make informed decisions.

The Commission, therefore, organised several engagements with stakeholders in the electoral process in addition to having regular quarterly or emergency

meetings with identified stakeholders. The Commission's State Offices also had several consultations with traditional rulers, religious leaders, and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) both at the state and local government levels.

In recognising its grassroots enlightenment capacity, INEC collaborated with the National Orientation Agency (NOA) to further expand the reach of the voter enlightenment drive within the country. Funds were approved and disbursed to the Agency for the implementation of grassroots enlightenment activities.

The organisation sponsored the production of audio and video messages and sponsored the airing of the same on select radio and TV stations in the country. It implements "Component I" of the European Union

Support for Democratic Governance in Nigeria II (EU-SDGN II), funded by the European Union (EU).

The UNDP provided support for venues, accommodation, and transportation allowances for participants at the Voter Education Desk Officers' capacity building workshop held simultaneously across the six geo-political zones of the country. The UNDP also sponsored the translation and airing of jingles on behalf of the Commission.

IFES provided support in the review of the Commission's voter education training manual, which is used to train voter education officers in the states in addition to providing additional logistics supports for the implementation meeting and capacity building workshops for VEP staff.

Chapter 8

Key Activities Towards the 2023 General Election

08

8.1. Funding the 2023 General Election

The Independent National Electoral Commission is one of the statutory Federal Executive bodies established by Section 153, Part 1 of the Third Schedule of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended). Section 81(2,3&4) of the Constitution provides that the required funding to meet the expenditure of the Commission be issued directly from the Consolidated Revenue of the Federation to the Commission. In other words, the Commission is on a first-line charge to the consolidated revenue. The Section also stipulated that any further funding required by the Commission should be presented to the National Assembly for supplementary appropriation if the amount in the original budget is insufficient or if no amount was provided for in the original budget to meet unforeseen expenditure.

Furthermore, Section 3 of the Electoral Act 2022 establishes the Independent National Electoral Commission Fund into which all sums from the Federal Government as well as returns on Commission's investments should be paid for the performance of its functions. The Section also stipulated that funds due to the Commission for any general election should be released not later than one year before the election and gave the Commission the power to disburse such funds in accordance with its financial rules and regulations. The subjects on which the Commission can expend such funds as spelled out in Section 4 of the Act include to: i) defray the cost of administration of the Commission; ii) reimburse members of any

Committee set up by the Commission; iii) pay the salaries, fees and other remuneration or allowances, pensions, gratuities of its officials and staff members; iv) maintain any property vested in the Commission; and v) pay for any of its functions.

Arising from the above, the Federal Government of Nigeria is solely responsible for providing funding to the Commission as a sovereign responsibility. Such funding includes monies for the Commission's annual budget to meet its capital and recurrent expenditure and monies for the conduct of a general election and all other elections. Based on the key activities in the approved Election Project Plan for the 2023 general election, the Commission proposed a budget of N305,001,824,846.49k (Three hundred and five billion, one million, eight hundred and twenty-four thousand, eight hundred and forty-six naira and forty-nine kobo) for the conduct of the election. The breakdown of this amount shows that the Commission requires N159,766,227,723.25K (One hundred and fifty nine billion, seven hundred and sixty six million, two hundred and twenty seven thousand, seven hundred and twenty three Naira, twenty five kobo) for electoral operations; N117,379,778,270.61K (One hundred and seventeen billion, three hundred and seventy nine million, seven hundred and seventy eight thousand, two hundred and seventy Naira, sixty one kobo) for electoral technology; and N20,416,749,971.50K (twenty billion, four hundred and sixteen million, seven hundred and forty nine thousand, nine hundred and seventy one hundred, fifty kobo) for electoral administrative costs. The sum of N7,439,068,899.13K (seven billion, four

hundred and thirty-nine million, sixty-eight thousand, eight hundred and ninety-nine Naira, thirteen kobo), that is 2.5% of the election operation, technological and administrative costs is set aside for unforeseen electoral expenses.

In line with the provisions of the 1999 Constitution, the Commission's budget proposal for the 2023 General Election was submitted to the Presidency and was duly transmitted to the National Assembly for consideration and appropriation. Consequently, the Commission appeared before Senate and House Committees on INEC as well as the Senate and House Appropriations Committee in a joint session during which the INEC Chairman presented the expenditure layout of the budget and answered all questions and queries from Committee members. Thereafter, the National Assembly approved and appropriated the sum of N303,179,019,018.36K (Three hundred and three billion, one hundred and seventy-nine million, nineteen thousand- and eighteen-naira, thirty-six kobo) for the conduct of the 2023 general election.

However, by January 2023, it was clear that this amount would not be enough for the conduct of the election due to the inflation rate and consumer price index as well as the widening differentials in the foreign exchange rate. These three factors negatively impacted on the procurement of domestic goods and services and the purchase of offshore electoral equipment and materials. Furthermore, the Commission also faced the necessity to rebuild or relocate its operations from its buildings that were destroyed or burnt and replace lost election materials due to arson attacks and fire outbreak. To be sure, the Commission suffered more than 50 attacks on its facilities and vandalisation of properties and election material between 2019 and 2022. The Commission was therefore compelled to request for supplementary appropriation in the sum of N52,119,179,322:11K (Fifty-two billion, one hundred and nineteen million, one hundred and seventy-nine thousand, three hundred- and twenty-two-naira, eleven kobo) from the Presidency.

The request was duly considered and approved for appropriation by the National Assembly bringing the total funds approved and appropriated for the conduct of the 2023 general election to N355,298,198,340.47k (Three hundred and fifty-five billion, two hundred and ninety-eight million, one hundred and ninety-eight thousand, three hundred- and forty Naira, forty-seven Kobo). The breakdown of the appropriated amount on the basis of the Average Cost per Registered Voter Index (COVI), for the 93,469,008 registered voters in Nigeria is N3,801 (US$6.72) per voter. This is well within the internationally acceptable Average Cost per Registered Voter (ACRV) of $4 to $8 that is deemed adequate for the conduct of election in transitional democracies. In fact, the ACRV for the 2023 general election is less than the actual cost of $9.62 and US$7.38 cost per voter for the 2015 and 2019 general election respectively[1] and very reasonable in comparison to the cost per voter in other transitional democracies such as Ghana[2] and Kenya[3].

[1]The average exchange rate at the parallel market was N165 and N305 to US$ respectively for the 2015 and 2019 General Elections and N565 to US$1 for the 2023 General Election

[2]Speech delivered by the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission of Ghana at the Assessment of the 2020 Election, 2 May 2021

[3]Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC)

Consequent upon the appropriation of the election budget proposals by the National Assembly, the Commission engaged with the Honourable Minister and officials of the Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning for the release of funds as stipulated in Section 81(2,3&4) of the 1999 Constitution. This led to the cumulative release of the sum of N293,480,619,640.29K (Two hundred and ninety-three billion, four hundred and eighty million, six hundred and nineteen thousand, six hundred- and forty Naira, twenty-nine Kobo) in tranches between February 2022 and February 2023. A further amount of N20,000,000,000K (Twenty billion naira) was released to the Commission in August and September 2023 as shown in Table 8.1. The sum of N61,817,578,700.18K (Sixty-one billion, eight hundred and seventeen million, five hundred and seventy-eight thousand, seven-hundred-naira, eighteen kobo), is outstanding as of October 2023.

A further amount of N20,000,000,000K (Twenty billion naira) was released to the Commission in August and September 2023 as shown in Table 8.1. The sum of N61,817,578,700.18K (Sixty-one billion, eight hundred and seventeen million, five hundred and seventy-eight thousand, seven-hundred-naira, eighteen kobo), is outstanding as of October 2023.

Box 12: Breakdown of the 2023 General Election Budget

...arising from the above, the Federal Government of Nigeria is solely responsible for providing funding to the Commission as a sovereign responsibility. Such funding includes monies for the Commission's annual budget to meet its capital and recurrent expenditure and monies for the conduct of a general election and all other elections. Based on the key activities in the approved Election Project Plan for the 2023 general election, the Commission proposed a budget of 305,001,824,846.49k (Three hundred and five billion, one million, eight hundred and twenty-four thousand, eight hundred and forty-six naira and forty-nine kobo) for the conduct of the election. The breakdown of this amount shows that the Commission requires N159,766,227,723.25K (One hundred and fifty nine billion, seven hundred and sixty six million, two hundred and twenty seven thousand, seven hundred and twenty three Naira, twenty five kobo) for electoral operations; N117,379,778,270.61K (One hundred and seventeen billion, three hundred and seventy nine million, seven hundred and seventy eight thousand, two hundred and seventy Naira, sixty one kobo) for electoral technology; and N20,416,749,971.50K (twenty billion, four hundred and sixteen million, seven hundred and forty nine thousand, nine hundred and seventy one hundred, fifty kobo) for electoral administrative costs. The sum of N7,439,068,899.13K (seven billion, four hundred and thirty-nine million, sixty-eight thousand, eight hundred and ninety-nine Naira, thirteen kobo), that is 2.5% of the election operation, technological and administrative costs is set aside for unforeseen electoral expenses...

Table 8.1: Budget and Fund Releases for the 2023 General Election		
S/N	Particulars	Amount
1	2023 General Election Approved Original Budget	303,179,019,018.36
2	2023 General Election Approved Supplementary Budget	52,119,179,322.11
3	Total Approved EPP Budget	355,298,198,340.47
4	Total Funds Released from February 2022 to February 2023	293,480,619,640.29
5	Total Funds Released from August to September 2023	20,000,000,000
6	Total Funds Released from February 2022 to September 2023	313,480,619,640.29
7	**Total Outstanding Funds**	**41,817,578,700.18**

The Commission also receives support from Development Partners for electoral activities around training, capacity building, civic and voter education, production of information, education and communication materials and engagement with stakeholders. These supports are directed at the provision of technical assistance, information dissemination, strengthening the integrity of the electoral process, promoting citizens' participation, and enhancing advocacy for inclusivity with reference to women, youths, persons with disability and other marginalized groups. As shown in Table 8.2, Commission during the 2019 - 2023 Electoral Cycle received support from the European Union (EU) through the European Union Support for Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU/SDGN) Project I and II implemented between May 2019 and April 2022 by the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES) and from May 2022 by the Development Alternative Incorporated (DAI) respectively. Support was also received from the International Federation for Electoral Systems (IFES) with funding from the United States and United Kingdom Department for International Development (USAID/UKAID), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with funding from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ACTIONAID with funding from the Ford Foundation and the German Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES).

In receiving these supports, the relationship between the Commission and the International Development Partners is governed by the INEC Policy on Receiving Support from Development Partners. The policy, which is anchored on the principles of independence, zero cash transfer, flexibility, accountability, and coordination identifies the areas of support that IDPs are allowed to contribute and the processes and procedures for requesting and receiving such support. Accordingly, the overall control over the purpose of any donor support is determined by the Commission based on its strategic interest and as required by the

Office of the Honourable Chairman. To be clear, the Commission does not receive any direct cash transfer from development partners. Rather, these partners are required to hold on to their funds and undertake the direct implementation of any activity requested by the Commission that are usually directed at meeting urgent and sometimes unanticipated needs or to augment the cost of enhancing electoral integrity.

Table 8.2: Activities Supported by International Development Partners Towards the 2023 General Election		
SN	Development Partner	Activities Supported
1	ECES up till April 2022	Engagement and Deployment of Technical Advisers Engagement and Deployment of Consultant and Desk Officers to the Election Management Support Centre Training and Capacity Building for Election Management Support Centre personnel Production of Information, Communication and Education materials Organisation of Workshops
2	DAI from May 2022	Engagement and Deployment of Technical Advisers
3	IFES	Training and Capacity Building Organisation of Workshops Production of Information, Communication and Education materials Organisation of Workshops
4	UNDP	Training and Capacity Building
5	ACTIONAID	Organisation of Review Meeting on Electoral Logistic
6	FES	Review of MoU with Transport Workers Unions Production of Information, Communication and Education materials

8.2. Registration and De-Registration of Political Parties

The Commission is empowered by the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) to register and de-register political parties in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the Electoral Act. The conditions for the registration and de-registration of political parties are spelled out in Article 222 and 225A of the Constitution respectively. The conditions for the registration of any association seeking registration as a political party is spelled out Section 222. These are that: i) the names and addresses of its national officers are registered with the INEC; ii) the membership of the association is open to every citizen of Nigeria of irrespective of his place of origin, circumstance of birth, sex, religion or ethnic grouping; iii) a copy of its constitution is registered with INEC; iv) any alteration to its Constitution must be registered with INEC within 30 days of making such alteration; v) its name, symbol or logo should not contain any ethnic or religious connotation or give the appearance that the activities of the association are confined to a part only of the geographical territory of Nigeria; and v) its headquarters should be situated in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. On the other hand, Section 225A of the Constitution empowers the Commission to de-register a political party that: i) breaches any of the requirements for registration; or ii) fails to win at least 25% of vote cast in a) one state of the federation in the presidential election, b) one local government of a state in the governorship election, c) one ward in the chairmanship election, d) one seat in the National or State House of Assembly election, or e) one seat in the councillorship election.

In compliance with Article 222 of the Constitution, the Commission received 124 applications from political associations seeking registration as political parties in the period between 2019 and 2022. The initial assessment of these applications shows that 108 associations did not meet the conditions for registration for reasons of non-compliance with the extant provisions of the 1999 Constitution, but 11 of them were given the opportunity to remedy and re-submit their application. However, the Commission's effort to verify the claims by the associations that successfully passed through the initial assessment was circumscribed by Section 75 of the Electoral Act 2022 which stipulates that the registration of any association seeking to register as a political party shall be done not later than 12 months before a general election. Consequently, apart from the registration of the Booth Party which was registered by Court order in the run-up to the 2019 general election and did not participate in the election, no political association was registered as a political party between 2019 and 2022.

Also, in compliance with Article 225A of the Constitution, the Commission undertook a comprehensive review of the performance of the 91 registered political parties in the aftermath of the 2019 general election. Following the review, 74 political parties were de-registered on 6th February 2020 for non-compliance with their registration requirements, inability to win a legislative seat either in the National, State and

FCT elections and/or inability to secure 25% of votes cast in a governorship or presidential election. But dissatisfied with the application of the law governing the de-registration of political parties, 22 of the 74 de-registered political parties went to Court to challenge the Commission's decision. Eventually, the Court restrained the Commission from de-registering one of the political parties (African Peoples Party, APP) and ordered the re-listing on another one (Youth Party, YP) as a political party. However, these parties were unable to participate in the 2023 general election due to the application of Section 75 of the Electoral Act 2022. In all, 18 political parties participated in, and presented candidates for the election as shown in Table 8.3.

Table 8.3: Names, Acronyms and Logos of Political Parties in the 2023 General Election				
S/N	Name	Acronym	Logo	Date of Registration
1	Accord	A		10/08/2006
2	Action Alliance	AA		29/05/2005
3	African Action Congress	AAC		14/08/2018
4	African Democratic Congress	ADC		22/03/2006
5	Action Democratic Party	ADP		07/06/2017
6	All Progressives Congress	APC		31/07/2012
7	All Progressives Grand Alliance	APGA		22/03/2017

8	Allied Peoples' Movement	APM		14/08/2018
9	Action Peoples Party	APP		03/08/2017
10	Boot Party	BP		29/08/2019
11	Labour Party	LP		25/05/2005
12	New Nigeria Peoples Party	NNPP		03/12/2002
13	National Rescue Movement	NRM		14/12/2017
14	Peoples Democratic Party	PDP		21/12/1998
16	Peoples Redemption Party	PRP		Registered 03/12/2002, De-registered 06/12/2012 Restored by Court Order 17/12/2015
16	Social Democratic Party	SDP		30/08/2010
17	Young Progressive Party	YPP		07/07/2017
18	Zenith Labour Party	ZLP		14/08/2018

Box 13: Deregistration of Political Parties

...also, in compliance with Article 225A of the Constitution, the Commission undertook a comprehensive review of the performance of the 91 registered political parties in the aftermath of the 2019 general election. Following the review, 74 political parties were de-registered on 6th February 2020 for non-compliance with their registration requirements, inability to win a legislative seat either in the National, State and FCT elections and/or inability to secure 25% of vote cast in in a governorship or presidential election. But dissatisfied with the application of the law governing the de-registration of political parties, 22 of the 74 de-registered political parties went to Court to challenge the Commission's decision. Eventually, the Court restrained the Commission from de-registering one of the political parties (African Peoples Party, APP) and ordered the re-listing on another one (Youth Party, YP) as a political party. However, these parties were unable to participate in the 2023 general election due to the application of Section 75 of the Electoral Act 2022. In all, 18 political parties participated part in, and present candidates for the election..

8.3. Continuous Voter Registration

The Commission is empowered by Part 1 Section 15(e) of the third schedule of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) to arrange and conduct the registration of persons qualified to vote and to prepare, maintain and revise the register of voters for the purpose of any election. The Commission is further empowered by Sections 9-23 of the Electoral Act 2022 to conduct the registration of persons qualified to vote, and to prepare, maintain and revise the Register of Voters. The eligibility criteria for voter registration as spelled out in Section 10(2) of the Electoral Act 2022 are that any person seeking to be registered as a voter must: a) be a citizen of Nigeria, b) have attained the age of 18 years, on or before the registration day, c) not subject to any legal incapacity to vote under any law, rules or regulation in force in Nigeria, and d) appear in person and present himself/ herself to the Registration Officers at the registration venue.

When the CVR exercise was suspended in August 2018 to enable the Commission to prepare for the 2019 general election, it was with the intention of resuming it after the election. Towards this end, the Commission reviewed and developed the technological infrastructure required to improve the process by developing the INEC Voter Enrolment Device (IVED) which is designed to eliminate the possibility of voting by identity theft using another person's Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) to vote on Election Day. More importantly, the devise was designed to capture both fingerprint and facial biometric for the purpose of voter authentication thereby eliminating the use of incident form on Election Day. The Commission also conceived and built the INEC on-line registration portal that allows members of the public to access, complete and submit their application for pre-registration, voter transfer, review, information update and PVC replacement.

With the required infrastructure for undertaking the CVR exercise in place, the Commission was about to resume the CVR exercise towards the end of 2019 when the COVID-19 pandemic broke out. At the height of the global health emergency, not only did the Commission had to suspend its electoral activities in line with public safety rules, but it was also compelled to issue a policy on conducting elections in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in May 2020. The major fulcrum of the policy was the determination of the Commission to protect voters, election officials and all stakeholders in the electoral process while at the same time committed to ensuring that all elections are conducted as scheduled within the extant legal framework to forestall a constitutional crisis.

Given the importance of the CVR exercise for the registration of new voters and enabling already registered voters to transfer their vote, review and update their voter registration information or request a replacement for their damaged or lost PVC, the Commission worked assiduously to ensure the commencement of the exercise in the first quarter of 2021. However, due to the public safety challenges and health risks associated with the pandemic, the Commission was only able to commence

the exercise on the 28th of June 2021 with on-line pre-registration, and the physical registration at the State and LGA offices, as well as designated centres nationwide on the 26th of July 2021. During the third quarter of the exercise from the 11th of April to the 30th of June 2022, the exercise was devolved to rotate at Registration Area (RA) level to give better access for eligible voters to register. Although the exercise was scheduled to end on the 30th of June 2022, it was extended by one month to the 31st of July 2022 with an expanded timeframe of 9am to 5pm daily, including weekends to allow more eligible voters to register.

Over a period of 13 months from June 2021 to July 2022, the exercise was conducted over four quarters as shown in Table 8.4 during which prospective first-time voters who turned 18 years old after August 2018 and those who were unable to register in previous CVR exercises were provided the opportunity to do so. It also enabled already registered voters to transfer their voting location from one location to another and those with incorrect details on their PVC to seek remedial action and anyone with damaged, defaced, or faded PVC to request for a replacement.

Table 8.4: Schedule for the Continuous Voter Registration for the 2023 General Election		
Quarter	**Activity**	**Date**
1st Quarter	Registration of Voters	28th June - 21st September 2021
	Display of the Register for Claims and Objections	24th - 30th September 2021
2nd Quarter	Registration of Voters	4th October - 20th December 2021
	Display of the Register for Claims and Objections	24th - 30th December 2021
3rd Quarter	Registration of Voters	3rd January - 22nd March 2022

	Display of the Register for Claims and Objections	26th March - 1st April 2022
4th Quarter	Registration of Voters	11th April - 30th June 2022
	Display of the Register for Claims and Objections	4th - 11th July 2022
Extension	Registration of Voters	30th June - 31st July 2022

At the suspension of the CVR exercise in July 2022, a total of 12,298,944 new voters were registered in the four quarters as shown in Table 8.5 below. Lagos State recorded the highest total number of 585,629 new registrations (4.8%), closely followed by Kano State with 569,103 (4.6%) and Delta State with 523,517 (4.3%). Ekiti, Yobe and FCT recorded the least number of new registrants with 124,844, 152,414 and 211,341 respectively as shown in Table 8.6. These new registrants were then subjected to the de-duplication and clean-up process using a two-way Advanced Biometric Identification System (ABIS).

The first was the use of photos which was followed using fingerprints and facial biometrics to determine double or multiple registrants. After a comparison between any pairs marked as duplicates from both processes, the new registration data of such confirmed double or multiple registrants is removed from the register of voters. At the end of the process, a total of 2,780,756 (22.6%) records were confirmed as double or multiple registrants and invalidated reducing the number of registered voters to 9,518,188. The State-by-State breakdown of registered voters is as shown in Table 8.6.

Table 8.5: Number of Successful Registrations in Each CVR Quarter			
S/N	Quarter	Completed Registration	Percentage
1	First Quarter	1,149,955	9.35
2	Second Quarter	1,236,661	10.06
3	Third Quarter	2,149,628	17.48
4	Fourth Quarter	7,762,700	63.12
	TOTAL	**12,298,944**	**100%**

Table 8.6: Distribution of CVR Data by State and Gender						
S/N	State	Total Registrations	Male	Female	% Male	% Female
1	Abia	196,683	96,088	100,595	48.9%	51.1%
2	Adamawa	222,308	117,712	104,596	52.9%	47.1%
3	Akwa Ibom	236,613	114,702	121,911	48.5%	51.5%
4	Anambra	217,636	100,583	117,053	46.2%	53.8%
5	Bauchi	288,282	155,801	132,481	54.0%	46.0%
6	Bayelsa	137,139	69,561	67,578	50.7%	49.3%

7	Benue	302,027	148,361	153,666	49.1%	50.9%
8	Borno	198,272	98,686	99,586	49.8%	50.2%
9	Cross River	245,331	125,150	120,181	51.0%	49.0%
10	Delta	369,838	171,103	198,735	46.3%	53.7%
11	Ebonyi	161,447	74,540	86,907	46.2%	53.8%
12	Edo	292,292	143,864	148,428	49.2%	50.8%
13	Ekiti	76,347	35,505	40,842	46.5%	53.5%
14	Enugu	182,304	82,952	99,352	45.5%	54.5%
15	Gombe	181,331	101,680	79,651	56.1%	43.9%
16	Imo	172,538	86,922	85,616	50.4%	49.6%
17	Jigawa	240,674	115,277	125,397	47.9%	52.1%
18	Kaduna	412,977	203,934	209,043	49.4%	50.6%
19	Kano	469,818	259,745	210,073	55.3%	44.7%
20	Katsina	289,030	138,551	150,479	47.9%	52.1%
21	Kebbi	226,444	110,971	115,473	49.0%	51.0%
22	Kogi	293,015	131,653	161,362	44.9%	55.1%
23	Kwara	287,393	140,595	146,798	48.9%	51.1%
24	Lagos	504,901	258,961	245,940	51.3%	48.7%
25	Nasarawa	274,879	133,907	140,972	48.7%	51.3%
26	Niger	316,136	160,839	155,297	50.9%	49.1%
27	Ogun	271,745	125,369	146,376	46.1%	53.9%
28	Ondo	178,213	85,456	92,757	48.0%	52.0%
29	Osun	268,230	122,175	146,055	45.5%	54.5%
30	Oyo	340,938	162,214	178,724	47.6%	52.4%
31	Plateau	311,842	147,337	164,505	47.2%	52.8%
32	Rivers	317,717	160,486	157,231	50.5%	49.5%
33	Sokoto	269,757	120,911	148,846	44.8%	55.2%
34	Taraba	248,731	125,888	122,843	50.6%	49.4%
35	Yobe	119,638	73,107	46,531	61.1%	38.9%
36	Zamfara	211,970	86,924	125,046	41.0%	59.0%
37	FCT	183,752	93,763	89,989	51.0%	49.0%
	Total	**9,518,188**	**4,681,273**	**4,836,915**	**49.2%**	**50.8%**

Box 14: Suspension of CVR for the 2023 GE and Deduplication of CVR Data

...at the suspension of the CVR exercise in July 2022, a total of 12,298,944 new voters were registered in the four quarters as shown in Table 8.5 below. Lagos State recorded the highest total number of 585,629 new registrations (4.8%), closely followed by Kano State with 569,103 (4.6%) and Delta State with 523,517 (4.3%). Ekiti, Yobe and FCT recorded the least number of new registrants with 124,844, 152,414 and 211,341 respectively...These new registrants were then subjected to the de-duplication and clean-up process using the two-way Advanced Biometric Identification System (ABIS). The first was the use of photos which was followed using fingerprints and facial biometrics to determine double or multiple registrants. After a comparison between any pairs marked as duplicates from both processes, the new registration data of such confirmed double or multiple registrants is removed from the register of voters. At the end of the process, a total of 2,780,756 (22.6%) records were confirmed as double or multiple registrants and invalidated reducing the number of registered voters to 9,518,188. The State-by-State breakdown of registered voters...

The Commission, in compliance with Section 19 of the Electoral Act 2022, which made it mandatory to display the register of voters not later than 90 days to the General Election for a period of 7 days and to receive complaints for claims and objections for a period of 14 days from the date of the display printed and displayed the register at the 8809 Registration Areas (RAs) nationwide from 19th to 25th of November 2022. Furthermore, citizens were given the opportunity to make their claims and objection on the names on the register from the 12th to the Friday 18th of November 2022 at Registration Area (RA) and from the 19th to the 25th of November 2022 at Commission's LGA offices nationwide. In this period, citizens were able to check their names and details on the register and submit claims and objections on wrong entries, such as correction of names, addresses, occupations, gender etc. This is in addition to being able to report any case of in-eligible voter on the register in a situation where such voter is deceased, under aged and a non-Nigerian. Such report must be backed up with valid evidence. At the end of the exercise, 70,541 claims and objections were made comprising of 17,307 claims for the correction of information and 53,234 objections to names on the register that were deemed to be in-eligible voters whose names were nullified from the register as shown in Table 8.7 below.

	Table 8.7: Summary of the 2022 Nationwide Claims and Objections Exercise	
S/N	Issues	Total Number
1	Claims (correction on voter information)	17,307
2	Objections	
i	Deceased	12,937
ii	Non-Nigerian	656
iii	Underage	20,968
iv	Multiple Registration	18,673
	Total Objections	53,234
	Total Claims and Objection	**70,541**

Thereafter, the Commission released the consolidated and validated figure of 93,469,008 registered voter for 2023 General Election. The State-by-State analyses of registered voters is as shown in Table 8.8.

	Table 8.8: Comparative Analysis of State by State Consolidated and Validated Registered Voters for the 2019 and 2023 General Elections			
S/N	State	No of Registered Voters in 2019	No of Registered Voters in 2023	Percentage Increase
1	Abia	1,932,892	2,120,808	9.72
2	Adamawa	1,973,083	2,196,566	11.33
3	Akwa-Ibom	2,119,727	2,357,418	11.21
4	Anambra	2,447,996	2,656,437	8.51
5	Bauchi	2,462,843	2,749,268	11.63
6	Bayelsa	923,182	1,056,862	14.48
7	Benue	2,480,131	2,777,727	12.00
8	Borno	2,315,956	2,513,281	8.52
9	Cross River	1,527,289	1,766,466	15.66
10	Delta	2,845,274	3,221,697	13.23
11	Ebonyi	1,459,933	1,597,646	9.43
12	Edo	2,210,534	2,501,081	13.14
13	Ekiti	909,967	987,647	8.54
14	Enugu	1,944,016	2,112,793	8.68
15	Gombe	1,394,393	1,575,794	13.01
16	Imo	2,272,293	2,419,922	6.50
17	Jigawa	2,111,106	2,351,298	11.38
18	Kaduna	3,932,492	4,335,208	10.24

19	Kano	5,457,747	5,921,370	8.49
20	Katsina	3,230,230	3,516,719	8.87
21	Kebbi	1,806,231	2,032,041	12.50
22	Kogi	1,646,350	1,932,654	17.39
23	Kwara	1,406,457	1,695,927	20.58
24	Lagos	6,570,291	7,060,195	7.46
25	Nasarawa	1,617,786	1,899,244	17.40
26	Niger	2,390,035	2,698,344	12.90
27	Ogun	2,375,003	2,688,305	13.19
28	Ondo	1,822,346	1,991,344	9.27
29	Osun	1,680,498	1,954,800	16.32
30	Oyo	2,934,107	3,276,675	11.68
31	Plateau	2,480,455	2,789,528	12.46
32	Rivers	3,215,273	3,537,190	10.01
33	Sokoto	1,903,166	2,172,056	14.13
34	Taraba	1,777,105	2,022,374	13.80
35	Yobe	1,365,913	1,485,146	8.73
36	Zamfara	1,717,128	1,926,870	12.21
37	FCT	1,344,856	1,570,307	16.76
	Total	**84,004,084**	**93,469,008**	**11.27**
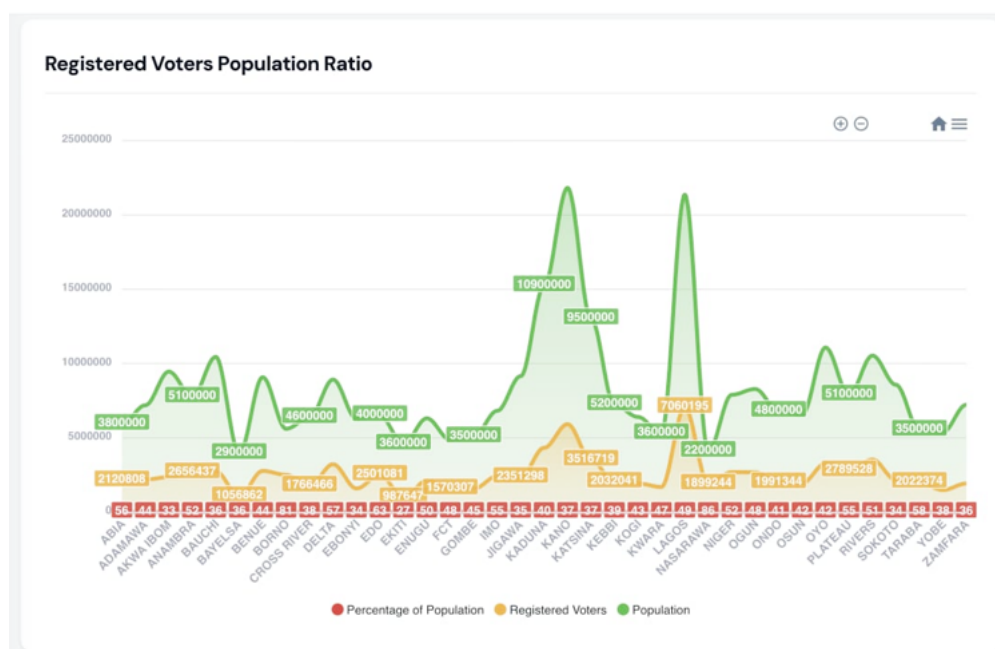
Figure 8.1: Proportion of Registered Voters to 2022 Population Estimates[4] by States

[4]Nigeria's 2022 Population estimates by the National Bureau of Statistics

S/N	State	Male	Female	Total	% Male	% Female
	Table 8.9: Distribution of Consolidated and Validated Registered Voters by State and Gender for the 2023 General Election					
1	Abia	1,063,424	1,057,384	2,120,808	50.14	49.86
2	Adamawa	1,193,883	1,002,683	2,196,566	54.35	45.65
3	Akwa Ibom	1,223,875	1,133,543	2,357,418	51.92	48.08
4	Anambra	1,311,803	1,344,634	2,656,437	49.38	50.62
5	Bauchi	1,567,508	1,181,760	2,749,268	57.02	42.98
6	Bayelsa	566,095	490,767	1,056,862	53.56	46.44
7	Benue	1,451,626	1,326,101	2,777,727	52.26	47.74
8	Borno	1,442,711	1,070,570	2,513,281	57.40	42.60
9	Cross River	894,623	871,843	1,766,466	50.64	49.36
10	Delta	1,637,122	1,584,575	3,221,697	50.82	49.18
11	Ebonyi	722,805	874,841	1,597,646	45.24	54.76
12	Edo	1,303,228	1,197,853	2,501,081	52.11	47.89
13	Ekiti	485,396	502,251	987,647	49.15	50.85
14	Enugu	973,043	1,139,750	2,112,793	46.05	53.95
15	Gombe	905,986	669,808	1,575,794	57.49	42.51
16	Imo	1,199,263	1,220,659	2,419,922	49.56	50.44
17	Jigawa	1,209,490	1,141,808	2,351,298	51.44	48.56
18	Kaduna	2,334,305	2,000,903	4,335,208	53.85	46.15
19	Kano	3,292,291	2,629,079	5,921,370	55.60	44.40
20	Katsina	1,787,364	1,729,355	3,516,719	50.82	49.18
21	Kebbi	1,096,449	935,592	2,032,041	53.96	46.04
22	Kogi	953,941	978,713	1,932,654	49.36	50.64
23	Kwara	875,755	820,172	1,695,927	51.64	48.36
24	Lagos	3,803,396	3,256,799	7,060,195	53.87	46.13
25	Nasarawa	983,286	915,958	1,899,244	51.77	48.23
26	Niger	1,546,159	1,152,185	2,698,344	57.30	42.70
27	Ogun	1,322,508	1,365,797	2,688,305	49.19	50.81
28	Ondo	1,006,097	985,247	1,991,344	50.52	49.48
29	Osun	923,438	1,031,362	1,954,800	47.24	52.76
30	Oyo	1,619,863	1,656,812	3,276,675	49.44	50.56
31	Plateau	1,403,066	1,386,462	2,789,528	50.30	49.70
32	Rivers	1,885,293	1,651,897	3,537,190	53.30	46.70
33	Sokoto	1,216,817	955,239	2,172,056	56.02	43.98
34	Taraba	1,093,949	928,425	2,022,374	54.09	45.91

35	Yobe	886,423	598,723	1,485,146	59.69	40.31
36	Zamfara	1,014,919	911,951	1,926,870	52.67	47.33
37	FCT	856,962	713,345	1,570,307	54.57	45.43
	Total	**49,054,162**	**44,414,846**	**93,469,008**	**52.48**	**47.52**

The disaggregated data of registered voters by occupation, age and disability statuses are as shown in Tables 8.10, 8.11 and 8.12 below.

Table 8.10: Distribution of Registered Voters by Occupation for the 2023 General Election		
S/N	**Occupation**	**Registered Voters**	**% Reg Voters**
1	Artisan	4,967,464	5.31
2	Business	12,457,997	13.33
3	Civil Servant	5,283,549	5.65
4	Farming/Fishing	14,742,554	15.77
5	Housewife	13,006,939	13.92
6	Public Servant	2,376,223	2.54
7	Student	26,027,481	27.85
8	Trading	7,998,658	8.56
9	Other	6,608,143	7.07
	Total	93,469,008	100.00

Table 8.11: Distribution of Registered Voters by Age for the 2023 General Election		
S/N	**Age Group**	**Registered Voters**	**% Reg Voters**
1	Youth (18-34)	37,060,399	39.65
2	Middle Aged (35-50)	33,413,591	35.75
3	Elderly (51-69)	17,700,270	18.94
4	Old (70 and above)	5,294,748	5.66
	Total	**93,469,008**	**100.00**

Table 8.12: Distribution of Registered PwDs Voters by Type of Disability for the 2023 General Election		
S/N	**Disability Type**	**Registered Voters**	**Percentage**
1	Albinism	21,150	24.78
2	Autism	3,481	4.08
3	Blindness	8,103	9.49

4	Cognitive or Learning Disabilities	1,719	2.01
5	Deafness	6,159	7.22
6	Physical Impediment	13,387	15.68
7	Downs Syndrome	660	0.77
8	Little Stature	2,288	2.68
9	Spinal Cord Injury	779	0.91
10	Others	27,636	32.38
	Total	**85,362**	**100%**

The consolidated and validated National Register of Voters for the 2023 General Election was thereafter published and presented to the public on the 11th of January 2023 at the Commission's Headquarters in Abuja. A soft copy of the register in PDF format was also issued to each of the 18 registered political parties as required by Section 10(3) of the Electoral Act 2022. Thereafter, the three sets of register required for the 2023 General Election in each state and the FCT, comprising one set in colour and two sets in black and white were printed, sorted, and packaged in the INEC State and FCT offices and certified for completeness by the Electoral Officers. The colour set is used to check the names of voters in the election, while a set of black and white is displayed at each of the 176,846 polling units nationwide to enable the voters check and confirm names before approaching the election officer on Election Day, and the other set kept as a backup in case of emergency.

8.4 Production, Delivery and Collection of Permanent Voters' Cards (PVCs)

Section 16(1) of the Electoral Act 2022 empowers the Commission to design, print and control the issuance of Permanent Voters' Card (PVC) to eligible voters whose names appear in the register. Section 41(1) of the Act requires that to vote, the person intending to vote shall present him/herself with his/her voters' card to a Presiding Officer for the purpose of accreditation at the polling unit where his/her name is registered. In essence, the PVC is a prerequisite for voting, and it is issued following a Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise and after a de-duplication process through the Automated Fingerprints Identification System (ABIS), to establish the validity of the registrant.

At the conclusion of the CVR exercise in each quarter, the Commission undertakes the production of the PVC for each

registered voter and these PVCs alongside the previously uncollected ones before the 2019 General Election were made available for collection from July 2021 to July 2022. Prior to this period, the Commission undertook a comprehensive audit of all uncollected PVCs from 2019 to update its record. Furthermore, the Commission developed a guideline which contained a harmonized procedure for the production, delivery, and collection of PVCs to ensure efficiency, transparency and good record keeping.

In the run up to the 2023 general election, the Commission intensified its efforts to enable registrants to pick up their PVCs by devolving the collection to the RA level from 6th January to 5th February 2023. The collection process is illustrated below.
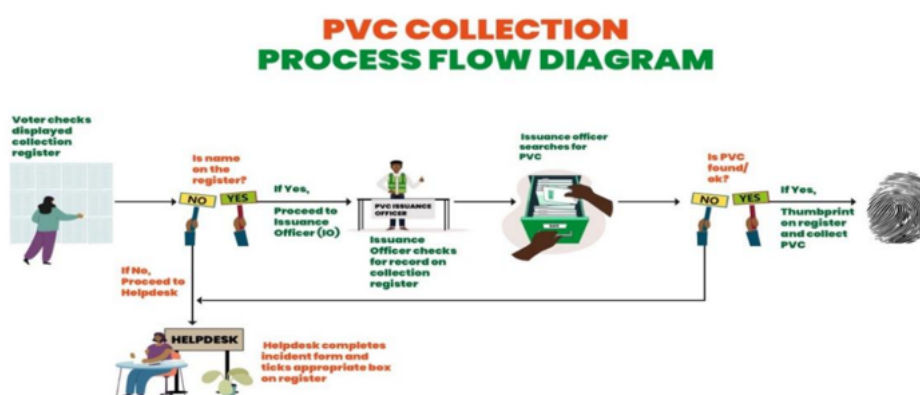
Figure 8.2: Process Flow Diagram for PVC Collection

At the end of the exercise, a cumulative total of 87, 394,106 out of the 93, 469,008 total registered voters were collected their PVCs nationwide. The State-by-State breakdown of the PVC collection is as shown in Table 8.13.

S/N	State	Registered Voters	No. of Collected PVCS	Percentage of PVCS Collected
			Table 8.13: Distribution of PVCs Collected by State for the 2023 General Election	
1	Abia	2,120,808	1,949,197	92%
2	Adamawa	2,196,566	1,970,650	90%
3	Akwa Ibom	2,357,418	2,198,628	93%
4	Anambra	2,656,437	2,624,764	99%
5	Bauchi	2,749,268	2,721,780	99%
6	Bayelsa	1,056,862	1,009,895	96%
7	Benue	2,777,727	2,607,141	94%
8	Borno	2,513,281	2,447,209	97%
9	Cross River	1,766,466	1,672,810	95%

10	Delta	3,221,697	2,989,514	93%
11	Ebonyi	1,597,646	1,551,795	97%
12	Edo	2,501,081	2,128,288	85%
13	Ekiti	987,647	958,052	97%
14	Enugu	2,112,793	1,995,389	94%
15	Gombe	1,575,794	1,534,954	97%
16	Imo	2,419,922	2,280,339	94%
17	Jigawa	2,351,298	2,298,365	98%
18	Kaduna	4,335,208	4,164,473	96%
19	Kano	5,921,370	5,594,193	94%
20	Katsina	3,516,719	3,459,945	98%
21	Kebbi	2,032,041	1,980,171	97%
22	Kogi	1,932,654	1,813,741	94%
23	Kwara	1,695,927	1,537,275	91%
24	Lagos	7,060,195	6,214,970	88%
25	Nasarawa	1,899,244	1,847,752	97%
26	Niger	2,698,344	2,633,728	98%
27	Ogun	2,688,305	2,278,063	85%
28	Ondo	1,991,344	1,729,641	87%
29	Osun	1,954,800	1,594,066	82%
30	Oyo	3,276,675	2,761,421	84%
31	Plateau	2,789,528	2,687,533	96%
32	Rivers	3,537,190	3,285,785	93%
33	Sokoto	2,172,056	2,097,798	97%
34	Taraba	2,022,374	1,825,325	99%
35	Yobe	1,485,146	1,437,851	97%
36	Zamfara	1,926,870	1,850,055	96%
37	FCT	1,570,307	1,476,451	94%
	Total	**93,469,008**	**87,209,007**	**93%**

8.5. Party Primaries and the Submission of the List of Candidates

As stipulated under the provisions of Sections 75 of the Electoral Act 2022, each of the 18 registered political parties in Nigeria as of 23rd February 2022 fielded candidates for the 2023 General Election. To field candidates for the various elective positions, the political parties are required to adhere to the timetable and schedule of activities for the election, which required political parties to hold their primaries for the nomination of candidates between the 4th of April and the 3rd of June 2022. However, based on a passionate appeal by all the political parties in a meeting with the Commission on the 3rd of June 2022, the terminal date for the primaries was extended by one week to the 9th of June 2022. Accordingly, the 18 political parties notified the Commission of the date and venue of their primaries as specified under Section 82(1) of the Electoral Act 2022 that requires political parties to give the Commission a notice of 21 days prior to such activity. Consequently, the Commission observed 2,011 party primaries for the nomination of candidates for the 2023 General Election, as shown in Table 8.14.

Table 8.14: Distribution of Political Party Primaries Monitored for the Nomination of Candidates for the 2023 General Election						
S/N	State	Presidential	Governorship	Senatorial	House of Reps	State Assembly
1	Abia	18	17	16	16	17
2	Adamawa		13	09	09	12
3	Akwa-Ibom		17	12	15	17
4	Anambra		Off-Cycle	06	08	09
5	Bauchi		10	09	11	11
6	Bayelsa		Off-Cycle	14	17	18
7	Benue		17	12	14	15
8	Borno		13	14	14	15
9	Cross River		12	12	10	09
10	Delta		18	12	13	15
11	Ebonyi		15	13	15	16
12	Edo		Off-Cycle	14	13	17
13	Ekiti		Off-Cycle	09	07	10
14	Enugu		16	11	14	16
15	FCT		No Gov. Election	13	15	-
16	Gombe		17	16	17	18
17	Imo		Off-Cycle	17	17	17

18	Jigawa		13	12	13	14
19	Kaduna		17	16	18	17
20	Kano		17	16	17	17
21	Katsina		13	11	12	14
22	Kebbi		10	10	10	12
23	Kogi		Off-Cycle	17	18	18
24	Kwara		15	15	15	16
25	Lagos	*18*	16	16	16	18
26	Nasarawa		17	16	16	17
27	Niger		12	14	14	15
28	Ogun		14	14	15	16
29	Ondo		Off-Cycle	10	13	15
30	Osun		Off-Cycle	16	17	17
31	Oyo		18	15	17	17
32	Plateau		18	13	14	14
33	Rivers		15	14	13	14
34	Sokoto		18	17	18	18
35	Taraba		18	18	18	18
36	Yobe		07	10	10	13
37	Zamfara		17	17	17	18
	Total		*421*	*496*	*526*	*550*

At the end of the primaries, the 18 political parties nominated candidates for the presidential election as indicated in Table 8.15 below as well as for the Governorship, National and State Assembly elections.

Table 8.15: Nominees of Political Parties from the Primaries for the 2023 Presidential Election					
S/N	Name	Acronym	Mode of Primary	Nominated Candidate	Gender
1	Accord	A	Direct	Imumolen Irene Christopher	M
2	Action Alliance	AA	Indirect	Almustapha Hamza	M
3	African Action Congress	AAC	Direct	Sowore Omoyele Stephen	M
4	African Democratic Congress	ADC	Indirect	Kachikwu Dumebi	M
5	Action Democratic Party	ADP	Direct	Sani Yabagi Yusuf	M

6	All Progressives Congress	APC	Indirect	Tinubu Bola Ahmed	M
7	All Progressives Grand Alliance	APGA	Direct	Umeadi Peter Nnanna Chukwudi	M
8	Allied Peoples' Movement	APM	Direct	Ojei Princess Chichi	M
9	Action Peoples Party	APP	Direct	Nnadi Charles Osita	M
10	Boot Party	BP	Direct	Adenuga Sunday Oluwafemi	M
11	Labour Party	LP	Direct	Obi Peter Gregory	M
12	New Nigeria Peoples Party	NNPP	Direct	Musa Mohammed Rabiu Kwankwaso	M
13	National Rescue Movement	NRM	Indirect	Osakwe Felix Johnson	M
14	Peoples Democratic Party	PDP	Indirect	Abubakar Atiku	M
16	Peoples Redemption Party	PRP	Indirect	Abiola Latifu Kolawole	M
16	Social Democratic Party	SDP	Indirect	Adebayo Adewole Ebenezer	M
17	Young Progressive Party	YPP	Indirect	Ado-Ibrahim Abdulmalik	M
18	Zenith Labour Party	ZLP	Direct	Nwanyanwu Daniel Daberechukwu	M

8.6.   Party Campaigns

Section 94(1) of the Electoral Act 2022 provided for the commencement of campaign in public by political parties and candidates to commence 150 days before polling day and end 24 hours to Election Day. Based on this provision and as stipulated by the timetable and schedule of activities for the 2023 General Election, public campaign by political parties for presidential and National Assembly elections commenced on the 28th of September 2022 and ended on the 23rd of February 2023, while that of Governorship and State Houses of Assembly commenced on the 12th of October 2022 but was extended beyond the 11th of March to the 23rd of March 2023 due to the postponement of the elections by two weeks.

As required by law, the Commission deployed observers to monitor the campaigns with specific reference to compliance to Section 226 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), Section 88 of the Electoral Act

2022 and the Commission's regulations and guidelines for Political Parties, 2022. These provisions empower the Commission to audit the accounts of political parties, monitor campaign financing and reporting compliance or otherwise by political parties and candidates and ensure that campaigns complied with all laws, regulations and codes governing the conduct of campaigns and campaign expenditure. It is for this purpose that the Commission requires the political parties to notify it of the schedules of their campaigns, stating the time, venue, date, agenda, and members of the Organising Committee not later than seven days to such activity.

The campaigns for the 2023 General Election were dominated at the national level by three political parties, the All Progressive Congress (APC), the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the Labour Party, while the campaign of the New Nigeria Peoples Party was mostly visible in Kano State. The campaigns were characterized by nationwide public rallies, widespread media advertising, mounting of billboards and posters in strategic locations and the unprecedented use of social media platforms by supporters of contending political parties and candidates to propagate fake news and hate speech. A new noticeable feature in the campaign for the election was the up-tick in the use of religion and ethnicity as well as the pervasive use of the social media platforms to promote calumny and character assassination against the leading candidates. At a point during the campaign the INEC Chairman also had to

admonish political parties and candidates to focus their campaign on party manifestos rather than on candidate personalities and called the attention of stakeholders to the unwholesome actions of some state governments against opposition political parties by restricting their access to public spaces and venues.

By and large, the campaign environment was highly competitive with each of the leading candidates for the various elective positions traversing their electoral constituencies at national, state and LGA levels. Although the scope and reach of the candidates were impacted by the prevailing security challenges and fuel scarcity in some areas of the country, as well as the cash crunch occasioned by the currency swap, they were able to carry out their campaigns with relative freedom of movement and expression. While there were reported cases of intimidation, violent clashes, disruptions, obstructions, and targeted attacks between the supporters of contending political parties, no major breach of the peace or breakdown of public order was reported throughout the campaign period.

8.7. Recruitment and Training of Ad-Hoc Electoral Staff

The Commission deployed the INEC Portal for Recruitment of Election Staff (INECPRES) for receiving, identifying and recruitment of applicants for the various

ad-hoc staff positions required for the 2023 General Election based on approved eligibility criteria as shown in Table 8.16 below The exercise is with exception to the recruitment and deployment of all collation officers which is strictly and exclusively handled by the Office of the INEC Chairman. The INECPRES which serves as a data bank of experienced ad-hoc staff portal is also designed to capture the biodata, workplace, educational qualifications, and other relevant information of new applicants. For the 2023 General Election, the portal was operational from the 14th of September to the 14th of December 2022 to recruit Supervisory Presiding Officers, Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers, RAC Managers and RATECHs for the election. Before the end of the application time frame and at periodic intervals, the data set of applicants indicating the applicant's institution and grouped by LGA and State are categorized according to specific ad-hoc position.

S/N	Category	Source	Qualification
Table 8.16: Eligibility Criteria for the Recruitment of Ad-Hoc Staff for the 2023 General Election			
1	SPOs	Employees from Federal Public/Civil Service	Staff on GL 10 - 14
2	SPOs	INEC Staff not Engaged in Specific Election Duties.	RAOs & Other Staff not Engaged in any Other Duties.
3	POs, APOs	Serving NYSC Members	Serving NYSC Members
4	POs, APOs	Students of Federal Tertiary Institutions	Students in their Penultimate Year
5	POs, APOs	Employees from Federal Public/Civil Service	Staff with Minimum of OND on GL 07 – 10
6	POs, APOs	Former NYSC Members from 2017	Discharged not Later than 2017
7	RAC Managers	The School/Institution Hosting the RAC	Staff on GL 07 and Above
8	RATECHs	INEC Staff not Engaged in Specific Election Duties/Serving and Former NYSC Members/ Students of Federal Tertiary Institutions with IT Knowledge	Suitable Staff Not Engaged in any Other Duties
9	Collation and Returning Officers	Federal Tertiary Institutions	Academic Staff

At the end of the application time frame, based on the ad-hoc requirements for the election as shown in Table 8.17 the comprehensive data of applicants for the post of SPOs, POs, APOs and RAC Manager was compiled, screened, and verified at the various State and FCT Offices.

This involves scanning of the applicant's acknowledgement slip using QR Bar-code Scanner to ensure his/her eligibility and credibility. Thereafter, successfully verified applicants were invited to attend required training sessions and deployed to area of duty on Election Day.

S/N	State	Delimitation Details					Personnel Requirement				Total PU Officials Required
		LGA	RA	RA with PU > 25	Total PUs		APOs (I,II,III)	5% Markup	Total APOs	SPO	
1	Abia	17	184	51	4,062		12,186	609	12,795	406	25,997
2	Adamawa	21	226	40	4,104		12,312	616	12,928	410	26,266
3	Akwa Ibom	31	329	21	4,353		13,059	653	13,712	435	27,859
4	Anambra	21	326	47	5,720		17,160	858	18,018	572	36,608
5	Bauchi	20	212	71	5,423		16,269	813	17,082	542	34,707
6	Bayelsa	8	105	24	2,244		6,732	337	7,069	224	14,362
7	Benue	23	276	47	5,102		15,306	765	16,071	510	32,653
8	Borno	27	312	42	5,071		15,213	761	15,974	507	32,454
9	C/River	18	193	26	3,281		9,843	492	10,335	328	20,998
10	Delta	25	270	74	5,863		17,589	879	18,468	586	37,523
11	Ebonyi	13	171	19	2,946		8,838	442	9,280	295	18,854
12	Edo	18	192	54	4,519		13,557	678	14,235	452	28,922
13	Ekiti	16	177	9	2,445		7,335	367	7,702	245	15,648
14	Enugu	17	260	36	4,145		12,435	622	13,057	415	26,528
15	Gombe	11	114	47	2,988		8,964	448	9,412	299	19,123
16	Imo	27	305	24	4,758		14,274	714	14,988	476	30,451
17	Jigawa	27	287	29	4,522		13,566	678	14,244	452	28,941
18	Kaduna	23	255	131	8,012		24,036	1,202	25,238	801	51,277
19	Kano	44	484	123	11,222		33,666	1,683	35,349	1,122	71,821
20	Katsina	34	361	62	6,652		19,956	998	20,954	665	42,573
21	Kebbi	21	225	28	3,743		11,229	561	11,790	374	23,955
22	Kogi	21	239	23	3,508		10,524	526	11,050	351	22,451
23	Kwara	16	193	21	2,887		8,661	433	9,094	289	18,477
24	Lagos	20	245	182	13,325		39,975	1,999	41,974	1,333	85,280
25	Nasarawa	13	147	36	3,256		9,768	488	10,256	326	20,838
26	Niger	25	274	50	4,950		14,850	743	15,593	495	31,680
27	Ogun	20	236	65	5,042		15,126	756	15,882	504	32,269
28	Ondo	18	203	34	3,933		11,799	590	12,389	393	25,171
29	Osun	30	332	9	3,763		11,289	564	11,853	376	24,083
30	Oyo	33	351	59	6,390		19,170	959	20,129	639	40,896
31	Plateau	17	207	63	4,989		14,967	748	15,715	499	31,930
32	Rivers	23	319	68	6,866		20,598	1,030	21,628	687	43,942
33	Sokoto	23	244	28	3,991		11,973	599	12,572	399	25,542
34	Taraba	16	168	52	3,597		10,791	540	11,331	360	23,021
35	Yobe	17	178	22	2,823		8,469	423	8,892	282	18,067
36	Zamfara	14	147	43	3,529		10,587	529	11,116	353	22,586
37	FCT	6	62	33	2,822		8,466	423	8,889	282	18,061
	Total	774	8809	1793	176,846		530,538	26,527	557,065	17,685	1,131,814

Table 8.17: Ad-Hoc Staff Requirements for the 2023 General Election

8.8. Procurement Process

The procurement processes for the 2023 General Election commenced early with the submission of requirements for the election by various departments and directorates of the Commission based on the provisions in the 2023 General Election Project Plan (EPP). These submissions were processed and consolidated by the Procurement Department for the consideration and approval of the Commission in accordance with the Public Procurement Act (PPA) 2007 and other relevant regulations governing public procurement.

Following the Commission's approval, the Procurement Department developed a comprehensive procurement plan and time-line to guide the timely and coordinated procurement of goods, works and services required for the successful conduct of the election. In developing the plan, cognisance was given to the negative impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on the global supply chain and other logistical challenges associated with procuring certain materials within the required time frame. This was particularly the case with the procurement of critical materials such as the Bimodal Voter Accreditation Systems (BVAS) which is not an off-the-shelf item, but specifically produced for the Commission in China where most companies were operating at around 45% of their production capacity and resulting in extended delivery time due to the country's enforcement of a zero-tolerance protocol to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

Based on these considerations, the Commission approved the procurement plan with the following key action points:

a. The procurement of all materials for the 2023 General Election in phases.

b. Stipulation of concrete and realistic time-lines for the delivery of priority projects.

c. Stipulation of concrete and realistic timelines for production and delivery of all sensitive election materials.

d. Verification and engagement of local printing companies certified by the Central Bank of Nigeria for the printing of security documents and for the printing of all sensitive election materials.

As prescribed in in the Public Procurement Act (PPA) 2007 and other relevant regulations governing public procurement, the Commission designated certain election materials as sensitive based on nature of the material and the security requirements for their production, transportation, and usage. Such designated materials and services such as the BVAS and printing of ballot papers and result sheets were procured through direct and restricted methods in line with Sections 40 and 42 of the Public Procurement Act 2007 based on the approved plan and time-line as shown in Table 8.18 and 8.19.

S/N	Task	Start Date	Due Date	Duration
	Table 8.18: Plan and Time-lines for the Procurement of BVAS			
A	Pre-Award Stage	31-Jan	27-Feb	32 Days
A1	Approval to Commence Due Process	31-Jan	04-Feb	5 Days
A2	Invitation to submit Technical & Financial Bids	05-Feb	11-Feb	7 Days
A3	Evaluation of Bids	12-Feb	13-Feb	2 Days
A4	Production of Evaluation Report	14-Feb	15-Feb	2 Days
A5	Presentation of Evaluation Report by Tenders Board to the Commission for Approval	17-Feb	17-Feb	1 Day
A6	Request to Mr President for Approval to Procure	18-Feb	22-Feb	5 Days
A7	Production/Release of Letters of Award and Preliminary Designs to Contractors	23-Feb	27-Feb	5 Days
B	Post-Award Phase	29-Jan	31-Oct	245 Days
B1	Production and Delivery of Accreditation Devices	28-Feb	31-Oct	245 Days
B2	Contract Administration/ Performance Monitoring (Clause 87.1, Procurement Procedure Manual)	28-Feb	31-Oct	245 Days

S/N	Task	Start Date	End Date	Duration
**Table 8.19: Procurement Plan and Time-lines for the Procurement of Sensitive Materials for the 2023 General Election**
A	Pre-Award Stage	24-Jan-22	01-May-22	95 days
A1	Request for Submission of Applications for Printing of Sensitive Materials	24-Jan-22	13-Feb-22	21 days
A2	Assessment and short-listing of Printing Companies through Selective Tendering Method	14-Feb-22	20-Feb-22	7 days
A3	Inspection of the Facilities of Short-listed Locally Based Printers	21-Feb-22	06-Mar-22	14 days
A4	Inspection of the Facilities of Foreign Based Technical Partners of Nigeria Companies	07-Mar-22	27-Mar-22	21 days
A5	Development and Analysis of the Assessment Reports on the Companies	28-Mar-22	01-Apr-22	5 days
A6	Request for Quotation (RFQ) from Qualified Companies	02-Apr-22	08-Apr-22	7 days
A7	Evaluation of Financial Bids	09-Apr-22	13-Apr-22	5 days
A8	Production of Evaluation Report	14-Apr-22	15-Apr-22	2 days
A9	Presentation of Evaluation Report by Tenders Board to the Commission for Approval	19-Apr-22	19-Apr-22	1 day
A10	Request to Mr President for Approval to Procure Sensitive Materials	20-Apr-22	26-Apr-22	7 days
A11	Production/Release of Letters of Award and Preliminary Designs to Contractors	27-Apr-22	01-May-22	5 days
B	Post-Award Stage (Contract Administration/ Management)	19-May-22	23-Aug-22	95 days
B1	Pre-Press Preparation and Submission by Contractors/ Approval of Proofs by the Commission	19-May-22	23-May-22	5 days
B2	Printing and Delivery of Sensitive Materials to State Branches of CBN	26-May-22	23-Aug-22	90 days
B3	Contract Administration/ Performance Monitoring (Clause 87.1, Procurement Procedure Manual)	26-May-22	23-Aug-22	90 days
C	Delivery of Materials to LGAs	16-Feb-23	03-Mar-23	16 days
C1	Delivery of Materials for Presidential and National Assembly Elections	16-Feb-23	17-Feb-23	2 days
C2	Delivery of Materials for Governorship and State Assembly Elections	02-Mar-23	03-Mar-23	2 days

For the procurement of non-sensitive election materials, and other services and works, the Commission adopted an open competitive bidding (OCB) in compliance with Sections 24–38 of PPA 2007. These included the acquisition of computer systems, stationeries, flyers, jackets, computers, rechargeable lamps, medical equipment, Drugs, etc. that are required for the election. The materials were procured based on the approved plan and time-line as shown in Table 8.20 below.

S/N	Task Name	Start Date	End Date	Duration
Table 8.20: Procurement Time-lines for Priority Projects with October (2022) Delivery Date for the 2023 General Election			
A	Pre-Award Stage	24-Jan	25-Mar	64 days
A1	Advertisement for Pre-Qualification and Expression of Interest	24-Jan	22-Feb	30 days
A2	Approval to Commence Due Process	31-Jan	04-Feb	5 days
A3	Assessment and short-listing of Companies through Selective Tendering Method	23-Feb	27-Feb	5 days
A4	Invitation to Submit Financial Bid	28-Feb	04-Mar	5 days
A5	Evaluation of Financial Bids	05-Mar	09-Mar	5 days
A6	Production of Evaluation Report	10-Mar	11-Mar	2 days
A7	Presentation of Evaluation Report by Tenders Board to the Commission for Approval	15-Mar	15-Mar	1 day
A8	Request to Mr President for Approval to Procure	16-Mar	20-Mar	5 days
A9	Production/Release of Letters of Award to Contractors	21-Mar	25-Mar	5 days
B	Post- Award Stage	25-Mar	21-Oct	210 days
B1	Contract Execution	25-Mar	21-Oct	210 days
B2	Contract Administration/ Performance Monitoring	25-Mar	21-Oct	210 days

The Commission's ability to award contracts for the execution of works and services and to procure, take delivery and distribute sensitive and non-sensitive election materials in an orderly and timely manner for the 2023 General Election can be attributed to three major factors. First is the timely consideration and approval of the EPP Budget by the Commission. Second is the commencement of early release of funds on monthly basis to the Commission one year ahead of the election from February 2022. Although the release of funds was not as envisaged in Article 3(2) Electoral Act 2022, it was an improvement on what happened in 2019 General Election when funds were released late. Lastly, the application of Article 29(1) of the Electoral Act 2022 mandating political parties to submit their list of candidates to the Commission 180 days to Election Day facilitated the early production and distribution of sensitive election materials.

8.9.   Logistics and Delivery of Election Materials

The logistics of deploying and retrieving election personnel and materials is central to the conduct of any election. The management of the resources and facilities for election logistics is a highly complex operation which poses a challenge to the Commission in every General Election. For example, it resulted in the rescheduling of the 2011 General Election midway on Election Day and the rescheduling of the 2019 General Election on the eve of the Presidential and National Assembly

elections. The challenge is mostly attributable to the number of personnel and volume of materials, as well as the delays and variations in the delivery dates from suppliers and the available means of transportation. The process is also impacted by various factors including access to difficult terrain, weather condition, the time, and distances over which these personnel and materials must be transported within the context of available infrastructural facilities. In any attempt at resolving the challenge, the Commission had to ensure public trust and confidence in the safety and security of these personnel and materials along the entire deployment chain to preclude any suspicion about the conduct, integrity, and credibility of the election.

In the run up to the 2023 general election, the Commission with the support of ACTIONAID Nigeria organised an expert meeting on election logistics in Lagos from 4th to 5th October 2022. The meeting, attended by experts and stakeholders in logistics planning and delivery sector was designed to develop an organisational roadmap for an efficient transportation and delivery system of personnel and materials for the 2023 General Election. It reviewed the common issues and challenges in election logistics delivery system and assessed the efficiency and effectiveness of the system by examining the operating transportation template and matrix. Arising from the meeting were innovative ideas and concrete recommendations towards enhancing the election logistics framework through the development of time-bound practical solutions to guide the election's logistics planning activities based on a comprehensive roadmap to facilitate the

mobilisation of resources and equipment to support the efficient and seamless delivery and retrieval of personnel and materials on schedule for the 2023 General Election.

Based on this plan, the Commission commenced the delivery of non-sensitive materials to State offices two months before the election using the approved check-list which classified the materials in three categories namely, i) stationeries; ii) election equipment; and iii) printed forms, posters, and envelopes. While most of these materials were sourced locally based on approved samples, some were imported and received at designated international airports in the country in compliance established standards. Accordingly, all non-sensitive election materials were distributed from the Central Store in Abuja to the six zonal stores in Osogbo (South West), Owerri (South East), Port Harcourt South

South), Minna (North Central), Gombe (North East) and Sokoto (North West) and two newly created sub-zonal in Lagos and Kano, from where they were distributed to the State and LGA offices and then to the Registration Areas and polling units for use on Election Day. Regarding sensitive materials, the Commission adopted a two staged approach by delivering the materials either to the custody of the Central Bank of Nigeria or its own secure facilities in the State and FCT offices for safekeeping until a few days to Election Day from where they are moved to the LGA Offices, Registration Area Camps on the eve of election and ultimately to the Polling Units on Election Day. In doing this, the Commission enforces a rigorously system of safekeeping and accountability and maintain strict controls through an audit trail and documentation of delivery records.

INEC Chairman with National Commissioners, Mr. Kenneth Ukeagu (right) and Barrister Festus Okoye (left) inspecting Sensitive Election Materials as they arrived at the Murtala Mohammed Airport, Lagos on 30th November 2022.

S/N	States	LGA	No. of RA's	No. of Pus	Provision. of Vehicles for Poll Officials	Provision. of Vehicles for Reverse Logistics	Hiring of Vehicles for RA Supervisors	Hiring of Vehicles for RA Collation Officers	Provision of Vehicles for Movement from State HQ to LGA	Hiring of Vehicles for LGA Supervisor	Hiring of Vehicles for LGA Collation Officer	Total Vehicles
	Table 8.21: Transportation Matrix for Election Officials for the 2023 General Election											
1	Abia	17	184	4,062	1,439	184	184	184	17	17	17	2,042
2	Adamawa	21	226	4,104	1,454	226	226	226	21	21	21	2,195
3	Akwa Ibom	31	329	4,353	1,542	329	329	329	31	31	31	2,622
4	Anambra	21	326	5,720	2,026	326	326	326	21	21	21	3,067
5	Bauchi	20	212	5,423	1,921	212	212	212	20	20	20	2,617
6	Bayelsa	8	105	2,244	795	105	105	105	8	8	8	1,134
7	Benue	23	276	5,102	1,807	276	276	276	23	23	23	2,704
8	Borno	27	312	5,071	1,796	312	312	312	27	27	27	2,813
9	C/River	18	193	3,281	1,162	193	193	193	18	18	18	1,795
10	Delta	25	270	5,863	2,076	270	270	270	25	25	25	2,961
11	Ebonyi	13	171	2,946	1,043	171	171	171	13	13	13	1,595
12	Edo	18	192	4,519	1,600	192	192	192	18	18	18	2,230
13	Ekiti	16	177	2,445	866	177	177	177	16	16	16	1,445
14	Enugu	17	260	4,145	1,468	260	260	260	17	17	17	2,299
15	Gombe	11	114	2,988	1,058	114	114	114	11	11	11	1,433
16	Imo	27	305	4,758	1,685	305	305	305	27	27	27	2,681

17	Jigawa	27	287	4,522	1,602	287	287	287	27	27	27	2,544
18	Kaduna	23	255	8,012	2,838	255	255	255	23	23	23	3,672
19	Kano	44	484	11,222	3,974	484	484	484	44	44	44	5,558
20	Katsina	34	361	6,652	2,356	361	361	361	34	34	34	3,541
21	Kebbi	21	225	3,743	1,326	225	225	225	21	21	21	2,064
22	Kogi	21	239	3,508	1,242	239	239	239	21	21	21	2,022
23	Kwara	16	193	2,887	1,022	193	193	193	16	16	16	1,649
24	Lagos	20	245	13,325	4,719	245	245	245	20	20	20	5,514
25	Nasarawa	13	147	3,256	1,153	147	147	147	13	13	13	1,633
26	Niger	25	274	4,950	1,753	274	274	274	25	25	25	2,650
27	Ogun	20	236	5,042	1,786	236	236	236	20	20	20	2,554
28	Ondo	18	203	3,933	1,393	203	203	203	18	18	18	2,056
29	Osun	30	332	3,763	1,333	332	332	332	30	30	30	2,419
30	Oyo	33	351	6,390	2,263	351	351	351	33	33	33	3,415
31	Plateau	17	207	4,989	1,767	207	207	207	17	17	17	2,439
32	Rivers	23	319	6,866	2,432	319	319	319	23	23	23	3,458
33	Sokoto	23	244	3,991	1,413	244	244	244	23	23	23	2,214
34	Taraba	16	168	3,597	1,274	168	168	168	16	16	16	1,826
35	Yobe	17	178	2,823	1,000	178	178	178	17	17	17	1,585
36	Zamfara	14	147	3,529	1,250	147	147	147	14	14	14	1,733
37	FCT-Abuja	6	62	2,822	999	62	62	62	6	6	6	1,203
	Total	**774**	**8,809**	**176,846**	**62,633**	**8,809**	**8,809**	**8,809**	**774**	**774**	**774**	**91,382**

8.10 Accreditation of Election Observers, Media, and Polling Agents

The Commission undertook the accreditation of observers, media, and polling agents through the use of on-line registration portals. These are for media accreditation[5] election observation management[6] and Political Party agent management.[7] Prior to the opening of these accreditation portals, advertisement were placed in national dailies and on the INEC website inviting domestic and foreign election observer groups, the media and political parties to apply to observe the 2023 General Election.

Thereafter, the Commission's Department of Election and Party Monitoring (EPM) screened about 90,000 applications submitted by various organizations and accredited 130 domestic and 39 foreign observer teams that deployed a total of 73,562 observers for the elections. This was composed of 2,306 and 71,256 foreign and domestic observers with the Pan African Women Project having the highest number of observers with 346 persons, followed by United States Embassy with 228 and the ECOWAS Commission with 205. These observers were provided with observer kits containing identity cards, electoral information pack (soft copy), jotters, pens, and election duty stickers for vehicles. These kits were distributed to the foreign observers composed of 1,711 male and 595 female at the Commission's headquarters in Abuja and to domestic observers composed of 51,320 male and 19,936 female at the

Commission's 36 State Offices and the FCT.

For media accreditation, at the close of the registration Portal on the 6th of February 2023, a total of 947 applications were received out of which 716 were approved. However, only 471 media organisations were able to conclude the accreditation process online for 8,521 personnel. For those that were unable to complete the on-line process of accreditation, a total of 2,950 personnel were accredited manually and issued with necessary accreditation tags. In total, 11,471 local and foreign journalists were accredited for the 2023 General Election. Apart from the general accreditation for the coverage of the elections nationwide, 445 journalists comprising of 415 local and 30 foreign journalists were granted special access to the National Collation Centre for Presidential and National Assembly election.

In compliance with Article 43(1) of the Electoral Act 2022, the Commission created the Political Party agent management portal to receive application from political parties for the appointment of polling agent for each polling unit and collation centres for which it has a candidate in the election. To sanitise the process and make it more transparent, it was required that such application must include the name, address, contact details, two passport photographs and sample signature of the proposed polling agent and should be submitted to the Commission at least 14 days before the Election Day. The portal was operational from the 21st of September to the 25th of November 2022 after which the applications were verified and processed. At the end of the

[5] https://imap.inecnigeria.org

[6] https://observergroups.inecnigeria.org

[7] https://pollingagents.inecnigeria.org>

exercise, the Commission accredited a total of 1,574,301 as polling unit agents, 68,057 as Registration Area, Local Government and State collation agents and 27 as collation agents at the National Collation Centre in Abuja. The details of the accredited agents for each of the 18 political parties is as shown in Tables 8.22 below.

State	A	AA	AAC	ADC	ADP	APC	APGA	APM	APP	BP	LP	NNPP	NRM	PDP	PRP	SDP	YPP	ZLP	Total
Abia	3,389	1,909	150	2,487	1,468	3,929	3,548	1,164	2,976	131	4,004	4,043	11	4,015	329	788	4,063	684	39,088
Adamawa	0	868	3,850	2,538	82	4,029	724	2,789	1,464	0	4,111	4,071	3,934	4,110	4,019	4,046	998	2,700	44,333
Akwa Ibom	3,238	3,054	3,250	2,354	2,317	4,344	265	3,667	2,200	53	3,765	4,352	3,734	4,357	2,245	209	4,249	3,333	50,986
Anambra	1,911	3,278	0	3,114	730	5,710	5,461	2,808	985	0	5,720	5,637	3,945	5,752	1,666	0	4,522	3,586	54,825
Bauchi	814	913	2,863	4,446	32	5,404	0	1,246	1,355	0	3,133	5,423	4,836	5,429	3,159	4,592	597	2,393	46,635
Bayelsa	2,022	593	213	705	347	2,221	254	1,860	947	121	1,780	2,242	1,140	2,244	686	1,617	448	486	19,926
Benue	2,233	1,057	0	2,985	148	5,094	1,650	89	0	0	3,577	5,072	1,659	5,108	3,488	434	859	963	34,416
Borno	3,286	227	12	4,885	0	5,057	368	4,001	4,057	61	5,077	5,060	2,702	5,061	4,040	3,083	446	0	47,423
Cross River	102	1,752	0	1,518	403	3,278	179	854	1,576	0	3,254	3,277	1,448	3,288	2,504	2,438	776	0	26,647
Delta	4,136	1,426	79	665	808	5,860	3,447	4,021	765	55	4,888	5,850	3,117	5,864	2,759	1,943	3,509	4,404	53,596
Ebonyi	1,063	585	0	2,944	724	2,940	1,053	2,936	2,944	0	2,614	2,939	1,159	2,945	1,040	116	917	993	27,912
Edo	1,001	1,730	103	536	1,477	4,519	0	1,150	22	0	4,520	4,518	0	4,516	455	20	250	34	24,851
Ekiti	1,524	229	32	1,638	535	2,441	44	0	0	0	851	2,444	1,165	2,448	940	2,338	2,326	101	19,056
Enugu	359	0	0	4,015	689	4,132	2,267	260	2,258	411	3,921	4,145	1,422	4,151	282	1,010	350	248	29,920
Gombe	1,134	2,835	953	2,282	575	2,980	9	2,615	1,908	1,049	2,047	2,987	2,900	2,989	2,541	1,268	679	2,699	34,450
Imo	2,391	740	0	2,225	2,100	4,725	2,786	4,076	738	3,012	4,181	4,750	3,707	4,760	3,157	2,137	1,060	3,133	49,678
Jigawa	4,523	344	1,475	1,308	2,789	4,503	68	3,079	0	0	1,256	4,522	3,170	4,480	2,108	3,350	4,522	303	41,800
Kaduna	1,919	575	176	8,010	5,280	8,010	159	3,043	1,668	0	6,228	7,937	4,082	8,010	5,746	6,317	7,781	55	74,996
Kano	1,949	10,490	8,225	4,861	3,769	11,177	0	11,138	11,187	105	7,318	11,213	10,896	11,225	8,727	10,787	11,164	11,162	145,393
Katsina	3,355	1,162	2,103	2,416	1,493	6,640	0	1,585	2,260	3,506	2,989	6,627	11	6,636	4,726	2,876	1,755	4,735	54,875
Kebbi	2,000	1,349	2,439	2,005	1,716	3,736	479	2,533	2,547	1,264	2,984	3,737	3,300	3,744	3,258	2,155	2,390	2,000	43,636
Kogi	3,102	461	180	2,152	906	3,507	113	2,258	13	0	2,805	3,505	2,229	3,497	1,164	2,326	280	0	28,498
Kwara	997	2,253	5	801	2,200	2,887	619	2,686	2,709	0	2,887	2,880	2,033	2,888	531	2,656	2,880	2,759	34,671
Lagos	5,930	0	229	2,401	861	13,306	0	1	1,445	56	12,361	13,273	6,638	13,132	11,737	8,892	6,844	1,540	98,646
Nasarawa	2,126	918	0	1,633	0	3,248	161	2,006	0	0	2,335	3,254	2,666	3,254	484	2,961	323	378	25,747
Niger	1,783	927	3	8	549	4,877	74	0	0	0	1,191	4,948	0	4,951	2,661	709	0	50	22,731
Ogun	1,444	4,531	936	5,042	1,801	5,040	0	1,037	492	0	3,173	4,955	180	5,045	2,215	1,826	0	445	38,162
Ondo	0	1,150	21	943	60	3,931	0	2,268	2,071	0	1,576	3,928	2,152	3,934	700	3,078	0	2,137	27,949

Table 8.22: Number of Accredited Polling Unit Agents for the 18 Political Parties by State by Party for the 2023 General Election

Osun	1,926	702	1,590	3,763	627	3,757	94	2,182	3,265	1,445	1,637	3,761	138	3,765	1,682	2,640	998	236	34,208
Oyo	6,320	1,277	706	3,931	738	6,378	120	1,158	950	60	3,564	6,358	1,467	6,393	276	4,886	0	128	44,710
Plateau	946	603	90	1,131	45	4,957	154	197	3,328	508	4,990	4,908	1,552	4,989	2,611	4,327	490	21	35,847
Rivers	6,869	3,821	5,211	5,114	3,875	6,862	1,113	5,629	5,419	596	5,537	6,834	2,801	6,866	411	4,865	6,016	1,956	79,795
Sokoto	2,274	1,275	349	1,890	1,037	3,988	192	2,657	20	278	3,279	3,982	1,587	3,993	462	2,610	1,470	327	31,670
Taraba	1,034	535	137	3,073	625	3,596	81	471	375	559	3,512	3,592	2,259	3,574	1,891	3,318	1,189	1,086	30,907
Yobe	909	760	1,708	2,801	1,682	2,811	175	2,000	0	0	2,823	2,823	76	2,823	2,190	772	835	0	25,188
Zamfara	3,076	1,958	1,583	2,000	1,900	3,528	0	1,423	2,854	174	2,192	3,529	2,300	3,526	571	386	548	2,439	33,987
FCT	1,992	172	108	1,423	128	2,821	0	5	0	100	2,794	2,824	598	2,826	101	537	665	49	17,143
Total	**83,077**	**56,459**	**38,779**	**96,043**	**44,516**	**176,223**	**25,657**	**80,892**	**64,798**	**13,544**	**134,874**	**176,200**	**87,014**	**176,588**	**87,562**	**98,313**	**76,199**	**57,563**	**1,574,301**

Table 8.23 Number of Accredited Collation Agents for the 18 Political Parties at RA, LGA and State Collation Centres
State	A	AA	AAC	ADC	ADP	APC	APGA	APM	APP	BP	LP	NNPP	NRM	PDP	PRP	SDP	YPP	ZLP	Total
Abia	199	198	0	169	18	190	146	2	98	32	201	201	12	202	33	48	202	1	1,952
Adamawa	0	12	187	148	0	249	0	155	123	0	248	248	247	249	224	246	53	0	2,389
Akwa/Ibom	195	73	27	61	3	361	0	2	1	0	262	362	159	365	17	0	353	1	2,242
Anambra	29	37	0	0	27	347	322	0	0	0	350	350	30	348	11	0	245	56	2,152
Bauchi	11	61	50	232	6	233	0	69	121	0	2	233	231	233	26	148	12	37	1,705
Bayelsa	106	41	32	38	0	100	7	113	8	7	13	113	86	114	24	0	2	107	911
Benue	31	1	0	91	1	304	40	0	0	0	262	289	120	298	213	26	20	15	1,711
Borno	0	1	0	338	0	340	0	332	102	3	341	340	30	323	224	0	0	0	2,374
Cross River	8	24	0	12	10	214	3	17	14	0	212	212	0	208	109	107	0	0	1,150
Delta	198	3	19	27	1	296	85	155	222	1	267	294	27	296	218	44	116	231	2,500
Ebonyi	29	1	0	176	41	185	19	173	166	0	1	185	26	125	23	3	8	28	1,189
Edo	62	6	7	0	41	211	0	123	9	6	210	213	0	211	22	0	0	1	1,122
Ekiti	18	35	17	23	0	194	0	0	0	0	120	194	128	187	159	176	138	1	1,390
Enugu	0	0	0	111	18	278	22	2	179	84	146	278	114	276	18	40	22	0	1,588
Gombe	0	72	33	126	13	126	0	0	0	4	9	126	125	126	98	24	8	6	896
Imo	111	94	0	27	36	333	145	298	72	283	325	327	211	332	202	0	16	212	3,024
Jigawa	315	1	27	73	27	315	0	281	0	0	0	315	36	316	62	223	315	0	2,306
Kaduna	0	1	0	281	75	279	0	147	0	0	261	279	23	280	99	13	268	0	2,006
Kano	167	85	513	154	45	528	0	475	476	1	29	532	515	529	347	499	521	357	5,773
Katsina	279	1	36	3	0	396	0	70	0	0	1	381	1	399	246	80	1	392	2,286
Kebbi	22	22	21	21	22	247	0	20	22	22	132	248	239	246	239	21	22	22	1,588
Kogi	259	2	1	165	0	262	0	261	0	0	250	262	167	260	39	12	4	0	1,944

	A	AA	AAC	ADC	ADP	APC	APGA	APM	APP	BP	LP	NNPP	NRM	PDP	PRP	SDP	YPP	ZLP	Total
Kwara	101	103	0	49	46	210	23	209	174	0	146	211	92	211	0	198	211	207	2,191
Lagos	51	1	60	18	0	268	0	0	20	0	199	265	124	271	138	31	0	21	1,467
Nasarawa	160	36	0	35	0	162	0	0	0	0	14	162	162	161	10	90	0	17	1,009
Niger	4	1	0	1	5	271	0	0	0	0	0	300	0	300	145	0	0	2	1,029
Ogun	7	257	63	257	1	258	0	42	0	0	62	256	2	260	21	43	0	0	1,529
Ondo	0	19	0	57	17	221	0	0	21	0	14	222	8	222	34	11	0	14	860
Osun	40	1	98	81	21	364	1	153	160	88	57	362	7	366	27	214	18	0	2,058
Oyo	294	18	0	23	0	385	0	1	1	10	16	403	36	387	24	190	40	0	1,828
Plateau	56	1	6	0	0	227	1	1	12	29	227	212	199	224	129	161	0	0	1,485
Rivers	343	263	314	314	7	343	119	328	308	30	75	347	269	343	11	270	338	42	4,064
Sokoto	5	4	1	60	26	268	0	226	1	5	2	268	27	259	5	265	55	0	1,477
Taraba	23	1	3	167	0	187	0	28	77	9	1	185	173	185	28	123	131	30	1,351
Yobe	32	1	45	68	0	196	0	18	0	0	188	198	0	196	186	0	0	0	1,128
Zamfara	140	29	162	151	39	164	0	162	159	6	149	162	157	162	18	4	12	139	1,815
FCT	63	25	1	69	2	69	0	69	0	0	67	69	22	69	23	0	20	0	568
TOTAL	3,358	1,531	1,723	3,626	548	9,581	933	3,932	2,546	620	4,859	9,604	3,805	9,539	3,452	3,310	3,151	1,939	68,057

Table 8.24: Accredited Collation Agents for the 18 Political Parties at the National Collation Centre																			
Party																			
A	AA	AAC	ADC	ADP	APC	APGA	APM	APP	BP	LP	NNPP	NRM	PDP	PRP	SDP	YPP	ZLP	Total	
No. of Agents	2	2	1	2	1	2	0	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	3	1	2	0	28

8.11. Issues and Challenges

In the run-up to the 2023 General Election, the Commission was confronted with several issues and challenges that were beyond its control. The first major challenge was the spate of attacks on its personnel and facilities by thugs and unknown gunmen and arsonists nationwide. In the period between the 2019 General Election and 12th December 2022, the Commission suffered over 50 attacks on its buildings and facilities at various LGA and State offices across 15 States of the federation during which vehicles, office equipment and election materials were destroyed as shown in figure 8.3 below. This is apart from damages to the Commission's facilities because of burglary and destruction of election materials as well as fire accidents and natural disasters such as flooding and rainstorms. In one such attack on the Commission's State Headquarters in Enugu State on 16th May 2021, the attackers set the foyer ablaze, vandalised offices and equipment and cause extensive damage to properties including burning down and damaging eight Toyota Hilux vehicles In another attack on the Commission's Abeokuta South LGA office of Ogun State on 10 November 2022, the entire building with all the assets was destroyed, including critical election materials comprising of 904 ballot boxes, 29 voting cubicles, 30 megaphones, 8 electric generators and 65,699 uncollected PVCs. The cumulative effect of these attacks impacted negatively on the preparation for the 2023 General Election. The Commission was compelled to request for supplementary appropriation to among other pressing and unanticipated expenditure to meet the exigencies of relocating its electoral operations away from the destroyed facilities and to replace lost election materials.

LEGEND OF INCIDENTS NATIONWIDE AGAINST INEC FACILITIES IN THE RUN-UP TO THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTION
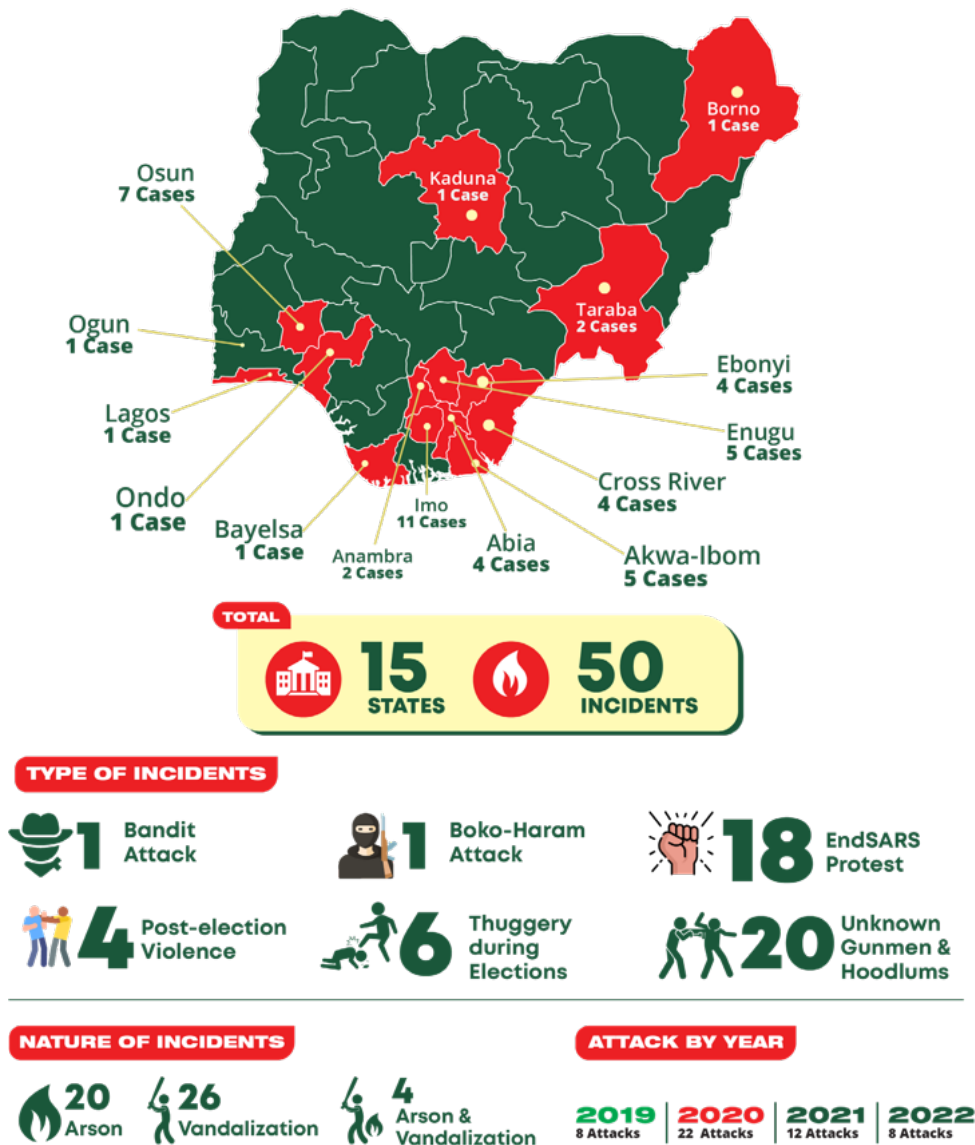
Another major challenge the Commission faced was the currency swap by the Central Bank of Nigeria. It would be recalled that on 26th October 2022, the then Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria announced the redesign of the highest denominations of the Naira and gave a deadline of 100 days to the 31st of January 2023 for the deposit of the old notes in exchange for the new ones. Although the deadline was later extended by 10 days to the 10th of February 2023, it did not alleviate the acute shortage of currency and Naira scarcity resulting in economic hardship, social unrest, and political tension across the country. For the Commission, the situation was quite serious since emergency situations do arise during election requiring cash payment from the Commission. There are also some critical transactions, especially payment to transport providers and certain categories of ad-hoc staff that the Commission can

only pay either partly or fully in cash. Furthermore, the limit placed on cash withdrawal from the bank constituted an encumbrance on the ability of the transport providers to service and fuel their vehicles for election duty. To mitigate this grave situation, the INEC Chairman met with the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria on 7th February 2023 to express concern about the Naira swap policy and how it might affect the general election. Given the criticality of the situation, the Central Bank made necessary arrangement to provide the Commission with some cash for the purpose of the election.

The Commission was also confronted with the challenge of election logistics delivery arising from the prevailing fuel scarcity across the country as well as the lack of adequate vehicles and boats for the transportation of election personnel and materials to the field within the required timeframe. Given that the Commission required over 100,000 vehicles and over 4,000 boats, this situation had to be addressed to facilitate the expeditious deployment of election materials and personnel, especially to locations with difficult terrain and riverine areas. The Commission took necessary remedial actions to mitigate these challenges first by meeting with the management of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Limited (NNPCL) to seek its support and assistance in making petroleum products available for the purpose of the election and secondly by signing a revised Memorandum of Understanding with the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO) and the Maritime Workers' Union of Nigeria (MWUN) for the timely transportation, delivery and retrieval of election personnel and materials.
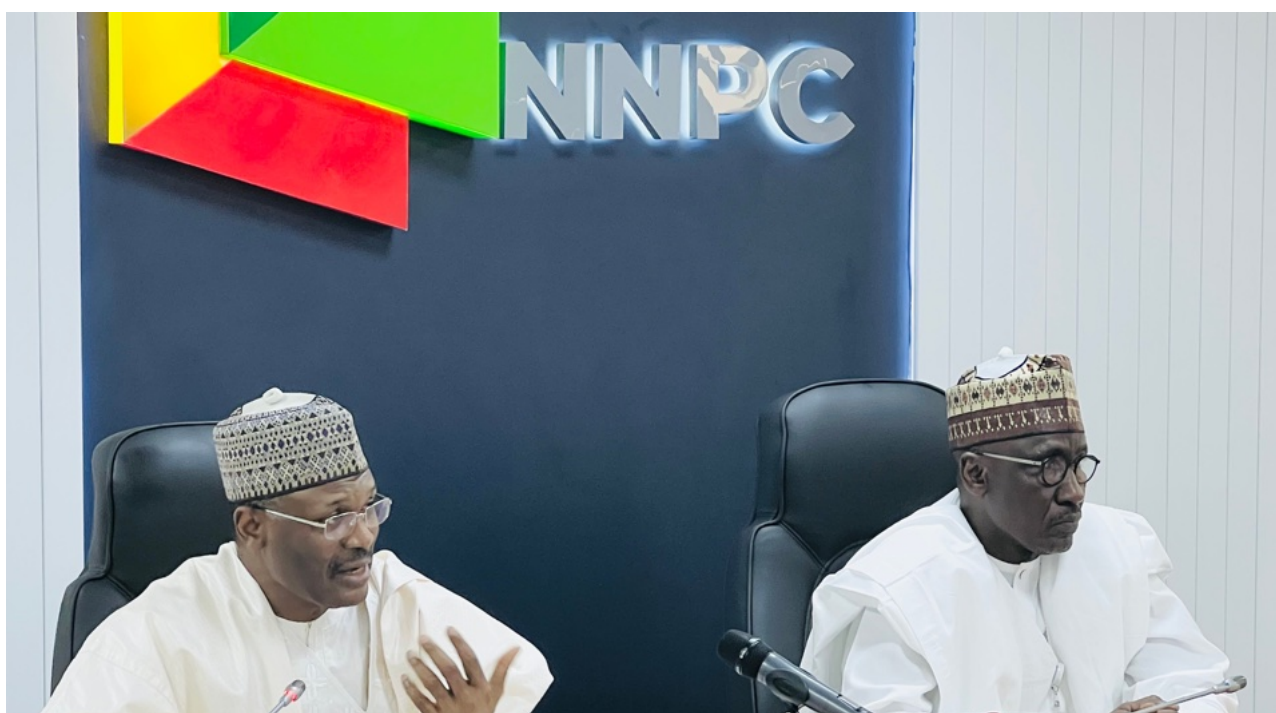
INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu with the Group Chief Executive Officer, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mr. Mele Kyari, at a crucial meeting held at the NNPCL headquarters, Abuja on 31st January 2023, to discuss adequate supply of petroleum products for the 2023 General Election.

Chapter 9

Conduct of the Presidential and National Assembly Elections, 25th of February 2023

09

The opening of polls for the Presidential and National Assembly election at 8:30am on the 25th of February and for the Governorship and State Houses of Assembly Elections on the 18th of March 2023 across the 176,606 polling units nationwide is a culmination of at least two years of continuous planning, training, implementation, monitoring, reviews, and interventions. The implementation and monitoring of the processes as well as the conduct of the election itself became more intense however with the release of the timetable and schedule of activities for the 2023 General Election on the 25th of February 2023. At stake in that election were 470 elective positions, consisting of 1 (presidential post), 109 (Senatorial posts) and 360 (federal constituency posts). 91,382 4-wheeled vehicles, 3,019 boats, 88,090 motorcycles were deployed to provide election materials and personnel across the 8,809 wards, 774 LGAs as well as the 36 states and the FCT as indicated in table 9.1 below. These deployments were the result of a series of coordinated and planned activities in the field involving regular staff, over one million ad-hoc staff, transport providers and security agents. The Commission had throughout the week, monitored the progress of the implementation of the election across the country through the Election Monitoring and Support Centre during which these deployments from the Commission's Headquarters/Zonal Stores, the CBN and then from these locations to State and LGA Offices as well as to RACs and PUs were monitored.

In the run-up to the election, all Registration Area Camps (RACs) and Super Registration Area Camps (SRACs) nationwide were identified, made suitable to camp election personnel, and prepared for the election with RAC materials and activated on the eve of election. In a few cases however, there were exceptions where neither RACs nor SRACs were activated for sundry reasons. For instance, in Plateau State RACs in LGAs like Riyom, Barkin Ladi, and Wase were not activated on the eve of the election owing to logistics and security challenges. RACs located in remote LGAs, and RAs in Sardauna LGA of Taraba state could not be activated arising from late arrival of sensitive materials. Such RAs had to mobilize and deploy directly from the LGA Office to polling units. In Anambra State, RACs were not activated for seven (7) registration areas in Ihiala LGA owing to security reasons. In Imo state, most of the LGAs did not operate the normal RACs or Super RACs but operated a single mega camp in their LGAs, again, for security reasons. Similarly, RACs and SRACs were not activated in Southern Ijaw and Nembe LGAs of Bayelsa State for security reasons, and deployments had to be made directly from LGA Headquarters. There were also instances in Katsina state where RACs for 10 inaccessible LGAs were relocated to safer locations and converted to Super RAC's because of security challenges. Late activation of RACs/SRACs was witnessed in Rivers State for security concerns, while in Ogun and Ekiti States, some RACs and SRACs were relocated to more spacious and conducive locations. Sensitive and non-sensitive materials required for the election were received in all states. While sensitive

materials were stored in CBN of respective states, non-sensitive materials received from zonal stores were stored in States/LGAs stores. States like Kwara and Plateau identified shortages and mix-ups which were swiftly attended to. Benue and Yobe States identified printing errors which were subsequently reported to the headquarters for intervention. Taraba state reported the inadequacy of logistics for movement of materials to the LGAs. Kaduna state reported late deployment of non-sensitive materials from zonal stores.

Overall, though, 50% of the RACs and SRACs across the country were identified, prepared, and activated on Friday, 24th of February 2023 as indicated in table 9.3, while over 45% became active before midnight. Due to the security situation in a number of states across the geo-political zones election materials were moved directly to PUs either from the State or LGA Offices.

A	B	C	D	E	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	S
S/N	States	LGA	No. of RA's	No. of PUs	Prov. of Vehicles for Poll Officials (@ 12 persons for 14-Seater Bus)	Prov. of Vehicle for Reverse Logistics	Hiring of Vehicles for RA Supervisors	Hiring of Vehicles for RA Collation Officers	Provision of Vehicles for Movement from State HQ to LGA	Hiring of Vehicles for LGA Supervisors	Hiring of Vehicles for LGA Collation Officer	Total Vehicles	Total Boats for Riverine Areas	Prov. of M/cycle for Diff. Terrain (@ 10 per RA)
1	Abia	17	184	4,062	1,439	184	184	184	17	17	17	2,042	3,019	1,840
2	Adamawa	21	226	4,104	1,454	226	226	226	21	21	21	2,195		2,260
3	A/Ibom	31	329	4,353	1,542	329	329	329	31	31	31	2,622		3,290
4	Anambra	21	326	5,720	2,026	326	326	326	21	21	21	3,067		3,260
5	Bauchi	20	212	5,423	1,921	212	212	212	20	20	20	2,617		2,120
6	Bayelsa	8	105	2,244	795	105	105	105	8	8	8	1,134		1,050
7	Benue	23	276	5,102	1,807	276	276	276	23	23	23	2,704		2,760
8	Borno	27	312	5,071	1,796	312	312	312	27	27	27	2,813		3,120
9	C/River	18	193	3,281	1,162	193	193	193	18	18	18	1,795		1,930
10	Delta	25	270	5,863	2,076	270	270	270	25	25	25	2,961		2,700
11	Ebonyi	13	171	2,946	1,043	171	171	171	13	13	13	1,595		1,710
12	Edo	18	192	4,519	1,600	192	192	192	18	18	18	2,230		1,920
13	Ekiti	16	177	2,445	866	177	177	177	16	16	16	1,445		1,770
14	Enugu	17	260	4,145	1,468	260	260	260	17	17	17	2,299		2,600
15	Gombe	11	114	2,988	1,058	114	114	114	11	11	11	1,433		1,140
16	Imo	27	305	4,758	1,685	305	305	305	27	27	27	2,681		3,050
17	Jigawa	27	287	4,522	1,602	287	287	287	27	27	27	2,544		2,870
18	Kaduna	23	255	8,012	2,838	255	255	255	23	23	23	3,672		2,550
19	Kano	44	484	11,222	3,974	484	484	484	44	44	44	5,558		4,840
20	Katsina	34	361	6,652	2,356	361	361	361	34	34	34	3,541		3,610
21	Kebbi	21	225	3,743	1,326	225	225	225	21	21	21	2,064		2,250
22	Kogi	21	239	3,508	1,242	239	239	239	21	21	21	2,022		2,390
23	Kwara	16	193	2,887	1,022	193	193	193	16	16	16	1,649		1,930
24	Lagos	20	245	13,325	4,719	245	245	245	20	20	20	5,514		2,450
25	Nasarawa	13	147	3,256	1,153	147	147	147	13	13	13	1,633		1,470
26	Niger	25	274	4,950	1,753	274	274	274	25	25	25	2,650		2,740

Table 9.1: Transportation Matrix for Election Officials for the Presidential & National Assembly Elections

27	Ogun	20	236	5,042	1,786	236	236	236	20	20	20	2,554		2,360
28	Ondo	18	203	3,933	1,393	203	203	203	18	18	18	2,056		2,030
29	Osun	30	332	3,763	1,333	332	332	332	30	30	30	2,419		3,320
30	Oyo	33	351	6,390	2,263	351	351	351	33	33	33	3,415		3,510
31	Plateau	17	207	4,989	1,767	207	207	207	17	17	17	2,439		2,070
32	Rivers	23	319	6,866	2,432	319	319	319	23	23	23	3,458		3,190
33	Sokoto	23	244	3,991	1,413	244	244	244	23	23	23	2,214		2,440
34	Taraba	16	168	3,597	1,274	168	168	168	16	16	16	1,826		1,680
35	Yobe	17	178	2,823	1,000	178	178	178	17	17	17	1,585		1,780
36	Zamfara	14	147	3,529	1,250	147	147	147	14	14	14	1,733		1,470
37	FCT-Abuja	6	62	2,822	999	62	62	62	6	6	6	1,203		620
	Total	**774**	**8,809**	**176,846**	**62,633**	**8,809**	**8,809**	**8,809**	**774**	**774**	**774**	**91,382**	**3,019**	**88,090**

9.1. Operation of the National Situation Room and Collation Centre

On the 25th of February 2023, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) set the stage for a pivotal day in Nigeria's democracy as the nation went to the polls for the Presidential and National Assembly elections. At the heart of this electoral machinery was the National Situation Room and Collation Centre, located inside the expansive ICC Hall at the International Conference Centre complex in Abuja. Covering a vast area of 6000 square meters, this facility was tailored to serve as the nerve centre for monitoring the conduct of elections across the 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs) nationwide. A 50-member interagency technical team worked tirelessly to manage the Situation Room's operations. This diverse team consisted of senior INEC officials, ICT engineers, network specialists, data analysts, call centre agents, and support personnel.

Inside the Situation Room, information was being transmitted from the field through video monitors on the walls of the main Hall of the ICC. These reports were beamed from the states from the EMSC that became an important monitoring tool. The information gathered included the deployment of personnel and materials to Registration Area Camps (RACs), status of RAC activation across LGAs, commencement of polls in polling units, the voting process, voter turnout, incidents, performance of BVAS devices during accreditation, counting, collation, transmission of results, and

the safety of election staff and materials. These EMSC reports were displayed via the video wall links, allowing the command team to monitor updates and provide timely interventions. Where necessary, security backup and replacement materials were mobilized in coordination with state officials.

As the collation of Presidential results progressed from the states to the National level, the figures were verified, tallied, and displayed on the video wall and INEC's public portal through an automation integration developed by the technical team. Despite the vast scale of the electoral operations across Nigeria, the Situation Room ensured smooth monitoring and enabled the accurate and timely declaration of the Presidential results. Adjacent to the Situation Room, the National Collation Centre was also a hub of activity. Accreditation tags were distributed to party agents and accredited observers who eagerly participated in the collation process. The hall was meticulously arranged to accommodate State Collation Officers who would bring in their election results. Large screens were set up to display collated results, and proceedings were televised live, acknowledging the high-profile nature of the presidential results collation.

Results began to trickle in from Sunday evening, and State Collation Officers arrived at the National Collation Centre, accompanied by security escorts, ready to present their election results. The Returning Officer began the collation process after verifying the results and resolving any discrepancies with the aid of Collation Support officers. Party agents and observers closely followed the process,

which proceeded smoothly throughout the night under the watchful eye of heavy security presence. The final collation was successfully concluded in the early hours of Monday morning, with the Election Management System playing a crucial role in ensuring the accurate collation of results. Ultimately, the Collation and Returning Officer for the Presidential Election (CROPE) declared the winner of the election, marking a significant moment in the nation's political history.

9.2. Operation of the Election Monitoring and Support Centre

Established in 2017 as a planning, implementation, monitoring, early warning and field support for the Commission's electoral projects and personnel, the Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC) was set up by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) was central in the conduct of the 2023, as it was for that of the 2015 and 2019 General Elections. The planning, management and conduct of the 2023 GE was effected through the close monitoring of the implementation of the Commission's projects and plans in the 2022-2026 SP/SPIP, but especially the 2023 EPP. Both documents specified in detail the plans and projects of the Commission for the 2023 GE, and monitoring the implementation of these plans was the task of the EMSC. Based on the SP/SPIP, the 2023 EPP and a bank of indicators for monitoring elections developed over previous Electoral Cycles, the EMSC generated over 650 KPIs,

enabling the Commission to have a sense of the status of implementation and readiness for the election.

The EMSC Secretariat at the HQ, has 12 Data Administrators (DAs) and one Consultant. Each DA is assigned 3 states, maintaining close contact with the EMSC State Secretariats in these states from which data on status readiness for elections is reported and fed into the EMSC Dashboard. For the 2023 GE, the EMCS HQ moved to the National Collation Centre to coordinate the receipt of state reports and analyses on all the KPIs.

Thus, the EMSC reported on all the KPIs across the three monitoring zones – Green, Amber, and Red – providing information and assessments on the readiness statuses of States and the FCT for the election. These reports, especially those during the amber zone, were key in the Commission's effort to intensify the monitoring and supervision of the receipt and deployment of non-sensitive and later sensitive materials. More specifically, it was the monitoring of status readiness and implementation status 24 hours to the election. This specifically saw the EMSC monitoring and reporting on the receipt, batching and deployment of non-sensitive and sensitive election materials, the activation of RACs, the number of personnel at the RACs/SuperRACs, the status of equipment, and in this case the BVAS and its accessories as well as the availability of security and transportation. Also monitored was the deployment of personnel and materials to PUs on Election Day, the opening and closing of polls, processes of accreditation, counting and the collation of results and so on. Table

9.3 below provides details of the status of the preparation and activation of RACs, a critical staging post for the deployment of personnel and materials on Election Day to enable early opening of polls.

Table 9.2: RAC Preparation and Activation Data by 22:00 Hours on Friday 24th of February 2023					
S/No	State	No of LGA	No of RAs	No of RAC Activations by 10pm	RAC Activations by 10pm in percentage
1	Abia	17	184	0*8	0%
2	Adamawa	21	226	103	46%
3	Akwa Ibom	31	329	94	29%
4	Anambra	21	326	33	10%
5	Bauchi	20	212	71	33%
6	Bayelsa	8	105	71	68%
7	Benue	23	276	248	90%
8	Borno	27	312	0*	0%
9	Cross River	18	193	63	33%
10	Delta	25	270	43	16%
11	Ebonyi	13	171	14*	8%
12	Edo	18	192	96	50%
13	Ekiti	16	177	175	99%
14	Enugu	17	260	217	83%
15	Gombe	11	114	108	95%
16	Imo	27	305	255	84%
17	Jigawa	27	287	210	73%
18	Kaduna	23	255	86	34%
19	Kano	44	484	8*	2%
20	Katsina	34	361	335	93%
21	Kebbi	21	225	208	92%
22	Kogi	21	239	215	90%
23	Kwara	16	193	109	56%
24	Lagos	20	245	204	83%
25	Nasarawa	13	147	67	46%
26	Niger	25	274	13*	5%
27	Ogun	20	236	191	81%
28	Ondo	18	203	156	77%

[8]For the States with asterisk (Abia, Borno, Ebonyi, Kano, Niger, Plateau, Rivers and Zamfara either reports were not filed at all, or very few reports filed.

29	Osun	30	332	328	99%
30	Oyo	33	351	335	95%
31	Plateau	17	207	7*	3%
32	Rivers	23	319	4*	1%
33	Sokoto	23	244	206	84%
34	Taraba	16	168	89	53%
35	Yobe	17	178	52	29%
36	Zamfara	14	147	11*	7%
37	FCT	6	62	62	100%
	Total	**774**	**8809**	**4487**	**51%**

9.3. Opening of Polls

The opening of polls was generally peaceful and orderly. The polls opened on time in most polling stations, and there were no major incidents of violence reported. The logistics for deployment of election personnel and materials in states was anchored on the review of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Commission and the three main transport Unions – National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO), the National Union Road Transport Workers (NURTW), and the Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN) which formally become a part of the MoU in preparation for the 2023 General Election. All Electoral Officers were directed to forward their logistics requirement to their respective state offices for proper planning. Consequent upon the forgoing, deployment of vehicles, motorcycles and boats were informed by the submissions of the EOs based on the peculiarities of each LGA's terrain.

The Commission had difficulty in persuading the unions to accept to deliver electoral materials and personnel in difficult and mountainous terrains of Kogi state. This resulted in protracted negotiations over prices and leading eventually to the payment of higher prices than was budgeted for. Plateau, Taraba, Ebonyi, Enugu, Imo, Edo, Ekiti, Ogun States complained of poor performance and lack of corporation by transporters. Specifically, Plateau State reported the supply of smaller vehicles like 'Sharon' instead of agreed 18-seater buses. In Taraba State, the Commission had difficulty in persuading the unions to accept to deliver electoral materials and personnel at the price initially offered by the Commission. In Enugu State, drivers delayed the movement of personnel in some LGAs because of difficulty in getting fuel as well as security threats. In Imo state, the transport unions boycotted some LGAs, citing insecurity as the reason for not deploying their vehicles to such LGAs. Resultantly, Electoral Officers were asked to source for vehicles from their LGAs during the second election. In Edo state, Road Transport Unions colluded with their vehicle operators to hike the cost per vehicle while the election processes were on going.

They also insisted on full cash payments without which they were not moving. These situations resulted in late opening of polls. In Sokoto state, some terrains are so bad that buses and small vehicles could not operate on those routes. A positive development occurred in Ondo state when the NURTW state officials were at hand throughout the whole election period to respond to every distress call on transportation from the field. Generally, transport unions were reported to have conducted themselves slightly better during the State House of Assembly and Supplementary elections than they did at the Presidential/ National Assembly elections.

A couple of states such as Niger, Osun, Zamfara and the FCT reported timely opening of polls. Generally, the election witnessed timely opening of polls save for a few exceptions owing to logistic reasons, difficult terrains etc. Late opening of poll was observed in few Polling Units of Oyo, Kwara, Lagos, Plateau, Borno, Gombe, Ogun, Bayelsa, Enugu, Benue, Yobe, and Ajaokuta LGA of Kogi State.

Difficult terrain in Gombe state resulted in late opening of polls in some PUs. Olla Ward in Isin LGA of Kwara State recorded disagreement between two candidates about the location of a PU, which delayed commencement of voting until the intervention of the Army Area Commander. Similarly, in Baruten, Edu and Kaiama LGAs of same Kwara State, there were

disagreements relating to the distance of the newly created PUs, which also caused delays in the opening of polls. In Plateau state, late opening of polls was caused by supply of wrong vehicles, contrary to those specified in the contracts with vehicle owners. There were areas in Adamawa state where Poll Officials had to go on foot, as for example, in Bolki RA of Numan LGA resulting in late opening of polls. In Bekaji Primary school of Yola North LGA during the Presidential/National Assembly Elections, polls did not open until the next day owing to the deliberate refusal by the APO I to use the BVAS. In Borno state, late opening of polls in some LGAs were occasioned by the restriction of movement and the consistent patrols of the roads by the Joint Task Force, a situation that hindered the prompt resolution of malfunctioning equipment such as the BVAS, which had to be taken to Maiduguri for reconfiguration. The election in Bayelsa state equally witnessed late opening of poll especially in Yenagoa LGA where the Commission had to shift the election in 141 Polling Units. Most polling stations in Lagos state opened on time except in Amuwo-Odofin, Apapa, Eti-Osa, Ojo and Oshodi-Isolo LGAs due to issues ranging from transporters refusal to deploy, fear of violence and intimidation. Finally, inter union rivalry between the NURTW and State Park Managers in Ogun state resulted in late opening of polls in few PUs. Table 9.3 provides data on the opening and close of polls countrywide.

S/No	State	No of LGA	No of RAs	No of PUs	PUs Opened					
					By 8.30am	%	8.31am -10.00am	%	After	%
1	Abia	17	184	4,062	27	0.66	27	0.66	2222	54.70
2	Adamawa	21	226	4,104	2284	55.65	1167	28.44	28	0.68
3	Akwa Ibom	31	329	4,353	699	16.06	1398	32.12	1826	41.95
4	Anambra	21	326	5,720	8	0.14	976	17.06	871	15.23
5	Bauchi	20	212	5,423	466	8.59	3499	64.52	296	5.46
6	Bayelsa	8	105	2,244	134	5.97	1375	61.27	24	1.07
7	Benue	23	276	5,102	2288	44.85	1409	27.62	936	18.35
8	Borno	27	312	5,071	5	0.10	40	0.79	56	1.10
9	Cross River	18	193	3,281	149	4.54	943	28.74	683	20.82
10	Delta	25	270	5,863	3947	67.32	1259	21.47	452	7.71
11	Ebonyi	13	171	2,946	885	30.04	448	15.21	646	21.93
12	Edo	18	192	4,519	624	13.81	17	0.38	0	0.00
13	Ekiti	16	177	2,445	1703	69.65	739	30.22	3	0.12
14	Enugu	17	260	4,145	4	0.10	5	0.12	10	0.24
15	Gombe	11	114	2,988	1702	56.96	962	32.20	140	4.69
16	Imo	27	305	4,758	0	0.00	74	1.56	480	10.09
17	Jigawa	27	287	4,522	1940	42.90	1899	41.99	600	13.27
18	Kaduna	23	255	8,012	288	3.59	696	8.69	1034	12.91
19	Kano	44	484	11,222	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
20	Katsina	34	361	6,652	1346	20.23	3154	47.41	1171	17.60
21	Kebbi	21	225	3,743	787	21.03	456	12.18	292	7.80
22	Kogi	21	239	3,508	1171	33.38	1581	45.07	447	12.74
23	Kwara	16	193	2,887	527	18.25	956	33.11	1091	37.79
24	Lagos	20	245	13,325	1843	13.83	6568	49.29	3744	28.10
25	Nasarawa	13	147	3,256	68	2.09	1737	53.35	1307	40.14
26	Niger	25	274	4,950	1548	31.27	1971	39.82	21	0.42
27	Ogun	20	236	5,042	1283	25.45	2188	43.40	457	9.06
28	Ondo	18	203	3,933	3543	90.08	174	4.42	166	4.22
29	Osun	30	332	3,763	3054	81.16	323	8.58	10	0.27
30	Oyo	33	351	6,390	4434	69.39	1506	23.57	306	4.79
31	Plateau	17	207	4,989	320	6.41	1070	21.45	1044	20.93
32	Rivers	23	319	6,866	127	1.85	0	0.00	0	0.00
33	Sokoto	23	244	3,991	1049	26.28	2116	53.02	823	20.62
34	Taraba	16	168	3,597	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
35	Yobe	17	178	2,823	1634	57.88	815	28.87	127	4.50
36	Zamfara	14	147	3,529	502	14.22	706	20.01	666	18.87
37	FCT	6	62	2,822	236	8.36	1870	66.27	649	23.00
	Totals	774	8,809	176,846		40,625		44,124		22,628
	Compliance Percentage					23%		25%		13%

Table 9.3: Opening-Close of Polls and Number of Accredited Voters, 25th February 2023

9.4. Voting Process and Performance of Equipment

The BVAS was used for the first time in the 2023 General Election. The preparation for the deployment of these systems for Election Day began way back in the Electoral Cycle, beginning from the procurement of the devices (see chapter 8) through to configuration and activation. As explained elsewhere in this Report, the BVAS is a device used for the accreditation of voters. It authenticates voters' fingerprints or facials, matching the capture details with the data stored on the device. A total of 175,846 systems were deployed to PUs for the election. The distribution of the systems, shown in table 9.4, indicates that 171, 823 PUs had one BVAS each; 4,468 PUs had one (1) additional system; 261 PUs had 2 additional systems, 33 PUs had 3; 8 PUs had 4; 5 PUs had 5 additional systems; 7 PUs had 6. 1 PU, LGEA Primary School, Ganaja Village, in Ajaokuta LGA of Kofi State with 11,512 registered voters, the most densely populated PU in the entire country, had 9 additional systems deployed.

Voting took place in the 176,606 PUs across the country when polls opened at 8:30am. The procedures approved in the Regulations and Guidelines for the Election, 2022 were observed during the voting and accreditation process across all 36 states and the FCT. States such as Edo, Bayelsa, Katsina, FCT, Kogi, Benue, to give but a few examples, reported optimal performance of the BVAS. In other states, concerns arising from the BVAS were speedily attended to by designated RATECHs who were on ground in each RA. In a few places, such as Taraba State, reports of the refusal of the use of BVAS in Assa LGA and in some parts of Gombe state were recorded. Ebonyi state reported the failure of the BVAS to function in some PUs due to poor network or related challenges. These challenges were either resolved by designated officials handling the technical aspect of the election or the rules as contained in the Regulations were applied. Overall, the performance of the systems was excellent across the country, ensuring speedy accreditation/ authentication of voters. A comparison of the accreditation and the number of registered voters for the 2019 and 2023 General Elections shows the high proportion of accredited voters in relation to registered voters across the two elections as indicated in figure 9.1 below.
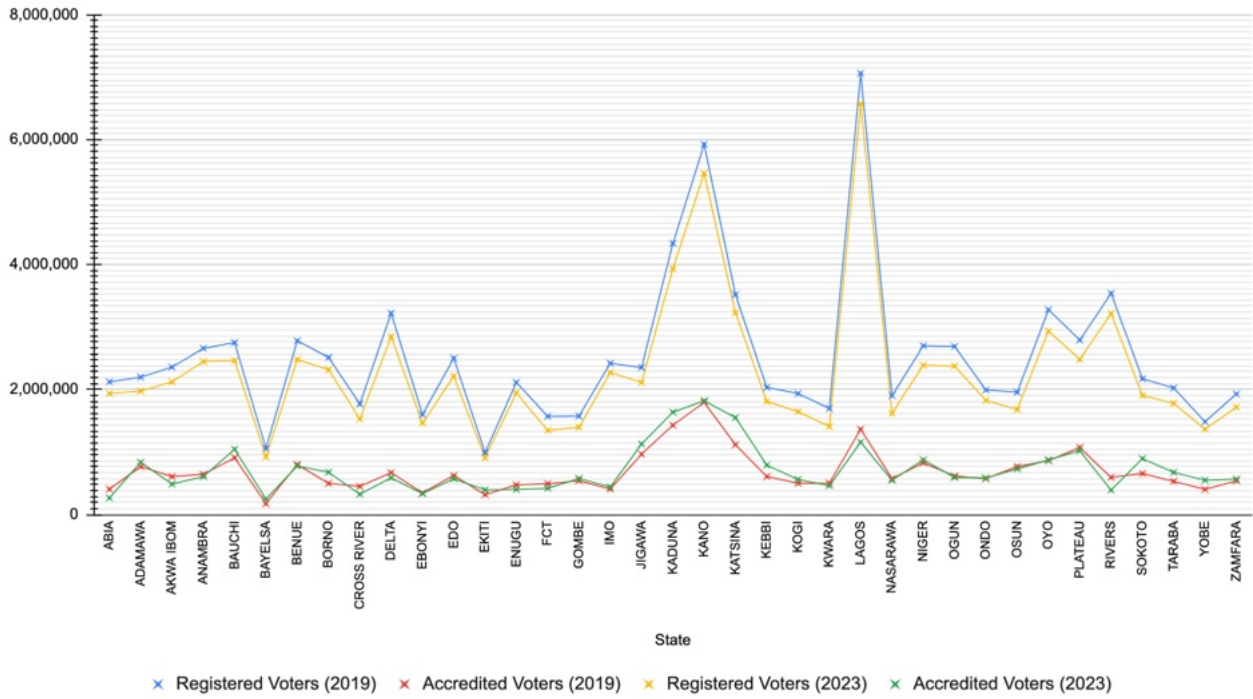
Figure 9.1: Comparison of Registered and Accredited for the 2019 and 2023 General Elections

The INEC Chairman and National Commissioners at the opening of the National Situation Room and Collation Centre on Friday 24th February 2023 at the International Conference Centre, Abuja

S/N	State	PUs with No BVAS Deployed (Zero PUs)	PUs with 1 BVAS Deployed	PUs with 1 Additional BVAS Deployed	PUs with 2 Additional BVAS Deployed	PUs with 3 Additional BVAS Deployed	PUs with 4 Additional BVAS Deployed	PUs with 5 Additional BVAS Deployed	PUs with 6 Additional BVAS Deployed	PUs with 9 Additional Bvas Deployed	Total PUs
											Table 9.4: BVAS Deployment Chart on PU Basis
1	Abia	12	3,876	154	15	5	-	-	-	-	4,062
2	Adamawa	4	4,078	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,104
3	Akwa Ibom	-	4,317	31	5	-	-	-	-	-	4,353
4	Anambra	6	5,546	162	4	2	-	-	-	-	5,720
5	Bauchi	6	5,221	186	10	-	-	-	-	-	5,423
6	Bayelsa	2	2,204	37	1	-	-	-	-	-	2,244
7	Benue	10	5,063	28	1	-	-	-	-	-	5,102
8	Borno	12	4,903	149	7	-	-	-	-	-	5,071
9	Cross River	-	3,259	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,281
10	Delta	4	5,571	281	6	1	-	-	-	-	5,863
11	Ebonyi	4	2,853	85	4	-	-	-	-	-	2,946
12	Edo	1	4,424	92	2	-	-	-	-	-	4,519
13	Ekiti	4	2,429	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,449
14	Enugu	11	3,952	183	6	-	-	-	-	-	4,152
15	Gombe	-	2,903	81	2	1	1	-	-	-	2,988
16	Imo	38	4,689	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,758
17	Jigawa	3	4,458	61	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,522
18	Kaduna	8	7,890	107	6	-	1	-	-	-	8,012
19	Kano	10	10,995	211	6	-	-	-	-	-	11,222

20	Katsina	12	6,516	120	4	-	-	-	-	-	6,652
21	Kebbi	5	3,704	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,743
22	Kogi	-	3,431	75	1	-	-	-	-	1	3,508
23	Kwara	1	2,842	43	1	-	-	-	-	-	2,887
24	Lagos	3	12,897	384	32	3	4	-	2	-	13,325
25	Nasarawa	11	3,187	46	6	2	1	1	2	-	3,256
26	Niger	10	4,884	55	1	-	-	-		-	4,950
27	Ogun	-	4,827	187	20	6	-	1	1	-	5,042
28	Ondo	2	3,866	62	3	-	-	-	-	-	3,933
29	Osun	-	3,742	19	2	-	-	-	-	-	3,763
30	Oyo	-	6,276	106	7	-	1	-	-	-	6,390
31	Plateau	6	4,640	336	7	-	-	-	-	-	4,989
32	Rivers	1	6,413	405	39	4	-	3	1	-	6,866
33	Sokoto	8	3,967	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,991
34	Taraba	34	3,221	322	19	1	-	-	-	-	3,597
35	Yobe	11	2,660	145	7	-	-	-	-	-	2,823
36	Zamfara	1	3,491	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,529
37	FCT	-	2,628	137	37	8	-	-	1		2,811
	Total	**240**	**171,823**	**4,468**	**261**	**33**	**8**	**5**	**7**	**1**	**176,846**

9.5. Counting, Collation and the Declaration of Results

The counting, collation and declaration of results took place for the 470 constituencies on the 25th of February 2023 at the 176,606 PUs, 8,809 Wards, 36 State and FCT Collation Centres (for the Presidential Election) 109 Senatorial District Collation Centres, 360 Federal Constituencies and at the National Collation Centre in Abuja. From each of the PUs, the EC 8A result sheets, haven been duly completed in line with the Regulations and Guidelines for the Conduct of Elections, 2022, are then scanned with the BVAS and uploaded onto the IReV Portal (see Chapter 3 of this Report). Besides the upload to the Portal, the PO is required by law to fill out Form EC 60E, popularly known as 'the people's result' and paste the Form prominently on a wall in the premises of the PU. One of the key and laudable innovations the Commission introduced prior to the 2023 General Elections was the INEC Result Viewing Portal (IReV) to promote transparency and integrity in the electoral process elections. The IReV Portal is a public-facing website that shows the images of the result sheets of an election at the polling unit level. Those images are uploaded by the designated presiding officer using the BVAS device. At the end of the poll in a polling unit, the PO takes a photo of the completed and signed result sheet and uploads it to the IReV portal, making it available to the public and all stakeholders.

The declaration of the aggregated PU results were declared at the RAs, various constituencies for the Senatorial and House of Representatives as well at the State Collation Centres. The results declared at the State Collation Centres were then brought to the National Collation Centre in Abuja by the State Collation Officers for the Presidential Election (SCOPES), who were all Vice Chancellors of Federal Universities across the Country, accompanied by the Resident Electoral Commissioners, the Commissioners of Police as well as the State Directors of State Security.

In the Presidential/National Assembly elections, the collation of results started at the Registration Area by the Registration Area Collation Officers followed by the second level of Collation by the Local Government Collation Officers, where in some instances declaration and returns were made for some Federal Constituency elections. The final collation for the presidential election was done at the state level before the results were forwarded to Abuja for final collation for declaration and return. For the Gubernatorial/State Assembly elections the same process was followed, except that declaration and return was made for the state constituencies at the various State Constituencies whereas the final collation for Governorship election was done at the collation centre in the state office where declaration and return were made. All collated results were carefully arranged and kept for furture reference. These were the scenarios in all states where elections were held. There were cancellations across all PUs in states where over voting occurred and zero recorded for refusal to use the BVAS. Table 9.5 below provides a picture of the range of challenges encountered during voting, accreditation, and collation of results countrywide.

S/N	State	LGA	RA	Threat	Remarks	Timestamp
				Table 9.5: Threat Matrix During Accreditation, Voting and Counting of Results on the 25th of February		
1	Adamawa	Guyuk	Banjiram	BVAS Malfunction	Unit 009	2023-03-18 10:54:01
2	Adamawa	Michika	VI / Boka	BVAS Malfunction	Unit 006	2023-03-18 10:55:08
3	Adamawa	Yola South	Ngurore	Failure to Replace BVAS	Problem resolved	2023-03-18 13:04:47
3	Akwa Ibom	Uyo	Offot I	BVAS Malfunction	BVAS is not exporting data in unit 36	
4	Akwa Ibom	Uyo	Etoi II	BVAS Malfunction	Ward 5, Unit 19	2023-03-18 11:11:41
5	Akwa Ibom	Uyo	Oku I	BVAS Malfunction	Ward 10, Unit 6	2023-03-18 11:18:26
6	Akwa Ibom	Uyo	Etoi I	BVAS Malfunction	BVAS unable to export data both online and off-line in unit 42	2023-03-18 12:48:43
7	Akwa Ibom	Uyo	Uyo Urban II	BVAS Malfunction	Unit 49 BVAS refuses to upload result	2023-03-18 16:13:18
8	Anambra	Awka North	Ebenebe II	BVAS Malfunction	It was resolved immediately	2023-03-18 10:53:55
9	Anambra	Awka North	Amansea	BVAS Malfunction	It was resolved immediately	2023-03-18 10:55:04
10	Anambra	Orumba South	Owerre-Ezukala II	BVAS Malfunction	The RATECH Officer has reconfigured the BVAS	2023-03-18 11:23:58
11	Anambra	Onitsha-North	American Quarters	BVAS Malfunction	Not yet	2023-03-18 16:30:21
12	Anambra	Onitsha-North	Inland Town IV	BVAS Malfunction	Not yet	2023-03-18 16:31:02
13	Anambra	Onitsha-North	Ogbe Umuonicha	BVAS Malfunction	Not yet	2023-03-18 16:31:27
14	Anambra	Onitsha-North	Trans Nkisi	BVAS Malfunction	Not yet	2023-03-18 16:31:41

15	Anambra	Onitsha-North	Water-Side Central II	BVAS Malfunction	Not yet	2023-03-18 16:31:56
16	Anambra	Onitsha-North	Woluwo Layout	BVAS Malfunction	Not yet	2023-03-18 16:32:12
17	Anambra	Onitsha-North	Inland Town V	BVAS Malfunction	Not yet	2023-03-18 16:32:28
18	Anambra	Onitsha-North	Inland Town II	BVAS Malfunction	Not yet	2023-03-18 16:32:56
19	Benue	Konshisha	Mbayegh/Mbaikyer	BVAS Malfunction	Unit 017 in this RA polls were disrupted due to BVAS malfunctioning	2023-03-19 08:12:35
20	Borno	Askira / Uba	Dille / Huyum	BVAS Malfunction		2023-03-18 11:30:12
21	Delta	Warri South-West	Aja-Udaibo	BVAS Malfunction		2023-03-18 10:35:57
22	Ekiti	Ekiti South-West	Ilawe II	BVAS Malfunction		2023-03-18 13:00:38
23	Gombe	Akko	Akko	BVAS Malfunction		2023-03-18 12:10:02
24	Jigawa	Birniwa	Fagi	BVAS Malfunction		2023-03-18 12:42:41
25	Kaduna	Ikara	Paki	BVAS Malfunction	012 Cancelled	2023-03-18 19:57:50
26	Kaduna	Kudan	Doka	BVAS Malfunction		2023-03-18 20:35:44
27	Niger	Borgu	Shagunu	BVAS Malfunction	Resolved	2023-03-18 15:29:09
28	Rivers	Gokana	Kpor/Lewe/Gbe	BVAS Malfunction	Unit 9 in ward 15 is having issues with the BVAS	2023-03-18 10:43:37
29	Rivers	Oyigbo	Komkom	BVAS Malfunction	Unit 15 in ward 1O is having issues with the BVAS	2023-03-18 11:00:08
30	Rivers	Obio/Akpor	Oro-Igwe	BVAS Malfunction		2023-03-18 15:16:53
31	Rivers	Gokana	Biara I	BVAS Malfunction		2023-03-18 16:30:51

9.6. Uploading of Presidential Election Result

The 2023 General Election was generally peaceful and orderly nationwide. Most of the challenges encountered in the pre-election, election and post-election periods were discussed in the preceding sections of this Report. However, a key challenge that impacted on the public perception of the election and elicited widespread commentary is the failure to upload Polling Unit results of the presidential election to the INEC Result Viewing (IReV) portal in real-time at the close of polls on Saturday 25th February 2023. To begin with, it is important to note that the IReV portal is one of the most significant innovations introduced by the Commission prior to the 2023 General Election to promote the integrity and transparency of the electoral process. As a public-facing website, the IReV portal shows the images of the original Polling Unit result sheets as recorded in Form EC8A.

The operational methodology and the concept behind the upload of results to the IReV for public viewing is quite simple. At the end of polls, Polling Unit results (Form EC8As) are scanned and uploaded to the IReV by the Presiding Officer(s). These results are then available for viewing to the public and all stakeholders. The system, which was first deployed during Nasarawa Central State Constituency bye-election in August 2020 and tested in 105 subsequent elections, including three (3) off-cycle governorship elections, has tremendously improved public confidence in the integrity

and transparency of the Commission's result management process.

The challenge of uploading the PU presidential election results on the IReV after the presidential and NASS elections on 25th February 2023 was unique. As voting ended across the country and POs began the process of uploading the images of the PU result sheets of the elections for the various constituencies around 4:00pm, the Commission began to receive reports that attempts to upload presidential election result sheets was failing. Following these reports, the Commission immediately engaged with its field officials for details in order to understand, and trace the origin, source, scale and magnitude of the problem across the result management ecosystem to devise appropriate solutions.

In the troubleshooting process, it was established that there was no issue in uploading the PU result sheets of the Senate and House of Representatives elections through the Election Result Modules. However, there was a problem with uploading the presidential election results to the system. Attempts to upload the results were generating internal server errors, which refer to a significant impairment that usually originate from within an application due to problems relating to configuration, permissions, or failure to create or access application resources correctly. Further interrogation of the Election Result Modules indicated that the system is encountering an unexpected configuration problem in mapping the presidential election results uploaded into the system to the participating Polling Units.

Due to the complex, sensitive and critical nature of the systems and the real potential for malicious cyberattacks, the Commission immediately put in place several strict security and audit control measures to prevent any unfettered or elevated access to the Result Upload System. In the process of resolving the challenge, it was discovered that the backend system of the IReV was able to query and detect the base States for uploading the PU result sheets based on the mapping of all Senatorial District and Federal Constituency elections to the respective 36 States of the Federation and the FCT as established in the database structure deployed within the system. In configuring and mapping the election results for the presidential and NASS elections, the Commission created Four Hundred and Seventy (470) election types consisting of one presidential constituency covering the entire country, 109 Senatorial Districts and 360 Federal Constituencies. Each Senatorial District and Federal Constituency election on the database was mapped to their respective States. However, the presidential election result is a single, countrywide constituency and therefore, does not belong to any one State.

Consequently, while the uploads for the NASS elections succeeded as the application was able to identify the respective State and build the folder hierarchy for the results organization process for the election, attempts to upload the presidential election results sheets, which does not belong to or mapped to any State on the database, failed. Instead, it returned a HTTP server error response. This failure is attributable to the inability of the application to create and build a folder structure to organize the uploaded images of the result sheets of the presidential election.

Having identified and established the source of the problem, the Commission quickly created and deployed "Hotfixes" which are software updates for fixing a bug or any vulnerabilities in a system. The deployed hotfixes eventually resolved the HTTP error on the system and the first presidential election result sheet was successfully uploaded at 8.55pm on the 25th of February 2023.

After the problem with the upload was resolved, the Commission noticed a high volume of uploads on the queue. All results that scanned but could not be uploaded due to the error were queued waiting to be automatically processed. Due to the large volume and high traffic from the queue, the system was running slower, even though it tried to scale up automatically to handle the unanticipated heavy traffic. The density of the traffic that slowed the uploads was one issue. Another was that the offline queue requires the BVAS devices to be switched-on and connected to the internet for the upload. However, some of the POs had at the time left their PUs, and the devices had either been switched-off, or were out of internet coverage. Switched-off devices could not connect and upload the results sheets. The Commission had to reach out to the POs of affected areas to switch-on their systems and ensure internet connectivity for the uploads to continue. This accounted for the delay, with some of the results coming in the next day.

By and large, the glitch experienced in uploading the scanned images of PU presidential election result sheets on 25th February 2023 was due to the inherent complexity within the System, which was difficult to anticipate and mitigate. Thereafter, the Commission has made improvements on the IReV and taken additional steps to build more resilience and undertook additional checks to ensure the stability and optimal operation and performance of the IReV portal. Additional quality assurance checks are now done to complement the end-to-end testing of the entire result upload ecosystem before the conduct of any election.

However, the glitch in the upload of the presidential results sheets to iREV did not affect the credibility of the election. Agents of political parties and security agents were given copies of polling station results after they were announced in public. The results were also displayed at polling units for scrutiny by voters. So when they were eventually uploaded, it was easy to compare them with the copies displayed at polling centres and given to party agents and party officials.

The 2023 General Election produced the most diverse outcome in recent Nigerian electoral history in terms of party representation in executive and legislative elections nationwide. Thus, four (4) political parties produced State Governors, seven (7) secured Senatorial seats, eight (8) won federal constituencies and nine (9) in State seats.

A granular analysis of the results and performance of the leading parties across the country affirms this diversity. The performance of the four (4) leading political parties – APC, LP, PDP and NNPP – in the presidential election across the 6 geopolitical zones in respect of the required 25% threshold to win a state in a presidential election is shown in Table 9.6 below. Clearly, across the zones, the performance of the four (4) leading parties shows the diversity and subtlety in the results, attesting to the integrity of both the process and outcome.

Table 9.6: Zonal Performance of Four Leading Political Parties in Respect of the 25% Threshold for the Presidential Election								
Parties								
Zones	APC		LP		NNPP		PDP	
	Scores	%	Scores	%	Scores	%	Scores	%
North Central	1,760,993	40.03	1,415,557	32.18	60,056	1.37	1,162,087	26.42
North East	1,185,458	35.19	315,107	9.35	126,343	3.75	1,741,846	51.71
North West	2,641,306	40.08	350,182	5.31	1,268,250	19.25	2,329,540	35.35
South East	127,605	5.83	1,960,589	89.62	8,227	0.38	91,198	4.17
South South	799,957	29.13	1,210,675	44.09	17,167	0.63	717,908	26.15
South West	2,279,407	55.77	849,423	20.78	16,644	0.41	941,941	23.04
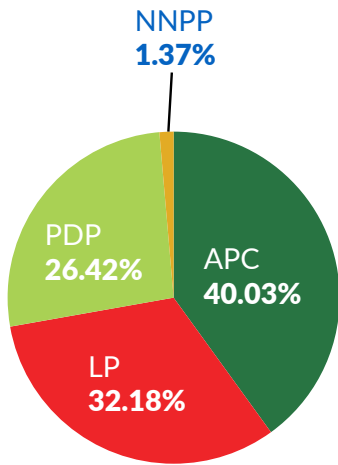
North-Central
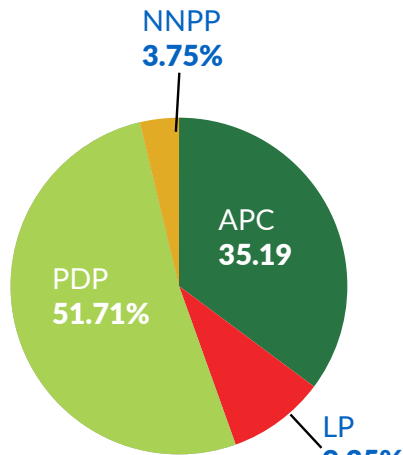
North-East
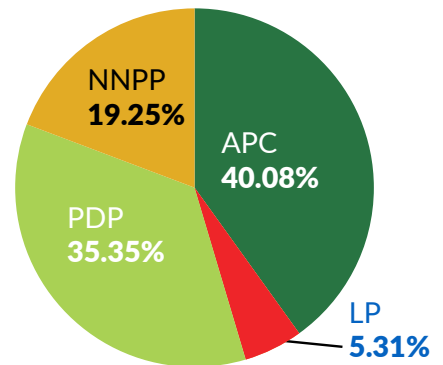
North-West
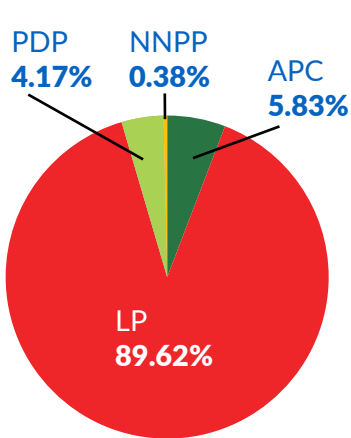
South-East
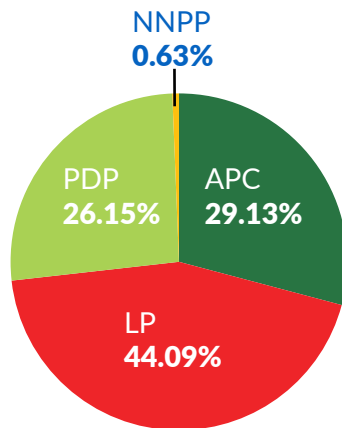
South-South
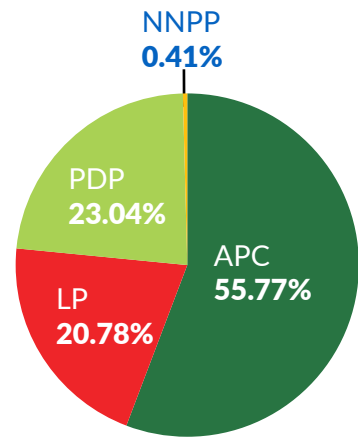
South-West

INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu gives the Certificate of Return to the winner of the 2023 Presidential Election and Candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu at the National Collation Centre, Abuja on 1st March 2023

Winner of the 2023 Presidential Election, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu, accompanied by his wife, Mrs Oluremi Tinubu, displays his Certificate of Return at the National Collation Centre, Abuja on 1st March 2023 after receiving it from the INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu (2nd left).
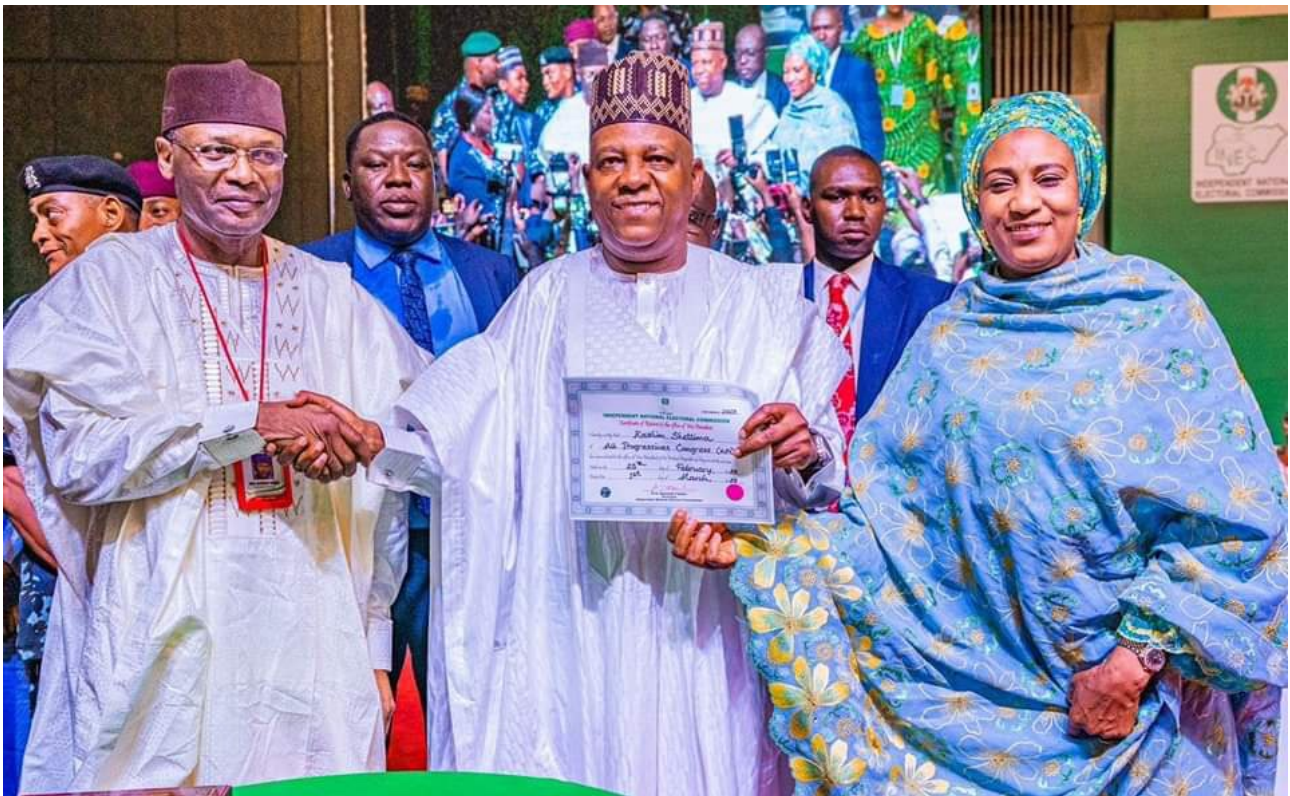
Vice Presidential Candidate, All Progressives Congress (APC), Alhaji Kashim Shettima (middle), assisted by his wife, Mrs Nana Shettima, received his Certificate of Return from the INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, at the National Collation Centre, Abuja on 1st March, 2023.

Chapter 10

Conduct of the Governorship and State Constituency Elections, 18th March 2023

10

10.1. Operation of the National Situation Room

The conduct of the Governorship and State Constituency elections, initially scheduled for the 11th of March, took place on the 18th of March 2023 in 28 states of the Federation (8 States, namely Anambra, Bayelsa, Edo, Ekiti, Imo, Kogi, Ondo and Osun are Off-Cycle) due to a postponement. The postponement arose due to the need for the Commission to vacate a court order issued after the presidential election that stopped the purging and reconfiguration of the BVAS in preparation for the Governorship and State Constituency elections. Just like in the Presidential and National Assembly elections, the National Situation Room was the central information hub and command centre for the monitoring, early warning, and field support for all activities related to the 18th of March exercise, from the deployment and receipt of non-sensitive and sensitive election materials, activation of RACs, availability of transportation and deployment of personnel, availability of security agents, deployment to PUs from RACs/SuperRACs, accreditation, voting and collation, as well as reverse logistics. Reports from the 28 EMSC State Secretariats across the country were received and addressed by the Commission as the elections unfolded. A total of 91,382 vehicles were used (see Table 10.1) to deploy 734,736 electoral personnel to the designated locations. There were 28 Governorship and 993 State constituencies, a total of 1,021 constituencies.

The early deployment of electoral personnel and materials ensured the early activation of the RACs and SuperRACs (table 10.2) which in turn determined that PUs opened early (table 10.3). Therefore, accreditation and voting began early, with the BVAS operating optimally. The National Situation Room also monitored threats and potential threats to the election across the states, providing security agencies with the nature and location of these incidents for their intervention. In states where there are IDPs, such as Niger, Nasarawa and a few others, adequate measures were put in place in line with the Commission's Revised Framework and Regulations for Voting by Internally Displaced Persons, to enable them to perform their civic duties. Virtually all States reported a remarkable improvement on logistics for the 18th of March elections, leading to the early opening of PUs. Chapter 12 provides more specific details of such incidents and challenges across the States.

A	B	C	D	E	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
S/N	States	LGA	No. of RA's	No. of PUs	Prov. of Vehicles for Poll Officials (@ 12 person for 14-Seater Bus)	Prov. of Vehicles for Reverse Logistics	Hiring of Vehicles for RA Supervisors.	Hiring of Vehicles for RA Collation Officers	Provision of Vehicles for Movement from State HQ to LGA	Hiring of Vehicles for LGA Supervisors.	Hiring of Vehicles for LGA Collation Officer	Total Vehicles
1	Abia	17	184	4,062	1,439	184	184	184	17	17	17	2,042
2	Adamawa	21	226	4,104	1,454	226	226	226	21	21	21	2,195
3	A/Ibom	31	329	4,353	1,542	329	329	329	31	31	31	2,622
4	Anambra	21	326	5,720	2,026	326	326	326	21	21	21	3,067
5	Bauchi	20	212	5,423	1,921	212	212	212	20	20	20	2,617
6	Bayelsa	8	105	2,244	795	105	105	105	8	8	8	1,134
7	Benue	23	276	5,102	1,807	276	276	276	23	23	23	2,704
8	Borno	27	312	5,071	1,796	312	312	312	27	27	27	2,813
9	C/River	18	193	3,281	1,162	193	193	193	18	18	18	1,795
10	Delta	25	270	5,863	2,076	270	270	270	25	25	25	2,961
11	Ebonyi	13	171	2,946	1,043	171	171	171	13	13	13	1,595
12	Edo	18	192	4,519	1,600	192	192	192	18	18	18	2,230
13	Ekiti	16	177	2,445	866	177	177	177	16	16	16	1,445
14	Enugu	17	260	4,145	1,468	260	260	260	17	17	17	2,299
15	Gombe	11	114	2,988	1,058	114	114	114	11	11	11	1,433
16	Imo	27	305	4,758	1,685	305	305	305	27	27	27	2,681
17	Jigawa	27	287	4,522	1,602	287	287	287	27	27	27	2,544
18	Kaduna	23	255	8,012	2,838	255	255	255	23	23	23	3,672

Table 10.1: Transportation Matrix for Election Officials for the Governorship and State Constituency Elections

19	Kano	44	484	11,222	3,974	484	484	484	44	44	44	5,558
20	Katsina	34	361	6,652	2,356	361	361	361	34	34	34	3,541
21	Kebbi	21	225	3,743	1,326	225	225	225	21	21	21	2,064
22	Kogi	21	239	3,508	1,242	239	239	239	21	21	21	2,022
23	Kwara	16	193	2,887	1,022	193	193	193	16	16	16	1,649
24	Lagos	20	245	13,325	4,719	245	245	245	20	20	20	5,514
25	Nasarawa	13	147	3,256	1,153	147	147	147	13	13	13	1,633
26	Niger	25	274	4,950	1,753	274	274	274	25	25	25	2,650
27	Ogun	20	236	5,042	1,786	236	236	236	20	20	20	2,554
28	Ondo	18	203	3,933	1,393	203	203	203	18	18	18	2,056
29	Osun	30	332	3,763	1,333	332	332	332	30	30	30	2,419
30	Oyo	33	351	6,390	2,263	351	351	351	33	33	33	3,415
31	Plateau	17	207	4,989	1,767	207	207	207	17	17	17	2,439
32	Rivers	23	319	6,866	2,432	319	319	319	23	23	23	3,458
33	Sokoto	23	244	3,991	1,413	244	244	244	23	23	23	2,214
34	Taraba	16	168	3,597	1,274	168	168	168	16	16	16	1,826
35	Yobe	17	178	2,823	1,000	178	178	178	17	17	17	1,585
36	Zamfara	14	147	3,529	1,250	147	147	147	14	14	14	1,733
37	FCT-Abuja	6	62	2,822	999	62	62	62	6	6	6	1,203
Total		774	8,809	176,846	62,633	8,809	8,809	8,809	774	774	774	91,382

10.2. Operation of the Election Monitoring and Support Centre

The EMSC received, cross-checked, organized, tabulated, and channelled data from field officers into the National Situation Room. Data was collected on over 650 KPIs directly related to the election, ranging from the receipt, deployment and batching of non-sensitive/sensitive materials, arrangements for transportation and hiring of vehicles, identification, preparation and activation of RACs/SuperRACs, recruitment and availability of ad-hoc staff for deployment, availability of security personnel for the election, deployment, charging and configuration of BVAS, refresher training at the RACs/SuperRACs, deployment to PUs on Election Day, accreditation, voting and collation as well as reverse logistics. On the preparation and activation of RACs/SuperRACs, reports indicate that 82% of these facilities nationwide were activated by 10:00pm on the 17th of March 2023. Abia (6%) and Kano (3%) were the lowest, but these were affected by poor reporting of the data and insecurity issues. Overall, though, activation was high, with most states attaining over 90% activation rate.

S/No	State	No of LGA	No of RAs	No of RAC Activated by 10pm	RAC Activated by 10pm in Percentage
Table 10.2: RAC Preparation and Activation at 22:00hrs on Friday, 17th March
1	Abia	17	184	11	6%
2	Adamawa	21	226	223	99%
3	Akwa Ibom	31	329	306	93%
4	Anambra	21	326	245	75%
5	Bauchi	20	212	198	93%
6	Bayelsa	8	105	104	99%
7	Benue	23	276	252	91%
8	Borno	27	312	269	86%
9	Cross River	18	193	147	76%
10	Delta	25	270	206	76%
11	Ebonyi	13	171	143	84%
12	Edo	18	192	171	89%
13	Ekiti	16	177	177	100%
14	Enugu	17	260	212	82%
15	Gombe	11	114	105	92%
16	Imo	27	305	266	87%
17	Jigawa	27	287	286	100%
18	Kaduna	23	255	255	100%
19	Kano	44	484	14	3%
20	Katsina	34	361	361	100%

21	Kebbi	21	225	226	100%
22	Kogi	21	239	232	97%
23	Kwara	16	193	177	92%
24	Lagos	20	245	237	97%
25	Nasarawa	13	147	146	99%
26	Niger	25	274	188	69%
27	Ogun	20	236	235	100%
28	Ondo	18	203	164	81%
29	Osun	30	332	315	95%
30	Oyo	33	351	342	97%
31	Plateau	17	207	203	98%
32	Rivers	23	319	110	34%
33	Sokoto	23	244	244	100%
34	Taraba	16	168	122	73%
35	Yobe	17	178	177	99%
36	Zamfara	14	147	102	69%
	Total	**768**	**8,747**	**7,171**	**82%**

10.3 Opening of Polls

With about 82% RAC activation rate, it was not surprising that over half of the PUs opened by 8:30am or even earlier, with election officials waiting for voters. Across the country, about 53% of the PUs opened for voting by 8:30am, while 27% opened between 8:31am and 10:00am. Only 3% of PUs opened after 10:10am on Election Day as indicated in table 10.3 below. While voting went ahead smoothly in most locations, incidents, and challenges that delayed the start of voting in some locations due to local conditions were noticeable. These range from disagreements over the location of PUs, BVAS malfunction, difficult terrains, security challenges as well as late deployment of vehicles.

S/No	State	No of LGA	No of RAs	No of PUs	PUs Opened By 8.30am	%	8.31am -10.00am	%	After10.00am	%
					Table 10.3: Opening-Close of Polls and Number of Accredited Voters on Election Day					
1	Abia	17	184	4,062	1,717	42.27	2,207	54.33	0	0.00
2	Adamawa	21	226	4,104	2,199	53.58	1,181	28.78	28	0.68
3	Akwa Ibom	31	329	4,353	2,568	58.99	1,606	36.89	108	2.48
4	Anambra	21	326	5,720	1,906	33.32	2,071	36.21	76	1.33
5	Bauchi	20	212	5,423	4,594	84.71	671	12.37	0	0.00
6	Bayelsa	8	105	2,244	2,219	98.89	0	0.00	0	0.00
7	Benue	23	276	5,102	3,010	59.00	1,561	30.60	304	5.96
8	Borno	27	312	5,071	4,471	88.17	0	0.00	0	0.00
9	Cross River	18	193	3,281	1,151	35.08	1,864	56.81	247	7.53
10	Delta	25	270	5,863	1,979	33.75	2,059	35.12	803	13.70
11	Ebonyi	13	171	2,946	1,331	45.18	1,141	38.73	0	0.00
12	Edo	18	192	4,519	3,551	78.58	203	4.49	16	0.35
13	Ekiti	16	177	2,445	2,101	85.93	344	14.07	0	0.00
14	Enugu	17	260	4,145	212	5.11	3,755	90.59	37	0.89
15	Gombe	11	114	2,988	2,698	90.29	88	2.95	0	0.00
16	Imo	27	305	4,758	1,721	36.17	1,621	34.07	418	8.79
17	Jigawa	27	287	4,522	3,049	67.43	1,173	25.94	46	1.02
18	Kaduna	23	255	8,012	2,155	26.90	2,858	35.67	380	4.74
19	Kano	44	484	11,222	140	1.25	78	0.70	6	0.05

20	Katsina	34	361	6,652	5,030	75.62	1285	19.32	165	2.48
21	Kebbi	21	225	3,743	3,428	91.58	255	6.81	0	0.00
22	Kogi	21	239	3,508	1,623	46.27	1843	52.54	19	0.54
23	Kwara	16	193	2887	2,067	71.60	735	25.46	23	0.80
24	Lagos	20	245	13,325	6,620	49.68	5055	37.94	1434	10.76
25	Nasarawa	13	147	3,256	1,310	40.23	1946	59.77	0	0.00
26	Niger	25	274	4,950	3,330	67.27	402	8.12	1	0.02
27	Ogun	20	236	5,042	1,741	34.53	2438	48.35	165	3.27
28	Ondo	18	203	3,933	3,595	91.41	310	7.88	0	0.00
29	Osun	30	332	3,763	3,333	88.57	271	7.20	18	0.48
30	Oyo	33	351	6,390	4,275	66.90	1391	21.77	554	8.67
31	Plateau	17	207	4,989	3,315	66.45	1272	25.50	157	3.15
32	Rivers	23	319	6,866	1,979	28.82	1321	19.24	495	7.21
33	Sokoto	23	244	3,991	3,681	92.23	240	6.01	18	0.45
34	Taraba	16	168	3,597	1,993	55.41	0	0.00	0	0.00
35	Yobe	17	178	2,823	2,247	79.60	433	15.34	0	0.00
36	Zamfara	14	147	3529	367	10.40	2714	76.91	166	4.70
	Totals	**768**	**8,747**	**17,4024**		**92,706**		**46,392**		**5,684**
	Compliance Percentage					**53%**		**27%**		**3%**

10.4. Voting Process and Performance of Equipment

The voting process for the governorship and state house of assembly elections on 18th March 2023 was generally smooth and orderly. Voters were able to cast their votes in a timely manner, and there were no major disruptions. The Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) machines were used to verify the identity of voters and to record their votes. The BVAS machines worked properly in most polling units, although there were some reports of technical glitches. There were some delays in the opening of polls in some polling units due to the late arrival of election materials. However, these delays were relatively minor and did not significantly impact the overall process. The Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) machines worked properly in most polling units. This was a major improvement over the previous elections, where there were widespread problems with the use of the BVAS. There were some reports of violence and intimidation of voters and election officials in some areas. However, these reports were isolated and did not significantly impact the overall process. These challenges were addressed by INEC and its partners, and the voting process was generally smooth and orderly. However, it is important to continue to address these challenges to ensure that future elections are more credible and transparent.

10.5. Counting, Collation and Declaration of Result Process

The counting, collation, and declaration of results were conducted across the RAs, LGAs Constituency and State Collation centres for the constituencies. Some of the security challenges that caused delays in the collation process witnessed in some states during the Presidential election such Yobe for example, were comprehensively addressed during the Governorship and State Constituency elections. Again, the state reports provide more details about specific incidents such as over-voting, malfunction of BVAS, difficult terrains, inadequate transportation and so on. On the whole though, there was a vast improvement in terms of logistics, security, performance of equipment, deployment of staff, and related processes in the 18th of March elections across the country.

10.6. Issues and Challenges

Many of the challenges faced during the Governorship and State constituency elections had to do either with third party interventions that led to late arrival of election officials and materials, difficult terrains, incidents of insecurity, and equipment malfunction. In the case of equipment malfunction, challenges were promptly addressed by designated officials.

Vote buying, violence and the intimidation of voters at PUs as well as the snatching of electoral materials were also noticeable

National Commissioner, Barrister Festus Okoye (left) presents the Certificate of Return ot the Winner of the Abia State Governorship Election and Candidate of the Labour Party, Mr. Alex Otti.

National Commissioner, Major General Abubakar Alkali (rtd) (left) presents the Certificate of Return to the Winner of Bauchi State Governorship Election and Candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Alhaji Bala Muhammed

National Commissioner, Prof. Abdulahi Adbu Zuru presents the Certificate of Return to the Winner of the Kano State Governorshop Election and Candidate of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP), Engineer Abba Kabir Yusuf.

National Commissioner, Mr. Sam Olumekun mni (right) presents the Certificate of Return to the Winner of the Lagos State Governorship Election and Candidate of the All Peoples Congress (APC), Mr. Jide Sanwo-Olu while the Lagos State Resident Electoral Commissioner, Mr. Segun Agbaje (second right) and Mrs Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu watch with interest.

Chapter 11

Conduct of Supplementary Elections: 15th April 2023

11

Supplementary elections held on 15th of April 2023 in 23 states: Adamawa, Anambra, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Ebonyi, Edo, Ekiti, Enugu, Imo, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Kogi, Niger, Ogun, Oyo, Rivers, Sokoto, Taraba, Yobe, and Zamfara. The election was held in these states because the results of the initial election were inconclusive.

11.1. Reasons for the Supplementary Elections

The Supplementary Elections were held in the case of two (2) Governorship elections (Adamawa and Kebbi), as well as five (5) Senatorial Districts (Kebbi North, Sokoto East, Sokoto North, Sokoto South and Zamfara Central), 31 Federal and 58 State Constituencies as indicated on table 11.1 below, to determine winners since the first ballot on the 25th of February and the 18th of March 2023 were inconclusive.

Clause 62 of the Regulations and Guidelines for the Conduct of Elections, 2022 states that 'where the margin of lead between the two leading candidates in an election is NOT in excess of the total number of voters who collected their Permanent Voters' Cards (PVCs) in polling units where elections are postponed, voided or not held in line with Sections 24(2&3), 47(3) and 51(2) of the Electoral Act 2022, the Returning Officer shall decline to make a return for the constituency until pols have been conducted in the affected polling units and the results collated into the relevant forms for Declaration and Return.' Known as the 'Margin of Lead Principle,' these elections were conducted in fulfilment of this legal requirement for the declaration of winners in any election. For these constituencies therefore, there were 186 LGAs, 784 RAs, 2676 PUs, 1,560,230 registered voters, with 1,467,121 PVCs collected.

Table 11.1: Delimitation Details for the 15th of April Supplementary Election for the 2023 General Election							
State	SN	Constituency	LGAs	No of RAs	No of PUs	No of Reg Voters	No of PVCs Collected
Adamawa	1	Governorship	20	46	69	42,785	36,935
Kebbi	2	Governorship	20	90	142	95,270	91,892
		Sub-Total	40	136	211	138,055	128,827
Senatorial Election							
Kebbi	1	Kebbi North SD	6	14	23	13,493	13,243
Sokoto	2	Sokoto East SD	8	34	90	48,444	48,075
	3	Sokoto North SD	8	46	163	110,214	106,207
	4	Sokoto South SD	7	44	134	82,561	78,165
Zamfara	5	Zamfara Central SD	4	20	83	50,244	46,056

		Sub-Total	33	158	493	304,956	291,746
		Federal Constituency Election					
Akwa Ibom	1	Abak /Etim Ekpo/ Ika FC	3	8	25	14,696	13,705
	2	Ikono/Ini FC	2	9	34	18,845	17,051
Anambra	3	Ogbaru FC	1	6	45	22,473	21,357
Bayelsa	4	Southern Ijaw FC	1	8	32	8,346	8,225
Edo	5	Orhionmwon/ Uhunmwode FC	2	6	48	23,443	23,147
Imo	6	Mbaitoli/ Ikeduru FC	2	13	58	33,785	33,176
Kano	7	Fagge FC	1	6	19	14,086	12,392
	8	Tudun Wada FC	1	8	13	7,465	7,298
Kebbi	9	Arewa/Dandi FC	2	6	7	4,039	3975
	10	Koko Besse-Maiyama FC	2	7	10	5,796	5,718
Kogi	11	Dekina/Bassa FC	1	8	44	26,050	25,326
Oyo	12	Ibadan NE/Ibadan SE FC	2	2	2	971	767
	13	Oluyole FC	1	2	2	3,014	2,869
Rivers	14	Khana/Gokana FC	1	2	42	18,037	17,408
	15	Port Harcourt II FC	1	10	377	195,945	171,756
Sokoto	16	Binji/Silame FC	2	10	23	15,003	14,882
	17	Bodinga/Dange Shuni/Tureta FC	3	19	54	28,647	27,908
	18	Kware/Wamakko FC	2	11	49	29,002	28,231
	19	Gada/Goronyo	2	13	46	24,691	24,542
	20	Gwadabawa/Illela FC	2	7	12	7,135	6,916
	21	Isa/Sabo Birni FC	2	8	13	6,987	6,521
	22	Rabah/Wurno FC	2	6	19	10,743	10,474
	23	Sokoto North/ Sokoto South FC	2	19	85	61,854	58,573
	24	Gudu/Tanganza FC	2	6	6	4,355	4,303
	25	Kebbe/Tambuwal FC	2	13	54	33,679	33,346
	26	Yabo/Shagari FC	2	12	26	14,769	13,987
Taraba	27	Takum/Ussa/Donga FC	2	7	79	50,973	44,374

Zamfara	28	Gusau/Tsafe FC	2	14	64	40,522	38,529
	29	Gummi/Bukkuyum FC	2	4	7	4,566	4,213
Jigawa	30	Gumel/Maigatari/ Sule Tankarkar/ Gagarawa FC	2	4	6	4,701	4,441
Ebonyi	31	Ezza North/Ishielu FC	1	3	35	17,470	17,436
		Sub-Total	55	257	1336	752,088	702,846
State Constituency Election							
A/Ibom	1	Etim Ekpo/Ika SC	2	14	32	19,140	17,614
Bayelsa	2	Ogbia II SC	1	4	94	34,273	33,781
Ebonyi	3	Afikpo South-East SC	1	3	7	3,333	3,124
	4	Ezza South SC	1	6	10	5,683	5,649
	5	Ikwo North SC	1	5	7	2,053	2,028
	6	Afikpo North-West SC	1	3	5	3,146	3,325
	7	Abakaliki North SC	1	2	6	2,647	2,211
Edo	8	Oredo East SC	1	4	29	17,091	12,850
	9	Egor SC	1	4	26	15,416	12,586
	10	Ovia South-West SC	1	1	13	6,764	6,734
Ekiti	11	Ido Osi I SC	1	1	3	1,641	1,609
Imo	12	Ahiazu Mbaise SC	1	3	9	7,760	7,269
Kaduna	13	Chawai/Kauru SC	1	2	2	1,045	1,045
	14	Giwa West SC	1	2	2	1,291	1,283
	15	Ikara SC	1	8	13	7,159	7,129
	16	Sanga SC	1	4	8	5,006	5,006
	17	Kudan SC	1	6	25	13,020	12,831
Kano	18	Ajingi SC	1	5	8	4,921	4,155
	19	Danbatta SC	1	7	81	42,435	41,221
	20	Dawaki Tofa SC	1	5	8	5,347	4,977
	21	Garko SC	1	2	3	2,215	2,164
	22	Gabasawa SC	1	3	5	3,757	3,745
	23	Gaya SC	1	3	4	1,943	1,923
	24	Gezawa SC	1	4	5	3,288	3,253
	25	Gwarzo SC	1	6	7	5,175	4,355
	26	Makoda SC	1	6	12	6,521	6,442

	27	Takai SC	1	3	5	3,685	3,639
	28	Tudun Wada SC	1	4	19	9,737	9,426
	29	Ungogo SC	1	6	11	11,054	10,502
	30	Warawa SC	1	3	5	2,184	2,138
	31	Wudil SC	1	3	4	3,259	2,461
Kebbi	32	Arewa SC	1	2	2	1,569	1,558
	33	Augie SC	1	3	5	2,600	2,575
	34	Gwandu SC	1	7	17	8,744	8,436
	35	Jega SC	1	8	13	9,345	9,172
	36	Kalgo SC	1	3	4	4,103	3,986
	37	Koko Besse SC	1	4	4	3,471	3,471
	38	Maiyama SC	1	6	14	7,671	7,513
	39	Sakaba SC	1	5	7	4,192	3,970
Niger	40	Agaie SC	1	5	7	5,125	4,996
	41	Rijau SC	1	1	3	1,787	1,497
	42	Agwara SC	1	2	2	2,260	976
	43	Rafi SC	1	3	3	2,247	2,236
Ogun	44	Ifo I SC	1	1	1	1,848	1,596
Taraba	45	Karim Lamido II SC	1	3	3	1,504	1,504
Yobe	46	Geidam North SC	1	2	2	2,632	2,338
Jigawa	47	Birnin Kudu SC	1	4	6	4,705	4,578
	48	Dutse SC	1	5	7	3,834	3,818
	49	Yankwashi SC	1	3	7	5,403	5,394
Katsina	50	Kankia SC	1	5	6	3,439	3,412
	51	Kankara SC	1	9	17	11,008	10,986
	52	Kurfi SC	1	6	8	5,046	5,037
Enugu	53	Oji River SC	1	1	1	2,489	1,867
Adamawa	54	Girei SC	1	5	7	5,413	5,035
	55	Gombi SC	1	3	5	2,961	2947
	56	Numan SC	1	2	14	7,805	7,357
	57	Toungo SC	1	3	3	1,941	972
		Sub-Total	58	233	636	356,131	343,702
		Total	156	784	2676	1,560,230	1,467,121

11.2. Deployment of Personnel and Materials

The conduct of the supplementary elections across the 23 States saw the Commission deploying 11, 961 staff as well as 1,946 vehicles. Electoral personnel and materials were successfully deployed to locations as the 784 RACs were successfully activated as scheduled. Similarly, due to the smooth activation of the RACs, deployment to the PUs was early, meaning voting started quite on schedule.

11.3. Opening of Polls

These early beginnings allowed voters ample time to exercise their franchise and significantly contributed to a smooth, orderly, and transparent electoral process.

11.4. Voting Process and Performance of Equipment

Voting started across the 2676 PUs on time, and equipment performed excellently. None of the backup systems reserved for eventualities across locations was deployed in the supplementary election.

11.5. Counting, Collation and Declaration of Results Processes

Counting, collation and declaration took place at the designated places from PUs to the various constituencies across the states.

11.6. Issues and Challenges

Challenges for the supplementary election across the states revolved around logistic issues, particularly difficulties with transport providers, security issues, and difficult terrains. These issues were promptly addressed by the Commission.

Chapter 12

Reports from the State and FCT Offices

12

12.1 Introduction

For administrative convenience, the Commission categorised the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory into 6 zones viz: North-Central, North-East, North-West, South-East, South-South, and South-West. The North-Central has 6 states plus the FCT; North-East 6, North-West 7, South-East 5, South-South 6 and South-West 6 states. Each State Office, as well as the FCT, has a Resident Electoral Commissioner, an Administrative Secretary, and a full complement of administrative structures to the Local Government level, required by the Commission for the exercise and discharge of its constitutional powers and functions. In the sections that follow, an account is given of the preparations and conduct of the 2023 GE from each of the State Offices across the country within the context of the Commission's 2023 EPP. A summary of the overall delimitation data for all the Six(6) geopolitical zones is as shown in Table 12.1, while the summary that precedes the narration of each geo-political zone is shown in Table 12.2 to Table 12.6.

| Table 12.1: Delimitation Data by Geo-political Zones									
Geo-political Zones	LGA	SD	FC	SC	RA	PU	Reg. Voters	PVCs Collected	Km2
North-Central	121	19	51	156	1,398	27,514	15,363,731	14,603,621	242,425
North-East	112	18	48	156	1,210	24,006	12,542,429	11,937,769	272,395
North-West	186	21	92	216	2,003	41,671	22,255,562	21,445,000	216,065
South-East	95	15	43	129	1,246	21,631	10,907,606	10,401,484	29,525
South-South	123	18	55	160	1408	27,126	14,440,714	13,284,920	84,587
South-West	137	18	71	176	1,544	34,898	17,958,966	15,536,213	79,665
Total	774	109	360	993	8,809	176,846	9,3469,008	87,209,007	924,662

12.2. North-Central Zone

Introduction

The North-Central zone comprises of the FCT and the following States: Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger and Plateau.

The zone has a landmass of 242,425 km², with 121 LGAs, 19 Senatorial Districts, 51 Federal and 156 State Constituencies, 1,398 RAs, and 27,514 PUs. The total number of registered voters stood at 15,138,280 while 14,268,329 PVCs were collected as shown in table 12.1 below.

	Table 12.2: Delimitation Data for the North-Central Zone on State-by-State Basis								
S/N	State	LGA/LC	SD	FC	SC	RA	PU	Reg. Voters	PVCs Collection	Km²
1	Benue	23	3	11	32	276	5,102	2,777,727	2,607,141	34,059
2	FCT	6	1	2	-	62	2,822	1570307	1476451	7,315
3	Kogi	21	3	9	25	239	3,508	1,932,654	1,813,741	29,833
4	Kwara	16	3	6	24	193	2,887	1,695,927	1,537,275	36,825
5	Nasarawa	13	3	5	24	147	3,256	1,899,244	1,847,752	27,117
6	Niger	25	3	10	27	274	4,950	2,698,344	2,633,728	76,363
7	Plateau	17	3	8	24	207	4,989	2,789,528	2,687,533	30,913
	Total	121	19	51	156	1,398	27,514	15,363,731	14,603,621	242,425

12.2.1.
Benue State
Capital City: Makurdi

Prof. Samuel G. Egwu
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Benue State

Delimitation Data

23 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**11** Federal Constituencies	**32** State Constituencies
276 No of RAs	**5,102** No of PUs	**2,777,727** No of Registered Voters	**2,607,142** No of PVCs Collected
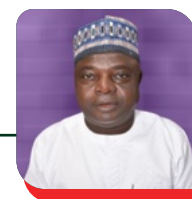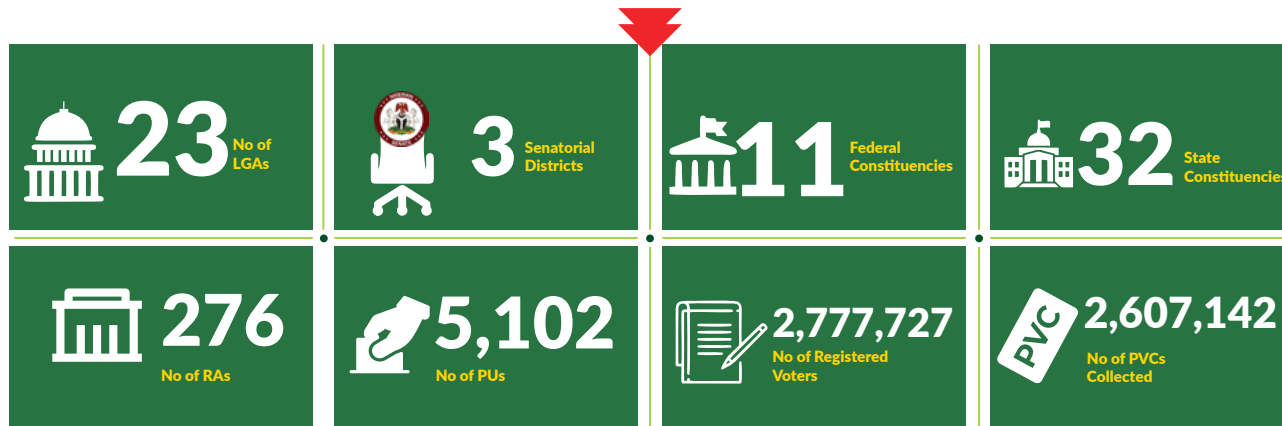
Introduction

Benue state, created in 1976, is in the North-Central geo-political zone with an area of 34,059 km. It has an estimated population of 4,253,641, made up of 23 LGAs, 276 RAs, 5,102 PUs and 2,777,727 registered voters. The number of PUs and registered voters in the state increased by 1,414 and 297, 596 respectively in 2023 general election. This is a result of the creation of additional units following the expansion of voter access to polling units and the CVR carried out between July 2021 and July 2022. A total of 2, 607, 142 PVCs, representing 93.7 collection rate were collected in the state.

Pre-Election Activities

Pre-election activities were carried out within the framework of the Electoral Cycle Approach (ECA) which has been adopted by the Commission. The INEC Strategic Plan, 2022-206, the Strategic Plan of Action and the Election Project Plan provided the overarching guide to the implementation of key activities leading to the election. The State Election Management Committee drawn from the management team in the state office steered the planning and implementation of such activities including transportation and logistics, personnel recruitment and training, electoral material storage and distribution, publicity, and election monitoring, among others. The State Election Management Committee committees chaired by the Resident Electoral Commissioner and assisted by the Administrative Secretary, further established various sub-committees which undertook the state's needs assessment for the successful conduct of the election as well as the state of readiness based on which the state office engaged with the relevant departments and the Supervising

National Commissioner for the state.

Similar Committees were set up at the LGA level to enable accurate and realistic assessment of the state of area offices including storage facilities to determine their suitability for the election. Such assessment reports informed recommendations made to the headquarters of the Commission that led to award of contracts for the renovation of three state area offices. The coordination of the activities of the committees at the state office and the area offices contributed to determining the status of printers in the ICT Department preparatory for the printing of Voter registers; the number and functionality of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) to determine the shortfalls, and identification ICT compliant ad-hoc personnel during the recruitment exercise to be engaged for all the polling units in the state for the purposes of handling the BVAS.

Furthermore, the operational vehicles of the Commission that were serviceable were assessed and the estimates for their repairs and servicing were forwarded to headquarters. Fund was subsequently released by the Commission for the repairs of these vehicles ahead of the election. The repaired vehicles were immediately deployed for the distribution of materials to the LGA. Many of those vehicles were subsequently attached to the Electoral Officers for the two sets of election.

Conduct of CVR and PVC Collection Exercise

The Benue State office of the Commission vigorously implemented the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) which started on the 28th of June 2021 and continued until 31st July 2022. The State recorded a total of 297,596 new registered voters at the end of the exercise. However, the remarkable achievement of the state in this direction was made possible because of the extensive sensitisation of the electorates through the radio, television, street/market outreach, among others, to create awareness for the people to collect their PVCs. In addition, the state office enjoyed the tremendous support of relevant government agencies, especially the NOA whose personnel made joint appearances with staff of VEP Department on numerous radio and other awareness creation platforms.

As directed from time to time, the state office devolved PVC collection exercise from the Area Offices to the Registration Area level which led to remarkable improvement in the PVCs collection rates across the state. The Commission took advantage of the initiative to devolve PVCs collection to the RAs to move into IDP camps spread across six Local Government Areas of the state greater number of displaced voters to collect their PVCs.

Recruitment, Training and Deployment of Electoral Personnel

The state office aligned with the policy decision of the Commission to leverage on technology in the recruitment of all categories of ad hoc staff except for the Collation Officers to insulate the process from undue human interference. Consequently, all the candidates interested in working for the Commission in the categories of Presiding Officers and Assistant Presiding Officers (POs, APOs I, APOs II and

APOs III) and Supervisory Presiding Officers (SPOs) were encouraged to apply through the platform called INECPRES, hosted at the Headquarters of the Commission in Abuja. It is important to point out that the Commission specifically focused on NYSC members and students of Federal owned Tertiary Institutions in the state. The Office of the Chairman of the Commission working together with the leadership of the Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi, determined the Collation Officers.

The training of the state officers of the Commission and ad hoc staff was carried out through the Commission's partnership with IFES and other International Agencies like the UNDP, DAI and others, who organised series of training programmes for various categories of staff of the Commission. These included, but not limited to: - INECPRESS Workshop, 27th October,2022; Voter education training for voter education desk officers 25th October 2022 to 26th October 2022; Election Technology and Capacity building training 12th – 14th December 2022; Election Security personnel training 6th July 2022. Media training for Heads of VEPs and Public Affairs Officers; EMSC training; RACTECs training (21st to 22nd February 2023); and CSRVS training (17th to 19th February 2023).

On its part, The Electoral Institute (TEI), organised series of training for election personnel who were to be engaged for the 2023 General Election. These trainings, some of supervised by INECPRES officials included root training for NYSC members focusing on voting processes and procedures on Election Day; training of Collation and Returning Officers; training

of Supervisory Presiding Officers; training of Presiding and Assistant Presiding officers for management of voting processes and procedure at the Polling units; and refresher training of categories of Ad-hoc staff in the aftermath of postponed governorship election1. Others include training of technical officers for BVAS management, and Security Training at State and Zonal levels. At the end of these training exercises, selection of ad-hoc personnel was based on merit and competences exhibited by the applicants in the competency tests that were conducted. However, the state Collation/Returning Officer for the Presidential and Gubernatorial elections, Professor Farouk Kuta, Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Science and Technology, Minna, was appointed from the headquarters and deployed to the State.

Party Primaries and Nomination Process

Out of the 18 (eighteen) registered political parties in the country, seventeen (17) fielded candidates for the various positions conducted primaries except for BOOTH party. However, it was generally observed that the dates, times, and venues provided to the State Office for monitoring of their primaries were changed at will, thereby confusing the Commission. Nevertheless, the department monitored all party primaries regardless of whether notices were received.

It was observed that apart from the All-Progressives Congress (APC) which conducted direct primaries, all the other sixteen (16) political parties opted for indirect primaries, using delegates/elected

among party members at the various party structures in ward, local government, and the state. Consequently, the adoption of consensus candidates characterised most of the primary elections monitored by the EPM department in the state. In a few instances staffs were sent from the headquarters to join the State team in the monitoring exercise. The common issues of concern observed during the primaries, included: non-adherence to dates/venues and time frames as fixed by political parties for their primaries; late commencement of primaries, which made their monitoring difficult by state and headquarters monitors; non-provision of the necessary documents like delegates lists, agenda, contestants' lists, guidelines, party's constitution to the monitors; and occurrence of skirmishes which took place at some party primaries which however did not prevent the conduct of the primaries.

Stakeholder Engagements

It is unthinkable that elections can be conducted with integrity and peacefully without engagements with critical stakeholders in the electoral process for purposes of building public confidence and trust. Consequently, in the build-up to the 2023 General Election in the state, different stakeholders' meetings were convened both at the state and LGA levels to discuss divergent electoral issues of concern. Among others, there were stakeholders' engagements with political parties and candidates to sign pact on peaceful electioneering campaigns with security agencies in attendance held on 5th October 2022; meeting with the ICCES members to discuss election security on 23rd October 20023; stakeholders meeting with women NGOs and CSOs to discuss inclusive elections on 11th November 2023; and engagements with serving youth corps members in the state to discuss their roles in conducting the 2023 general election. Other stakeholders' meetings involved the Road Transport Workers' Union (NURTW) and the National Association of Road Transport Owners' Union (NARTO) to clarify the MoU between the unions and the Commission and series of meetings with the media institutions in the state and meetings with the political parties and candidates on inspection of electoral materials the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

A substantial part of the stakeholders' meetings was held in IDP camps. In the period leading to the election, Benue State was designated as IDP voting state considering that IDPs in camps were spread across six LGAs in the state because of combination of factors including farmer/ herder conflict, cult-related activities and banditry /kidnapping. The affected LGAs Makurdi, Gwer West, Guma, Kwande, Logo, Kastina-Ala and Logo, all of which had a large number of IDPs. Several stakeholders' meetings were held in these LGAs in line with the Revised Regulations and framework for voting by IDPs released by the Commission in the 3rd quarter of 2022 to identify safe places for voting. The series of stakeholders' engagement focused on safe voting corridors for IDPs and collection of their PVCs.

Recruitment, Training and Deployment of Ad-hoc Personnel

The Commission extended its innovation to the recruitment of ad hoc personnel in the 2023 General Election by mounting a recruitment portal, INECPRESS. All eligible candidates for the different categories of ad hoc staff apart from Collation and COs and ROs applied through the platform. The POs, APOs, SPOs and RAC Managers were short-listed from the data of applicants from the INECPRESS, and shortfalls were made for, through making available application forms downloaded from the INECPRESS. The state Office short-listed candidates for SPOs and RAC Managers, while the EOs handled the short-listing and vetting of POs and APOs. The COs and ROs were identified through the Vice-Chancellor of the Joseph Sarwuan Tarka Federal University, Makurdi.

The trainings were coordinated between the State Office of the Commission and TEI, with the APOs and APOs trained by the SPOs who had earlier been trained. Similarly, the COs and ROs were trained with the support of the STO and the relevant staff of Operations Department with the support of the ICT Department. Based on final selection made, persons eligible for deployment were given contracts of appointment and subjected to Oath of secrecy. Deployment to places of assignment was undertaken by the NURTW and the vehicles mobilized by the state office from different Federal Government agencies, including the Police and the Nigerian Airforce.

Preparations for Elections Receipt, Storage and Deployment of Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Materials

Prior to the election, the state undertook a stock-taking exercise at the State and at the LGA Offices to determine the state of non-sensitive materials to determine the shortfall in terms of what were required to conduct a successful general election. Similarly, the State Office assessed the storage facilities in the office and in the 23 LGAs to determine the space as well as the functionality of the Air-Cooling system, especially considering the sensitivity of the BVAS. This exercise informed the request made to the headquarters to address the shortfalls identified and for funding to put in place complementary facilities that were required. The improvement in the storage facilities enabled the Commission to receive and store the non-sensitive materials in the batches they were supplied from the Headquarters. On receipt, they were kept in the available makeshift storage facilities in the State Office before being moved to the various LGAs in the state.

The sensitive materials supplied from the headquarters of the Commission, especially the Ballot papers and result sheets were directly delivered to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) where they were securely stored until the election as it has become the tradition. On the Thursday preceding the elections, while the political parties were around for the verification of the materials before being moved to the LGAs, the INEC logistics team was on ground to facilitate the verification of the materials

by the political parties, and to undertake the sorting and distribution of the sensitive materials before they were distributed to the 23 LGAs. This was the case for both the Presidential/National Assembly and Governorship/State Assembly elections. Given the customised nature of the sensitive materials, Electoral Officers were invited to be physically present in the inspection. This method enabled the logistics team to identify shortages, mix-ups and printing errors which were subsequently reported to the headquarters.

The sensitive and non-sensitive materials stored in the LGA offices were subsequently deployed to the various super RACs and RACs and subsequently, from where they were deployed to the various polling units in the state. The engagement of RAC managers in the election assisted in the safe keeping of these materials at the RACs. Special attention was given to the sensitive materials, which were shared in the presence of critical stakeholders like political party agents, security, international and domestic observers, the media etc.

Identification, Preparation and Activation of RACs and SRACs

Before the elections, the Electoral Officers were directed to go round their various LGAs of jurisdiction to review the location of RACs and Super RACs. The exercise informed the decision by the Commission to make funds available to the EOs to procure additional items to augment the materials sent from the headquarters to make the Super RACs and RACs suitable and conducive for election purpose. Some of the materials provided were support wiring

and lightening of classrooms, GP tanks to ensure availability of water, sleeping mats, toiletries, and buckets.

Logistics Preparation

The logistics for deployment of election personnel and materials was anchored on the review of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Commission and the two major transport Unions –NARTO, NURTW and the MWUN which formally become a part of the MoU in preparation for the 2023 general election. Despite the late finalisation of agreement in terms of payments for vehicles and boats arising from the reluctance of the unions to accept the prices offered in the 2019 general election, series of discussions with the unions involving the EOs, FRSC and the security agencies resulted in reaching agreement at the end of the day. It was on this basis that these unions provided buses, trucks, and boats for the movement of men and materials for the election purpose. Additionally, the Commission engaged the services of motorcycle riders popularly known as 'Okada', through their leadership to facilitate the movement of personnel and materials to difficult terrains that could not be accessed by motor vehicles. The deployment of vehicles including the operational vehicles of the Commission, motorcycles and boats was informed by the submissions of the EOs based on the peculiarities of their terrain.

Conduct of the Elections (25th February and 18th March) Opening of Polls

Generally, polls opened in the Presidential and National Assembly elections and the governorship and State Houses of Assembly elections, the exception being late opening of polls in a few local governments in the first election due to minor logistical challenges. This was largely attributable to successful deployment of election materials and personnel from the LGA offices to the RACs on Fridays preceding the elections. Early opening of polls and the optimum performance of the BVAS machines as well the implementation of simultaneous accreditation and voting accountable for the overall success of the elections.

Monitoring, Implementation and Support for Field Activities

Just before the Presidential/National Assembly election in the state, the Electoral Operations Support Centre (EOSC) conducted an in-house training of the relevant personnel to adequately equip them on the importance of the EOSC in conducting election with integrity. This enabled the EOSC team to deploy the monitoring and implementation techniques developed by the Commission in tracking pre-election and election field activities. In addition, the state monitoring team comprising of REC, Administrative Secretary, HODs and some senior staff in the state office was assigned the responsibility of monitoring the conduct of the election on the Election Day. They were posted to the various federal constituencies to

ensure compliance with the regulations and guidelines for the conduct of the elections. The activity of the monitoring team was guided by a check-list designed for the purpose focusing on critical benchmarks such as opening of polls, functionality of the BVAS, security, activation of RACs, conduct of personnel/officials etc.

Configuration and Deployment of Accreditation Device

In the count down to the election, as directed by the Commission, the state office conducted mock accreditation in designated polling units across twelve LGAs in the state to assure the voting public of the functionality of the BVAS machine which was the backbone of the credibility of the election. Following the success of the exercise, the ICT/VR Department carried out its core functions of printing the voter register, activation, installation, and configuration of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS). The Department printed the Electronic Voter Registers (EVR) and sent to the local government areas weeks before the election. In the same manner, BVAS were configured and deployed to the Local Government Areas in the week of the election. Again, following the rescheduled State Assembly Election in Kwande Local Government, Technical personnel were deployed for reconfiguration of BVAS for the election a day before it was held on the 21st of March 2023.

Deployment of Personnel and Materials

Having deployed the non-sensitive

materials to the 23 LGAs in the state almost two weeks before the election dates, the Commission waited until Wednesday to begin with the deployment of sensitive materials to the LGAs. Movement of the sensitive materials to the RACs and eventual distribution of materials to the SPOs took place on the Friday of the election week. The deployment of personnel was also done in cognisance of the expected time of the opening of polls. All Supervisory Presiding Officer were expected to assemble at the INEC offices early on the eve of elections to collect materials for their various Registration Areas and move to their RACs, where they spent the night with POs and APOs and conducted refresher training.

Conduct of the Elections (25ᵗʰ February and 18ᵗʰ March 2023)

The Presidential and National Assembly elections were successfully held on the 25ᵗʰ of February 2023, as scheduled, collated, and sent the National Collation Centre in Abuja where the result of the Presidential election was announced. The Governorship and State Assembly elections scheduled to hold on 11ᵗʰ March 2023, was postponed to 18ᵗʰ March by the Commission because of the need to vacate a court order issued after the Presidential election to the effect that the Commission could not proceed to purge and reconfigure the BVAS for the governorship election as that could affect their challenge to the outcome of that election. The governorship and State Assembly elections were consequently held on the 18ᵗʰ of March, and the results declared for the governorship and

twenty one of the twenty-three state constituencies. However, there was a major challenge in the election arising from the refusal of stakeholders in Kwande Local Area to vote, because of a mix-up in the labelling of the results sheets for Kwande East and Kwande West state constituencies at a time voting had commenced in the Local Government. Although there were no issues with the ballot papers and results sheets for the governorship election, they resisted the conduct of both the governorship and State Assembly elections. As it turned out, because of the margin of lead, the result of the governorship election was declared without votes from Kwande Local Government. However, the timely intervention of the Commission in reprinting the results sheets for the two state constituencies made it possible for the State Office to re-mobilise for the election on 21ˢᵗ March.

Opening of Polls

The State achieved early and prompt opening of polls across the 23 LGAs by 8.30am at an estimated 85% success rate on 25ᵗʰ February in the Presidential and National Assembly elections with improvement of 95% success rate in the Governorship and State Assembly elections. The minor problems of logistics which caused delay in the commencement of polls in a few LGAs during the Presidential / National Assembly elections were addressed in the Governorship/State Assembly elections on 18ᵗʰ March.

Voting Process and Performance of Equipment

The polling procedures adopted in the state strictly complied with the Continuous Accreditation and Voting System (CAVS) as prescribed by the Commission and encapsulated in the manual for election officials (2023). The accreditation process was also in strict adherence to the use of Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS). For the Presidential/National Assembly election, 5,120 BVAS were deployed to the field. Same number was deployed during the Gubernatorial/State House of Assembly election. However, ten (10) BVAS were declared as missing/damaged because of pockets of violence. It is important to note the Bimodal Voter Accreditation systems were sufficiently charged and backups were also provided to forestall unforeseen malfunctioning. Additionally, trained RATECHs were handy to fix malfunctioning BVAS, which contributed to the high rate of functioning of the BVAS. As noted earlier, Benue State had many IDPs resulting from a number of security threats spread across six LGAs.

Implementation of Collation and Results Management Process

In all the elections conducted in the state, there was a plan for the collation of results, which was handled by the Collation Officers engaged as ad-hoc staff. In the Presidential/National Assembly elections, collations of results started at the Registration Area by the Registration Area Collation Officers followed by the second level of Collation by the Local Government Collation Officers, where in some instances declaration

and return was made for some Federal Constituency elections. The final collation for the presidential election was done at the state level before the results were forwarded to Abuja for final collation for declaration and return.

For the Gubernatorial/State Assembly elections the same process was followed, except that declaration and return was made for the state constituencies at the various State Constituencies whereas the final collation for Governorship election was done at the collation centre in the state office where declaration and return were made. All collated results were carefully arranged and kept for further reference.

Operation of the Situation Room and Election Monitoring and Support Centre

The EMSC functioned optimally in the tracking and monitoring of the pre-election, Election Day and post-election activities including the collation of results. Furthermore, using the reverse logistics methodology, deployed materials were retrieved after the first round of election to prepare for the next round. At the end of the elections, electoral materials that were not consumables were retrieved from the field and kept at LGA Offices and the State Office.

The state EOSC team was made up of fifteen (15) personnel, comprising of twelve (12) field assets, two (2) Data administrators and One (1) state coordinator. To enable the EOSC capture all activities on the field, its operations were activated in the early afternoon of the eve of the election

to capture the movement of materials and personnel to the RACs. The field assets were responsible for making direct contacts, using cells phones, electoral field officials to get direct feedback on the situation from field. Such information from the field on threats, compliances or challenges were then passed the two data administrators, and the information helped the Commission to take decisive and informed decisions for proper execution of the election.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Elections

While it is strongly noted that that the 2023 general election was successful in the state, without alarming reports of violence and disruption of the electoral process, there were pockets of challenges that have been identified for purposes of lessons learned. One exception was the shooting of a political thug by the Army in Gboko LGA, while attempting to snatch a ballot box which resulted in death. The challenges identified are as follows:

i.   There were a number of activities that are hampered by the reality of over centralisation. For example, tags that were printed for polling agents after they were uploaded by the political parties to INEC Headquarters reached the state office less that one week with severe shortfalls to the extent that they were not enough for appointed polling agents.

ii. ii. Inadequate deployment of security personnel at the PUs. While the official deployment of security personnel was two per PU, there many instances in which some PUs did not have presence of security personnel.

iii. Inadequate and late supply of training materials to the state. For example, less than six thousand (6,000) election manual used for training was supplied to the state as against twenty-two, thousand-eight-hundred and sixteen (22,816) required. Furthermore, nine thousand (9,000) of the training manuals arrived days after the training.

iv. Lack of due diligence in the printing and coding of election materials detected in Kwande LGA which resulted to the rescheduling of the election. The two state constituencies in Kwande LGA were reported to have the same code and name instead of Kwande –East and Kwande –West.

v.   Restriction of the recruitment of collation officers to the existing Federal University in the state undermined the power of the state to make up from other institutions most especially in the situations where the number was inadequate.

vi. Late Implementation of some pre-election activities: There were a number of activities especially trainings for the staff of the Commission that were conducted too close to elections, some requiring staff to travel outside the state two or three days to the election.

vii. Inadequate budgeting: Budgeting for critical activities merely reproduced the budgets for the 2019 elections. This was noticeable in respect of the budget for

printing of EVR and the transportation of materials from the state office to the 23 LGAs.

viii.Poor procurement performance as evident in the supply of obsolete items

that raised issues of value for money for the Commission.

12.2.2.

Federal Capital Territory (FCT)
Capital City: Abuja

Yahaya Bello
Resident Electoral Commissioner, FCT

Delimitation Data

6 No of LGAs	**1** Senatorial Districts
2 Federal Constituencies	**-** State Constituencies
62 No of RAs	**2,822** No of PUs
1,344,856 No of Registered Voters	**1,249,017** No of PVCs Collected
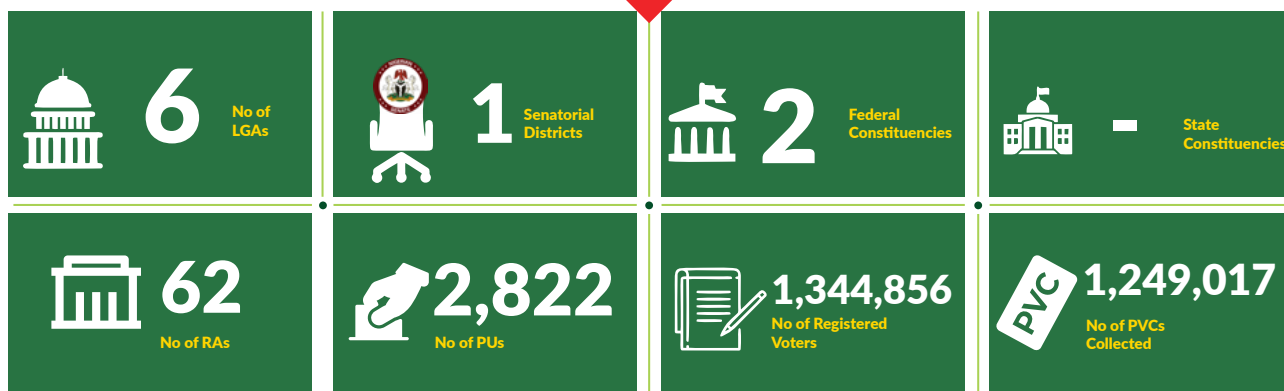
Introduction

The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) is located within the North-Central Geo-Political Zone and is Nigeria's capital. It is the only administrative area where the Commission conducts Local Council elections. With a landmass of 7, 315 km, FCT has 6 LCs, 62 RAs, 2,822 PUs and 1,344, 856 registered voters, with the total number of PVCs collected standing at 1,249,017 PVCs.

Pre-Election Activities

Management Meetings

Under the guidance of the FCT Resident Electoral Commissioner and the Management Team comprising the Heads of Department, the Election Management Committee undertook several activities that contributed to the success of the 2023 general election. These included undertaking the assessment of the storage facilities, the available non-sensitive materials to determine shortfall, the number of BVAS in the office and the assessment of the state of vehicles for purposes of providing the Commission with the extent of repairs needed to be carried out for the transportation of election personnel and materials. Furthermore, the Committee, relying on the framework and tools available including the Strategic Plan, 2022-2026, the Plan of Action and the EPP, worked out a comprehensive plan for the conduct of the election and circulated the plan to ensure that all categories of staff understood the task ahead.

Several activities implemented by the Commission in FCT derived from the implementation of the election plan. Some of these include the post-election review meeting on the FCT Area Council elections which was held at the Bolingo Hotel on 28th April 2022 to learn necessary lessons in the build-up to the general election. This was complemented with Election Project

Implementation Plan (#Yourvotematters) meeting that held at the Emerson Hall, Bolton White Hotel, Abuja, on 12 December 2022.

Conduct of CVR and PVCs Collection

The Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) which started on the 28th of June 2021 and continued until 31st July 2022 was faithfully implemented in FCT based on guidance and periodic directives from the Commission Headquarters. The CVR and PVC collection activities of the Commission considered the peculiarities of the nation's capital and Abuja in particular. First, is the high rate of urbanisation experienced in Abuja over the years which has ensured the proliferation of new settlements and estates. This, for example, has led to the creation of new polling units based on expansion of voter access policy which necessitated the creation of new polling units. There is also the need to embark on wide publicity considering the perceived lukewarm attitude of Nigerian elites to electoral activities. The Commission in FCT relied on strategic partnership with media houses such as the Federal Government-owned radio, Kapital FM 92.9, for weekly sensitisation programme, and a 13-week sensitisation programme run concurrently by both the Eagles F.M (102.3) and Hot FM 98.3 to create public awareness. Consequently, CVR and PVC collection which were carried out alongside voter migration were a great success in the FCT. Specifically, for PVCs collection, a total of 1,249,017 were collected, while 299,936 PVCs remained uncollected.

Recruitment, Training and Deployment of Staff

Recruitment for the general election commenced with the launch of the online recruitment portal (INECPRES) on the 14 September 2022, which requested applicants to apply for positions with the required qualifications. Following the closure of application deadline, the short-listing and screening of the candidates, the Commission organised several training activities. These include six weeks root training conducted for corps members (NYSC) during their Community Development Service (CDS) in the six (6) Area councils to get them acquainted with the electoral procedures and processes as well as in-house trainings for staff in the six (6) Area Councils. As mandated by the Commission, security training was conducted for security personnel during which staff from the Legal Department drew their attention to the need to secure election within the context of the fundamental rights of citizens. In addition, training was carried out for the SPOs at designated places in FCT on 9 and 10 of February 2023. While the SPOs facilitated the training of the POs and APOs, Collation Officers were trained for two days at the University of Abuja build their knowledge on collation processes and procedures for the 2023 elections.

Based on RACS and super RACS as well as Collation Centres earlier identified and inspected to ascertain suitability for the elections, it was easy to undertake timely deployment of men and materials to their various polling units on Election Day as well as ensure timely commencement of

polls. In the meantime, RAC Managers working together with the EOs provided the facilities and consumables required to ease the activities needed to be undertaken at the RACS including refresher training. This made it possible to activate the RACS/Super RACS early on the Fridays preceding the elections. It is important to observe that the SPOs carried out their stipulated responsibilities such as roll call, payment of feeding allowances and other stipends to ad hoc staff and security agents.

Party Primaries and Nomination Process

While all the 18 political registered parties participated in the presidential election as expected, only thirteen (13) of them participated in the Senate election. With respect to the House of Representatives election, fifteen (15) political parties participated in the Federal House of Representative election in Abuja North Federal Constituency, and thirteen (13) political parties participated in the Abuja South Federal Constituency election. As mandated by the Commission, the conduct of these primaries was monitored and detailed reports on them were submitted to the FCT Office and subsequently forwarded to the Election and Party Monitoring Department in the Headquarters.

Stakeholder Engagements

Stakeholders' engagement is at the heart of conducing elections that are free, fair, credible, inclusive, and above all, peaceful. It was for this reason that FCT-INEC engaged the different stakeholders in electoral democracy in the FCT to address recognised challenges such as voter apathy, crowded polling units to ensure that voters have adequate information about their new polling units and related challenges identified from the previous elections. The range of stakeholders engaged in the countdown to the 2023 general election in FCT include leaders of the political parties, civil society, religious and traditional leaders, women, and gender based CSOs. The Commission in FCT recognise the collaborative efforts of YIAGA Africa and other CSOs during the CVR and PVC collection exercise in the same way that collaboration with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFESS) contributed to the work of the Commission, especially around Voter Education and Publicity.

Recognising the prevailing security challenges in the Federal Capital city of Abuja and its environment, engagement with the security agencies received prime attention. The REC convened series of ICCES meetings which held in Abuja and in the six Area Councils. Such meetings provided opportunity to assess and re-assess the security situation around Abuja and to enable bringing together the security threats analysis of the EOs and that of the security agencies to identify the flash points and determine the appropriate deployment of security personnel on Election Days.

Logistics Preparations

The support from the Commission's leadership facilitated the facelift for logistics/electoral store, including the upgrading of the existing facilities. This prepared the FCT Office to receive the non-sensitive materials received from

the Central Store in the Headquarters. The facelift and upgrading included the installation of 2HP Air conditioning unit for the cooling of the BVAS machines. Similarly, the storage facilities at the Area Councils were also given a facelift in readiness for the receipt of sensitive and non-sensitive materials. The improvement and adequacy in the storage facilities made it possible take delivery of the balance of required non-sensitive and the storage of BVAS machines in the required number.

With respect to the Ballot Papers and results sheets which are classified as sensitive materials, pre-inspection was carried out on 15th February 2023 involving the REC of FCT and his team as well as officials of the CBN to ascertain what had been supplied and to take note of shortfalls and other shortcomings of the supplied sensitive materials. This was followed by the inspection of the sensitive materials on February 23, to enable political parties' agents, the media. Observers and other relevant stakeholders confirm that these materials had been securely kept by the CBN. On the same day, sensitive and non-sensitive materials were batched and delivered to the Area Councils.

INEC-FCT relied on the signed reviewed MoU entered by the Commission on the one hand, and the NURTW, NARTO and MWUN based on which the Electoral Officers signed service agreements with the drivers at the Area Councils level. The meeting held on 7th February, with a follow up meeting held on the 10th of February 2023, provided avenues for addressing grey areas while discussing the terms of the partnership. The vehicles contracted from the Unions were complemented with the Ten Hilux vehicles of the Commission which were repaired/serviced for the election.

Conduct of the Election (the 25th of February and 18th of March 2023)

The FCT Office of the Commission is limited to the conduct of the of the Presidential and National Assembly in an election year, as in 2023, where the conduct of the six Area Council elections did not coincide with the General Election. But more importantly, elections in the FCT attracts both national and international attention, and, therefore, the immediate operational yardstick with which critical stakeholders view the performance of the Commission.

Opening of Polls

The FCT generally witnessed timely opening of polls at 8.30am amidst relatively large voter turnout. Simultaneous accreditation and voting as determined by the Commission were adopted as witnessed by polling agents, election observers, and the media. However, delay in opening of polls was observed in some polling units. While voting was generally peaceful, there were pockets of violence and disruptions during results' collation. For example, during the collation exercise at Zuba Collation Centre in Gwagwalada Area Council, attacks spearheaded by hoodlums involving the vandalisation and carting away of some items interrupted proceedings until the intervention of security agents restored order. The incident here resulted in the

disappearance of 2 BVAS machines, destruction of 18 ballot boxes and other vital electoral materials.

Similarly, in Kuje and Bwari Area Councils, attacks by hoodlums resulted in some election officials, voters and observers losing their personal belongings, while vital electoral materials including ballot papers, ballot boxes, BVAS were either destroyed or taken away. One painful incident was the attack on Rahmat Suleiman, an ex-corps member who was beaten to a state of coma and rushed to Kuje General Hospital from where she was referred to the Gwagwalada Specialist Hospital for further treatment. Kwali and AMAC Area Councils witnessed varying levels of violence and disruption of election process despite the diligence by the security agencies. It is important to add that there were also challenges posed by some ad hoc staff and security agents on election duty whose activities amounted to wilful subversion of the electoral process.

Voting Process and Performance of Equipment

Aside these issues, the BVAS machines performed optimally, and it accounted for the conducting elections peacefully in many RAs and polling units. It is important to note that reported cases of disruptions were occasioned by factors other than the functioning of the BVAS deployed. Nevertheless, there were a few instances in which inadequate training of ad hoc personnel manifested in their inability to efficiently operate the BVAS.

Implementation of the Collation and Results Management Process

The Commission in the FCT did not experience any challenge in terms of results collation and management having carefully studied the regulations and guidelines of the Commission. Accordingly, it dealt with issues arising from over voting in the PUs.

Elections Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC) Situation Room

The Elections Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC) was reactivated on the eve of the election primarily to gather information to feed into the early warning system to support key activities on Election Day. The Centre performed creditably in terms of maintaining surveillance, identifying threats, facilitating timely response and coordinating active interaction with field assets as well as monitoring compliance with election processes and guidelines on Election Day.

## Issues and Challenges Associated with the Election

Apart from some of the challenges identified in this report, especially the incidents of violence and disruptions, there are other challenges that need to be highlighted for purposes of lessons learned and making necessary adjustments in future elections. These are highlighted as follows:

i. Desperate efforts on the part of political parties to evade INEC monitoring role by giving misleading or inaccurate information about the venues for their primaries and congresses.

ii. Political parties displayed lackadaisical attitude to reporting on their campaign finances to the extent that staff of the EPM encounter too many obstacles in seeking to carry out effective monitoring

iii. Avoidable errors in the printing of polling agents including errors in the spelling and/or omission of names, pictures and party logo in some cases, while in other cases names of party agents belonging to a particular party are printed on logos meant for different parties.

iv. The poor state of facilities needed for the effective functioning of the Legal Departments in the form of obsolete printers contribute to unnecessary delays in processing the numerous requests for issuance of CTCs in the aftermath of elections. This is further compounded by the inadequate number of coloured printers.

v. The difficulty in the configuration of the BVAS machines for election because they were white listed for election purposes.

vi. Lack of adequate number of BVAS for the training of all the levels of ad hoc staff because direct contact with the machines and its operational systems and mechanisms are necessary to ensure effective training, and, hence, the ability of ad hoc staff deployed to be able to handle the BVAS machines.

vii. There were two major challenges in the training and deployment of security personnel for elections purposes: (1) Absenteeism from training of security personnel earmarked for election duty; and (2) Lack of adequate coverage of polling units because the number of security personnel deployed often falls below the ideal three security personnel per polling units.

The cashless policy and the currency swap at the time created challenges, despite the initiative of the Commission to ameliorate the situation by making arrangement with the Central Bank. The cashless policy had visible impact in getting the transport unions to deliver as effectively as envisaged.

12.2.3.

Kogi State
Capital City: Lokoja

Dr. Hale Gabriel Longpet
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Kogi State

Delimitation Data

21 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**9** Federal Constituencies	**25** State Constituencies
239 No of RAs	**3,508** No of PUs	**1,932,654** No of Registered Voters	**1,813,741** No of PVCs Collected
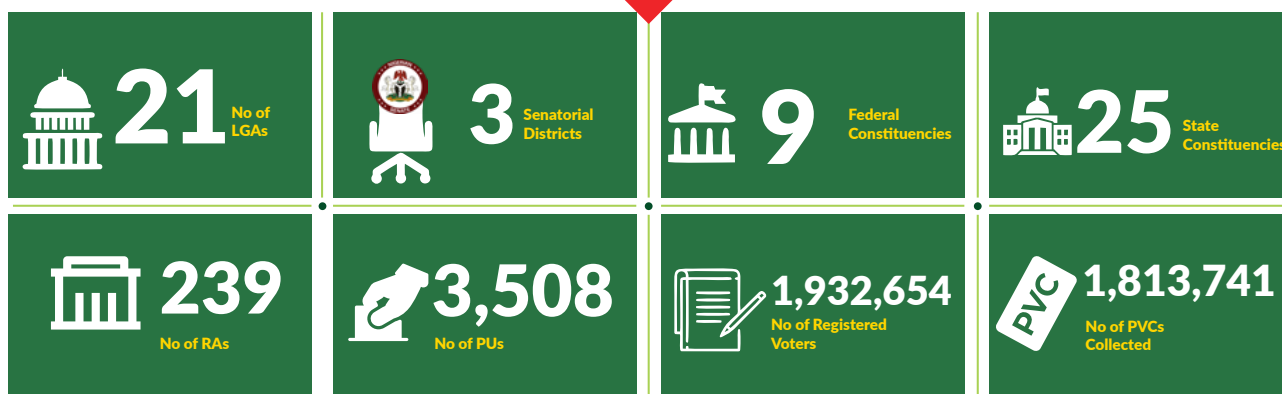
Introduction

Excised from Benue and Kwara states on the 27th of August 1991, Kogi State is situated within the North-Central Geo-Political Zone, with a landmass of 29,833. The State 21 LGAs, 239 RAs, 3,508 PUs, and 1, 932,654 Registered Voters. A total of 1,813,741 PVCs amounting to nearly 94% were collected prior to the 2023 General Election.

Pre-Election Activities

Management Planning activities

Upon the approval of the 2022 Election Project Plan by the Commission, the State Office constituted a committee to study the plan and adapt it to the peculiarities of the State electoral environment. The Committee comprised of all Heads of Division. The Committee worked with Electoral Officers

in the 21 LGAs to produce a workable plan that guided the State in the conduct of the 2023 General Election. Furthermore, there was a series of management meetings, briefings, and consultations. The State commenced an electoral material audit in August 2022, at both the State and LGA offices to take stock of available materials for the conduct of the election. The exercise continued until the last batch of sensitive materials was received on the 14th of April 2023.

Conduct of CVR and PVC Collection Exercise

The state implemented both the CVR and PVCs collection in accordance with the guidelines established by the Commission at the Headquarters. As in other states, the CVR began on the 28th of June and ended on the 31st of July 2022, while the PVC collection continued until the 5th of May 2023. These exercises were challenging

because of the attitude of Nigerians who would wait until the very last minute. The situation was worsened by the fact that most of the eligible Nigerians for CVR and targets of PVCs collection were in rural communities far from the LGA offices where these exercises first started.

Party Primaries and Nomination Process

The State Office monitored Political Party activities ranging from Party Primaries/ Congresses and Campaigns Finance Tracking. Primary Election conducted that fielded candidates for the 2023 General Election were monitored. Seventeen (17) out of the 18 Registered Political Parties in Kogi used the indirect mode of Primaries to choose their Candidates. At the end of the exercise, the following number of Candidates respectively emerged.

Stakeholder Engagements

Stakeholders' engagement has become a standard practice for EMBs interested in conducting elections that have credibility and integrity. Consequently, in the build-up to the election the Commission under the leadership and initiative of the Resident Electoral Commissioner, engaged the relevant stakeholders in electoral democracy. For example, the Commission accorded priority to engagement with the traditional rulers from the three Senatorial Districts in the State. These included the Attah of Igala, the Ohinoyi of Ebira Land, the Obaro of Kabba, and the Ohimege of Koto, not only for the new Resident Electoral Commissioner to familiarise himself with these traditional rulers, but also to explain

the mission of the Commission to conduct free and election.

The Commission also engaged with the political parties, civil society groups including Women-based groups and NGOs, and youth organisations, to avail them of the implications of the 2022 Electoral Act for the 2023 general election, the deployment of the BVAS technology to improve the transparency of the election, and the INEC guidelines and regulations that had been derived from the new Electoral Act to improve the overall integrity of the elections. Series of stakeholders' meetings were reinforced by collaboration with the media, especially houses that commanded audience throughout Kogi State. This took the form of regular guest appearances on Grace FM radio, and similar appearances by staff of the Voter Education and Publicity Department (VEP), to explain the processes and procedures of the 2023 elections as well as the preparedness towards the conduct of the 2023 General Election.

However, considering the peculiar security challenges faced by Kogi State, especially the history of thuggery and political violence in Kogi East and Central senatorial zones, the Commission engaged with the ICCES in Kogi State. Such meetings deliberated on the entire security situations in the state including the security threats analysis from the EOs to map out security deployment for the election.

Preparations for the Election Receipt, Storage, Deployment of Sensitive Materials

The Commission in Kogi State put in place

necessary arrangements for the conduct of the 2023 General Election, especially around uplifting of storage facilities to receive the non-sensitive materials which were deployed in batches from the Headquarters of the Commission. In doing this, the state office was implementing the directive supported by funding to ensure the Stores were state of readiness to receive these materials. The materials were later moved to the 21 LGAs of the state.

As it has been the practice, the sensitive materials were kept in the safe custody of the CBN in Lokoja some weeks to the 25th of February Presidential and National Assembly elections. Early in the week of the election, the REC and management staff as well as the EOs carried out inspection of the materials to identify shortfalls and possible mix up in the packaging of the ballot papers and the results sheets. Finally, following the inspection of the sensitive materials by the political party agents and the media, they were moved to the LGAS, from where they were moved to the RAs to enable early RAC activation on Friday preceding the election.

Recruitment, training, and deployment of Electoral Personnel

A total of 14,679 election officials were recruited, trained, and deployed for the 2023 General Election in Kogi State. The various categories of election officials included the SPOs, COs/ROs, POs, RAC Managers and APOs. The state relied on the data of applicants for the various positions as downloaded from the INECPRESS harvested from serving NYSC members, ex-corps members, Senior Staff of government establishment and students of tertiary

institutions in Kogi State. On the other hand, the RATECHs and the LGTECHs) were recruited by the ICT Department in the Headquarters and deployed to the state.

It is important to note that the VR & ICT departments participated fully in the training of all levels of ad-hoc Staff used for the election alongside the designated trainers drawn from the ranks of Supervisory Presiding Officers and The Electoral Institute. The participation of staff from this department was necessitated by the critical role of the technology deployed in all the facets of the polling ranging from accreditation to the transmission of the results. Furthermore, the VR & ICT Department from the headquarters and the state deployed, Two (2) State Technical Support Staff, Twenty-one (21) Local Government Area Technical Support Staff and Two hundred and forty-five (245) RA Technical Support Staff for the two hundred and thirty-nine (239) RAs in the State.

The recruited election duty staff were exposed to various training and workshops where they were acquainted with the Commission's procedures and regulations developed in line with the 2022 Electoral Act to enhance the quality of their service delivery. All these trainings organised strictly adhered to the schedules of the Commission at the Headquarters. These include the trainings of the POs, APOs, COs/ROs, RATECHs and LGTECHs that were held at the Federal University, Lokoja. Among others, these trainings paid attention to the deployment and use of BVAS in the process of accreditation and transmission of results at the PU level. On its part, the training of security agencies for

election duty specifically focused on the role of security agencies in securing the electorate, electoral personnel/materials, and observers as well as how to mitigate electoral violence before, during and after election.

Identification, Preparation and Activation of RACs and SRACs

RACs and Super RACs were identified early and prepared according to established guidelines. They were activated for use with adequate security on the eve of each Election Day. Election personnel were made to undergo refresher training and were deployed early on Election Day to the PUs resulting in opening of polls. There were adequate security arrangements at the RACs and SRACs and vehicles were available to convey electoral personnel and materials as escorted by security agencies to the various PUs.

Logistics Preparations

There were adequate transportation arrangements for the movement of election personnel and materials, with particular emphasis on the movement of Collation Officers and reverse logistics. The Commission entered an MOU with NURTW, NARTO and Maritime Association to ensure that Election Officials and materials are conveyed timely and safely to their respective election duty centres. Based on the MoU, series of consultative meetings were held with the leadership of these unions and details of agreements reached were shared with the EOs to clarify to all the parties' duties and obligations on the Election Day. However, vehicles

sourced from members of the NURTW were inspected and ascertained for road worthiness by officials of the FRSC in Kogi State. However, in respect of areas with difficult and mountainous terrains the Commission had difficulty in persuading the unions to accept to deliver electoral materials and personnel. The consequence was protracted negotiations over prices and eventually paying higher prices than was earlier agreed.

Conduct of the Election (25th February 18th March and 15th April 2023)

Opening of Polls

Most Polling Units in the state were opened by 8.00 am in the PUs with adequate number of election officials. except for few in Ajaokuta LGA during the Presidential and National Assembly's Elections because of late arrival of poll officials in RA14 - Ganaja Township. The late of polls necessitated the extension of voting to the following day, February 26. It is important to note that conduct of polls followed the Commission's policy of continuous accreditation and voting.

Voting Process and Performance of Equipment

In accordance with the directive, all the BVAS deployed for the elections were fully charged and performed optimally and the accreditation exercise went on smoothly except in the few instances where the political thugs disrupted voting. In the few

instances where malfunctioning of BVAS were recorded, poor training of the handlers most especially some National Youth Corps members was responsible. However, such cases were promptly resolved by the RATECHS and LGTECHs.

Implementation of the Collation and Results Management System

Collation Officers arrived at the various RAs and LGA collation centres on Election Day and completed collation in good time, making it possible for collation and announcement of results to be successfully undertaken at the various election Collation Centres in good time. However, the election in Bassa/Dekina Federal Constituency had to be declared inconclusive as results of disruption and violence that caused cancellation of results in 44 PUs across 8 Registration Area with 26,050 registered voters and 25,196 collected their PVCs while the margin of lead between the two leading candidates was 10,619 votes. A supplementary election was held across the affected PUs in the Constituency on the 18th of April 2023, where a winner clearly emerged.

Monitoring, Implementation and Support for Field Activities

Election Day and immediate post-election activities were tracked and monitored from the Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC) that had a Situation Room at the State Office, Lokoja. A team of personnel, comprising of 17 field contact persons successfully operated it. To enable the EMSC capture all activities on the field, its operations were activated in the early afternoon of the eve of Election Day, to capture the movement of materials and personnel to the RACs. The field contact persons were responsible for making direct contacts using cell phones to electoral officials in the field to get information on threats, compliances, and challenges. This enabled the State Office to take decisive and informed decisions. The pro-activeness of the EMSC prompted awareness of PUs where elections were cancelled on account of non-usage of the BVAS and disruption of the poll before the results were presented for collation during the elections.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Election

Although the 2023 General Election was successfully conducted in the State, some problems that emerged during the execution were as follows:

i. *Violence, Disruption and Obstruction of the Electoral Processes*: Cases of violence, disruption and obstruction of the electoral processes were reported across 209 Polling Units in 68 Registration Areas within 18 LGAs in Kogi State. It may be pertinent to note that that of Bassa/Dekina Federal Constituency Election affected the margin of lead which resulted in supplementary election.

ii. *Kidnapping of Election Duty Staff*: Some thugs invaded one of the RAC centres in Lokoja LGA where some valuable items were carted away. Similarly, during the return of the ad-hoc personnel after the election from Kupa North and South in Lokoja LGA, seven (7) of the buses were

attacked by kidnappers at Obajana. Many of the ad hoc staff sustained various degrees of injury and bullet wounds and six (6) were kidnapped.

iii. *Usage, Non-usage, Damage and Missing of BVAS:* There were reported cases of non-usage, damage and missing BVAS. In some cases, poll officials were attacked by thugs carrying guns and machete where BVAS were destroyed, damaged, burnt or snatched during the elections. The Commission lost Fifty-one (51) BVAS and over 150 batteries.

iv. *Configuration and Deployment of Accreditation Devices* (EVR, VR and BVAS): As part of the functions of the Voter Registry and Information, Communication and Technical Division (VR & ICT) of the Commission, a lot of activities were carried out before, during and after the 2023 General Election. These functions included printing of three (3) sets of electronic register of voters (EVR) ~~were~~ one coloured and two black for the twenty-one (21) Local Government Areas. Three thousand, five hundred ninety-four (3,594) BVAS plus additional two hundred and eighty-two (282) backups were fully charged, configured with SIMs and data and then deployed to the field for the election.

There was a case of criminal invasion by hoodlums in RA 4 RAC centre in Lokoja, where hoodlums bounced into RAC at night and stole valuable properties that included phones and power banks from ad-hoc personnel. In fear and panic from the sleep many collided with one another and sustained injuries and were treated at the Federal University Teaching Hospital, Lokoja on Election Day.

12.2.4.
Kwara State
Capital City: Ilorin

Garba Ahahitu Madami
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Kwara

Delimitation Data

16 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**6** Federal Constituencies	**24** State Constituencies
193 No of RAs	**2,887** No of PUs	**1,695,927** No of Registered Voters	**1,537,275** No of PVCs Collected
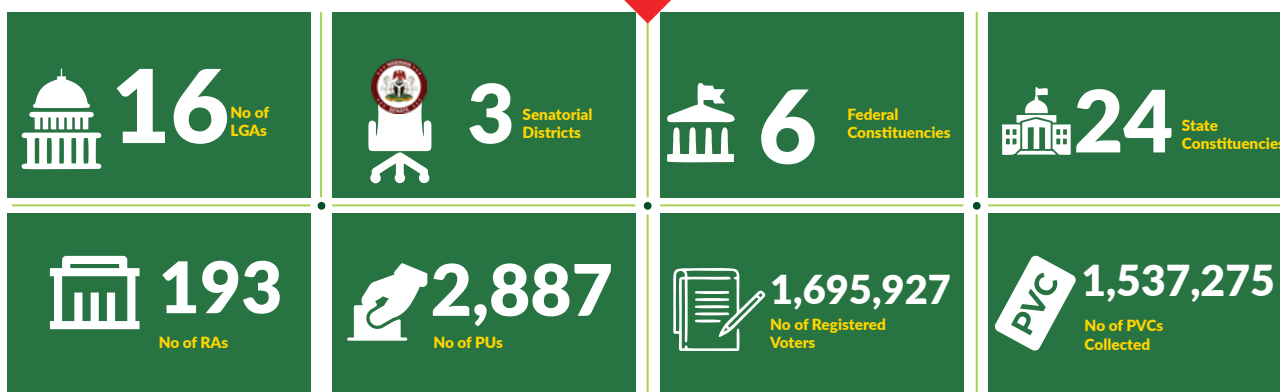
Introduction

Kwara State falls within the North-Central geo-political zone of Nigeria, with a landmass of 36,825 km². The state has a total of 1,695,927 Registered Voters, 193 RAs, 2,887 PUs, 6 Federal and 24 State Constituencies. Prior to the 2023 General Election, a total of 1,537,275 collected their PVCs, giving a PVC collection rate of 90.65%

Pre-Elections Activities

Management Meetings and Audit of Electoral Materials

Following the commencement of preparations for the elections, series of Management Meetings were held, and appropriate committees and sub-committees were put in place to audit available non-sensitive materials, the state of storage facilities and the state of Commission's vehicles. The Management Committee also met with the EOs to carry out the same audit to enable feedback to be given to the Commission's Headquarters. Periodic meetings with the EOs in the 16 LGAs to ensure full implementation of plans contributed to the success of the election.

After the receipt of fund from the Headquarters for the renovation of stores in the state office and in the LGAs, the state was put in a comfortable position to receive non-sensitive materials from both the Headquarters and the Zonal Store in Minna. As these materials arrived in different waves, they were batched based on the LGAs, while the sensitive materials from the Headquarters were directly taken to the Central Bank, Ilorin Branch.

Conduct of CVR and PVC Collection

Like other states, Kwara State commenced first quarter of CVR exercise on 28th June 2021 with online pre-registration of eligible registrants while physical capturing started on 26th July 2021 across the 16 LGAs and

the State Office. The exercise ended on 31st of July 2022 and display of Preliminary Registers of Voters (PRVs) for claims and objections took place at the end of every quarter. Alongside the CVR, and after the close of the exercise, the Commission handled the collection of PVCs. PVC collection, according to the Commission's guideline, started in the state Office and the Local Government Offices before devolution to the RAs. In the build-up to the election, in response to the surging crowds of people desperate to collect their PVCs, the Commission adjusted its policy in terms of the level at which PVCs should be between the LGA offices and the RAs. The State implemented all these, and this positively showed in the increase in the number of persons who obtained their PVCs before the election.

Recruitment, Training and Deployment of Electoral Personnel

After harvesting the list of applicants for the positions of Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers, Supervisory Presiding Officers, Registration Area Technical Support Staff and Registration Area Camps Managers, the state office screened the applicants and identified qualified and competent persons from the screening exercise. Meanwhile, the recruitment of Collation Officers and Returning Officers were determined by the Commission Headquarters in Abuja. Subsequently, these categories of ad hoc staff were recruited from the University of Ilorin. It was based on this that trainings were organised at the different levels for the election security personnel and other categories of staff. Trainings were generally

supported by the staff of The Electoral Institute and Operations Department in the Headquarters, supported by the Supervisory Presiding Officers who had been earlier trained and the State Training Officers s and the Local Government Training Officers. Although always not enough, trainings were made as practical as possible with BVAS used to enhance the learning from the trainings. In addition to these trainings, refresher trainings were organised as part of RAC activities on the eve of the elections, in addition to the mandatory refresher training ordered by the Commission following the postponement of the governorship election by one week. The Commission engaged a total of 12,928 ad-hoc staff for the election. However, it is important to put on record that reports received from the Electoral Officers across the state, and corroborated by other field activities monitoring reports, some of the SPOs, POs, APOs and COs/ROs grossly underperformed, especially during the Presidential/National Assembly elections. A combination of the review of the election of February 25th and the mandatory refresher training ordered by the Commission made possible vastly improved performance in the Governorship/State Assembly elections as well as the subsequent supplementary election.

Party Primaries and Candidates' Nomination Processes

The Political Party primaries in Niger State was conducted within the time-line provided by the calendar of election activities, between 4th April of 2022 and 3rd of June 2022, featuring the 18 registered political parties. Regardless of whether

the parties gave adequate notice or not, the primaries were monitored with the State Office Management team and INEC monitors deployed from the Headquarters. As expected, the different parties chose between the prescribed direct and indirect modes of conducting their primaries, which were characterised by varying levels of rancour and tensions; many of the disputes arising from the exercise either ending up in litigations as pre-election matter or resolved through the parties' internal mechanisms for resolving disputes. However, the entire exercise highlighted the problem of internal democracy within the parties.

Stakeholder Engagements

Creating robust relationships with the different stakeholders put the state office in good stead to conduct peaceful and rancorous-free elections in the State. The critical stakeholders engaged included the political parties and the security agencies through the platform of ICCES. It is important to stress that no stakeholders' meeting was held with other stakeholders such as the political parties, the NURTW and NARTO, or with the traditional rulers without the members of ICCES in attendance. This was also the case with the signing of the Peace Accord with the political parties and the candidates in the period leading up to the elections.

Stakeholders' consultation was supported by implementation of the Commission's voter education and awareness campaigns. Prior to the election, the state developed a schedule of Voter Education and mobilization activities for the purpose of the election. These include meetings

with the Traditional Rulers, community of people with disability, Town hall meeting with women group and gender focused Civil Society Organisations as well as youth groups. Engagements with the Visually Impaired Voters, for example, focused on the use of Braille ballot guide, magnified glasses, and innovations introduced to make voting friendly to this category of people for the purposes of enhancing the inclusivity of the electoral process. Furthermore, jingles from headquarters were translated into six major languages spoken in the state such as Yoruba, Nupe, Baruten Bakobaru, Hausa and Fulfude. These jingles were aired on TVs and Radio Stations, staff of VEP and other knowledgeable people were invited to explain all the aspects of the electoral process including the innovations in the 2023 general election.

Preparations for the Elections

Receipt, Storage and Deployment of Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Materials

All the non-sensitive materials used in Kwara State in the general election were received from INEC Headquarters in Abuja and the North Central Zonal store in Minna, Niger state. Prior to the arrival of these materials in different batches, the Store in the state office and in the LGAs were renovated for the purpose of taking deliveries. On receipt of these materials, they were sorted, batched, and distributed to the 16 LGAs in readiness for the election. On the other hand, the sensitive

materials were received through the CBN, Ilorin Branch. The sorting, batching, and movement of the sensitive materials to 16 LGAs for the two elections was carried out at the premises of the CBN on Thursday preceding each election in the presence of party agents, security agents and the media personnel in the state. On arrival at the LGA offices, the Electoral officers sorted and deployed the sensitive materials to the various RAs a day to the election. At the end of the two elections, reversed logistics of all the sensitive, including the BVAS, and non- sensitive materials, was done from the Local Government Area offices in the state.

Identification, Preparations and Activation of RACs and Super RACs

RACs and SuperRACs were identified early and prepared according to established guidelines. This was done following the directive and guidelines issued by the Commission Headquarters to the effect that public facilities that were much better in terms of security and overall convenience be identified for use in the 2023 elections. Newly identified and old RACs considered suitable were prepared with standard facilities by the EOs working together with the RAC Managers. They were activated for use with adequate security on the eve of each Election Day which enabled election personnel to undergo refresher training and served the purpose of enabling early deployment from the Centres to the Pus, early on Election Day resulting in opening of polls. In addition, there were adequate security arrangements at the RACs and SRACs and vehicles were available to convey electoral personnel and materials as escorted by security agencies to the various PUs

Printing of EVR

Three sets of registers for the sixteen (16) Local Government Areas were printed, one set of black and another set in colour for the 2023 General Election. For the Governorship/State House of Assembly elections, the same sets of registers were used. However, some additional sets of registers were re-printed since the earlier one used for the Presidential/National Assembly elections were mutilated.

Logistics Preparations

The State Office made extensive logistics preparations for the 2023 general election. There are two dimensions to the logistics preparations. On the one hand, the state office used the revised MoU signed between the Commission at the Headquarters and the two major transport unions – the NURTW and NARTO. Domesticating the MoU followed series of meetings and negotiations with the leadership of the unions, especially in the face of the resistance to the prices offered by the Commission, the reality of fuel scarcity, and the overall hardship being experienced in the country. At the end, the decision of the Commission to add N5,000 per vehicle helped in reaching agreement with the unions, and the Legal Department helped in drafting an MoU which was eventually signed with the unions. On the other hand, the Commission provided fund for the repair and servicing of the 15 Hilux/Nissan Pick Up vehicles to complement vehicles sourced from NURTW and NARTO. All this ensured that there were no major logistics challenges in the election.

Conduct of the Elections (25th February and 18th March 2023)

Opening of Polls

Kwara State did not experience major challenges regarding early opening of polls. Although this was the general trend, there were some exceptions arising from a combination of factors such as disagreement among communities with respect to the location of PUs, BVAS malfunctioning and security breaches. For instance, in Olla Ward in Isin LGA, disagreement between two candidates about the location of a PU delayed commencement of voting until the intervention of the Area Commander. Similarly, in Baruten, Edu and Kaiama LGAs, there were disagreements related to the distance of the newly created PUs which also caused delay in voting. All these problems were however more rampant in the Presidential/National Assembly elections and were largely addressed in the Governorship and State Assembly elections that followed.

Implementation of Collation and Result Management Process

Apart from the fact that results collation exercise took place at the different levels, from the ward level upward, depending on the elective positions involved, the Collation Officers, especially at the ward level were trained on how to deal with issues such as cancellation of results arising from over voting and disruption of elections. Nevertheless, there were instances of over voting and violent disruption of polls

that called for the intervention of security personnel. In all, results of nine (9) PUs in six (6) RAs across six (6) LGAs were cancelled due to over voting, and violent disruption of voting process. Despite these challenges, results were successfully collated at all levels and returns duly made.

Operation of the Situation Room and Election Monitoring and Support Centre

The EMSC functioned optimally in the tracking and monitoring of the pre-election, Election Day and post-election activities including the collation of results. At the end of the elections, electoral materials that were not consumables were retrieved from the field and kept at LGA Offices and the State Office. The state EMSC team, with full complements of personnel tracked the activities on the field. The field assets were responsible for making direct contacts, using cells phones, to electoral field officials to get direct feedback on the situation from field. Such information from the field on threats, compliances or challenges were then passed the two data administrators, and the information helped the Commission to take decisive and informed decisions for proper execution of the election.

## Monitoring, Implementation and Support for field Activities

The state office prepared for the tracking and monitoring of Election Day and immediate post-election activities. The EMSC platform which integrated personnel deployed teams to the LGAs in the state enabled the State Office to track the filed activities and responded to situations that

called for attention. The field contact persons were responsible for making direct contacts using cell phones to electoral officials in the field to get information on threats, compliances, and challenges, which enabled the State Office to take decisive and informed decisions. The proactiveness of the EMSC prompted awareness of PUs where elections were cancelled on account of non-usage of the BVAS and disruption of the poll before the results were presented for collation during the elections.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Election

Among others, the following challenges have been identified in all the elections conducted in the state in 2023 as follows:

a. Failure of some trained poll officials to turn up for electoral activities at their designated polling units. Although such officials were eventually replaced, it contributed to delays in commencement of voting since the Commission would only get to know on the Election Day

b. Poor performance of some election personnel despite the training received in the build-up to the elections. It is made more puzzling considering that some under-performing cases were recorded among university lecturers.

c. Threats to sanctity of the vote because of factors such as illiteracy, age and disability which prevented some voters from exercising their mandate independently without interference from family members and party agents.

d. The NIBSS platform continues to pose problem to the payment of ad-hoc staff outside the usual problems of ad hoc staff not submitting accurate accounts details. Often, this leads to agitation among ad-hoc staff.

12.2.5.
Nasarawa State
Capital City: Lafia

Dr. Uthman A. Ajidagba
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Nasarawa State

Delimitation Data

13 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**5** Federal Constituencies	**24** State Constituencies
147 No of RAs	**3,256** No of PUs	**1,899,244** No of Registered Voters	**1,847,752** No of PVCs Collected
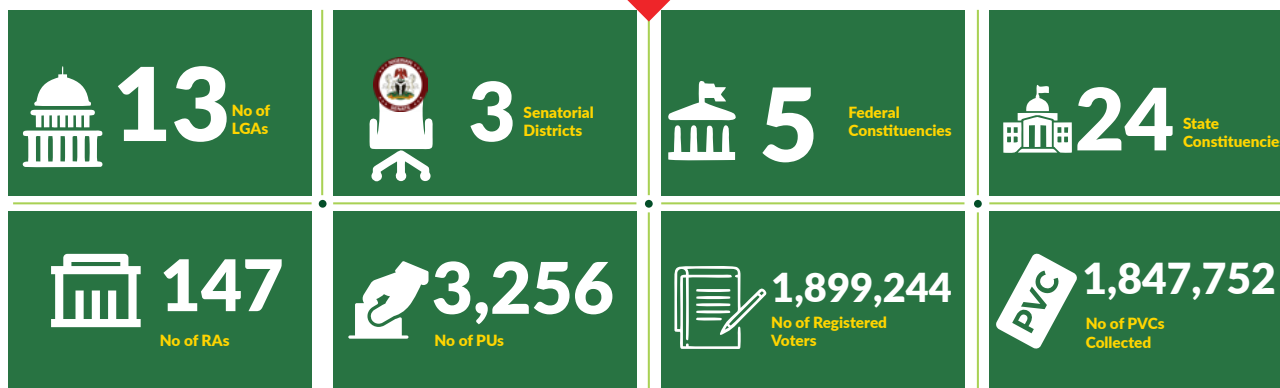
Introduction

The State has thirteen (13) Local Government Areas, three (3) Senatorial Districts and five (5) Federal Constituencies as well as one hundred and forty-seven (147) Registration Areas. There are one thousand, four hundred and ninety-five (3256) Polling Units, and one million, six hundred and thirty-four thousand, eight hundred and sixty-seven registered voters (1,899,244) across the State. The number of PVCs collected before the General Election was 1,847,752, making the collection rate one of the highest in the country at 97%.

Pre-Election Activities

Preparatory to the Elections, the office undertook the repairs and servicing of all vehicles in the fleet of the Commission in the State. A total of fifteen (15) vehicles were repaired/serviced. They were used for transporting Election Materials to the Local Government Area offices as well as for monitoring and other interventions on Election Day in the State. The office also undertook the signing of an agreement between the State Office and members of the NURTW and NARTO, on how the two unions would transport personnel and materials to the Local Government Areas and Polling Units at appropriate date and time. The vehicles for such movements were provided on time for the elections.

a. As convened, Management meetings were held on:

b. 30/01/2023, concerning vehicles repairs Committee Inauguration INEC Nasarawa State.

c. 30/01/2023, with Electoral Officers about PVC Collection, Election Security, training of election personnel, security consciousness of staff, movable and immovable electoral materials, RAC

preparations, PVCs collection and Elections Security Trainings

d. 08/02/2023, with ICCES members on PVC Collection, Election Security, training of election personnel, movable and immovable electoral materials, RAC preparations, PVCs collection and Elections Security Trainings.

e. 06/03/2023, with ICCES again on review of election security preparatory to the 11th of   March 2023 election. Election materials particularly non-sensitive materials were audited, and the finding was sent to INEC Headquarters. The shortages were immediately reimbursed.

Conduct of CVR and PVC Collection Exercise

Nasarawa State as earlier stated, has 13 LGAs, 3 SDs, 5 FCs and 147 RAs. There were 3,256 PUs and 1,899,244 in the State, of which 1,847,752 representing 97.3% PVCs collected leaving a balance of 51,495 uncollected PVCs.

Recruitment, Training and Deployment of Electoral Personnel

The recruitment, training and posting of ad-hoc staff was strictly done on INECPRESS and in accordance with the laid down guidelines. The testing of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) preceded by the mock accreditation provided the leverage not only to test the functionality of the equipment but also brought to the prospective voters the opportunity to interact with the machine. The distribution

of non-sensitive materials was done in good time after ensuring that the needed security was in place in all the 13 Local Government Areas of the State. The operational vehicles of the Commission were repaired and used with funds made available by the Commission. Few days to the elections, a peace accord signing was organized where candidates in the elections were on hand and did the needful. The event was witnessed by the E. U. observers Mission that sought to know the level of our preparedness then.

Party Primaries and Nomination Process

The primaries were conducted within the agreed time frame while candidate nomination processes were done in accordance with the provision of the Constitution and Electoral Act 2020 as amended.

Stakeholder Engagements

Following directives from INEC Headquarters, stakeholder meetings were held, to have peaceful and successful 2023 elections. Such meetings were organized and moderated by INEC State Office Lafia where interactive sessions with Traditional and Religious leaders was held at Ta'al Conference Hotel, Lafia. During the interactive sessions emphasis was laid on the appeal for a peaceful and violence-free, 2023 General Election and, the importance attached to it.

Receipt, Storage and Deployment of Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Materials

The operational vehicles of the Commission were repaired and used with funds made available by the Commission. The sensitive materials in custody of the Central Bank, Lafia branch were distributed three (3) days to the elections for both the Presidential/ National Assembly as well as the Governorship/State Assembly elections. The exercise was done in the presence of all the Political Parties contesting in the elections as well as the security agencies, the media and observer groups. The materials were escorted by armed security to the various 13 Local Government Areas of the State.

Identification, Preparation and Activation of RACs and SRACs

All Registration Area Centres (RACs) across the state were prepared in good time, with provision of lighting, mattresses toiletries, buckets, and water, among others. Such RACs were activated in the afternoon of each Friday (a day before each of the 2023 elections).

Printing of EVR

All the EVR for 3256 Polling Units were printed well ahead of time in black and white and coloured and cross-checked by the Electoral Officer.

Monitoring, Implementation and Support for Field Activities

The elections were monitored by both the State and the National Headquarters Monitoring Team. The aim was to ensure that Poll Officials adhered to the extant rules governing the elections. Applicable too,

were the Commission's efforts and support geared to the implementation achievement for all field activities. Enough vehicles were hired from NURTW and NARTO for smooth logistics preparation. On Election Day, the Head of Department in company of Chief Information Officer and the Commission's photographer were part of the Honourable Resident Electoral Commissioner's entourage. They monitored the conduct of elections in some selected Polling Units across the three Senatorial Districts, during the Presidential/National Assembly elections as well as the Governorship and State Houses of Assembly elections.

Conduct of the Elections (25th of February and 18th of March 2023)

Election Day Experiences from the Field and Lessons Learnt

There was substantial compliance with the provisions of the Electoral Act with regards to the conduct of the election though the election did not commence early as schedule for the Presidential and National Assembly Elections. Other activities included:

a. Deployment of LGA Techs and RAC Techs to their various LGAs and RAs respectively.

b. Rendering technical support on SCRs

c. Communication/Transmission of accredited data on SCRs

d. E-collation at RA level

e.   Uploading of EC8A results to the IReV

Personnel used these areas were mainly ICT staff, Corps Members, and IT staff of the department. Materials and equipment were sourced from old materials in the store and complemented from INEC Headquarters.

Voting Process and Performance of Equipment

The processes were handled from the grass roots by the election personnel (POs, APOs, RAC Techs, LGA Techs to Federal/ State Constituencies, Senatorial Districts and, at State levels respectively). Materials and equipment were sourced from old materials in the store and complemented from headquarters. The performance of equipment while rendering technical support on SCRs, Communication/ Transmission of accredited data on SCRs, E-collation at RA level Uploading of EC8A results to IReV were satisfactory.

Operation of the Situation Room and Election Monitoring and Support Centre

EMSC situation room was set-up in time to monitor the real time election tracking and reporting of Election Day activities.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Elections

The degree of cooperation on the part of the transport unions is not fully accorded as there is always conflict of roles between the State branch and the Local Government Area branches. To address the trend, the LGA branches and the Local Government Electoral Officers need to be fully involved in the negotiations to curb the mutual suspicion.

a.   The remuneration for ad-hoc staff should be reviewed upward to reflect the current realities to curb the incidence of short-changing of the lower level of ad-hoc staff by the higher ones when it comes to the payment of allowances at the RAC/PU levels.

b.   The rate of electoral violence is on the increase with devastating consequences of the electoral personnel, there is the need to enforce the already existing laws on electoral offenders to serve as deterrent.

12.2.6.

Niger State
Capital City: Minna

Ahmed Yushau Garki
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Niger State

Delimitation Data

25 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**10** Federal Constituencies
27 State Constituencies		

274 No of RAs	**4,950** No of PUs	**2,698,344** No of Registered Voters	**2,525,869** No of PVCs Collected
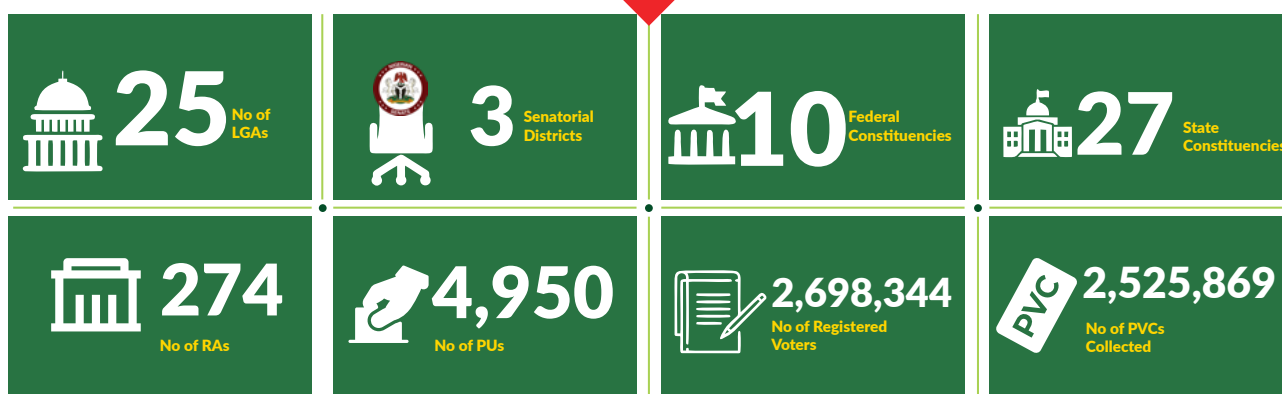
Introduction

Niger State is in Nigeria's North-Central Geo-Political Zone with a population of 3,954,722. The state's landmass of 76, 363 square kilometres contains 25 LGAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 10 Federal Constituencies, 27 State Constituencies, 274 RAs as well as 4,950 PUs. The total number of registered voters at the time of the election was 2,698,344, with 2,525,869 PVCs collected.

Pre-Elections Activities

Management Meetings and Audit of Electoral Materials

The Management team of the Commission in the state held series of meetings to review the overall security situation in the face of the rising cases of banditry and kidnapping since the previous general election, assess the scale of IDP voting, assess the existing storage facilities and determine the kinds of obsolete materials to be destroyed, and carried out a stock taking exercise for the available non-sensitive materials, among others. Similar kinds of exercise were undertaken by the EOs across the 25 LGAs to ascertain the condition of the offices, identification of LGAs with difficult terrains, network availability and blind spots as well as the changing security environment in the LGAs. Regular meetings of the management staff and the feedback from several sub-committees focusing on critical issues to be addressed to ensure free, fair and credible elections provided the Commission information for timely intervention by both the state Office and the Commission Headquarters in Abuja.

Conduct of CVR and PVC Collection

The state implemented the online pre-registration which commenced on the 28th of June 2021 and the in-person physical registration phases which was kick-started on the 31st of July 2021 in designated registration centres. All this involved four phases, each phase lasting for three months at the State Office, the LGAS and the RAs as directed by the Commission. This exclude the one-month extension covering the whole of July 2022 that was granted by the Commission in response to public pressure. The CVR exercise resulted in the registration of a total of three hundred and eight thousand, three hundred and nine (308,309) valid Registered voters added to the previous figure of registered voters in the State. Overall, the exercise was successful considering the prevailing insecurity in the state in a number of LGAs including Shiroro, Rafi, Munya, Kontagora, Magama, Mashegu, Wushishi, Paikoro, Borgu, Bida, Lapai, Bosso and Tafa Local Government Areas. It is however important to add that CVR and voter migration implemented as part of expanding voter access to PUs took place simultaneously. With respect to PVC collection, the state followed the guidelines contained in a harmonized procedure, and Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) to guide the Staff of the Commission. This covered guidelines for the display of voters register and set up for collection, management of collected PVCs and process of collection at LGA and RA level and reporting obligation.

Recruitment, Training and Deployment of Electoral Personnel

The Commission relies on Ad hoc staff engaged during elections to deliver on its mandate. The Ad hoc staff is drawn from serving Corps members, ex-Corps members, and students in penultimate years federal tertiary institutions, FMDAs, and lecturers preferably from federal institutions. The state office relied on applications harvested the Commission's online recruitment portal, INECPRES, to harvest applicants who were later screened and trained for the different positions except for the Collation and Returning Officers that were identified by the Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Minna.

Recognising the critical role of skilled personnel to the success of the 2023 general election, the Commission adopted a pragmatic approach by organizing numerous trainings and workshops to build the capacity of the Ad hoc staff. The Commission Headquarters in collaboration with International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES) and other donor agencies organized the various training programmes for the Staff and other Officials that were engaged in the electoral activities. The training of security agencies was an integral part of the trainings mounted in the build-up to the election in view of the critical role the security agencies play in all phases of the electoral process. It is useful to add that well ahead of the 2023 general election, the State Office, acting on the directive of the Commission's Headquarters, carried out series of root trainings for youth corps members in their orientation camps. The root trainings succeeded in creating a pool

of trained youth corps members versed in the processes and procedures of conducting elections and the handling of the BVAS machines. Overall, the recruitment of all the categories of Ad hoc - staff - strictly followed the stipulated guidelines and were all subjected to rigorous trainings, with only those who showed evidence of mastering the processes and procedures recruited at the end of the day. Refresher trainings were also conducted in the aftermath of the postponement of the Governorship/ Houses of Assembly elections.

Party Primaries and Candidates' Nomination Process

The Political Party primaries in Niger State was conducted within the time-line provided by the calendar of election activities, between the 4th of April 2022 and the 3rd of June 2022, featuring the 18 registered political parties. Although the different parties chose between the prescribed direct and indirect modes of conducting their primaries, the handling of the process highlight the problem of internal democracy within the parties. Added to this was the problem created for the Commission's monitoring exercise by the incessant, indiscriminate, and inconsistent change or shift of dates and venues of the primaries reflecting the level of internal divisions within the parties. Despite these challenges, the state mobilised the staff including the management staff to serve as monitors to fully cover the monitoring of party primaries considering the vastness of Niger State.

Stakeholder Engagements

Stakeholder engagements took place at the state level and in the 25 LGAs of the state where Electoral Officers were directed to engage with a wide range of stakeholders depending on their relevance to the local situation. The stakeholders' meetings provided avenues for discussing all the activities of the Commission as well as threats posed to the electoral process by political violence, thuggery, vote buying, intimidations, and other related matters. Furthermore, stakeholders were adequately sensitised on actions and behaviours that could amount to breaches of Electoral Laws. However, for purposes of stakeholders' consultations and building public confidence in the electoral process, the stakeholders identified include the political parties and IPAC, NYSC, Faith-based organisations and Traditional Rulers, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), National Orientation Agency (NOA), the Media, Niger State Independent Electoral Commission (SIEC), and women organisations and Community Based Organizations (CBOs). More importantly, NURTW, NARTO and MWUN were rigorously engaged to ensure that perfect arrangements were made for the movement electoral personnel and materials including reverse logistics. Stakeholders' consultations were complemented with advocacy visits undertaken by the Resident Electoral Commissioner to Civil Society leaders and other stakeholders in the state. To further ensure peaceful environment, the Political Parties and their candidates signed a Peace Pact at the Police Officers' Mess in Minna organized by the Commissioner of Police (CP) on the 7th of February 2023.

Preparations for Elections

Receipt, Storage and Deployment of Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Materials

Ascertaining the state of readiness of the storage facilities in both state and LGA offices to receive sensitive materials that came in batches from both the Zonal Store located in Minna and the Headquarters of the Commission was the first major undertaken of the Commission in the state. Non – Sensitive materials meant for the LGAs were promptly distributed to them to enable the Electoral Officers determine shortfalls and notify the Commission for early remedy. The sensitive materials meant for the State were received through the Central Bank of Nigeria Minna, under the supervision and coordination of the Branch Controller, Minna. These include Ballot papers and Forms EC8 Series for the Presidential/ National Assembly Elections slated for 25th of February 2023. Following their verification and inspection by the State REC and the agents of the political parties in the presence of the security agencies, they were distributed to the 25 LGAs in good time.

Identification, Preparations and Activation of RACs and Super RACs

Also ahead of the election, the state office undertook a review of the locations of RACs, Super RACs as well as Collation Centres, to determine their suitability and readiness for the election. Among the indices or parameters used to determine the suitability were availability of perimeter fences, toilet facilities, enough classrooms for camping the Ad-Hoc staff who had increased because of the increase in the number of Polling Units, personnel, and the prevailing level of insecurity. In some instances, this informed the relocation of collation centres across the state. In addition to furnishing, managers were appointed among the Principals, Headmasters and Headmistress of the schools identified to supervise and coordinate the activities of each RAC at the LGA.

Printing of EVR

On directive of the ICT Department of the Commission, the ICT Department in the state printed two copies of the EVR, one in coloured, and the other in black and white based on 12 and 16 voters per page respectively.

Logistics Preparations

The State office of the Commission leveraged on the MoU between the Commission and the road and marine transport officials to carry out the huge logistics undertaking of the 2023 election in Niger State considering the vast geography of the state and the reality of insecurity. A series of discussion with these service providers at both the state office in Minna and in the LGAS contributed to timely and adequate provision of the logistics and transportation for both Men and Materials including early opening of polls. Similar engagements with the Maritime Union enabled the state office to respond to the logistics demands of the seven LGAs that required Boats. These were Shiroro, Borgu, Wushishi, Agaie, Mokwa, Edati and Agwara.

Monitoring, Implementation and Support for field Activities

In more recent electoral cycles, the Commission had improved in the tracking and monitoring of the different aspects of its electoral operations to infuse greater transparency and accountability. For this purpose, the EMSC Team set up the Situation Room on the eve of the election to undertake three (3) main tasks: monitoring the amber and red zones, RAC activation/ activities, accreditation/voting and close of polls; and collation of results. Although the effectiveness of the exercise was marred at the beginning by poor network, there was improvement much later, and this made it possible for timely responses o challenges that were reported from the field.

Conduct of the Elections (the 25th of February and the 18th of March)

Opening of Polls

There was a marked improvement in timely commencement of voting activities across the state during the Presidential/National Assembly elections, because good logistics ensured opening of polls around 8.am expected. However, poor handling of the BVAS by some ad-hoc staff because of application of wrong codes at the initial stage created bottlenecks in several Polling Units. The closure of about 90% of the polling units by 2.30 pm except in a few PUs closed where voting processes were disrupted by some disgruntled elements a measure of early opening of polls. The

option provided by the BVAS to use facial capture where fingerprint authentication and identification failed contributed to the improved efficiency in the voting process.

However, IDP voting was a pronounced element of voting operations in Niger State because of the history of banditry, kidnapping for ransom and attacks on communities by insurgents who took over several communities spread across LGAs in the state. Accordingly, the state office made adequate preparations for IDP voting to fulfil international and national obligations to include such persons in the voting process. The Commission consciously took a decision to further improve on the inclusiveness of the electoral process when it unveiled the 2022 Revised Framework and Regulations for Voting by Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), which reviewed the 2019 framework. However, because conditions that gave rise to displacement kept changing, the number of LGAs affected by displacement reduced from 14 LGAs to 5 LGAs. Consequently, the Commission conducted IDP voting in 5 LGAs affected by banditry and flood, involving a total of one hundred and fifty-five thousand, one hundred and one (155,101) registered voters spread across 42 RAs and 323 Pus. This category of persons voted in established IDP camps under adequate security coverage provided by the security agencies.

Implementation of Collation and Result Management Process

In its quest to ensure accurate computation of election result, the Commission trained and deployed Collation Support and Result

Verification System (CSRVS) officers. The deployment of these officers facilitated the early announcement and declaration of election results. However, in a few places, voting was marred by violence, leading to cancellation of results. Such cancellations were because of snatching of election materials, attack on poll officials, and resistance to the use of BVAS and over voting. During the Presidential/National Assembly elections, for instance, such cancellations affected a total of 38,000 votes spread across 15 LGAs, 41 RAs, and 57 PUs. In these instances, there were written reports from the Presiding Officers and Collation Officers. Similar incidents were recorded during the Governorship/ State Assembly elections.

With specific reference to the State Assembly elections on March 18, declaration could not be made in four out of the 27 state constituencies as they were declared inconclusive following the application of the margin of lead principle. This was a result of incidents of over voting and disruption of voting following disagreements. The four (4) affected state constituencies: Agaie, Agwara, Rafi and Rijau LGA State constituencies in Eleven (11) RAs and Fifteen (15) PUs. In Agaie, five (5) RAs and Seven (7) PUs; Agwara Two (2) RAs and Two (2) PUs; Rafi Three (3) RAs and Three (3) PUs and in Rijau One RA and Three (3) PUs were affected.

Operation of the Situation Room and Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC)

The EMSC functioned optimally in the tracking and monitoring of the pre-election, Election Day and post-election activities including the collation of results. Furthermore, using the reverse logistics methodology, deployed materials were retrieved after the first round of election to prepare for the next round. At the end of the elections, electoral materials that were not consumables were retrieved from the field and kept at LGA Offices and the State Office.

The state EMSC team was established with full complement of personnel, field assets, data administrators and a state coordinator. To enable the EMSC capture all activities on the field, its operations were activated in the early afternoon of the eve of the election to capture the movement of materials and personnel to the RACs. The field assets were responsible for making direct contacts, using cells phones, to electoral field officials to get direct feedback on the situation from field. Such information from the field on threats, compliances or challenges were then passed the two data administrators, and the information helped the Commission to take decisive and informed decisions for proper execution of the election.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Election

After the conclusion of the elections in the state, there were a few challenges identified that need to be addressed looking forward to the subsequent elections. These challenges are enumerated as follows:

a. The excessive monetisation of the electoral process which became evident in the level of vote selling vote buying. For instance, that voters were given

both cash and materials like food items and clothes.

b. Reverse logistics remains a key challenge for the Commission. Both wilful acts of subversion in the form of violence and stealing by poll officials threaten the safety of election materials.

c. Despite concerns raised about the inadequacy of training of the ad hoc staff, the problem continues to haunt the Commission and account for the inability of some deployed election staff to optimally use the BVAS.

d. Persistence of insurgency, banditry, and kidnapping in the state over the years which threaten the security of election personnel and materials.

e. The powerlessness of the Commission in relation to the prosecution of election offenders.

f. The problem of accessing difficult terrains and the implication for additional transportation costs.

12.2.7.
Plateau State
Capital City: Jos

Dr. Agundu Oliver Tersoo
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Plateau State

Delimitation Data

17 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**8** Federal Constituencies	**24** State Constituencies
207 No of RAs	**4,989** No of PUs	**2,789,528** No of Registered Voters	**2,687,533** No of PVCs Collected
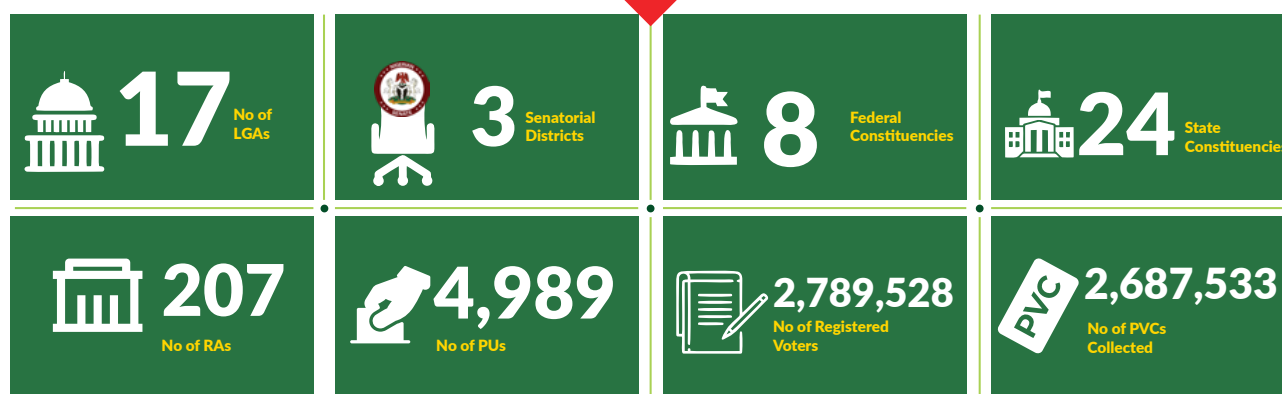
Introduction

Plateau State, covering a land area of 30,913 km^2 is in the North Central geo-political zone of Nigeria. With a total of 17 LGAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 8 Federal Constituencies, 24 State Constituencies, 207 RAs, and 4, 989 PUs, the state registered a total of 2,789,528, while a total of 2,687,533 were collected before the 2023 General Election.

Pre - Election Activities

Management Meetings and Planning Activities

The Resident Electoral Commissioner, Administrative Secretary, HODs and the 17 Electoral Officers met regularly to prepare adequately and early for the 2023 General Election. All the meetings and engagements were centred chiefly on the modalities for organizing the recruitment and training of ad-hoc personnel, deployment of materials to the LGAs and carrying out various activities as captured on the timetable and schedule of activities by the Commission. Also, inventory of election materials was taken to ascertain the quantity of non-sensitive materials required for the election. These materials were subsequently received/delivered to the State in different batches, from Zonal stores Minna, INEC headquarters, Abuja and others were delivered to the State directly by the Commission's Vendors. As part of the general preparations for the elections, office renovations and furnishings were undertaken in Q'uanpan, Jos South, Wase, Riyom, Langtang South and Kanke. Arrangement for adequate supply of petroleum products.

Stakeholder Engagements

Engaging with the different stakeholders including political parties, civil society, women groups, and youth to provide basic

electoral information, mobilise voters and secure the electoral environment is at the core of promoting electoral integrity. Accordingly, the Commission in Plateau identified the different stakeholders to achieve free and fair elections. Given the history of communal and identity-based conflicts in the state, the Commission at one level engaged with the security agencies within the framework of ICCES, to identify the hotspots in the state for the purposes of planning the deployment of security person during the pre-election, Election Day, and the post-election period. Security threats from carried out by the different agencies and that of EOs across the 17 LGAs in the state informed the deliberations. The Commission also engaged with the numerous NGOs and community-based organisations as well their networks that have worked on conflict management and peace-building. The relative peace enjoyed during the election can be partly attributed to the efforts of the Commission in this direction. It needs to be added that, for adequate security of the BVAS machines, the Commission made available special monthly funds between October 2022 to April 2023 to fortify the State Office with adequate security personnel. Stakeholders' engagement with the political parties was given priority, especially considering the reality of intra-party and inter-party tension and animosity in the state in the aftermath of the party primaries. Engagements with the parties focused on the key provisions in the 2022 Electoral Act and its implications for the political parties and their leaders including the modes of conducting party primaries, uploading information on polling agents, and new provisions that how deceased candidates can be replaced, among others. Furthermore, the Commission partnered with civic groups, especially the CBOs to galvanise voter education and awareness. Similarly, considering the critical role of religious and traditional leaders, a substantial part of engagements factored in these set of stakeholders. The Commission also partnered with some NGOs and CSOs to enhance our electoral process in Plateau State. For example, The 'YourMatterProject' played a significant role to boost PVC collection by launching a community mobilization project for officers for facilitating and making themselves available for the project, which was aimed at increasing participation of women, Youth, People with Disabilities (PWDs) and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the electoral process by providing free transportation for them to collect their PVCs across the seventeen LGAs of the state. The project deployed IEC materials and created promotional materials for mainstream media to increase women engagement and public collaboration with the Commission.

Conduct of CVR and PVC Collection

The importance of the CVR exercise is underscored by the imperative of updating the Voter Register by offering those who turned the voting age of 18 after the 2019 General Election the opportunity to be registered, giving opportunity to persons wishing to update their data in the register, while the strict requirement of the Electoral Act that only citizens who have their PVCs can cast their votes make PVC collection an important electoral activity in the period leading up to the 2023 General Election. These two activities were carried out with intensity and vigour. To ensure accessibility

and convenience, numerous registration centres were set up across Plateau State. These centres were strategically located in various local government areas, enabling citizens to register within their communities. The distribution of registration centres aimed to minimize travel distances and encourage maximum participation. As a mark of success in the exercise, a total of 292, 949 persons were registered, while 233, 469 persons transferred their PUs to PUs nearest to their residences to achieve expanded voter access to the PUs. For the PVC distribution activity that was carried out simultaneously, a total of 268,7533 PVCs were issued out to voters across the 17 LGAs in Plateau State.

Recruitment, Training, and Deployment of Electoral Personnel

The task of conducting the 2023 General Election amidst a new electoral legal framework and deployment of new technology meant that all categories of personnel recruited to conduct the election receive adequate training and imbued with the required skills for the smooth operations of the elections. Consequently, series of training sessions which were approved by the headquarters were organized by the State office in collaboration with the Electoral Institute for various categories of ad-hoc personnel for the elections. The Supervisory Presiding Officers (SPOs), RATECHs, RAC managers, Presiding Officers (POs), Assistant Presiding Officers (APOs) were sourced through the INECPRES portal except for Collation/Returning Officers (COs/ROs) who were sourced through the Office of the Commission's Chairman. All the trainings including the training of

security personnel, were conducted, one after the other between February 3-22, 2023. In the aftermath of the postponement of the governorship election, a mandatory refresher training was conducted for the SPOs, RACHTECs and other categories of ad hoc staff.

Party Primaries and Nomination Processes

The candidates' selection process took place in Plateau State as provided in the timetable and schedule of activities of the Commission. The activities for this purpose were monitored by the staff of EPM Department to ensure that candidates nominated from the eighteen (18) registered Political Parties were validly nominated through the primaries. It is however imperative to note the challenges that impeded the effective monitoring of these party primaries. These, among others, include, short notices, frequent changes in the calendar of Political parties as it affected dates, times, and venues of these primaries. Additionally, there were logistics challenges arising from difficulty to locate state and LGA offices of political parties, the tendency to drag the Commission into their internal problems arising from accusations and counter accusations of manipulation, and the inability for parties to conduct direct primaries where it was the mode indicated because they were overwhelmed by what it took conduct direct party primaries. Similar accusation of manipulation also characterized indirect primaries arising from alleged manipulation of lists of delegates. Finally, parties hoarded information as to how much candidates spent during campaigns making it difficult

for the Commission to properly monitor party and candidates' campaign finances.

Receipt, Storage, and Deployment of Electoral Materials

Plateau State INEC, having fully complied with the directive of the Commission's Headquarters to put the storage facilities at the state and LGA levels to receive the non-sensitive materials that were brought in batches received them accordingly, and made funds available to ensure adequate security deployment for their safety, and that of BVAS that were used for the conduct of the elections. For both the Presidential/National Assembly and Governorship/State Houses of Assembly elections, pre-inspections were carried out on the Wednesday of the election week jointly by the State Management Team led by the Resident Electoral Commissioner and the Electoral Officers, in the presence of the security agencies during which the Branch Controller of the Central Bank made them available. It is important to note that inspection of these materials took place in the presence of the agents of the political parties and some international and domestic observers before they were deployed to the LGA offices. For the two elections, the observed shortfalls were timely reported to the Commission's Headquarters which accordingly elicited prompt response. and promptly responded to by Headquarters. The deployment of sensitive election materials to the seventeen (17) LGAs was done on Wednesday the 23rd of February beginning with farthest from Jos the state capital, accompanied by the respective Electoral Officers (EOs) with heavy detachment of armed security men to the

INEC LGA offices and thereafter, movement to RACs on Friday, the 24th of February and PUs on Election Day, Saturday, 25th of February before the commencement of polls by 8.30am as stipulated.

Training, Recruitment, and Deployment of Personnel

Before the commencement of the training and subsequent recruitment especially of the ad-hoc staff, the names of all those who applied through the INECPRESS portal as POs/APOs totalling over 21,000 applicants were harvested and were trained at the LGA level. That of SPOs took place at the Plateau State Polytechnic, Jos Campus in the state capital. While the Collation and Returning officers were trained at Faculty of Social Science Auditorium, University of Jos. The required number for each category of the ad-hoc staff were eventually recruited and deployed for the election. But on a sad note, it was reported by the Electoral Officer of Mangu LGA that one serving corps member fell-off the motor bike that was conveying her to the polling units on the day of the conduct of the Presidential and National Assembly Election, which led to her unfortunate death.

Preparation and Activation of RACs and SRACs

Early opening of polls and commencement of voting are predicated on the activation of RACs and SRACS on Friday, to enable materials and personnel deploy to the PUs in real time. Plateau INEC accorded priority attention to this aspect of electoral operations. Prior to the election, and acting

on the directive of the Commission, the Electoral Officers were directed to identify and select suitable facilities to be used as RACs Centres, for which funds were released to the EOs to furnish these Centres with mats, water, buckets, toiletries, lightning, cables, and bulbs etc that would make the RACs fully operational. Although most of the RACS were activated as expected, RACs in some LGAs like Riyom, Barkin Ladi, and Wase could not be activated on the eve of the election for refresher training to take place due to some logistics/security challenges. However, these isolated cases did not affect early deployment and commencement of polls in the affected LGAs because of other robust measures put in place.

Logistics Preparations

The conduct of the 2023 elections built on the logistics arrangement for the movement of personnel and materials in the 2019 General Election, specifically, MoU between the Commission and the Road Transport Unions. The MOU was further reviewed in the count down to the 2023 General Election, the only addition being the inclusion of the Maritime Union, which together with the NURTW and NARTO), provided the logistics for the election. Based on the reviewed MoU, series of meetings were held with the unions to determine the total number of vehicles they could provide in relation to the requirements as provided by the EOs. However, State Office Management team engaged with the FRSC to ensure the inspection of vehicles to be used across the state, an exercise that was mandatorily carried out through the 21 LGAs.

Despite the appeal to members of the transport unions to observe the spirit of the MoU, some Electoral Officers reported their deviation from the signed MoU by not supplying vehicles in their specifications. For instance, instead of supplying 18-seater buses, some of the transport unions workers supplied smaller vehicles like Sharon which could convey fewer number of personnel. This problem partly caused delay in conveying men and materials to the polling Units as scheduled and many ad-hoc staff from getting to their respective polling units at the right time. Hence, polls could not open early enough in some of such polling units on the Election Day of the 25th of February 2023. The leadership of the Commission however deserves some commendation for intervening to ameliorate the problem of scarcity and non-availability of cash without which it would have been difficult to deploy for the elections. The decision to liaise with the NPC and the Central Bank confirms the position of the Commission regarding the importance of partnerships.

Configuration and Deployment of Accreditation Devices (EVR, VR and BVAS)

The HOD ICT with other ICT staff printed the electronic voter register for each LGA and deployed them accordingly for the conduct of both the Presidential and National Assembly and Governorship/ State House of Assembly elections. The BVAS were adequately charged, configured, and deployed for the elections.

Conduct of the Elections (the 25th of February and the 18th of March)

Opening of Polls

Opening of polls across Plateau State was generally in substantial compliance with the stipulated time. However, in some few polling units as earlier captured there were some delays because of non-supply of specified vehicles especially in the first election of the 25th of February 2023. However, there was remarkable improvement in the logistics arrangement in the second election of the 18th of March 2023, thereby making almost all the Polling Units to open as early as 8:30am. Consequently, voting was concluded in many polling units at exactly 2:30pm. However, where accredited voters were still on the queue waiting to vote by 2:30pm, voting proceeded till the last person on the queue was attended to, which in some cases made the voting process to last to 4-6 or 7pm and some cases very late in the night. Again, in some places as result of BVAS malfunctioning, mix-up of ballot papers and other compelling factors, elections were rescheduled to the following day especially where there were issues of shortage of ballot papers for Presidential/National Assembly like in Shendam LGA, and Governorship/State House of Assembly in Bokkos LGA.

Accreditation and Voting Process and Performance of Equipment

Accreditation and voting took place simultaneously and the BVAS machine which was deployed for the exercise performed optimally. The only noticeable delays were occasioned largely by lack of mastery in terms of functionality and operation of BVAS machine by some ad-hoc staff either because of proper attention during training or the shortness of the days provided for the training of ad-hoc staff on the use of BVAS. In some cases, such category of ad-hoc staff sadly bye-pass the use of the equipment for the purpose of accreditation thereby making voting in such polling Units a nullity and an exercise in futility. The result of which was cancellation of the election in the affected polling units.

Monitoring, Implementation and Support for Field Activities

The Commission's headquarters in Abuja deployed some staff from the headquarters to the State office for effective monitoring of the electoral process. The REC, Administrative Secretary and Heads of departments/HOUs also went to the field to monitor the conduct of the election. Worth noting is the fact that here in Plateau too some Heads of Departments, Units and senior staff were deployed to monitor and assist the EOs at the LGAs. These monitoring really assisted in ensuring successful conduct of the election because all observed inadequacies, such as mix-up of some results sheet, inadequate ballot papers, poor transportation arrangement for ad-hoc staff etc were promptly reported and addressed.

Collation and Results Management System

The results of the General Election were sorted, tallied, and announced immediately after the close of polls at the polling units.

Thereafter these polling units result were electronically transmitted directly to the IREV, while the Collation Support and Result Verification System was used to transmit the final collation/declaration of results of Presidential and National Assembly. But due to network challenges and possibly due to other reasons, some ad-hoc staff refused or did not upload the results real-time. However, after the successful Collations at various levels winners were declared in line with the subsisting electoral laws and regulations.

Implementation of Collation and Results Management Process

The Collation Support and Result verification System Officers (CSVRS) who were sourced from both the State and INEC headquarters Abuja were on ground to offer support for the collation of results at different levels of collations. In this respect the results of both the presidential/National Assembly and Governorship/State House of Assembly were collated automatically and in real-time using their various computers and supporting equipment like projectors. All the results of the elections were successfully transmitted electronically to the designated emails and printed out to aid the Collation Officers/ Returning Officers to manually compute their Results and make declaration respectively were applicable.

Operation of the Situation Room and Election Management and Support Centre (EMSC)

The Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC) secretariat was fully activated before, during and after the elections. The

Desk officers were up and doing by giving updates on reporting of events to the appropriate quarters for quick interventions whenever issues arise in respect of the conduct of the election especially from the field. At the end of the General Election, all major election materials deployed for the conduct of the 2023 General Election were successfully retrieved back from the field, except for few cases of missing 3 (three) generating sets, some mats, and batteries for BVAS. At the point of writing this report, fifteen (15) persons in Police custody were being investigated for missing BVAS and the circumstances leading to the disappearance of some Presiding Officers (POs) in Jos North during the 18th of March 2023 Governorship/State Assembly Elections.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Election

The successful conduct and declaration of results at all levels notwithstanding, there were obvious challenges that were confronted that will have to be addressed going forward. These challenges include, but not limited to the following:

a. Stalemate in collation processes and announcement of results because of theft of BVAS which was experienced in Jos North LGA.

b. Insufficient time provided for the training of election officials on the proper use and troubleshooting of BVAS which led to operational errors and confusion at some polling units and in some cases even slowed down the process of accreditation and voting. All this undermined the efficiency and

integrity of the polls.

c. Fake news and hate speeches: A dangerous combination of fake news and the promotion of hate speech while electioneering campaigns and during the elections poisoned the electoral environment and cast serious doubt on the efforts of the Commission to elicit public confidence and trust in her processes.

d. Lack of proper conduct and attitude of polling agents who fomented trouble at the polling units and the exhibition of lack of proper training by the political parties of persons recruited as polling agents on Election Day.

e. Lack of adequate storage facilities for election materials in the State office here in Plateau State. With the reverse logistics now completed after the elections some of our materials especially BVAS has now been stored at our Collation Centre.

12.3 North-East Geo-political Zone

Introduction

The North-East Zone comprises of 6 States namely: Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe. The zone has a landmass of 272,395 km2, with 112 LGAs, 1,210 RAs, 18 Senatorial Districts, 48 Federal and 156 State Constituencies, with 24,006 PUs. It has a registered voter population of 12,542,248 with 12,122,869 PVCs collected before the 2023 General Election as shown in table 12.2 below.

S/N	State	LGA	RA	SD	FC	SC	PU	Reg. Voters	PVCs Collection	Km²
	Table 12.3: Delimitation Data for the North-East Zone on State-by-State Basis									
1	Adamawa	21	226	3	8	25	4,104	2,196,566	1,970,650	36,917
2	Bauchi	20	212	3	12	31	5,423	2,749,268	2,721,780	45,837
3	Borno	27	312	3	10	28	5,071	2,513,281	2,447,209	70,898
4	Gombe	11	114	3	6	24	2,988	1,575,794	1,534,954	18,768
5	Taraba	16	168	3	6	24	3,597	2,022,374	1,825,325	54,473
6	Yobe	17	178	3	6	24	2,823	1,485,146	1,437,851	45,502
	Totals	**112**	**1,210**	**18**	**48**	**156**	**24,006**	**12,542,429**	**11,937,769**	**272,395**

12.3.1.
Adamawa State
Capital City: Yola

Adamu Gujungu
Admin Sec. Adamawa State

Delimitation Data

21 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**8** Federal Constituencies	**25** State Constituencies
4,104 No of RAs	**3,281** No of PUs	**2,196,566** No of Registered Voters	**1,970,650** No of PVCs Collected
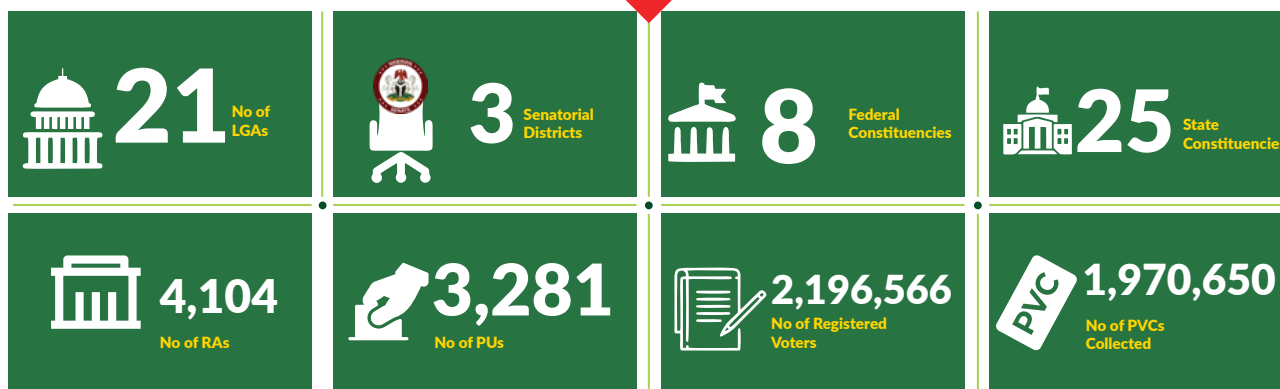
Introduction

Adamawa state is located on 9°20′N 12°30′E geographical coordinates and covers a land mass of 36,917 km2. The state is in the North-Eastern part of Nigeria and has a total voting strength of 2,196,566 spreading across 21 Local Government Areas, 226 Registration Areas, 3 Senatorial Districts, 8 Federal Constituencies, and 25 State Constituencies. It has 4,104 Polling Units with 2,196,566 registered voters. A total of 1,970,650 PVCs were collected before the General Election.

Pre-Elections Activities

Management Meetings and Audit of Electoral Materials

Prior to the elections, several management meetings were held aimed at conducting a free, fair and credible elections. Several issues, including the state of the Voters Register, dilapidated conditions of some LGA offices, inadequate storage facilities in the state and LGA offices, and how to engage transport unions and the NYSC based on the subsisting MoUs became key concerns in the run-up to the General Election. These and other issues such as the status of RACS and super RACs and consultations with the security agencies were discussed. Task were shared among the Departments to ensure a hitch-free electoral operations. Pivotal to the successful electoral conduct was the provision of adequate and sufficient space for the volume of sensitive and non-sensitive materials required for the election. Thus, the clearing of the stores by auctioning and disposing obsolete materials to create adequate space for critical material become necessary. Indeed, by the third quarter of 2022, the office was in receipt of almost all relevant materials and report back to the headquarters areas of short falls.

Conduct of CVR and PVC collection

Like other states, Adamawa commenced the On-line Continuous voters registration exercise on the 28th of June 2021 and the in-person voter registration exercise on the 19th of July 2021. Despite challenges arising from non-coverage by networks, inadequate security, and lack of adequate incentives for staff, the CVR exercise which ended on the 31st of July 2022 resulted in the registration of a total 223,483 newly registered voters.

Recruitment, Training and Deployment of Electoral Personnel

The state office paid careful attention to the training of all the categories of ad hoc staff recruited for the election. Applicants' information was harvested from the online platform of INECPRESS, the Commission's On-line recruitment portal and complemented the list with those harvested through the Google form. Most of the applicants short-listed and recruited were drawn from the Federal institutions unless where necessary from other state established institutions. They were all trained on their primary roles in the electoral process including the functionality of the BVAS.

The training of POs and APOs which was facilitated by the SPOs took place at designated centres of all the Local Government Areas. As stipulated by the Commission's Rules and Guidelines for Election and other relevant legal framework, the training is designed to give poll level officials the requisite knowledge for effective conduct of elections with the full observance of the procedures and guidelines issued by the Headquarters. Similarly, the training of CO/ROs was carried out two days to the Presidential/National Assembly elections, assisted by deployment of BVAS to ensure that practical aspects of collation were effectively taught in addition to their overall responsibilities in the electoral process.

Party Primaries and Candidates' Nomination Processes

Before the commencement of the primary elections, the EPM Department in the state department requested all parties to submit to the office list of delegates, party constitution and guidelines for the exercise. The Department, supported by other staff, monitored the conduct of primary elections by sixteen (16) political parties in the state between the 4th of April 2022 to the 9th of June 2022. It is worth mentioning that only the ADP, APP, NRM and ZLP conducted primary elections for Governorship. The department also monitored substitution primaries of political parties from the 28th of June 2022 to the 14th of July 2022.

The nomination process was dealt with as required by the Commission's guidelines. When the parties conducted their primaries, they submitted the names of the nominated candidates for each constituency to their party's National Secretariat where it was uploaded to the INEC portal created to handle it. The names of the nominated candidates were then sent to our State office through the Legal Departments where complaints were received after it was pasted in the various constituencies, State and Local Government offices for public

scrutiny. All complaints were received, forwarded to the National office before the final lists of nominated Candidates were sent back to the public domain. In the final lists of nominated candidates however, names for some candidates of some parties that did not conduct the primary election emerged. More so, some names for LP candidates who substituted others during the window for substitution of candidates was open, could not appear on the final lists. Again, the name for the Governorship candidate for NRM who substituted the dead candidate was not also found on the list of Governorship Candidates for 2023 General election for the State.

Stakeholder Engagements

Among the critical stakeholders, the Commission in the state engaged with the political parties and IPAC. Beginning with the commencement of party congresses and primaries the CVR and distribution of PVCs, they were engaged for the purposes of providing basic electoral information and the state of INEC preparedness for the 2023 General election. Besides the engagements with the political parties and IPAC, the state office had stakeholders' engagements with the youth organizations to enhance democratic participation of young persons and sensitise them on the dangers of drug abuse and violence. Some of the engagements supported by development partners including the UNDP and IFES dwelt on the importance of PVC collection and turning out in large numbers to exercise their franchise. Other important groups engaged in the countdown to the 2023 General Election included First Class traditional office holders, religious leaders, and women groups.

Preparations for Elections

Receipt, Storage and Deployment of Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Materials

The improvement in the storage facilities of the Commission and the LGAs ensured that non-sensitive materials such as election bags, liquid gum, micro dry drip, pad, sleeping mat, ballot boxes, red-lids, green lids and black lids which had earlier arrived were securely stored. Some of these non-sensitive materials were collected from the Commission's Zonal Store in Gombe and batched according to the LGAs. The sensitive materials which arrived the state on 17th January were safely kept in Central Bank, Yola. These non-sensitive and sensitive materials were then carefully inspected by a combined team of the Management at the state office and the logistics department to determine shortfalls so that Headquarters based on the Headquarters addressed the shortfalls. The distribution of sensitive materials was done at the Central Bank Yola in the presence of the office Management team, party agents, security agents, and the team of staff from Operations Department as well domestic and international observers.

Identification, Preparations and Activation of RACs and Super RACs

The Operations Department directed all electoral officers to locate the RACs and Super RACs in their various LGAs and report if the following items were available and in good condition: Fence, Lights and Toilet facilities, which was done and reported back. Funds were disbursed to all the EOs and all the RACs and Super RACs were successfully activated.

Logistic Preparations

For the conveyance of personnel and materials from the state Office to the LGAs, and from the LGAs to the various RACs, and, subsequently, to the PUs, various means of transportation were used ranging from Motor Cars, trucks, buses, boats, canoes, and motorcycles. The vehicles were used for the transportation of sensitive materials from the CBN to the 21 LGAs of the state both for the Presidential/National Assembly Elections as well as Governorship/House of Assembly. However, for the conveyance of all the categories of election personnel, 18-seater buses were used. All this was possible because the state office used the framework of the revised MoU with the NURTW and NARTO on the 20th day of December, 2022, to sign agreement with them on the 19th day of February 2023, to provide logistics support for the deployment and retrieval of all elections personnel and materials from the state level to LGAs as well as to the Registration Area Camps (RAC) and Polling Units before, during and after elections in a safe and timely manner.

Monitoring, Implementation and Support for field Activities

Election Day and immediate post-election activities were tracked and monitored from the EMSC with a team of personnel, comprising of field contact persons. The EMSC captured the movement of materials and personnel to the RACs. The field contact persons were responsible for making direct contacts using cell phones to electoral officials in the field to get information on threats, compliances, and challenges, which enabled the State Office to take decisive and informed decisions. The pro-activeness of the EMSC prompted awareness of PUs where elections were cancelled on account of non-usage of the BVAS and disruption of the poll before the results were presented for collation during the elections.

Conduct of the Elections (25th of February and 18th of March 2023)

Opening of Polls

Most of the Polling Units across the state were opened by 8:30am except for some areas with difficult terrain where Poll Officials had to go on foot especially in Bolki RA of Numan LGA. This elicited a violent response from the youth who resisted the conduct of the Presidential/National Assembly elections. Aside this, early opening of polls in PUs across the state enabled accreditation and voting to commence by 8:30am with remarkable success in all the elections. One exception was recorded Bekaji Primary school of Yola North LGA during the Presidential/National Assembly Election were because of the deliberate refusal of the APO I to use the BVAS, the election was rescheduled for the next day.

Voting Process and Performance of Equipment

Continuous Accreditation and Voting System (CAVS) as prescribed by the Commission and encapsulated in the manual for election officials for the 2023 general election was adopted. The accreditation process

was also in strict adherence to the use of BVAS, which performed optimally to give credibility to the elections conducted. It is a credit to the Commission that a dedicated pool of trained staff was provided to attend to the cases of malfunctioning BVAS.

Implementation of Collation and Result Management Process

The Collation Support and Result Verification System (CSRVS), introduced by the Commission to improve the transparency of the results collation process proved to be a game changer in Adamawa state. It assisted the Collation Officers in the collation of results by reducing and/or avoiding mistakes in calculations and cancelations of results. This played out in the outcome of the 25th of February 2023 Presidential Election was conducted peacefully without noticeable security challenges across the state. However, unlike the presidential election, the governorship election which took place on the 18th of March 2023 was marred by some security, the worst scenario which occurred in Fufore LGA where yet to be identified thugs truncated the process of Collation at the LGA. The thugs in their numbers found their way into the INEC LGA Office where collation was ongoing and snatched form EC8B & EC8C which is the summary of governorship result sheet at the LGA level. In the violence that followed both the CO and the EO were beaten to stupor with the thugs accusing them of conspiracy to sabotage the process. Despite sending the replacement sheet by the REC, the violent atmosphere could not be brought under control.

Besides the tragic incidence in Fufore LGA, massive cancellation of governorship election results affecting other 20 LGAs cutting across 43 RAs and 69 PUs created difficulties for the governorship election which had to be declared inconclusive. As it turned out, the margin of lead scored by the PDP candidate was 31, 249 which was lesser than the total number of 36, 935 PVCs collected. The entire result for Fufore Local Government was harvested from INEC Result Viewing Portal (IREV) and was collated by the State Returning Officer Prof. Mohammed Laminu Mele at the State Collation Centre. The cancellation of some results has also affected declaration in four State Constituencies, namely, Girei, Gombi, Numan and Toungo which were declared inconclusive in the State Assembly election conducted on the same the 18th of March.

Furthermore, the supplementary elections conducted for the Governorship and four State House of Assembly on 15th April 2023 witnessed re-occurrence of violence and disruptions in Boga/Dingai RA of Gombi LGA were political thugs inflicted serious injuries on one of the APOs in reaction to over voting and the refusal of the election staff to accept demands of the irate youth who insisted on the result they wanted in the PU. The election staff was attached and rushed to the hospital for injuries he sustained in the attack.

Operation of the Situation Room and Election Monitoring and Support Centre

In other to obtain an effective and efficient supervision of the RACs activation and training of Ad-hoc Staff at the various training centres across the state, all HODs

were deployed to monitor, supervise as well as inspect the RAC to find out whether the EOs complied with the directives and the monies given to them was used judiciously.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Election

There are a number of issues identified in this report that call attention to the need to address them in order to further improve the integrity of the electoral process and contribute to deepening democracy. These include:

a. Deployment of adequate number of BVAS for the training of all the categories of ad hoc staff to improve on the practicality of the training programmes. A recurring issue in the elections conducted by the Commission arises from lack of adequate exposure of deployed staff during their trainings.

b. There is the problem of inadequate security for the sensitive equipment deployed for election as well as the personnel deployed by the Commission. This arises largely from the lack of commitment to the protection of the election materials and personnel. For instance, a total of 7 BVAS Machines were reported missing during the General Election in Adamawa state and efforts are still being made to recover them.

c. There is the issue of inadequate storage facilities at the State and LGA officers. Often cabinets which are in us are not secure. Even worse is that BVAS are kept in containers without air conditioning.

d. A lot more is left to be done in respect of migration of registered voters to newly created PUs arising from the implementation of access of voters to PUs.

12.3.2.
Bauchi State
Capital City: Bauchi

Mohammed Bulama Nura
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Bauchi State

Delimitation Data

20 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**12** Federal Constituencies	**31** State Constituencies
212 No of RAs	**5,423** No of PUs	**2,749,268** No of Registered Voters	**2,721,780** No of PVCs Collected
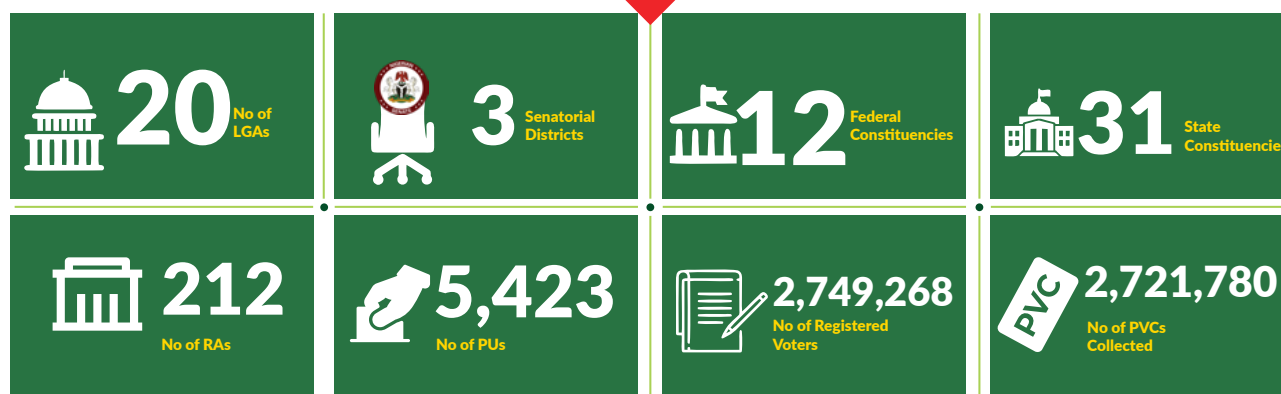
Introduction

Occupying a total landmass of 45,837 km2, Bauchi state is situated within the North-East Geo-Political Zone. The state has 20 LGAs, 212 RAs, 5423 PUs, with a total number of registered voters at 2,749,268. While 2,721,780 PVCs were collected, the state has 3 Senatorial Districts, 12 Federal and 31 State Constituencies.

Pre-Election Activities

Management Meetings

The State under the leadership of the Resident Electoral Commissioner set up the State Election Management Committee which met weekly from August 2022 to undertake critical activities related to the conduct of free and fair elections. These included working out detailed plans and implementation of activities which were assigned to sub-committees that reported on regular basis to the Management Committee chaired by the Resident Electoral Commissioner. towards the successful conduct of the 2023 general election. Among others. the Management Committee and its sub-committees carried out detailed audit of non-sensitive election materials, identification of Area Offices that required renovation and Commission's vehicles that required overhauling.

Conduct of Continuous Voters Registration (CVR) and PVCs Collection

The Commission commenced first quarter of CVR exercise on the 28th of June 2021 with online pre-registration of eligible registrants while physical capturing started on the 26th of July 2021 across the 20 LGAs and the State Office. The exercise ended on the 31st of July 2022 and display of Preliminary Registers of Voters (PRVs) for claims and objections took place at the end of every quarter. Alongside the CVR, and after the close of the exercise,

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the Commission handled the distribution of PVCs. PVC distribution, according to the Commission's guideline, started in the state Office and the Area Offices before devolution to the RAs. In the build-up to the election, in response to the surging crowd of Nigerians desperate to collect their PVCs, the Commission adjusted its policy in terms of the level at which PVCs should be distributed between the LGA offices and the RAs.

Party Primaries and Nomination Process

In line with the timetable and Schedule of Activities for the 2023 General Election released by the Commission, political parties conducted primaries that were monitored by the State Office in accordance with the relevant sections of the 1999 Constitution and the reports compiled and sent to the Headquarters. Despite the challenge posed by the parties in constantly shifting the dates and venues earlier made available to the Commission, the Commission monitored party primaries and issued reports on them accordingly. While the EPM played a leadership role in this regard as well as the tracking of financial expenditure of the major political parties and candidates, management staff and other staff of the Commission were mobilized to support the process. However, as it has been the practice, the EOs played a critical role in the monitoring of the party primaries.

Recruitment, Training and Deployment of Personnel

The recruitment of ad hoc staff was largely derived from the data of applicants who indicated interest in working for the Commission through the On-line application portal, INECPRESS. A total of 41,263 applicants applied for the different positions as received in the state in two batches. This was complemented by two batches of youth corps members using the Google form. Thereafter, series of trainings were conducted for different cadres of the Commission's staff, including staff deployed to work on EMSC, EPM, VEP, VR/ICT, ADR, and the Legal Department. The training of ESP which held between the 3rd and 4th of February 2023 focused on the role of security agencies in safeguarding the electoral environment to enhance the prospect for peaceful and orderly elections as well as how to secure the electoral environment with full observance of the rights of citizens.

The trainings organized and coordinated by the state office of the Commission and TEI did not only strictly follow the schedules as made for all the states, each segment of the training paid attention to the duty specified for the category of ad hoc staff being trained, For instance, the training of the SPOs focused on their supervision roles, including payment of the polling unit level election staff, supervision of the conduct of the polls in the RAs, and how to ensure effective distribution of all sensitive and non-sensitive materials at the PUs in the right quantity and at the right time. The SPOs in turn cascaded the trainings to the POs and APOs at the LGA level. All these trainings, including the trainings conducted for the Collation Officers who were identified through the leadership of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU), and facilitated by the STOs and

LGTOs, were monitored by the staff of the Commission deployed by the Electoral Institute (TEI), Abuja. Other important training activities include the training of COs, ROs, RATECHS and LGTECHS, which focused on the technical skills to operate and attend to malfunctioning BVAS as well the handling of e-transmission of election results.

Stakeholder Engagements

A wide range of stakeholders were engaged to ensure credible and inclusive elections in Bauchi considering the importance of stakeholders' engagement to building public trust and confidence. In no order, stakeholders engaged include the political parties, members of ICCES, civil society organisations including women, youth and organizations representing PWDs in the state. Considering the need to reach to the grassroots, the numerous CBOs in the state were also engaged.

As expected, meetings with the security agencies brought together the heads of the various agencies, heads of para-military agencies as well as the NOA and the NYSC. Apart from the general briefing on INEC's preparedness for the elections, the engagements focused on other issues such the mobilization of people to collect their PVCs at the different levels as constantly directed by the Commission's Headquarters; the role of BVAS for purposes of accreditation and transmission of election results; and voting procedures as contained in the 2022 Electoral Act and INEC Guidelines and Regulations. These engagements contributed to improved level of awareness, and, consequently, the

success of the elections.

Logistics Preparations

The foundation of the success of the elections in the state was the maximum cooperation elicited from the leadership of the transport unions, especially the NURTW, NARTO, in amicably reaching early agreements on prices and the different categories of vehicles based on the information provided by the EOs. Based on the discussions and agreements, agreements were signed between the officials of the transport unions and EOs in the 20 LGAs of the state. The availability of the Commission's vehicles which had been serviced and repaired with funds provided by the Commission's Headquarters ensured that movement of personnel and materials at different levels as well as reversed logistics were easily accomplished.

Conduct of General Election (the 25th of February and the 18th of March)

Opening of Polls

The Commission in the state achieved early opening of polls across the LGAs and RAs at 8 am which enabled commenced of voting at 8.30am, and, by extension, early closure of poll. The EOSC functioned optimally in the tracking and monitoring of the pre-election, Election Day and post-election activities including the collation of results. This performance was made possible the working tools including computer system,

internet facilities, telephones etc that were provided by the Commission in the Presidential/National Assembly elections were not reported in the Governorship/ State Assembly elections. Furthermore, using reverse logistics, deployed materials were retrieved after the first round of election to prepare for the next round. At the end of the elections, electoral materials that were not consumables were retrieved from the field and kept at LGA Offices and the State Office.

Implementation of Collation and Result Management Process

Based on experience of the Commission with results tabulation and collation processes, the Commission laid a clear protocol for results' collation and management processes. At the level RA collation in particular, INEC's established guidelines helped in cancelling results where over voting occurred.

Operation of the Situation Room and Election Monitoring and Support Centre

The establishment of an effectively operational EMSC improved the Commission's efficiency in tracking key field activities and providing support during the elections. However, to enable the EOSC capture all activities on the field, its operations was activated in the early afternoon of the eve of the election to capture the movement of materials and personnel to the RACs. The field assets were responsible for making direct contacts, using cells phones, to electoral field officials to get direct feedback on the situation from

field. Such information from the field was on threats, compliances or challenges were then passed the two data administrators, and the information helped the Commission to take decisive and informed decisions for proper execution of the election.

Monitoring, Implementation and Support for Field Activities

The setting up of a support centre in the state office for monitoring and providing support for field activities contributed immensely to the overall success of the election in the state. Tracking of field activities and providing quick responses to challenges as they emerged was complemented by the deployment of HODs in the state office who monitored alongside the staff deployed from the Headquarters. Although this monitoring arrangement ensured that different activities were coordinated seamlessly, there were incidences of unnecessary cancellation of results by some Collation officers during the Presidential and National Assembly elections without heeding advice from Collation Support staff. Learning from this experience, steps were taken in the subsequent Governorship and State Assembly elections to avoid such unnecessary cancellations.

Issues and Challenges in the Elections

a. Some Collation Officers encouraged cancellation of results in some PUs rather than investigate and correct the anomalies observed which should not have necessarily resulted in cancellations.

b. Delay in commencement of Presidential and NASS elections in Bauchi LGA because of partial RACs activation and the failure of ad-hoc personnel to stay overnight therein.

c. Community conflicts on the location of three PUs (05/17/01/016, 05/17/01/017 & 05/17/07/010) in two RAs of Tafawa Balewa LGA led to the inability of voters in the three PUs to vote.; Confrontation resulted from attempt to implement the Commission's Policy on relocating PUs cited initially in front of the Village Head's residence to a Public School in Toro LGA.

d. Few BVAS failures, arising from inability of POs to properly handle them.

e. The recruitment of ad-hoc staff solely from the INECPRES was prone to infiltration by politicians.

f. Violence at some PUs and Collation centres posed challenges to the process.

g. Some of the SPOs and Collation Officers were noticeably incompetent. The SPOs for instance, could not properly handle and often delayed the distribution of election materials. There was also the glaring failure of some of the Collation officers to properly fill election results and appropriate data forms.

h. Threats to life because of thuggery.

i. Few cases of resistance and refusal by voters to use BVAS, which led to threat to life of Poll officials that subsequently led to ballot stuffing and cancellation of results.

j. Violence in some places as a result of communal clashes led to non-conduct of election in some PUs.

k. Shortfall of some sensitive materials and lateness of delivery of electoral materials from Headquarters.

l. There was improved voter turnout during the Governorship/SHOA elections compared to the Presidential/ NASS elections. The turnout was 29%.

m. Three (3) BVAS devices were reported missing in Bauchi and Ningi LGAs as follows: Bauchi LGA one (1) for Behind GGC 146 of Dan'iya Hardo RA 11. Ningi LGA two (2). After investigation by the Police, one was found while the remaining one for Dubu/Zahi 032 of Bura/Kyata RA 08 was confirmed to have been burnt by hoodlums.

12.3.3.
Borno State
Capital City: Maiduguri

Alh. Hussani Kaduna Sule
Admin Sec, Borno

Delimitation Data

27 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**10** Federal Constituencies	**28** State Constituencies
312 No of RAs	**5,071** No of PUs	**2,513,281** No of Registered Voters	**2,447,209** No of PVCs Collected
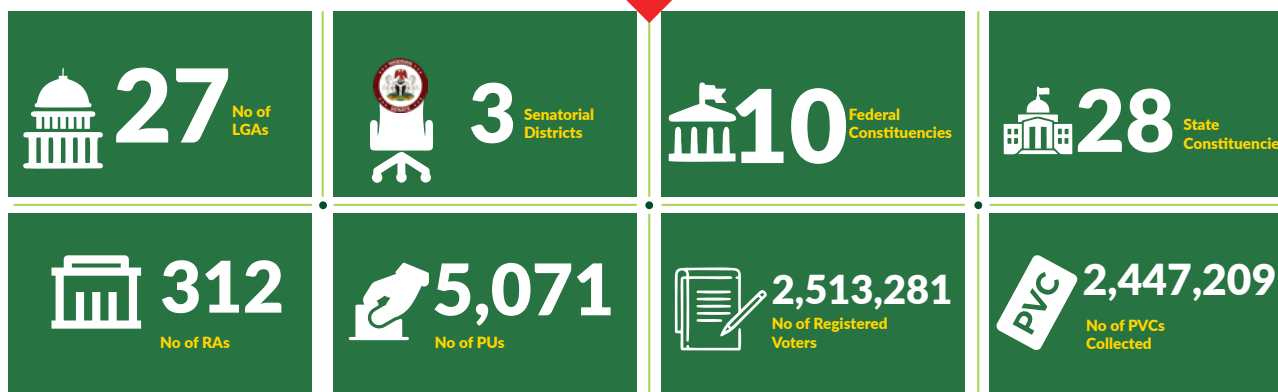
Introduction

Borno state falls within the North-East Geo-Political Zone and has remained a hotbed of Boko Haram-led insurgency for years. It has 27 LGAs, 312 RAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 10 Federal and 28 State Constituencies. With 2,513,281 registered voters, the state has 5, 071 PUs, 312 RAs, and has 27 LGAs. The total number of PVCs collected stood at 2,447,209 as at the time of the election.

Preparations for the Elections

Management Meetings

Although management meetings had been a regular feature of running the state office, the frequency and regularity of such meetings increased with the approach of the 2023 general election. In addition to such meetings, regular meetings were held with the EOs in the 27 LGAs for joint reviews of the challenges and the pathways to successive elections in the state. Such meetings provided realistic assessments of the storage facilities in the state office and LGA offices, assessment of gaps in the available non-sensitive materials and the state of office vehicles, among others. The stocktaking exercises enabled adequate feedback to Headquarters and the eventual revamping of office vehicles and the renovation of the stores as well as some LGA offices that were in dire state. It can be concluded without fear of contradiction that management meetings and meetings with the EOs put the state Office to manage the 2023 general election.

Recruitment, Training and Deployment of Staff

The process started with the application of prospective ad hoc staff through the INECPRES, a portal established for that

purpose. Over 61,000 interested persons applied for the posts of SPO, POs, APOs RAC managers and RATECHs, even though the figure need by the state was about 21,000 ad hoc staff. In the aftermath of availability checks that confirmed their availability, a screening exercise was conducted at the various levels. Based on the recruitment that was informed by the performance of short-listed applicants, the final recruitment was done before the commencement of trainings. The trainings of the SPOs, POs and APOs, security agencies, Collation Officers and Returning Officers were handled at different levels based on country-wide schedules from the Commission's Headquarters.

The deployment of electoral materials and personnel was undertaken by the different categories of vehicles as determined by the State office and the EOs and as provided by the NURTW and NARTO. The vehicles provided by these unions were based on agreements reached within the framework of the MOU earlier signed between the Commission and the Unions. It is important to stress that these vehicles assisted in conveying the different categories of ad hoc staff and election monitors deployed by the Headquarters to all the LGAS, RAs and the PUs. More strikingly, discussion with the unions allowed for a flexible arrangement such that additional vehicles were provided as the need arose to make the deployment hitch-free and successful. But while these vehicles were hired for two days, they worked practically for three days or more due to the peculiarities of insurgency and restriction of movement by the security agents.

The Conduct of the Presidential and National Assembly Elections

Opening of Polls

Since the State office successfully moved the sensitive materials from the Central Bank early on Friday morning preceding each of the elections having them inspected in the presence of security personnel, agents of the political parties and the media, early opening of polls was guaranteed across the length and breadth of the state. The arrangement made for deployment was such that most distant LGAs were accorded priority in the movement from the State Headquarters, and, subsequently to the RAs. As a result, polls were opened in most of the PUS by 8.30 am on Election Days, except for instances where materials could not reach the LGAs due to movement restriction and the consistent combing of the roads by the Joint Task Force which caused delay in arrivals to such LGAs and in some instances, due to malfunctioning of BVAs which delayed commencement of voting. There were several cases in which malfunctioning BVAS had to be brought all the way to Maiduguri for reconfiguration.

Report on the Conduct of the 2023 Governorship and State Assembly Elections

The elections were to the office of the Governor as well as to the offices of the 28 Members of the State House of Assembly. Only Bama LGA has two members while the remaining 26 LGAs have one each. After the conclusion of the Presidential and National

Assembly elections held on the 25th of February 2023, the Management went back to the drawing board and strategised with a view to addressing some issues which affected the conduct of elections on the 25/2/2023. These included two refresher trainings conducted for all categories of ad-hoc staff. Engagements with the leaderships of the National Union of Road Transport Workers, Electoral Officers/ Management, members of ICCES and other stakeholders to improve our outing during the Governorship and State Assembly elections. These engagements became fruitful as the take-off of the LGAs from the Central Bank to Commence on Thursday 17th March 2023 as against Friday during the Presidential and National Assembly Elections. This action solved the problems of late arrival particularly take-off on Thursday and the provision of additional vehicles, polling units opened by 8:00am for the start of election by 8:30am in virtually, all parts of the state.

With all BVAS charged and reconfigured, election continued seamlessly with no hitches as no reports of non-functionality of BVAS machines were received as against what transpired during the Presidential and National Assembly Elections.

Management of Results and Collation

Collations at Registration Areas and LGA level started on Saturday evening. Results LGAs started arriving the state Collation Centre on Sunday morning with LGAs like Kaga, Magumeri, Mafa, Dikwa and Jere topping the list of earlier callers of the Collation Centre at Kashim Ibrahim College of Education, Maiduguri. Incident of Insurgent's Attack During the night on Saturday the 18th of March 2023, there was an attack on Mafa from the headquarters of Mafa LGA. During the incident, no casualty or injury to our election personnel was recorded. The Army, Air Force and other security agents were at hand to bring an end to the attack. There were a few cancellations during the election in affected LGAs that were due to over-voting occasioned by the bypass of the BVAS.

12.3.4.
Gombe State
Capital City: Gombe

Umar Ibrahim
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Gombe State

Delimitation Data

11 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts
6 Federal Constituencies	**24** State Constituencies
114 No of RAs	**2,988** No of PUs
1,575,794 No of Registered Voters	**1,534,954** No of PVCs Collected
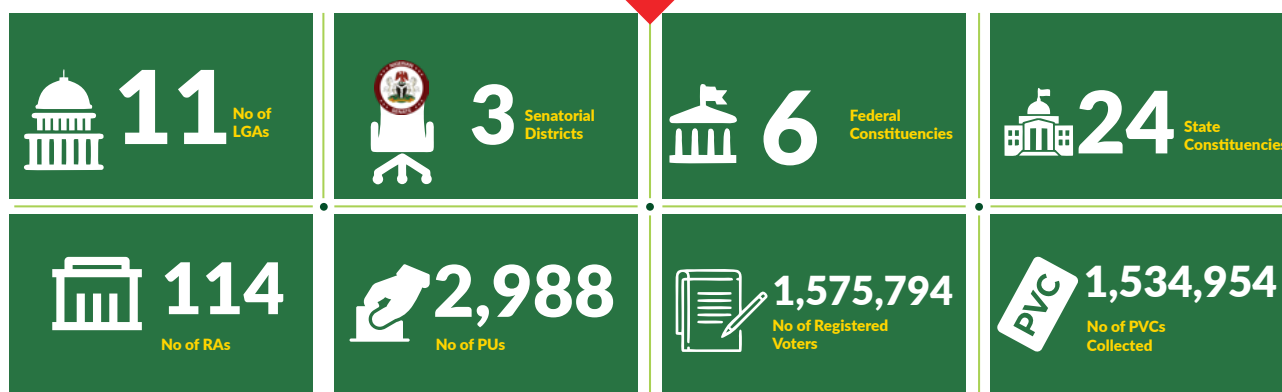
Introduction

With 3 Senatorial Districts, 6 Federal Constituencies, 24 State Constituencies, 11 LGAs, 114 RAs and 2, 988 polling units, Gombe is in the North-eastern geo-political zone of the country with a land mass of about 18,768 km^2 and an estimated population of 2,353,879 as per the 2006 headcount. The state was carved out of the defunct Bauchi State on the 1st of October 1996 by the late General Sani Abacha's Administration. Referred to as the Jewel in the Savannah, the State is bordered to the South by Adamawa and Taraba States, to the North by Yobe State, West by Bauchi State and to the East by Borno State. It has 1,575,974 registered voters and a PVC collection figure of 1,534,954, giving a collection rate of 97%.

Predominately farmers, the State is multilingual with Fulbe, Tera, Tangale, Waja, Bolewa, Kanuri, Jukun, Lunguda, Tula, Awak, Hausa, Cham constituting the major languages, although there are many others. The State is a fast commercial and industrial growing city with multinational companies such as Ashaka Cement Company in Bajoga, Funakaye LGA, Local Cotton Ginneries in Kumo, Akko LGA and the like. The recent discovery of oil deposits around Kolmani area, a border town between Gombe and Bauchi States signifies the commencement of oil drilling following the presidential flag off of the Kolmani Field, further making the State into a rapidly growing commercial town. The State has many road networks linking states and local governments.

In the Educational Sector, the State is blessed with tertiary institutions such as the Federal University Kashere (FUK) Federal College of Education (Technical) Gombe, Federal College of Horticulture Dadin-Kowa, Federal Teaching Hospital in Gombe, Gombe State University (GSU), School of Nursing and Midwifery Gombe, School

of Health Technology Kaltungo, State Polytechnic Bajoga, College of Education Billiri, College of Legal and Islamic Studies Nafada, Federal Polytechnic Kaltungo, and NITT Kumo and a host of others.

Pre-Election Activities

Planning Activities: Management Meetings

In preparation for the elections, the State Management team had several regular and emergency meetings to plan, review and assess implementation of all activities leading to the successful conduct of the elections. Several expanded Management meetings were also held with Electoral Officers to ensure consistency in implementation of all electoral activities across the LGAs of the State.

Conduct of CVR and PVC Collection Exercise

Preparation for the 2023 General Election started in earnest with the Expansion of Voter Access to Polling Units. The exercise resulted in the conversion of 707 Voting Points in the State to full-fledged Polling Units. This was followed by the On-line Continuous Voters Registration (CVR) which started on the 28th of June 2021 and ended on the 31st of July 2022.The physical capturing component of the exercise starts on the 26th of July 2021.

The PVCs received for new registrations is 176,795 and PVCs received for transfers is 57,638 making a total of 234,433 PVCs

received in Gombe State. A total of 193,541 were collected and 40,892 unclaimed PVCs in the State from the CVR exercise. We equally have outstanding 52,709 PVCs of 2011-2019 across the LGAs with no one claiming them over the years.

Recruitment, Training and Deployment of Electoral Personnel

The Commission, in its wisdom created the platform INECPRES which was responsible for recruitment of election personnel through a portal for interested poll officials to apply. The applications were harvested and sent to the State 0ffices for availability check. There was a shortfall of 611 for the APO III. However, the shortfall was filled in the second trenched. Only permanent staff on GL 10 and above were allowed to serve as Electoral Personnel.

Party Primaries and Nomination Process

Parties Primaries: The Notice of Election issued marked the beginning of major activities of political parties for the 2023 General Election. Therefore, in fulfilment of the constitutional mandate of the Commission to monitor Congresses and Primaries of Political Parties and by extension, the requirement of the Electoral Act 2022 (as amended), the requisite 21 days' notice by the Commission to political Parties was adhered to. To this effect, an itinerary was drawn by the Department of Election and Party Monitoring for the conduct of party primaries, indicating the monitors and their schedule of Constituencies at both the State and the Local Government Levels. A total number of 18 Political Parties

conducted various categories of Primaries at different times and dates. Joint reports on the conduct were written by monitors from the Headquarters, State Office and EOs for forwarding to the national Headquarters.

Nomination Process: This was done by the political parties by uploading their lists on the designed portal for nomination of candidates by the commission. In compliance with the new electoral act 2022 (as amended), Presidential and National Assembly campaigns by all political parties started on the 28th of September 2022, while Governorship and State Assembly campaigns by all political parties started on the 12th of October 2022. Campaigns were conducted peacefully by all political parties at all levels under the full supervision of the commission as all parties were requested to submit itinerary of campaign schedules.

Section 88 subsections (2) – (7) of the new electoral act 2022 (as amended) set limits to campaign expenses to be incurred by candidates. It is the responsibility of the department (EPM) to ensure compliance by all candidates. The tracking of activities of candidates in terms of their expenses on billboards, posters, jingles in the media was meticulously carried out to estimate funds expended by both the party and the candidates in the conduct of the campaigns. To allow for a level of comparison after the activities, the office distributed campaign finance tracking forms for political parties, candidates, and media houses for them to fill and submit six (6) months after the General Election.

Stakeholder Engagements

As a tradition, the Commission in the State meets regularly with stakeholders to keep them abreast with the Commission's activities, programmes, and technological innovations. The meetings also serve as a platform for getting their inputs on burning issues. Ahead of the 2023 General Election, several Stakeholders Meetings were held including the Signing of Peace Accord towards peaceful conduct during the elections by Governorship Candidates and Party Chairmen. These meetings were also replicated at the LGA level by Electoral officers.

Credible elections are always hinged on the electorates' proper understanding of the electoral processes and procedures. Thus, the Department designed and implemented a weekly phone-in programme from May 2022 to March 2023 on Amana FM Gombe. This afforded the Commission the opportunity to enlighten the public on critical issues in the electoral process including the technological innovations introduced by the Commission and the new Electoral Act 2022. The programme boosted the confidence of electorates in the electoral process and served as a feedback mechanism for the Commission. though it was first aired on Amana FM every Thursday from 8am-9am (English) and 12 noon to 1pm (Hausa), It was later expanded to Jewel FM (Tuesdays, 11am to 12 noon), Gombe Radio (Mondays, 5pm to 6pm) and Programme Radio (Wednesdays, 4:30pm to 5:30pm). The audience reach of the programme stretched to neighbouring North-eastern States of Bauchi, Borno, Adamawa and Yobe.

The Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on election security was responsible for designing and implementing election security strategy met severally ahead of the elections. It also organised the signing of Peace Accord by Governorship Candidates and Party Chairmen. There was also a meeting with the Governorship Candidates and party chairmen two days to the Governorship election to emphasize on the need for peaceful conduct by their supporters during and after the elections.

The Commission organised several interactive sessions with youth-focused CSOs, Gender-focused CSOs and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). Issues discussed during the sessions included: level of preparations for the General Election, role of CSOs in voter sensitization, INEC framework on access and participation of PWDs in the electoral process etc.

The NYSC-INEC CDS group also known as INEC Ambassadors were at the heart of voter sensitization and mobilization at the LGA level. The Ambassadors who were deeply involved in Market Outreaches, Church and Mosque Voter Education, Motor Park Outreach, Street Walks, and coordination of Voter Education Clubs in Secondary Schools contributed immensely to the success of the 2023 General Election in Gombe State.

In collaboration with some Civil Society Organizations (CSO), the commission had at different time's organised road shows and market outreaches to sensitize the public in the build-up to the elections. The CSOs included Lead tots Development Initiative, *Dandalin Matasa* Initiative for Rapid Development, Brain Builders Youth Development Initiative, Forward in Action for Education Poverty and Malnutrition (FAcE-PaM) amongst others.

Recruitment, Training and Deployment of Ad-hoc Personnel

Training of Electoral Staff: A Pre-Election Training Assessment (PRETA) was organized by the electoral institute on 27th and 28th Jan. 2023. It was during the workshop that inter Departmental synergy was emphasized for a successful conduct of recruitment and deployment of election personnel.

Training of Election Security Personnel: The training of Election Security Personnel took place on the 3rd and 4th of February 2023 at the Hajiya Amina Hall, Bauchi Road, Gombe. The training was to remind the participants on their responsibilities in safeguarding the entire electoral process before, during and after the election. The need for the protection of Ad-hoc staff and election materials to have a safe, free, fair and credible elections was strongly emphasized.

Training of Supervisory Presiding Officers: The training of Supervisory Presiding Officers took place on the 11th – 12th of February 2023, at the federal College of Education (Technical) Gombe State, six classrooms were used which accommodated 60 participants per class and a big theatre hall for gate crashers. The list of participants was pasted in front of the classes which made it easy for everyone to identify his/her classroom. Six local government training officers (LGTOs) were given a class to facilitate. Each of the selected SPO had a manual for his/her perusal.

Training of POs and APOs: The training of Presiding Officers (PO's) and Assistant Presiding Officers (APO's) took place in Gombe state across the eleven (11) Local Government Areas (LGAs) on the 17th, 18th and 19th of February 2023.

Manuals were deployed for use for the POs and APOs. Pre-test and Post-test were also administered during the training at LGAs while ICT deployed one hundred and forty-five (145) BVAS for hands on practical across the eleven (11) LGAs.

Training of Collation and Returning Officers: Training was organized for 354 Collation Officers and the same number was deployed to the field for the Presidential/ National Assembly Elections. Moreover, a refresher training for COs and ROs took place on the 17th of March 2023 at the main auditorium of the Federal University Kashere at exactly 9: 45am with an opening remark from the REC after which the Registrar of the institution drew the attention of the COs/ROs on the need to pay attention and ask questions where they needed clarification.

Training of RATECHs and Technical Support: Two hundred and sixty (260) RATECH were trained to offer technical support on the use of the new technologies deployed (BVAS) for the 2023 General Election for the accreditation of voters, exporting of accredited data and the transmission of election results to the INEC results viewing portal (IReV) on Election Day out of which 160 RATECH were short-listed for the work.

Deployment and Remuneration: The deployment of the Supervisors, RATECHs, Collation and Returning officers was made by the State Office under the supervision of the REC. the Electoral Officers at the local government areas posted the POs and APOs with the approval of the REC. Honoraria for Returning/Collation Officers, Supervisors and RAC managers was settled. Ninety-eight percent of POs and APOs have also been successfully paid except for beneficiaries in the First Bank whose part of Honoraria hanged, and the State tried to sort it out with the NIBSS and CBN for them to get their payments. Payments of the remaining unpaid two percent is on-going, and they were not paid because of issues related to their bank details as some opened their accounts with Kuda, Opay etc. which are not recognized by the formal payment platform.

Receipt, Storage and Deployment of Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Materials

Receipt/Deployment of Sensitive Materials: These included Ballot Papers and Results sheets (form EC 8A Series). They were always brought and kept in the vaults of the Central Bank of Nigeria in Gombe where they were distributed in the presence of ICCES members, Party Agents, and the Media. The Resident Electoral Commissioner, Administrative Secretary, HOD Electoral Operations and HOU Logistics ensured that the quantities of the materials were verified to ascertain their right quantities. Shortfalls reported were provided accordingly. Sensitive materials for Presidential Election were distributed to the LGAs on 22/2/2023 to early hours of

Wednesday. For the Governorship Election, sensitive materials were distributed at the CBN Gombe on Thursday 16/3/2023 and dispatched to the LGAs the same day. Based on the Commission's approval, ballot papers were distributed according to the number of Registered Voters and not on number of people that had collected their PVCs.

Receipt/Deployment of Non – Sensitive Materials: They were received from the Headquarters in batches. They were sometimes brought through the Zonal Store in Gombe or directly to the State Office. These sets of materials were received in good time in all the elections. They were distributed (full complement), some few weeks to election. Some were being received a day or two to the election, alongside sensitive materials. The Electoral Operations Department had then a herculean task to distribute both. Any shortfall noticed was immediately reported to the Headquarters and was provided.

Identification, Preparation and Activation of RACs and SRACs

A guideline was issued which clearly specified criteria for maintaining, relocating, or establishing these centers. In Gombe State, one Super RAC was stabilized in Gombe Local Government Area (Bajoga & Ajiya) Registration Areas (RAs) at Idi Primary School. The other one was a relocation of a RAC and Collation Centre from Gona Primary School to Bogo (BCGA) Primary School in Garko RA of Akko Local Government Area. Funds for the activation of RACs were made available by the National Headquarters.

Logistics Preparation

Transportation Plans: The electoral officers were directed to forward their logistics requirement to the state office for proper planning. Non-sensitive materials were procured and brought to the state in good time. The REC set up a five-person transportation Committee on the 21st of January 2023 on the hiring of vehicles for the movement of Staff from the State to the LGAs and subsequently to the RACs and Polling Units. The Committee was headed by the Administrative Secretary, with six terms of reference. The NURTW and NARTO State Officials were invited for a meeting in respect of the MOU the Commission had entered with the Unions. Modalities for harmonious logistics arrangements were outlined for successful transportation of men and materials. There were no hitches recorded or experienced in this regard.

Monitoring, Implementation and Support for Field Activities

For proper supervision and monitoring, quite a number of Staff from the Headquarters as well as various platforms under the auspices of the EMSC were used during the General Election to support field services. This enhances proper coordination and seamless exercise during the election.

Implementation of Collation and Results Management Process

The Commission conducted a two (2) day training for selected staff from Headquarters and State on Collation Support and Result Verification System (CSRVS) between the

5th- 6th of February 2023 at Hilton Hotel Abuja.

This was to aid the Collation/Returning officers in the process of collation and management of result.

Configuration and Deployment of Accreditation Device

3,229 BVAS were received in Gombe State, i.e. 2,988 BVAS for each polling unit in the State and 92 BVAS for Polling Units with large number of voters, and 149 BVAS as Backup. SIM Cards with data installed were also received for all BVAS (9 Faulty BVAS discovered during functionality test were replaced by Headquarters before the Elections). The BVAS were configured by the ICT Staff based on Voting Points LGA by LGA, charged 100% and then distributed to the 11 LGAs. The BVAS were used for the Accreditation of Voters on Election Day. Additional BVAS were added to PUs with large voters as follows: Akko =23, Balanga =7, Billiri =3, Dukku =4, Funakaye =7, Gombe =40, Kaltungo =2, Nafada =1 and Yamaltu-Deba =5 Totalling = 92 BVAS added to Gombe State.

Conduct of the Elections (25th February and 18th March 2023)

The deployment of personnel was done successfully though there were some few cases of ad-hoc staff not reporting but were immediately replaced from the reserves we had on ground. Most materials were supplied on time where there was shortfall, they were timely complemented. Finally, we had no issues with materials (both non-sensitive and sensitive) and ad-hoc staff

in the two elections as shortfalls were reported in good time and responses were received.

Opening of Polls

In respect of the opening of polls and as monitored from the situation room (EOSC), most polling units opened between 8:30am to close of Polls. There were few Polling Units that opened after 8:30am across the state due to difficult terrains. Most polling unit were closed by 2:30 few didn't close in time due to BVAs malfunction that were replaced later.

Voting Process and Performance of Equipment

The voting procedure used for the two elections was as contained in the election guidelines of 2023 General Election i.e. the Continuous Accreditation and Voting. The societal culture of the State demands separate queues for both Men and Women. That was adhered to. People with Disabilities aged persons & Pregnant Women were given preference to cast their votes on time. Few cases of BVAS failure were experienced. However, they were rectified by the RA-TECHs who were on ground in each Registration Area of the State. The LGA-TECHS were also available to handle such problems. In some PUs, the use of the BVAS was avoided which of course results of such units were cancelled.

Reverse Logistics

All the sensitive materials used for the 2023 General Election have been retrieved and are kept in the Strong Room at the State

Headquarters. Non-sensitive materials that are not consumables like the Ballot Boxes, Cubicles, and Generators etc. have also been returned.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Election

a. The following issues/challenges were noted prior to and during the elections:

b. Poor Network in some LGAs.

c. Difficult terrains in some LGAs.

d. Over zealousness of some Security Personnel.

e. Threats and counter threats by political parties during campaigns.

f. Inadequate number of days for training allocated for Polls Officials.

g. Shortfall in the number of NYSC to serve as POs.

12.3.5.
Taraba State
Capital City: Jalingo

Mukhtar Gajiram Umar
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Taraba

Delimitation Data

16 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**6** Federal Constituencies	**24** State Constituencies
168 No of RAs	**3,597** No of PUs	**2,022,374** No of Registered Voters	**2,010,425** No of PVCs Collected
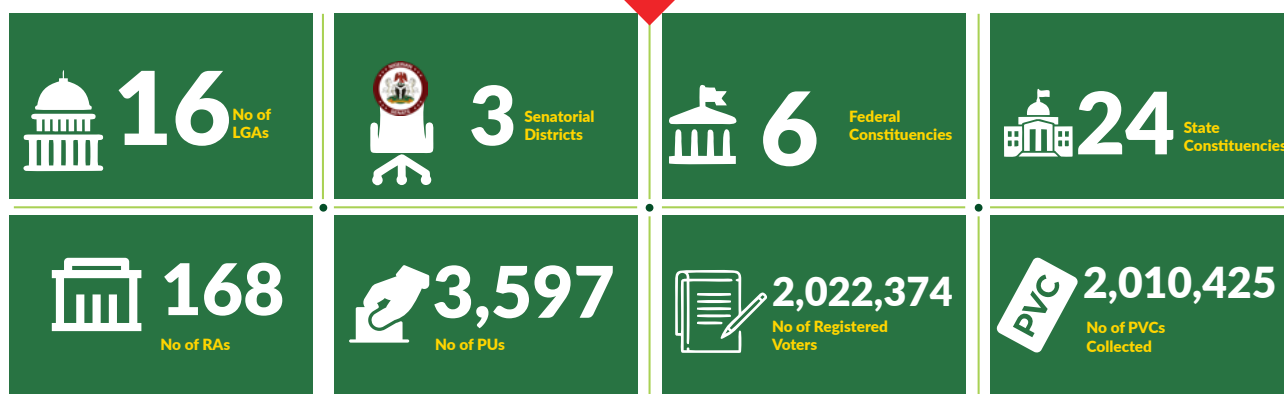
Introduction

Taraba State is in the North-East Geo-Political Zone. With a land mass of 54,473, the State has 16 LGAs, 168 RAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 6 Federal and 24 State Constituencies, 3,597 PUs, and a total of 2,022,374 Registered Voters. The number of PVCs collected was 2,010,425.

Pre-Elections Activities

Management Meetings and Audit of Electoral Materials

The State Office convened a series of managements meetings as well as meetings with the EOs to undertake joint review of past elections to understand the challenges and areas in which adjustments needed to be made for improved performance. The meeting further undertook the task of assessing the state of storage facilities at the state office and in the LGAs preparatory to receiving the outstanding non-sensitive materials that were yet to arrive the state. Decisions taken at meetings of management and meetings with the EOs focused on implementation of key activities that contributed to the success of elections, including trips to the Central Bank, Yola to inspect the sensitive materials delivered for safe keeping.

Conduct of CVR and PVC Collection

Prior to the launch of the CVR exercise in June 2021, trainings were conducted in three phases for the RAOs in the state. Similar trainings were held at the LGA level, basically to expose them to the handling of the exercise. Following the deployment of 55 IVEDS to the state, CVR commenced at the State Headquarters and in the 16 LGAs of the state, in accordance with the schedules of the Commission Headquarters in Abuja. The State office received delivery

of 55 IVEDs, which were deployed to the 16 LGAs, each LGA have 3 IVEDs, among which One IVED was stationed at LGA headquarters while two were devolved for rotation throughout the LGAs. Alongside the CVR was the implementation of PVCs with strict emphasis on registered voters collecting rather than the Commission distributing. The state first took delivery of 19,640 PVCs as of the 16th of April 2022 for the CVR exercise for the first and second quarters the 1st and 2nd quarters, and further received 15,942 for transfers, correction, and update of information on the PVCs.

Recruitment, Training and Deployment of Electoral Personnel

The Commission had directed prospective ad hoc staff to apply through INECPRES, a portal established for recruitment of ad hoc staff created by the Commission. It covered persons who wished to participate in the conduct of the elections as POs, APOs, SPOs, RAC Managers and RATECHs. The eligibility criteria were developed as a guide to prospective applicants. Subsequently, the list of ad hoc staff was forwarded to states in batches for sorting, batching, and training for deployment. The State office, using the guide provided sourced ad-hoc staff from the NYSC, Federal Tertiary Institutions (FTIs), Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies, and State MDAs, where necessary. However, the recruitment of all Collation Officers and Returning Officers was however handled at the National Headquarters. For Taraba State, all Collation and Returning Officers were recruited from Federal University Wukari, except the State Collation Officer for Presidential Elections who was recruited

from ATBU Bauchi. The state office trained all the categories of personnel deployed on election duty, including security personnel trained at the state and zonal levels, the SPOs, and all other categories mentioned above. The trainings of the POs and APOs were handled in the LGAs with the SPOs and LGTOs handling the facilitation and training.

Party Primaries and Candidates' Nomination Processes

The state office, primarily through the EPM and a team deployed from EPM in the Headquarters, carried out the monitoring of the congresses and conventions of the 18 political parties that participated in the 2023 General Election in the state. The monitoring exercise was carried out the monitoring within the framework of the 2022 Electoral Act. There however challenges with respect to frequent changes in the dates and venues for their primaries, but because the monitoring was mandatory, the Commission had to monitor all the activities.

Stakeholder Engagements

The leadership of the Commission at the state level spearheaded the series of consultations with a wide range of stakeholders for purposes of providing basic electoral information, and for building public confidence and trust. The range of stakeholders include the political parties, the civil society organization, the security agencies under the auspices of ICCES, and the Media, to mention but a few. Frequent meetings were held with the ICCES members to address threats posed

by security challenges to the election, and, particularly, to understand the emerging threats and means of curbing them. The engagement with the NOA which became a strong ally in the voter education and advocacy around peaceful elections as well as partnership with the FRSC for the inspection of vehicles hired from the NURTW and NARTO, all proved remarkably useful. Finally, on this, the Commission leveraged on robust relationship with the media, for both awareness creation and the mobilization of voters.

Preparations for Election

Receipt, Storage and Deployment of Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Materials

The state of the stores in the state office and in the LGAs eased the task of storing the non-sensitive materials, over 85% of which were received from Gombe Zonal stores. Other materials were received from the National Headquarters. These materials were batched and kept in the stores until very close to the elections because of security considerations. It is however important to note that the distribution to the Local Governments posed a serious challenge as the logistics for movement of materials proved to be grossly inadequate, despite the agreements reached with the transport unions based on the MoU. As it turned out, it appeared there was a remarkable reduction in the number of vehicles approved for the 2023 General Election.

Identification, Preparations and Activation of RACs and Super RACs

As required, the state office observed due diligence in the identification of new RAC Centres, the EOs and RAC Managers worked together to make them habitable with consumables that made overnight camping not only possible but enable activities including refresher trainings to be carried out. Consequently, all the 166 RACs and 1 Super RAC were activated and provided with all the requirements. Unfortunately, RACs located in remote LGAs and RAs in Sardauna LGA could not be activated and utilized because of late arrival of sensitive materials. Such RAs had to mobilize from the LGA Office to polling units.

Printing of EVR

The ICT Department printed two copies of the EVR, one in coloured, and the other in black and white, based on 12 and 16 voters per page respectively. However, compared to the 2019 General Election for the printing of EVR, the budget in the 2023 General Election falls far behind. This forced the State Office to source fund from other sources to ensure that the EVR was printed.

Logistics Preparations

There were adequate transportation arrangements for the movement of election personnel and materials, with particular emphasis on the movement of Collation Officers and reverse logistics. The Commission entered an MOU with NURTW, NARTO and Maritime Association to ensure that Election Officials and

materials are conveyed timely and safely to their respective election duty centres. Based on the MoU, series of consultative meetings were held with the leadership of these unions and details of agreements reached were shared with the EOs to clarify to all the parties' duties and obligations on the Election Day. However, vehicles sourced from members of the NURTW were inspected and ascertained for road-worthiness by officials of the FRSC. However, it needs to be noted that the Commission had difficulty in persuading the unions to accept to deliver electoral materials and personnel at the price initially offered by the Commission. The consequence was protracted negotiations over prices and eventually paying higher prices than was envisaged by the budget.

Conduct of the Elections (the 25th of February and the 18th of March)

Opening of Polls

Across the 16 LGAs in the state voting commenced very early, because polling units staff deployed early from the RACs in accordance with the plan of the Commission. n all the 16 LGAs of the state, deployment to polling units commenced early. According to the information available from the EOSC dashboard, at least 90% of polling units in Taraba state. Continuous Accreditation ad Voting, as directed by the Commission was used in the elections, and the state office implemented the imitative of splitting overcrowded PUs with more than 1250 registered voters alongside additional BVAS. Although there were attempts to disrupt the process in Ussa LGA, where voters protested the mix up in customized election materials, the situation was brought under control.

Monitoring, Implementation and Support for field Activities

To fast track the process of Collation and reduce the margin of error, two Collation Officers were deployed to each RA, one for Presidential result and one for National Assembly results. Same arrangement was replicated at the Local Government level. In addition, each Senatorial District had a Collation Officer/Returning Officer. Six other Collation/Returning Officers were deployed for the six Federal Constituencies in the state. RAs with more than 25 polling units were also assigned additional Collation Officers.

EMSC Platform

The EMSC Desk officer and the EOSC Team deserve commendation for monitoring, tracking, and reporting on daily basis the activities in the Green, Amber, and Red Zones of the election circle. The platform monitored the receipt and distribution of non-sensitive and sensitive election materials and escalated all the shortfalls for necessary action. It also monitored and reported developments on ad hoc recruitment, training, and deployment. The EOSC Dashboard seemed to have had some network issues throughout its operations and could not adequately track activities on the eve of the election and on the day of election as expected.

Implementation of Collation and Result Management Process

The State Office ensured faithful implementation of the results collation at all levels and implemented the Commission's guidelines on management of results. The exception to the general trend in Taraba State where results were declared for all the contested positions occurred in Takum/Donga/Ussa Federal Constituency where the election was inconclusive. This arose from the incidents of cancellation of results in Takum and Ussa LGAs in Chanchanji and Lissam RAs respectively. Furthermore, results and election materials were snatched at Ussa LGA Collation Centre, which could not be recovered for regeneration as required by law. Consequently, the margin of lead principle came into play and supplementary elections were held on April 15 for the final declaration to be made.

Although there were challenges here and there including cases of voters resisting the use of BVAS in Assa LGA, there was a particular situation that deserves attention. In Ussa LGA, accreditation and voting for State House of Assembly election did not take place in three RAs - Bika, Januwa, and Kwambai – where the people abstained from voting, as they have done since 1999, because of deep-seated political differences, but for the fact that it was a voluntary decision by the people.

Operation of the Situation Room and Election Monitoring and Support Centre

The EMSC functioned optimally in the tracking and monitoring of the pre-election, Election Day and post-election activities including the collation of results. This performance was made possible the working tools including computer system, internet facilities, telephones etc that were provided by the Commission in the Presidential/National Assembly elections were not reported in the Governorship/State Assembly elections. Furthermore, through reverse logistics, deployed materials were retrieved after the first round of election to prepare for the next round. At the end of the elections, electoral materials that were not consumables were retrieved from the field and kept at LGA Offices and the State Office.

The state EMSC team was made up of fifteen (15) personnel, comprising of twelve (12) field assets, two (2) Data administrators and One (1) state coordinator. To enable the EOSC capture all activities on the field, its operations was activated in the early afternoon of the eve of the election to capture the movement of materials and personnel to the RACs. The field assets were responsible for making direct contacts, using cells phones, to electoral field officials to get direct feedback on the situation from field. Such information from the field was on threats, compliances or challenges were then passed the two data administrators, and the information helped the Commission to take decisive and informed decisions for proper execution of the election.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Election

Despite the generally successful and peaceful nature of the election conducted in Taraba State, there were identified

challenges that have been noted as follows:

a. The Cashless policy introduced by the CBN largely affected the logistics plan for the election as it led to escalation in the cost of hiring vehicles and other services without a corresponding provision in the budget to cushion the effect. Matters were worsened by the demand of some service providers to be paid in cash.

b. Since allowances paid to poll officials have remained the same over time, the Commission needs to urgently consider a review across the board to improve the incentive regime.

c. Improved training for a reasonable time over the use of the BVAS is needed to enhance its overall efficiency in the electoral process.

d. Delivery of sensitive materials to some LGAs was late due to activities of Motor Vehicle Unions. This late delivery prevented the utilization of RACs in some LGAs thereby also preventing the conduct of refresher training on the operations of the BVAS at the RAC as programmed. This could also explain the high margin of reported cases of BVAS failure and result cancellations in some LGAs.

e. Some polling units operated without security. This made some of them easily vulnerable to attacks by hoodlums and thugs, e.g., Karim Lamido, where thugs were reported to have attacked some polling units and even a Collation Centre.

f. Some polling unit officials criminally conducted accreditation and voting using the VIN on the EVR, thus enabling voters without PVCs to vote. To strictly enforce "No PVC No Voting" slogan of the Commission, EVR may have to be printed without VIN.

g. Some Collation Officers could not do vertical and horizontal calculation of results during collation and were not knowledgeable enough about cancellation of results. This, coupled with undue delay in the replacement of malfunctioning BVAS are obvious challenges. BVAS failure or late replacement of BVAS is not a condition for cancellation of results. Guidelines provide for countermand of election and not cancellation.

h. The disenfranchisement of voters in IDP Communities in four LGAs of Wukari, Ibi, Takum and Kurmi due to the inability of the State office of the Commission to respond to their request to be allowed to vote calls for a review of the policy.

12.3.6.
Yobe State
Capital City: Damatru

Ibrahim Abdullahi
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Yobe

Delimitation Data

17 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**6** Federal Constituencies	**24** State Constituencies
178 No of RAs	**2,823** No of PUs	**1,485,146** No of Registered Voters	**1,437,851** No of PVCs Collected
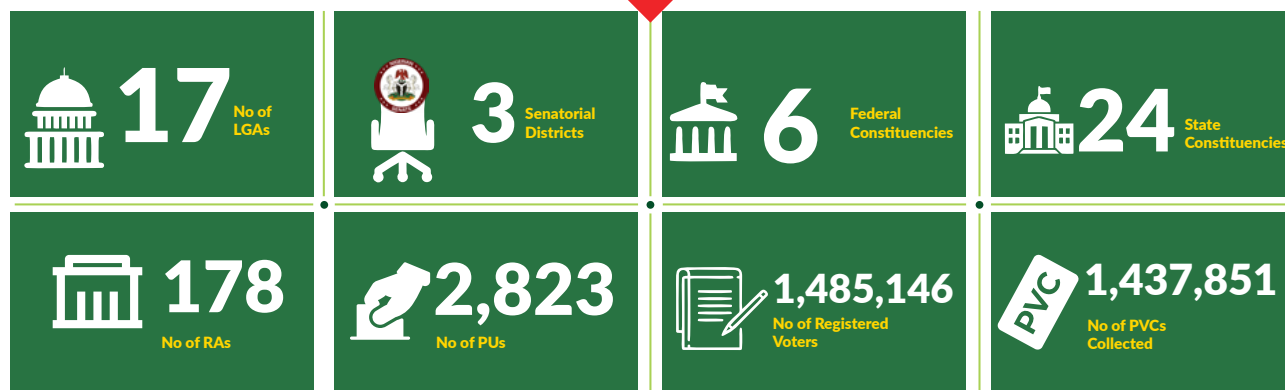
Introduction

Yobe State is in the North-East geo-political zone with a landmass of 45,502 km^2. The state has 17 LGAs, 178 RAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 6 Federal and 24 State Constituencies, 2,823 PUs and 1,485,146 Registered Voters. The total number of PVCs collected stood at 1,437,851 in the period leading to the election.

Pre-Election Activities

Management Meetings

In the weeks and days, the Resident Electoral Commissioner directed the management staff to inspect the sensitive materials kept at the CBN, Damaturu. He also directed the Ag. HOD Operations and his team to batch the materials LGA by LGA on the 7th of March 2023 for ease of collection by Electoral Officers the following day. ICCES meeting was convened to review the Presidential/National Assembly Election to address the lapses identified in the second election. And that was appropriately done.

Conduct of Continuous Voters Registration (CVR) and PVCs Collection

The CVR exercise which started on the 28th of June 2021 and ended on the 31st of July 2022 was a huge success. As directed from time to time, the state office devolved the CVR exercise from the State Office and the LGAs to the RAs. Both the CVR and the PVC distribution which took place simultaneously were quite challenging, because of the typical mindset of Nigerians not to respond until the closure of the exercise is around the corner. The office had

to complement office staff at both the state and LGA levels with serving corps members to cope with surging crowds who sought to beat the deadlines.

Party Primaries and Nomination Process

The Political Party primaries in the state was conducted within the time-line provided by the calendar of election activities, between the 4th of April 2022 and the 3rd of June 2022, featuring the 18 registered political parties. Although the different parties chose between the prescribed direct and indirect modes of conducting their primaries, the handling of the process highlights the problem of internal democracy within the parties. Added to this was the problem created for the Commission's monitoring exercise by the incessant, indiscriminate, and inconsistent change or shift of dates and venues of the primaries reflecting the level of internal divisions within the parties. Despite these challenges, the state mobilized the staff including the management staff to serve as monitors to augment the staff the EPM. The monitoring exercise was supported by Commission staff deployed from the Headquarters and the reports of the party primaries were submitted to the Headquarters.

Recruitment, Training and Deployment of Personnel

Based on the list of applicants for the different positions harvested from INECPRESS, sorting was done according to the posts applied for by the applicants. The total of 11, 755 personnel engaged in all the elections except for RATECHS, LGTECHs

and the Collation and Returning Officers emanated from the INECPRESS data. In terms of trainings, the state office strictly complied with the schedule received from the Commission's Headquarters. Trainings of security personnel were carried out in the state headquarters and in the three Senatorial zones, while the training of APOs and APOs was carried out in the 17 LGAs with the SPOs who were earlier trained to serve as the facilitators. For the Collation and Returning Officers that were identified by the Vice-Chancellor, Federal University, Gashua, the training supported by staff of Operation Department in the Commission's Headquarters in Abuja took place in Damaturu, the capital of Yobe state.

Stakeholder Engagements

The Yobe state office of the Commission took stakeholders' engagement as one of the most important tasks in the effort to build public trust and confidence ahead of 2023 General Election. In order of priority, stakeholders engaged included the political parties and IPAC, ICCES members, traditional and religious leaders, the media, and civil society organisations, both urban and community based CSOs. The series of stakeholders' consultations, the Commission created public awareness around the importance of BVAS accreditation as pre-condition for voting, infractions that amounted to electoral offences and the sanctions, and all the arrangements of the Commission to promote inclusive electoral processes. Furthermore, the state office leveraged on the willingness and availability of Government-owned media houses including the NTA, Damaturu and Yobe Radio Broadcasting Corporation to carry out

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mass public enlightenment campaigns, all of which made huge impact in the elections.

Preparations for the Elections

Receipt, Storage and Deployment of Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Materials

The Yobe state office had overhauled the storage facilities in the office based on the directive from the Headquarters and the accompanying funding support. Prior to the election, the state undertook a stock-taking exercise at the State and at the LGA Offices to determine the state of non-sensitive materials to determine the shortfall in terms of what were required to conduct a successful general election. Similarly, the State Office assessed the storage facilities in the office and in the 23 LGAs to determine the space as well as the functionality of the Air-Cooling system, especially considering the sensitivity of the BVAS. This exercise informed the request made to the headquarters to address the shortfalls identified and for funding to put in place complementary facilities that were required. The improvement in the storage facilities enabled the Commission to receive and store the non-sensitive materials in the batches they were supplied from the Headquarters. On receipt, they were kept in the available makeshift storage facilities in the State Office before being moved to the various LGAs in the state.

The sensitive materials supplied from the headquarters of the Commission, especially the Ballot papers and result sheets were directly delivered to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) where they were securely stored until the election as it has become the tradition. On the Thursdays preceding the elections, while the political parties were around for the verification of the materials before being moved to the LGAs, the INEC logistics team was on ground to facilitate the verification of the materials by the political parties, and to undertake the sorting and distribution of the sensitive materials before they were distributed to the 23 LGAs. This was the case for both the Presidential/National Assembly and Governorship/State Assembly elections. Given the customized nature of the sensitive materials, Electoral Officers were invited to be physically present in the inspection. This method enabled the logistics team to identify shortages, mix-ups and printing errors which were subsequently reported to the headquarters.

The sensitive and non-sensitive materials stored in the LGA offices were subsequently deployed to the various super RACs and RACs and subsequently, from where they were deployed to the various polling units in the state. The engagement of RAC managers in the election assisted in the safe keeping of these materials at the RACs. Special attention was given to the sensitive materials, which were shared in the presence of critical stakeholders like political party agents, security, international and domestic observers, the media etc.

Identification, Preparations and Activation of RACs and Super RACs

RACs and Super RACs were identified early and prepared according to established

guidelines. They were activated for use with adequate security on the eve of each Election Day. Election personnel were made to undergo refresher training and were deployed early on Election Day to the PUs resulting in timely opening of polls. There were adequate security arrangements at the RACs and SRACs and vehicles were available to convey electoral personnel and materials as escorted by security agencies to the various PUs.

Printing of EVR

Based on directive of the Commission, the ICT Department in the state printed two copies of the EVR, one in coloured, and the other in black and white based on 12 and 16 voters per page respectively. However, compared to the 2019 General Election for the printing of EVR, the budget in the 2023 General Election falls far behind.

Logistics Preparations

Building on the initiative of the Commission at the national level signing a reviewed MoU with the NURTW and NARTO, the state office basically domesticated the MoU with the two unions. The Office directed the EOs to negotiate directly with the unions at the LGA level and reach agreements with them, being the direct beneficiaries of their services. The successful agreements with the unions led to the supply of 1,120 vehicles by the NURTW, while NARTO provided 34 trucks, which were paid by the 17 EOs who had earlier been given the money after deducting the 15% meant for these unions at the national level. While the arrangements worked without hitches in the Presidential and National

Assembly elections, the information that the Commission had increased payment per vehicle by N5,000 triggered a revolt as the agreement with the unions did not reflect the increase. The revolt was nipped in the bud when the state office agreed in principle to pay the new rate once the Commission made it available.

Monitoring, Implementation and Support for Field Activities

In the countdown to the General Election, the management team in the office engaged with the relevant staff to be deployed to serve in the centre. The in-house training proved useful in the conduct of the election in terms of tracking field operations. This enabled the EMSC team to deploy the monitoring and implementation techniques developed by the Commission in tracking pre-election and election field activities. In addition, the state monitoring team comprising of REC, Administrative Secretary, HODs and some senior staff in the state office was assigned the responsibility of monitoring the conduct of the election on the Election Day. They were posted to the various federal constituencies to ensure compliance with the regulations and guidelines for the conduct of the elections. The activity of the monitoring team was guided by a check-list designed for the purpose focusing on critical benchmarks such as opening of polls, functionality of the BVAS, security, activation of RACs, conduct of personnel/officials etc.

Logistics Preparations:

The distribution of non-sensitive materials commenced with the nearby LGAs of Damaturu, Tarmuwa, Gujba, Fune, Bursari and Potiskum on the 27th of November 2022. It was done on continuous basis, as we were receiving and deploying same to the Local Governments. The challenge of taking delivery of the stocks disjointedly was experienced, yet we were able to distribute them all to the 17 LGAs in the state on time. Some items were taken from the Gombe Zonal Stores, while others were directly from contractors.

Conduct of the General Election (25th February and 18th March)

Opening of Polls

Given the level of preparation, especially, in terms of logistics polls it was expected that polls would open as early as 8.30am for voting to commence. However, because of late commencement in the deployment of sensitive materials which began on Thursday, movement to the RACs and subsequently, the PUs, witnessed some hitches. It should be mentioned that the late commencement based on advice from the security agencies. Similarly, there was delay in results declaration sheets. There were exceptions to this in Potiskum, Geidam, Bursari, Nguru, Bade and Jakusko LGAs, based on the confirmation from the management team that visited several PUs in Damaturu Metropolis, and reports from the Electoral Officers. It is interesting to note that such delays occurred only in the Presidential and National Assembly elections.

Implementation of Collation and Result Management Process

The teamwork in the state office in Yobe enabled the REC and management staff as well as collation support team from Abuja to work together in implementing INEC procedures and regulations on results collation and management. Consequently, all the results were declared, including the result of the Presidential election in the state before onward movement to the Presidential Collation Centre, Abuja. The only inconclusive election was in respect of Yobe South Senatorial election because of over voting. The result of the Senatorial District election was declared following the conduct of supplementary election on the 15th of April.

Again, while the Governorship election was successfully and peacefully concluded and declaration made by the State Returning Officer, Professor Umar Pate, two state constituencies - Gaidam North and Jakusko - were declared inconclusive. This was the consequence of result cancellations in 2 PUs in 2 RAs where the votes between the leading candidate and the runner up were less than the total number of PVCs collected in the affected 2 PUs. Whereas in Geidam North State Constituency, the APC candidate scored 7,575 votes, the AA candidate scored 6,701 votes with a difference of 874 votes, while the collected PVCs was 2, 271. In the case of Jakusko State Constituency, the Returning Officer reported that he made the declaration

under duress, despite the fact that the margin of lead between the APC candidate who scored the highest number of votes and the runner up from NNPP was 4,771, while the total number of PVCs collected at Polling Units and Registration Areas where cancellations were made was 11,198.

Operation of the Situation Room and Election Monitoring and Support Centre

The operation of the Situation Room and the tracking activity of the election monitoring and support centre demonstrated the importance of a mechanism for ongoing filed activities for purposes of feedback and real time response. The overall delivery of credible elections in the state, including the success in retrieval of field assets timely enough for the Governorship and State Assembly election benefited from the functionality of the Centre. The activity of the Centre was further enhanced by the monitors from the Headquarters as well as the management team that divided the senatorial districts among themselves for the monitoring exercise.

Issues and Challenges in the Conduct of Elections

The experience in Yobe state during the 2023 General Election brought to attention old and new challenges that the Commission needs to address going forward. The significant ones include:

a. The persistence of insurgency and associated problems of kidnappings which rendered many areas unsafe for voting, necessitating relocation of people to safer areas to vote in the election.

b. Late arrival of critical election materials such as declaration forms, SIM Cards for BVAS, and tags for officials created challenges.

c. The topography of Yobe state and the existence of difficult terrains like Machina, Yunusari, Yusufari and some parts of Geidam necessitate the use of only special type of vehicles called Zullu in French. Trips to these terrains attract higher charges.

d. Unnecessary back and forth in the negotiations of fares between Union leaders and EOs, that resulted in undue delays challenging smooth logistic operations.

e. Lack of transparency regarding the recruitment and training of RACTECs and their late deployment remains a grey area in electoral operations and highlights the unnecessary centralization of this aspect of electoral operations by the ICT Department in the Headquarters.

f. Lack of network coverage in various locations of the constitute a big impediment to credible elections.

g. Untidy and confusing training schedules among the different departments need to be redressed.

12.4 North-West Geo-political Zone

Introduction

The North-West Zone comprises of the following 7 states: Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara. The zone has a landmass of 216, 065 km², with 186 LGAs, 2,003 RAs, 41,671 PUs, and 22,255,562 registered voters. With the total number of PVCs collected standing at 21,445,000, before the elections, the zone had an overall PVC collection rate of 90% as shown in Table 12.3 below.

	Table 12.4: Delimitation Data for the North-West Zone on State-by-State Basis									
S/N	State	LGA	SD	FC	SC	RA	PU	Reg. Voters	PVCs Collected	Km²
1	Jigawa	27	3	11	30	287	4,522	2,351,298	2,298,365	23,154
2	Kaduna	23	3	16	34	255	8,012	4,335,208	4,164,473	46,053
3	Kano	44	3	24	40	484	11,222	5,921,370	5,594,193	20,131
4	Katsina	34	3	15	34	361	6,652	3,516,719	3,459,945	24,192
5	Kebbi	21	3	8	24	225	3,743	2,032,041	1,980,171	36,800
6	Sokoto	23	3	11	30	244	3,991	2,172,056	2,097,798	25,973
7	Zamfara	14	3	7	24	147	3,529	1,926,870	1,850,055	39,762
	Totals	186	21	92	216	2,003	41,671	22,255,562	21,445,000	216,065

12.4.1.

Jigawa State
Capital City: Dutse

Prof. Muhammad L. Bashar
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Jigawa State

Delimitation Data

27 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**11** Federal Constituencies	**30** State Constituencies
287 No of RAs	**4,522** No of PUs	**2,351,298** No of Registered Voters	**2,298,365** No of PVCs Collected
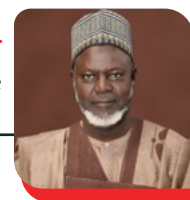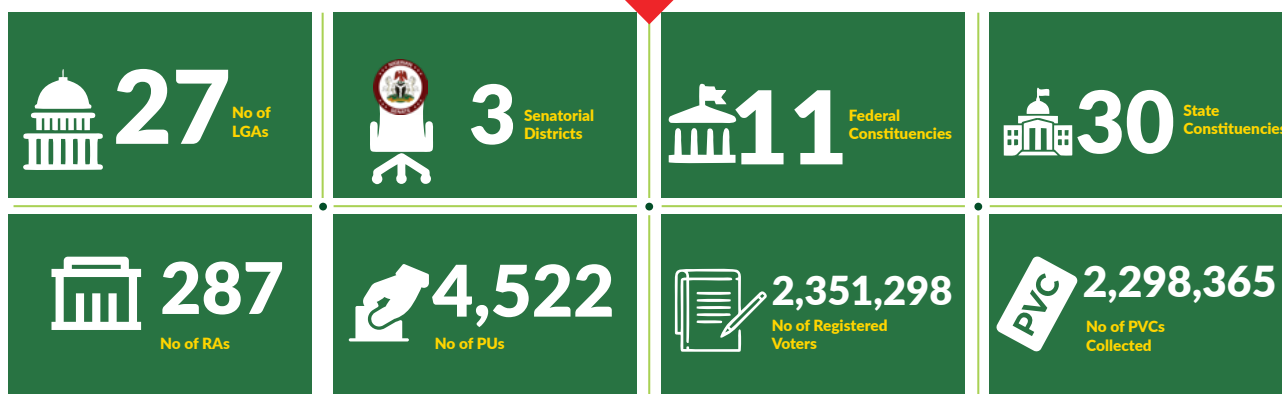
Introduction

Jigawa State is in the North-Western Geo-Political Zone of the country with a landmass of 23,154 km.[2] The State has 27 LGAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 11 Federal and 30 Constituencies, 287 RAs, and 4,522 PUs. The total number of registered voters in the state was 2,351,298 as at the time of the election, with 2,298,365 PVCs collected.

Pre-Election Activities

Preparatory to the Elections, the office undertook the repairs and servicing of all vehicles in the fleet of the Commission in the State. A total of fifteen (15) vehicles were repaired/serviced. The vehicles were used for transporting Election Materials to the Local Government Area offices as well as for monitoring and other interventions on Election Days in the State. The office also undertook the signing of agreement between the State Office and NURTW and

NARTO, on how the two unions would transport personnel and materials to the Local Government Areas and Polling Units at appropriate date and time. The vehicles for such movements were provided on time for the elections. As convened, Management meetings were held on:

a. 30/01/2023, concerning vehicles repairs Committee Inauguration INEC Nasarawa State.

b. 30/01/2023, with Electoral Officers about PVC Collection, Election Security, training of election personnel, security consciousness of staff, movable and immovable electoral materials, RAC preparations, PVCs collection and Elections Security Trainings

c. 08/02/2023, with ICCES members on PVC Collection, Election Security, training of election personnel, movable and immovable electoral materials, RAC preparations, PVCs collection and

Elections Security Trainings.

d. 06/03/2023, with ICCES again on review of election security preparatory to the 14th of March 2023 Election.

e. Election materials particularly non-sensitive materials were audited, and the finding was sent to INEC Headquarters. The shortages were immediately reimbursed.

Recruitment, Training and Deployment of Electoral Personnel

The recruitment, training and posting of ad-hoc staff was strictly done on INECPRESS and in accordance with the laid down guidelines. The testing of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) preceded by the mock accreditation provided the leverage not only to test the functionality of the equipment but also brought to the prospective voters the opportunity to interact with the machine. The distribution of non-sensitive materials was done in good time after ensuring that the needed security was in place in all the 13 Local Government Areas of the State. The operational vehicles of the Commission were repaired and used with funds made available by the Commission. Few days to the elections, a peace accord signing was organized where candidates in the elections were on hand and did the needful. The event was witnessed by the E. U. observers Mission that sought to know the level of our preparedness then.

Party Primaries and Nomination Process

The primaries were conducted within the agreed time frame while candidates' nomination processes were done in accordance with the provision of the Constitution and Electoral Act 2020 as amended.

Stakeholder Engagements

Stakeholder meetings were held to provide information to the public and to canvass for a peaceful and successful election. Such meetings were organized and moderated by INEC State Office Lafia where interactive sessions with Traditional and Religious leaders was held at Ta'al Conference Hotel, Lafia. During the interactive sessions emphasis was laid on the appeal for a peaceful and violence-free, 2023 General Election and, the importance attached to it.

Preparations for Elections

In respect of the 2023 Elections, the office undertook the repairs and servicing of all vehicles in the fleet of the Commission in the State. A total of fifteen (15) vehicles were repaired/serviced. The vehicles were used for transporting Election Materials to the Local Government Area offices as well as for monitoring and other interventions on Election Days in the State. The office also undertook the signing of agreement between the State Office and NURTW and NARTO, on how the two unions would transport personnel and materials to the Local Government Areas and Polling Units at appropriate date and time.

Receipt, Storage and Deployment of Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Materials

The distribution of non-sensitive materials was done in good time after ensuring that the needed security was in place in all the 13 Local Government Area of the State. The operational vehicles of the Commission were repaired and used with funds made available by the Commission. The sensitive materials in custody of the Central Bank, Lafia branch was distributed three (3) days to the elections for both the Presidential/National Assembly as well as the Governorship/State Assembly elections. The exercise was done in the presence of all the Political Parties contesting in the elections as well as the security agencies, the media and observer groups. The materials were escorted by armed security to the various 13 Local Government Areas of the State.

Identification, Preparation and Activation of RACs and SRACs

All Registration Area Camps (RACs) across the state were prepared at good time, with provision of lighting, mattresses toiletries, buckets, and water, among others. Such RACs were activated in the afternoon of each Friday (a day before each of the 2023 elections).

Printing of EVR

All the EVR for 3256 Polling Units were printed well ahead of time in coloured and black and for the Electoral Officers' and cross checking.

Logistics Preparation

Preparatory to the Elections, the office undertook the repairs and servicing of all vehicles in the fleet of the Commission in the State. A total of fifteen (15) vehicles were repaired/serviced.

Monitoring, Implementation and Support for Field Activities

The above elections were monitored by both the State and the National Headquarters Monitoring Team. The aim was to ensure that Poll Officials adhered to the extant rules governing the elections. Applicable too, were the Commission's efforts and support geared to the implementation achievement for all field activities. Enough vehicles were hired from the NURTW and NARTO for smooth logistics preparation.

On Election Days, the State Office monitored the conduct of election in some selected Polling Units across the three Senatorial Districts, during the Presidential/National Assembly elections as well as the Governorship and State Houses of Assembly elections.

Conduct of the Elections (the 25th of February and the 18th of March)

Opening of Polls

There was substantial compliance with the provisions of the Electoral Act with regards to the conduct of the election though the election did not commence early as schedule for the Presidential and National Assembly Elections. They monitored the conduct of elections in various Polling Units across the three Senatorial Districts, during the Presidential/National Assembly

elections as well as the Governorship and State Houses of Assembly elections. Other activities included:

a. Deployment of LGA Techs and RAC Techs to their various LGAs and RAs respectively.

b. Rendering technical support on SCRs.

c. Communication/Transmission of accredited data on SCRs.

d. E-collation at RA level.

e. Uploading of EC8A results to the IReV.

Personnel used these areas were mainly ICT staff, Corps Members, and IT staff of the department. Materials and equipment were sourced from old materials in the store and complemented from INEC Headquarters.

Voting Process and Performance of Equipment

The processes were handled from the grass roots by the election personnel (POs, APOs, RAC Techs, LGA Techs to Federal/State Constituencies, Senatorial Districts and, at State levels respectively). The Personnel were mainly ICT staff, Corps Members, and IT staff of the department. Materials and equipment were sourced from old materials in the store and complement from headquarters. The performance of equipment while rendering technical support on SCRs, Communication/ Transmission of accredited data on SCRs, E-collation at RA level Uploading of EC8A results to INEC server, except for Presidential and Governorship elections

results, were satisfactory.

Operation of the Situation Room and Election Monitoring and Support Centre

EMSC situation room was set-up in time to monitor the real time election tracking and reporting of Election Day activities.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Election

The degree of cooperation on the part of the transport unions is not fully accorded as there is always conflict of roles between the State branch and the Local Government Area branches. To address the trend, the LGA branches and the Local Government Electoral Officers need to be fully involved in the negotiations to curb the mutual suspicion. The rate at which electoral violence is on the increase with devastating consequences of the electoral personnel, there is the need to enforce the already existing laws on electoral offenders to serve as deterrent.

Notwithstanding the hitches witnessed in some areas, the 2023 general Election in Nasarawa State was generally peaceful, free, and fair to a greater extent. One can boldly assert that there was substantial level of compliance in the process. The fact that there was no case of inconclusiveness in all positions contested is a pointer to the fact that the exercise had recorded a huge success.

12.4.2
Kaduna State
Capital City: Kaduna

Auwal Mashi
Admin Sec. Kaduna

Delimitation Data

23 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**16** Federal Constituencies	**34** State Constituencies
255 No of RAs	**8,012** No of PUs	**4,335,208** No of Registered Voters	**4,164,473** No of PVCs Collected
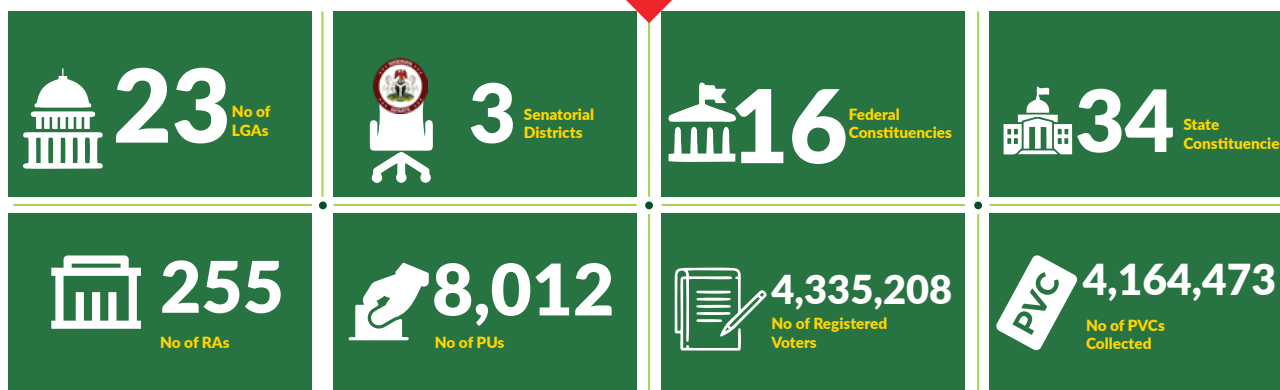
Introduction

Kaduna State is located within the North-West Geo-Political Zone of the Country with a landmass of 46,053 km.² It has 23 LGAs, 255 RAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 16 Federal and 34 State Constituencies, 8,012 PUs and a registered voter population of 4,335, 208. A total of 4,164, 473 registered voters collected their PVCs.

Pre-Elections Activities

Management Meetings and Audit of Electoral Materials

The commencement of preparations for the 2023 General Election followed the extensive review of the 2019 General Election to identify the lapses and lessons learned. This was followed by a meeting of the State Management Committee and the EOs to take stock of available non-sensitive materials, the storage facilities in the state office and the LGA offices as well as Area offices that required renovation. Findings in respect of shortfalls and the state of storage facilities were accordingly reported to the Headquarters and appropriate remedies were provided. The audit and the range of activities identified to be carried out went along to assist the state office in the preparations for a successful election in the state.

Conduct of CVR and PVC collection

Kaduna State implemented the CVR to achieve the Commission's desire to update the existing register of voters. The CVR exercise was conducted from Mon the 28th of June 2021 to the 31st of July 2022. As a measure of the success of the exercise, a total 479,231 numbers of prospective voters were registered before the further clean up at the Headquarters. The distribution of the printed PVCs which was handled in

strict compliance with the directives of the Commission took place first in the state office and in the LGA offices until it was later devolved to the RAs and again back to the LGA offices.

Recruitment, Training and Deployment of Electoral Personnel

This was an indispensable aspect of preparations for a successful election, and the meticulous handling immensely contributed to the success of the election. The National Headquarters of the Commission depersonalised the process of recruiting the ad hoc staff by opening an On-line application portal popularly called INECPRESS. Following the download of the applicants from the portal, the state office envisaged the difficulty of screening the applicants and conducting training simultaneously. Consequently, the state office sought and obtained approval to do pre-training screening before the official time slated for the screening and training. The management staff in conjunction with the EOs handled the pre-training screening which helped in no small measure towards determining the availability status of majority of the applicants. At the end of the day, the recruitment of election personnel was carried out smoothly without many hitches, and the Commission is to note the critical role played by the State Director, NYSC, and heads of tertiary institutions in the state.

Despite the non-availability of the training manuals in expected quantities, the trainings were carried out under the supervision of staff from the National and state office of the Commission. Based on post-tests admitted on the those who participated in the trainings, successful ones were selected and posted to the various areas of need. Presiding Officers were particularly selected from serving corps members following the same process of selection. The National Headquarters carefully sourced the Supervisory Presiding Officers from relevant staff of the approved institutions and parastatals following the same process. The Collation and Returning Officers were also recruited by the National Headquarters mainly from the Ahmadu Bello University Zaria. Furthermore, the state office ensured implementation of the cascade training as designed by TEI for all staff deployed for the exercise.

Party Primaries and Candidates' Nomination Processes

The monitoring of political party congresses and the monitoring of political parties' campaigns and finance were undertaken to ensure compliance with the laid down procedures. The eighteen (18) Political Parties in the State began earnest preparations to conduct Delegates' congresses and primaries to elect flag bearers for their Parties in the 2023 General Election. The EPM Department received notice for the conduct of the delegates' congresses and primaries for the political parties from the Headquarters and from the Parties' State Secretariats in Kaduna State.

The EPM Department began distribution of the PPFT Forms to Political Parties and candidates on the 18th of January 2023.

The Head of Department held a meeting with the Chairmen of the political parties and emphasized on the importance of collecting, completing, and returning of all the PPFT Forms within the stipulated period. The meeting eased the tension experienced whenever the political parties are issued with the Forms and removed the disillusion that the Commission intends to use these forms against them. The EPM Department in Kaduna State was also able to capture photographs of billboards of candidates mounted across the State with the Electoral Officers in the twenty-three Local Government Areas involved in the exercise. The billboards captured form part of the political parties' and candidates' campaign strategies towards the General Election of the 25th of February and the 18th of March 2023. It however needs to be noted that the EPM had difficulties in monitoring the campaign rallies of candidates of all the Political Parties in the State as they did not furnish the State Office of the Commission with their itineraries or schedules for campaigns. In some instances, staff of the Commission were denied access to the venues of party congresses. These obstacles notwithstanding efforts were made monitor and to document the activities covered.

Stakeholder Engagements

Stakeholders' engagement with the members of ICCES was accorded high priority among others because the members are saddled with the responsibility of mapping out security strategies to safeguard the electoral process before, during and after the conduct of the elections. The engagements and the fact that security agencies displayed professionalism and commitment accounted for peaceful elections in the state. Other critical stakeholders engaged in the build-up to the elections included the political parties for purposes of providing vital electoral information; youth groups, women, PWLDs and the civil society and the media. Stakeholders' engagements were complemented by a robust implementation of voter education and awareness creation activities of the Commission. These include development and airing of jingles in different local languages; effective use of INEC half-hour on television and radio stations, either sponsored by the Commission or donated by these stations; public enlightenment campaigns using designated INEC vehicle; and several sensitization workshops for women, youth groups and PWLDs; and regular issuance of press statements and briefings.

Preparations for Elections

Receipt, Storage and Deployment of Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Materials

The readiness of storage facilities made it possible for the state office to receive non-sensitive materials which were verified to establish their sufficiency for the elections. The major items received included Ballot Boxes, voting cubicles, assorted forms, among others. These materials came piecemeal and continued to a few days before the election. As these materials arrived, they were batched into LGAs and deployed accordingly. It is important to note that the bulk of non-sensitive election materials were deployed from the National

Headquarters to the state office through Zonal stores, and more often not, resulted in the late arrival of such materials, and as it turned out the state office had to decide to bring them to the state office.

The sensitive materials were deposited at the CBN with the instruction that the State office could only carry out inspection when told to do so. However, because of the quantum of materials involved, CBN officials permitted the state office to carry out early inspection to determine shortfalls and ensure that such items were properly batched. This enabled the deployment of both sensitive and non-sensitive materials were completed on schedule. The distribution of sensitive materials to the LGAs took place with minor hitches occasioned by the inefficiency in the part of the transport unions, but this lapse was addressed in the governorship/State Assembly election of March 18. The early commencement of voting in most PUs across the state in the governorship/State Assembly elections can be attributed to this.

In the negotiations with the NURTW and NARTO, the state office leveraged on the MOU signed by the Commission with these unions at the national level. The duty of the state office was therefore to hold series of discussions for the implementation of the MoU at the state level. The outcome of the discussions helped in no small measure to address issues relating to late opening of polls and other related matters. Consequently, the vehicles and the drivers were identified ahead of the Election Day, having subjected the vehicles to inspection by the FRSC to determine the road worthiness of the vehicles. The drivers were further directed to report to the INEC Local Government Offices they were assigned by 4:00pm on the eve of the election, and there was substantial compliance except for very few instances. A total of 6791 vehicles were engaged for the electoral operations and they successfully handled the deployment of personnel and materials including reversed logistics.

Identification, Preparations and Activation of RACs and Super RACs

Based on funds made available to the state by the Commission, preparations of RACs and collation centres were carried out to ensure that all materials required for the activation of RACs and collation centres such as water reservoirs, buckets, lighting etc. were provided to all the 255 RAC centres in the state at the appropriate time. All the centres were fully activated by the 24th of February 2023 for the election. The RAC managers who were mostly heads of the respective schools which served as RACs, assisted by providing access to halls for refresher training to the ad hoc staff, and by making the centres fully operational.

Printing of EVR: Printing of EVR

The printing of EVR for each of the elections took was done in accordance with the directive of the Commission, namely, one (1) set of coloured register with check election check boxes and 12 voters per page and another one (1) sets of black and white register without election check boxes and 16 voters per page.

Logistics Preparations

Prior to the election, the Commission provided funds for the repairs and maintenance of the 25 Commission's vehicles in the State. The availability of these Commissions vehicles, the effective implementation of the MoU with the transport unions and the initiative of the Commission with the NNPC for fuel and the Central Bank for cash provided all the environment that was needed to deal with the nightmare of logistics that the Commission confronts in organizing hitch-free elections.

Monitoring, Implementation and Support for field Activities

The EMSC, an integrated structure of EMS, ERM, EOSC and I-SANS was put in place to provide enhanced framework for monitoring and supporting the implementation of EPP. The framework strings together electoral processes, personnel, and equipment with the necessary handles for tracking the implementation of election plan. This greatly assisted the state office in tracking issues and problems in the field and enabling quick time response. During the elections, all complaints and problems received through EOSC were managed and solved. It is particularly commendable that the EOSC used the compliant Matrix and Threat Reporting Matrix to log all adverse incidences, monitor time-line compliance and provided fit for purpose support during the elections. The incidences which include challenges of security or electoral violence, ballot snatching, threat to election Officials, BVAS malfunction etc. were promptly reported to the response team for action.

Conduct of the Election (the 25th of February and the 18th of March)

Opening of Polls

Early deployment from RACs ensured that more Polling Units opened at 7:30am in relation to the last elections. There was significant improvement in the general take-off of the whole voting process across the State. The accreditation of voters, casting and sorting of votes went on smoothly after initial hitches encountered in failure to operate the BVAS machines and were largely resolved by the RACTECs.

Voting Process and Performance of Equipment

Kaduna State implemented IDP voting because of large populations of displaced persons that resulting from different kinds of security challenges. Based on detailed information on the scope of IDP voting in the state, Kaduna was designated as state for IDP voting, and, accordingly, participated in the discussions and designs for IDP voting. However, due to activities of insurgents in some parts of the State, provision of adequate security for deployment and retrieval of election personnel and material was not possible in such areas and the Commission therefore approved establishment of Voting Centres in IDP Camps to enable displaced persons to vote.

The available records show that a total of 125, 411 registered voters spread across 245 Pus, 36 RAs and 6 LGAs of the state

were eligible to vote under the arrangement for IDP voting. The state office implemented all the elements of the arrangements for IDP voting including factoring in security considerations, distribution of PVCs in IDP camps as well as civic and voter education to enable women and men under conditions of displacement to vote in both the Presidential/National Assembly elections and the Governorship/State Constituency elections.

Implementation of Collation and Result Management Process

The collation and declaration of results were done at various levels comprising Registration Areas to Local Government Areas, state constituencies to Federal Constituencies and from Senatorial Districts to Governorship as well as collation of Presidential election result. Results and forms were adequately received and kept securely by the legal department. This was carried out with relative ease and with minimum hitches in tallying of results vertically and horizontally, to align with the electronic transmission of results (e-Collation) especially at the Senatorial and the State Headquarters collation.

However, at the conclusion of the Governorship and state house of assembly elections in the state, winners did not emerge in four constituencies because of application of margin of lead principle, a situation which occurred because of incidents of over voting, violence and malfunctioning of BVAS. The affected constituencies are Giwa West, Chawai/Kauru, Ikara, Kudan, and Sanga. In the case of Ikara, a declaration was made under duress

in favour of the leading candidate in the election, according to the report of the RO that necessitated a supplementary election. A meeting of the stakeholders scheduled to discuss the supplementary election by the state management in Ikara was violently resisted, resulting in the Administrative Secretary and other staff being held hostage, until agreement was reached to the effect that the supplementary election be put on hold to allow aggrieved parties to seek legal redress. The consequence is that while supplementary elections were successfully held in the other four state constituencies, the issue of Ikara was yet to be resolved as at the time the State Office filed its report.

Operation of the Situation Room and Election Monitoring and Support Centre

The design of the Centre to coordinate tracking of field activities and providing relevant duty owners in the electoral process to respond to the challenges as they emerged became the first line of receiving information regarding late commencement of voting and instances of malfunctioning BVAS. This same channel of information also provided early indications of cancellations that logically resulted in the declaration of some elections as inconclusive.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Election

Despite what appears as a story of successful election in Kaduna state during the 2023 General Election, there are obvious challenges that need to be addressed. These include:

i. Violence and disruptions occasioned by the tendency for politicians to resort to self-help at the level of the communities. For example, in the state, there were disruptions at Polling Units and Collation centres resulting to destruction and snatching of materials as well as forceful declarations under duress.

ii. Incidences of over voting and deliberate efforts on the part of politicians and their agents to prevent election officials to handle issues in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Commission.

iii. There are challenges encountered with the Political parties with regards to forwarding of their campaign/rally schedules to the State Office of the Commission was enormous as the Department had to be on the watch for political gathering and bump into such events to enable the monitoring of same.

iv. The challenges faced was on the issue of ID tags where some Observers could not get their ID tags and some of the ID tags sent from the Headquarters belonged to Observers for other States. Also, most of the party agents' tags were defaced, that is, the photograph was blurry and, in some cases, a particular photograph was repeated for all the party agents tags for some Political Parties.

v. There were technical issues that affected upload of election results to the IReV during the Presidential and National Assembly Election.

vi. Refusal of some SPOs to make payment of allowances until appropriate intervention by higher officials.

12.4.3
Kano State
Capital City: Kano

Amb. Abdu Abdussaamadu
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Kano State

Delimitation Data

44 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts
24 Federal Constituencies	**40** State Constituencies
484 No of RAs	**11,222** No of PUs
5,921,370 No of Registered Voters	**5,594,193** No of PVCs Collected
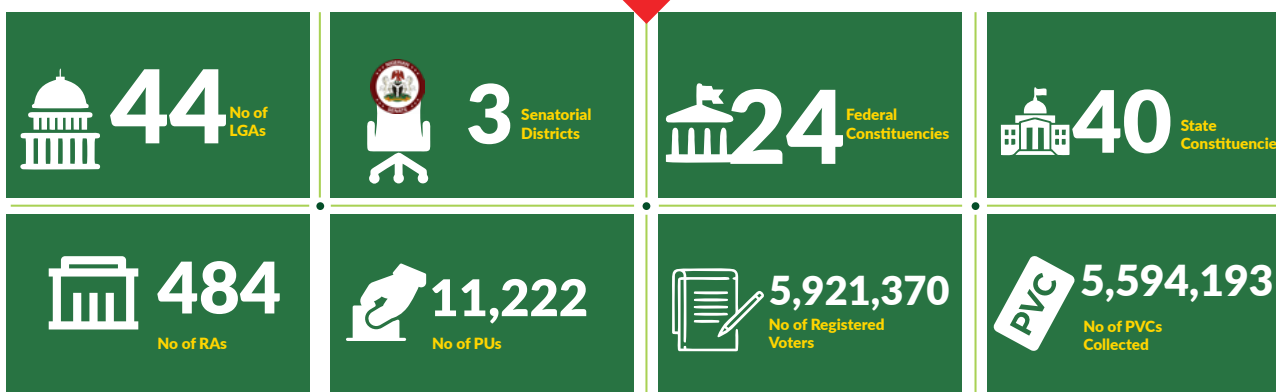
Introduction

Kano state is in the North-West geo-political zone with an area of 20,131 km². It has 44 LGAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 24 Federal and 40 State Constituencies, 484 RAs and 11,222 PUs. The total number of registered voters in the state was 5,921,370, while the PVC collected as of the 2nd of February 2023 is 5,594,193, giving a collection rate of 94.4%.

Pre-Elections Activities

Management Meetings and Audit of Electoral Materials

The commencement of preparations for the 2023 General Election was kickstarted by a meeting of the Resident Electoral Commissioner with the state office management team and the Electoral Officers to lay out plans for conducting hitch-free elections. Apart from the decision to take stock of available non-sensitive materials to determine the short falls, and to brief all the categories of staff about the need to support the activities involved. The Electoral Officers were mandated to brief their staff in the area offices. Again, following a quick review of the 2019 General Election to determine noticeable lapses, the Electoral Officers were directed to draw the attention of their staff to these lapses with a view to avoiding them and improving on the conduct of the election.

Conduct of CVR and PVC Collection

The state office implemented the CVR as determined by the Commission using the INEC Voter Enrolment Device (IVED). This technology was used to capture all eligible persons who had not registered before the 2019 General Election and eligible Nigerians who turned 18 after the General Election. The CVR which initially started in the State Office and all the Area Offices was later cascaded to the Continuous Voter

Registration Exercise was cascaded to the Registration Area levels the convenience of all eligible registrants. At the end of the exercise which lasted for more than a year, a total of 500,207 newly voters were registered. The distribution of old PVCs which went hand in hand with the CVR as well as the distribution of the new PVCs was a huge success with a record of 94.4% collection.

Stakeholder Engagements

Among others, Election Stakeholders' Forum was one of the important groups that the state office collaborated with for effective voter education and publicity in the countdown to the 2023 General Election. Regular meetings of the Forum enabled the members receive briefing on every stage of the electoral process ranging from distribution of PVCs, calendar of electoral activities, procedures of conducting election and voting as well as electoral offences. The cooperation of this forum was elicited based on the advocacy that the success of elections does not depends largely on the support of the stakeholders. Apart from the Forum, other stakeholders frequently consulted to secure their buy-in included faith-based organizations, the media and development partners. Furthermore, the Department of Voter Education and Publicity (VEP) conducted a town and village hall meeting, road walks, and market outreach with the aim at enlightening the public to participate fully in the electoral process.

However, considering the sensitivity of Kano State, the Commission accorded importance to consultations with the religious leaders, especially the Jama'atul Nasrul Islam (JNI), Council of Ulamas, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Imams etc. These religious leaders used the worship and prayer periods to mobilize their members to cultivate positive attitude towards the electoral process. The activities of these religious bodies significantly contributed to violence- free elections in the state.

The stakeholders' engagement described above were complemented by the Commission's elaborate voter education and mobilization activities put in place by the VEP, such as production and airing of jingles, Radio and TV programmes, production of posters and hand bills, market outreach, stakeholders meeting, interaction with women and youth groups, workshops, LGAs outreach and sensitization programmes, announcements, press briefing and conferences and interviews. These activities focused on collection of PVCs, electoral offences and voting procedures. It is important to stress that the jingles which were aired in both English and Hausa enabled the messages to permeate all the nooks and corners of the state considering that the enjoys a robust presence of TV (10 stations) and radio stations (21) including numerous FM stations. Besides, there were voter education activities targeted at the PWDs and youth groups, provided opportunity for the former to be informed on the arrangements made towards assisting them to participate fully in the electoral process like any other Nigerian without much difficulty.

Despite the show of commitment on the part of the security agencies to support

the Commission in conducting credible elections in the state, wilful acts of subversion on the part of the politicians triggered violence in many parts of the state. Indeed, regular consultations with the different stakeholders especially the political parties with the support of the security agencies culminated in Peace Accord in the period leading to the presidential and National Assembly elections. However, the peaceful atmosphere that prevailed during the presidential and National Assembly elections was marred by incidents of disruptions during the governorship and State Assembly elections, despite additional rounds of consultation held towards the governorship and State Assembly elections and the subsequent supplementary elections conducted on the 15th of April, because of inability to make declarations in a few Federal and State constituencies on the 18th of March. The Commission had to organize a crucial ICCESS meeting in the office of Commissioner of Police, Bompai, Kano, which among others, focused on provision of adequate security, including show of force in concerned areas and early commencement of polls.

Party Primaries and Candidates' Nomination Processes

A total of 18 Political Parties conducted primaries in the state into various offices including the presidential primaries, positions of Senate, House of Representatives, and the State Assembly, between the 5th of May, 2022 and the 3rd of June 2022. The primaries were monitored by the EPM, supported by staff from the 44 LGA's and State Monitoring Teams comprising of the Head of Departments (HOD's) across

the State. Generally, the conduct of the Primaries across the State was peaceful and there was no report of violence during the exercise. However, it should be placed on record that political parties do not comply with their own constitutions and are not accountable to their members.

Recruitment, Training and Deployment of Electoral Personnel

As a means of infusing the process of recruiting ad hoc staff, the Commission opened a recruitment portal, INECPRES (www.pres.inecnigeria.org.). The INECPRES served as the recruitment portal for the positions of Supervisory Presiding Officers (SPOs)/ Presiding Officers (POS)/ Assistant Presiding Officers (APO)/ Registration Area Technicians (RATECHS) and RAC Managers for the 2023 General Election. The portal was opened on the 14th of September and closed on the 14th of December 2022. At the end of the exercise, 92,852 applicants successfully completed application for different categories of ad hoc staff. After harvesting the applications, a screening exercise was conducted for the applicants on the directive of the REC to ascertain their eligibility and availability. The screening exercise which took place for three days was held at the Bayero University, Kano and three other higher institutions in different locations within the state. The Electoral Officers were also directed to screen all those who applied outside the NYSC and the higher institutions.

The recruitment of ad hoc staff was followed by rigorous trainings for all the categories of ad hic staff such as the SPOs, POs and APOs in compliance with the training schedules

as mandated by the Commission at the headquarters. These trainings conducted with the full compliments of facilitators put the commission in a good stead to conduct the 2023 General Election. The last set of training was conducted for the Collation Officers, which like other trainings enjoyed the full support of the Electoral Institute. It is however important to note that the efficacy of the training exercise was undermined by the inadequacy of BVAs deployed for the exercise and this probably explains some of the difficulties encountered during the election. As a result of nation-wide shift in the date for conducting the governorship election, mandatory refresher trainings were organized for the SPOs, POs and APOs. The refresher training provided ample opportunity to redress gaps that were notice in the trainings that were conducted in the period leading to the presidential election on February 25, 2023. Having successfully conducted the training exercises, a committee set up specifically for that purpose posted the ad hoc staff from the state office, while PU level staff were posted by the EOs.

Preparations for Elections

Receipt, Storage and Deployment of Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Materials

In anticipation of the movement of non-sensitive materials to the State and Area Offices of the Commission, headquarters issued a directive to the effect that storage facilities in INEC offices be inspected, repaired, and expanded where necessary. This enabled the Commission's storage facilities in the State office to be put to receive the non-sensitive materials which were received four weeks to the Presidential and National Assembly elections. The materials were distributed to the 44 LGAs. Thereafter, Electoral Officers were directed to inspect the non-sensitive materials to determine the sufficiency and quality of the materials, and to report the shortfalls. The feedback from the exercise informed the request for the shortfalls from the headquarters.

Identification, Preparations and Activation of RACs and Super RACs

The State office faithfully implemented the directive to the effect that new locations with better facilities be recommended before the elections to ensure that RAC activities are fully observed and early deployment to PUs on Election Day achieved. Consequently, all the RACs and Super RACs across the 44 LGAs were prepared with full complements of facilities working closely with the RAC managers, which made possible key RAC activities including refresher training.

Printing of EVR

The ICT Department in the state printed two copies of the EVR, one in coloured, and the other, in black and white based on 12 and 16 voters per page respectively. The state office had to find ways of addressing the challenge of the either the low quality and/or near obsolete toners supplied to the state office. Furthermore, despite obvious budget constraint, the two copies had to be produced since the black and white colour EVR was needed for display to voters before the Election Day.

Logistics Preparations

In the aftermath of signing the reviewed MoU between the Commission's headquarters in Abuja and the NURTW, NARTO and the MWUN, the State office of the Commission held series of discussions with the NURTW and NARTO to agree on prices for undertaking the movement of materials and materials for the election. The series of meetings and consultations were particularly deal with the challenge of offering the 2019 rates for their services and the fallout of the currency swap policies, among others. The discussions in these meetings were based on the determined needs complied from the EOs across the 44 LGAs in the state. The vehicles made available were subjected to road worthiness tests carried out by the FRSC whose partnership was leveraged to determine the state of vehicles to be engaged following agreements with the service providers regarding the costs of engaging the vehicles.

Logistics Deployment

The task of undertaking deployment of election personnel and materials started with discussions with the NURTW in the aftermath of the signing of the reviewed MoU based on which the union provided services to the Commission in the 2019 General Election. While negotiations with the union was ongoing, the state office carried out the inspection of the sensitive materials that had arrived the state in custody of the Central Bank. While sorting, each Constituency was marked and packaged together for direct delivery to local government areas. The sorting of the

EC8 Series of result sheets was carefully handled in the state office before onward movement to the 44 LGAs. remained to be sorted out. The distribution to the Electoral Officers commenced on Wednesday, while distribution from the Area offices to the RAs commenced on Friday, and this made it possible for the early RAC activation.

Monitoring, Implementation and Support for Field Activities

The activation of RACs and Super RACs to be reviewed by the State Office received monitors from the Headquarters, Abuja and with collaboration of the State teams, monitored the Elections at various levels. The RATECHS and LGTECHs provided technical support at the field. The elections were conducted on the 25th of February 2023 for the Presidential and Federal House of Assembly, and the 18th of March 2023 for Governorship and State House of Assembly. All the supplementary elections were conducted on the 15th of April 2023 for 2 Federal constituencies and 14 State house of Assembly constituencies.

Conduct of the Election (25th February and 18th March 2023)

Opening of Polls

Despite the challenge of logistics in a few polling units located in far flung areas with bad terrains, the overall picture across the 44 LGAs was that polls opened between 7:30am and 8:30am.

Voting Process and Performance of Equipment

While the process of voting took place in a peaceful atmosphere devoid of major incidents of violence during the presidential and National Assembly elections on February 25, it was not the case during the rescheduled governorship election on the 18th of March 2023. As a result of different acts of disruption of polls including violence and ballot box snatching in some areas, the results of House of Assembly elections in fourteen local government areas could not be declared, because of the problem of margin of lead occasioned by the acts of disruption. In the light of this development, the Commission decided to conduct supplementary elections nationwide on the 15th of April 2023. In Kano state, the problem occurred in two (2) Federal Constituencies, Fagge and Tudun Wada/ Doguwa Federal Constituencies, and 14 state constituencies.

The supplementary election, which was scheduled to be conducted in fifteen (15) local government areas covering 71 registration areas and 205 Polling Units in the state, commenced as scheduled by 8:30am. The election was peaceful in the morning up to around 12:30 afternoon where some isolated cases of disruption at the process were reported. Cases of violence and disruption occurred in some constituencies such as Wudil, Garko, Ajingi, Takai and Gwarzo. However, despite all these, elections were successfully concluded, and declaration of results were 23 made in respect of the Federal and State Constituencies.

Implementation of Collation and Result Management Process

The adoption of simultaneous accreditation and voting as contained in the election guidelines and the efficiency of the BVAS technology contributed to making the voting process largely easy. The few incidents of malfunctioning BVAS and absence of major incidents of violence particularly contributed to positive perception of credible elections in the state.

Operation of the Situation Room and Election Monitoring and Support Centre

The EMSC turned out to be one important mechanism for tracking field operations in furtherance of the transparency and accountability of INEC to Nigerians citizens in the electoral process. Preparations for setting up the EMSC included training of personnel deployed and providing full complements of needed facilities for optimal functionality. Equally important was the conscious decision of the management team to support the centre and the personnel deployed from Abuja to make the Centre useful to electoral operations on Election Days. The real time information regarding field challenges and gaps in the availability or non-availability of both sensitive and non-sensitive materials enabled such emerging challenges to be addressed in real time.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Election

There were issues and challenges encountered while conducting the 2023

General Election that need to be highlighted so that remedial actions could be taken to mitigate them in future elections. Resort to self-help on the part of the politicians especially the deployment of violence to disrupt voting in areas they perceive the opposition to be strong is a serious issue and needs to be addressed. The tendency is for politicians to mobilise thugs who cart away or burn electoral materials or mastermind attack on electoral officials to destabilise the entire process.

12.4.4
Katsina State
Capital City: Katsina

Prof. Yahaya Markafi Ibrahim
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Katsina State

Delimitation Data

34 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**15** Federal Constituencies	**34** State Constituencies
361 No of RAs	**6,652** No of PUs	**3,516,719** No of Registered Voters	**3,459,945** No of PVCs Collected
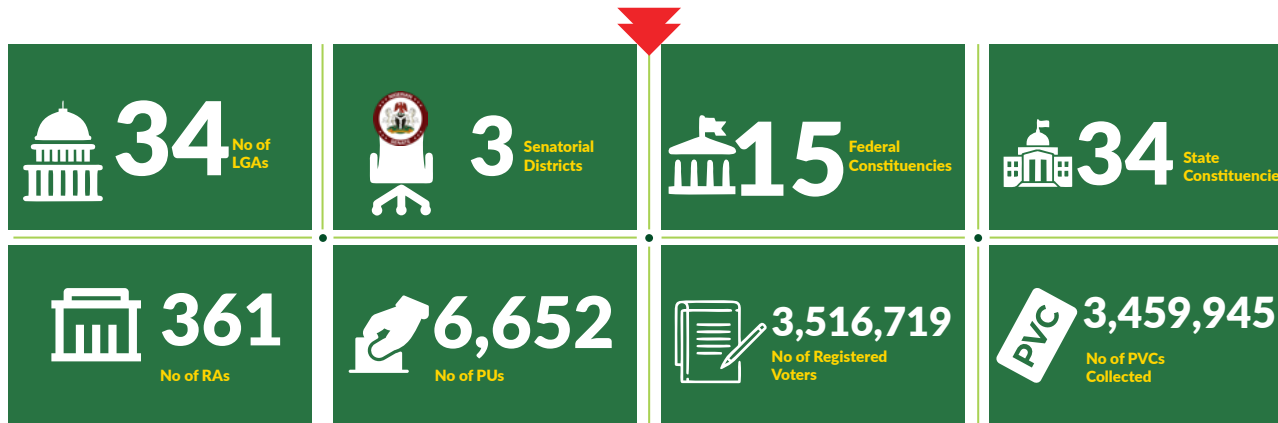
Introduction

Katsina State, split into 34 LGAs is in the North-West Geo-political Zone with a landmass of 24,192 km.[2] The state has 34 LGAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 15 Federal and 34 State Constituencies, 361 RAs, and 3, 516 PUs. It has a registered voter population of 3,516,719, with 3,459, 945 PVCs collected before the General Election, giving PVC collection rate of 98%.

Pre-Election Activities:

Management Meetings and Activity Plan

The general preparations for the 2023 General Election built upon the series of the reviews that followed the 2019 General Election as well as the considerations of the 2022 – 2026 SP, the SPA and the EPP for 2023 General Election. The outcome of the review exercise was widely shared with the rank and file of the Commission, including staff in the Area Offices. The plan for the implementation of the various electoral activities included state-wide audit of sensitive and non-sensitive election materials to determine shortfalls to enable required and timely response from Headquarters.

Conduct of CVR and PVC Collection

The state office of the Commission implemented both the CVR and the expansion of voter access as parts of preparations for the 2023 General Election. The CVR commenced in June 2021 and ended in July 2022, while the expansion of voter access to polling units resulted in the creation of additional 1,750 PUs. Despite this achievement, the CVR process turned out to be very problematic because of the poor attitude of Nigerians until such as time that the exercise was on the verge of closing. The surge of interested registrants towards the closing date, noticeable in urban

and semi-urban locations necessitated extension of deadlines. This same attitude was displayed towards PVC collection.

Party Primaries and Nomination Process

The conduct of party primaries commenced after the release of timetable for the conduct of 2023 General Election. The party primaries in the state involved the 18 registered political parties, with the power to decide whether they would use direct or indirect met HoDs of conducting the exercise. Accordingly, all the 18 political parties notified the Commission, and a comprehensive timetable was produced to that effect. The Election and party Monitoring department was mandated to monitor all the congresses and primaries elections of the Political Parties. At the end of the exercise, only APC and PDP fielded candidates in all the elective positions.

Recruitment, Training and Deployment of Personnel

The recruitment of the different categories of ad hoc staff in 2023 General Election was handled at different levels. For instance, the recruitment of Collation, Returning Officers and State Technical Officers were done by Commission's Headquarters, and sent to state office for training and posting to their respective places of assignments. The ICT Department in the Headquarters determined persons that were appointed as RATECHS and LGTECHs.

The recruitment of SPO's, POs, APOs and RAC Managers was basically carried out at the state level, based on the information

of applicants that applied through the Commission's recruitment portal, INECPRESS. Applicants were screened, trained, and subjected to post training tests and those who demonstrated adequate knowledge and competence were appointed posted accordingly. It is important to stress the point that that as required by the Commission, priority was given to the youth corps members regarding the appointment of the POs, while other categories were populated by ex-corps members and final years students of federal institutions. These processes were followed by targeted trainings and workshops were organised for functionaries of the Commission drawn from Operation Department, logistics officers and state-level Training Officer at the State and Local levels. The trainings aimed at improving their knowledge and skills about conducting elections with integrity based on the new legal framework, technology and the regulations and guidelines developed in the context of the 2013 General Election.

Stakeholder Engagements

A wide range of stakeholders including the security agencies, political parties, traditional rulers, religious leaders, civil society organisations, community-based organisations, MDAs and international developments partners were consulted in the build-up to the election for purposes of building public confidence and promote public awareness. Public events with these critical stakeholders, advocacy visits to traditional in the two emirate councils in the state undertaken by the Resident Electoral Commissioner, and outreach programmes embarked upon by the VEP ensured adequate publicity and awareness creation

among the voting population. The range of issues addressed during consultations included the CVR exercise, PVCs collection, and the role of BVAS in the conduct of transparent elections, among others.

A substantial amount of time was however given to consultations with the security agencies under the umbrella of ICCES co-chaired by the REC and the State Commissioner of Police. In addition to the Police and the Army that were parts of ICCESS, para-military agencies and the NOA and the NYSC were involved in the ICCES meetings which enabled information sharing regarding hotspots which informed operational deployment of the security agencies to provide electoral security in the period leading to the election and Election Day activities. It is important to note that engagements with the security agencies took place both at the state level and the area offices levels and largely improved public confidence in the face of threats of banditry and kidnapping in many parts of the state.

Similarly, partnership with civil society organisations including the CBOs contributed to improved voter education and awareness. For instance, partnership with the Independent National Electoral Commission Ambassadors Forum made up of CSOs, the Transition Monitoring Group (TMG) and numerous religious organizations ensured adequate awareness about the electoral process in the countdown to the General Election.

Preparations for the Election

Storage of Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Materials

The overall preparations for the elections included a thorough assessment of the state of storage facilities including in the state office and in the area offices. This enabled the state office to handle the storage of the non-sensitive electoral materials that were received in batches from the Zonal Stores and the Headquarters. The non-sensitive materials arrived in batches from the Headquarters of the Commission and from the Zonal Store. The preparations for storage also considered the sensitivity of the storage of the BVAs machine, while the Ballot papers and the result sheets were deposited for safekeeping at the Central Bank branch in Katsina.

Identification, Preparation, and Activation of RACs & SRACs

The identification, preparations, and activation of the RACs and Super RACs followed an extensive review carried out by the state office in conjunction with the EOs about the existing locations and suitability of the facilities. Suitable centres were identified in all the RAC's were identified in all the 361 RAs in 34 LGAs except for 10 LGAs that were inaccessible because of the prevailing security challenges. Subsequently, the RACs in the 10 LGAs were relocated to safer places and converted to Super RAC's to minimize exposure to security threats. To ensure that activation of RACs took place to enable critical activities take place on the

eve of the elections, funds RACs activation were released early enough to the EOs.

Logistics Preparations

The logistics preparations involved series of meetings and consultations between the Commission and the leadership of the unions with which the Commission at the Headquarters had developed an MoU on the one hand. The two Unions relevant to election logistics in the state are the NURTW and NARTO. On the other hand, the Office carried out repairs and overhaul of the Commission's vehicles using the funds made available from Headquarters based on estimates earlier submitted by the state. However, the state office took the responsibility of moving NYSC Corps Members from the state orientation camp to designated areas of assignment.

Collation and Result Management System

The collation of Election result was carried out in all the 34 LGAs, moreover the collation of 15 Federal constituencies were collated at each Federal constituency level with the help and support of Collation Support Result and Verification System (CSRVS) personnel to checkmate the accuracy of results,3 Senatorial districts were collated at each of the Senatorial District collation centres namely (Daura, Katsina and Funtua) in the state. The results were collated successfully from polling units to the final stage of collation in the state.

Monitoring, Implementations, and Support for field Activities

The state office received about 25 election Monitors from the National Headquarters coming from different Department and Units and they were able to cover all electoral activities in the 2023 General Election. The monitors working together with the management of the state office ensured that all electoral activities and guidelines were strictly observed and adhered to. Not only were all the electoral materials, items and equipment required were adequately made available, adequate security was provided to ensure peaceful conduct of the entire exercise.

Conduct of the Election (the 25th of February, the 18th of March and the 15th of April)

Opening of Polls

The state did not experience any fundamental problems of logistics such that it was possible to open polls early and commence voting accordingly. Available evidence points to the fact that 85% of all polling units was opened before 8:30am prompt during the Presidential and National Assembly elections. There was even greater improvement in this regard during the Governorship and State Assembly election because of the impact of the refresher training received by the ad hoc staff, as the rate of early opening of polls increased to about 98%. It goes without saying that early commencement of voting resulted in

early and timely closure of the polls across the state.

Accreditation, Voting process and Performance of Equipment

During the accreditation and voting process the equipment had performed wonderfully, even though, some of the equipment had shown a midway malfunction but the menace have been curved by technicians through providing replacement where appropriate.

Implementation of Collation and Results Management Process

Katsina achieved speedy, credible, transparent, and accurate collation process in the 2023 General Election. This is attributable to the efforts of the CSRVS team that was deployed to cover the entire state. The team provided adequate guide and assistance to the Collation Officer and the Returning Officer during the presidential and governorship election respectively.

Operation of the Situation Room and Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC)

The Commission being proactive in the formation of Situation Room and Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC) was deployed to track the implementation of pre-election, election, and post-election activities, and to ensure effective communication between field officers, State Offices, and the National Headquarters. The situation room and the EMSC recorded huge successes during the just concluded 2023 General Election as all the personnel

from the floor management, contact persons and response teams pro-actively ensured that timely actions are taken as soon as the need arises.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Election

Based on the experience of the state in the 2023 General Election, the issues, and challenges that that deserve attention include the following:

i.   The persistence of violence, disruptions, and obstruction to the electoral process because of acts of kidnapping targeted at election duty staff, forcing election officials to by-pass the use of BVAS, and outright theft or seizure of the BVAS machines.

ii. While the use of the On-line portal for recruitment of ad-hoc staff has some inherent advantages, it poses enormous challenge especially regarding the shortfalls in the number of applicants, and the tendency to create last minute efforts by the states to make up for such shortfalls.

iii. Early procurement and to some extent, decentralization of procurement of certain non-sensitive materials are necessary to avoid late arrival of non-sensitive materials in the state.

iv. Mix-up of the Election Materials: Some of the election materials were not properly sorted; as such you find it difficult to finish the sorting in good time because of the mix-up.

v. Non-Supply of Training Manuals in good time hampers effective training of the ad hic personnel considering that effective raining is a very important factor for the success of any election. Alongside this, is the need to review the number of days for training with adequate number of BVAS.

vi. Despite the advantages associated with E-Payment of ad hoc staff, it needs further review.

vii. Late release of Collation Officers' list constitutes a problem, because. Many of those included in list turn out not to be interested in the assignment. The problem was that a good number of those on the list were not interested in the job, so they did not show up for training.

viii.The Commission needs to find ways of enforcing the letter and spirit of the MoU signed with the NURTW/NATO to address the perennial disappointment from these critical service providers.

ix. Lack of adequate funds for the purpose of Voter Education and Publicity in the electoral activities.

12.4.5
Kebbi State
Capital City: Birnin-Kebbi

Mahmud Bello Ahmed
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Kebbi State

Delimitation Data

21 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**8** Federal Constituencies	**24** State Constituencies
225 No of RAs	**3,743** No of PUs	**2,032,041** No of Registered Voters	**1,980,171** No of PVCs Collected
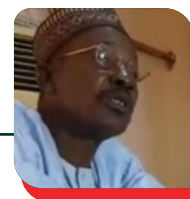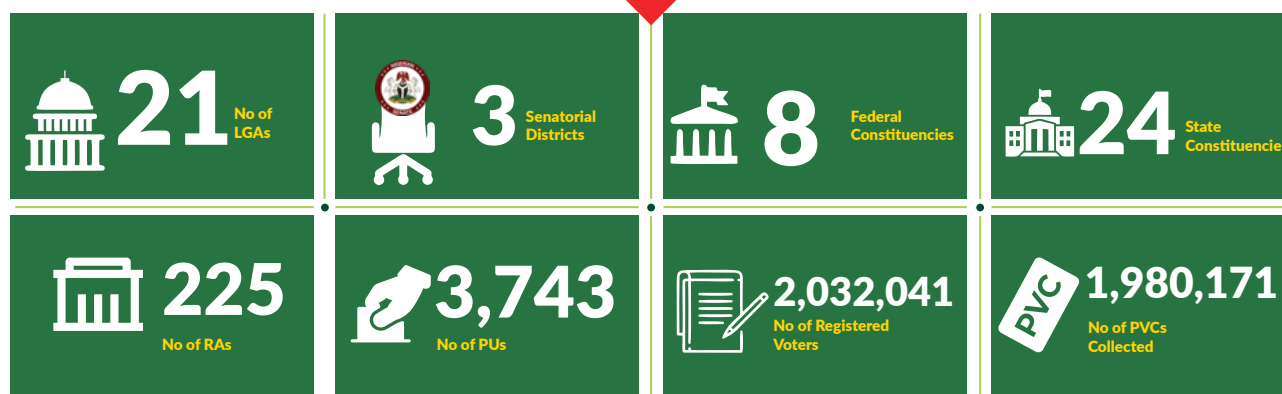
Introduction

Kebbi State is in the North-West geo-political zone of the country with a landmass of 36,800 km². The State has 21 LGAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 8 Federal and 24 State Constituencies, 255 RAs, and 3,743 PUs. With a total of 2,032,041 registered voters, 1,980,172 PVCs were collected, giving a collection rate of 97%.

Pre-Elections Activities

Management Meetings and Audit of Electoral Materials

At the heart of the success of the 2023 General Election in Kebbi state is the leadership provided by the Office Management Team, under the auspices of the REC. Simultaneous engagements between the Management Team and staff in the State office on the one hand, and between the State Management Team and the field staff under the auspices of the EOs accounted for the success of the elections. Regular review of the state of preparations, including stock-taking of the storage facilities and constant liaison efforts and information sharing at levels ensured that the state and LGA offices were in the position to take delivery, especially of the non-sensitive materials.

Conduct of CVR and PVC Collection

The importance of CVR during any electoral cycle cannot be over emphasized because it enables regular update of voter register to maintain its integrity as new registrants are captured and dead persons are removed from the electoral roll. The CVR and the PVC collection were implemented alongside to allow for optimum utilization of personnel. The Kebbi state of the Commission started implementation from the 28th of June 2021 until the final closure on the 31st of July 2022. The remarkable

achievement of the state in this direction was made possible because of the extensive sensitization of the electorates through the radio, television, street/market outreach, citizen mobilization through traditional and religious leaders and working with women and youth organisations, to create awareness for eligible persons to register and for those whose PVCs had been printed to collect their PVCs. In addition, the state office enjoyed the tremendous support of relevant government agencies, especially the NOA whose personnel made joint appearances with staff of VEP Department on numerous radio and other awareness creation platforms.

Recruitment, Training and Deployment of Electoral Personnel

To make the recruitment of ad-hoc staff for the 2023 General Election better and less cumbersome, the Commission developed a recruitment portal called INECPRESS, through which interested persons applied for positions such as POs, APOs and SPOs. The portal provided the relevant qualifications for the different positions. To accommodate corps members who could be potentially excluded, Google Sheet was used for them to apply to be eligible for recruitment. The COs and the ROs were mainly sourced from the Federal Universities in Kebbi and Zuru. However, the training of all categories of election personnel was carried out at two levels, in the headquarters, Birnin Kebbi and the 21 LGAs at the different dates as contained in the training schedule from the Headquarters. Both training and facilitation were undertaken by training officers at the state and local levels, supported by personnel of TEI. It is important to add

here that the elections benefited from the trainings conducted as determined by the Commission's Headquarters.

Party Primaries and Candidates' Nomination Processes

The registered political parties in the state conducted their Congresses and Primaries at different times and dates in designated venues and all were monitored by the EPM supported by the Management Team, the staff deployed from Abuja, and the EOs at the LGA level. The reports as compiled and sent the Headquarters indicate that most of them carried out these exercises with substantial compliance to the laid down procedures.

Stakeholder Engagements

The importance of stakeholders' consultations cannot be overemphasized in so far as it provides the most congenial platform to provide basic information regarding the electoral process, including the voting procedures and processes as well as the role of the different stakeholders. Among others, priority was accorded engagements with the members of ICCES, SICVEP and (LICVEP), for partnership that focused on election security and civic and voter education. In all this, it is important to note that public enlightenment received attention with special focus on prominent Chiefs and Emirs in the State. The four Emirate Councils that make up the State Council of Chiefs in the State were visited at different dates by the team led by the REC during which issues such as the distribution and update on PVCs and CVR, and the use of BVAS.

Engagements with the stakeholders was enhanced by the partnership created with the media organisations in the state which provided reach to the grassroots level. Among others, Vision Radio, Kebbi Broadcasting Corporation, and Equity FM provided ready platforms on which the staff of VEP and the REC of the state explained the unique elements of the 2023 General Election to the voters. These same platforms were used for the airing of INEC jingles which were done largely at prime time. It was established while implementing INEC voter education and awareness programme that weekly phone-in programmes where voters and people of Kebbi State freely asked questions and expressed their feelings to the Commission was one of the most effective initiatives.

Advocacy campaigns targeted at specific groups such as the PWDs was accorded high priority for purposes of creating awareness around efforts by the Commission to make the voting process more friendly in terms of voting aids such as magnifying glasses and Braille ballots as well as introduction of sign language at Collation Centres to enable some categories of PWDs follow scores tabulation and aggregation. was used to interpret scores received during Collation. NGOs/CSOs such as Transparency Watch, FOMWAN and TMG supported the advocacy work of the Commission at different levels. Not surprisingly, the state recorded low incidents of void ballots at the polls and improved orderliness recorded in the polling units.

Preparations for Election

Receipt, Storage and Deployment of Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Materials

It would be recalled that as part of the overall preparations for the election, storage facilities at the state office and the LGA offices were put in a state of readiness to receive both non-sensitive and sensitive materials as they came in waves. The preparations put into consideration the special requirements for the storage of the BVAS machines. Consequently, it was possible to receive and store the non-sensitive materials, while the 4,021 BVAS received were securely stored in the state office.

Identification, Preparations and Activation of RACs and Super RACs

Following the directives by the Commission for the activation of RACs on the eve of the Election Days, the State took steps to activate the existing 225 RAs., which included relocated RACs for varying reasons as directed by the Commission. The RACs were established precisely to ease logistics problems, particularly to enable early opening of polls and commencement of voting. Considering that functional operation of the RACs have become the pivot of our operational efficiency, adequate deployment of security agency became an important element of the preparations of RACs. To ensure the activation of RACs, therefore, needed funds were made available to the EOs for the procurement of RACs materials. The adequacy and

timeliness of the preparations of the RACS enabled early activation of RACS on the Fridays preceding the elections, and the conduct of RACs activities including refresher trainings.

Conduct of the General Election (the 25th of February and the 18th of March)

Opening of Polls

It is significant to note that the delivery and distribution of Sensitive Materials were carried out in the presence of Political Parties Agents, Election Observers, Security, and the Media at Central Bank Birnin Kebbi, while the delivery and distribution of materials to RACs at local Government Level was equally witnessed by Party Agents as well as the DPO, O/C SSS and O/C NSCDC, were present to witness the exercise.

Logistic Preparations

The success of logistics preparations for the election in the state leveraged on the MoU signed by the Commission with NURTW and NARTO in the 2019 General Election, but which was reviewed in the countdown to the 2023 General Election. The faithful implementation of the MoU, which included signing of contracts between the service providers and the EOs at the LGA level ensured that the former was accountable to the latter. Without glaring and recorded hitches, both the sensitive and non-sensitive were deployed to the 21 LGAs in the state.

Monitoring, Implementation and Support for Field Activities

The experience in the 2023 General Election brought into clear relief, the importance of the Election Monitoring and Support Centre. As it turned out, the Centre basically served as the oversight mechanism over field operations in the elections. The selected Staff trained on the working and operations of the Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC) provided tremendous assistance in terms of tracking field activities, providing real time information regarding incidents, and enabling relevant duty owners to provide timely responses. This was well complemented by the establishment of the Situation Room in the state office where problems associated with the elections were easily identified and solutions instantly offered. Consequently, response to issues and challenges such as the menace of thugs, late deployment of men and materials, inadequacy of election materials and mix up in materials were easily addressed.

Voting Process and Performance of Equipment

Accreditation and Voting exercise commenced on scheduled time of 8.30am in most of the PUs across the LGAs. The voting process witnessed high turnout of voters, and crowd control became a major challenge to both security personnel and the polling officials in some of the PUs. Furthermore, the high level of functionality of the BVAS machine as reported all over the state, the entire process was credible.

Implementation of Collation and Result Management Process

The State office diligently followed the collation and results management procedures well laid out in INEC regulations and guidelines including the interpretation of the principle of margin of lead. The rigorous trainings of COs and ROs paid detailed attention to this aspect of electoral operations in the trainings. This was borne out in the absence of hitches during the Presidential/National Assembly elections conducted on the 25th of February 2023. This situation changed during the Governorship and State Assembly elections on March 18 where incidents of over voting and cancellation of results led to the targeting of election personnel. This was particularly the situation in Yauri and Ngaski LGAs where confusions arising therefrom resulted in threats to electoral personnel before the deployment of security personnel to protect such endangered election personnel.

The electoral malfeasance that occurred in the 2 LGAs rendered the outcome of the Governorship and some National and State Assembly elections inconclusive. The Governorship election was rendered inconclusive because of cancellations affecting 90 RAs and 142 PUs spread across 20 LGAs. It was in the aftermath of the supplementary election conducted on April 15th that it was possible to declare the winner of the Governorship election. All these elections were concluded during the supplementary on 15th of April 2023. On the other hand, the inconclusive legislative elections occurred in respect of Kebbi North Senatorial District and 2 Federal House of Representative seats - Arewa/Dandi and Koko/Besse, in addition to 1 State Constituency Seat. These elections were all concluded in the supplementary elections of April 15th and returns were made accordingly.

Operation of the Situation Room and Election Monitoring and Support Centre

The EOSC functioned optimally in the tracking and monitoring of the pre-election, Election Day and post-election activities including the collation of results and disputes that occur around over voting and cancellations of results. The state office with the support of Headquarters, especially Operations Department set up the Centre with the full compliments of gadgets and personnel. Apart from using the tracking mechanism to ensure successful reverse logistics, it enabled the State Office to monitor, report challenges and the opportunity for responding timorously. It is important to note that early forebodings about field challenges that resulted in inconclusive elections came from effective tracking of field operations.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Election

There are many noticeable challenges during the 2023 General Election, the chief ones being the following:

i. The challenge of ad-hoc staff payment is quite high. The problem arises from a few factors including submission of wrong account details, presentation

of borrowed account numbers from parents and friends as well submission of non-existence of account numbers.

ii. Thuggery and violence used by the members of the political class to disrupt elections remains a key challenge that needs to be overcome. In Fakai LGA, a voter was short dead while attempting to snatch a ballot box and seized a policeman's rifle with the intention of running away.

iii. There is also the challenge of vote buying and the way in which the monetization of the electoral process affects the choice that voters make. challenges encountered during the elections of 2023 were mainly political thuggery and vote buying.

12.4.6
Sokoto State
Capital City: Sokoto

Hauwa Aliyu Kangiwa

Admin Sec. Sokoto State

Delimitation Data

23 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts
11 Federal Constituencies	**30** State Constituencies
244 No of RAs	**3,991** No of PUs
2,172,056 No of Registered Voters	**2,097,798** No of PVCs Collected
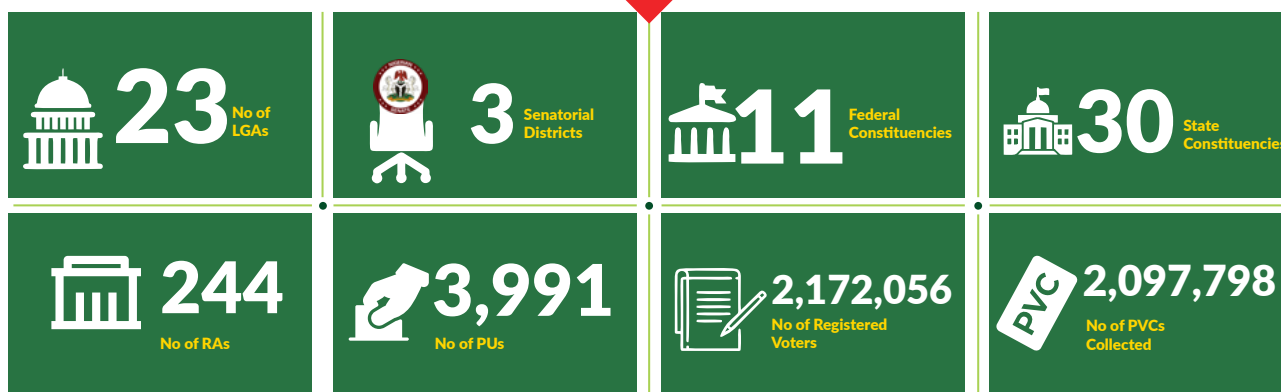
Introduction

Sokoto State is in Nigeria's North-West Geo-political Zone. With a land area of 25,973 km², the State has 21 LGAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 11 Federal and 25 State Constituencies, 244 RAs and 3,991 PUs. According to the 2006 National Population Census, the State has a provisional population figure of 3,696,99. The total number of registered voters was 2,172,056, with 2,097,798 persons collecting their PVCs.

Pre-Elections Activities

Management Meetings and Audit of Electoral Materials

In preparation for the General Election, it must be emphasized here that no management meetings were ever called by the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) despite plea by the Management headed by the Administrative Secretary for the REC to run an all-inclusive Administration. This was a week to the Presidential Election. That notwithstanding the EOPs Department regularly consult the Electoral Officers (EOs) in readiness for the Election. Also worthy of note is, total renovations of some Local Government Offices were made to ensure conducive atmosphere for staff and materials to be used for the elections. Tureta and Dange-Shuni Local Government areas enjoyed total construction, while Binji, Bodinga, Gada, Kebbe, Shagari and Sokoto South Local Government offices were renovated. Following the challenges experienced during the Presidential Election, a team of senior officials from the commission's headquarters led by National Commissioner Major General M. A. Alkali mni (rtd) in the preparations for and conduct of the Governorship and State House of Assembly election. She was also requested to take full responsibility of all issues of

administration and Election pending when the commission directs otherwise. Non-sensitive electoral materials happened to be available in the store of the state and some local government offices. A team was sent to LGA offices to audit non-sensitive materials available for election. Where deficit exist, supplementary was released from the stores to augments. Full compliments of non-sensitive materials were received from the headquarters and distributed for the elections.

Conduct of CVR and PVC Collection

In line with the provision of section 10(1) of the Electoral Act 2022, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) resumed the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise for 2021/2022. It was resumed after the conclusion of the expansion of Voter access to Polling Units, where for the first time, the Commission succeeded in creating more polling units totalling 56,846 nationwide while Sokoto State has 3,991 Polling Units currently which was used in the conduct of 2023 General Election.

The 2021/22 CVR exercise which was to run from the 28th of June 2021 to the 30th of July 2022 was in three folds beginning with the introduction of the novel online registration. The phases are as follows:

i. On-line registration which commenced on Monday, the 28th of June 2021.

ii. Physical/In-person registration at the INEC state and Local Government Area offices which commenced on Monday, the 26th of July 2021.

The CVR exercise has been divided into four (4) quarters listed as follows: -

1.   **First Quarter:**

Registration of Voters from the 28th of June to the 21st of September 2021, with the display of the register for Claims and Objections from the 24th to the 30th of September 2021 and the Registered Voters recorded for Sokoto was 24,378 Voters before ABIS.

2.   **Second Quarter:**

Registration of Voters from the 4th of October to the 20th of December 2021 with the display of the register for Claims and Objection from the 24th to the 30th of December 2021 with the Registered Voters of 19,529 before ABIS.

3.   **Third Quarter:**

Registration of Voters from the 3rd of January to the 22nd of March 2022 with the Display of the register for Claims and Objection from the 26th of March to the 1st of April 2022 and the Registered Voters is 28,349 before ABIS.

4.   **Fourth Quarter with extension:**

Registration of Voters from the 11th of April to the 30th of July 2022 has 177,940 Registered Voters before ABIS. Conclusively, the entire CVR exercise in Sokoto State has the record of **250,196** Registered Voters before ABIS.

Recruitment, Training and Deployment of Electoral Personnel

The major objective of the training of the electoral personnel is to provide requisite skill, knowledge and demonstrate ability to organize, conduct and facilitate training on polling and counting procedures for the 2023 General Election effectively and efficiently. The objective was achieved using cascade training approach beginning with master trainers comprising State Training Officers (STO) and Assistant State Training Officers (ASTO), Local Government Training Officers (LGTOs), Supervisory Presiding Officers (SPOs) and Poll officials (POs). Training took place in Sokoto State to pass information on the implementation of the elaborate preparations and innovation introduced by the commission for successful conduct of 2023 General Election. The training covers many polling workers that was deployed during elections.

The Cascade Training Plan is an approach where the training is cascaded gradually from the top to the bottom. The plan was used in INEC Sokoto State for the 2023 General Election, and it entails training the Supervisory Presiding Officers (SPOs) by the LGTOs under the supervision of STO/ASTO, while the SPOs in turn trained the Presiding Officers (POs) and Assistant Presiding Officers (APOs) at a designated centres in their respective local government areas.

To ensure a hitch free 2023 General Election in Sokoto State, the commission has organized a two-day training for Election Security Personnel at Umaru Ali Shinkafi Polytechnic, Sokoto on the 3rd and 4th of February 2023. Summary of training categories is shown in the table below:

Recruitment for Electoral Staff in this election was done in line with the laid down procedure adopted by the commission. The applicant's data was harvested from INECPRESS. The number of applicants from the portal stood at 44,653 out of which 2,234 applicants applied for the post of Supervisory Presiding Officer (SPO). Screening of Ad hoc staff was done at LGA level by the LGA Electoral officers.

Party Primaries and Candidates' Nomination Processes

The Commission released the timetable for the conduct of the 2023 General Election in February 2022, exactly a year to the election. Eighteen (18) registered political parties fielded candidates for the 2023 General Election in accordance with the provision of the 2022 electoral act (as amended). In Sokoto State, all the eighteen (18) registered political parties adhered to the timetable and schedules of activities for the 2023 General Election which require political parties to hold their primaries for the nomination of candidates within two (2) months from the 1st of April 2022 to the 31st of May 2022.

Consequently, all the eighteen (18) political parties in Sokoto State have notified the commission of their plan of action and a comprehensive timetable was approved to that effect. A total of thirteen (13) candidates were nominated by political parties to contest for governorship in Sokoto State, twenty-three (23), seventy-eight (78) and one hundred and forty-eight

(148) candidates were nominated by their political parties to contest for Senate, House of Representatives and State House of Assembly elections respectively. The Election and Party Monitoring Department (EPM) had adequately monitored all the congresses and primary elections of the political parties in the State as indicated in the table 6 below:

In addition to Monitoring congresses and political party primaries, the EPM Sokoto also monitored campaign finance tracking for the 2023 General Election with particular emphasis on:

i. Campaign rallies.

ii. Billboards.

iii. Advertisement on print and electronic media.

iv. Printing of souvenirs, posters, T-shirt, face caps etc.

More-over, the Commission has always engaged critical stakeholders in all its activities geared towards a transparent, free, fair, all-inclusive, and credible elections that will meet the international standard. Pursuant to this fact, the commission accredited both domestic and international observers to observe the entire process from training, recruitment of ad hoc staff, security personnel, deployment of election personnel and materials. One hundred and Ninety-Seven (197) observer groups and the four (4) international Organizations namely African Union (AU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Commonwealth (CW) and European Union

(EU) were on ground in Sokoto State and have successfully observed the entire process of the 2023 General Election.

Polling agents that uploaded their data on the Commissions' portal were also issued with customized tags. This was to bring sanity and to check the excesses of party agents at the polling units during the voting process. A total of Thirty-One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Twenty (31,920) Polling Units tags, two hundred and fifty-one (251) Registration area tags, two hundred and fifty-three (253) Local Government tags and thirteen (13) state collation agent tags was received and distributed to political parties accordingly.

Stakeholder Engagements

The Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) meeting was held as many times as the need arose before, during and after the elections. In attendance at the meetings were all members of the Committee, comprising of; the Police, DSS, NSCDC, Air force, Army, Navy, Custom, Immigration, FRSC, Fire Service, NDLEA, EFCC and the Nigeria Correctional Service.

Jingles from headquarters were translated to two major languages spoken in the state and these are Hausa and Fulfulde. The jingles were aired in Radio Stations. Members of staff of the department were assigned to TV and Radio stations to handle discussions on topical issues concerning the election and the Commissions preparedness. Garguwa FM, Rima FM, Vision FM, Caliphate Radio FM, Rima Radio, NTA Sokoto, are some of the stations where these enlightenment programmes were held satisfactorily.

To further boost departmental activities, the Department branded vehicle Van mounted with loudspeakers was used to traverse the nooks and crannies of the state to enlighten the voting public.

The Voter Education and Publicity department (VEP), Sokoto was not left out in the day-to-day preparations before, during and after the elections. It therefore successfully undertook the following crucial assignments that led or contributed to the huge success recorded by the Commission in the state. Worthy of mentioning are stakeholders' meetings, Market outreach, Radio, and Television programme.

Prior to the election, the department developed a schedule of Voter Education and mobilization activities for the purpose of the election, these includes:

a. Meeting with Traditional Rulers

b. Convened ICCES meetings

c. Meeting with Stakeholders

d. Meeting with People Living with Disability (PWD)

e. Town hall meeting with women group and gender focused Civil Society Organizations

f. Engagement with Visually Impaired Voters on the use of Braille ballot guide

g. Road show jointly organized by National Orientation Agency (NOA) and National Youth Service Corp (NYSC)

h. Preparation of Information Kits for the 2023 General and supplementary Election

All these activities took place from the 5th of January 2023 to the 29th of March 2023 at various venues.

Identification, Preparations and Activation of RACs and Super RACs

Registration Area Camps (RACs) are designated public places where election materials and election officials are camped for an election. For preparation, RACs and Super RACs were identified and fully activated in all the twenty-three local government areas of the State. Mats, Generators and Water storage tanks were provided at the Centres. Toilets were put in proper shape for the use of ad-hoc staff.

All the materials (Sensitive) including EC8 series with their replacement were adequate and without mix-up. Distribution of the materials to Electoral officers was done at the CBN in the presence of the Security, political party agents and media organizations.

Elections involve the movement of Men and Materials from one point to another among other things. For effective monitoring and distribution of materials, all serviceable vehicles of the commission were mobilized for the exercise. This is in addition to MoU entered between the commission and NURTW. Vehicles were hired from the agreement to facilitate movement of ad-hoc personnel to and from RACs and various polling units.

Meetings were held between the EOs

and the EOps department where plans for transportation of men and materials were worked out. It must be taken into consideration the nature of security challenges in about 13 LGAs especially in the Sokoto East Senatorial district. It must also be noted that the terrains in some areas are so bad coupled with the remoteness of these areas, it is therefore suggested that to such areas where buses and small vehicles do not normally operate be left to the discretion of these EOs and the local NURTW officials to negotiate the appropriate vehicles to be used. Such areas normally use Canter trucks vehicles as a better means of transportation and the amount charged by the owners is exorbitant, because it is election, but citing insecurity and distance. The MOU was strictly adhered to and there were seamless movement of men and materials in all these elections.

Again, the Commission signed Memorandum of Understanding with the management of NNPC Mega Station, Sokoto. The outcome was very fruitful throughout the period of 2023 General Election. A total sum of five hundred and eighty-two thousand naira (N582, 000) was released to fuel INEC and Security Vehicles for the Presidential Election. Another two hundred and fifty thousand naira (250, 000) was made available for the fuelling of INEC Vehicles alone in the Governorship Election, while Four Hundred and Seven thousand, four hundred naira (407, 400) was released to fuel vehicle for securities. For the supplementary election, one hundred and Fifty thousand naira only (150, 000) was released to fuel INEC Vehicles.

Monitoring, Implementation and

Support for field Activities

The proactive decision by the Commission to establish situation room in the State offices has contributed in solving many issues in the field which might otherwise had deteriorated or brought about breakdown of law and order. It has recorded huge success from the flow of between management, contact person, field operation etc.

The EMSC Situation Room was well equipped and started operation on the eve of election. There was effective communication as well as support between field assets and situation room officers especially in terms of security issues Gada/Goronyo Federal Constituency already declared during the Presidential election held on the 25th of February 2023.

The Supplementary Election was supervised by the National Commissioner Major General M.A. Alkali and some other senior officials from the Commission's headquarters. The election was a success.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Election

No election is 100% perfect. Each comes with it peculiar challenges depending on the level of preparation for the election and host of other factors. The 2023 General Election recorded violence, disruption, inefficiency in operating BVAS, destruction of election materials, and assault on some election officials at Polling Units and Collation Centres. This is largely because of security challenges such as banditry and kidnapping in almost 13 (56.2%) of the 23 Local Government Areas of Sokoto

State. Political thuggery was another factor leading to disruption of electoral process. However, despite all the challenges, the election was adjudged to be fair, credible, and acceptable. Highlights of some of the challenges experienced in Sokoto are as follows:

1. On-line recruitment of ad-hoc staff was a commendable effort; however, some prospective applicants were unable to register due to portal problem. There was also a challenge in harvesting the list of applicants sent from the Headquarters.

2. Late arrival non-sensitive materials including the training manuals were other challenges experienced.

3. Some election materials were mix-up. Timely sorting became a challenge

4. Assistive aids for visually impaired are inadequate and the available ones were not properly deployed to the field by some Electoral officers.

12.4.7
Zamfara State
Capital City: Gusau

Prof. Saidu Babura Ahmad
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Zamfara State

Delimitation Data

14 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**7** Federal Constituencies	**24** State Constituencies
147 No of RAs	**3,529** No of PUs	**1,926,870** No of Registered Voters	**1,850,055** No of PVCs Collected
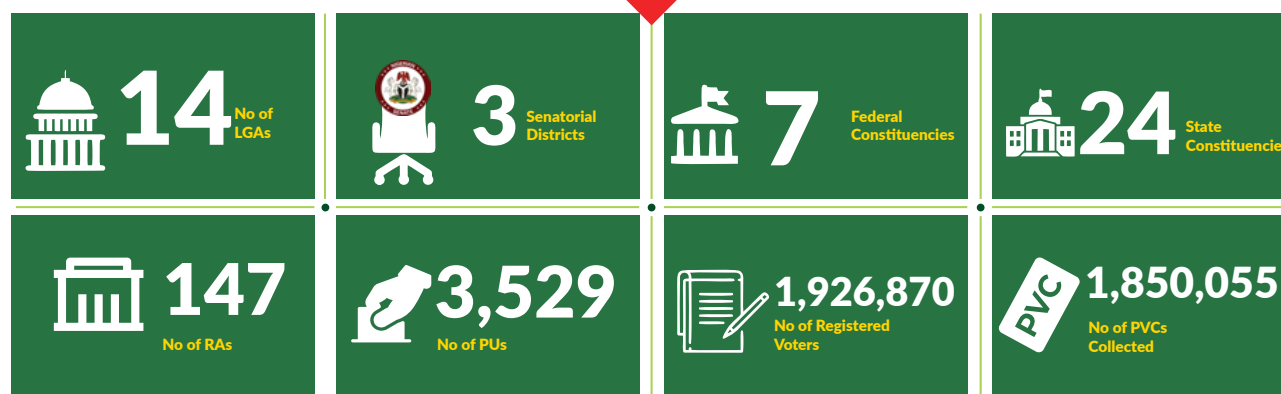
Introduction

Zamfara State is in the Northwest Geo-political Zone of the country with a landmass of 39,762km^2. It has 14 LGAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 7 Federal and 24 State Constituencies, 147 RAs and 3,529 PUs. It has a total of 1,926,870 registered voters, with 1,850,055 collecting their PVCs before A total of 1,850,055 PVCs representing 96% were collected at the time of commencement of 2023 General elections. Zamfara is one of the States in the Federation affected by banditry and kidnappings with the prevalence of IDPs. The Commission in its inclusivity drive came up with the framework for voting by IDPs for the 2019 General Elections. This was revised in 2022 to capture all the States affected by all forms of violence. All the 14 Local Government areas of Zamfara State were affected even though the magnitude varies: Seventy-two (72) Registration Areas and 606 Polling Units were all affected. This

necessitated the creation of 61 IDP Voting Centres across the State.

Pre-Election Activities

Management Meetings and Audit of Electoral Materials

The proactive decision by the Commission to direct State offices to conduct comprehensive audit of sensitive and non-sensitive election material as well as the state of readiness of offices, stores, and halls in the State office and LGA Offices, helped tremendously in ensuring smooth conduct of the 2023 General Election. fs Accordingly, Prior to the Elections, the Management of the INEC Zamfara State had series of meetings with all the HODs, HOUs, EOs/AEOs and relevant Stakeholders on different issues (such as Voter Education, New PUs, Voters Migration, New Technological Innovations, CVR, PVC Collection, IDP Voting and Electoral Procedures having

direct or indirect bearings on the successful conduct of safe, free, fair, credible, inclusive and acceptable General Elections in the State. These helped the State and LGA Offices to identify shortfall in infrastructure and materials, which with the timely intervention of the INEC Headquarters Abuja, were put in place to ensure adequate readiness for storage for new materials and RACs, SRACS and Collation Centres for smooth conduct of the elections. The Management also carried out several audit exercises on all the Electoral Materials received from the Headquarters at the State and the 14 LGA Offices with the State Auditor, HODs, EOs/AEOs and relevant Stakeholders for accuracy and safe keeping.

Election Period

The Presidential and National Assembly Elections were held on the 25th of February 2023. These comprised of the Presidential, three Senatorial Districts and seven members of House of Representatives. At the end of the day, the Presidential Election was successfully collated at the State Headquarters, two of the three Senatorial Districts (Zamfara North and Zamfara West) were declared. Five out of the seven Members of House of Representatives' seats were also successfully declared. However, two seats of Gusau/Tsafe and Gummi/Bukkuyum were not concluded. The major hiccups we faced in this election were late commencement of polls, wilful destruction of election materials by thugs and mix-up of result sheets. These we attributed to late deployment to RACs and activities by political thugs.

The Governorship and State House of Assembly Elections held on the 18th of March 2023, was more promising, after correcting all errors identified in the Presidential and National Assembly Elections of the 25th of February 2023. The Governorship and twenty-four (24) State Assembly elections were held on 18th of March 2023.

Conduct of CVR and PVC Collection

Earlier, the Commission's offices in the State and all the LGAs conducted the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) and Permanent Voter Cards (PVC) Collection Exercises after a lot of Voter Education and awareness activities at the stipulated time in the State. The exercises went on smoothly at the beginning throughout the State not until when the insecurity situation in the State worsened and mobile networks were cut off. That necessitated the indefinite suspension of the exercises in the State. However, the CVR and PVC Collection exercises resumed after the security situation improved at the LGA Headquarters and later expanded to the RA level on rotational basis. There were also Displays of the PVR at the end of different phases of the exercise in all the 14 LGAs and most of the 147 RAs. As at the final suspension of the exercises very close to the 2023 General Elections a total of 1,926,870 Voters were Registered while a total of 1,850,005 PVCs were collected in the State.

Recruitment, Training and Deployment of Electoral Personnel

As the election inched closer, the Commission organized numerous trainings, workshops, and seminars to all categories of staff and relevant stakeholders, to educate

them on new innovations, remind them on the existing processes and procedures, sensitize the general public and to prepare the staff for the main tasks ahead.

The recruitment of all the Ad-hoc Poll Officials was done centrally through the INEC PRESS Portal apart from the Collation and Returning Officers which was done by the office of the Chairman, in liaison with the Heads of Federal Tertiary Institutions in the State. Those posted to Zamfara State were from the Federal University, Gusau and Federal Polytechnic, Kaura Namoda.

The selected personnel, after due screening were subsequently trained, before deployment. Despite the security challenges in the State, we were able to get more than the required number of all the categories of staff. The SPOs and COs were centrally trained in the State capital at Govt. Science Secondary School Gusau while the POs and APOs were trained at the various LGA Headquarters. Those who were successfully trained and selected for the job were finally deployed to the various LGAs, RAs and PUs appropriately.

Party Primaries and Candidates' Nomination Processes

Political parties that sponsored candidates for various positions in the 2023 General Elections conducted their party primaries and nominations which were duly monitored and reported accordingly by the State Office. Generally, the nominations and primaries were carried out successfully in compliance with the laid down guidelines and extant rules stipulated by the Commission and various parties in the country.

Stakeholder Engagements

The State and all the 14 LGA Offices had series of Stakeholders' Engagement with all the relevant Stakeholders such as the Political Parties, Security Agencies (through ICCES), Traditional Rulers, Religious Leaders, Transporters, Media, Observer Groups, PWDs etc. during which deliberations were done on different issues (such as Voter Education, New PUs, New Electoral Act 2022, Voters Migration, RACs/Super RACs, Relocations of PUs/RAs, New Technological Innovations, CVR, PVC Collection, IDP Voting and Electoral Procedure having direct or indirect bearings on the successful conduct of safe, free, fair, credible, inclusive and acceptable 2023 General Elections in the State.

Preparations for the Election

Receipt, Storage and Deployment of Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Materials

Both Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Election Materials were received in good time and in the right quantity. Ballot Papers were supplied based on the number of registered voters. The Sensitive Materials were collected from the CBN Gusau Branch (where they were safely stored) and distributed to all the EOs of the 14 LGAs on Wednesday the 22nd of February 2023 for the Presidential and NASS Election and on Wednesday the 15th of March 2023

for the Governorship and SHA Election in the presence of security personnel, party agents, observers, and members of the press.

The NURTW provided the trucks for the movement of materials amidst security escorts to the LGAs, RACs/Super RACs and to all the PUs as agreed in the MOU with the Commission. There were good storage facilities in the State and all the 14 LGA offices and the RACs/Super RACs were all the deployed materials were safely stored before the Election Day.

Identification, Preparations and Activation of RACs and Super RACs

All the RACs/Super RACs for the 2023 General Elections in the State were identified with relevant Stakeholders and later prepared and activated by the Commission in good time which contributed tremendously towards the overall success of the elections. By the decisions taken at the various ICCES and Stakeholders' meetings, all the PUs and RAs affected by insecurity (banditry and kidnappings etc.) were relocated to safer places with voters' awareness creation prior to the Election Days.

Printing of EVR

The Electronic Voters' Register (EVR) was successfully printed by the ICT/VR Department in good time as required by the Commission and was accordingly used in all the elections conducted in the State.

Logistics Preparations

The State Office under the auspices of the Electoral Operations Department made adequate preparations for the logistics necessarily needed for the smooth conduct of the 2023 General Elections in the State. Consequently, all the electoral materials required were supplied to all the LGAs, RACs/Super RACs and PUs in good condition and at the stipulated time.

Monitoring, Implementation and Support for field Activities

There were effective and constant monitoring, implementation, and support services to the field officers (both the Commission's Staff and Ad-hoc) and their respective activities before, during and after the elections in the State. These were done via a few media such as the Management Team, EMSC DOs and the EOSC Situation Room among others. These yielded many positive impacts and helped in taking drastic actions in resolving most of the issues encountered during the elections especially in the flash points with election disputes and violence.

Conduct of the Election (the 25th of February and the 18th of March 2023)

Opening of Polls

Most (about 80%) of the PUs for both the Presidential/NASS and Governorship/SASS elections were opened at the stipulated time (8:30am) except for those with insecurity and difficult terrain issues in the State. This

greatly assisted in the attainment of the success recorded in the elections especially in the speedy Election Day activities and collations.

The Presidential and National Assembly Elections were held on the 25th of February 2023. These comprised of the Presidential, three Senatorial Districts and seven members of House of Representatives. The Sensitive Materials were brought to the CBN Gusau branch in good time for our inspection and batching. On Wednesday 15th March 2023, all were distributed to the 14 Local Government Areas, in the presence of security operatives, political party representatives, observers and members of the press. As expected, the elections commenced in most Polling Units by 8:30am, and successful declaration of return were made of the 24 Seats of the State Assemblies and that of the Governor. However, there were challenges as well, some of the State Assembly seats were declared at the state office, due to security challenges. The election of the Governor could not be declared until Wednesday, the 22nd of March around 4:00am. We had four RAs in Birnin Magaji Local Government Area, where the major political parties refused to agree to an earlier relocated centres and failed to come up with a workable solution. At the end we had to make declaration without those four RAs because the margin of lead was beyond the PVCs collected in those areas. Again, in Maradun LGA 7 RACOs and the Local Government Collation Officer were abducted, their results were compromised (the report of the LGA collation officer is hereby attached). To have an accurate result, we had to download the PU-by-PU results of the LGA from the IREV Portal.

A Supplementary Election of Zamfara Central Senatorial District, Gusau/Tsafe and Gummi/Bukkuyum Federal Constituencies was conducted on the 15th of April 2023. The Supplementary Election took place in Six (6) LGAs broken down as follows:

a. Zamfara Central senatorial District (Gusau, Tsafe, Bungudu and Maru LGAs) with a total of 83 PUs (including two Split PUs)

b. Gusau/Tsafe Federal Constituency with a total of Sixty-Three (63) PUs

c. Gummi/Bukkuyum Federal Constituency with a total of Seven (7) PUs

All the three seats of the constituencies were finally declared and returned successfully.

Voting Process and Performance of Equipment

The Voting Process was smooth and simplified by the Commission's efforts in Voter Education Activities, Stakeholders' Engagements, New Electoral Act 2022, New PUs, Staff Trainings, Monitoring and Supports and the New Technological Innovations used. The BVAS performed optimally well and assisted in timely accreditation of voters by the poll officials which enhanced the voting process, closure of polls and collations during the elections.

Implementation of Collation and Result Management Process

The Collation and Result Management Processes were mainly implemented following the Commission's guidelines contained in the Election Manuals and the trainings given. The result management (especially in uploading PUs' results) had some glitches with the Commission's server during the Presidential and NAS Elections but was successfully carried out during the Gubernatorial and SHA Elections which greatly assisted the Commission in the final collation and declaration of winner in the Governorship Election in the State.

Operation of the Situation Room and Election Monitoring and Support Centre

The Situation Room for the EOSC and EMSC Operations during the elections performed well and assisted in most of the decisions taken by the Commission and the Security Agencies at all levels.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Election

The challenges we faced during the elections all came because of the general insecurity in the State and the attempts by politicians and contestants to win. Banditry and kidnapping affected our plans, we had to relocate RACS and collation centres, and IDP voting centres had to be created. These generated a lot of complications in logistic arrangement and security of men and materials. Related to the problem of insecurity, in Birnin Magaji one of the worst LGAs affected by banditry, the two major political parties refused to abide by the earlier decision taken at the stakeholders' meeting on IDP Voting Centres in respect

of four (4) RAs out of the ten (10) RAs in the LGA.

Special arrangements for the Army to escort poll officials had to be put in place. This comes with additional cost of fuelling and other sundry issues.

Another serious challenge was the disruption of elections and destruction of election materials especially where there were insufficient security personnel.

The difficulty of some ad-hoc staff in operating the BVAS as well as in filling some of the election forms posed additional challenges.

The proactive decision by the Commission to establish situation room in the State offices has contributed in solving many issues in the field which might otherwise had deteriorated or brought about breakdown of law and order. It has recorded huge success from the flow of between management, contact person, field operation etc.

Reverse Logistics

All non-expendable items have been successfully retrieved from the poll officials, while some are still in the LGA offices. Sensitive materials have been deposited in the State Office. The payment of honoraria has been done successfully. The few complaints of non-payments are being sorted out right now.

12.5 South-East Geo-political Zone

Introduction

The South-East Zone comprises of the following 5 states: Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo. The zone has a landmass of 29, 525 km2, with 95 LGAs, 1,246 RAs, 21,631 PUs, and 10.907,606 registered voters. With the total number of PVCs collected standing at 10,401,484 before the GE, the zone had an overall PVC collection rate of 95% as shown in table 12.4 below.

S/N	State	LGAs	SDs	FCs	SCs	RAs	PUs	Reg. Voters	PVCs Collected	Km2
	Table 12.5: Delimitation Data for the South-East Geo-Political Zone on State-by-State Basis									
1	Abia	17	3	8	24	184	4,062	2,120,808	1,949,197	6,320
2	Anambra	21	3	11	30	326	5,720	2,656,437	2,624,764	4,844
3	Ebonyi	13	3	6	24	171	2,946	1,597,646	1,551,795	5,670
4	Enugu	17	3	8	24	260	4,145	2,112,793	1,995,389	7,161
5	Imo	27	3	10	27	305	4,758	2,419,922	2,280,339	5,530
	Totals	**95**	**15**	**43**	**129**	**1,246**	**21,631**	**10,907,606**	**10,401,484**	**29,525**

12.5.1
Abia State
Capital City: Umuahia

Clement Oha
Admin Sec. Abia State

Delimitation Data

17 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**8** Federal Constituencies	**24** State Constituencies
184 No of RAs	**4,062** No of PUs	**2,120,808** No of Registered Voters	**1,949,197** No of PVCs Collected
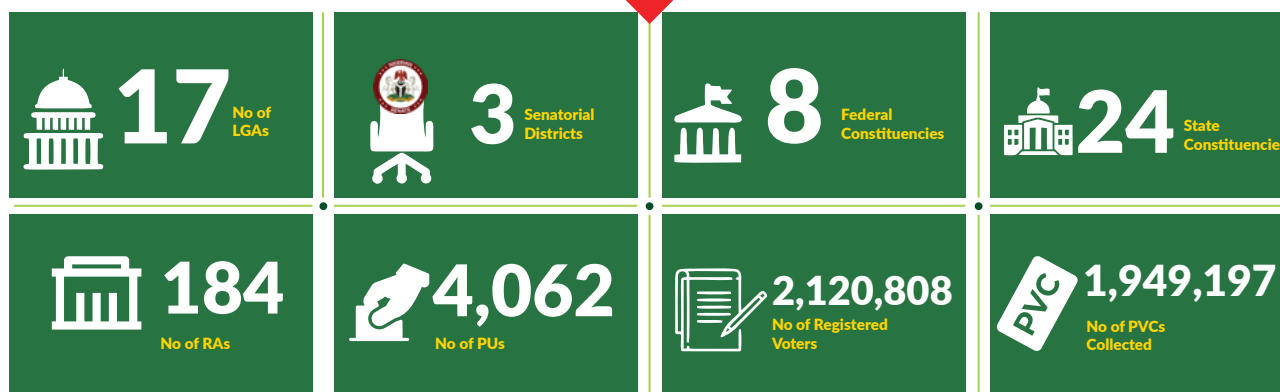
Introduction

Abia state in South-East Nigeria was created on 27th August, 1991 out of the old Imo State. Abia state is dominated by two major ethnic groups- the Ngwa ethnic group and Ohafia ethnic group. Ngwa occupied 9 Local Government Areas (LGAs) out of the 17 LGAs. Abia state has a landmass of 6,320 km2. It has 3 Senatorial Districts, 8 Federal and 24 State Constituencies, 184 RAs and 4,062 PUs. There were 2,120,808 registered voters as at the time of the elections of which 1,949,197 had collected their PVCs. Abia people are of the Igbo ethnic group; hence, their language is Igbo. The Presidential and National Assembly Election and Governorship and State Houses of Assembly Election took place in Abia state on the 25th of February 2023 and the 18th of March 2023 respectively. The election took place in 4050 polling units, out of a total of 4,062 polling units in the state, as 12 polling units had zero registrants after the voter migration exercise.

Pre-Election Activities

Abia state participated fully in all the pre-election activities:

a. meetings were held with Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), traditional rulers, religious leaders, Community Based Organizations, Faith Based Organizations, MDAs and political party stakeholders both at the LGAs and State Headquarters.

b. CVR and PVC collection including display of Voter's Register was observed in Abia state.

c. Recruitment of electoral personnel was conducted, with SPOs training on 10th February, 2023 followed by the training of the Collation Officers, Returning Officers and training of the security personnel on election activities.

d. Political party primaries activities were monitored strictly based on the guidelines and the 2023 electoral act.

e. Stakeholders were engaged before and during the elections.

Preparations for the Election

The training of SPOs, held at Bishop Nwedo Pastoral Centre Umuahia on 11th and 12th February 2023. The training of Collation Officers took place at Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike, Umuahia while the training of the RATECHS was coordinated by the HOD ICT. The participants were drawn from the INEC PRES list sent from the Headquarters. Similarly, RACs and SRAC were fully prepared for the election, just as logistic preparations for both the presidential and governorship elections were fully deployed and monitored from the State Office, CBN, to the LGAs and down to the Polling Units. Electoral activities were monitored through the EMSC Dashboard, with the ERM, EMS, EOSC and I-SANS constituting critical components. Configuration and deployment of accreditation devices (EVR, VR, and BVAS) were done and monitored through the ICT/VR department.

Conduct of the Election (the 25th of February and the 18th of March)

Personnel and materials were deployed on time, following our early training and training activities with cooperation from the security agencies, academic institutions and NYSC in Abia state.

The Presidential and National Assembly Election started on the 25th of February 2023 on a shaky note because of difficulties encountered with respect to the provision of vehicles by the two transport unions approved by the Commission. The office rallied round and with the co-operation of the HODs and EOs, the election turned out to be a huge success. Though there were some hiccups and hitches in some RAs, no local government was significantly affected negatively. Results of the election were declared in the three (3) Senatorial Districts and Eight (8) House of Representative constituencies.

The Governorship and State House of Assembly Election took place on the 18th of March 2023. In all ramifications, it was a better organized election in terms of both the operations and logistics. The election was, however, almost marred by late arrival of vehicles from the two transport unions engaged by the Commission and in some cases, short supply of vehicles earmarked for the LGA. However, the situation was saved by the deployment of office vehicles and engagement of some private vehicle owners.

Most of the materials used for the elections (such as the BVAS machines, generators, etc.), were returned to the state headquarters but, the ballot boxes were kept in the LGA offices.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Election

The election was substantially peaceful. However, there were pockets of electoral malfeasance in few LGAs. The non or late provision of vehicles was the major issue that almost marred the election, but this was eventually resolved, and the state had a successful election without any supplementary. The state however lost 25 BVAS machines.

12.5.2
Anambra State
Capital City: Awka

Mrs Queen Elizabeth Agwu
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Anambra State

Delimitation Data

21 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts
11 Federal Constituencies	**30** State Constituencies
326 No of RAs	**5,720** No of PUs
2,656,437 No of Registered Voters	**2,624,764** No of PVCs Collected
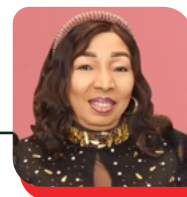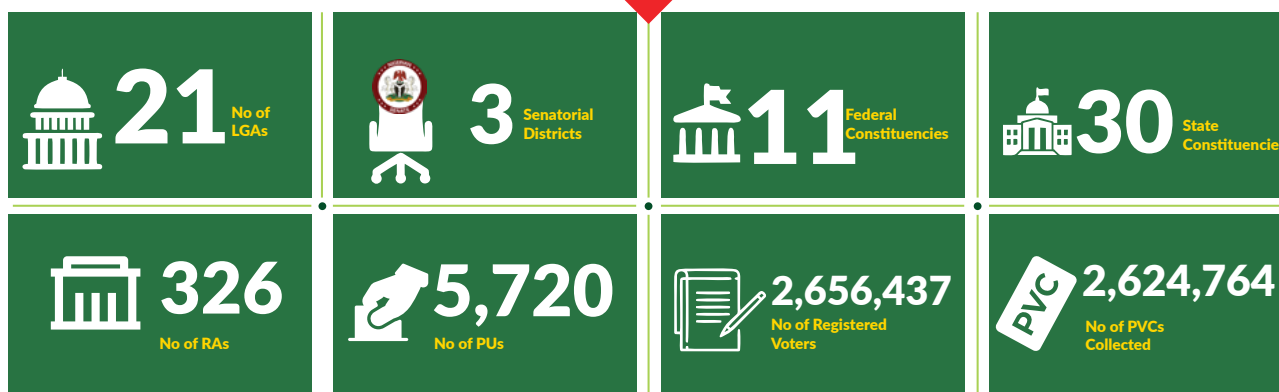
Introduction

Anambra state is one of the five states in the South-East geo-political zone of Nigeria. Its capital is Awka while Onitsha and Nnewi are its major trading cities. It shares boundaries with Kogi state to the north, Enugu state to the east, Imo, Abia and Rivers states to the south, and Delta state to the west. Majority of the people of Anambra state are Igbo by tribe. The state has a total land area of 4,844 km2 spreading across 21 local government areas (LGAs). Anambra has 3 Senatorial Districts, 11 Federal Constituencies and 30 State Constituencies. There are 5,720 PUs spread across 326 RAs. There were 2,656,437 registered voters with 2,624,764 voters collecting their PVCs.

Pre-Election Activities

In line with INEC calendar for 2023 General Election, the Commission engaged in some activities before the Election Day. These activities included Continuous Voter Registration (CVR), conduct of party congresses and primaries, monitoring of campaign expenses of candidates, voter education and publicity, training of ad-hoc workers and repair/renovation of infrastructure.

Continuous Voter Registration Exercise

The Commission recommenced the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) throughout the federation on the 28th of June 2022. However, Anambra state and some other states that conducted off-season gubernatorial elections started the Continuous Voter Registration process earlier. The period for Continuous Voter Registration was extended twice and later ended on the 31st of July 2022 to enable

the Commission conclude arrangements for the printing and distribution of permanent voters' cards. To ensure that the CVR exercise was executed properly in the state, the staff were trained on the use of the INEC Voter Enrolment Device (IVED) to carry out the Continuous Voter Registration exercise. They were also trained on Permanent Voters Card (PVC) issuance.

Following the successful voter registration exercise, INEC Anambra state embarked on intensive PVC issuance in the LGA offices and later in the Registration Area Camps, to ensure that the registered voters received their PVCs before the election.

For the 2023 General Election, a total of 2,656,437 voters registered in the state and a total of 2,624,764 permanent voters' cards were collected.

Political Party Activities

INEC State Office in Anambra state monitored the Senatorial, House of Representatives, and State Assembly primaries of fifteen political parties in the state. Although the timetable and schedule of activities for the 2023 General Election indicated the period of primaries, most of the political parties pushed the date of their primaries towards the closing date of the exercise. The department of Elections and Party Monitoring (EPM) worked closely with departments of Legal, Voter Education and Publicity (VEP), General Administration and Procurement (GAP) as well as staff of the Local Government Area Offices of the Commission to monitor the party primaries in the state with the deployment of over 100 monitors.

Training and General Staff Development

Several training sessions took place to prepare the staff for the polls. The trainings carried out included:

a. Training for PVC management and collection

b. EMSC workshop for HODs

c. INECPRES Technical training for Electoral Operations HODs and State Trainers

d. PVC Collection/Voter Migration training for HODs ICT and Electoral Operations.

e. Technical Workshop for HODs of Electoral operations/ICT

f. Master Trainers/TOT training workshop for HOD ICT, State Trainer and Assistant State Trainer

g. Pre-Election Training Assessment for HODs of Electoral Operations, ICT, State Trainers, and Assistant State Trainers.

h. IDP camp Polling Units Training for RECs, HODs, and Electoral Operations

i. Election Security Personnel training

j. Training of Ad-hoc Staff.

Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Electoral Material

Non sensitive materials for the conduct of the elections were received in batches through the Commission's Zonal store at

Owerri. Among the materials received were Ballot boxes, voting cubicles, sleeping mats, election bags, aprons, generators, etc. INEC Anambra state began distribution of non-sensitive materials in mid-December 2022. While materials for 16 local government areas were conveyed to the INEC LGA offices for batching, those for 5 local government areas namely Anambra West, Idemili South, Ihiala, Nnewi South and Ogbaru were batched at the state office due to the insecurity. They were subsequently delivered to the LGAs on February 21, 2022 - four days to the Presidential/National Assembly elections.

The sensitive materials arrived the Central Bank Awka in three batches. The first batch contained materials for Presidential and National Assembly elections and was cross-checked by officials of the INEC state office on the 17th of February 2023.

Configuration of the BVAS Machine

Due to the security situation in Anambra state, configuration of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) machine was carried out at INEC headquarters, Abuja with the support of the ICT Anambra State staff from the 2nd of February 2023 to the 19th of February 2023. All the configured BVAS machines numbering five thousand eight hundred and ninety-two (5,892) arrived the state on Tuesday 21st of February 2023 and were subsequently deployed to the various local government areas of the state on Friday, February 24, 2023. In addition to the configured machines, four hundred and four (404) BVAS machines were also delivered to the state as backup. At the end of all the elections, after due diligence was

taken to effect reverse logistics, a total of thirteen (13) BVAS machines were found to be missing because of electoral violence.

A total of 21 Local Government Area technicians (LGA Techs) and 342 Registration Area technical support (RA Techs) staff were engaged, trained, and deployed for the 2023 General Election in Anambra state. Reports from across the state showed that the performance of the BVAS machines was at optimum level throughout the elections.

Identification, Preparation and Activation of RACs and SRACs

Preparation of RACs began with the verification of the status of these centres, with a view to determining their usability. Based on what was observed during the verification, some RACs which were located at inhospitable environments were relocated to more conducive places. The Electoral Officers were given the responsibility of appointing RAC managers and engaging Heads of Schools (where the RAC is in a school) or such other official responsibility for the facility in overseeing the safety of the materials kept at the RACs. The Commission hired a total of 2,063 vehicles for 2023 elections in the state. This provision was however grossly inadequate to take care of the transportation needs given the high-level insecurity in the state. Consequently, the state office had to look inwards to make up for the shortfall. The total number of vehicles used for the elections in Anambra state was 4,549. Hiring of the vehicles followed the procedure contained in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the Commission and three main transport unions – the National Union

of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), the National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO) and Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN).

Monitoring, Implementation and Support for Field Activities

The Commission in the state activated its Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC). The EMSC dashboard was set up to show level of activities as part of preparations for the 2023 General Election in Anambra state. The centre also served as a platform for quick response to any unforeseen operational and logistical challenges on the election-day. The EMSC played a third role of tracking all forms of threats to the election. On the Election Day, the EMSC operated as a Situation Room with dedicated phone lines where members of the public were encouraged to call-in to report incidents of which they would require intervention.

Conduct of the Election

Despite the initial hitches from the late deployment and arrival of some Supervisory Presiding Officers (SPOs), and the control of the Police/other security agencies on the time of movement of the sensitive materials to the Local Government Areas on February 25, 2023, the state was still able to deploy in most Local Government Areas. However, elections could not hold in 45 (Forty-Five) Polling Units in Ogbaru LGA. This affected the outcome of the elections for Ogbaru Federal Constituency which was declared inconclusive because of the low margin of lead. A supplementary election was held

for the constituency by the Commission on April 15, 2023.

There was effective reverse logistics. All the BVAS for the election were safely returned for the first election. Though violence led to the destruction of some ballot boxes in Ayamelum LGA during the presidential election, they were replaced and the activities during that election were effectively reviewed, which led to an optimal performance in the 18th of March 2023 State Assembly Election.

The state was able to deploy to the Super RACs in most Local Government Areas, during the 18th of March 2023 State House of Assembly election in Anambra State. Due to the very high insecurity level in Ihiala local government area, all security agencies strongly warned against deployment in the seven (7) registration areas where the inhabitants have been displaced by unknown gunmen. As a result of this, no election was conducted in the affected registration areas. The Electoral Officers effectively supervised reverse logistics and the sensitive electoral materials were secured. The returns of the election were also made. No constituency was declared inconclusive.

Issues and Challenges

Some of the issues and challenges associated with the 2023 elections in Anambra state are as follows:

a. Due to the activities of unknown gunmen, there was no election in some Units and Registration Areas in Ihiala LGA;

b. Buses supplied by some vendors were below the required capacity;

c. Failure to stamp, sign and date the ballot papers by some Presiding Officers, and non-striking off "not contested" in some result sheets of some Polling Units where elections were actually contested; and

d. Late deployment/non deployment of ad hoc staff and electoral materials to some Registration Areas and Units in Ogbaru LGA by the Electoral Officer, leading to supplementary election in the area.

12.5.3
Ebonyi State
Capital City: Abakaliki

Onyeka Pauline Ugochi
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Ebonyi State

Delimitation Data

13 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts
6 Federal Constituencies	**24** State Constituencies
171 No of RAs	**2,946** No of PUs
1,597,646 No of Registered Voters	**1,551,795** No of PVCs Collected
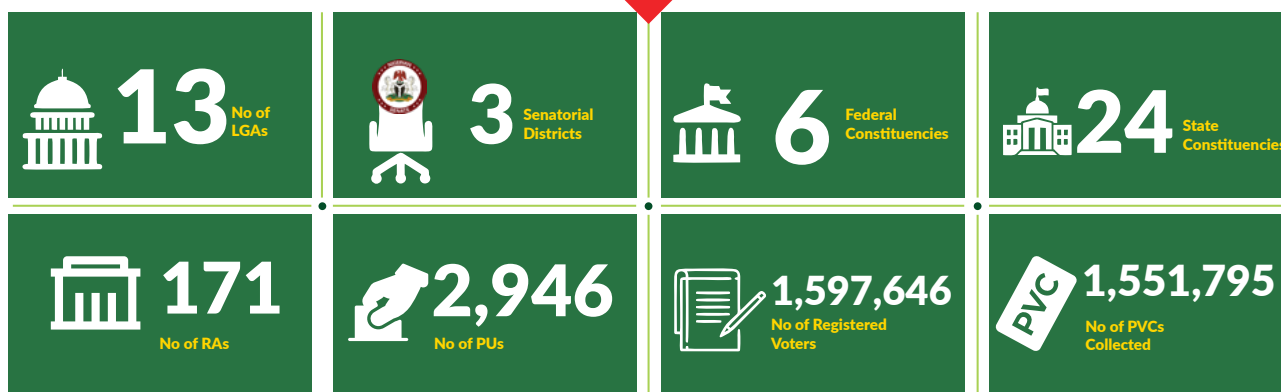
Introduction

Ebonyi state with the acronym "Salt of the Nation" was created on 1st October 1996 with its capital at Abakaliki. The state was created from the old Abakaliki Division of Enugu state and old Afikpo Division of Abia state. It shares boundaries with Enugu state at the west, Benue state to the north, Cross River state to the east and Abia state to the south. It has a land area of about 5,670 km2. With 13 LGAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 6 Federal and 24 State Constituencies, 171 RAs and 2,946 PUs, the total number of registered voters in the State at the time of the election was 2,656,437, while 2,624,764 had collected their PVCs.

According to the 2006 population census, Ebonyi state had 2,173,501 inhabitants. It is inhabited mostly by Igbo speaking group and it is one of the states that make up the South-East geo-political zone. The state is made up of 13 Local Government Areas viz: Abakaliki, Afikpo North, Afikpo South, Ebonyi, Ezza North, Ezza South, Ikwo, Ishielu, Ivo, Izzi, Ohaozara, Ohaukwu and Onicha. The people are politically conscious and enlightened.

Pre-Election Activities

Planning Activities

Series of management meetings were held by members of management, which was chaired by the Resident Electoral Commissioner. The meetings held to articulate rules and guidelines for the operations of the Commission in the state and get members acquainted with the commission's decisions, activities and policies/programmes on the electoral processes in preparations for the 2023 General Election.

Inventory/Audit of Election Materials

A Committee on the identification of sensitive and non-sensitive election materials required for the conduct of the 2023 General Election in the state was set up by the Management. The membership of the committee was drawn from Departments and Local Government Areas (LGAs), and Electoral Officers in the state. The committee was required to identify election materials needed for the conduct of the 2023 General Election and determine the following from the state and the Local Government Area (LGA) Electoral Officers:

i.   List of materials;

ii.   Quantity of each election materials required for the elections;

iii. Quantity available;

iv.   Quantity in good condition;

v.   Shortfalls; and

vi.   Recommendations.

CVR and PVC Collection Exercise

The CVR and PVC collection exercise in preparation for 2023 General Election commenced in Ebonyi state on the 28th of June 2021. The exercise was suspended on the 31st of July 2022 in accordance with the provision of the 2010 Electoral Act (as amended). In compliance with INEC Guidelines, the display and clean-up of the Register of Voters was conducted from the 12th to the 25th of November 2022 in the state. The exercise took place in all the 171 Registration Areas in the state as directed by the Commission.

Training

The training exercise for the 2023 General Election went well as planned by the Commission in Ebonyi state. The various categories or levels of training were done on those dates scheduled by the Commission. The deployment of ad-hoc staff was seamless. There was no shortage of personnel in any of the elections. Payment of ad-hoc staff had no challenge apart from those that submitted wrong account details which the account department made efforts to rectify.

Political Party Activities

Eighteen (18) political parties conducted primaries which were monitored by the Commission within the stipulated time. Hence, they submitted themselves to the process of nomination of candidates for the Elections as provided by law. Political party campaigns commenced in the state after the release of the Elections timetable. The Presidential and National Assembly campaigns commenced on the 28th of September 2022 while the Governorship and State Houses of Assembly started on the 12th of October, 2022 in line with the provision of the Electoral Act 2022. In furtherance of the need for violent-free elections, the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) organized a Peace Accord for all candidates and political parties that participated in the elections in Ebonyi state on the 13th of February 2023. Essentially, all the parties

endorsed the Peace Accord and pledged to play strictly by the rules.

Stakeholder Engagements

In preparations for the 2023 General Election, INEC Ebonyi state collaborated with identified stakeholders including the media outfits for the reportage and sensitization on the Commission's activities all through the elections, for guided information of the public. The state office also partnered with the electorate, party leaders, traditional rulers, religious leaders, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Community-Based Organizations, Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs), Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and International Development Partners, among other stakeholders in electoral process in the state. This partnership-built confidence and trust of the stakeholders in the Commission's activities, towards the conduct of free, fair, credible, and inclusive elections in the state. Town/Village Hall Meetings were also organized at relevant levels and at various stages of the electioneering process to enlighten, inform, educate, and mobilize the public in identifying and participating in the Commission's activities in the state.

Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Electoral Materials

The non-sensitive electoral materials were received and deployed to Local Government Areas in good time in readiness for the 2023 General Election. The batching of sensitive election materials from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Abakaliki Branch took days. At the end of the batching, the sensitive materials were distributed to the Local

Government Area Electoral Offices forty-eight (48) hours before the elections. Security Agencies in the state monitored the batching and armed security agents escorted the sensitive materials and INEC officials to the various Local Government Area Electoral Offices in the state. Political parties witnessed the batching, distribution, and delivery processes of the materials through their state party agents.

Logistics, Preparation and Activation of RACs and SRACs

The Registration Area Camps (RACs) for the 13 LGAs in the state were identified early enough and adequate preparations and activation made. Adequate facilities in the RACs were put in place before they were activated on the 22nd of February and the 15th of March 2023 for the elections.

A transport strategy plan was developed, which involved the engagement with the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) and National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO), Ebonyi State Branch. The engagement involved signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with these transport associations after series of meetings with their executives and some members for the provision of sound and adequate number of vehicles to the Commission for the 2023 General Election in the state.

Configuration of BVAS

The ICT Department was able to configure and deploy all the devices for the 2023 General Election. The Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS), Electronic

Voter Register (EVR) and Voter Register (VR) were ready in real time for the elections.

Conduct of Elections

The men and materials needed to be used for 2023 General Election were deployed on or before eve of the Elections. Both personnel and materials for the elections were complete. However, some of the Transport Union members violated the signed MoU while few of them obeyed the signed contract. The disappointment of the Transport Union was mostly observed during the Presidential and National Assembly elections but was better, after serious warning by the Commission during the Governorship and State Assembly elections. There were many dishonest people among the transport union.

Opening of Polls

From the reports received from the various LGAs in the state, voting and accreditation commenced in most of the polling units at 8:30am on the days of elections throughout the state. The process went simultaneously throughout the Two thousand, nine hundred and forty-six (2,946) polling units in the state.

The procedure of voting adopted in all the elections in the state was Continuous Accreditation and Voting System (CAVS). Report received from Electoral Officers indicated that generally, voting was smooth except in some polling units where BVAS failed to function due to:

a. Poor network

b. Defective communication

c. Lack of SIM card among others.

The RATECHs and LATECHs were on ground to attend to most of these challenges to allow accreditation to continue in the affected polling units. They were indeed up and doing as they offered the desired assistance where and when necessary.

Collation and Result Management System

Collation of Election results at all levels was successfully conducted. Collation Officers were sourced from approved sources, recruited, trained, and deployed for collation as expected. The outcome of the elections was announced, and winners were declared by the Returning Officers, who followed due process as required by relevant Electoral laws in doing so. The winners were presented with Certificate of Return on the 29th of March and the 16th of April 2023 respectively by the Independent National Electoral Commission, Ebonyi state.

Operation of the Situation Room and Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC)

The Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC) operated optimally in the whole state during the election period including LGAs, RAs, Collation Centres, RACs and polling units. The process gave the broad-eye view of the actual monitoring of the 2023 General Election in the state including monitoring, tracking, identifying

risk, reporting, batching and deployment of sensitive and non-sensitive election materials and as well as election personnel. The EMSC process hinged on reaching the six contact persons appointed by the Commission to supply information on the activities in and around the designated activity areas within the state on Election Day. The election officials supplied the needed information to the contact persons who in turns informed EOSC for further information to the Desk Officer for onward upload to the EMSC dashboard.

The 2023 General Election Situation Room was activated on the 23rd of February 2023 for Presidential and National Assembly and the 18th of March 2023 for Governorship and State Assembly elections. The EOSC Data Administrators uploaded the compliance and threat matrix data from the activity areas hourly. The information so gathered was analysed following approved process in sending it to the EMSC dashboard

as required with the approval from the REC.

Reverse Logistics

All men and materials sent to the field for 2023 General Election were duly brought back to their various offices except those materials destroyed in the field during the elections.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Elections

Violence and disruption of electoral processes, holding election staff hostage, usage and non-usage of BVAS, and some cases of destruction of BVAS were some the challenges encountered during the elections in the state. There were reported cases of violence in the following Local Government Areas during 2023 General Election: Abakaliki, Afikpo North, Afikpo South, Ezza North, Ikwo, and which attracted supplementary election in the affected LGAs.

12.5.4
Enugu State
Capital City: Enugu

Dr. Chukwuemeka Chukwu
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Enugu State

Delimitation Data

17 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**8** Federal Constituencies	**24** State Constituencies
260 No of RAs	**4,145** No of PUs	**2,112,793** No of Registered Voters	**1,995,389** No of PVCs Collected
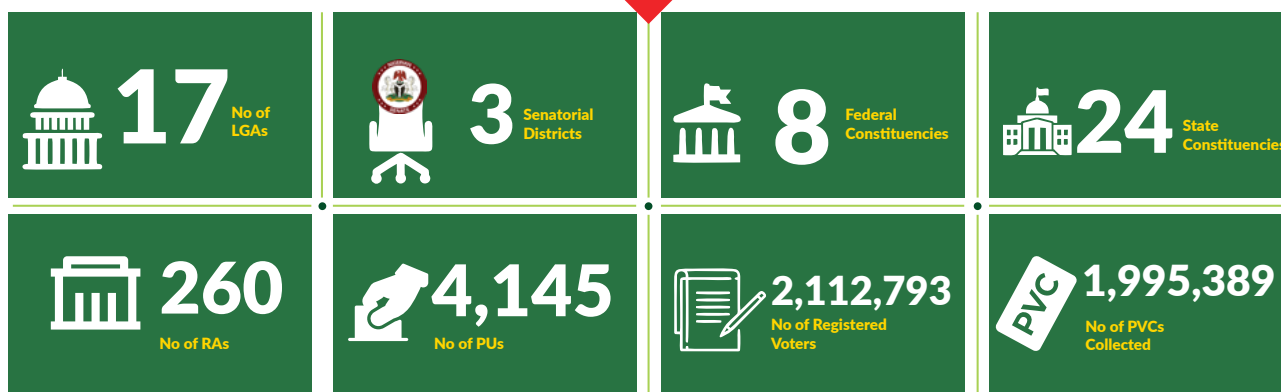
Introduction

Enugu state is in the eastern part of Nigeria, at the foot of the Udi Mountain, in the country's South-East geo-political zone, with a landmass of 7,161 km2. The people are hospitable, educated and politically enlightened. The state shares common boundaries with Imo and Abia states towards the south, Ebonyi state towards the east, Benue and Kogi states towards the north and Anambra state towards the west. The name of the state is derived from its capital city, Enugu meaning "Enu-ugwu" that is, "Top of the hill". It was created in August 1991, out of the old Anambra state. The people are predominantly Igbo speaking. Enugu is generally known and always referred to as the "Coal city" possibly because of the large deposit of coal mineral across the land.

Enugu state has 17 Local Government Areas (LGAs), 3 Senatorial Districts, 8 Federal and 24 State Constituencies, 260 RAs and 4,145 PUs. Enugu State has 2,120,808 registered voters of which 1,949,197 had collected their PVCs.

Pre-Election Activities

Prior to the conduct of 2023 General Election, a lot of activities were carried out in preparation for the exercise. At the preparatory stage, the staff fully participated in the Training of Trainers (ToT) for ASTOs, LGTOs and ICT, etc., held from the 28th – the 29th of November 2022 and the 20th – the 23rd of December 2022. There were series of management meetings for the purpose of planning the 2023 election.

Conduct of CVR and PVC Collection Exercise

The Continuous Voter Registration Exercise (CVR) commenced on the 28th of June 2021 across the state. It started with the online process and finally ended on the 31st of July 2022. The exercise provided opportunity for eligible citizens who just turned 18 years and above to register as voters. Also, those who could not register in the previous exercises for one reason or the other were equally captured during the period. The CVR exercise was conducted in phases. There was also a final display of the preliminary register of voters and Collection of Permanent Voters Card (PVC) from the 12th – the 25th of November 2022. After the CVR exercise, the total voting strength rose to 2,112,793 while a total of 1,995,389 PVCs were collected.

Electoral Personnel

The recruitment process for the ad hoc personnel commenced with the online applications via the INEC portal. Screening of the applicants was conducted from the 19th – the 22nd of January 2023 at the Senatorial Zone Centres. The turnout was poor due to fear and threats of insecurity by unknown gunmen. Also, the scarcity of fuel and cash (currency) frustrated movements at that time. However, other manual applicants were engaged to make up for the shortfalls after training. A total of 428 SPOs were deployed after training.

Political Party Primaries and Nomination Process

In line with the extant rules and regulations and as accommodated by the Commission's guidelines, the 18 political parties conducted their primaries/nomination of candidates between the 8th of May – the 9th of June 2022. Accordingly, the Commission's staff, coordinated by the EPM Department were deployed to the respective venues to monitor the exercise.

Reports indicated that most of the political parties adopted the open-secret balloting for the primaries. A few others applied what was termed "Consensus" or "Affirmation" by voice votes or raising up hands. On a general note, the conduct of primaries/nomination processes was rancour-free and in line with their party rules.

Stakeholder Engagements

In the build-up to the 2023 General Election, interactive meetings were held with stakeholders, development partners (EU, AU, and ECOWAS Missions, IFES, etc.), political parties, traditional/religious leaders, Civil Society Groups, Town Unions, etc., at different intervals. Also, there were media briefings and engagement meetings with the heads of security agencies under the auspices of Inter-Agency Consultative Committee of Election Security (ICCES). At the meetings, the Resident Electoral Commission (REC) briefed the participants on the level of preparedness for the 2023 General Election. The REC equally used the opportunity to sensitize the electorates on the election processes especially, the introduction of BVAS and need to register as voters and collect their PVCs. The support and collaboration of the stakeholders were equally solicited to ensure success at the elections.

Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Electoral Materials

Before the supply of sensitive and non-sensitive electoral materials to the state office, an inventory of available items was conducted. The logistics store at the state office and LGA offices were decongested in preparation for the receipt of materials for the 2023 General Election. Items of Non-economic value were destroyed following a directive from the headquarters. By the 4th of February 2023, the state had received bulk of the non-sensitive electoral materials from the Zonal Store, Owerri. Some of the items included ballot boxes, voting cubicles, generators, sleeping mats, marker pens, stamps, forms and posters, booklets, etc.

The sensitive materials (ballot papers and result booklets) were delivered from INEC headquarters to the Central Bank of Nigeria, Enugu (CBN) for warehousing. The shortfalls in all the electoral materials were received and confirmed to be in their right quantity and quality before final deployment to the field in the presence of security and political party agents.

Identification/Preparation and Activation of RACs and SRACs

The Electoral Officers identified suitable venues to be used for camping of ad hoc personnel on the eve of Election Day. The assessment of the RACs and SRACs to confirm their suitability was conducted on the 18th of November 2022 and supervised by staff from the headquarters. The non – sensitive materials were moved to the LGAs from the 12th of February 2023 after security men and measures were put in place. All the RACs were prepared for the election, but in some LGAs, the activation was restricted to only SRACs based on security advice.

Logistics Preparations: Transportation Plans, Procurement, and Implementation of MoU

The arrangement for movement of men and materials were perfected through the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the leadership of NURTW & NARTO. Several meetings were held with the leadership of the transport unions in Enugu state but specifically on the 23rd of February 2023 the final agreements were reached on the modalities for providing a total of 2,734 vehicles for the election activities. Payment for the services was successfully implemented as provided by the Commission and in the MoU.

Monitoring, Implementation and Support for Field Activities

Preparatory activities and the proper conduct of the 2023 General Election was successfully carried out through effective monitoring. The EMSC tools were applied to track implementation. Also, the commission deployed monitors and supervisors who supported field activities to ensure success.

Mock accreditation was done to determine the efficiency and functionality of the BVAS for accreditation purposes before the election. The exercise was conducted in 12 PUs selected across the 3 senatorial zones in the state. The BVAS performance was optimal.

Configuration and Deployment of Accreditation Devices (EVR, VR and BVAS)

INEC Enugu state deployed a total of 4,625 BVAS including back-ups to the field for the purpose of accreditation and result upload. Prior to the conduct of the election (Presidential/NASS), the ICT staff went to HQs in Abuja to configure the BVAS from the 2nd – the 11th of February 2023. Eventually, the state received the BVAS on the 21st of February 2023, few days to the election, possibly because of reported cases of attack on INEC facilities in the state. Also, the printing of Electronic Voters Registers (EVR) was completed in real time and deployed to LGAs alongside the BVAS from the 23rd – the 24th of February 2023. For the governorship and state house of assembly elections, the configuration of BVAS was concluded by the 12th of March 2023.

Conduct of the Elections (the 25th of February, the 18th of March & the 15th of April)

Deployment of Personnel and Materials

The personnel and materials for the conduct of the 2023 General Election were deployed to the polling units on real time and in their right quality and number. The SPOs, POs/APOs, CSRVs, RATECHs and all the materials needed for the elections were camped at the RACs for ease of movement to PUs in the morning of Election Day.

Supplementary Election – 15th April 2023 (Oji River Constituency)

A supplementary election was held at PU 001, Oji-River II RA, in Oji-River LGA. The PU result of the State House of Assembly election held on the 18th of March 2023 was cancelled due to over voting. Unfortunately, the margin of lead was lower than the total PVCs collected in that PU and for that reason, the constituency result was declared inconclusive. But the supplementary election was successful.

Performance of NURTW and NARTO

During the 25th of February 2023 elections, the transport unions performed below expectation. The vehicles and drivers delayed the movement of personnel in some LGAs due to late arrival. Unfortunately, they complained of difficulty in getting fuel and threat of insecurity. However, their performance was much better during the election of the 18th of March 2023.

Opening/Closing of Polls, Accreditation and Election Security Architecture

On a general note, most of the PUs opened for election by 8.30am. However, in a few areas, especially during the Presidential/ National Assembly election, the polls commenced a bit late. Accreditation and voting were conducted simultaneously. The performance of the BVAS on a general note was satisfactory. A few reported cases of malfunction were rectified by the RATECHs.

Arrangements for provision of security was properly done. Due to heightened tension and threats of insecurity in the entire zone, a combination of 13 armed officers from different security personnel were deployed to each LGA and the state office some weeks before the election. They remained for few weeks after the elections. Also on Election Day, the security officers were available, but the number was inadequate to cover the entire PUs as provided by the Commission.

Collation and Results Management System

The procedure for collation and management of results at the end of the polls was clearly stated in the guidelines for the conduct of 2023 General Election. The presiding officers were provided with necessary materials including rechargeable lanterns and battery in the event of late conclusion of polls. Also, the RA collation centres were properly identified and publicized. At the LGA level, the collation took place at INEC offices while the state collation hall was prepared for state level. After the sorting and counting at the polling unit (PU), the presiding officers took the completed EC8A forms to the RA collation officer who then submitted the (EC8B) to the LGA collation (EC8C) for their movement to the State Collation Officer (EC8D) or the Constituency Returning Officer (as the case may be) for final declaration.

The process for collation and management of results was carefully implemented in all the elections. The RA collation officers confirmed the record of accredited voters in the BVAS before establishing cases of over-

voting. Also, the appropriate forms EC4OG were completed, stating the reason(s) and other details where cancellation of the election results occurred. Again, before declaration of constituency results, the margin of lead and total number of registered voters/collected PVCs in the affected areas were taken into account.

Operation of the Situation Room and Election Management and Support Centre (EMSC)

In the Situation Room, the EMSC and other supporting tools were fully operational during the elections. Activities of EOSC commenced effectively from deployment to the RAC through the Election Days and reverse logistics. The Situation Room came alive on the Election Days while EMSC activities started from the preparatory stages. All these centres were helpful in tracking, monitoring, and supporting the election activities to its successful conclusion.

Retrieval of men and materials from the field was successfully carried out. The electoral officers in collaboration with the SPOs, POs and security personnel ensured that electoral materials were retrieved from the PUs back to the LGA offices. Furthermore, the EC8 series (Result Sheets) were returned to the state office for safety reasons and to fast track the processing of CTC by the legal department.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Election

A lot of issues and challenges were thrown up by the 2023 General Election in the

state. These include the following:

a. Incessant attacks of INEC facilities by unknown gunmen prior to the election of 25th February, 2023;

b. The scarcity of fuel and policy of change in currency frustrated the movement of voters, ad hoc personnel, vehicle operators, etc.;

c. Failure of IPMAN/NNPC fuel arrangement delayed the arrival of hired vehicles for movement of men and materials;

d. Poor network service or failure of BVAS to upload results necessitated the attacks and hostage-taking of ad hoc staff by unknown hoodlums;

e. There were cases of violence, thuggery, snatching of BVAS and destruction of election process which affected two PUs each in Awgu and Aninri LGA, six PUs in Udenu LGA, one PU each in Igboetiti and Nsukka LGAs, and few other areas;

f. Insufficient time for proper training and re-training of ad-hoc personnel;

g. Nonchalant attitude of vehicle drivers and some security agents;

h. Inadequate security personnel at the PUs; and

i. Insufficient funds for effective implementation of electoral activities especially the management of security challenges.

12.5.5
Imo State
Capital City: Imo

Sylvia Uchenna Agu
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Imo State

Delimitation Data

27 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**10** Federal Constituencies	**27** State Constituencies
305 No of RAs	**4,758** No of PUs	**2,419,922** No of Registered Voters	**2,280,339** No of PVCs Collected
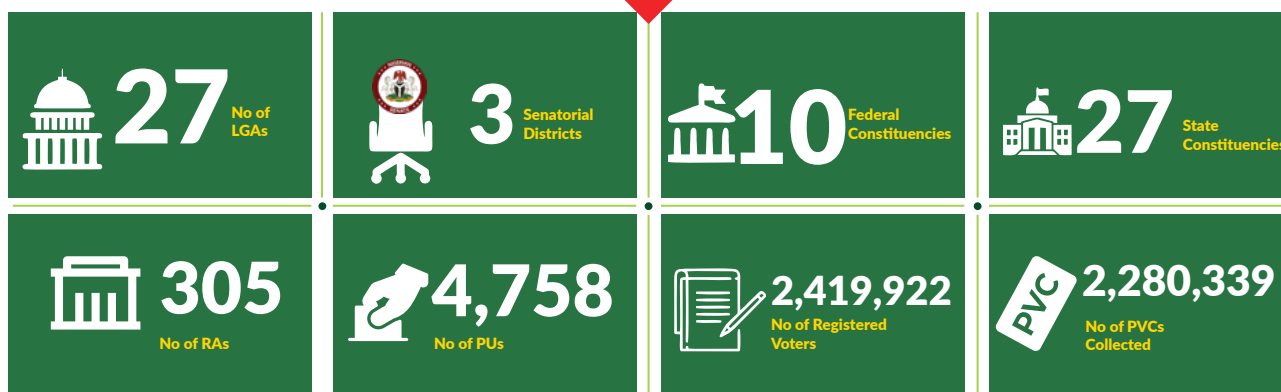
Introduction

Imo State was created out of the former East Central State on the 3rd of February 1976 by the regime of late General Murtala Mohammed. It is one of the five states of the Igbo extraction that presently constitute the South-East geo-political zone in Nigeria. It shares boundaries with Enugu state to the North, Anambra state to the West, Rivers state to the South and Abia state to the East. Thus, the state is referred to as the Eastern Heartland because of its central location in the South-East. It has the Oguta Blue Lake as its major tourist attraction and covers over 5,530 square kilometres of Nigeria landmass. Imo State has 27 LGAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 10 Federal and 27 State Constituencies 305 RAs and 4,758 PUs. It has a registered voter population of 2,419,922, of which 2,280,339 voters had collected their PVCs.

The state has a handful of recreation centres and a booming hospitality industry dotted across its landscape. The people are highly sociable and accommodating. A vast majority of the people are into subsistence farming. Imo State is also an oil producing state.

Pre-Election Activities

Series of meetings were held organized by the management with the Electoral Officers and the general staff in order to plan and map out strategies for the elections. As part of the planning activities, a comprehensive audit of electoral materials was done to determine what was in stock and the shortfalls that needed to be supplied by the headquarters. A check-list of non-sensitive materials was generated and sent to the headquarters for the national logistic planning.

Continuous Voter Registration and PVC Collection

The Continuous Voter's Registration (CVR) and Permanent Voters Card (PVC) collection exercise commenced nationwide on the ... of June 2021 and was suspended on the 31st of July 2022. At the beginning and up till few months to the exercise, there was a lull in participation by prospective registrants and registered voters who ought to collect their PVCs. The reason for the lack of interest was beyond insecurity. Insecurity at the time and even now is a national problem. It had more to do with the general inertia about voting in Nigerian elections. As the elections drew nearer and with rigorous sensitization programmes, the continuous voter registration and PVC collection exercise picked up in Imo State. At the end of the exercise, the state recorded a total of 2,419,922 registered voters.

Election Personnel: Sourcing, Recruitment, Training, Deployment and Remuneration

The sourcing of ad hoc staff for 2023 General Election was done mainly through the INECPRESS. The platform was used to canvas for applications from interested and suitable members of public to serve in various capacities during the elections. The sourcing targeted the agencies and institutions approved by the Commission.

However, in Imo State, the response to Commission's solicitation via the INECPRESS was abysmally low. Before the training organized for the ad hoc staff, only 10,789 out of about 19,032 staff needed in the state had been verified to participate in the election duties. Even when the application portal was opened during training to accommodate more people from the state, not much could be achieved. This made the state to resort to off-line sourcing of ad hoc staff to recruit and fill the huge gap.

Training and Deployment of Ad Hoc Staff

The official training for the election commenced on the 3rd of February 2023 with the training of Election Security Personnel (ESP). It was the first time INEC took total control and direct training of ESP. In the past, representatives of security agencies were trained and asked to go back and conclude the training of men in their formations without supervision. At the end of the training, a huge shortfall of poll officials (POs and APOs) existed. Only about 10,789 out of 19,032 persons required in these categories could be trained. A make-up training was quickly arranged which made it possible for more persons to be engaged.

The deployment of staff for the election was done in line with the Commission's guidelines. At the end of the election, the deployed staff and the materials for the elections were properly retrieved in reverse.

Political Party Activities

The Commission in Imo state monitored party congresses, primaries, and substitution primaries. Before any monitoring exercise,

the political parties would have submitted the locations and list of contact person and would have written a letter notifying the Commission of a congress or primaries. During the 2023 election season, a total of 17 political parties were monitored.

Stakeholder Engagement

Multi-level consultation and meetings were held with stakeholder to bring them up to speed on modalities and arrangements for the elections. While Electoral Officers met with stakeholder within their LGAs, the state office met with stakeholders at the state level. A broad spectrum of stakeholders was mobilized during each engagement including party leaders, candidates, security agencies, media, CSOs, PWDs, etc. The Commission, at the end of each meeting, gained useful insights about existing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats as the elections drew closer. The meetings also provided the Commission in the state, the opportunity to get first-hand information about areas where extra caution was needed and the general nature of insecurity in the state.

Persons living with disability were given due attention during the elections. The following measures were used to ensure inclusivity.

a. Engagement with Visually Impaired Person (VIPs) on the use of Braille Ballot

b. Engagement with sign language interpreters who officiated at the state collation centres for presidential election.

c. Deployment of Assistive Devices to the field for use by people in need.

Receipt of Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Materials

The state received enough non-sensitive materials for the 2023 General Election including ballot boxes, cubicles, mats, and a host of electoral consumables. These materials could not be deployed to the LGAs due to security challenges until close to the election. This posed a serious logistics challenge to the Commission in the state since the deployment of both sensitive and non-sensitive materials had to be done simultaneously. It took extra effort and resilience of staff at the head office and LGAs to be able to handle the situation.

The paper-based sensitive materials arrived CBN, Owerri on time. However, the BVAS arrived the state in batches and continued to arrive till the eve of the election making the configuration and charging of the equipment a nightmare for staff who worked 24 hours a day to meet the target. Both sensitive and non-sensitive materials were moved to the LGAs 3 days to the election.

Activation of Registration Area Camps (RACs)

Registration Area Camps (RACs) were used in the state for the Presidential/NASS and State Assembly elections in Imo State. However, most of the LGAs did not operate the normal RACs or Super RACs but operated a single mega camp in their LGAs.

Before the election, most of the Electoral Officers wrote to the Resident Electoral

Commissioner, requesting for approval to suspend the use of RACs and Super RACs during the election. This was based on the security assessment of the areas at the time by security agencies and local stakeholders in the LGAs. It was believed that keeping ad hoc staff in several locations at the RACs might overstretch and weaken the capacity of security personnel to secure the locations. In many instances, the security agencies advised the use of one central place per LGA so that they would concentrate their security assets thereby increasing their presence in such locations.

Logistics and Transport

The National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO) and other private vehicle providers were engaged to provide transport for men and materials during the election. The contract for the provision of vehicle was not satisfactorily executed by the unions during the Presidential/NASS election. The Unions boycotted some LGAs, citing insecurity as the reason for not deploying their vehicles to such LGAs. In the areas where they accepted to operate, some of the drivers did not perform optimally. In view of the above, the Electoral Officers were asked to source for vehicles from their LGAs during the second election. Other components of logistics were properly handled, leading to a successful exercise at the end.

Monitoring and Support for Field Activities

The elections were properly monitored. Apart from several monitoring teams from the headquarters, the state also raised teams of monitors from the state. Heads of Department and some Heads of Unit were deployed to monitor the different states of the election. A coalition of civil societies and observer groups took part in election observations. All the above helped to increase the field assets that assisted in getting real-time information on what was happening during the elections.

Configuration BVAS and Mock Accreditation Exercise

The BVAS devices used in Imo State were received late. The consignment for the state continued to arrive till the eve of the 25th of February 2023 election. The late deployment to the state was understandable. There were security issues and attacks on INEC facilities in the state which made the Commission to be strategic in the movement of the BVAS to the state. The configuration of the BVAS was completed and the equipment fully charged and deployed to the LGAs before the election.

The Mock Accreditation exercise using the BVAS device held on Saturday the 4th of February 2023 and it was monitored by the INEC team, with the European Union observer team. In all the PUs visited, the BVAS device performed maximally. All the PVCs and prospective voters were successfully accredited. The day-long activity ended successfully and feedback from perspective voters were impressive.

Conduct of the Elections (25th of February, 18th of March and 15th April 2023)

The election of the 25th of February 2023 did not start early in Imo State. Several reasons were responsible.

a. The members of the transport unions who were engaged to provide vehicles for the election did not report for duty early enough. They had declined to sleep over at the Super RACs, citing insecurity as their main reason.

b. Ad hoc staff were apprehensive to sleep in the camps because they said that unarmed security personnel did not inspire confidence in them.

c. The use of centralized mega RACs delayed deployment to PUs.

d. The unavailability of security men at the time movement was designed to commence from the RACs to the PUs delayed commencement of polls. However, in view of the late commencement of polls in many polling units, the Commission extended the voting period till late in the evening of the 25th of February 2023 such that all those who were patient enough were able to vote.

At the end of voting and collation of results which extended to the 26th and in some places, the 27th of February 2023, it was clear that election could not be concluded in two Federal Constituencies of Isu/Njaba/Nkwerre/Nwangele and Mbaitoli/Ikeduru Federal Constituency. Both could not be declared due to margin of lead principle.

The declaration of the result for the Okigwe/Isiala Mbano/Onuimo Federal Constituency was also halted due to disagreement among contestants in the Federal Constituency about the admissibility of the results of the election. Some aggrieved contestants protested that results were generated from areas where election did not take place particularly in Okigwe LGA due to insecurity. The result of the election could not be declared, and the issue was brought before the Honourable Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC). Sequel to the above, a Committee was set up to investigate the Okigwe/Isiala Mbano/Onuimo Federal Constituency results. Upon insistence by the Electoral Officer for Okigwe LGA that the results in dispute were from the field and election took place in every RA, albeit in clusters of PUs due to insecurity, the Commission directed the Returning Officer and the stakeholders to go back to the constituency collation centre to make a declaration.

The House of Assembly election on the 18th of March 2023 was a better outing in terms of performance of the drivers, the participation by ad hoc staff and early commencement of polls. Although there were skirmishes here and there in the state, nothing was outstandingly untoward to warrant a repeat of the apathy and stay-at-home that really marred the first election. However, at the end of the State Assembly election, some areas remained inconclusive. The following state constituencies could not be declared – Isu State Constituency, Ideato South State Constituency and Ahiazu Mbaise State Constituency.

Supplementary Election

A Supplementary Election was conducted for areas where election could not be concluded on the 25th of February and the 18th of March 2023 elections. The Supplementary Election was held on the 15th of April 2023 in one (1) Federal Constituency and three (3) State Constituencies. The constituencies involved in the election were in Ikeduru/Mbaitoli Federal Constituency, Ahiazu/ Mbaise State Constituency, Isu State Constituency and Ideato State Constituency. Also, the result of Nwangele/Nkwerre/Isu/Njaba Federal Constituency was declared after collating the suspended Njaba results. The supplementary election was conducted without many issues.

Election Security

The state faced a lot of challenges in adequately staffing the polling units for the election. General apprehension and palpable fear pervaded the entire political landscape in the build-up to the exercise in Imo state. Apart from the general insecurity in the country at the time, there were daring moves by miscreants to instil fears into people and prevent them from coming to vote. However, the security agencies under the aegis of ICCES rose to the occasion and were able to push back, and in some cases arrest persons suspected to be involved in violence in the state.

The police were somewhat amorphous and, in most instances, did not show the kind of leadership required of a lead agency. It was reported that in several polling units and Super RACs, there were no police personnel. Election personnel and voters were left at the mercy of providence. Movement to polling units could not start in some LGAs on time because there were no policemen to escort men and materials. The Honourable REC had to literally beg each time there was need for security intervention.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Election

In Imo state, the following issues and challenges defined the context in which the elections were held.

- Elevated security threats in the build-up to the elections

- Service providers especially the vehicle drivers picked and chose the areas they wanted to operate, thereby causing huge logistical nightmare in at least 5 LGAs. Even in LGAs where they accepted to operate, their service was anything but satisfactory

- Ad-hoc election personnel were not enough for the election duties. Apparently, a lot of people refused to offer themselves for the assignment due to security concerns.

- The BVAS machines used in Imo state were supplied late leading to insufficient period to do configuration and further technical auditing and assessment.

- The cashless policy adopted by the Federal Government made it difficult for some of the electoral tasks to be implemented timorously.

- RACs and Super RACs could not be fully activated due to insecurity in the state.

12.6 South-South Geo-political Zone

Introduction

The South-South Zone comprises of 6 states, namely Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo and Rivers. The zone has a landmass of 84, 587 km2. Altogether, the zone has 123 LGAs, 1,408 RAs, 27,126 PUs, and 14,440,714 registered voters. With a total of 13,284,920 PVCs collected before the 2019 GE the zone has an overall PVC collection rate of 92% as shown in Table 12.5 below.

Table 12.6: Delimitation Data for the South-South Zone on State-by-State Basis									
S/N	State	LGAs	SD	FC	SC	RAs	PUs	Reg. Voters	PVCs Collected	Km2
1	Akwa-Ibom	31	3	10	26	329	4,353	2,357,418	2,198,628	7,081
2	Bayelsa	8	3	5	24	105	2,244	1,056,862	1,009,895	10,773
3	Cross River	18	3	8	25	193	3,281	1,766,466	1,672,810	20,156
4	Delta	25	3	10	29	270	5,863	3,221,697	2,989,514	17,698
5	Edo	18	3	9	24	192	4,519	2,501,081	2,128,288	17,802
6	Rivers	23	3	13	32	319	6,866	3,537,190	3,285,785	11,077
	Totals	123	18	55	160	1408	27,126	14,440,714	13,284,920	84,587

12.6.1
Akwa Ibom State
Capital City: Uyo

Cyril Omoregbe
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Akwa Ibom State

Delimitation Data

31 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**10** Federal Constituencies	**26** State Constituencies
329 No of RAs	**4,353** No of PUs	**2,357,418** No of Registered Voters	**2,198,628** No of PVCs Collected
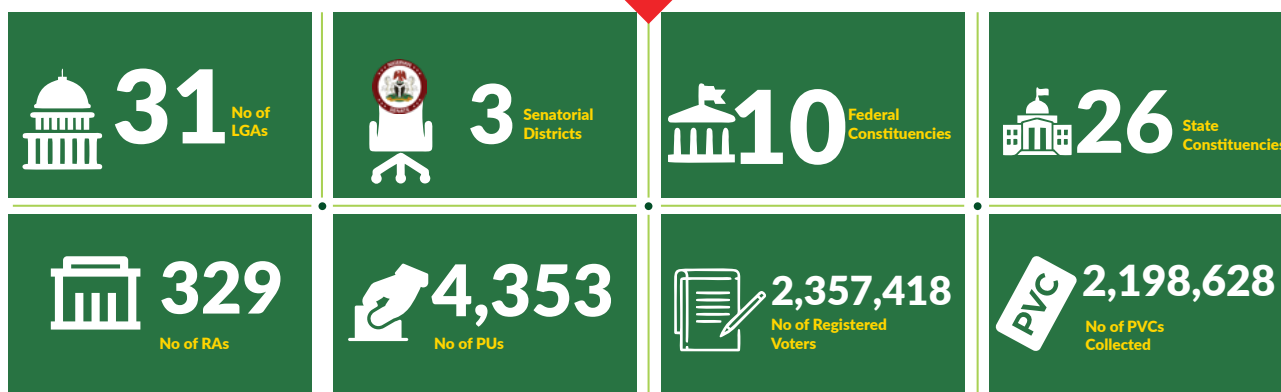
Introduction

Akwa Ibom state is a state in the South-South geopolitical Zone of Nigeria bounded on the east by Cross River state, on the west by Rivers and Abia states, and on the South by the Atlantic Ocean with a landmass of 7,081 km2. The state takes its name from the Qua Iboe River which bisects the state before flowing into the Bight of Bonny. The capital of Akwa Ibom state is Uyo. The state was created on the 23rd of September 1987 with a population of five million four hundred and fifty-one thousand (5,451,000). Akwa Ibom is predominantly peopled by the Ibibios, Anans and Oron. Other ethnic groups are the Ijaw speaking people in Eastern Obolo and Ibeno LGAs.

The State has 31 LGAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 10 Federal and 26 State Constituencies, 329 RAs and 4,353 PUs. Its number of registered voters stood at 2,357,418 on the eve of the election, with 2,198,628 voters collecting their PVCs.

The 2023 General Election were slated for the 25th of February and the 11th of March 2023 respectively. The Presidential and National Assembly elections were conducted on the 25th of February 2023. However, the Governorship and State Houses of Assembly elections were rescheduled to the 18th of March 2023.

Pre-Election Activities

Activities with the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) were concluded before most other activities for the elections started. The CVR was successfully done in three phases. The last phase (Third Phase) of the CVR ended in July 2022. The CVR

recorded 326,000 registered voters in the state and PVC Collection had a positive turn out. It accounted for about 93% of registered voters in Akwa Ibom state.

Recruitment of ad hoc staff was through INECPRESS list of applicants sent from the Headquarters. Availability check and screening was conducted, while training list was drawn based on several assessment tests taken by applicants /trainees. Deployment of personnel was done based on location where the individual applied to work. This was also to ease costs of transportation and movement on the day of election.

Similarly, several trainings were held preparatory to the 2023 General Election. To sustain the RAC/Super RAC regime, electoral officers were made to identify locations conducive to serve as RACs and Super RACs. These locations were activated with basic facilities for camping put in place before the election. These RACS and Super RACS were activated, and personnel were camped in these locations for the purpose of proximity and early start of polls.

Transportation of personnel and materials was plagued with the usual crisis that characterize dealings with transporters despite the MoU between the Commission and the three unions engaged- National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), National Association of Transport Owners (NATO) and Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN). The Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) performed so extraordinarily. The FRSC donated five (5) Hilux vehicles and a bus to convey personnel and materials throughout the 2023 General Election. The contribution of the FRSC was outstanding in transportation.

In line with the Commission's policy and directive on specific requirement, ad hoc staff were short-listed from the Federal Ministries, Federal Commissions and Agencies, as well as students of federal tertiary institutions. The performance of the Collation Officers and Presiding Officers was substantially good. Party Primaries were held within the time-lines with candidates emerging as flag bearers of the eighteen political parties. The Commission also engaged stakeholders in several meetings preparatory to the 2023 General Election. These stakeholders included political party executives, President Generals of Town Unions, religious leaders, youth leaders, party agents, the ICCES, community leaders, Civil Societies Organizations, MDAs, National Association of Transport Owners (NATO), and the Maritime Workers' Union of Nigeria (NWUN). The Commission was able to push through. The configuration and deployment of election personnel in the state included 4,353 Presiding Officers, 13,059 Assistant Presiding Officers, 703 Collation Officers, 455 Supervisory Presiding Officers, 14 Returning Officers, 329 RAC/Super RAC Managers and 11,264 Security personnel.

Conduct of the Election

Presidential and National Assembly Elections of the 25th of February 2023

The Presidential, Senatorial District and House of Representatives elections took place as scheduled on the 25th of February

2023 across the thirty-one (31) LGAs of Akwa Ibom state.

The election was substantially peaceful. However, there were pockets of violence in some of the LGAs which led to the cancellation of elections in several polling units. Consequent upon these cancellations, returns could not be made in two Federal Constituencies because of the margin of lead principle. The Federal Constituencies so affected were Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency and Ikono/Ini Federal Constituency. Supplementary elections were scheduled in designated polling units where elections were cancelled for these two federal constituencies on the 15th of April 2023.

Governorship and State House of Assembly Election of the 18th of March 2023

The election held as rescheduled on the 18th of March 2023. Just like in the presidential election, it was substantially peaceful. However, there were still pockets of violence in some LGAs which led to the cancellation of results in some polling units, thereby precipitating the need for a supplementary election in Etim Ekpo/Ika State Constituency.

The Supplementary Election of the 15th of April 2023

The supplementary elections slated for Saturday the 15th of April 2023 held as scheduled. The elections were scheduled for the following Constituencies:

a. Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency;

b. Ikono/Ini Federal Constituency; and

c. Etim Ekpo/Ika State Constituency

Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency supplementary election as well as that of Etim Ekpo/Ika state constituency supplementary held successfully. However, the supplementary election in Ikono/Ini Federal Constituency was violently disrupted in all the 17 polling Units that were marked for the election. There were sporadic shootings from armed men during which some of the election materials were snatched, torn, or scattered and some election personnel sustained injuries. A Corps Member was shot on the leg, and he had to undergo multiple surgeries. One of the Commission's staff had a machete cut on his head while some others were brutalized. Election personnel and materials were forcefully taken to unknown destinations even though some were eventually rescued. The Commission in the circumstances of the consistent violence applied the provisions of paragraph 100 (v) of the Regulations and Guidelines for the Conduct of Elections 2022 and made a declaration for the Constituency.

Security

Even though the 2023 General Election were substantially peaceful in Akwa Ibom state, the policing of the entire elections was weak. Many of the polling units had no security personnel. However, the security outfits who were spread across the LGAs as much as possible operated within the limit of their ability.

Opening of Polls and Accreditation Process

For all the elections in 2023, about eighty percent (80%) of the polling units were opened by 8:30am when polls commenced. This marks a significant improvement. Also, about 80% of polling units closed at 4.30pm. Despite the initial teething problems with the use of BVAS, the BVAS was 90% efficient. There were technical teams to address issues on BVAS across the 31 LGAs in places where there were hitches with the use of BVAS. Accreditation with BVAS in all the elections was substantially successful.

Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC)

The EMSC was at its peak as the Centre was activated throughout the elections. The Centre effectively monitored events during the elections with a strong feedback mechanism especially, around deployment of personnel, movement of materials, opening and closing of polls and risk management.

Reverse Logistics

There were two layers of reverse logistics after both the Presidential and Governorship Elections. Sensitive materials, that is, result sheets and ballot papers, BVAS and register of voters were retrieved and sent to the state office for proper custody/storage. However, during the elections, Akwa Ibom state INEC lost fifty (50) BVAS, because of violence and related incidences.

Issues and Challenges

Some of the challenges encountered during the 2023 General Election in Akwa Ibom state included the following:

a. Lack of adequate security

b. Conspiracy from drivers and transporters

c. Violence

d. Lack of sufficient time for training of ad hoc personnel

12.6.2
Bayelsa State
Capital City: Yenagoa

Emmanuel Alex Hart
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Bayelsa State

Delimitation Data

8 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**5** Federal Constituencies	**24** State Constituencies
105 No of RAs	**2,244** No of PUs	**1,056,862** No of Registered Voters	**1,009,895** No of PVCs Collected
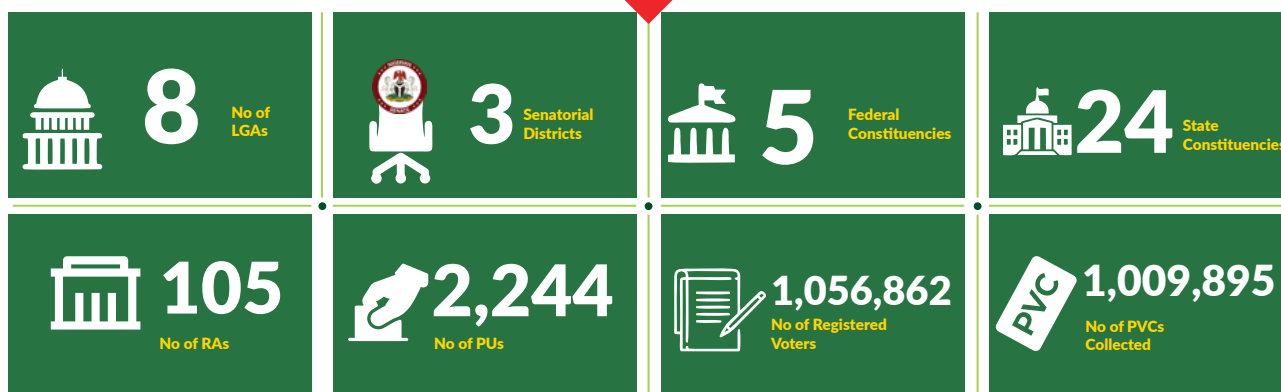
Introduction

Bayelsa State is in the Niger Delta Region of Southern Nigeria. The State was created from the Old Rivers State on the 1st of October 1996. Geographically, the state is located within Latitudes 4015`` and 5023``N and Longitudes 5015`` and 60 45``E. It is bounded to the North by Delta state, to the East by Rivers state, and to the South and West by the Atlantic Ocean. The state occupies an area of about 10,773 km2. The state capital is Yenagoa. Bayelsa state has 8 LGAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 5 Federal and 24 State Constituencies, 105 RAs and 2,244 PUs. It has 1,056,862 registered voters with 1,009,985 PVCs collected. The state is known for its vast crude oil and natural gas reserves and has other numerous forest and water resources as it is over 70% riverine.

The Presidential and National Assembly (NASS) Elections held in Bayelsa state as scheduled by the Commission on the 25th of February 2023 across the eight (8) Local Government Areas. The Election was generally peaceful apart from a few areas where there were reported incidents of pockets of violence and delays in commencement of polls. In most areas, accreditation and voting were successfully completed and results were also successfully collated.

Pre-Election Activities

Planning Activities

As part of the preparation for the 2023 General Election and in line with 2023 Election Project Plan, several management, and Inter-Agencies Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) meetings were

held to look at the level of preparedness, audit of election materials, stakeholders mapping and analysis as well as conflict analysis and mapping. It also provided opportunity to appraise staff performance and preparedness for the election. Several in-house trainings were also held as part of the preparation for the elections in addition to the scheduled trainings by the Commission.

Conduct of CVR and PVC Collection Exercise

The Continuous Voter Registration exercise started in June 2021 and ended in August 2022. The PVC distribution was also done within the same period as PVCs were supplied in batches to the state. The distribution of PVCs was done from the 6th of January 2023 to the 5th of February 2023. This was done in the LGAs and then down to the RAs to ensure as many persons as possible collect their PVCs before the Election Day.

Electoral Personnel

The Commission established INECPRES with a National level Committee to manage, supervise and coordinate the recruitment of key ad-hoc personnel for the 2023 General Election across the country. A total of 9,701 ad-hoc personnel were used on the Election Day. This included Presiding Officers (POs), Assistant Presiding Officers (APOs), Supervisory Presiding Officers (SPOs), Registration Area Technicians (RATECHs), LGTECHS, Collation Officers (COs), Returning Officers (ROs) and RAC Managers. Apart from these, there was also other staff like the CSRVS, monitors, etc.,

that were deployed to various Collation Centres. All the personnel for the General Election were trained in line with the training objectives and plan of the Commission nationally and were subsequently deployed to their various duty posts during the elections.

Political Party Activities and Stakeholders' Engagements

The state office through the EPM monitored the political party primaries and nomination processes in the state in line with the electoral time-line. Party primaries were conducted within the stipulated time-line of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). Candidates were duly nominated for the elections in accordance with their party's guidelines. As part of the preparation for the General Election, office of the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) and Voters Education and Publicity (VEP) Department organized various interactive sessions, town-hall meetings, radio programmes and enlightenment activities in the state.

Electoral Staff Training, Recruitment, and Deployment

As part of the policy of the Commission and in line with the 2023 Election Project Plan, training was scheduled for various categories of personnel starting with the Election Security Personnel (ESP) from the 3rd – the 7th of February 2023 at the State and Senatorial District Levels. This was closely followed by the training of the Supervisory Presiding Officers (SPOs) from the 11th – the 12th of February 2023. The training of the Presiding Officers/Assistant

Presiding Officers took place from the 14th – the 16th of February 2023, although two LGAs (Nembe and Brass) had to extend theirs to the 19th and 20th of February 2023 because of security issues in Nembe LGA. The training of Collation Officers (COs)/Returning Officers (ROs) took place from the 21st – the 22nd of February 2023. It should also be noted that when the Governorship and State House of Assembly Elections were postponed, refresher training was conducted for all categories of ad-hoc staff on the 16th and 17th of March 2023.

Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Electoral Materials

Receipt of Non-Sensitive materials started on the 22nd of November 2022, and they were stored in the state office. Distribution of non-sensitive materials started on the 19th of January 2023 while inspection and distribution of sensitive materials at CBN, Yenagoa took place from the 20th of February 2023 to the 23rd of February 2023. Sensitive materials were all stored at the CBN before distribution to various LGAs who moved them directly to the RACs and SUPER RACs while non-sensitive materials were moved from the state office to the LGAs. Reverse logistics was implemented in retrieving materials after the elections. While the non-sensitive materials were taken to the LGA Offices for storage, the sensitive materials including results sheets were submitted to the state office and stored in the strong room.

Identification, Preparation and Activation of RACs & SRACs

A total of 99 RACs and 6 Super RACs were identified across the 8 LGAs of the state. All the RACs were prepared and activated for the election although some could not be used because of security challenges on the eve of the election. Most affected were RACs and Super RACs in Southern Ijaw and Nembe LGAs.

Logistics Preparation: Transportation Plan, Procurement and Implementation

For the General Election, a Logistics Committee was set up in line with Commission guidelines. Transportation/procurement plans were developed and implemented in line with the MoUs signed with the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO) and the Maritime Union in the state. The Committee was headed by the Resident Electoral Commissioner.

Configuration and Deployment of Accreditation Devices (EVR, VR and BVAS)

A total of 2,279 BVAS were configured two weeks before the elections and deployed with additional 107 as back-ups. The BVAS performed excellently well across the state with minimal reports of issues. The EVR and VR were also deployed based on the number of Polling Units across the 8 Local Government Areas of the state.

Conduct of the Elections (25th of February, 18th of March and 15th of April)

Deployment of Personnel and Materials

Personnel and materials were deployed from the 23rd – the 24th of February 2023 to the various LGAs, RACs and Super RACs for the Presidential and National Assembly Elections while for the State House of Assembly Elections, personnel and materials were deployed from the 16th – the 17th of March 2023. For the Supplementary Elections, deployment took place on the 15th of April 2023.

Performance of Transport Union Members According to the Signed Contract

The transport Union members performed well although there were a few lapses observed in the first Election on the 25th of February 2023. There were remarkable improvements during the State House of Assembly and Supplementary Elections.

Opening of Polls

Across the state, there was generally a late opening of polls for different reason for the Presidential and National Assembly elections on the 25th of February 2023. The issue was more pronounced in Yenagoa LGA where the Commission had to shift the election in 141 Polling Units. The State House of Assembly and Supplementary elections witnessed early opening of polls across all the LGAs and affected PUs in the case of the Supplementary Elections. The average time for the opening of polls was 8:00am.

Accreditation and Voting Process and Performance of Equipment

The accreditation and voting process was smooth and hitch free apart from isolated areas where there was interference by stakeholders or hoodlums. The BVAS performed excellently well.

Election Security Architecture

The Election on the 25th of February and the 18th of March 2023 had issues of inadequate security men deployed at the RACs/Super RACs.

Closing of Polls

For the Election on the 25th of February polls had to be extended because of the time they opened but this significantly improved on the 18th of March, and the 15th of April 2023 elections. The polls closed early as stipulated by the Commission.

Collation and Result Management System

Collation of result was done at various levels by the designated Collation officers. The Collation Centres at the various LGAs were prepared by the Electoral Officers while the designated Collation Officers worked with the Electoral Officers to ensure proper management of the Collation Centre. At the state and NASS level, CSRVS staff were deployed to support the collation process. Generally, results collated at lower levels

submitted to the next level of collation and the originals of all results were submitted to the Electoral Operations Department (EOps) for safe keeping. The Logistics Unit of the EOps ensured the retrieval and storage of all results sheets from the field. All the results sheets were properly secured and safely kept in the strong room. It is important to add that some collations were done at the state office because of security reasons.

Monitoring, Implementation and Support for Field Activities

The state office implemented the EMSC and EOSC frameworks in monitoring compliance and provided immediate and effective support for the field activities in line with the 2023 Election Project Plan. A Situation Room was set up and was functional all through the period of the election.

Operations of the Situation Room and Election Management and Support Centre (EMSC)

The Situation Room was activated on the 23rd of February 2023 and was functional and effective for the Presidential and National Assembly Elections. The state office implemented the EMSC and EOSC frameworks in monitoring compliance and provided immediate and effective support for the field activities in line with the 2023

Election Project Plan. Reverse logistics was fully implemented in all the Elections.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Elections

The following challenges were encountered during the General Election on the 25th of February, the 18th of March and the 15th of April 2023.

a. The spate of insecurity across the state posed a serious threat to the conduct of the elections. It increased the logistics challenges faced by the Commission in Bayelsa state. There were reports of violence in Southern Ijaw, Sagbama and Ogbia LGAs.

b. Inadequate security personnel at the PUs/RACs and Super RACs

c. Desperate attitude of the political class which led to the harassment of Commission staff in some LGAs

d. Difficult terrain that made transportation and communication difficult and expensive

e. Incidents of by-pass of the BVAS in a few cases

f. Missing and damaged BVAS

12.6.3
Cross River State
Capital City: Calabar

Yomere Gabriel Oritsemlebi

Resident Electoral Commissioner, Cross River State

Delimitation Data

18 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**8** Federal Constituencies	**25** State Constituencies
193 No of RAs	**3,281** No of PUs	**1,766,466** No of Registered Voters	**1,672,810** No of PVCs Collected
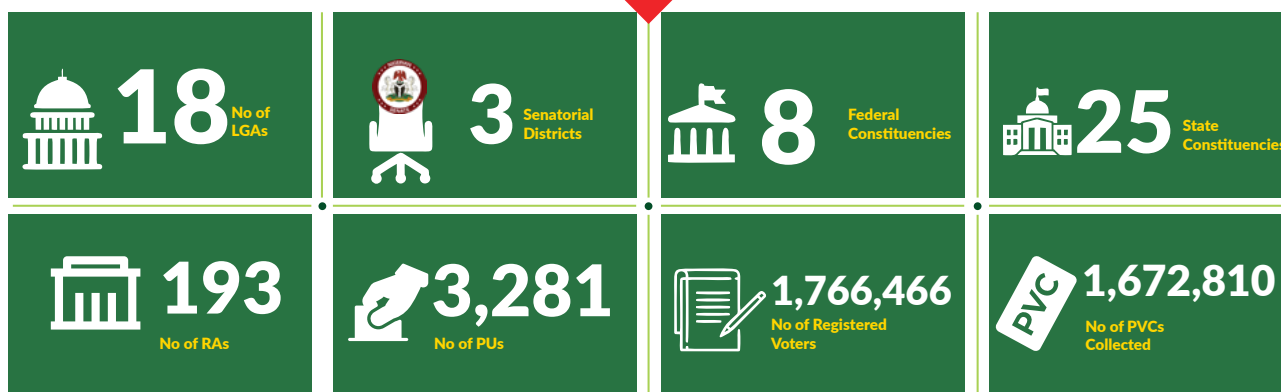
Introduction

Cross River state as a South-South state with the acronym "The People's Paradise" was created on the 27th of May 1967 from the former Eastern Region, Nigeria by the General Yakubu Gowon regime. It is bordered to the North by Benue state, to the West by Ebonyi and Abia states while its eastern border forms part of the national border with Cameroon. Out of the 36 states in Nigeria, Cross River is the 19th largest in terms of land area with 20,156 km2 and the 27th most populous state, with an estimated population of about 3.8 million as at 2016. The State has 18 LGAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 8 Federal and 25 State Constituencies, 193 RAs and 3,281 PUs. It has 1,766,466 registered voters, with 1,672,810 PVCs collected. Cross River state is inhabited by several ethnic groups, primarily the Efik of the riverside south and

Calabar; the Ekoi (Ejagham) of the inland south; the Akunakuna, Boki, Bahumono, and Yako (Yakuri) of the central region; and the Bekwarra, Ogoja, Bette, Igede, Ukelle of the northern region.

Pre-Election Activities

Planning Activities

Series of management meetings were held which was chaired by the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC). In the build-up to the 2023 General Election, the State Management Team and REC appraised its experience on the conduct of elections and innovations to design the state road map for the conduct of the 2023 General Election. Thereafter, regular meetings were held to fine tune the various positions with the Heads of Department, Heads of Unit, Electoral/Assistant Electoral Officers.

Inventory/Audit of Election Materials

The Electoral Officers were asked to submit check-list of non-sensitive and sensitive electoral materials in their respective LGAs. They were required to the list of election materials needed for the conduct of the 2023 General Election.

Conduct of CVR and PVC Collection Exercise

The conduct of CVR exercise commenced on the 28th of June 2021 and ended on 31st of July 2022. A total of 239,177 registrants were added to the voters' register used for the conduct of the elections, thus, giving both old and new registrants a total of 1,766,466.

In compliance with INEC Guidelines, the display and clean-up of the Register of Voters was conducted from the 12th to the 25th of November 2022 in the state. Stakeholders were involved in public sensitization for the collection of PVCs as approved by the Commission. The exercise was also made seamless by establishing collection points at designated Registration Areas in Cross River state and ended on the 5th of February 2023.

Electoral Personnel

The Ad hoc personnel were sourced from serving NYSC members and staff of federal agencies, as well as staff and students of federal tertiary institutions and MDAs in the state. All ad-hoc staff to serve at any level applied through INECPRES portal and the recruitment exercise was done according to the Commission's guidelines.

Training and Deployment

The training of ad-hoc staff commenced two (2) weeks to the elections. Prior to the Governorship and State House of Assembly Elections, the POs and APOs were re-trained to enable them to have better understanding of the BVAS and the entire electoral process. The training exercise for the 2023 General Election was successful as planned by the Commission in Cross River state. The various categories of training were done on dates scheduled by the Commission. A total number of 328 Supervisory Presiding Officers, 3,281 Presiding Officer, 9,843 Assistant Presiding Officer, 211 Collation Officers, 37 Returning Officers, 328 RAC Managers, 18 LGTECHs and 328 RATECHs were recruited. There was no shortage of personnel in any of the elections.

Payment of ad-hoc staff had a little challenge with INEC NIBBS e-payment platform for OPAY/Access Bank and submission of wrong account details. The issues were eventually rectified by the Account Department.

Political Party Activities

All major activities of political parties which included party congresses, primaries, rallies, and campaign, as well as finance were duly monitored by the Department of Election and Party Monitoring (EPM) in the state. Seventeen (17) political parties conducted primaries which were monitored by the Commission within the stipulated time. Hence, they submitted themselves to the process of nomination of candidates for the

elections as provided by law. In furtherance of the need for violent-free elections, the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) chaired by the Resident Electoral Commissioner and co-chaired by the Commissioner of Police organized a Peace Accord for all candidates and political parties that participated in the elections in Cross River state.

Stakeholder Engagements

The State Office organized and promoted several stakeholders' meetings to engender confidence in the electoral process. Accordingly, it organized interactions and discussions through meetings, seminars, political parties, traditional rulers, workshops, religious leaders, CSOs, CBOs, FBOs, etc., to constantly brief them on the activities for the 2023 General Election as well as solicit their support in the process.

Training, Deployment and Retrieval

Training for the 2023 General Election took place at different venues depending on the categories to be trained. Trained staff were deployed to various Local Government Areas to serve at different capacities. There was adequate number of trained staff to serve in Cross River state. All the men and materials deployed for the 2023 General Election were retrieved. There was no case of death apart from reported cases of violence in some parts of the state.

Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Electoral Materials

In preparation for the 2023 General Election, non-sensitive materials were received from the South-South Zonal Stores, Port Harcourt, in Rivers state. The sensitive materials were received from the Central Bank of Nigeria, Calabar Branch and was confirmed by the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC), Administrative Secretary, HOD, and staff of Electoral Operations. They were batched and distributed to the eighteen (18) Electoral Officers in the presence of all the political parties and top security personnel (stakeholders).

Identification, Preparation and Activation of RACS and SRACS

A total of 193 Registration Area Camps (RACs) were used in the 2023 General Election in Cross River state. The RACs for the 18 LGAs in the state were identified early enough and adequate activation and preparations made. These facilities were put in place before the activation of RACs on February 22, and March 15, 2023, respectively.

Logistics Preparation (Transportation Plans, Procurement, and Implementation)

There was adequate provision of vehicles through the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Commission and the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), The Nigerian Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO) and the National Union of Maritime Worker as well as Motorcycles for the transportation of personnel and election materials. The Transport Strategy Plan involved deployment of vehicles for the movement of men and materials for the elections.

Configuration and Deployment of Accreditation Devices (EVR and BVAS)

The ICT Department configured and deployed all the devices for the 2023 General Election. The Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS), and Electronic Voter Register (EVR) were ready for the elections.

Conduct of Elections (the 25th of February and the 18th of March)

Deployment of Personnel and Materials

The men and materials needed for the 2023 General Election were deployed on or before eve of the Elections. Both personnel and materials for the elections were complete. Some of the Transport Union members violated the signed MoU while a few of them obeyed the signed contract. The disappointment by the Transport Union was mostly observed during the Presidential and National Assembly elections but was better after serious warning by the Commission during the Governorship and State Assembly elections.

Opening of Polls

On the Election Days (25th February and 18th March 2023), most polling units opened at 8.00am. The election was generally peaceful in most polling units while some recorded pockets of violence, thus, elections could not hold in such polling units. The voters turn-out was impressive in the Presidential/NASS election, while the Governorship/SHA had a lower turn out as against the previous election held on the 25th of February 2023. Bakassi LGA witnessed more of the voter apathy. Generally, the election was free and fair in most polling units and wards.

Accreditation, Voting Process and Performance of Equipment

The procedure of voting adopted in all the elections in the state was continuous accreditation and voting system. This process allows voters to finish their accreditation and voting and leaving their various polling units if they so desire. In Cross River state, the process started mostly by 8:00am and closed at 2:30pm after the last voter on the queue had been attended to. Reports received from Electoral Officers indicated that generally, voting was smooth. The RATECHs and LGTECHs were on ground to attend to most challenges. They were indeed up and doing as they offered the desired assistance where and when necessary.

Collation and Result Management System

At the end of voting at the PUs, votes were sorted, counted and the scores of the candidates and their parties were loudly announced. Thereafter, the result was entered into the result sheets, the duly signed result by the party's representatives were pasted at the Polling Units in Forms EC60E and the POs were accompanied by security and party agents to the RA Collation Centres. Collation and Returning Officers

at RA, LGA and State levels aggregated the scores of the candidates and declared winners accordingly. Although, there were cancellation of results in some PUs which were recorded in Form EC 40G, this did not affect the overall results.

The outcome of the elections was announced, and winners were declared by the Returning Officers, who followed due process as required by relevant electoral laws in doing so.

Monitoring, Implementation and Support for Field Activities

The 2023 General Election were properly monitored by staff from the state and INEC Headquarters, Abuja. During the monitoring, prompt field support was given where there was need for that by the Commission. In all, there was effective monitoring and support for field activities in the state during the 2023 General Election.

Election Security Architecture

The Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) was a strong election security architecture in the 2023 General Election. ICCES was headed by the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) with the Commissioner of Police as the Co-Chairman. All other security heads were members with NYSC and NOA as members, also.

Closing of Polls

Voting in the state during the 2023 General Election closed by 2:30pm as far as the last person on the queue has voted.

Implementation of Collation and Result Management Process

The application of result management as stipulated by the Commission was adopted by INEC Cross River state during collation of results in all the collation centres for the 2023 General Election. All the collation procedure was duly followed, and the margin of lead principle applied.

Operation of the Situation Room and Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC)

The Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC) is a platform as created by the Commission to monitor, track, and implement the Election Project Plan (EPP), and its activities in the 2023 General Election was very crucial to the success of the elections. The EMSC team which comprised of the Desk Officers of Election Management System (EMS), Election Risk Management (ERM) and Electoral Operations Support Centre (EOSC) was effective in the state during the election period. The process gave the bird-eye view of the actual monitoring of the 2023 General Election in the state including monitoring, tracking, identifying risk, reporting, batching, and deployment of sensitive and non-sensitive election materials as well as personnel.

The 2023 General Election Situation Room was activated on the 23rd of February 2023 for Presidential and National Assembly and the 16th of March 2023 for Governorship and State Assembly elections. The EOSC Data Administrators uploaded the compliance and threat matrix data from the

activity areas hourly.

Reverse Logistics

After successful elections, the result sheets (EC 8 series) and non-sensitive materials from respective LGAs were returned to the Logistics Officer, and Electoral Operations Department.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Elections

Late arrival of some non-sensitive and sensitive materials to the state office, inadequate security personnel, late distribution of last batch of sensitive materials received on Friday 24th February, 2023 from the Central Bank, hence, late activation of RACs/Super RACs, voter apathy in all the three thousand, two hundred and eighty one (3,281) Polling Units due to the outcome of the February 25, 2023 Presidential/National Assembly Election were some of the challenges encountered.

12.6.4
Delta State
Capital City: Asaba

Monday Udoh Tom
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Delta State

Delimitation Data

25 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**10** Federal Constituencies	**29** State Constituencies
270 No of RAs	**5,863** No of PUs	**3,221,697** No of Registered Voters	**2,989,514** No of PVCs Collected
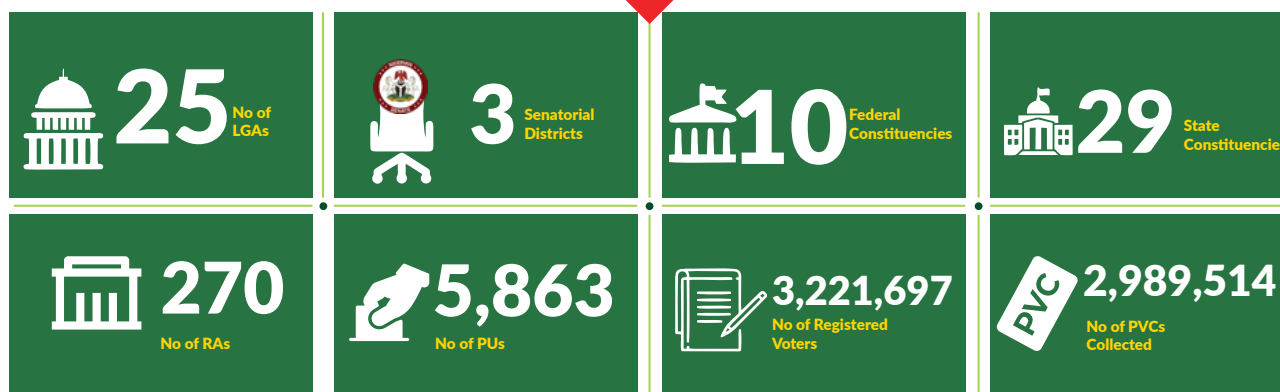
Introduction

Delta state was excised from the former Bendel State in 1991. It is one of the major oil producing states in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. The state is bounded on the North by Edo state, on the East by Anambra and Rivers states, on the South by Bayelsa state and on the West by Ondo state and the Bight of Benin of the Atlantic Ocean. It lies within Latitudes 50 00'N and 6030'N and Longitudes 5000'E and 6045'E. It covers an area of approximately 17,698 km2. The 2006 population census puts the population of the state at about 4.09 million people. The state has 25 LGAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 10 Federal and 29 State Constituencies, 270 RAs and 5,863 PUs. It has 3,221,697 registered voters with 2,989,514 PVCs collected. Besides Asaba, which is the State Capital, other important towns include Warri, Sapele, Ughelli, Oghara, Agbor, Koko, Ogwashi-ukwu, Burutu, Ozoro and Okpanam. The population comprises of many ethnic groups. The major ethnic groups are Igbo, Itsekiri, Urhobo, Ijaw and Isoko.

Pre-Election Activities

Planning Activities

Management met on the 26th of February 2022, to plan for the implementation of key aspects of the timetable and Schedule of Activities for 2023 General Election and Election Project Plan (EPP). Management also considered and adopted implementation strategy as contained in the circular to states for update and stock taking of electoral materials in preparations for the 2023 General Election. The state office hosted several supervisory teams from Headquarters, Abuja, to ensure readiness, assurance, and compliance with directives on the plans and processes for the conduct of the elections.

Conduct of CVR and PVC Collection Exercise

In line with the Commission's electoral cycle and pre-election activity matrix for 2023 General Election, the state office commenced the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) and Permanent Voters Card (PVC) collection exercise from the 26th of June 2021 to the 30th of July 2022.

Electoral Personnel

A total of Forty-four thousand, four hundred and sixty-eight (44,468) ad-hoc staff were recruited for various categories of election duty. The training was done for all categories of election duty officials and collaborating agencies.

Political Party Activities

The state office organized sensitization forum on the Electoral Act 2022 for political parties, on April 19, 2022. In line with the Commission's timetable and schedule of activities, for the 2023 General Election, it monitored congresses and primaries of political parties, conducted with the dates provided in the timetable from the 4th of April 2023 to June 2023. The state office monitored the primaries of eighteen (18) political parties.

Stakeholder Engagements

The state office engaged all the gamut of stakeholders, within the time-lines of the Commission's pre-election and election-day activities. The matrix of stakeholder engagements includes leaders and candidates of political parties, voters, security agencies under the auspices of ICCES, youths, PWDs, traditional rulers, women group, religious leaders and influencers/opinion leaders, CBOs, FBOs, MDAs and international development partners in Delta state.

Training of Electoral Staff

The training exercises undertaken by the state office for the 2023 General Election are listed below:

a. Security Personnel (5th – 6th February 2023).

b. Supervisory Presiding Officers (11th – 12th February 2023)

c. Presiding Officers and Assistant Presiding Officers (14th – 16th February 2023)

d. Collation / Returning Officers (21st – 22nd February 2023).

Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Electoral Materials

Non– sensitive electoral materials arrived late in tranches, with shortfalls of each of the items supplied. Sensitive electoral materials were received and stored at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Asaba. Sensitive electoral materials for the Presidential Election were inspected and batched for onward movement to LGAs on the 23rd of February 2023 for Presidential Election while sensitive materials for Governorship and House of Assembly were inspected and batched on the 15th of March 2023. Deployment of sensitive electoral materials was done in line with the Commission's guidelines. The sensitive electoral materials

for each of the twenty-five (25) LGAs were accompanied with ten armed mobile personnel from CBN to the LGAs. Retrieval was also done successfully at each of the 25 LGAs.

Identification, Preparation and Activation of RACs and SRACs

RACs and SRACs were identified by Electoral Officers in their respective LGAs and were directed and funded to activate them.

Logistic Preparations

The state office made adequate transportation arrangement, leveraging on the MoU signed between the Commission and the NURTW, NARTO and MWUN. A total of 6,746 vehicles, 618 boats and 270 bikes were used in each of the elections.

Conduct of the Elections (the 25th of February and the 18th of March)

Deployment of Personnel and Materials

All trained election duty ad hoc staff were deployed to their various places of posting in line with the provisions of the manual for Poll Officials.

Opening of Polls and Voting Process

Above 90% of the LGAs were able to deploy to the RACs and SRACs on the eve of the elections, while a few RACs/SRACs could not be activated due to adverse security reports. The EOSC reports indicated that over 88% of polling units achieved early commencement of polls. The voting process as outlined in the INEC guidelines was complied with. There was considerable improvement in the performance of equipment in the second elections held on March 18, 2023.

Implementation of Collation and Result Management Process

This process that was put in place helped to drive the conclusion of the elections with a high percentage of accuracy and acceptability. The E-Collation was in place to guide against any miscalculation.

Operation of the Situation Room, Election Monitoring and Support Centre

The Situation Room provided early warning systems to tackle different challenges that occurred in the field. Violence and disruption of polls were immediately reported and isolated.

Collation and Result Management System

The state office set-up a Collation Centre. This was coordinated by the E-Collation Officers from Abuja, supported by state office Staff.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Elections

Violence and disruption of electoral processes and holding election staff hostage were very minimal in both elections. Bypass of BVAS occurred but was very minimal in both elections.

12.6.5
Edo State
Capital City: Benin City

Obo Effanga
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Edo State

Delimitation Data

18 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**9** Federal Constituencies	**24** State Constituencies
192 No of RAs	**4,519** No of PUs	**2,501,081** No of Registered Voters	**2,128,288** No of PVCs Collected
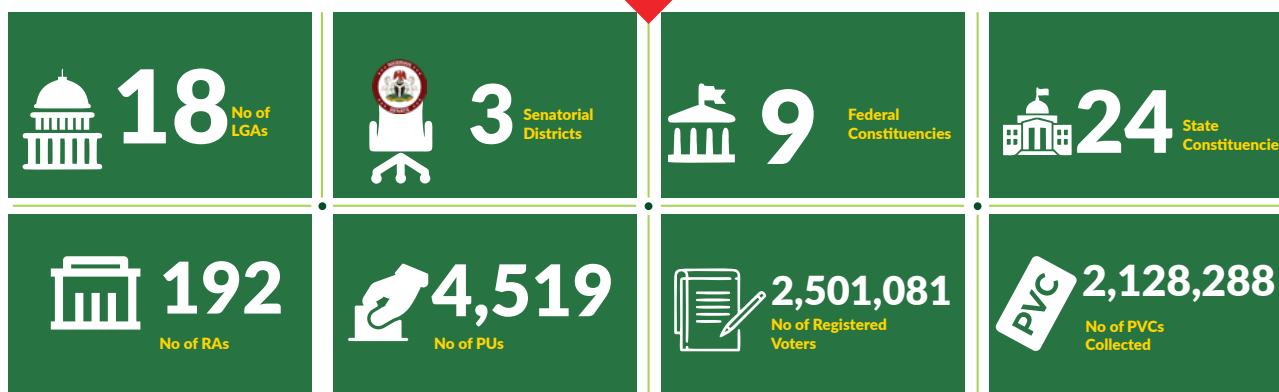
Introduction:

Edo state is in the South-South geopolitical zone of Nigeria. It was created on the 27th of August 1991 from the former Bendel state and is referred to as the "Heartbeat of the Nation." The capital of Edo state is Benin City, believed to be the fourth largest city in Nigeria. The state covers 17,802 km2. Its population was 3,233,366 by the 2006 population census; and estimated to be 4,777,000 by 2022. The State has 18 LGAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 9 Federal and 24 State Constituencies, 192 RAs and 4,519 PUs. It has 2,501,081 registered voters with 2,128,288 PVCs collected.

The immediate neighbours are Kogi state to the Northeast; Delta state to the Southeast and South-south; Anambra state to the East and Ondo state to the Southwest. Edo state people include the Edo (Beni), Esan, Owan and Afemai. The state is noted in history for its handcrafts which stood it out as a tourist destination. In modern times, it retains its handicraft and tourist attraction that include Emotan Statue in Benin City, River Niger Beach in Agenebode and Okpekpe Hills which has led to the institution of the Annual Okpekpe Marathon; attracting international athletes on yearly basis.

Pre-Election Activities

Management Activities

Management in the state provided leadership in the planning and implementation of plans for the election. The state office further played oversight roles through supervision. Audit of Election Materials, CVR and Collection of PVC. Audit of election materials were done and reviewed a few times on the state's initiatives and as sometimes required by INEC Headquarters. Outputs from these

audits supported material budgeting for the election. The CVR ended on the 31st of July 2022 while PVC collection ended on the 5th of February 2023

Election Personnel

Ad hoc staff for the election were sourced from federal tertiary institutions, MDAs, NYSC and INEC staff in Edo state. Supervisory Presiding Officers applied to serve through INECPRES as required by the Commission. They were adequate in number and went through screening, selection, and training before being engaged and assigned supervisory duties.

Election Supervisors, Monitors and Electoral Operations Logistics Committee Staff were staff of the Commission who were engaged and posted from INEC Headquarters. Security personnel for the election were pooled by Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES). Election Observers applied to the Commission and were accredited for observer roles. Media personnel were also accredited like election observers.

Training of Election Personnel

Four Hundred and Forty-one (441) classrooms were identified in fifty-two (52) schools across Edo state for the training of ad hoc staff. The venues included University of Benin where Collation and Returning Officers were trained. An average of sixty (60) trainees were in a class. There were refresher trainings prior to the State House of Assembly Election and at the Registration Area Camps on the eve of each election. The state also had Election Security Training for security personnel who were deployed for election duties. The security trainings were in cascades and included security officers-participants on Training of Trainers.

Recruitment, Deployment and Retrieval

From the trained ad-hoc staff, state office recruited and deployed Supervisory Presiding Officers, Collation Officers and Returning Officers; while Presiding Officers and Assistant Presiding Officers I, II and III were recruited and deployed by Local Government Offices. Ad-hoc staff that were deployed to various election duties were brought back from their post by the transport operators that were engaged to provide transportation services for the elections.

Remuneration

Remunerations made to election personnel were as provided by the Commission. These were training allowances, transport allowance, meal allowance and honoraria. Allowances were paid through the banks.

Political Party Activities

Seventeen (17) of the eighteen registered political parties held their primaries for the election of candidates who contested the three (3) senatorial, nine (9) House of Representatives and twenty-four (24) House of Assembly positions in the elections. All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) did not hold their primaries. This process began on the 30th of September 2022 and the exercises were monitored by INEC through some staff from INEC Headquarters and the state office.

Stakeholders' Engagements

The Commission had several engagements with security agencies under the aegis of Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES). The Resident Electoral Commissioner and the State Commissioner of Police co-chaired the meetings. The Commission consulted with political party leaders from time to time. Two of such meetings were held with party leaders before the elections and one after the elections. The meetings helped greatly in the successes recorded during the election, especially the largely peaceful conduct of the elections. As part of its engagement with critical stakeholders, the Voter Education and Publicity Department had robust engagements with traditional rulers in the state. First Class traditional rulers from the three (3) senatorial districts were invited for advocacy and sensitization. This meeting was held at the INEC state office, and the Resident Electoral Commissioner took time to brief the traditional rulers on a wide range of issues.

Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Electoral Materials

Materials used for the elections were adequate in quantities and quality. Significantly, shortages in materials were replaced by the logistics team at Headquarters in record time. Non-sensitive materials were received from the INEC South-South Zonal Stores in Port Harcourt, delivered directly from vendors/suppliers or sent from INEC Headquarters. Ballot papers and result forms for the Presidential/National Assembly, State House of Assembly Elections and postponed Federal Constituency Elections were received for the state office by the Central Bank of Nigeria, Benin Branch where they were also kept in storage. Sensitive materials for the Supplementary Elections were partly received from The Nigeria Security Printing Company, Lagos and Airforce Base Port Harcourt and brought to the State Office for storage. The Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) devices for Edo state were received from the Nigerian Air force at Benin Airport. They were taken from the airport to the State Office for safe storage.

Ballot papers and Result Forms for the Presidential/National Assembly Election were kept at the Central Bank of Nigeria Branch, while other sensitive materials for the Supplementary Election were kept in the custody of the state office. The state's BVAS were kept at the state office, where they were configured. After their delivery and storage at the CBN, Benin Branch, the ballot papers and EC A series of Result Forms were inspected by the state Resident Electoral Commissioner, Head of Electoral Operations Department and the Department's Logistics Team, before the Presidential/National Assembly and State House of Assembly Elections.

Non-sensitive election materials were distributed from the state office to INEC Local Government Area Offices where they were batched and deployed to the field via Supervisory Presiding Officers, for elections. Sensitive materials for Presidential/National Assembly Election and State House of Assembly Election were distributed from the Central Bank of Nigeria, Benin Branch, to Local Government Area Offices for deployment. However, sensitive

materials for Supplementary Elections were distributed from the state office to the Local Government Area Offices for deployment.

At the end of each of the elections, the poll officers reported with the materials issued to them, to their Supervisory Presiding Officers who retrieved them and submitted to the Electoral Officers in line with Reverse Logistics protocols of the Commission. Subsequently, used and unused sensitive materials were taken to the state office for safety.

Identification, Preparation, and Activation of Registration Area Camps (RACs and Super RACs)

As a part of the review of delimitation information for the elections, Registration Area Camps (RACs) and Super RACs, were identified, verified, and approved for use during the election. Stakeholders were carried along in the process. Following their identification, a needs assessment of the RACs and Super RACs was carried out. The assessment showed the needs of these public buildings. Provisions were made to meet the identified needs to have the RACs prepared for the elections.

Logistic Preparations

National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) and National Association of Transport Owners (NARTO) were engaged to provide vehicular transport; while Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN), were engaged to provide marine transport for the elections. Each of two (2) road transport unions was assigned a senatorial district to service while specific LGAs of the third

senatorial district were assigned to each of the two unions. The MWUN on the other hand oversaw water transportation for the election in the state. There were series of meeting with officials of these unions and Road Safety Commission and Security Agencies. Agreements and contracts were signed with the Unions and their operators.

Collation and Result Management System

Collation of Presidential and National Assembly election results began about 4:00 pm on February 25, 2023. National Assembly results collation ended in the early hours of Sunday the 26th of February 2023 at the respective Senatorial and Federal Constituency Collation Centres. Presidential Election collation which took place at the State Collation Centre ended in the evening of Monday the 27th of February 2023. State House of Assembly collation began as early as 3:00 pm on the 15th of March 2023 and ended in the night of the Election Day. Supplementary Elections collation began early on the 18th of April 2023 and ended in the early hours of Sunday the 19th of April 2023.

Result Management System was put in place to accommodate voters' interests in cases of violent disruption of voting, counting and collation processes in some places during which results, and other sensitive materials were snatched. There was also a case of non-deployment for the election due to inadequate number of poll staff. These scenarios led to supplementary elections that took place on Saturday the 18th of April 2023 to ensure that voters were not disenfranchised.

Support for Field Activities

Several tools were developed with which INEC supported its elections in the field. The Elections Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC), which provides a 360 degrees view of the electoral environment, seeks information, flags threats, and responds with solutions. In addition, the Election Risk Management (ERM) tool assisted in tracking, mapping, and analysing threats to the elections so as to provide ready information to the Commission towards taking action. Finally, the INEC Security Alert and Notification System (INEC SANS), which is provided to all personnel involved in the election to easily notify the authorities of any security breach and risks on them on Election Day.

Configuration and Deployment of Accreditation Devices (EVR, VR and BVAS)

Before deploying the for the 2023 elections, ICT/Voter Registry Department in the state carried out the following processes on them:

a. Stress Test: to confirm their capacity to function under work conditions

b. Configuration: to install software required to make them have and retain relevant information and function appropriately

c. Labelling: to enable them to be deployed to the appropriate polling unit

d. Quality Assurance Check: to ensure that they are fit for deployment for election purposes.

Two sets (one coloured and one black and white), of the Electronic Voters Register (EVR), were printed for the election. Before deploying them, the EVR were sorted, checked, and missing pages reprinted for quality assurance. Ten (10) days were used for printing of the EVR while it took another two (2) days to pass them through quality assurance.

Conduct of Elections (the 25th of February, the 18th of March, and the 15th of April)

Deployment of Personnel and Materials

In Edo state, deployment of election personnel was done at three levels viz:

a. INEC Headquarters deployed Supervisors and Monitors to the state;

b. INEC Edo state deployed ad hoc staff; and

c. Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES), deployed Election Security operatives.

At INEC Edo state level, Returning and Collation Officers were deployed from the state office while Supervisory Presiding Officers, Presiding Officers and Assistant Presiding Officers were deployed to their duty posts at the Local Government Area in all the elections.

Performance of Transport Union Members

Road Transport Unions did not perform to the spirit of the contract agreements. This was particularly so during the Presidential/ National Assembly Election. Their unpatriotic behaviours included:

a. Colluding with their vehicle operators to hike the cost per vehicle while election processes were going on. The timing found the Commission helpless and blackmailed.

b. Insistence on full cash payments without which they were not moving staff nor materials to the field nor bring them back.

As a result of the above, most of the operators/drivers moved the electoral teams and their materials late to polling units especially during the Presidential/ National Assembly Election. Most of the operators/drivers did not bring back the ad-hoc staff back early from their polling units during that election. Their conducts were slightly better during the State House of Assembly and Supplementary elections.

Opening of Polls

For the Presidential/National Assembly Election, most polling units were set up late as a result of the predominant late mobilization from the Registration Area Camps which was occasioned by the misconduct of road transport operators. This also led to late opening of polls in that election. The State House of Assembly election was better. Ad-hoc staff were deployed early to polling units. Polling Units were set up early and polls opened on time.

Accreditation, Voting Process and Performance of Equipment

This was the simultaneous accreditation and voting system as approved by the Commission. The voting period was largely without issues. The Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) functioned almost optimally except for a handful of places.

Election Security

Security presence was good. However, in some polling units, their effectiveness was greatly hampered where hoodlums and thugs raided and disrupted elections. This was often blamed on the fact that security personnel at polling units do not carry firearms and the thugs exerted maximum destruction or disruption before the armed security personnel in the outer security rings could arrive.

Closing of Polls

Polls closed from 2.30 pm. During the Presidential/National Assembly Election where polls opened largely late, a lot of voters were still queued at many polling units but voting eventually ended about 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. However, polls predominantly closed by 2:30 p.m. during the State House of Assembly and Supplementary elections.

Implementation of Collation and Result Management Process

Collation of Results took place at the State Collation Centre, three (3) Senatorial Collation Centres, nine (9) Federal Constituency Collation Centres, twenty-four (24) State House of Assembly Collation Centres, eighteen (18) LGA Collation Centres and one hundred and ninety-two (192) Registration Area Collation Centres as applicable. During the processes of collation, Result Management Process was followed including appropriate calculations, check on margin of lead, cognizance of where violence disrupted the election and their effects on outcomes. Application of these scenarios led to supplementary elections in three (3) State Constituencies and one (1) Federal Constituency.

Operation of Situation Room and Election Management and Support Centres (EMSC)

The state had an Election Management and Support Centre (EMSC), headed by a Desk Officer, as well as 12 other Officers. The Election Risk Management was the third tool deployed for the election. It had a Desk Officer, also. These election support tools were effective in deploying their resources to provide information, knowledge, early warnings and responses to the field and where else as may be required.

Reverse Logistics

Personnel and materials that were deployed for the 2023 General Election were accounted for:

a. Ad-hoc staff roll call was done and the list of those who actually performed election duties were submitted for payment of their honoraria.

b. Used and unused sensitive materials were taken into custody at the state office

c. Non-sensitive materials were left in the custody of the Local Government Offices.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Elections

Violence: Violence during the election was moderate during the Presidential/ National Assembly Election than it was during the State House of Assembly and Supplementary Election.

Disruption and Obstruction of the Electoral Process: Violence disrupted polling in seventy-one (71) polling units in eleven (11) Registration Areas leading to supplementary elections in three (3) State Constituencies.

Usage, Non-Usage, Damage or Missing of BVAS: BVAS was used during the election. Results of polling units where BVAS was not used or bypassed were cancelled. Four Thousand, Seven Hundred and Seventy-Two (4,772) BVAS were deployed for the election. On retrieval, One Hundred and Ten (110) BVAS were missing while four (4) BVAS were damaged.

12.6.6
Rivers State
Capital City: Port Harcourt

Johnson Alalibo Sinikiem
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Rivers State

Delimitation Data

23 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts
13 Federal Constituencies	**32** State Constituencies
319 No of RAs	**6,866** No of PUs
3,537,190 No of Registered Voters	**3,285,785** No of PVCs Collected
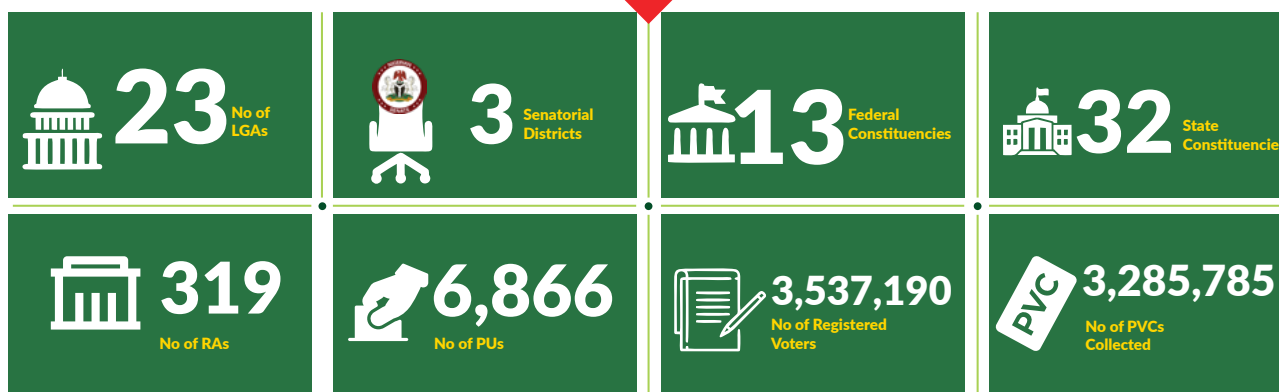
Introduction:

Rivers state is one of the six states of the South-South geo-political zone created in 1967. It is bounded to the North by Imo state, to the East by Abia and Akwa Ibom states, and to the West by Bayelsa and Delta states. The State has 23 LGAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 13 Federal and 32 State Constituencies, 319 RAs and 6,866 PUs. It has 3,537,190 registered voters with 3,285,785 PVCs collected. Port Harcourt is the state capital and is considered the commercial centre of the Nigerian Oil & Gas Industry. The state is home to diverse ethnic groups namely Ikwerre, Izon, Ogoni, Ekpeye, Ogba, amongst others. As the name implies, it is dominated by numerous rivers namely, Sombreiro, New Calabar, Bonny, Orashi, Andoni, Nun, amongst others.

Pre-Election Activities

Planning Activities

Prior to the election, the state office established various committees to drive the various electoral activities. These included logistics, land and water transportation, information, publicity and voter education, security, welfare, recruitment and training of Ad hoc staff and distribution of electoral materials.

Audit of Election Materials

In the build-up to the 2023 General Election, materials were periodically evaluated to ascertain their usability or otherwise and recorded in the templates provided by National Headquarters. Materials that were unusable were boarded in the auctioning process, and items with no economic value

were properly destroyed in the presence of security agents. This was done to decongest the stores in the various Area Offices as well as create the needed space for the receipt of new electoral materials. The state of the materials was reported promptly to the Headquarters to aid proper planning.

Conduct of CVR and PVC Collection Exercise

The CVR exercise held between Monday the 28th of June 2021 and Sunday the 31st of July 2022 at all INEC Offices in the twenty-three (23) Local Government Areas of the state as well as the State Office. The exercise recorded 168, 061 online Pre- registration, 305, 863 In-person (Physical) registration and 473, 924 completed Registration.

The PVC collection exercise ran concurrently with the CVR exercise but continued after the suspension of the CVR exercise but was brought an end on the 5th of February 2023 with a cumulative total of 3, 343,141 PVCs collected.

Recruitment, Training and Deployment of Electoral Personnel

As part of the preparations for the 2023 General Election, letters were written to the Heads of NYSC, federal tertiary institutions and federal establishments requesting the list of NYSC members as well as interested staff and students wishing to participate in the elections as Poll Officials. They were also advised to register online using the INECPRES portal. A total of 687 Supervisory Presiding Officers, 6,866 Presiding Officers, and 20,598 Assistant Presiding Officers were recruited. Similarly, 753 Collation

Officers and 48 Returning Officers were also engaged.

The training of Election Day Staff for the 2023 General Election in Rivers State was conducted in accordance with the Commission's training schedule that was anchored by The Electoral Institute (TEI) and supported by some development partners like IFES and DFID. The trained personnel were deployed in accordance with the Commission's design for the setting up of polling units.

Remuneration

Payment of honoraria commenced immediately after Presidential/National Assembly and other subsequent elections in line with the Commission's approved amount for the various positions. Majority of the ad hoc personnel received their honorarium in good time except for few due to the submission of account information not consistent with the Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System (NIBSS) platform.

Political Party Activities and Stakeholders' Engagements

Political party primaries were conducted through accredited delegates by the parties that participated in the elections. This exercise was duly monitored. Consensus, Affirmation and Direct Voting were the various options used for the nomination process.

The State Management team had several engagements with the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) in the build-up to the

elections wherein security flashpoints were identified and possible measures to curtail incidences of electoral violence were discussed.

There were advocacy visits and interactive sessions with traditional rulers and Faith-Based Organizations. For instance, the State Management team visited the Traditional Rulers Council Chairman, the Amayanabo of Opobo Kingdom as well as leaders of the Rivers State Council of Islamic Affairs, Salvation Ministries, and Redeemed Christian Church of God amongst others. The state also engaged with the Civil Society Organizations and International Development partners such as the European Union Election Observation Mission (EUEOM), ECOWAS Election Observer, Stakeholders Democracy Network (SDN), amongst others.

Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Electoral Materials

Non-sensitive materials were batched and distributed to the LGAs from the state office, one week before the elections. The sensitive materials domiciled at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) were inspected on Monday the 20th of February 2023. The distribution commenced on Wednesday the 22nd of February 2023 and ended on the 23rd of February 2023. political party agents, the civil society, security personnel and the media witnessed the distribution. The materials were escorted to the LGAs by security agents.

Identification, Preparation and Activation of RACs and SRACs

Public facilities were used as RACs and Super-RACs. These facilities were inspected to ascertain their habitability or otherwise. The facilities that were not habitable were changed in line with the Commission's terms of reference in doing so. These facilities were fully activated to enable the movement of materials and personnel to the centres on Friday for early deployment to the PUs on Election Day. This initiative increased the punctuality index exponentially in relation to the early commencement of polls. However, due to security concerns, some EOs could not move to certain RACs early enough.

Logistic Preparations

To achieve a seamless and well-coordinated electoral service delivery, the state office engaged the services of the National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO), National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN) for the provision of Vehicles and Boats for the movement of personnel and materials. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was entered into with the various unions and a fuelling arrangement was also made with the NNPC Mega Station Port Harcourt and their fuel station outlets, to provide petrol and diesel for use during this period.

Collation and Results Management System

The Collation of results for all elections took place at the various levels of collation centres

designated for that purpose. One Collation Support Result Verification System (CSRVS) personnel was deployed to each of the three (3) Senatorial Districts as well as the thirteen (13) Federal Constituencies to assist in the collation of the results. The collation of results and announcement of votes for the Presidential Election was done at the Media Centre, INEC State Office, Port Harcourt. Similarly, the collation, announcement and declaration of the Governorship Election took place at the Media Centre, INEC State Office while that of the various State Houses of Assembly were collated, announced, and declared at the appropriate centres, except for Ahoada West State Constituency which was declared at the state office for security reasons. The outcome of the General Election was documented in the relevant Form EC8 series.

Monitoring, Implementation and Support for Field Activities

The Heads of Department were assigned on senatorial District basis to monitor the elections. Similarly, Field Monitors were also deployed from the Headquarters to support the exercise.

Configuration and Deployment of Accreditation Devices (EVR, VR and BVAS)

The Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) was used to accredit voters. In like manner, this same device also served to transmit election results to the IReV portal after recording of votes scored by political parties in the respective EC 8A series. It is against this backdrop that the ICT department oversaw the preparations,

readiness assessment checks, and the eventual deployment of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System across the polling units in the state. In addition, the deployment saw to the printing and sorting of the Electronic Voter Register (EVR) in both coloured and black and white forms.

The BVAS machines were reconfigured after the Presidential and National Assembly elections. To further ensure that the newly reconfigured BVAS was fit for the purpose, the Department employed Local Government Technologists (LGTECHs) swap strategy for the purpose of conducting quality checks on all reconfigured devices as well as the backups. This strategy presupposed that LGTECHs were to conduct quality checks on BVAS of LGAs. During this process, all errors were identified and corrected by the supervising LGTECHs.

Conduct of the Elections

Materials were deployed to the various polling units in the state early enough before the commencement of polls. About 95% of the polling units in the state were opened before 8:30 am and accreditation and voting commenced in earnest. There were reported cases of BVAS malfunction, but the technologists were on ground to resolve those issues. Transport union members in their usual manner, neglected the MoU signed with the Management as some of them refused returning with the personnel they conveyed to the field. All the polling units in the state had security presence in line with the police deployment schedule.

Pre-election, Election Day and immediate post-election activities were tracked and monitored through the instrumentality of the EMSC that had an Election Operation and Support Centre (EOSC) activated on the eve of election. This electoral infrastructure operated within three activity clusters: RAC activities, accreditation/voting and result collation activities. Our field assets were responsible for making direct contacts using cell phones to electoral officials in the field to get information on threats, compliance and challenges, which enabled the state office to take decisive, pragmatic and informed decisions for proper execution of the elections.

Materials such as the BVAS machines, EC 8 series, polling unit booklets, among others, used for the elections were returned to the state office while some others such as used and unused ballot papers, ballot boxes, and cubicles among others were kept securely in the Local Government Area offices.

There were reported incidences in the various Local Government Areas of the state during the Presidential/National Assembly Elections. For instance, the Electoral Officer for Abua/Odual reported that an entire community which consists of 7 PUs in RA 13 refused to participate in the election because the RAC Centres were not sited in their community. More worrisome was the report that transporters increased their fare to One Hundred Thousand Naira (N100, 000) per bus. This delayed the deployment to the RACs on Friday. Consequently, deployment was made directly from the LGA Office to the PUs.

In Ahoada East, there were massive attacks on electoral officials in RA 08- Units 011, 012 and 013 including the snatching of materials. Two (2) BVAS machines got lost in the Local Government Area. Similarly, in Andoni Local Government Area, there were reports of BVAS machine failures in some polling units, but the RATECH deployed to the Local Government Area assisted in proffering solution to most of the problems. Three (3) BVAS machines malfunctioned, and the POs were unable to upload the results to the IREV.

In Degema Local Government Area, there were logistics challenges necessitated by gross negligence on the part of service providers. This inhibited the deployment of personnel and materials to some Super RACs which eventually led to the rescheduling of polls to the next day in the affected Registration Area. In Emohua Local Government Area, political thugs tried to disrupt the process, but Security Officers intervened and brought the situation under control and the process progressed to a successful conclusion. In Ikwerre Local government, there were reported cases of thuggery and theft of electoral materials. The results were available in some RAs but not collated by the Collation Officers on account of late arrival and/or over-voting. These incidents were reported in Elele I, Apani II, Umuanwa, Ubima, and Igwuruta of Ikwerre Local Government Area.

In Khana Local Government Area, there were cancellations of election in two (2) RAs due to thuggery and snatching of results sheets in RAs 04 and 07 of the Local Government Area. Supplementary election was indicated in the 2 RAs (Sogho and Bargha) with 42

PUs because of the margin of lead principle. Hence, the Federal Constituency Election for Khana/Gokana Federal Constituency was declared inconclusive and was concluded after the supplementary election on April 15, 2023. In Port Harcourt Local Government Area, the Returning Officer for Port Harcourt II Federal Constituency reported that collation of the result had reached an advanced stage before it was disrupted by some party agents who alleged that the results had been tampered with as it did not reflect the results from the unit level. As a result of the protests and the allegations by party agents that the results had been doctored and the resultant trust issues, the Commission asked the Returning Officer to step aside and hand-over the entire documents to the HoD Electoral Operations. Upon investigation, the Commission ordered for a supplementary election. In Obio/Akpor Local Government Area, there were reports of attacks by hoodlums. Election materials were hijacked especially result booklets. Twelve (12) BVAS machines were reportedly lost.

During the Governorship and State House of Assembly Elections, some the following incidents were reported:

a. In Asari Toru LGA, the Electoral Officer reported that a political party prevented deployment to the RACs, insisting that all the Collation Officers for the LGAs should be available to enable inspection of the collation result sheets. This disagreement made deployment impossible on Election Day and the exercise had to be postponed to the following day with its resultant additional logistics cost. Due to the deteriorating security situation in the LGA, some collations were done at the State Head Office.

b. In Ahoada West LGA, Ad hoc staff and electoral materials were deployed early to the field through each Registration Area Supervisor. Accreditation and voting started in all the wards. Polls were concluded in most areas and poll officials arrived the area office for collation of results which of course was agreed to take place at the INEC office because of the level of insecurity in the area. Collation Officers had also arrived and were set for collation, when suddenly serious gunshots were heard in front of the office which disrupted Collation. It got serious that most officials that arrived abandoned their materials both inside and outside the office premises and ran for safety. The situation got worse, and the Resident Electoral Commissioner sent two Heads of Department- Legal and Electoral Operations, escorted by security men to rescue and bring the Electoral Officer to the state office. Consequently, electoral materials were evacuated to the state office and collation of results for both the Governorship and State Constituency Elections were eventually carried out at INEC Head Office on Monday the 20th of March 2023.

c. In Akuku Toru LGA, the EO reported that the BVAS malfunctioned in 25 PUs of RA 15 due to poor configuration. This necessitated the rescheduling of the elections in this RA to the following day, March 19, 2023.

d. In Ahoada East LGA, The Electoral Officer reported that during collation at

the LGA, several tear gas canisters were shot into the premises of the office, leaving several people wounded and many others hospitalized. Nevertheless, collation resumed and was successfully concluded.

e. In Abua/Odual Local Government Area, the Electoral Officer reported the death of an ad hoc staff, who was shot at Otapha Registration Area (RA) 07, PU 013. The gunmen also went away with electoral materials including two (2) BVAS machines assigned to PU 008 and 013.

f. In Degema Local Government Area, there was a boat mishap involving election personnel enroute Degema from Bakana which led to the death of an election security personnel of the Nigerian Police Force, with several others injured.

Supplementary elections were conducted in two Federal Constituencies namely: Khana/Gokana and Port Harcourt II Federal Constituencies. Khana/Gokana Federal Constituency had two (2) Registration Areas and forty-two (42) polling units while Port Harcourt II Federal Constituency had ten (10) Registration Areas and three hundred and seventy-seven (377) polling units. All other electoral processes and procedures in the Presidential/National Assembly and Governorship/State House of Assembly elections were replicated in the supplementary elections.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Elections

The issues and challenges associated with the elections are enumerated as follows:

i. Inability of some POs and APOs to operate the BVAS machines at the polling unit level effectively;

ii. Inability to capture the result sheet EC 8A series for upload to the IReV Portal;

iii. Crowd control issues due to the influx of gate-crashers and unqualified persons during trainings led to the use of additional facilitators;

iv. Inadequate materials for the printing of EVR such as toners;

v. Delay in the update of accreditation data exported to the back-end;

vi. Theft of BVAS accessories during the Presidential election (especially the power banks) and the inability to recover or replace these items before the governorship election;

vii. Login details for result upload of some polling units were not properly synchronised. For these PUs, a successful result upload needed the intervention of back-end support. This further delayed the process of result upload;

viii. The re-engagement of the Tech support staff deployed for the Presidential election, made for a more professionalised governorship election;

ix. Mark-up percentage of only 2% was seen in the funding on Personnel, but absent from logistic items; and

x. Political party agent tags were not complete.

12.7 South-West Geo-political Zone

Introduction

The South-West geo-political zone comprises of 6 states namely Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, and Oyo. The zone has a landmass of 79, 665 km2. Altogether, the zone has 137 LGAs, 1,544 RAs, 34,898 PUs, and 17,958,966 registered voters. With the total number of PVCs collected before the General Election standing at 15,536,213 the zone has an overall PVC collection rate of 87% as shown in table 12.7 below.

S/N	State	LGA	SD	FC	SC	RA	PU	Reg. Voters	PVCs Collected	Km2
								Table 12.7: Delimitation Data of the South-West Zone on State-by-State Basis		
1	Ekiti	16	3	6	26	177	2,445	987,647	958,052	6,353
2	Lagos	20	3	24	40	245	13,325	7,060,195	6,214,970	3,345
3	Ogun	20	3	9	26	236	5,042	2,688,305	2,278,063	16,762
4	Ondo	18	3	9	26	203	3,933	1,991,344	1,729,641	15,500
5	Osun	30	3	9	26	332	3,763	1,954,800	1,594,066	9,251
6	Oyo	33	3	14	32	351	6,390	3,276,675	2,761,421	28,454
	Totals	137	18	71	176	1,544	34,898	17,958,966	15,536,213	79,665

12.7.1
Ekiti State
Capital City: Ado Ekiti

Prof. Ayobami Salami
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Ekiti State

Delimitation Data

16 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**6** Federal Constituencies	**26** State Constituencies
177 No of RAs	**2,445** No of PUs	**987,647** No of Registered Voters	**958,052** No of PVCs Collected
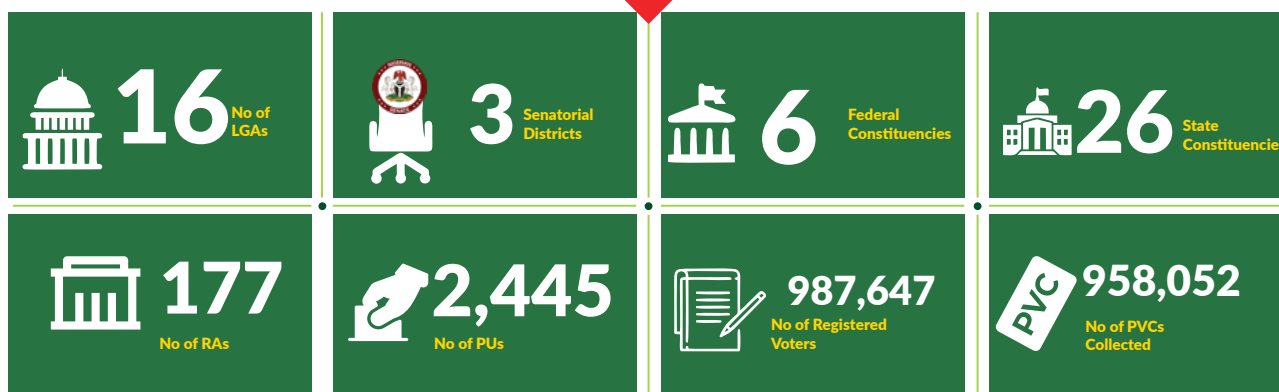
Introduction

Ekiti state is one of the last few states created during the military government of General Sani Abacha in 1996. The State has 16 LGAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 6 Federal and 26 State Constituencies, 177 RAs and 2,445 PUs. The State has a registered voter population of 987,647, with 958,052 PVCs collected.

The high rising hills around the various towns and communities of the state gave it an uneven topography and wavy roads across the entire state. People of Ekiti state are predominantly farmers of arable and cash crops like cassava, maize, yams and cocoa. The state derived its acronym Fountain of knowledge from the sheer number of educated folks, most of whom had attained the professorial level in their chosen disciplines in the various universities within and outside Nigeria. In other words, the state prides itself as a very high producer of highly educated people among others in the country. Ekiti state like most other states has passed through six electoral cycles since the beginning of the fourth republic in 1999. The 2023 General Election is the seventh electoral cycle of the state.

Pre-Election Activities

Activities carried out in preparation for 2023 General Election commenced as far back as the second quarter of 2022 when the political parties held their primaries to select candidates for the various posts in the election.

Voter Education, Publicity, Gender and CSOs

The department conducted several activities to educate, sensitize and bring to the

public knowledge various activities of INEC before and during the elections. The Heads and staffers of the departments attended various capacity building workshops, seminars and meetings organized by INEC in collaboration with its development partners. Public enlightenment and sensitization programmes were held and aired on the radio and/or television in the state. Virtually all the various groupings of the stakeholders were engaged by INEC in the state at various times before the elections.

Monitoring of Party Primaries and Campaigns

Prior to the commencement of party primaries, training was conducted for the EPM staff, EOs, AEOs and other INEC staff on the monitoring of party primaries. The EPM department monitored party primaries for the nomination of candidates in the 2023 General Election in Ekiti state. At the end of the exercise, a total of ten (10) political parties conducted primaries and sponsored candidates in the 2023 General Election in the state. The Commission tracked and successfully monitored the political parties/ candidates campaign finances in the state. Campaign rallies of political parties in the state were effectively monitored. The agents' identification tags were printed and sent from the Headquarters shortly before the Election Day.

Preparation of the Stores

There was no problem of storage of election materials in all the 16 LGAs in the state. All LGAs had their stores well prepared ahead to receive election materials. This helped the Local Government Area offices to adequately and safely store all the elections (both sensitive and non- sensitive) materials supplied to them. However, some Local Government Areas had problems of leaking roofs in their stores.

Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) Exercise

In the build-up of activities towards the 2023 General Election in the state, the CVR exercise was conducted in all the sixteen INEC Local Government offices of the state from July 2021 to March 2022. Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) in its physical form resumed nationwide on Monday the 26th of July 2021, which was, exactly twenty-eight days after the commencement of the registration exercise with a novel online registration. At the end of the CVR exercise, the total number of Registered Voters in Ekiti state increased to Nine Hundred and Eighty-Seven Thousand, Six Hundred and Forty-Seven (987,647).

Distribution of Permanent Voter Cards

This Commission commenced the distribution of the remaining PVCs immediately after the conclusion of the CVR in 2022. The distribution of Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) that began in November 2022 came to an end by January 2023 across the country. About 79% of registered voters in Ekiti state collected their PVCs at the end of collection exercise.

Hanging Voters, Voter Migration and Claims & Objections

The ICT/VR embarked on some pre-election administrative/online exercise at the back end immediately after the Continuous Voters Registration exercise, among which are: (a) hanging voters, (b) voters' migration, and (c) claims and objections.

Meeting of ICCES and Election Security Matters

The Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) in Ekiti state met severally to strategise for the elections. The Heads of the agencies or their representatives attended all the meetings which were mandatorily presided over by the Resident Electoral Commissioner. Matters on flash points, illegal immigrants, criminal elements, cordoning off the state from infiltration from contiguous states as well as Election Day security were matters discussed at the meetings. The state security agencies under the leadership of the Commissioner of Police made adequate provision for security across the entire state on the Election Days.

Preparatory Assessment of RACS/ SRACS and Collation Centres

The Electoral Officers had earlier before the Governorship election in 2022 visited all the RACs/SRACs and the Collation Centres in the LGAs to determine their suitability for the election. This exercise was monitored by a team of Assessors from the Electoral Operations Department at the Headquarters. This was repeated in a nationwide exercise in October 2022 as part of preparations for the 2023 General Election. The recommended relocation of some RACs/SRACs and one Constituency Collation Centre was informed by their unsuitability due to space inadequacies for the number of ad hoc staff they intend to accommodate and wrong locations. These new locations were used in the General Election of the 25th of February and the 18th of March 2023.

Venues for Election Training

The state office wrote officially to the state government to request for the release of state-owned public schools to serve as training venues for the training of ad hoc staff, Polling Units, RACs/SRACs and Collation Centres across the state. All the electoral activities went without hindrance in those public places as scheduled during the elections.

Recruitment, Training and Deployment of Ad-Hoc Staff

Recruitment process for the election started in September 2022. Interested members of the public were given the opportunity to access the INEC portal for the recruitment of election staff called INECPRES from the 14th of September to the 14th of December 2022. Ad hoc staff categories deployed for the elections were sourced from among serving Corps members in the state, federal tertiary institutions, MDAs, and INEC staff. The ad-hoc staff were trained at the state level and deployed to collate at the Registration Area and the Local Government Area levels. The state government declined the request for use of the public schools for the training of

the ad hoc staff during the school sessions. The training had to be postponed to the weekend before the Commission could be given access to the public schools in the various LGAs. In total, One Hundred and Eighty-Five (185) RATECHs were trained and later deployed for the General Election.

Preparation/Activation of Registration Area Camps (RACS)

Funds were made available before the 25th of February Presidential/National Assembly Election for the Electoral Officers to prepare the RACs/SRACs for the elections. The funds were for the illumination of the RACs, provision of water for refreshing and drinking, provision of toiletries and other sundries. The RACs/SRACs activation was carried out early for the two elections. Full activation of all the 105 RACs/SRACs was accomplished around 7pm on Friday the 24th of February 2023 for the Presidential/NASS Election and by 6pm on the Friday preceding the State Assembly Election. The state also achieved 100 percent deployment to the Polling Units before 8am on the two Election Days. This culminated in an early commencement of polls.

Hiring of Buses and Motorcycles

The National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) and NARTO were the two unions engaged for the movement of men and materials in the state during the two elections. The state office released funds to the Electoral Officers to hire enough vehicles for the movement of men and materials during the elections. The unions were initially adamant and did not cooperate with the field officers due to disagreement resulting from inability to meet their demand for increase in the cost beyond the amount approved by the Commission. The issues were resolved at the level of the Electoral Officers with minimal intervention from the state office and the exercise recorded very smooth logistics throughout the election.

Distribution of Election Materials

Distribution of non-sensitive election materials started in December 2022 long before the elections. The materials were distributed to the Local Government Areas where they were batched immediately. The shortfalls and the remaining items not supplied were all received before the Election Days. In the same way, the sensitive election materials were released through the Ado-Ekiti Branch Office of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). These items were checked as prompted by the Headquarters and the CBN office in Ado-Ekiti as soon as they took delivery. The sensitive election materials were distributed on the Wednesdays preceding each Election Day. The distribution was very smooth on each occasion.

Mock Accreditation

Like the other states of the Federation, Ekiti state participated in the nationwide mock accreditation exercise on the 4th of February 2023 across the three senatorial districts namely: Ekiti Central, Ekiti North and Ekiti South.

Conduct of the Elections

Election Day Processes

The process of accreditation and voting was smooth, very peaceful, and orderly in the state. Densely populated polling units and the 16 PUs identified to need additional BVAS were supplied with additional APOs I, II and III. There were cases of infraction and disruption of the process during the 18th of March election in some LGAs. However, most of these disruptions did not affect the outcome of election except in Ido/Osi LGA where the election was declared inconclusive in Ido/Osi State Constituency I. The results from three PUs where election was violently disrupted were cancelled and this affected the final declaration of the winner whose margin of lead was less than the total number of PVCs collected in the affected 3 polling units.

Collation of Election Results

The collation process was smooth in all the 16 LGAs and the state level during the first and second elections. The drag in the process till the following day during the collation of the Presidential election results was due to some errors made by some of the ad hoc staff as well as Collation Officers. All the errors were however corrected before the collation by the State Collation Officer for the Presidential Election. Similar challenges also delayed the collation of results at the 6 Federal Constituencies and the 3 Senatorial Districts. This delay was minimal during the 18th of March 2023 election. The results of all the Federal and State Constituencies and the Districts were declared, and the winners of these levels announced at their respective Constituencies and Senatorial Districts Collation Centres. There were no security challenges during these collations. There were only 2 cancellations in the Presidential elections, none for both House of Representatives and Senatorial District elections. The only cancellation that affected the outcome of the election was the one in Ido/Osi LGA consequent upon which the election in Ido/Osi State Constituency I was declared inconclusive.

Announcement and Declaration of Results

All the results were collated, and winners declared within the respective Constituency/District Collation Centres for all the seats. It was only the Presidential Election results that got to the state level for the state level collation. The State Collation of Presidential Election was done at the state office. Results from the 6 Federal Constituencies and the 3 Senatorial Districts were announced and the winners at those elections were declared at their respective Federal Constituency and Senatorial District Collation Centres.

Reverse Logistics

The reverse logistics of the 2023 General Election was promptly and seamlessly carried out and completed on the Sunday following each Election Day. All the used and unused sensitive election materials and BVAS devices were brought in and kept in the strong room for safe keeping.

Supplementary Election

The State Assembly election conducted in Ekiti state on Saturday the 18th of March 2023 was a largely successful one but for the violent disruption to the process in one of the RA 08 (Ido I) in Ido/Osi LGA that affected the declaration of the result in Ido/Osi I State Constituency. Three Polling Units were affected in the disruption of polls during the election- they were: PU 003, PU 012 and PU 014. The ballot boxes were snatched at gun point and destroyed while the ballots in the boxes were set ablaze. The Corps Members posted to the three polling units were alleged to have been assaulted and were taken to hospital for treatment. This necessitated the supplementary election to conclude the State Constituency election. The state made all necessary arrangements and took all necessary actions before the supplementary election which was conducted successfully on the 15th of April 2023 without any hitch.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Elections

The few challenges observed during this election are as itemized below:

a. Labelling error on the cartons in which some sensitive items were conveyed.

b. Negative effect of the new CBN monetary policy on the election.

c. The state declined the approval of the public schools for training in the weekdays as scheduled by The Electoral Institute (TEI), thus, forcing the state to reschedule the training to a weekend.

d. Inadequate time for the training of ad hoc staff in the time-lines scheduled by The Electoral Institute.

e. Some of the RATECHs were not well acquainted with the BVAS being the first time they were coming in contact with the device.

Over-centralization of procurement of non-sensitive election materials. It is not right for states to be undergoing tension few hours to an election because of the non-supply or inadequate supply of such items like biros, gums, batteries, etc. Local contractors in each state or the zones can be given such supplies, and the monitoring can be done from the Headquarters to ensure compliance. Some materials like biros and other relevant forms arrived very late to the Election Day.

12.7.2
Lagos State
Capital City: Ikeja

Olusegun Agbaje, mni
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Lagos State

Delimitation Data

20 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**24** Federal Constituencies	**40** State Constituencies
245 No of RAs	**13,325** No of PUs	**7,060,195** No of Registered Voters	**6,214,970** No of PVCs Collected
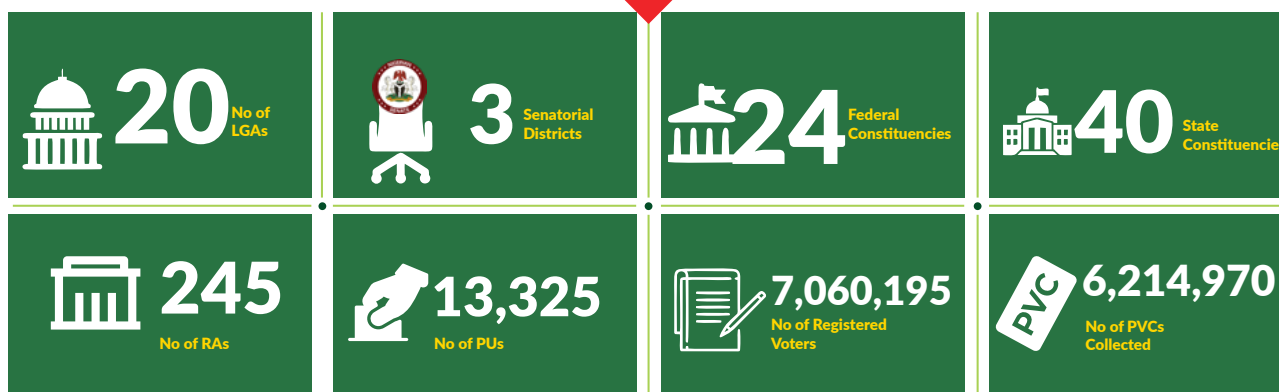
Introduction

Lagos state was created from the old Western Region of Nigeria on the 27th of May 1967. The state is one of the six (6) states in the South-West Geopolitical Zone. Lagos state with a population of more than 24 million in 2022 (NBS) spans a coastline of 450 km hence, referred to as the Land of Aquatic Splendour. Lagos state is also the commercial hub of the country and is called the "Centre of Excellence." The State has 20 LGAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 24 Federal and 40 State Constituencies, 245 RAs and 13, 325 PUs. It has a voter population of 7,060,195, with 6,214,970 PVCs collected.

Pre-Election Activities

Several Management meetings were held at the State Office at regular intervals in preparation for the General Election and stakeholders' meetings were often held to update the leaders of political parties, Civil Society Organizations, and Faith-Based Organisations on the activities of the Commission. The state also conducted audit on the re-usable election materials in its stores e.g. plastic mats, voting cubicles, ballot boxes, life jackets, and others, to determine the condition as well as the adequacy of the election materials in its custody. It should be noted that in preparation for the 2023 General Election, the Central Stores in Surulere LGA was renovated and upgraded to a Zonal Sub-Store.

Conduct of CVR and PVC Collection

The Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise commenced online and in person on the 28th of June and the 26th of July 2021 respectively and suspended on the 31st of July 2022. The registration exercise

was held at the state office and the Local Government Area offices. During the fourth quarter, the CVR exercise was brought closer to the people via LG rotation schedule and a concert tagged #YouthVoteCountNG, which was held at the Tafawa Balewa Square, Lagos Island, to ensure that intending voters were not disenfranchised. At the end of the exercise, the state registered a total of 504,901 voters.

Though the PVC collection exercise commenced simultaneously with the CVR exercise, the collection of PVCs was at the LGA offices, and this was later moved to the different Registration Areas in each LGA. The exercise ended on the 5th of February 2023 and a total of 6,214,970 PVCs were collected.

Electoral Personnel: Recruitment, Training and Remuneration

Ad hoc staff were sourced from NYSC, MDAs, federal tertiary institutions, and ex-corps members for the 2023 General Election. They attended several trainings, workshops, and seminars to keep them abreast of new technologies, innovations and regulations in the electoral process and these trainings were cascaded to the LGA level. Similarly, trainings were organized for ad hoc staff and some critical partners.

Details of honoraria payable to all categories of election personnel were captured in the appointment letters issued to them immediately after the conclusion of the short-listing process.

Payment was through the online portal to bank accounts provided by ad hoc personnel.

Political Party Activities

The conduct of primaries was initially scheduled to hold between the 4th of April 2022 and the 3rdof June 2022 but was later extended to the 9th of June 2022. However, political party primaries in the state commenced in May 2022. Also, during the period of substitution of candidates according to the Electoral Act 2022, five (5) political parties conducted substitution primaries.

Sixteen (16) political parties fielded candidates for one Governorship seat while Seventeen (17) parties fielded candidates for both the Governorship and Forty (40) State House of Assembly seats. The nomination exercise was generally peaceful in the state and at the end of the exercise, sixteen (16) Governorship candidates, 29 Senatorial candidates, 176 Federal House of Representatives candidates, 394 State House of Assembly candidates emerged from the exercise out of the eighteen (18) political parties.

Stakeholder Engagements

The state embarked on an aggressive voter education campaign before the General Election. Voter education/ sensitization went on simultaneously with the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) and Permanent Voter Card (PVC) collection exercises. Several media like Radio and TV programmes, market outreaches, town hall meetings, Church and Mosque outreaches, jingles, and posters among others, were used to reach out to the public on the need to come out and register for their PVCs. Emphasis was also laid on the change

of slogan from PVC distribution to PVC collection, with the public being sensitized on the importance of collecting their PVCs after registering, as well as voting after collecting their PVCs. Several public sensitization and mobilization activities were also carried out on the display of preliminary register of voters, to help the voters make their choices well ahead of time where they would be voting.

Several meetings were also held with members of the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) at the State and Local Government Area levels towards ensuring a successful conduct of the General Election.

Electoral Staff

A total of 57,169 ad hoc staff sourced from NYSC, MDAs, federal tertiary institutions and ex-corps members were engaged and deployed for the 2023 General Election. To complement the regular training earlier undertaken for ad-hoc personnel, the Commission approved a refresher training programme. Ad hoc personnel were deployed to areas within their constituencies to ease their movement due to the cash crunch experienced at the time. Provision made for reverse logistics was well laid out and managed to ensure personnel for election were taken back to their take-off points.

Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Electoral Materials

The deployment of non-sensitive materials to the 20 LGA offices started in the last quarter of 2022 and the state followed up with Logistics Department at the Headquarters and the Zonal stores on shortfall of non-sensitive materials. The state had to improvise on some materials not provided e.g., ballot box ID stickers, and sourced in-house for items not provided e.g., extension box, etc.

It is pertinent to mention here that the ballot papers and result sheets for the 2023 General Election, which were kept in the custody of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Lagos were deployed to the 20 LGA offices on Wednesday 22nd February, and Wednesday the 15th of March 2023 for the Presidential/National Assembly elections and the Governorship/State House of Assembly elections respectively.

Identification and Preparation of Registration Area Camps (RACs)

Prior to the commencement of the General Election, the RACs and Super RACs in the 245 Registration Areas (RAs) were inspected to ensure their suitability. Two hundred and twenty-four (224) RACs were activated while the state also identified and created 15 special RACs to address the issue of late opening of polls in the riverine and far-flung areas of the state. Badagry LGA had 1 Centre, Apapa and Eti-Osa LGAs had 2 Centres each, Amuwo-Odofin and Epe LGAs had 3 Centres each, while Ojo LGA had 4 Centres.

Logistic Preparation

To ensure smooth transportation of men and materials throughout the conduct of the 2023 General Election, the state had several meetings with the National Association

of Road Transport Owners (NARTO) and Private Transporters. Afterwards, Electoral Officers (EOs) were directed to source the vehicles required by their respective LGAs from NARTO and private transporters found credible.

Similarly, the state had a robust engagement with the Maritime Workers Union and signed an agreement with the Union to provide the required number of boats for the 10 riverine Local Government Areas in the state. The Union coordinated and supervised its members that were engaged for the elections. In fact, some of its officials usually stayed at the state office to monitor and direct their members on the two Election Days (25th February, and 18th March, 2023).

Collation and Results Management System

Collation of results were done at approved designated centres at all levels of Collation. Collation Officers were sourced by the Commission's Headquarters and list sent to the Honourable Resident Electoral Commissioner. The list fell short of the number required by the state hence, the state had to seek approval from the Headquarters to source additional hands from federal tertiary institutions in the state. This process delayed the commencement of training for these categories of personnel. It is important to mention that the state conducted training for few very senior staff of the Commission that were used to address cases where some Collation Officers failed to turn up for the election. The state also set up a Result Management Team to oversee the collection of the Commission

copies of the result sheets and manage the results in consonance with the dictates of INEC Guidelines on election 2022.

Monitoring, Implementation and Support for Field Activities

Several teams both from the Commission's Headquarters and the state office monitored the elections. Field officers were supported with transportation (vehicles and financially) to monitor the exercise so as to ensure wide coverage of the exercise and timely resolution of issues raised.

Configuration and Deployment of Accreditation Devices (EVR, VR and BVAS)

The Voter Register for each LGA was printed both in colour as well as black & white copies and deployed to the 20 LGAs in the state. The state had adequate printers and other peripherals for the printing of the register and the process was smooth and seamless.

A total of 14,162 BVAS devices were received in the state. As a result of this, 14,162 BVAS were tested, configured, and deployed during the General Election. Due to the number of BVAS required for the election and the limited time to the election, ICT Staff, LGTECH staff and NYSC members deployed to the state office assisted in the configuration exercise. The deployment of BVAS was done on Wednesday the 22nd of February 2023.

Conduct of the Elections (the 25th of February and the 18th of March)

Presidential/National Assembly Elections

In Lagos state, 1 Presidential seat, 3 Senatorial seats and 24 Federal House of Representatives seats were contested for during the 25th of February 2023 Presidential and National Assembly election.

Deployment of Personnel and Materials

The RACs were opened on Friday the 24th of February 2023 and poll officials and materials were moved into their respective RACs. On Election Day (25th February 2023), poll officials and materials started moving to the polling units though with some hitches here and there. For instance, in some LGAs, some POs eloped for fear that violence may break out during the election. As such, the Electoral Officers had to start searching for replacement in the morning of Election Day.

Performance of Transport Union Members According to Signed Contract

Some transporters refused to work in the morning of the Election Day on the 25th of February 2023 if they were not paid the balance of their money, though this was against the agreement reached. All these caused delay in the opening of polls in the affected PUs, mostly in Amuwo-Odofin,

Apapa, Eti-Osa, Ojo and Oshodi-Isolo LGAs. However, this was eventually resolved with the intervention of the Resident Electoral Commissioner and other Transportation Stakeholders. During the Governorship Election, transporters performed better, and this led to improvement in reverse logistics.

Opening of Polls

Most polling stations opened on time across the state except in Amuwo-Odofin, Apapa, Eti-Osa, Ojo and Oshodi-Isolo LGAs due to issues ranging from transporters refusal to work, fear of violence, intimidation, and others, but the process improved greatly during the second election, as almost all the PUs opened on time across the state.

Accreditation and Voting Process

Accreditation went on smoothly across the state in most polling units in both the National and State Elections. The elections were conducted successfully all over the state with the BVAS during the accreditation of voters.

Election Security

The state had all along ensured adequate security and policing of the Commission's facilities. However, this was intensified with the inauguration of the state chapter of the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) on the 17th of November 2022. The Committee met again on the 6th of December 2022 and the 7th of February 2023 in continuation of its preparations and strategising for the 2023 General Election.

During the Presidential/National Assembly elections, there were security lapses in few places. However, there was improvement in the security structure in the state during the second election. Lapses observed in the first election were corrected and mitigated. An officer of the Department of State Services (DSS) in the state was attached to the EMSC team for timely resolution of areas where violence was recorded.

Closing of Polls

After close of polls, results were transmitted via the INEC Result Viewing Portal (IREV) for interested members of the public to follow. Challenges were observed during the transmission of the Presidential Election result from the PUs but results of the other elections conducted in the state were transmitted with little or no problems. However, transmission of results through IREV in the Governorship Election was a great improvement compared with the previous elections.

Implementation of Collation and Result Management Process

The state ensured that it adhered to the approved designated centres for the collation of results at all levels of Collation. The CSRVS team was deployed to the state for seamless collation. The election results were managed based on the provisions of INEC Guidelines and other extant rules. During the collation exercise at the state office, the state observed in the Presidential/National Assembly elections that some disparity in the collated figures from some LGAs resulted in delay of the process. The state, therefore, set up a

team to verify all collated results before presentation to the State Returning Officer during the Governorship election.

Operation of the Situation Room and Election Management and Support Centre (EMSC)

The EMSC monitored and tracked the election activities (pre-, during and post-election activities) in the state. Three (3) Desk Officers and the EOSC team monitored and reported on electoral activities as well as challenges emanating from the LGAs for timely resolution. Issues such as shortage of personnel and (both non-sensitive and sensitive) materials, threat, risk and violence, refusal of corps members and transporters to move to their respective locations, and others were promptly reported. All funds for operations of the situation room and EMSC were duly disbursed.

Reverse Logistics

The state set up a reverse logistics team at the state office to collect/retrieve the required result sheets and duplicate copies from the LGAs for the Headquarters. All sensitive materials retrieved were securely stored in the state office. Similarly, all re-usable election materials were retrieved and stored at the Electoral Store, Surulere.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Elections

Cancellation of Results During Presidential Election

The results of polls from some PUs were cancelled due to reasons like over-voting,

violence, by-passing of the BVAS among others. Below are the records of affected LGAs.

a. **Alimosho:** At RA 01, PUs 088, 115, 128, RA 04 PU 240, RA 06 PU 002, RA 07 PU 143 and RA 09 PU 007, the results were cancelled due to violent disruption of the process by hoodlums.

b. **Epe:** At RA 01, PU 008, RA 05 PU 021, RA 08 PU 021, RA 10 PU 019, results were cancelled because the BVAS was by-passed, and manual accreditation was used.

c. **Eti-Osa:** At RA 03, PU 001, RA 05 PUs 055-058, RA 06 PUs 025, 032-035, 044, 048 and 056, the results were cancelled due to violent disruption of the process by hoodlums.

d. **Ibeju-Lekki:** At RA 02 PU 005, the result was cancelled due to over-voting.

e. **Kosofe:** At RA 05 PU 129, hoodlums disrupted the poll and destroyed electoral materials while at RA 06 PU 007, 042, 071 and 118, results were cancelled due to over-voting.

f. **Lagos Mainland:** At RA 05 PU 009 and RA 09 PU 009 and 040, results were cancelled due to over-voting; while at RA 02 PU 036, 070, RA 04, PU 031, RA 06 PU 004 and 015, RA11 PU 013, polls were disrupted due to attacks by hoodlums who destroyed electoral materials.

g. **Ojo:** At RA 02 PU 030, RA 04 PU 010, 015, RA 11 PU 113, results were cancelled due to over-voting. However, at RA 02 PU 019 and 031, RA 05 PU 005, 006, 019, 020, 022, 027, 030, 031,037, 050, 096, 100, RA 07 PU 001, 008, RA 09 PU 002, RA 11 PU 020, 025,056,059, 060, 116 and 130, results were cancelled because hoodlums attacked and disrupted the process and destroyed electoral materials.

h. **Oshodi-Isolo:** Election in the following PUs were disrupted due to attacks by hoodlums and ballot papers burnt and one BVAS smashed on the ground- RA 01 PUs 006, 033, 087, 091, 095; RA 02 PU 104; RA 06 PUs 019, 021,024, 032, 034, 035, 036, 062-065; and RA 11 PUs 059, 082, 099, 110, 161, 166, 177, 183 and 184. It is pertinent to mention here that election did not hold at RA 05 PUs 048 and 049 due to threat to life of the ad hoc staff who were prevented by hoodlums from getting to their PUs.

Incidents from Governorship and House of Assembly Elections

The Governorship/State House of Assembly elections in the state witnessed some incidents which resulted in the loss of some BVAS and cancellation of results in the affected polling units. However, the cancellations were not significant enough to affect the declaration of results in any of the constituencies in the state. For instance, elections could not hold in 10 PUs at Victoria Garden City (VGC), Eti-Osa LGA on 18th March, but was re-scheduled for the 19th of March 2023.

Challenges

a. Prior to the Election Day, the political landscape was heated and there was palpable fear that violence could break out. As such, some Presiding Officers (POs) and Assistant Presiding Officers (APOs) absconded from RACs on the eve of the election. This created the problem of sourcing for replacement in the morning of Election Day for the Electoral Officers and this obviously led to delays in opening of polls in the affected areas.

b. Mix-up/wrong packing of result sheets and ballot papers most especially, in Ikeja State Constituencies.

c. Some result sheet booklets for some LGAs/elections were completely omitted, thus creating avoidable apprehension for those in the LGAs concerned.

d. Some drivers arrived late in the morning of Election Day, leading to late arrival and opening at some PUs. Similarly, some drivers absconded after dropping poll officials and materials in the morning, thus creating problems for reverse logistics.

e. Across all cadres, some ad-hoc staff demonstrated poor understanding of the electoral process and what they were expected to do. This was because the time allotted for training was too short.

f. Since the training of ad-hoc staff mostly takes place in public school buildings, the venues were usually only available in the evenings thus reducing the hours that could be spent for training, thereby leading to poor content delivery.

g. There were noticeable inadequate security personnel at some RACs such as at Amuwo-Odofin, Alimosho and Ojo LGAs. Similarly, due to inadequate security at all Collation Centres in Ibeju-Lekki LGA, RA collation done at the INEC LGA Office simultaneously during all the elections

h. Some poll officials were attacked on the way to their PUs in the morning while some were held hostage at the end of polls late in the night and in some cases till the next day.

i. Inability of poll officials to upload results through the BVAS created agitation and endangered the lives of poll officials and INEC staff especially during the Presidential/National Assembly elections

j. Poor allowance/honoraria for POs and APOs caused discouragement and created room for temptation/inducement

k. The online recruitment portal was closed even when states were yet to get full complement of ad-hoc staff required, thus making it difficult to source and screen applicants for the shortfalls

l. Funding for the elections was inadequate for some sub-heads, most especially the provision for the Collation Officers in the Governorship/State House of

Assembly elections, servicing/fuelling of generators and hiring of motorcycles among others, as the provision did not reflect the current economic realities in the state.

m. The state had to provide transportation and security to move over 400 voters on Election Day from their residence at OPIC in Isheri North to their PU (24/13/07/016) at Boys Approved School Compound in Olowoora, Kosofe LGA, which is about 5 kilometres apart.

12.7.3
Ogun State
Capital City: Abeokuta

Olaniyi Olaleye Babalola Ijalaye
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Ogun State

Delimitation Data

20 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts
9 Federal Constituencies	**26** State Constituencies
236 No of RAs	**5,042** No of PUs
2,688,305 No of Registered Voters	**2,278,063** No of PVCs Collected
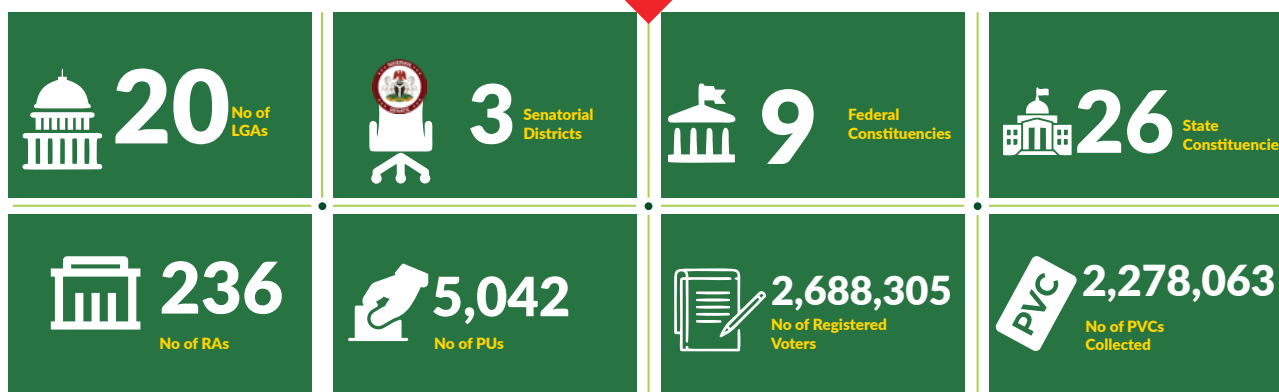
Introduction

Ogun state was created on the 3rd of February 1976 out of the former Western state with Abeokuta as the capital. The state is bounded on the West by Benin Republic, on the North by Oyo and Osun states on the East by Ondo state and the South by Lagos state. The state covers a land area of approximately 16, 762 km2. Ogun state has 20 LGAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 9 Federal and 26 State Constituencies, 236 RAs and 5,042 PUs. The total number of registered voters stood at 2,688,305 as at the time of the election, with 2,278,063 PVCs collected. The state is populated by the Egbas, Ijebus, Remos, Yewas and the Aworis. The population according to 2006 population Census is 3,728,038 people. Majority of the people in the state are business oriented, well-educated, and politically informed. The proximity of Ogun state to Lagos state gave the state a cosmopolitan outlook with some companies located within the state.

Pre-Election Activities

Management Meetings

After the release of the 2023 General Election timetable, various activities were embarked upon to ensure smooth conduct of the election. The Honourable Resident Electoral Commissioner and the management team engaged regularly in series of meetings to plan and strategise on the conduct of the General Election.

Audit of Election Materials

At each stage, the Desk Officer carried out an audit of election materials to ensure availability of materials needed for the successful conduct of the election while a list of materials required for election was

forwarded to the National Headquarters, Abuja. A check-list of election materials needed for the election was produced and updated towards the conduct of the 2023 General Election. Most of the election materials were supplied and distributed to LGAs.

Conduct of CVR and PVC Collection Exercise

Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) Exercise: The CVR exercise in Ogun state was conducted using a total of eighty (80) INEC Voter Enrolment Devices (IVEDs) at the LGAs and two (2) Desktop devices at the State HQ respectively. These devices were utilized to register eligible voters and capture their biometric information.

After the completion of the CVR exercise, the Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) was run against the CVR database by the Commission and the process helped in identifying duplicate registrations and ensuring the accuracy and integrity of the voter registration data.

Collection of Permanent Voter Cards (PVC) Exercise: Sensitization was carried out at the state by the VEP Department and at the Local Government Area (LGA) by Voter Education Desk Officers (VEDO) on PVC collection. In Ogun state, a total of 2,278,063 PVCs were collected by registered voters.

Electoral Personnel

The Commission through the INEC PRES with a dedicated portal recruited ad-hoc personnel from the NYSC, federal parastatals and tertiary institutions including ex-corps members. Screening and training of Supervisory Presiding Officers took place from the 11th – the 12th of February 2023, that of Presiding Officers and Assistant Presiding Officers was held between the 14th and the 16th of February 2023 while that of the Collation Officers/ Returning Officers was held from the 21st – the 22nd of February 2023.

Political Party Activities

Political party primaries and candidate nomination process were carried out in Ogun state as scheduled. Electoral Officers, staff at the LGAs and staff from the Election and Party Monitoring (EPM) Department monitored the party primaries and nomination process of political parties in the state. The EPM team and Electoral Officers also monitored the campaign activities of political parties and tracked their campaign fund in the state.

Stakeholder Engagements

The state had a robust engagement with stakeholders at all levels towards achieving a successful conduct of the 2023 General Election. Several interactive sessions were held with various categories of stakeholders, from the CVR exercise, the collection of PVC, political party primaries and congresses and throughout the period leading to the conduct of the 2023 General Election.

Electoral Staff Training

Sequel to the release of Ad hoc staff recruited by the Commission through the INECPRES to the state, all categories of

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electoral staff were contacted through SMS. All the categories engaged were trained and deployed for the election.

Some of the serving NYSC members that were trained refused to turn up for the election, after receiving their training allowance; their excuse was based on parental advice not to work with INEC because of fear of violence. They were however replaced with non-NYSC members who attended the mop-up training.

Refresher training was also conducted for all categories of ad hoc staff just before the gubernatorial election. Refresher training for Collation Officers was held on Friday, the 17th of March 2023 while that of SPO was held on Thursday the 16th of March 2023 respectively. Refresher training for PO/APO was conducted at the RAC on the eve of elections.

Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Electoral Materials

The non-sensitive election materials were received from the National Headquarters and Zonal Store. The state office prepared a check-list of such materials and was updated as and when due. The Commission's Headquarters and Zonal Store were constantly contacted to ensure receipt of shortfalls of any of the non-sensitive materials.

Sensitive election materials such as ballot paper and EC8 series used in the 2023 General Election were in the custody of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Abeokuta branch, before the commencement of the election. The state office inspected the

materials at the CBN on three different occasions to ascertain the quantity of materials, detect mix-up if any and look out for possible shortfall to escalate same to the Director of Operations for immediate action.

After ascertaining that all sensitive materials were available in the right quantity, batching of the materials into various LGA was done for onward distribution to the LGAs. The materials were finally distributed to all the 20 LGAs.

RACS/SRACS: Identification, Preparation and Activation

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Commission issued a guideline on the 6th of July 2020 for states to review and relocate their RACs and SRACs to a more spacious and conducive environment. In line with this guideline, Ogun state relocated some of its RACs and SRACs to a more suitable and conducive location, and all were activated for the conduct of the election.

Logistic Preparations

As a result of the MOU signed with the National Union of Transportation Workers (NURTW) and the National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO), series of meetings were held between the state office and the transport unions. A committee was set up to ensure compliance with the MoU and specifications that were supplied to the EOs by the local branch of the Unions for distribution of men and electoral materials before and on Election Day, as well as the reverse logistics. Arrangement was equally made with NNPC Mega Station in Abeokuta

for the supply of fuel to all election duty vehicles throughout the election period.

Collation and Result Management System

Collation Officers (COs) that were trained were deployed to various levels of collation and members of the CSRVS team were also deployed to Federal Constituency, Senatorial Districts and State Level to assist the Collation Officers. The COs were issued with copies of Election guidelines which guided their operations during the election.

Monitoring Implementation and Support for Field Activities

There were two categories of Monitors from INEC Headquarters: four Officials from Abuja supervised the three (3) Senatorial Districts in the state, while another nine officials monitored the election in the nine (9) Federal Constituencies in the state.

Configuration and Deployment of Accreditation Devices

In preparation for the 2023 General Election, BVAS machines were all activated and configured for use during the 2023 General Election. The configuration and deployment process of accreditation devices for the 2023 General Election, including the EVR on BVAS machines, the printed copy of the EVR, and the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS), involved meticulous planning, rigorous testing, and adherence to election guidelines.

Conduct of the Elections (the 25th of February, the 18th of March, and the 15th of April)

Deployment of Personnel and Materials

The deployment of personnel and materials was carried out as planned, but the local branch of NURTW at Ifo, Ado Odo/Ota and Obafemi Owode refused to convey men and materials to the various polling units on Election Day after receiving their payment. Despite these isolated incidences, all election materials and personnel were moved from the state office to LGAs, and from the LGAs to RACs on the eve of election as well as on the day of election. The movement and deployment were in real time without any hitch; the retrieval of men and materials (reverse logistics) was also adequately done in Ogun state.

Performance of the Transport Union Members According to the Signed Contract

The transport union members in Ogun state performed below expectation, they refused to follow the MoU signed with them and almost held the Commission to ransom. This accounted for the late opening of polls during the Presidential and National Assembly Election.

Opening and Closing of Polls

Despite the initial challenges we faced on the eve of Presidential/NASS Election, due

to the inter union squabbles by the NURTW and Ogun State Park Managers, the state was able to achieve 75% early opening and commencement of polls in Ogun state. Polls opened around 7:30am while accreditation of voters and voting commenced by 8:30am in majority of the Local Government Areas of the state. The challenges were addressed after the Presidential and National Assembly elections and the state was able to achieve 100% early opening and commencement of polls during the Governorship and State House of Assembly Election. Polls closed generally by 2:30pm, except in places where voting procedure did not commence early.

Accreditation and Voting Process and Performance of Equipment

The accreditation and voting process in the state during the various election types followed best practices as stipulated in the 2023 Election Guidelines for the use of Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS). The Bimodal Voter Accreditation System performed commendably during the elections in Ogun State.

Election Security Architecture

There were adequate security personnel at all formations of the Commission in the state. The state office had detachment of The Nigerian Army, Mobile Police, NSCDC Operatives, DSS, Nigeria Correctional Service, Federal and State Fire Services with their fire-fighting trucks stationed at the state office. All the 20 LGAs INEC offices also had adequate security personnel and complements of security men were also at the RACs, Polling Units and Collation Centres throughout the state. Aside from these, there were Quick Response Team

of security personnel and military patrol team before, during and after 2023 General Election.

Implementation of Collation and Result Management Process

Presidential election results were collated at the INEC State Media Centre and the Senatorial District Election was held at the three (3) designated Senatorial District Collation Centres. While that of the Federal Constituencies were collated at the nine (9) Federal Constituencies Collation Centres, Collation Support and Result Verification System (CSRVS) team was deployed at all stages of the collation exercise.

For the Governorship election, collation was held at the INEC State Media Centre. Twenty-five (25) out of the twenty-six (26) State constituencies were held and declared at the designated Collation Centres while the outstanding one was concluded after the supplementary election on the 15th of April 2023.

Operation of Situation Room and Elections Monitoring Support Centre (EMSC)

The EMSC Situation Room was activated for the election. The Centre was critical in identifying and reporting threats and proffering solutions to the problems before they became crises. It also helped in escalating major issues to the EOs, RATECH, HOD E-Ops, HOD ICT and Honourable REC if need be. All field assets were tracked and monitored. The deployment of materials and personnel was done at the various RACs in the state except in 2 LGAs.

Reverse Logistics

The retrieval of men and materials from the field to the LGAs after the close of polls was seamless, and all materials were kept in safe custody of the LGAs and state store respectively.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Election

a. Voting in some of the units in Obafemi/Owode, Ifo and Ado Odo/Ota could not hold on the 25th of February 2023 due to the issue with the local branch of the NURTW. The voting, therefore, was shifted to the 26th of February 2023 after resolving the issue of movement of men and materials with the NURTW in the affected polling units of the concerned LGAs.

b. Adequate logistics provision was not made for LGAs in the riverine areas.

c. There were pockets of violence, wilful disruptions of polls and destruction of election materials and hoodlums in some polling units across 13 LGAs during the Governorship and State Assembly Elections.

d. Unwholesome attitude of NURTW officials/drivers nearly marred the successful conduct of the Presidential and NASS election, as poll officials were not conveyed on time to the polling units on Election Day and they were equally abandoned after polls by the drivers.

e. Some of the Corps members absconded at the peak of the commencement of poll as they were scared and not sure of their safety during the election, despite the assurance given by the security personnel to protect men and materials deployed for the election.

12.7.4
Ondo State
Capital City: Akure

Oyekola Oludayo Oyelami
Admin Sec., Ondo State

Delimitation Data

18 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**9** Federal Constituencies	**26** State Constituencies
203 No of RAs	**3,933** No of PUs	**1,991,344** No of Registered Voters	**1,729,641** No of PVCs Collected
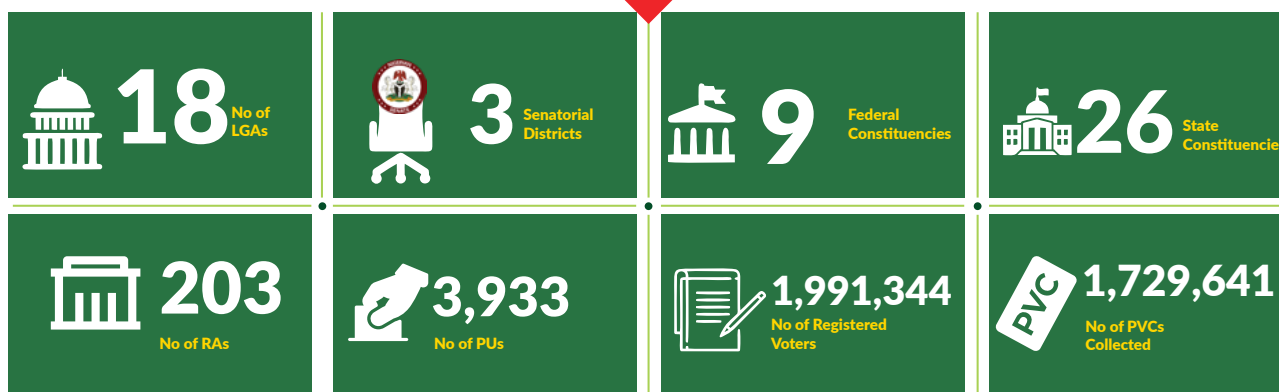
Introduction

Ondo state, referred to as the "Sunshine State", was created from the defunct Western Region on the 3rd of February 1976. It originally included what is now known as Ekiti state, until 1996.

Ondo State is in the South-western geo-political zone of Nigeria and bounded in the North by Ekiti and Kogi states, in the East by Edo state, in the west by Osun and Ogun states and in the south by the Atlantic Ocean. Ondo state is located entirely within the tropics. Before its creation, the state existed as the Ondo Province of the old Western Region. The state covers a land area of 15,500 km2 with its administrative capital at Akure. The population of the state as revealed by the Year 2006 population is 3,441,024. It has 18 LGAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 9 Federal and 26 State Constituencies, 203 RAs and 3,933 PUs, with 1,991,344 registered voters and 1,729,641 PVCs collected.

The state is largely Yoruba, and composed subgroups of the Akoko, Akure, Ikale, Ilaje, Ondo, and Owo peoples. Ijaw minority (such as Apoi Arogbo) and Ilaje populations who inhabit the coastal areas, while a sizable number of the Ondo state people who speak a variant of the Yoruba language like the Ife dialect reside in Oke-Igbo.

Pre-Election Activities

Expansion of Polling Units (PUs) and Voter Education

Preparations for the 2023 General Election started in 2021 with the expansion of the polling units nationwide to 176,846. After the end of the exercise in Ondo state, the polling units increased from 3,009 to

3,933. This was followed by the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise. The exercise which started in June 2021 and was expected to end by June 2022, was extended due to large turnout. It eventually ended on the 31st of July 2022. At the end of the exercise, the state registered 225,252 new voters.

Series of voter education and enlightenment programmes both on Radios and TV were embarked upon. Apart from these, the Voter Education department went to markets and other places with "Branded Publicity Van", sensitizing people on the need to come and collect their PVCs and need for them to come out to vote on Election Day.

Training

Staff attended several trainings, workshops, and seminars to keep them abreast of new technologies, innovations, and regulations in the electoral process. Ad-hoc staff categories deployed for the election were sourced mostly from among the serving Corps members in the state. Other polling staff were sourced from the ranks of the students of federal tertiary institutions, ex-NYSC members, and staffers of the Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). The latter category and Commission's staff served as Supervisors at the Registration Area level while members of the academia, appointed by the Commission served as Collation and Returning Officers. These categories of staff excluding members of the academia who served as Collation Officers had to register as Ad hoc staff on the online registration portal of the Commission (INECPRES) which was launched for the exercise on the 15th

of August 2023 and ended on the 15th of November 2023. In all, a total of 16,648 ad-hoc staff sourced from NYSC, MDAs, federal tertiary institutions and ex-corps members were engaged and deployed for the 2023 General Election.

Renovation of the Stores

The condition of the stores in the state office and the eighteen local government offices were suitable to accommodate all electoral materials used for the 2023 General Election. The state took delivery of the first batch of Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) totalling 3,933 in November 2022 from the central store while the balance of 65 BVAS needed to have the full complement of 3,998 BVAS required for the General Election and extra 244 BVAS for contingencies were received in December 2022.

Election Materials

The sensitive and non-sensitive election materials released for this election came in good time for an early batching and distribution to LGAs. BVAS were deployed for the election in all polling units.

Sorting and Distribution of Non-Sensitive Materials: In preparation for the State Assembly Election, all non-sensitive materials were sorted and distributed into polling units with the aid of all staff at the local government level. All distributed items were in the right quantities and duly recorded for record purpose to further foster the ease and timely dispatch of materials to Registration Area Centre (RAC) on the eve of election.

Sensitive Materials: Sensitive materials, such as ballot papers and result sheets (Form EC8) series were received from Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Akure Branch on Wednesday the 22nd of February and Wednesday the 15th of March 2023. These were transported to each Local Government Area amid tight security. The sorting and sharing of all sensitive materials to different Registration Areas were done on Thursday the 23rd of February and Thursday the 16th of March 2023. These were done in the presence of the stakeholders such as security officers and political party agents in the Conference Hall of each Local Government Area's office.

Security

Ahead of the election, the Administrative Secretary hosted series of meetings with the Heads of various security agencies under the auspices of the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES). The security agencies were very active during the election. It is necessary to note that all RACs were provided with adequate armed security personnel who were moved from the state office as initial escorts for the sensitive materials on Wednesday preceding the election. Their allowances were paid through the Electoral Officers, and they were also moved back to the state office as escorts for the results with the LGA Collation Officers after the election.

Activation of Registration Area Camps (RACs)

All the 203 RACs were activated across the 18 LGAs as early as possible on Friday the 24th of February and Friday the 17th of March

2023 for the ad-hoc staff to acclimatize themselves to their environment before dusk on the day. All sensitive materials and non-sensitive materials were moved to all Registration Area Camps (RACs) of each Local Government Area on the dates by the Supervisory Presiding Officers (SPOs). Each of the RACs in the state was activated before 5.00 pm.

Transportation

Funds were released for various aspects of the election logistics. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Union of Road Transport Workers was activated for the election on hiring of vehicles for the movement of men and materials from the state to the LGAs and from LGA offices to the RACs/PUs as well as reverse logistics. The NURTW state officials were at hand throughout the whole election period to respond to every distress call on transportation from the field. Similarly, the state had a robust engagement with the Maritime Workers Union to provide the required boats for the 2 riverine Local Government Areas in the state. The Union coordinated and supervised its members that were engaged for the elections.

Conduct of the Election

Deployment of Poll Officials and Materials

All election officials and materials were deployed as early as 7.00 am on Election Day, the 25th of February and the 18th of March 2023 to their respective polling unit for the commencement of polls. Records

from the EMSC indicated that 99.7% of polling stations were opened by 8.30am in all LGAs of the state and polls started very early in those polling units as well. Movement of men and materials in all the LGAs was very smooth on the Election Day.

Accreditation and Voting Process

With the timely deployment of poll officials, accreditation and voting started at exactly 8.30am with a higher percentage of success recorded except in few places, where there was need for technical assistance and the RATECHs swung into action for immediate correction.

Sorting and Counting of Ballot

After the close of polls, ballots were openly sorted and counted in the presence of party agents and other available electorates in all the Polling Units in each of the Local Government Area.

Recording and Announcement of Polls

Recording and announcement of result of polls were done immediately after sorting and counting of ballots. Also, the publication of poll results was done through the pasting of form EC 60E at each Polling Unit. At the close of poll, all RATECHs got their accreditation data exported, except in few places with network challenges. In the same vein, all results (EC8A and EC8B) series were uploaded as well, with exception of the challenge met on the part of URL and e-transmission app but which was later resolved.

Outcome of the Elections/ Declaration

The Collation of Presidential Election in Ondo state was done at RAs, LGAs and State levels. The Presidential election result was moved to National Collation Centre, Abuja for final Collation. The results of the National Assembly elections in the state were declared by the three Senatorial and Nine House of Representative Returning Officers.

The Collation/Returning of Members of the Ondo State House of Assembly election in Ondo state was done at Registration Areas and State Constituency levels. The Returning Officers at each Constituency announced the results and returned the winners at various State Constituency Collation Centres.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Elections

a. Reality and dynamisms of the Nigerian economy were not factored into the budgeting for the last General Election because, the cost per day per vehicle was not reviewed in line with fuel pump price increase that has become very frequent.

b. The cashless policy of CBN affected the preparation for the election as cash was not readily available and it took the intervention of CBN before cash was made available.

c. Network challenges affected the smooth operations and reconfiguration of the BVAS and electronic transmission of results.

d. Non capturing/accreditation of Old PVCs in some polling units.

e. Non-cooperating and recalcitrant attitude of the engaged transporters during the exercise which forced the Commission in Ondo state to hire separate vehicles as many of the engaged transporters refused to convey the ad-hoc staff on the day of the elections and back to the Commission's Local Government offices after the elections.

f. The security was not adequate in some Local Governments as reported especially, at Ile Oluji/Okeigbo and Idanre Local Government Areas. The elections were characterized by violence there, even though some areas had been identified as flash points before the election.

g. Prompt intervention by the Commission's management team in Ondo state averted break-down of law and order on the day of the election due to the wrong and misplaced siting of some polling units particularly in Akure North and Ese Odo Local governments.

12.7.5
Osun State
Capital City: Osogbo

Dr. Mutiu Olaleke Agboke
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Osun State

Delimitation Data

30 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**9** Federal Constituencies	**26** State Constituencies
332 No of RAs	**3,763** No of PUs	**1,954,800** No of Registered Voters	**1,594,066** No of PVCs Collected
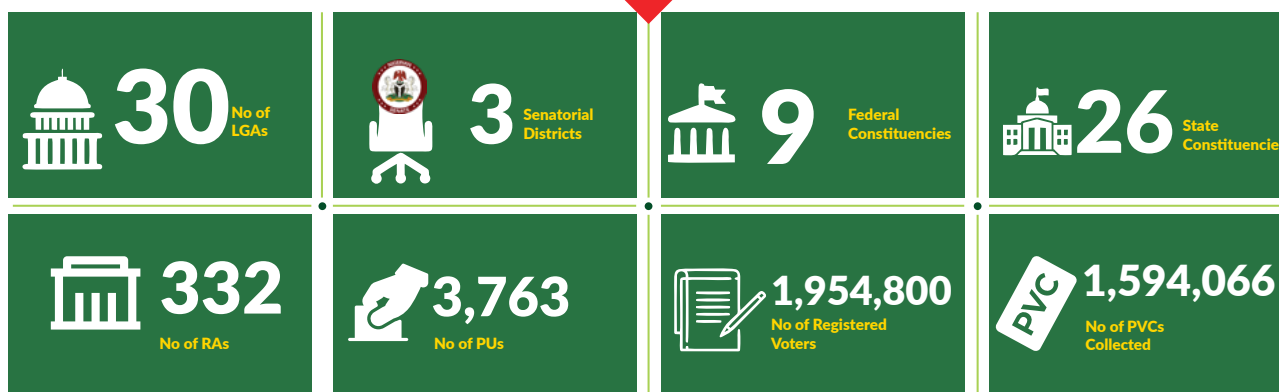
Introduction

Osun state is an inland state in South-Western Nigeria with a population of 3, 423, 535 (2006 Population Census) with Osogbo as the capital. It is bounded in the north by Kwara state, in the east partly by Ekiti state and partly by Ondo state, in the South by Ogun state and in the West by Oyo state. It has 30 LGAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 9 Federal and 26 State Constituencies, 332 RAs and 3,763 PUs, with a registered voter population of 1,954,800 and 1,594,066 PVCs collected. Osun state is home to several of Nigeria's most famous landmarks, including the campus of Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria's pre-eminent institution of higher learning. The university is also located in the ancient town of Ile-Ife, an important early centre of political and religious development for Yoruba culture. Other important cities and towns include the ancient kingdom-capitals of Ilesa, Ila-Orangun, Iwo, Ede, Ejigbo, Ijebu-Ijesa, Ifetedo, Ibokun, Esa-Oke and Oke-lla Orangun.

Osun state was created in 1991 from the old Oyo state. The state's name is derived from the River Osun, the venerated natural spring that is the manifestation of the Yoruba goddess of the same name. The indigenes of the state belong to the Yoruba race and comprise of the Oyos, Ifes, Ijesas and Igbominas. However, non-indigenes from other parts of the country and foreigners reside in the state and live together in harmony. Yoruba and English are the languages used for official and business transactions.

Pre-Election Activities

Management Meetings

The management met regularly to evolve strategies for the successful conduct of the 2023 General Election while also reviewing the activities outlined in preparation for the election and ensuring that no stone was left unturned. The management also met severally with the Electoral Officers to evaluate the level of preparedness in the various LGAs, while equally doing all that was needed to address issues raised by Electoral Officers for a good outing during the election.

Audit of Electoral Materials

Months ahead of the conduct of 2023 General Election, a comprehensive inventory of the electoral materials was carried out and it availed the office the opportunity to unearth record of what was available as well as what was needed to make up for the required numbers in terms of the electoral materials.

Conduct of CVR

The Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) was conducted between July 2021 and March 2022 at both the LGA offices and at the 332 Registration Areas (RAS). Collection of PVCs by their owners was done both at Registration Areas and at the LGAs, and it was finally stopped on Sunday the 5th of February 2023. At the end of the exercise, a total of 1,955,657 voters were registered while 1,518,303 PVCs were collected.

Electoral Personnel

Various categories of Ad-hoc election personnel were recruited through INEC PRES portal which is a dedicated portal for recruitment of election personnel. The portal was opened for interested qualified applicants between the 14th of September 2022 and the 14th of December 2022. The bulk of personnel deployed for the position of Supervisory Presiding Officers (SPOs) were recruited from INEC staff on grade level 08 and above while the bulk of personnel deployed as POs/APOs were recruited from National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members, penultimate students of federal higher institutions and former (2018) NYSC members. Collation/ Returning Officers were recruited from the Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), University of Ilorin and Federal Polytechnic, Ede. Also, RAC Managers were recruited from staff of School Hosting the RAC. All ad-hoc staff that were recruited for the election were trained and administered with the Oath of neutrality prior to the Election Day. The SPOs/other ad hoc staff reported for duty at the RACs as instructed by the Commission.

Statutory Notices

a. Notice of Election was published on the 28th of February 2022

b. In line with the provisions of section 32 of the Electoral Act, publication of personal particulars of candidates for Presidential and National Assembly election was done at the state office, the 30 Local Government offices as well as the Area Office on the 20th of

September 2022

c. Publication of personal particulars of candidates for State House of Assembly election was done at the state office, the 30 Local Government offices as well as the Area Office on the 4th of October 2022

Conduct of Political Party Primaries

All the political parties in the state worked in line with the timetable rolled out and electoral guidelines of the election. The party primaries started on the 4th of April 2022 and ended on the 9th of June 2022. All the primaries were monitored by staff of the state office in conjunction with INEC Headquarters staff and reports submitted accordingly. At the end of it all, only seventeen (17) out of the eighteen (18) registered political parties had their primaries and produced candidates. The All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) did not conduct any primary in the state

Collection of Accredited Observer Kits and Party Agents' Tags

The collection Observer kits took place at INEC state office premises between Tuesday the 21st and Friday, the 24th of February 2023. Out of Eighty (80) accredited Local Observer Groups, only Fifty-four (54) Groups collected their kits. The state took delivery of twenty-two thousand and forty-three (22,043) units of party agent tags on Tuesday the 21st of February 2023 and same materials were collected by political parties in the state.

Evacuation of Sensitive Materials at Central Bank of Nigeria

The Honourable Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC), accompanied by the Management Staff monitored the evacuation of ballot papers at the premises of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) alongside party functionaries and media on Wednesday the 22nd of February 2023 as well as on Wednesday the 15th of March 2023.

Stakeholder Engagements

In preparation for the elections, the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) and his management team conducted several enlightenment meetings to sensitize the different stakeholders including political parties' leaders, traditional rulers, religious leaders, Civil Society Organizations, Community Based Organizations, Faith Based Organizations, MDAs, students, PWDs, NYSC corps members, the Media and accredited observer groups on the need to play their various roles within the ambit of the law and also support peaceful election. The REC frequently engaged Heads of security agencies individually and collectively through the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) and unearthed strategies that were used to secure the conduct of the election.

Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Electoral Materials

The Non-Sensitive electoral materials used for the conduct of the elections were distributed to the 30 Local Government

Areas of the state as soon as they were received from the Commission's Headquarters. However, training manual during training of POs and APOs was grossly inadequate as trainees had to pair. Similarly, the distribution of all sensitive materials to the LGAs for the Presidential and National Assembly election was done on Wednesday the 22nd of February 2023 and Wednesday the 15th of March 2023 for the State Assembly election at the premises of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Osogbo Branch where the sensitive materials were deposited. This was after the Resident Electoral Commissioner took delivery of the materials from the CBN Branch Controller in the presence of security agents, political party agents and in the full glare of the Media. The vehicles that carried the sensitive materials to the 30 LGAs were escorted by some armed security men. The Electoral Officers and SPOs later sorted and batched the materials to different Registration Areas on Thursday the 23rd of February 2023. Adequate arrangements were in place in all the 30 LGAs for the conduct of reverse logistics as the SPOs took pain to retrieve all the materials and submitted them to the Electoral Officers accordingly.

Identification, Preparation and Activation of RACs and SRACs

The RACs and SRACs were identified well ahead of time and quality control checks were carried out on them by the Electoral Officers to ascertain their suitability to provide reasonable comfort for the ad- hoc staff during RAC activities.

Logistic Preparations

The office worked out a very robust transportation plan for the conduct of the 2023 General Election. The plan was effectively implemented based on the MoU signed with the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) and Association of Motorcycle Riders and it assisted in the adequate logistic arrangement that was put in place for the movement of personnel and materials to various LGAs, as well as the deployment of electoral personnel to their polling units on the Election Day. All functional vehicles were deployed, while the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in the state assisted the Commission with two (2) saloon cars and two (2) Hilux pick-up vans. The Federal Fire Service came with its Fire Extinguisher Truck in case of fire outbreak. The arrangement made the reverse logistics a seamless one.

Collation and Results Management System

During the Presidential and National Assembly Election, collation at many of the RAs commenced at 5:00pm and as at 9:00pm, collation began in many LGAs across the state. Collation of constituency results commenced in many Senatorial and House of Representatives Collation Centres and were concluded on Sunday the 26th of February 2023. Meanwhile the collation for the Presidential Election took off at about 10:00am on Sunday the 26th of February 2023 at the state collation centre having received a reasonable number of LGAs Collation Officers. For the State Assembly election, collation at the RAs commenced at 3:00pm and progressed to the LGA

Collation and declaration Centres as at 7:00pm.

Implementation of Collation and Results Management Process

During collation at the various stages of the elections, zero votes were recorded for PUs where Election Officials were prevented from using BVAS, while form EC 40G was filled for PUs where election was cancelled because of irregularity.

Situation Room and Elections Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC)

The Situation Room/Election Management Support Centre (EMSC) was activated on Friday the 24th of February 2023 for Presidential and NASS election. Monitoring of election officials and materials deployed to the RACs began on Friday the 24th of February 2023. Similarly, the Situation Room was reactivated on the 17th of March 2023 for the State Assembly election. The Situation Room also monitored accreditation and voting process as well as sorting, counting and collation of election results during the two elections. The Activation of the Election Operations Support Centre (EOSC) assisted in facilitating quick interventions to all distress calls received from the field during the election.

Configuration and Deployment of Accreditation Devices (EVR, VR and BVAS)

The total number of BVAS configured and deployed for the 25th of February and the 18th of March 2023 election stood at

Four Thousand, One Hundred and Thirty-Four (4134) and this include the Back-Up provided to attend to incidences that might arise on the field.

Conduct of the Elections (the 25th of February and the 18th of March)

Deployment of Personnel and Materials

During the Presidential and NASS Election, movement of men and materials began as early as 6:00am from the RACs to the PUs in company of security agents on Saturday the 25th of February 2023 and as at 7:30am all the men and materials had arrived at their various PUs. Similarly, movement of election officials and election materials began as early as 6:00am from the RACs to the PUs in company of Security Agents during the State Assembly Election on Saturday the 18th of March 2023 and by 7:00am all the officials and materials had arrived at their various PUs to set up the station for the poll. Performance of the Transport Union members was in accordance with the Signed MoU and this assisted early movement of men and materials on the Election Day as well as the reverse logistics plan put in place.

Opening of Polls

Polling commenced in all the PUs by 8:30am during the two elections on 25th February, and 18th March 2023 indicating 100% commencement/opening of poll in Osun state as attested to by the reports of

the EOSC, Election Observer Groups and other accredited CSOs that monitored the election in the LGAs across the state.

Accreditation and Voting Process and Performance of Equipment

Accreditation and voting were done simultaneously during the Presidential and NASS election on the 25th of February 2023 and State Assembly elections on the 18th of March 2023. However, few issues of Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) malfunctioning were reported in some PUs and were swiftly rectified by the RATECHS for the smooth conduct of accreditation and voting.

Closing of Polls

Polls ended by 2:30pm in most of the PUs during Presidential/NASS election and State Assembly election and as at 2:30pm, sorting and counting of ballots commenced in many PUs across the state. However, accreditation and voting were extended in some PUs across the state due to large turnout of voters during the two elections. This was adequately taken care of by the ad-hoc personnel.

Election Security Architecture

Solid security architecture was put in place by the Commission in collaboration with the ICCES and they played a vital role during the build-up to the 2023 General Election. The measure put in place was to nip in the bud any form of security threat. Various black spots were identified throughout the state and necessary arrangements were put in place by the security agencies to prevent outbreak of violence. There is no doubt that the structure put in place helped in maintaining law and order during the election.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Elections

Issues of violence and disruption of electoral processes was extremely minimal in this election because of effective deployment of security personnel. However, Presidential and the National Assembly Election did not hold in the following PUs: Atakunmosa East LGA- RA 08, PU 001; Ife South LGA- RA 011, PU 003; Isokan LGA- RA 01 PUs 003 and 005; RA 10 PU 006; Ila LGA- RA 03 PU 002; RA 010 PU 005; and Orolu LGA- RA05 PU 007 due to disruption of polls by political thugs. In the process, two BVAS were lost.

12.7.6
Oyo State
Capital City: Ibadan

Dr. A. Rahmon Tella
Resident Electoral Commissioner, Oyo State

Delimitation Data

33 No of LGAs	**3** Senatorial Districts	**14** Federal Constituencies	**32** State Constituencies
351 No of RAs	**6,390** No of PUs	**3,276,675** No of Registered Voters	**2,761,421** No of PVCs Collected
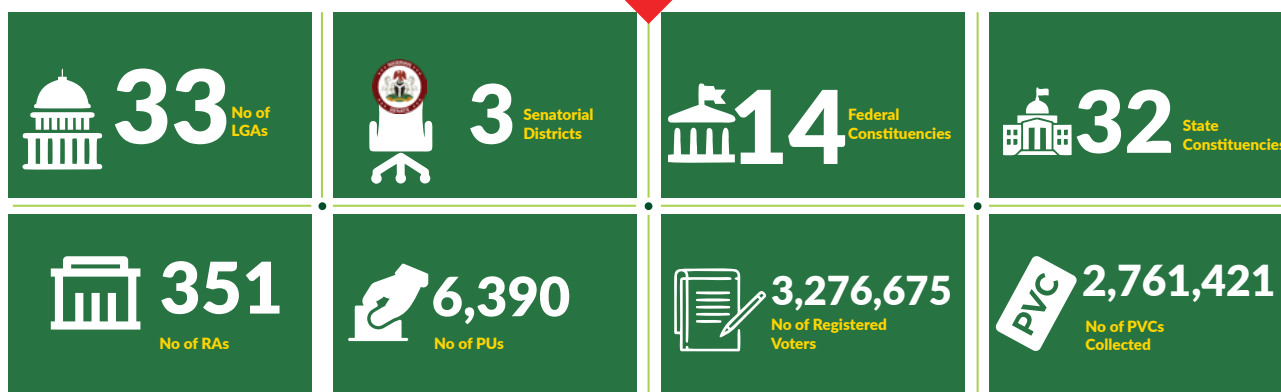
Introduction

Oyo state nicknamed Pace Setter is an inland state located in Southwest Nigeria and covers approximately an area of 28, 454 square kilometres. The state is made of five zones, viz: Ibadan Zone with eleven (11) LGAs, Oyo Zone with 4 LGAs, Ibarapa Zones with three 3, Oke Ogun zone with 10 LGAs and Ogbomoso Zone with 5 LGAs. Oyo state has 33 LGAs, 3 Senatorial Districts, 14 Federal and 32 State Constituencies, 351 RAs and 6,390 PUs. It has a registered voter population of 3,276,675, with 2,761,421 PVCs collected.

Pre-Election Activities

The planning and pre-election activities for 2023 General Election commenced immediately after the 2019 General Election. These activities included but not limited to expansion of voters' access cum creation/conversion of voting points to polling units, Continuous Voters Registration (CVR), conduct of parties' primaries and conventions, recruitment, and training of ad-hoc staff. There were also monitoring and supervision of political party primaries for nomination of candidates, conduct of mock accreditation exercise in some selected polling units across the three (3) Senatorial Districts in the state as well as testing and configuration of BVAS machines. In addition to this was massive and extensive conduct of voters' education/ sensitization throughout the state using Radio and Television jingles, stakeholder meetings, announcement, spotlights, press conferences and commentaries, which were covered by the media houses.

Preparations for Election

Configuration of BVAS: BVAS configuration

exercise which commenced on Monday the 30th of January 2023 by the ICT/VR staff was completed by the 9th of February 2023. This configuration was done on Local Government basis in alphabetic order. Despite the little hitches of poor network initially experienced, all the 6,390 BVAS deployed to the state were successfully configured.

Voters Register: Copies of Voters Register for each of the thirty-three (33) LGAs in the state were printed by ICT department in both colour and black & white. The printing of the Voters' Registers for each of the 33 LGAs in the state was done by the 10th of February 2023 and these were moved to LGAs two days before the Presidential and National Assembly Election.

ICCES: Constant meeting of the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) helped in planning and putting in place an elaborate security arrangement before, during, and after the election. These constant engagements also helped in dealing with the issue of transportation of men/ materials as well as reverse logistics for the 2023 General Election, since the NURTW (a beneficiary of the INEC-Transport Unions MoU) had been proscribed/ banned in the state and replaced with Park Management System (PMS). There was also Electoral Security Personnel Training which helped to build the capacity of security personnel in the state.

Mock Accreditation: Mock accreditation exercise successfully took place on Saturday the 4th of February 2023 in 12 selected polling units across the three Senatorial

Districts in the state. Twenty-four (24) BVAS (including the Back Up) were deployed for the exercise. Personnel deployed were well trained on the use of BVAS and properly briefed ahead of the exercise. All materials needed for the exercise were provided in right quantity. The exercise was well supervised and thus successful.

Training of Election Officials

Training of all categories of ad-hoc staff began on Saturday the 11th of February 2023 at state level, starting with training of Supervisory Presiding Officers (SPOs), then the Presiding Officers with their Assistants (PO/APOs) which took place in all the 33 Local Government Areas in the state. Training was also organized for the Collation Officers/ Returning Officers at the state level. Due to a week's postponement suffered by the Governorship and House of Assembly election, a refresher training course was again organized for all the categories of election officials. A total of 28,879 ad-hoc personnel were trained and deployed for the elections.

Arrival and Distribution of Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Materials

Sensitive materials meant for the elections were received at the Oyo state branch of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Dugbe, Ibadan and same were inspected, sorted, and distributed to each of the 33 LGAs in right quantity. Security agents were on hand to accompany the sensitive materials to the LGA offices and to all the RACs in the state.

Non-sensitive election materials including but not limited to various forms, biros, markers stickers, stamps, calculators supplied to the state from the Commission's Zonal Store in Osogbo and Central store Abuja were received and distributed to the LGA offices.

RACs Activation

By the evening of Fridays preceding the two Election Days, all the RACs in the state had been activated and well-guarded by security agents which ensured safety of men and materials in those RACs.

Conduct of the Elections

Opening of Poll

There was early arrival of poll officials as well as materials in majority of the polling units in the state which ensured that poll commenced as schedule in most of the polling units in the state. However, late opening of poll was observed in a few Polling Units due to logistic reasons.

Accreditation

Report from the field indicated that accreditation went without hitches as BVAS machines worked effectively and efficiently in most polling units. In few places where BVAS malfunctioned, the RA-Techs were on hand to replace/repair the affected BVAS machines.

Result Collation and Management System

Collation of Results at all levels as well Declaration of Results went smoothly in all 14 Federal Constituencies, three Senatorial District for Presidential Election and in all the thirty-two (32) State Constituencies and Governorship result. The two sets of the General Election went peacefully and seamlessly throughout the state with the cooperation of all the stakeholders except for two places in Oluyole and Ibadan North-East/ Ibadan South-East Federal Constituencies, that made the state to have supplementary elections on Saturday the 15th of April 2023.

The various Election Management Platforms such as the Collation Verification and Result System (CSRVS), E-Collation, Electronic Collation, the use of RATECH and the increase in the number of Collation Officers to speed up the Collation of Results were utilized for the election, and they were commendable measures. However, there is need to give further training and enlightenment to the Collation / Returning Officers as well as Electoral Officers on the New Guidelines and Electoral Act 2022 with respect to management of the result, particularly the new principle of margin of lead, to prevent unnecessary cancellation of result and thereby reducing the case of inconclusive elections.

Situation Room and Elections Monitoring and Support Centres (EMSC)

In furtherance of the objectives of the Elections Monitoring and Support Centre

(EMSC), the Secretariat became operational at 2.00pm on Friday the 24th of February 2023 for Presidential/National Assembly Elections as well as on Friday the 17th of March for the Governorship and House of Assembly election. The EMSC was at INEC State Office, Agodi, Ibadan; utilizing the mini conference hall where necessary machineries were set in motion using the 33 Local Government Contact Officers, Data Administrators, Floor Managers, and the Response Teams. The Data Administrators highlighted the two templates on Compliance and Threat Matrix that covered the three activity areas of Registration Area Centre, Accreditation and Voting, as well as Collation of Results.

Based on the monitoring functions of the contact persons in each Local Government Area, early arrival of field assets to Registration Area Centre, to Accreditation/Voting and collation of results activities, compliances, and complaints, such as few instances of malfunctioning of BVAS were noted, escalated, and resolved. General threat cases of inadequate availability of security personnel and other electoral malpractices were prevented from marring the smooth conduct of the electoral process through the prompt action of the Response Team. These were tagged and appropriately logged in to the situation room of the National Headquarters by the State Electoral Operations Support Centre Desk Officers.

Issues and Challenges Associated with the Elections

The elections were not without challenges. One major challenge was the proscription of National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) which is a major source of transportation of electoral materials and establishment of Park Management System (PMS) by the state government. But with wisdom and commitment of ICCES members, the state was able to overcome the challenge. The initial budgetary provision for hiring vehicles was grossly inadequate and put great burden on the Commission at both state and LGAs. The BVAS allocated and used for training of all categories of ad hoc personnel were inadequate for proper understanding of the system. There were also some mixed-up in the arrangement of ballot papers in the cartons.

Chapter 13
Conclusion

13

The 2023 General Election is the sixth successive general election since the return of democracy in Nigeria on the 29th of May 1999 following decades of military rule. It is, however, the first to have the benefit of a fresh electoral law as a guide. Hitherto, the National Assembly had at different times merely amended the 1998 military decree that had ushered in the civilian rule. However, on the 24th of February 2022 the Assembly repealed Electoral Act 2010 (as amended) and enacted a new Electoral Act 2022. President Muhammadu Buhari promptly singed it into law the following day. Just as promptly, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), issued its Timetable and Schedule of Activities for the 2023 General Election the day after on 26th February 2022, in accordance with Section 28(1) of the Electoral Act, 2022 which says it shall do so not later than 360 days before the day appointed for the election.

This report is INEC's story of how it planned and executed the 2023 General Elections which started with the Presidential and National Assembly elections on 25th February, followed by the Governorship and State Houses of assembly elections on 18th March 18th, and by supplementary elections where results could not be declared at first ballot on 15th April 2023.

The report captured the entire gamut of electoral activities undertaken by INEC during the 2019 – 2023 electoral cycle and provide readers with a complete comprehensive narrative on the conduct of the 2023 General Election from the perspective of the Commission. First and foremost, the election was conducted under a new electoral legal framework, the

Electoral Act 2022 that has been widely acknowledged as the most progressive electoral legislation to date. Among the remarkable provisions are the recognition of the use of electoral technologies for the Commission's activities, expansion of the time-lines for the Commission to undertake certain critical electoral activities governed by law and the provision requiring the release of fund for the conduct of a General Election to the Commission one full year ahead of the election.

Another remarkable feat was that the first set of elections, that is the Presidential and National Assembly elections were successfully conducted on schedule for the first time since 2011. Although the Governorship and State Houses of Assembly elections that were scheduled to have followed two weeks later were rescheduled, this was due to no fault of the Commission. The elections was postponed by a week as a result of an order of Court arising from litigations which arose from the Presidential Election that delayed the configuration of Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS). To be sure the use of BVAS is a legal requirement for accreditation of voters. Its functionality which recorded over 98% success eliminated the chances of anyone voting more than once or using someone else's Permanent Voters Card (PVC) due to the Commission's policy of, "No accreditation, No voting.

Last, but by no means the least, the 2023 General Election saw more parties winning both executive and legislative seats more than at any time since 1999. To be sure, nine of the 18 political parties won legislative seats (seven political parties in the Senate,

eight political parties in the House of Representatives and nine political parties in the State Houses of Assembly). The credibility of the election is also underscored by the fact that in some of the States of the federation, the House of Assembly is dominated by members from of different political parties from the executive and in the situation where many some leading political parties and candidates, including incumbent State Governors lost in their presumed strongholds. Furthermore, the election witnessed the increased participation of youth, Persons with Disability (PwDs) and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as a result of the Commission's deliberate policy to mobilise and facilitate the participation of every eligible voter in the election.

By and large, despite the human, resource and infrastructural challenges INEC confronted in conducting the 2023 General Election and especially the technical glitches it suffered which prevented the uploading of the PU result of the presidential results, the 2023 General Election can be considered as the best planned and most credible election since 1999. A vital lesson from the conduct of the election is that elections is a multi-stakeholder activity and unless and until each stakeholder in the country's democratic journey plays its expected role, not even the most perfect laws or the best technologies can deliver a universally acceptable election for the country. Neither laws nor technologies execute themselves. Both are executed by human beings with their frailties.

Annexures

Annexure 1: Transportation Matrix for the Supplementary Elections to the General Election held on 18th April 2023

A	B	C	D	E	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	S
S/N	States	LGA	No. of RAs	No. of PUs	No. of Poll Officials	Prov. of Vehicles for Poll Off. (@ 12 Person for 14 Seater Bus)	Prov. of Vehicles. for Reverse Logistics	Hiring of Vehicles for RA Supervisors.	Hiring of Vehicle for RA Collation Officers	Provision of Vehicle for Movement from State HQ to LGA	Hiring of Vehicle for LGA Supervisors.	Hiring of Vehicle for LGA Collation Officer	Total Vehicles	Prov. of M/Cycle for Diff. Terrain (@ 10 Per Ra)
						Governorship								
1	Adamawa	20	46	69	388	32	46	46	46	20	20	20	230	460
2	Kebbi	20	90	142	768	64	90	90	90	20	20	20	394	900
	Total	40	136	211	1156	96	136	136	136	40	40	40	624	1360
						Senatorial Election								
1	Kebbi North SD	6	14	23	112	9	14	14	14	6	6	6	69	140
2	Sokoto East SD	8	34	90	402	34	34	34	34	8	8	8	160	340
3	Sokoto North SD	8	46	163	706	59	46	46	46	8	8	8	221	460
4	Sokoto South SD	7	44	134	587									
5	Zamfara Central SD	4	20	83	356	30	20	20	20	4	4	4	102	200
	Total	33	158	493	2163	131	114	114	114	26	26	26	551	1140
						Federal Constituency Election								
1	Abak /Etim Ekpo/Ika FC	3	8	25	111	9	8	8	8	3	3	3	42	80
2	Ikono/Ini FC	1	1	17	70	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	10
3	Ogbaru FC	1	6	45	187	16	6	6	6	1	1	1	37	60
4	Southern Ijaw FC	1	8	32	137	11	8	8	8	1	1	1	38	80

5	Orhionmwon/ Uhunmwode FC	2	6	48	200	17	6	6	6	2	2	2	41	60
6	Mbaitoli/ Ikeduru FC	2	13	58	247	21	13	13	13	2	2	2	66	130
7	Fagge FC	1	6	19	83	7	6	6	6	1	1	1	28	60
8	Tudun Wada FC	1	8	13	61	5	8	8	8	1	1	1	32	80
9	Arewa/Dandi FC	2	6	7	36	3	6	6	6	2	2	2	27	60
10	Koko Besse-Maiyama FC	2	7	10	49	4	7	7	7	2	2	2	31	70
11	Dekina/Bassa FC	1	8	44	185	15	8	8	8	1	1	1	42	80
12	Ibadan North-East/Ibadan South East FC	2	2	2	12	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	13	20
13	Oluyole FC	1	2	2	11	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	10	20
14	Khana/Gokana FC	1	2	42	171	14	2	2	2	1	1	1	23	20
15	Port Harcourt II FC	1	10	377	1519	127	10	10	10	1	1	1	160	100
16	Binji/Silame FC	2	10	23	104	9	10	10	10	2	2	2	45	100
17	Bodinga/Dange Shuni/Tureta FC	3	19	54	238	20	19	19	19	3	3	3	86	190
18	Kware/Wamakko FC	2	11	49	209	17	11	11	11	2	2	2	56	110
19	Gada/Goronyo FC	2	13	46	199	17	13	13	13	2	2	2	62	130
20	Gwadabawa/ Illela FC	2	7	12	57	5	7	7	7	2	2	2	32	70
21	Isa/Sabo Birni FC	2	8	13	62	5	8	8	8	2	2	2	35	80
22	Rabah/Wurno FC	2	6	19	84	7	6	6	6	2	2	2	31	60

23	Sokoto North/ Sokoto South FC	2	19	85	361	30	19	19	19	2	2	2	93	190
24	Gudu/Tanganza FC	2	6	6	32	3	6	6	6	2	2	2	27	60
25	Kebbe/Tambuwal FC	2	13	54	231	19	13	13	13	2	2	2	64	130
26	Yabo/Shagari FC	2	12	26	118	10	12	12	12	2	2	2	52	120
27	Takum/Ussa/ Donga FC	2	7	79	325	27	7	7	7	2	2	2	54	70
28	Gusau/Tsafe FC	2	14	64	272	23	14	14	14	2	2	2	71	140
29	Gummi/ Bukkuyum FC	2	4	7	34	3	4	4	4	2	2	2	21	40
30	Gumel/ Maigatari/ Sule Tankarkar/ Gagarawa FC	2	4	6	30	3	4	4	4	2	2	2	21	40
31	Ezza North/ Ishielu FC	1	3	35	144	12	3	3	3	1	1	1	24	30
Total	54	249	1319	5579	465	249	249	249	54	54	54	1374	2490	
State Constituency Election														
1	Etim Ekpo/Ika SC	2	14	32	144	12	14	14	14	2	2	2	60	140
2	Ogbia Ii SC	1	4	94	381	32	4	4	4	1	1	1	47	40
3	Afikpo South East SC	1	3	7	32	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	15	30
4	Ezza South SC	1	6	10	47	4	6	6	6	1	1	1	25	60
5	Ikwo North SC	1	5	7	34	3	5	5	5	1	1	1	21	50
6	Afikpo North West SC	1	3	5	24	2	3	3	3	1	1	1	14	30

7	Abakaliki North SC	1	2	6	27	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	11	20
8	Oredo East SC	1	4	29	121	10	4	4	4	1	1	1	25	40
9	Egor SC	1	4	26	109	9	4	4	4	1	1	1	24	40
10	Ovia South West SC	1	1	13	54	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	10
11	Ido Osi I SC	1	1	3	14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	10
12	Ahiazu Mbaise SC	1	3	9	40	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	15	30
13	Chawai/Kauru SC	1	2	2	11	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	10	20
14	Giwa West SC	1	2	2	11	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	10	20
15	Ikara SC	1	8	13	61	5	8	8	8	1	1	1	32	80
16	Sanga SC	1	4	8	37	3	4	4	4	1	1	1	18	40
17	Kudan SC	1	6	25	107	9	6	6	6	1	1	1	30	60
18	Ajingi SC	1	5	8	38	3	5	5	5	1	1	1	21	50
19	Danbatta SC	1	7	81	332	28	7	7	7	1	1	1	52	70
20	Dawaki Tofa SC	1	5	8	38	3	5	5	5	1	1	1	21	50
21	Garko SC	1	2	3	15	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	10	20
22	Gabasawa SC	1	3	5	24	2	3	3	3	1	1	1	14	30
23	Gaya SC	1	3	4	20	2	3	3	3	1	1	1	14	30
24	Gezawa SC	1	4	5	25	2	4	4	4	1	1	1	17	40
25	Gwarzo SC	1	6	7	35	3	6	6	6	1	1	1	24	60
26	Makoda SC	1	6	12	55	5	6	6	6	1	1	1	26	60
27	Takai SC	1	3	5	24	2	3	3	3	1	1	1	14	30
28	Tudun Wada SC	1	4	19	81	7	4	4	4	1	1	1	22	40
29	Ungogo SC	1	6	11	51	4	6	6	6	1	1	1	25	60
30	Warawa SC	1	3	5	24	2	3	3	3	1	1	1	14	30

31	Wudil SC	1	3	4	20	2	3	3	3	1	1	1	14	30
32	Arewa SC	1	2	2	11	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	10	20
33	Augie SC	1	3	5	24	2	3	3	3	1	1	1	14	30
34	Gwandu SC	1	8	17	77	6	8	8	8	1	1	1	33	80
35	Jega SC	1	8	13	61	5	8	8	8	1	1	1	32	80
36	Kalgo SC	1	3	4	20	2	3	3	3	1	1	1	14	30
37	Koko Besse SC	1	4	4	21	2	4	4	4	1	1	1	17	40
38	Maiyama SC	1	6	14	63	5	6	6	6	1	1	1	26	60
39	Sakaba SC	1	5	7	34	3	5	5	5	1	1	1	21	50
40	Agaie SC	1	5	7	34	3	5	5	5	1	1	1	21	50
41	Rijau SC	1	1	3	14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	10
42	Agwara SC	1	2	2	11	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	10	20
43	Rafi SC	1	3	3	16	1	3	3	3	1	1	1	13	30
44	Ifo I SC	1	1	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	10
45	Karim Lamido II SC	1	3	3	16	1	3	3	3	1	1	1	13	30
46	Geidam North SC	1	2	2	11	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	10	20
47	Birnin Kudu SC	1	4	6	29	2	4	4	4	1	1	1	17	40
48	Dutse SC	1	5	7	34	3	5	5	5	1	1	1	21	50
49	Yankwashi SC	1	3	7	32	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	15	30
50	Kankia SC	1	5	6	30	3	5	5	5	1	1	1	21	50
51	Kankara SC	1	9	17	78	7	9	9	9	1	1	1	37	90
52	Kurfi SC	1	6	8	39	3	6	6	6	1	1	1	24	60
53	Oji River SC	1	1	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	10
54	Gerei SC	1	5	7	34	3	5	5	5	1	1	1	21	50
55	Gombi SC	1	3	5	24	2	3	3	3	1	1	1	14	30
56	Numan SC	1	2	14	59	5	2	2	2	1	1	1	14	20
57	Toungo SC	1	3	3	16	1	3	3	3	1	1	1	13	30
	Total	58	234	636	20616	1620	1229	1229	1229	297	297	297	6198	12290

Annexure 2: Result of the Presidential Election Held on 25th February 2023

DECLARATION OF RESULTS
2023 Presidential Election - 1st March 2023

	CANDIDATE	GENDER	PARTY	VOTES RECEIVED	REMARKS
1	IMUMOLEN IRENE CHRISTOPHER	M	A	61,014	
2	ALMUSTAPHA HAMZA	M	AA	14,542	
3	SOWORE OMOYELE STEPHEN	M	AAC	14,608	
4	KACHIKWU DUMEBI	M	ADC	81,919	
5	SANI YABAGI YUSUF	M	ADP	43,924	
6	TINUBU BOLA AHMED	M	APC	8,794,726	ELECTED
7	UMEADI PETER NNANNA CHUKWUDI	M	APGA	61,966	
8	OJEI PRINCESS CHICHI	F	APM	25,961	
9	NNADI CHARLES OSITA	M	APP	12,839	
10	ADENUGA SUNDAY OLUWAFEMI	M	BP	16,156	
11	OBI PETER GREGORY	M	LP	6,101,533	
12	MUSA MOHAMMED RABIU KWANKWASO	M	NNPP	1,496,687	
13	OSAKWE FELIX JOHNSON	M	NRM	24,869	
14	ABUBAKAR ATIKU	M	PDP	6,984,520	
15	ABIOLA LATIFU KOLAWOLE	M	PRP	72,144	
16	ADEBAYO ADEWOLE EBENEZER	M	SDP	80,267	
17	ADO-IBRAHIM ABDULMALIK	M	YPP	60,600	
18	NWANYANWU DANIEL DABERECHUKWU	M	ZLP	77,665	

Registered Voters 93,469,008
Collected PVCs 87,209,007
Accredited Voters 25,286,616
Votes Cast 24,965,218
Valid Votes 24,025,940
Rejected Votes 939,278
Percentage Turnout (based on collected PVCs & accredited voters) 27.05%
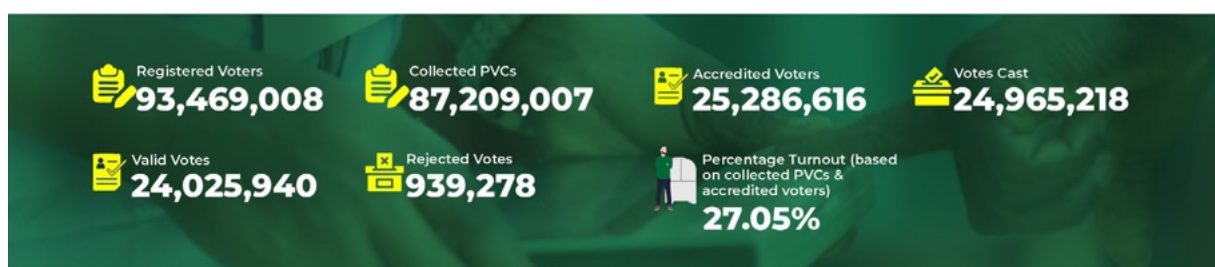
Annexure 3: Results of the Governorship Election

S/N	State	Constituency	Code	No of LGAs	No of RAs	No of PUs	Party
Results of the Governorship Election in 28 States of the Federation
1	Abia	Governor	AB	17	184	4,062	LP
2	Adamawa	Governor	AD	21	226	4,104	PDP
3	Akwa Ibom	Governor	AK	31	329	4,353	PDP
4	Bauchi	Governor	BA	20	212	5,423	PDP
5	Benue	Governor	BN	23	276	5,102	APC
6	Borno	Governor	BO	27	312	5,071	APC
7	Cross River	Governor	CR	18	193	3,281	APC
8	Delta	Governor	DT	25	270	5,863	PDP
9	Ebonyi	Governor	EB	13	171	2,946	APC
10	Enugu	Governor	EN	17	260	4,145	PDP
11	Gombe	Governor	GM	11	114	2,988	APC
12	Jigawa	Governor	JG	27	287	4,522	APC
13	Kaduna	Governor	KD	23	255	8,012	APC
14	Kano	Governor	KN	44	484	11,222	NNPP
15	Katsina	Governor	KT	34	361	6,652	APC
16	Kebbi	Governor	KB	20	225	3,743	APC
17	Kwara	Governor	KW	16	193	2,887	APC
18	Lagos	Governor	LA	20	245	13,325	APC
19	Nasarawa	Governor	NW	13	147	3,256	APC
20	Niger	Governor	NG	25	274	4,950	APC
21	Ogun	Governor	OG	20	236	5,042	APC
22	Oyo	Governor	OY	33	351	6,390	PDP
23	Plateau	Governor	PL	17	207	4,989	APC
24	Rivers	Governor	RV	23	319	6,866	PDP
25	Sokoto	Governor	SO	23	244	3,991	APC
26	Taraba	Governor	TR	16	168	3,597	PDP
27	Yobe	Governor	YB	17	178	2,823	APC
28	Zamfara	Governor	ZF	14	147	3,529	PDP
	Total			**608**	**6,868**	**143,134**	

Annexure 4: Results of the Senatorial District Election

State	S/N	Constituency	Code	No of LGAs	No of RAs	No of PUs	Party
Results of the Senatorial District Election Held on 25th February 2023							
Abia							
	1	North	SD/001/AB	5	57	981	APC
	2	Central	SD/002/AB	6	62	1,374	LP
	3	South	SD/003/AB	6	65	1,707	APGA
Adamawa							
	4	North	SD/004/AD	5	57	924	APC
	5	South	SD/005/AD	9	93	1,493	PDP
	6	Central	SD/006/AD	7	76	1,687	PDP
Akwa Ibom	7	North East	SD/007/AK	9	94	1,571	PDP
	8	North West	SD/008/AK	10	108	1,507	APC
	9	South	SD/009/AK	12	127	1,275	PDP
Anambra	10	North	SD/010/AN	7	99	1,820	LP
	11	Central	SD/011/AN	7	117	1,966	LP
	12	South	SD/012/AN	7	110	1,934	YPP
Bauchi	13	South	SD/013/BA	7	75	2,292	APC
	14	Central	SD/014/BA	6	63	1,455	PDP
	15	North	SD/015/BA	7	74	1,676	PDP
Bayelsa							
	16	East	SD/016/BY	3	36	701	PDP
	17	Central	SD/017/BY	3	43	1,041	PDP
	18	West	SD/018/BY	2	26	502	PDP
Benue							
	19	North East	SD/019/BN	7	84	1,844	APC
	20	North West	SD/020/BN	7	90	1,885	APC
	21	South	SD/021/BN	9	102	1,373	PDP
Borno	22	North	SD/022/BO	10	115	1,076	APC
	23	Central	SD/023/BO	8	96	2,295	APC
	24	South	SD/024/BO	9	101	1,700	APC

Cross River	25	North	SD/025/CR	5	51	874	PDP
	26	Central	SD/026/CR	6	66	1,050	APC
	27	South	SD/027/CR	7	76	1,357	APC
Delta	28	Central	SD/028/DT	8	85	2,180	APC
	29	North	SD/029/DT	9	98	1,763	PDP
	30	South	SD/030/DT	8	87	1,920	APC
Ebonyi	31	North	SD/031/EB	4	56	1,129	APC
	32	Central	SD/032/EB	4	58	947	APC
	33	South	SD/033/EB	5	57	870	APC
Edo	34	Central	SD/034/ED	5	51	744	APC
	35	North	SD/035/ED	6	64	1,173	APC
	36	South	SD/036/ED	7	77	2,602	LP
Ekiti	37	North	SD/037/EK	5	56	731	APC
	38	Central	SD/038/EK	5	57	966	APC
	39	South	SD/039/EK	6	64	748	APC
Enugu	40	East	SD/040/EN	6	77	1,630	LP
	41	West	SD/041/EN	5	81	1,027	PDP
	42	North	SD/042/EN	6	102	1,488	LP
Gombe	43	Central	SD/043/GM	2	22	869	APC
	44	South	SD/044/GM	4	40	825	PDP
	45	North	SD/045/GM	5	52	1,294	PDP
Imo	46	East	SD/046/IM	9	104	2,005	LP
	47	West	SD/047/IM	12	137	1,907	APC
	48	North	SD/048/IM	6	64	846	APC
Jigawa	49	South West	SD/049/JG	7	75	1,537	PDP
	50	North East	SD/050/JG	8	85	1,239	APC
	51	North West	SD/051/JG	12	127	1,746	APC
Kaduna	52	North	SD/052/KD	8	87	2,699	PDP
	53	Central	SD/053/KD	7	81	3,356	PDP
	54	South	SD/054/KD	8	87	1,957	PDP
Kano	55	Central	SD/055/KN	15	172	5,691	NNPP
	56	North	SD/056/KN	13	141	2,364	APC
	57	South	SD/057/KN	16	171	3,167	NNPP
Katsina	58	North	SD/058/KT	12	128	1,984	APC
	59	South	SD/059/KT	11	117	2,409	APC
	60	Central	SD/060/KT	11	116	2,259	APC

Kebbi	61	North	SD/061/KB	6	65	1,224	PDP
	62	Central	SD/062/KB	8	89	1,473	PDP
	63	South	SD/063/KB	7	71	1,046	PDP
Kogi	64	Central	SD/064/KG	5	57	902	APC
	65	East	SD/065/KG	9	97	1,714	APC
	66	West	SD/066/KG	7	85	892	APC
Kwara	67	North	SD/067/KW	5	58	776	APC
	68	Central	SD/068/KW	4	52	1,204	APC
	69	South	SD/069/KW	7	83	907	APC
Lagos	70	Central	SD/070/LA	5	62	2,738	APC
	71	East	SD/071/LA	5	71	2,798	APC
	72	West	SD/072/LA	10	112	7,789	APC
Nasarawa	73	North	SD/073/NW	3	35	583	SDP
	74	West	SD/074/NW	5	59	1,432	SDP
	75	South	SD/075/NW	5	53	1,241	PDP
Niger	76	East	SD/076/NG	9	99	2,053	APC
	77	North	SD/077/NG	81	87	1,436	APC
	78	South	SD/078/NG	8	88	1,461	PDP
Ogun	79	Central	SD/079/OG	6	74	1,930	APC
	80	East	SD/080/OG	9	103	1,555	APC
	81	West	SD/081/OG	5	59	1,557	APC
Ondo	82	North	SD/082/OD	6	72	1,024	APC
	83	Central	SD/083/OD	6	65	1,555	APC
	84	South	SD/084/OD	6	66	1,354	APC
Osun	85	Central	SD/085/OS	10	116	1,332	PDP
	86	East	SD/086/OS	10	106	1,286	PDP
	87	West	SD/087/OS	10	110	1,145	PDP
Oyo	88	Central	SD/088/OY	11	118	1,981	APC
	89	North	SD/089/OY	13	134	1,864	APC
	90	South	SD/090/OY	9	99	2,545	APC
Plateau	91	South	SD/091/PL	6	68	1,348	PDP
	92	Central	SD/092/PL	5	66	1,375	APC
	93	North	SD/093/PL	6	73	2,266	PDP
Rivers	94	East	SD/094/RV	8	117	3,504	PDP
	95	South East	SD/095/RV	7	88	1,629	PDP
	96	West	SD/096/RV	8	114	1,733	PDP

Sokoto	97	East	SD/097/SO	8	87	1,443	APC
	98	North	SD/098/SO	8	84	1,457	APC
	99	South	SD/099/SO	7	73	1,091	PDP
Taraba	100	South	SD/100/TR	5	52	1,121	APC
	101	Central	SD/101/TR	5	54	1,233	PDP
	102	North	SD/102/TR	6	62	1,243	PDP
Yobe	103	East	SD/103/YB	7	74	992	APC
	104	North	SD/104/YB	6	60	892	APC
	105	South	SD/105/YB	4	44	939	APC
Zamfara	106	North	SD/106/ZF	4	42	871	APC
	107	Central	SD/107/ZF	4	43	1,437	PDP
	108	West	SD/108/ZF	6	62	1,221	APC
FCT	109	FCT	SD/109/FCT	6	62	2,822	LP
Total				**774**	**8,809**	**176,846**	

Annexure 5: Results of the Federal Constituency Election Held on 25th February, 2023

No of Seats Per State	S/N	Constituency	Code	No of LGAs	No of RAs	No of PUs	Party
Annexure 5: Results of the Federal Constituency Election Held on 25th February, 2023							
Abia (8)							
	1	Aba North /Aba South	FC/001/AB	2	24	1,021	LP
	2	Arochukwu /Ohafia	FC/002/AB	2	22	465	LP
	3	Bende	FC/003/AB	1	13	214	APC
	4	Ikwuano /Umuahia North /Umuahia South	FC/004/AB	2	20	379	LP
	5	Isiala Ngwa North / South	FC/005/AB	2	22	302	LP
	6	Isuikwuato / Umuneochi	FC/006/AB	3	31	773	LP
	7	Obingwa /Osisioma / Ugwunagbo	FC/007/AB	3	32	694	LP
	8	Ukwa East /Ukwa West	FC/008/AB	2	20	214	PDP
Adamawa (8)							
	9	Demsa /Lamurde / Numan	FC/009/AD	3	30	499	PDP
	10	Fufore /Song	FC/010/AD	2	22	481	APC
	11	Ganye /Jada /Mayo Belwa /Toungo	FC/011/AD	4	43	720	PDP
	12	Yola North /Yola South /Girei	FC/012/AD	2	22	405	PDP
	13	Gombi /Hong	FC/013/AD	2	20	274	PDP
	14	Guyuk /Shelleng	FC/014/AD	2	26	383	PDP
	15	Madagali /Michika	FC/015/AD	3	31	541	PDP
	16	Maiha /Mubi North / Mubi South	FC/016/AD	3	32	801	PDP

Akwa Ibom (10)	17	Abak /Etim Ekpo /Ika	FC/017/AK	3	31	376	APC
	18	Eket /Esit Eket /Ibeno /Onna	FC/018/AK	4	43	511	PDP
	19	Ikot Ekpene /Essien Udim /Obot Akara	FC/019/AK	3	31	377	APC
	20	Etinan /Nsit Ibom /Nsit Ubium	FC/020/AK	2	21	281	PDP
	21	Uyo /Uruan Insit Atai / Asutan /Ibesikpo	FC/021/AK	3	34	313	PDP
	22	Itu /Ibiono Ibom	FC/022/AK	3	32	495	PDP
	23	Ikono /Ini	FC/023/AK	2	21	339	YPP
	24	Ikot Abasi /Mkpat Enin /Eastern Obolo	FC/024/AK	5	50	451	PDP
	25	Mbo /Okobo /Oron / Udung Uko /Urue	FC/025/AK	2	24	355	PDP
	26	Ukanafun /Oruk Anam /	FC/026/AK	4	42	855	PDP
	27	Aguata	FC/027/AN	2	25	405	APGA
Anambra (11)	28	Anambra East / Anambra West	FC/028/AN	2	32	634	LP
	29	Awka North /Awka South	FC/029/AN	1	16	383	LP
	30	Idemili North /Idemili South	FC/030/AN	1	20	342	LP
	31	Ihiala	FC/031/AN	2	26	398	APGA
	32	Njikoka /Dunukofia / Anaocha	FC/032/AN	2	34	540	LP
	33	Nnewi North /Nnewi South /Ekwusigo	FC/033/AN	3	51	716	APGA
	34	Ogbaru	FC/034/AN	2	32	710	LP
	35	Onitsha North / Onitsha South	FC/035/AN	1	12	323	LP
	36	Orumba North / Orumba South	FC/036/AN	3	42	808	YPP
	37	Oyi /Ayamelum	FC/037/AN	2	36	461	APGA

Bauchi (12)	38	Alkaleri /Kirfi	FC/038/BA	2	21	454	APC
	39	Bauchi	FC/039/BA	1	12	894	PDP
	40	Bogoro /Dass / Tafawa Balewa	FC/040/BA	3	31	521	APC
	41	Darazo /Ganjuwa	FC/041/BA	1	11	423	PDP
	42	Gamawa	FC/042/BA	2	21	513	APC
	43	Shira /Giade	FC/043/BA	2	22	523	PDP
	44	Jama'are Itas -Gadau	FC/044/BA	2	20	419	APC
	45	Katagum	FC/045/BA	1	11	261	PDP
	46	Misau /Dambam	FC/046/BA	1	11	289	PDP
	47	Ningi /Warji	FC/047/BA	2	20	368	PDP
	48	Toro	FC/048/BA	2	21	394	APC
	49	Zaki	FC/049/BA	1	11	364	PDP
Bayelsa (5)	50	Brass /Nembe	FC/050/BY	2	23	400	PDP
	51	Ekeremor /Sagbama	FC/051/BY	1	13	301	PDP
	52	Yenagoa /Kolokuma Opokuma	FC/052/BY	2	26	502	PDP
	53	Ogbia	FC/053/BY	1	17	466	PDP
	54	Southern Jaw	FC/054/BY	2	26	575	PDP
Benue (11)	55	Ado /Ogbadigbo / Okpokwu	FC/055/BN	3	35	446	APC
	56	Apa /Agatu	FC/056/BN	2	21	236	PDP
	57	Buruku	FC/057/BN	1	13	240	APC
	58	Gboko /Tarka	FC/058/BN	2	27	571	APC
	59	Guma /Makurdi	FC/059/BN	2	21	762	APC
	60	Gwer East /Gwer West	FC/060/BN	2	29	312	APC
	61	Katsina Ala /Ukum / Logo	FC/061/BN	3	35	752	APC
	62	Konshisha /Vandeikya	FC/062/BN	2	23	540	APC

	63	Kwande /Ushongo	FC/063/BN	2	26	552 APC
	64	Oju /Obi	FC/064/BN	2	23	324 APC
	65	Otukpo /Ohimini	FC/065/BN	2	23	367 APC
Borno (10)	66	Kukawa /Mobbar / Abadam /Guzamala	FC/066/BO	2	25	475 APC
	67	Askira -Uba /Hawul	FC/067/BO	3	36	559 PDP
	68	Bama /Ngala /Kala-Balge	FC/068/BO	4	42	614 APC
	69	Biu /Kwaya Kusar / Shani /Bayo	FC/069/BO	3	33	464 APC
	70	Damboa /Gwoza/ Chibok	FC/070/BO	3	34	611 APC
	71	Dikwa /Mafa /Konduga	FC/071/BO	3	38	329 APC
	72	Jere	FC/072/BO	3	37	338 APC
	73	Kaga /Gubio / Magumeri	FC/073/BO	4	40	409 APC
	74	Maiduguri Metropolitan	FC/074/BO	1	12	386 APC
	75	Monguno /Nganzai / Marte	FC/075/BO	1	15	886 APC
Cross River (8)	76	Yakurr /Abi	FC/076/CR	2	23	315 APC
	77	Akamkpa /Biase	FC/077/CR	2	21	347 APC
	78	Calabar South / Akpabuyo /Bakassi	FC/078/CR	2	22	426 APC
	79	Obanliku /Obudu / Bekwara	FC/079/CR	3	32	516 PDP
	80	Ikom /Boki	FC/080/CR	2	23	494 APC
	81	Calabar Municipal / Odukpani	FC/081/CR	3	30	470 LP
	82	Obubra /Etung	FC/082/CR	2	21	309 APC
	83	Ogoja /Yala	FC/083/CR	2	21	404 PDP

Delta (10)	84	Aniocha North / Aniocha South /	FC/084/DT	4	42	827	LP
	85	Bomadi /Patani	FC/085/DT	2	20	291	PDP
	86	Burutu	FC/086/DT	2	22	440	PDP
	87	Ethiope East /Ethiope West	FC/087/DT	2	26	407	PDP
	88	Ika North East /Ika South	FC/088/DT	2	24	521	PDP
	89	Isoko North /Isoko South	FC/089/DT	3	30	529	PDP
	90	Ndokwa East /Ndokwa West /Ukwuani	FC/090/DT	3	31	831	PDP
	91	Okpe /Sapele /Uvwie	FC/091/DT	1	11	233	LP
	92	Ughelli North / Ughelli South /Udu	FC/092/DT	3	32	909	APC
	93	Warri North /Warri South /Warri South West	FC/093/DT	3	32	875	PDP
Ebonyi (6)	94	Abakaliki /Izzi	FC/094/EB	2	28	533	APC
	95	Afikpo North /Afikpo South	FC/095/EB	2	28	596	PDP
	96	Ebonyi /Ohaukwu	FC/096/EB	2	27	450	APC
	97	Ezza North /Ishielu	FC/097/EB	2	31	497	APGA
	98	Ezza South /Ikwo	FC/098/EB	3	34	511	APC
	99	Ivo /Ohaozara /Onicha	FC/099/EB	2	23	359	LP
Edo (9)	100	Akoko Edo	FC/100/ED	1	10	241	APC
	101	Egor /Ikpoba Okha	FC/101/ED	3	30	412	LP
	102	Esan Central /Esan West /Igueben	FC/102/ED	2	21	332	PDP
	103	Esan North East / Esan South East	FC/103/ED	3	32	592	APC
	104	Etsako Central / Etsako East /Etsako West	FC/104/ED	2	20	1,077	APC
	105	Oredo	FC/105/ED	1	12	619	LP
	106	Orhionmwon / Uhunmwode	FC/106/ED	2	22	419	APC
	107	Ovia North East /Ovia South West	FC/107/ED	2	23	487	APC
	108	Owan East /Owan West	FC/108/ED	2	22	340	APC

Ekiti (6)							
	109	Ado Ekiti /Irepodun Ifelodun	FC/109/EK	2	24	518	APC
	110	Ijero /Ekiti West / Efon	FC/110/EK	3	32	427	APC
	111	Ekiti South West / Ikere /Ise Orun	FC/111/EK	3	32	321	APC
	112	Gbonyin /Ekiti East / Emure	FC/112/EK	3	32	351	APC
	113	Ido /Osi /Moba / Ilejemeje	FC/113/EK	3	33	448	PC
	114	Ikole /Oye	FC/114/EK	2	24	380	APC
Enugu (8)	115	Aninri /Awgu /Oji River	FC/115/EN	3	41	568	LP
	116	Enugu East /Isi -Uzo	FC/116/EN	2	23	545	LP
	117	Enugu North /Enugu South	FC/117/EN	2	26	714	LP
	118	Ezeagu /Udi	FC/118/EN	2	40	459	LP
	119	Igbo -Etiti /Uzo -Uwani	FC/119/EN	2	36	347	LP
	120	Igbo -Eze North / Udenu	FC/120/EN	2	30	531	LP
	121	Nkanu East /Nkanu West	FC/121/EN	2	28	371	PDP
	122	Nsukka /Igbo -Eze South	FC/122/EN	2	36	610	LP
Gombe (6)	123	Akko	FC/123/GM	1	11	468	APC
	124	Balanga /Billiri	FC/124/GM	1	20	456	PDP
	125	Dukku /Nafada	FC/125/GM	2	21	391	PDP
	126	Gombe /Kwami / Funakaye	FC/126/GM	3	31	903	PDP
	127	Kaltungo /Shongom	FC/127/GM	2	20	369	PDP
	128	Yamaltu /Deba	FC/128/GM	2	11	401	PDP

Imo (10)	129	Abo -Mbaise /Ngor Okpala	FC/129/IM	3	31	399	LP
	130	Ahiazu Mbaise / Ezinihitte	FC/130/IM	3	33	447	PDP
	131	Ehime Mbano /Ihite Uboma /Obowo	FC/131/IM	2	27	348	PDP
	132	Ideato North /Ideato South	FC/132/IM	4	43	501	PDP
	133	Ikeduru /Mbaitoli	FC/133/IM	3	33	541	APC
	134	Isiala Mbano /Okigwe / Onuimo	FC/134/IM	3	34	517	APC
	135	Isu /Njaba /Nkwere / Nwangele	FC/135/IM	2	23	405	PDP
	136	Oguta /Ohaji -Egbema / Oru West	FC/136/IM	2	24	360	APC
	137	Oru East /Orsu /Orlu	FC/137/IM	2	24	514	APC
	138	Owerri Municipal / Owerri North /Owerri West	FC/138/IM	3	33	726	LP
Jigawa (11)	139	Babura /Garki	FC/139/JG	2	22	386	APC
	140	Birnin Kudu /Buji	FC/140/JG	2	21	439	PDP
	141	Birniwa /Guri /Kiri Kasama	FC/141/JG	3	31	410	APC
	142	Dutse /Kiyawa	FC/142/JG	2	22	455	PDP
	143	Gumel /Maigatari /Sule Tankarkar /Gagarawa	FC/143/JG	1	11	298	APC
	144	Gwaram	FC/144/JG	4	42	520	NNPP
	145	Kazaure /Roni /Gwiwa /Yankwashi	FC/145/JG	3	32	514	APC
	146	Hadejia /Kafin Hausa /Auyo	FC/146/JG	2	21	345	APC
	147	Jahun /Miga	FC/147/JG	2	22	315	APC
	148	Mallam Madori / Kaugama	FC/148/JG	4	43	443	APC
	149	Ringim /Taura	FC/149/JG	2	20	397	APC

Kaduna (16)	150	Birnin Gwari /Giwa	FC/150/KD	1	12	704	APC
	151	Chikun /Kajuru	FC/151/KD	1	13	584	LP
	152	Igabi	FC/152/KD	1	11	298	PDP
	153	Ikara /Kubau	FC/153/KD	1	12	600	PDP
	154	Jaba /Zangon Kataf	FC/154/KD	2	21	561	PDP
	155	Jema'a /Sanga	FC/155/KD	2	20	401	PDP
	156	Kachia /Kagarko	FC/156/KD	1	11	457	PDP
	157	Kaduna North	FC/157/KD	2	22	539	APC
	158	Kaduna South	FC/158/KD	2	22	731	PDP
	159	Kaura	FC/159/KD	2	23	520	LP
	160	Kauru	FC/160/KD	2	22	525	PDP
	161	Lere	FC/161/KD	1	11	398	APC
	162	Makarfi /Kudan	FC/162/KD	1	13	796	PDP
	163	Sabon Gari	FC/163/KD	1	10	186	PDP
	164	Soba	FC/164/KD	1	11	243	PDP
	165	Zaria	FC/165/KD	2	21	469	APC
Kano (24)	166	Alabsu /Gaya /Ajingi	FC/166/KN	3	30	566	NNPP
	167	Bebeji /Kiru	FC/167/KN	2	20	337	NNPP
	168	Bichi	FC/168/KN	2	29	407	APC
	169	Dala	FC/169/KN	1	11	277	NNPP
	170	Dambatta /Makoda	FC/170/KN	3	30	497	APC
	171	Dawakin Tofa /Tofa / Rimin Gado	FC/171/KN	1	12	668	NNPP

	172	Dawakin -Kudu / Warawa	FC/172/KN	1	10	450	NNPP
	173	Doguwa /Tudun Wada	FC/173/KN	2	21	382	APC
	174	Fagge	FC/174/KN	2	30	446	NNPP
	175	Gezawa /Gabasawa	FC/175/KN	3	38	507	NNPP
	176	Gwale	FC/176/KN	2	21	430	NNPP
	177	Gwarzo /Kabo	FC/177/KN	2	22	393	APC
	178	Kano Municipal	FC/178/KN	2	20	398	NNPP
	179	Karaye /Rogo	FC/179/KN	1	13	630	NNPP
	180	Kumbotso	FC/180/KN	1	10	425	NNPP
	181	Kura /Madobi /Garun Mallam	FC/181/KN	2	20	389	NNPP
	182	Minjibir /Ungogo	FC/182/KN	1	11	410	NNPP
	183	Nassarawa	FC/183/KN	3	32	539	NNPP
	184	Rano /Bunkure /Kibiya	FC/184/KN	1	11	817	NNPP
	185	Shanono /Bagwai	FC/185/KN	1	10	521	APC
	186	Sumaila /Takai	FC/186/KN	2	21	472	NNPP
	187	Tarauni	FC/187/KN	2	22	556	NNPP
	188	Tsanyawa /Kunchi	FC/188/KN	2	20	299	APC
	189	Wudil /Garko	FC/189/KN	2	20	406	NNPP
Katsina (15)	190	Bakori /Danja	FC/190/KT	2	21	434	PDP
	191	Batagarawa /Charanchi /Rimi	FC/191/KT	3	30	505	APC
	192	Batsari /Safana / Danmusa	FC/192/KT	3	32	552	PDP
	193	Bindawa /Mani	FC/193/KT	2	22	376	APC

	194	Daura /Sandamu / Mai'adua	FC/194/KT	3	32	516	APC
	195	Dutsin -Ma /Kurfi	FC/195/KT	2	21	349	APC
	196	Faskari /Kankara / Sabuwa	FC/196/KT	3	31	612	PDP
	197	Funtua /Dandume	FC/197/KT	2	22	475	APC
	198	Ingawa /Kankia / Kusada	FC/198/KT	3	31	441	APC
	199	Jibia /Kaita	FC/199/KT	2	21	352	APC
	200	Katsina	FC/200/KT	2	22	595	PDP
	201	Malumfashi /Kafur	FC/201/KT	1	12	501	APC
	202	Mashi /Dutsi	FC/202/KT	2	21	304	PDP
	203	Matazu /Musawa	FC/203/KT	2	21	293	APC
	204	Zango /Baure	FC/204/KT	2	22	347	APC
Kebbi (8)	205	Aleiro /Gwandu /Jega	FC/205/KB	2	22	404	PDP
	206	Arewa /Dandi	FC/206/KB	2	21	387	APC
	207	Argungu /Augie	FC/207/KB	2	22	433	PDP
	208	Bagudo /Suru	FC/208/KB	3	35	630	APC
	209	Bunza /Birnin Kebbi / Kalgo	FC/209/KB	3	31	480	PDP
	210	Fakai /Sakaba / Wasagu Danko /Zuru	FC/210/KB	2	23	363	APC
	211	Koko Besse /Maiyama	FC/211/KB	4	41	636	PDP
	212	Ngaski /Shanga /Yauri	FC/212/KB	3	30	410	APC
Kogi (9)	213	Adavi /Okehi	FC/213/KG	2	22	405	APC
	214	Ajaokuta	FC/214/KG	3	34	614	APC
	215	Okene /Ogori -Magongo	FC/215/KG	2	22	482	APC

	216	Ankpa /Omala / Olamaboro	FC/216/KG	4	41	618	APC
	217	Bassa /Dekina	FC/217/KG	2	30	277	APC
	218	Idah /Igalamela Odulu /Ibaji /Ofu	FC/218/KG	1	14	146	APC
	219	Ijumu /Kabba Bunu	FC/219/KG	2	21	378	ADC
	220	Lokoja /Kogi Koton Karfe	FC/220/KG	2	21	351	APC
	221	Yagba East /Yagbawest /Mopa Muro	FC/221/KG	3	34	237	ADC
Kwara (6)							
	222	Baruten /Kaiama	FC/222/KW	2	21	354	APC
	223	Edu /Patigi /Moro	FC/223/KW	3	37	422	APC
	224	Ekiti /Isin /Irepodun / Oke -Ero	FC/224/KW	4	42	390	APC
	225	Ifelodun /Offa /Oyun	FC/225/KW	2	23	595	APC
	226	Ilorin East /Ilorin South	FC/226/KW	2	29	609	APC
	227	Ilorin West /Asa	FC/227/KW	3	41	517	APC
Lagos (24)	228	Eti -Osa	FC/228/LA	1	11	696	LP
	229	Apapa	FC/229/LA	1	11	761	APC
	230	Lagos Islandi	FC/230/LA	1	11	1,545	APC
	231	Lagos Island II	FC/231/LA		11	412	APC
	232	Lagos Mainland	FC/232/LA	1	19	374	APC
	233	Surulere I	FC/233/LA	1	11	227	APC
	234	Surulere II	FC/234/LA		10	725	APC
	235	Epe	FC/235/LA	1	10	374	APC
	236	Ibeju Lekki	FC/236/LA	1	10	667	APC

	237	Ikorodu	FC/237/LA	1	19	682	APC
	238	Shomolu	FC/238/LA	1	10	207	APC
	239	Kosofe	FC/239/LA	1	9	182	APC
	240	Agege	FC/240/LA	1	11	493	APC
	241	Ifako -Ijaiye	FC/241/LA	1	8	303	APC
	242	Alimosho	FC/242/LA	1	6	562	APC
	243	Badagry	FC/243/LA	1	11	582	APC
	244	Ikeja	FC/244/LA	1	11	637	APC
	245	Mushini	FC/245/LA	1	11	734	APC
	246	Mushin II	FC/246/LA		5	365	APC
	247	Ojo	FC/247/LA	1	6	525	LP
	248	Amuwo -Odofin	FC/248/LA	1	12	616	LP
	249	Ajeromi /Ifelodun	FC/249/LA	1	10	899	APC
	250	Oshodi /Isolo I	FC/250/LA	1	6	258	LP
	251	Oshodi /Isolo II	FC/251/LA		6	499	LP
Nasarawa (5)	252	Akwanga /Nassarawa Eggon /Wamba	FC/252/NW	3	35	583	APC
	253	Awe /Doma /Keana	FC/253/NW	3	30	493	APC
	254	Keffi /Karu /Kokona	FC/254/NW	3	32	925	SDP
	255	Lafia /Obi	FC/255/NW	2	23	748	SDP
	256	Nassarawa /Toto	FC/256/NW	2	27	507	APC

Niger (10)	257	Agaie /Lapai	FC/257/NG	2	21	357	APC
	258	Agwara /Borgu	FC/258/NG	2	20	278	APC
	259	Bida /Gbako /Katcha	FC/259/NG	3	34	575	APC
	260	Booso /Paikoro	FC/260/NG	2	21	481	APC
	261	Chanchaga	FC/261/NG	1	11	379	PDP
	262	Gurara /Suleja /Tafa	FC/262/NG	3	30	598	PDP
	263	Kontagora /Wushishi / Mariga /Mashegu	FC/263/NG	3	33	529	APC
	264	Lavun /Mokwa /Edati	FC/264/NG	2	22	367	PDP
	265	Magama /Rijau	FC/265/NG	4	45	791	APC
	266	Shiroro /Rafi /Munya	FC/266/NG	3	37	595	APC
Ogun (9)	267	Abeokuta North Obafemi Owode /Odeda	FC/267/OG	3	38	849	APC
	268	Abeokuta South	FC/268/OG	1	15	445	APC
	269	Ado -Odo Ota	FC/269/OG	1	16	655	APC
	270	Egbado North /Imeko Afon	FC/270/OG	2	21	383	APC
	271	Egbado South /Ipokia	FC/271/OG	2	22	519	APC
	272	Ifo \Ewekoro	FC/272/OG	2	21	636	APC
	273	Ijebu North /Ijebu East /Ogun Waterside	FC/273/OG	3	32	548	APC
	274	Ijebu Ode /Odogbolu /Ijebu North East	FC/274/OG	3	36	450	APC
	275	Ikenne /Shagamu /Remo North	FC/275/OG	3	35	557	APC
Ondo (9)	276	Akoko North East / Akoko North West	FC/276/OD	2	23	329	APC
	277	Akoko South East / Akoko South West	FC/277/OD	2	26	279	APC
	278	Akure North /Akure South	FC/278/OD	2	23	753	APC
	279	Ese -Odo /Ilaje	FC/279/OD	2	20	335	APC
	280	Idanre /Ifedore	FC/280/OD	2	21	495	PDP

	281	Ileoluji /Okeigbo /Odigbo	FC/281/OD	2	23	424	APC
	282	Irele /Okitipupa	FC/282/OD	2	22	435	APC
	283	Ondo East /Ondo West	FC/283/OD	2	22	467	APC
	284	Owo /Ose	FC/284/OD	2	23	416	APC
Osun (9)	285	Atakumosa East /Atakumosa West / Ilesa East / Ilesa West	FC/285/OS	4	47	693	PDP
	286	Ayedaade /Irewole / Isokan	FC/286/OS	3	38	378	PDP
	287	Ayedire /Iwo /Ola Oluwa	FC/287/OS	3	31	261	PDP
	288	Boluwaduro /Ifedayo /Ila	FC/288/OS	4	42	406	PDP
	289	Ede North /Ede South /Egbedore /Ejigbo	FC/289/OS	2	22	223	PDP
	290	Ife Central /Ife North /Ife South /Ife East	FC/290/OS	4	42	657	PDP
	291	Irepodun /Orolu /Olorunda /Osogbo	FC/291/OS	3	35	299	PDP
	292	Obokun /Oriade	FC/292/OS	4	33	383	PDP
	293	Odo -Otin /Ifelodun / Boripe	FC/293/OS	3	42	463	PDP
Oyo (14)	294	Afijio /Oyo East /Oyo West /Atiba	FC/294/OY	4	40	551	APC
	295	Akinyele /Lagelu	FC/295/OY	2	26	503	APC
	296	Egbeda /Ona -Ara	FC/296/OY	2	22	444	APC
	297	Ibadan North	FC/297/OY	2	20	288	APC
	298	Ibadan North East / Ibadan South East	FC/298/OY	2	20	344	PDP
	299	Ibadan South West / Ibadan North West	FC/299/OY	3	32	485	PDP
	300	Ibarapa Central / Ibarapa North	FC/300/OY	3	30	262	PDP
	301	Ibarapa East /Ido	FC/301/OY	4	42	578	APC

	302	Irepo /Orelope / Olorunsogo	FC/302/OY	3	30	539	APC
	303	Iseyin /Itesiwaju /Kajola /Iwajowa	FC/303/OY	2	20	254	PDP
	304	Ogbomoso North / Ogbomosho South / Orire	FC/304/OY	1	10	229	APC
	305	Ogo -Oluwa /Surulere	FC/305/OY	2	24	688	PDP
	306	Oluyole	FC/306/OY	2	23	713	APC
	307	Saki East /Saki West / Atisbo	FC/307/OY	1	12	512	APC
Plateau (8)	308	Barkin Ladi /Riyom	FC/308/PL	2	30	1,209	PDP
	309	Bokkos /Mangu	FC/309/PL	2	22	675	APC
	310	Jos North /Bassa	FC/310/PL	2	21	382	PDP
	311	Jos South /Jos East	FC/311/PL	2	30	645	PDP
	312	Kanke /Pankshin /Kanam	FC/312/PL	3	36	730	APC
	313	Langtang North / Langtang South	FC/313/PL	1	12	277	PDP
	314	Mikang /Qua -Anpan /Shedam	FC/314/PL	2	24	352	PDP
	315	Wase	FC/315/PL	3	32	719	APC
Rivers (13)	316	Abua Odual /Ahoada East	FC/316/RV	2	26	390	PDP
	317	Ahoada West /Ogba Egbema Ndoni	FC/317/RV	2	29	506	PDP
	318	Akuku Toru /Asari Toru	FC/318/RV	2	29	342	PDP
	319	Andoni /Opobo Nkoro	FC/319/RV	2	30	495	PDP
	320	Bonny /Degema	FC/320/RV	2	24	301	PDP
	321	Eleme /Oyigbo /Tai	FC/321/RV	2	22	419	PDP
	322	Emohua /Ikwerre	FC/322/RV	3	30	591	PDP
	323	Etche /Omuma	FC/323/RV	2	36	619	PDP

	324	Gokana /Khana	FC/324/RV	2	27	593	PDP
	325	Obio Akpor	FC/325/RV	2	29	438	PDP
	326	Okrika /Ogu Bolo	FC/326/RV	1	17	1,211	APC
	327	Port Harcourt I	FC/327/RV	1	10	584	LP
	328	Port Harcourt II	FC/328/RV		10	377	PDP
Sokoto (11)	329	Binji /Silame	FC/329/SO	2	21	378	APC
	330	Bodinga /Dange Shuni /Tureta	FC/330/SO	2	22	411	APC
	331	Goronyo /Gada	FC/331/SO	2	22	258	PDP
	332	Tangaza /Gudu	FC/332/SO	2	22	396	APC
	333	Illela /Gwadabawa	FC/333/SO	2	20	229	APC
	334	Isa /Sabon Birnin	FC/334/SO	2	20	186	APC
	335	Kebbe /Tambuwal	FC/335/SO	2	22	412	PDP
	336	Kware /Wamakko	FC/336/SO	2	22	630	APC
	337	Wurno Rabah	FC/337/SO	3	32	457	APC
	338	Yabo /Shagari	FC/338/SO	2	20	262	PDP
	339	Sokoto North / Sokoto South	FC/339/SO	2	21	372	APC
Taraba (6)	340	Karim Lamido Lau /Ardo-Kola	FC/340/TR	2	23	596	PDP
	341	Bali /Gassol	FC/341/TR	3	32	602	PDP
	342	Takum /Donga /Ussa	FC/342/TR	3	31	637	APC
	343	Sardauna /Kurmi /Gashaka	FC/343/TR	2	20	519	APC
	344	Ibi /Wukari	FC/344/TR	3	31	658	APC
	345	Jalingo /Yorro /Zing	FC/345/TR	3	31	585	PDP

Yobe (6)	346	Bade /Jakusko	FC/346/YB	2	20	371	PDP
	347	Bursari /Geidam / Yunusari	FC/347/YB	3	31	416	APC
	348	Damaturu /Gujba / Gulani /Tarmuwa	FC/348/YB	4	43	576	APC
	349	Fika /Fune	FC/349/YB	2	23	442	PDP
	350	Machina /Nguru / Yusufari /Karasuwa	FC/350/YB	4	40	521	APC
	351	Nangere /Potiskum	FC/351/YB	2	21	497	APC
Zamfara (7)	352	Anka /Talata Mafara	FC/352/ZF	2	21	448	APC
	353	Bakura /Maradun	FC/353/ZF	2	21	423	APC
	354	Bungudu /Maru	FC/354/ZF	2	22	865	APC
	355	Gummi /Bukkuyum	FC/355/ZF	2	21	572	PDP
	356	Gusau /Tsafe	FC/356/ZF	2	21	423	PDP
	357	Kaura -Namoda /Birnin Magaji	FC/357/ZF	2	20	384	APC
	358	Shinkafi /Zurmi	FC/358/ZF	2	21	414	PDP
FCT (2)	359	Abaji/Gwagwalada/Kwali/Kuje	FC/359/FCT	4	40	1,220	LP
	360	Municipal/Bwari	FC/360/FCT	2	22	1,602	LP
		Total		**774**	**8,809**	**176,846**	

Annexure 6: Results of the State Constituency Election

State/ No. of Seats	S/N	Constituency	Code	Name of Elected Candidate	Political Party	Gender	Remarks
Abia	1	Aba North	SC/01/AB	Nwagwu Destiny Akarka	LP	M	Elected
24	2	Aba South	SC/02/AB	Emeruwa Emmanuel Ihuoma	LP	M	Elected
	3	Aba Central	SC/03/AB	Ucheonye S. Akachukwu	LP	M	Elected
	4	Arochukwu	SC/04/AB	Okoro Uchenna Kalu	LP	M	Elected
	5	Bende North	SC/05/AB	Ibekwe Chimdi Nnamdi	PDP	M	Elected
	6	Bende South	SC/06/AB	Ndubuisi Emmanuel Chinedu	PDP	M	Elected
	7	Ikwuano	SC/07/AB	Isienyi Boniface Ndionyenma	LP	M	Elected
	8	Isiala Ngwa North	SC/08/AB	Iheonunekwu U. Collins	PDP	M	Elected
	9	Isiala Ngwa South	SC/09/AB	Dennis Rowland Chinwendu	PDP	M	Elected
	10	Isuikwuato	SC/10/AB	Nweke-Johnson Lucky Udoka	PDP	M	Elected
	11	Obingwa East	SC/11/AB	Akpulonu Chijioke Solomon	PDP	M	Elected
	12	Obingwa West	SC/12/AB	Erondu Uchenna Erondu Jnr.	PDP	M	Elected
	13	Ohafia North	SC/13/AB	Obasi Egwuronu Ochuru	PDP	M	Elected
	14	Ohafia South	SC/14/AB	Nwoke Kalu Mba	LP	M	Elected
	15	Osisioma North	SC/15/AB	Nwogu Iheanacho	YPP	M	Elected
	16	Osisioma South	SC/16/AB	Ahuama Fyne Onyekachi	YPP	M	Elected
	17	Ugwunaagbo	SC/18/AB	Uruakpa Chijioke	PDP	M	Elected
	18	Ukwa East	SC/19/AB	Obianyi Lewis Chinemerem	PDP	M	Elected

	19	Ukwa West	/SC/20AB	Adiele Godwin Anyamagiobi		PDP	M	
	20	Umuahia East	SC/21/AB	Okezie Augustine	LP	M	Elected
	21	Umuahia North	SC/22/AB	Akaliro K. Anderson	LP	M	Elected
	22	Umuahia Central	SC/23/AB	Anthony Chinasa Abiola	LP	M	Elected
	23	Umuahia South	SC/24/AB	Obioma Emeka		M	Elected
	24	Umunneochi	SC/17/AB	Ume Mathias Nwankwo	LP	M	Elected
Adamawa	25	Yola South	SC/25/AD	Minjinyawa Kabiru	APC	M	Elected
25	26	Yola North	SC/26/AD	Umar Suleiman Alkali	APC	M	Elected
	27	Mubi North	SC/27/AD	Paul Samuel	APC	M	Elected
	28	Mubi South	SC/28/AD	Sahabo Yohanna Jauro	APC	M	Elected
	29	Demsa	SC/29/AD	Mamuno Raymond Kate	PDP	F	Elected
	30	Numan	SC/30/AD	Mackondo P. Mikelson	PDP	M	Elected
	31	Lamurde	SC/31/AD	Bauna Pawikai Myandasa	PDP	M	Elected
	32	Song	SC/32/AD	Kefas Emmanuel	PDP	M	Elected
	33	Girei	SC/33/AD	Abubakar Abdullahi	PDP	M	Elected
	34	Ganye	SC/34/AD	Musa Abdulmalik Jauro	APC	M	Elected
	35	Toungo	SC/35/AD	Calvin Kefas	PDP	M	Elected
	36	Koma/Leko (Jada I)	SC/36/AD	Geofrey Bulus	PDP	M	Elected
	37	Jada/Mbulo (Jada Ii)	SC/37/AD	Buba Mohammed Jidjiwa	PDP	M	Elected
	38	Fufore/Gurin (Fufore I)	SC/38/AD	Umar Bobbo Ismaila	APC	M	Elected
	39	Verre (Fufore Ii)	SC/39/AD	Hammajabu Japhet	PDP	M	Elected
	40	Uba/Gaya (Hong I)	SC/40/AD	Adum Hyellapaburi John	PDP	M	Elected
	41	Hong (Hong Ii)	SC/41/AD	Wesley Bathiya	PDP	M	Elected

	42	Nassarawo/Binyeri (Mayo Belwa I)	SC/42/AD	Njidda B. Mohammed	APC	M	Elected
	43	Mayo-Belwa (Mayo Belwa Ii)	SC/43/AD	Musa Ibrahim	APC	M	Elected
	44	Gombi	SC/44/AD	Kefas Japhet	PDP	M	Elected
	45	Shelleng	SC/45/AD	Bulus Kantomon Napthali	PDP	M	Elected
	46	Madagali	SC/46/AD	Jilantikiri Haruna	PDP	M	Elected
	47	Maiha	SC/47/AD	Jingi Belel Ahmed	PDP	M	Elected
	48	Michika	SC/48/AD	Yerima Moses	PDP	M	Elected
	49	Guyuk	SC/49/AD	Peter Sunday	APC	M	Elected
Akwa Ibom	50	Abak	SC/50/AK	Otong Udeme James	PDP	M	Elected
26	51	Eket	SC/51/AK	Akata Nsidibe Inyang	PDP	M	Elected
	52	Essien Udim	SC/52/AK	Akpabio Ukpong Udo	PDP	M	Elected
	53	Esit Eket/Ibeno	SC/53/AK	Udo Udobia Friday	PDP	M	Elected
	54	Etim Ekpo/Ika	SC/54/AK	Idung Mfon Frank	PDP	M	Elected
	55	Etinan	SC/55/AK	Ekpo-Ufot Uduak –Obong Abel	PDP	M	Elected
	56	Ibesikpo Asutan	SC/56/AK	Attah Ubong Essien	PDP	M	Elected
	57	Ibiono Ibom	SC/57/AK	Essien Moses Edet	YPP	M	Elected
	58	Ikono	SC/58/AK	Udo Asuquo Nana	YPP	M	Elected
	59	Ikot Abasi/ Eastern Obolo	SC/59/AK	Ukpatu Uselina Isotuk	PDP	F	Elected
	60	Ikot Ekpene/Obot Akara	SC/60/AK	Uto Jerry Anson Uduak	PDP	M	Elected
	61	Ini	SC/61/AK	Udoide Lawrence Ofonmbuk	PDP	M	Elected
	62	Itu	SC/62/AK	Edidem Kufreabasi	PDP	M	Elected
	63	Mbo	SC/63/AK	Johnson Effiong Etim	PDP	M	Elected
	64	Mkpat Enin	SC/64/AK	Imoh-Itah Uwem Peter	PDP	M	Elected

	65	Nsit Atai	SC/65/AK	Attah Prince-Aniefiok Okon	PDP	M	Elected
	66	Nsit Ibom	SC/66/AK	Akpan Eric Effiong	PDP	M	Elected
	67	Nsit Ubium	SC/67/AK	Bob Otobong Effiong	PDP	M	Elected
	68	Okobo	SC/68/AK	Bassey Bassey Pius	PDP	M	Elected
	69	Onna	SC/69/AK	Jonny Sunday Udofot	PDP	M	Elected
	70	Oron/Udung Uko	SC/70/AK	Onofiok Kenim Victor	PDP	M	Elected
	71	Oruk Anam	SC/71/AK	Idiong Samson Bernard	PDP	M	Elected
	72	Ukanafun	SC/72/AK	Udom Emem Etokabasi	PDP	M	Elected
	73	Uruan	SC/73/AK	Etim Itorobong Francis	PDP	F	Elected
	74	Urue Offong/Oruko	SC/74/AK	Selong Precious Akamba	PDP	F	Elected
	75	Uyo	SC/75/AK	Asuquo U. Dianabasi	PDP	M	Elected
Anambra	76	Aguata I	SC/76/AN	Okpalaeke Emmanuel Anayo	APGA	M	Elected
30	77	Aguata Ii	SC/77/AN	Muobike Anthony Ifedili	APGA	M	Elected
	78	Anambra East	SC/78/AN	Nweke Obi Callistus	APGA	M	Elected
	79	Anambra West	SC/79/AN	Udoba Patrick Obalum	APGA	M	Elected
	80	Anaocha I	SC/80/AN	Ogbuefi Felicitas	LP	F	Elected
	81	Anaocha Ii	SC/81/AN	Okechukwu Ejike Aloy	APGA	M	Elected
	82	Awka North	SC/82/AN	Ikwunne Chimezie John Mark	APGA	M	Elected
	83	Awka South I	SC/83/AN	Mbachu Nigeria Henry	LP	M	Elected
	84	Awka South Ii	SC/84/AN	Okoye Chukwuma Pius	APGA	M	Elected
	85	Idemili South	SC/85/AN	Igwe Chukwuebuka Nnadozie	APGA	M	Elected
	86	Idemili North	SC/86/AN	Udemezue K. A. Tochukwu	LP	M	Elected
	87	Ihiala I	SC/87/AN	Ngobili Jude Chimezie	APGA	M	Elected

	88	Ihiala Ii	SC/88/AN	Iloh Chukwuebuka Golden L.	APGA	M	Elected
	89	Njikoka I	SC/89/AN	Ibemeka Chidiebele Nnamdi	APGA	M	Elected
	90	Njikoka Ii	SC/90/AN	Akpua Jude Ejikeme	APGA	M	Elected
	91	Nnewi North	SC/91/AN	Ike Augustine Onyekachukwu	YPP	M	Elected
	92	Nnewi South I	SC/92/AN	Atuchukwu Nonso C.	YPP	M	Elected
	93	Nnewi South Ii	SC/93/AN	Akaegbobi J. Nwabugwu	YPP	M	Elected
	94	Ekwusigo	SC/94/AN	Ofodeme Ikenna Sylvester	APGA	M	Elected
	95	Ogbaru I	SC/95/AN	Igwe C. Noble - Obumneme	PDP	M	Elected
	96	Ogbaru Ii	SC/96/AN	Udeze S. Nkemakolam	PDP	M	Elected
	97	Ayamelum	SC/97/AN	Udemezue Bernard Abuchi	PDP	M	Elected
	98	Dunukofia	SC/98/AN	Azotani Francis Chuks	APGA	M	Elected
	99	Onitsha North I	SC/99/AN	Egbuna Douglas Nwachukwu	PDP	M	Elected
	100	Onitsha North Ii	SC/100/AN	Okafor Patrick Emmanuel C.	LP	M	Elected
	101	Onitsha South I	SC/101/AN	Ezenwa Fredrick Chigozie	LP	M	Elected
	102	Onitsha South Ii	SC/102/AN	Umennajiego Jude Ifeanyi	LP	M	Elected
	103	Orumba North	SC/103/AN	Obu Paul Chukwuka	LP	M	Elected
	104	Orumba South	SC/104/AN	Nwafor Emmanuel Obinna	APGA	M	Elected
	105	Oyi	SC/105/AN	Ojike Innocent	APGA	M	Elected
Bauchi	106	Pali (Alkaleri I)	SC/106/BA	Garba Aminu	APC	M	Elected
31	107	Duguri/Gwana (Alkaleri Ii)	SC/107/BA	Abdullahi Dan Bala	PDP	M	Elected
	108	Kirfi	SC/108/BA	Umar Habibu	PDP	M	Elected
	109	Bauchi (Bauchi I)	SC/109/BA	Umaru Dahiru Jamilu	PDP	M	Elected
	110	Zungur/Galambi (Bauchi Ii)	SC/110/BA	Yusuf Saidu Ahmed	PDP	M	Elected

111	Dass	SC/111/BA	Abdullahi Ahmed	PDP	M	Elected
112	Lere/Bula (Tafawa/Balewa)	SC/112/BA	Mu'azu Abdulrasheed Adamu	APC	M	Elected
113	Bogoro	SC/113/BA	Wakili Musa Nakwada	PDP	M	Elected
114	Jama'a/Toro (Toro Ii)	SC/114/BA	Saidu Hamza	PDP	M	Elected
115	Warji	SC/115/BA	Lawal Garba	PDP	M	Elected
116	Lame (Toro I)	SC/116/BA	Abdu Bala Rishi	APC	M	Elected
117	Ningi (Ningi I)	SC/117/BA	Yakubu Sulaiman Abubakar	PDP	M	Elected
118	Burra (Ningi Ii)	SC/118/BA	Tanko Ibrahim Burra	PDP	M	Elected
119	Chiroma (Misau I)	SC/119/BA	Yahaya Ahmed, Maikudi	APC	M	Elected
120	Hardawa (Misau Ii)	SC/120/BA	Babayo Mohammed Akuyam	PDP	M	Elected
121	Dambam/Dagauda/ Jalam	SC/121/BA	Muhammmed Ahmed Garba	PDP	M	Elected
122	Darazo (Darazo I)	SC/122/BA	Suleiman Saidu, Darazo	APC	M	Elected
123	Sade (Darazo Ii)	SC/123/BA	Dauda Lawal	APC	M	Elected
124	Ganjuwa East	SC/124/BA	Ladan Mohammed	PDP	M	Elected
125	Ganjuwa West	SC/125/BA	Adamu Garba Kawu	PDP	M	Elected
126	Katagum (Katagum I)	SC/126/BA	Bello Muhammad Maiwa	PDP	M	Elected
127	Sakwa (Zaki I)	SC/127/BA	Wanzam Mohammed	PDP	M	Elected
128	Jama'are	SC/128/BA	Mubarak Haruna	NNPP	M	Elected
129	Itas/Gadau	SC/129/BA	Abdullahi Yusuf Itas	PDP	M	Elected
130	Shira I (Disina)	SC/130/BA	Hodi Sale Jibir	PDP	M	Elected
131	Shira Ii (Shira)	SC/131/BA	Hassan Auwal	PDP	M	Elected
132	Giade	SC/132/BA	Adamu Salihu Abubakar	PDP	M	Elected
133	Azare (Zaki Ii)	SC/133/BA	Saleh Zakariyya	APC	M	Elected

	134	Madara/Chinade (Katagum II)	SC/134/BA	Ala Nasiru Ahmed	PDP	M	Elected
	135	Udubo (Gamawa I)	SC/135/BA	Lele Ahmed, Mohammed	APC	M	Elected
	136	Gamawa (Gamawa II)	SC/136/BA	Sarkin Jadori Bello	PDP	M	Elected
Bayelsa	137	Brass I	SC/137/BY	Charles Daniel	PDP	M	Elected
24	138	Brass II	SC/138/BY	Omubo Ayona Timinyo	APC	M	
	139	Brass III	SC/139/BY	Ingobere Abraham	PDP	M	Elected
	140	Nembe I	SC/140/BY	George-Braah Oteigbanyo	APGA	M	Elected
	141	Nembe II	SC/141/BY	Edward Irigha Brigidi	APC	M	Elected
	142	Nembe III	SC/142/BY	Douglas Sampson	APC	M	Elected
	143	Ogbia I	SC/143/BY	Ibegu Arikpawabai Richard	PDP	M	Elected
	144	Ogbia II	SC/144/BY	Obein Godknows	APC	M	Elected
	145	Ogbia III	SC/145/BY	Ogbara Gabriel Michael	PDP	M	Elected
	146	Kolokuma/ Opokuma I	SC/146/BY	Werinipre Pamoh	PDP	M	Elected
	147	Kolokuma/ Opokuma II	SC/147/BY	Fafi Wisdom	PDP	M	Elected
	148	Yenagoa I	SC/148/BY	Egba Ayibanegiyefa	PDP	F	Elected
	149	Yenagoa II	SC/149/BY	Amakoromo Waikumo	APGA	M	Elected
	150	Yenagoa III	SC/150/BY	Elemeforo Teddy Tonbara	PDP	M	Elected
	151	Ekeremor I	SC/151/BY	Porri Tare	PDP	M	Elected
	152	Ekeremor II	SC/152/BY	Mitin Living Ebibaekebena	PDP	M	Elected
	153	Ekeremor III	SC/153/BY	Ogbere M. Pere-Otukefie	PDP	M	Elected
	154	Sagbama I	SC/154/BY	Oyinke G. Nanatumieyeseigha	PDP	M	Elected
	155	Sagbama Ii	SC/155/BY	Kenebai Bernard Sunday	PDP	M	Elected
	156	Sagbama III	SC/156/BY	Cockeve Brown E. Rosemary	PDP	F	Elected

	157	Southern Ijaw I	SC/157/BY	Ayah Bonny Felix Eniekiokori	PDP	M	Elected
	158	Southern Ijaw II	SC/158/BY	Mondsy-Bubou Edwin Obolo	PDP	M	Elected
	159	Southern Ijaw III	SC/159/BY	Marlon Moses	PDP	M	Elected
	160	Southern Ijaw IV	SC/160/BY	Ben Selekaye Victor	APC	M	Elected
Benue	161	Ado	SC/161/BN	Danladi Lami	APC	F	Elected
32	162	Agbatu	SC/162/BN	Edoh Godwin Abuh	PDP	M	Elected
	163	Apa	SC/163/BN	Umoru Abu James	PDP	M	Elected
	164	Buruku	SC/164/BN	Jabi Abraham Zahemen	APC	M	Elected
	165	Gboko I (East)	SC/165/BN	Orpin Bekie Torkwase	APC	F	Elected
	166	Gboko West	SC/166/BN	Dajoh Hyacinth Aodona	APC	M	Elected
	167	Guma (Guma I)	SC/167/BN	Ortese Marccellinus Yanmar	APC	M	Elected
	168	Agasha (Guma II)	SC/168/BN	Ortyom William Mkange	PDP	M	Elected
	169	Gwer East	SC/169/BN	Audu Elias Terumbur	APC	M	Elected
	170	Gwer West	SC/170/BN	Gyikla Solomon Terlumun	PDP	M	Elected
	171	Katsina Ala East	SC/171/BN	Agbudyen Jonathan Akule	APC	M	Elected
	172	Katsina-Ala West	SC/172/BN	Ipusu Peter Bemdoo	APC	M	Elected
	173	Konshisha I (Gaav)	SC/173/BN	Dyako Cephas Tarvershima	LP	M	Elected
	174	Kwande East	SC/174/BN	Matu Anyor Samuel	APC	M	Elected
	175	Kwande West	SC/175/BN	Dugeri Thomas Terzungwe	APC	M	Elected
	176	Logo	SC/176/BN	Jiji Samuel Shimapever	PDP	M	Elected
	177	Makurdi I (North)	SC/177/BN	Emberga Alfred Aondoaver	APC	M	Elected
	178	Makurdi South	SC/178/BN	Akya Terkume	APC	M	Elected
	179	Obi	SC/179/BN	Egbodo Moses	PDP	M	Elected

	180	Ogbadibo	SC/180/BN	Agada Ismail Samuel	APC	M	Elected
	181	Ohimini	SC/181/BN	Ochekliye Agbo Isaac	PDP	M	Elected
	182	Oju I	SC/182/BN	Onah Blessed Emmanuel	PDP	M	Elected
	183	Oju II	SC/183/BN	Ikong Ijebe Cyril	APC	M	Elected
	184	Okpokwu	SC/184/BN	Agiom Attah Anthony	PDP	M	Elected
	185	Otukpo/Akpa	SC/185/BN	Angbo Kennedy Agbogo	APC	M	Elected
	186	Adoka/Ugboju	SC/186/BN	Audu Michael	PDP	M	Elected
	187	Tarka	SC/187/BN	Manger Mcclinton Manger	APC	M	Elected
	188	Ukum I (Ngenev)	SC/188/BN	Nyiyongo Ezra Mcsylawn	APC	M	Elected
	189	Mata (Ushongo I)	SC/189/BN	Gabo Simon	APC	M	Elected
	190	Mbagwa (Ushongo II)	SC/190/BN	Tiseer Saater Godfrey	APC	M	Elected
	191	Vandeikya I	SC/191/BN	Matthew Damkor	APC	M	Elected
	192	Vandeikya II	SC/192/BN	Shimawua Emmanuel Terna	APC	M	Elected
Borno	193	Abadam	SC/193/BO	Bong Alhaji Jamna	APC	M	Elected
28	194	Askira	SC/194/BO	Abdullahi Musa Askira	APC	M	Elected
	195	Bama I (Bama)	SC/195/BO	Bukar Baba	APC	M	Elected
	196	Bayo	SC/196/BO	Maina Abare Maigari	APC	M	Elected
	197	Biu	SC/197/BO	Gambo Kimba Yakubu	APC	M	Elected
	198	Chibok	SC/198/BO	Clark Nuhu	APC	M	Elected
	199	Damaboa	SC/199/BO	Wakil Mallami	APC	M	Elected
	200	Dikwa	SC/200/BO	Zakariya Mohammed	APC	M	Elected
	201	Gubio	SC/201/BO	Moruma Gubo	APC	M	Elected
	202	Bama II (Gulumba)	SC/202/BO	Mallam Baba Baba Shehu	APC	M	Elected

	203	Guzamala	SC/203/BO	Lawan Abdulkarim	APC	M	Elected
	204	Gwoza	SC/204/BO	Buba Abdullahi Abatcha	APC	M	Elected
	205	Hawul	SC/205/BO	Ibrahim Mohammed	APC	M	Elected
	206	Jere	SC/206/BO	Abba Kolo Abba Kyari	APC	M	Elected
	207	Kaga	SC/207/BO	Alibe Mustapha	APC	M	Elected
	208	Kala Balge	SC/208/BO	Mohammed Dige	APC	M	Elected
	209	Konduga	SC/209/BO	Modu Bukar	APC	M	Elected
	210	Kukawa	SC/210/BO	Lawan Karta Maina Ma'aji	APC	M	Elected
	211	Kwaya Kusar	SC/211/BO	Babale Abubakar Ibrahim	APC	M	Elected
	212	Mafa	SC/212/BO	Modu Baba Ali	APC	M	Elected
	213	Magumeri	SC/213/BO	Mustapha Audu	APC	M	Elected
	214	Maiduguri M.C.	SC/214/BO	Kotoko Alhaji Ali	APC	M	Elected
	215	Marte	SC/215/BO	Gambomi Mohammed Marte	APC	M	Elected
	216	Mobbar	SC/216/BO	Moruma Usman Lawan	APC	M	Elected
	217	Monguno	SC/217/BO	Garbu Maina	APC	M	Elected
	218	Ngala	SC/218/BO	Abatcha Alhaji Bukar	APC	M	Elected
	219	Nganzai	SC/219/BO	Ali Gajiram Mohammed	APC	M	Elected
	220	Shani	SC/220/BO	Inuwa Ibrahim Musa	APC	M	Elected
Cross River	221	Abi	SC/221/CR	Enyiofem Davies Etta	APC	M	Elected
25	222	Akamkpa I	SC/222/CR	Owuna Okon Nyong	APC	M	Elected
	223	Akamkpa II	SC/223/CR	Etim Linus Bassey	APC	M	Elected
	224	Akpabuyo	SC/224/CR	Bassey Bassey Effiong	APC	M	Elected
	225	Bakassi	SC/225/CR	Edet Bassey Eyo	APC	M	Elected

	226	Biase	SC/226/CR	Ogban Francis Onette	APC	M	Elected
	227	Boki I	SC/227/CR	Obi Philip Bette	APC	M	Elected
	228	Boki II	SC/228/CR	Bisong Hilary Ekpang	APC	M	Elected
	229	Bekwarra	SC/229/CR	Omang Charles Omang	PDP	M	Elected
	230	Calabar Municipal	SC/230/CR	Nsemo Okon Bassey Stanley	APC	M	Elected
	231	Calabar South I	SC/231/CR	Jimmy Effiong Ekarika	APC	M	Elected
	232	Calabar South II	SC/232/CR	Nsa Victor Ekpeyong	APC	M	Elected
	233	Etung	SC/233/CR	Isong Kingsley Ntui	APC	M	Elected
	234	Ikom I	SC/234/CR	Abang Samuel Neji	PDP	M	Elected
	235	Ikom Ii	SC/235/CR	Ayambem Elvert Ekom	APC	M	Elected
	236	Obanleku	SC/236/CR	Ashakia Pius Ashas	PDP	M	Elected
	237	Obubra I	SC/237/CR	Agbor Ovat	APC	M	Elected
	238	Obubra II	SC/238/CR	Egbe Egbe Abeng	APC	M	Elected
	239	Obudu	SC/239/CR	Agabi Sylvester Rihwo	APC	M	Elected
	240	Odukpani	SC/240/CR	Asuquo F. Ekepeyong Bassey	APC	M	Elected
	241	Ogoja	SC/241/CR	Ayim Rita Agbo	PDP	F	Elected
	242	Yakurr I	SC/242/CR	Omini Cyril James	APC	M	Elected
	243	Yakurr II	SC/243/CR	Akpama Mercy Mbang	APC	F	Elected
	244	Yala I	SC/244/CR	Odey Brian Wonah	LP	M	Elected
	245	Yala II	SC/245/CR	Achadu Ogiji Idaga Martins	PDP	M	Elected
Delta	246	Aniocha North	SC/246/DT	Nwaobi Emeka Emmanuel	PDP	M	Elected
29	247	Aniocha South	SC/247/DT	Awuzia Isaac Ozor	PDP	M	Elected
	248	Bomadi	SC/248/DT	Preyor Oboro	PDP	M	Elected

249	Burutu	SC/249/DT	Oloye Pereotu	PDP	M	Elected
250	Burutu North	SC/250/DT	Ebitonmo Anthony Alapala	APC	M	Elected
251	Ethiope East	SC/252/DT	Akpowowo Arthur	PDP	M	Elected
252	Ethiope West	SC/252/DT	Achoja Blessing	APC	M	Elected
253	Ika North East	SC/253/DT	Okowa-Daramola Marilyn Dumkechukwu	PDP	F	Elected
254	Ika South	SC/254/DT	Okoh Festus Chukwuyem	PDP	M	Elected
255	Isoko North	SC/255/DT	Odior Bernard	PDP	M	Elected
256	Isoko South I	SC/256/DT	Obowomano Bimo Owhede	PDP	M	Elected
257	Isoko South II	SC/257/DT	Onwo Ferguson	PDP	M	Elected
258	Ndokwa East	SC/258/DT	Osamuta Emeka Prince	PDP	M	Elected
259	Ndokwa West	SC/259/DT	Emetulu C. Chukwuemeka	PDP	M	Elected
260	Okpe	SC/260/DT	Augoye James Ojaduvba	PDP	M	Elected
261	Oshimili North	SC/261/DT	Esemwah F. Ngozichukwuka	PDP	M	Elected
262	Oshimili South	SC/262/DT	Anyafulu Ifechukwu Bridget	PDP	F	Elected
263	Patani	SC/263/DT	Sinebi Amatare Emmanuel	PDP	M	Elected
264	Sapele	SC/264/DT	Umukoro Awolowo Perkins	PDP	M	Elected
265	Udu	SC/265/DT	Egbetamah Ovie Collins	APC	M	Elected
266	Ughelli North I	SC/266/DT	Omonade M. Onojighofia	APC	M	Elected
267	Ughelli North II	SC/267/DT	Ohwofa Obokpare Spencer	APC	M	Elected
268	Ughelli South	SC/268/DT	Utuama Festus	PDP	M	Elected
269	Ukwuani	SC/269/DT	Dafe Chukwudi	PDP	M	Elected
270	Uvwie	SC/270/DT	Emakpor Edafe	APC	M	Elected
271	Warri North	SC/271/DT	Martins Oluwasanumi Alfred	PDP	M	Elected

	272	Warri South I	SC/272/DT	Uroye Augustine	PDP	M	Elected
	273	Warri South II	SC/273/DT	Obire Benson	APC	M	Elected
	274	Warri South-West	SC/274/DT	Guwor Emomotimi Dennis	PDP	M	Elected
Ebonyi	275	Abakaliki North	SC/275/EB	Nwoke Victor Chidi	PDP	M	Elected
24	276	Abakaliki South	SC/276/EB	Ununu Joseph Ogodo	APC	M	Elected
	277	Afikpo North East	SC/277/EB	Ezeali Ukie Oluchi	APC	F	Elected
	278	Afikpo North West	SC/278/EB	Ikoro Kingsley Ogbonna	APC	M	Elected
	279	Afikpo South East	SC/279/EB	Igwe Stephen Orji	APC	M	Elected
	280	Afikpo South West	SC/280/EB	Onuma Okoro Nkemka	APC	M	Elected
	281	Ebonyi North East	SC/281/EB	Nwogbara Chinyere Juliet	APC	F	Elected
	282	Ebonyi North West	SC/282/EB	Nwodo Aloysius Nwodo	APC	M	Elected
	283	Ezza North East	SC/283/EB	Okeh Kelvin Okechukwu	APGA	M	Elected
	284	Ezza North West	SC/284/EB	Nomeh Chikaodili Innocent	PDP	M	Elected
	285	Ezza South	SC/285/EB	Ogbuewu Friday	APC	M	Elected
	286	Ikwo North	SC/286/EB	Nwakpu Ifeanyi	APC	M	Elected
	287	Ikwo South	SC/287/EB	Odunwa Moses Ije	APC	M	Elected
	288	Ishielu North	SC/288/EB	Eze Henry Sunday	APC	M	Elected
	289	Ishielu South	SC/289/EB	Chukwu Arinze Lukas	APC	M	Elected
	290	Ivo	SC/290/EB	Ogbadu Ogbunne Onyebuchi	APC	M	Elected
	291	Izzi East	SC/291/EB	Mbam Goodluck Obinna	APC	M	Elected
	292	Izzi West	SC/292/EB	Abiri Godwin Abiri	APC	M	Elected
	293	Ohaozara East	SC/293/EB	Nwankwor Chikezie Igu	APC	M	Elected
	294	Ohaozara West	SC/294/EB	Onu Ukpai	APC	M	Elected

	295	Onicha East	SC/295/EB	Ogba Celestine Ifeanyi	LP	M	Elected
	296	Onicha West	SC/296/EB	Onu Charles Nkwoemezeie	PDP	M	Elected
	297	Ohaukwu North	SC/297/EB	Agwu Esther Chidiebere	APC	F	Elected
	298	Ohaukwu South	SC/298/EB	Onah Chinedu Ogba	APC	M	Elected
Edo	299	Akoko Edo I	SC/299/ED	Idaiye Yekini Oisayemoje	PDP	M	Elected
24	300	Akoko Edo II	SC/300/ED	Okogbe Ojemeh Donald	PDP	M	Elected
	301	Esan Central	SC/301/ED	Eigbiremonlen Fada Sunday	PDP	M	Elected
	302	Esan West	SC/302/ED	Ibhamawu J. Aigbokhan	APC	M	Elected
	303	Esan North East I	SC/303/ED	Eddey Emankhu Isibor	APC	M	Elected
	304	Esan North East II	SC/304/ED	Edeko Maria Omozele	PDP	F	Elected
	305	Esan South East	SC/305/ED	Ojezele Osezua Sunday	PDP	M	Elected
	306	Etsako Central	SC/306/ED	Oshmah Ahmed	APC	M	Elected
	307	Etsako East	SC/307/ED	Ugabi Kingsley Ogheneklogie	APC	M	Elected
	308	Etsako West I	SC/308/ED	Lecky Hussein Mustapha	APC	M	Elected
	309	Etsako West II	SC/309/ED	Akokhia Abdulganiyu	APC	M	Elected
	310	Egor	SC/310/ED	Osawaru Natasha Irobosa	PDP	M	Elected
	311	Ikpoba - Okha	SC/311/ED	Osonsere Nicholas Friday	PDP	M	Elected
	312	Igueben	SC/312/ED	Inegbeboh Ojie Eugene	PDP	M	Elected
	313	Oredo East	SC/313/ED	Omosigho Uyi Frank	PDP	M	Elected
	314	Oredo West	SC/314/ED	Edosa Richard Osaro	LP	M	Elected
	315	Orhionmwon I	SC/315/ED	Atu Osamwonyi Evbaguehita	APC	M	Elected
	316	Orhionmwon II	SC/316/ED	Iyamu Aitenguoba Bright	PDP	M	Elected
	317	Ovia North East I	SC/317/ED	Aiguobarueghian C. Iguodala	PDP	M	Elected

	318	Ovia North East II	SC/318/ED	Uzamere O. Andrew Edobor	PDP	M	Elected
	319	Ovia South West	SC/319/ED	Enabulele Destiny Oghuyerio	PDP	M	Elected
	320	Owan East	SC/320/ED	Okaka Eric Allison	APC	M	Elected
	321	Owan West	SC/321/ED	Egbebaku Blessing Sheriff	PDP	M	Elected
	322	Uhunmwode	SC/322/ED	Osamwoyi Kaycee	PDP	M	Elected
Ekiti	323	Ado I	SC/323/EK	Adegbite Ayodeji Adeyinka	APC	M	Elected
26	324	Ado Ii	SC/324/EK	Olagbaju Bolaji	APC	M	Elected
	325	Gbonyin	SC/325/EK	Okuyiga Eyitayo Adeteju	APC	M	Elected
	326	Efon	SC/326/EK	Olowookere Besede Yinka	APC	M	Elected
	327	Ekiti East I	SC/327/EK	Ogunsakin Olaoye Oladele	SDP	M	Elected
	328	Ekiti East II	SC/328/EK	Akanle Lateef Oluwole	APC	M	Elected
	329	Ekiti West I	SC/329/EK	Agunbiade Kareem	APC	M	Elected
	330	Ekiti West II	SC/330/EK	Bode-Adeoye O. Johnson	APC	M	Elected
	331	Ekiti South West I	SC/331/EK	Adaramodu Kehinde Anthony	APC	M	Elected
	332	Ekiti South West II	SC/332/EK	Ige Tolulope Michael	APC	F	Elected
	333	Emure	SC/333/EK	Ogunlade M. B. Funmilola	APC	F	Elected
	334	Ido/Osi I	SC/334/EK	Fawekun Abiodun Babatunde	APC	M	Elected
	335	Ido/Osi II	SC/335/EK	Ayorinde E. Oluwayomi	APC	M	Elected
	336	Ijero	SC/336/EK	Ojo Martins Ademola	APC	M	Elected
	337	Ikere I	SC/337/EK	Oke Babatunde	APC	M	Elected
	338	Ikere II	SC/338/EK	Idowu Lawrence Babatunde	APC	M	Elected
	339	Ikole I	SC/339/EK	Fatunla Babafemi Sunday	APC	M	Elected
	340	Ikole II	SC/340/EK	Arigbasoye Adeoye Stephen	APC	M	Elected

	341	Ilejemeje	SC/341/EK	Okiemen Fakunle I. Lydia	APC	F	Elected
	342	Irepodun/Ifelodun I	SC/342/EK	Akindele Femi Olanrewaju	APC	M	Elected
	343	Irepodun/Ifelodun II	SC/343/EK	Jamiu Hakeem Ayodeji	APC	M	Elected
	344	Ise/Orun	SC/344/EK	Omotayo Babatunde E..	APC	M	Elected
	345	Moba I	SC/345/EK	Solanke Christiana Abimbola	APC	F	Elected
	346	Moba II	SC/346/EK	Awoniyi Jacob Adeyemi	APC	M	Elected
	347	Oye I	SC/347/EK	Longe Temitope Ademola	APC	M	Elected
	348	Oye II	SC/348/EK	Odebunmi Idowu Sunday	APC	M	Elected
Enugu	349	Aniniri	SC/349/EN	Ede Magnus Nnaemeka	PDP	M	Elected
24	350	Awgu North	SC/350/EN	Eneh Jane Chinwe	PDP	F	Elected
	351	Awgu South	SC/351/EN	Nwankwo Anthony Chukwudi	PDP	M	Elected
	352	Enugu East I	SC/352/EN	Okoh Osita Hyginus	LP	M	Elected
	353	Enugu East II	SC/353/EN	Ugwu Raymond Okechukwu	LP	M	Elected
	354	Enugu North	SC/354/EN	Ani Johnson Samuel	LP	M	Elected
	355	Enugu South I	SC/355/EN	Ngene Bright Emeka	LP	M	Elected
	356	Enugu South II	SC/356/EN	Ugwu Obiajulu Princess	LP	F	Elected
	357	Ezeagu	SC/357/EN	Udefuna Chukwudi	LP	M	Elected
	358	Igbo-Etiti East	SC/358/EN	Ezeani Ezenta Ugo	PDP	M	Elected
	359	Igbo-Etiti West	SC/359/EN	Amuka Williams	LP	M	Elected
	360	Igbo-Eze North I	SC/360/EN	Eze Ejike Jude	LP	M	Elected
	361	Igbo-Eze North II	SC/361/EN	Obe Clifford Nnaemeka	PDP	M	Elected
	362	Igbo-Eze South	SC/362/EN	Ogara Harrison Chinwe	LP	M	Elected
	363	Isi-Uzo	SC/363/EN	Eze Gabriel Lebechi	LP	M	Elected

	364	Nkanu East	SC/364/EN	Mba Anthony Okecukwu	PDP	M	Elected
	365	Nkanu West	SC/365/EN	Aniagu Iloabuchi Desmond	PDP	M	Elected
	366	Nsukka East	SC/366/EN	Ezugwu Onyekachi	LP	M	Elected
	367	Nsukka West	SC/367/EN	Onyechi Malachi Okey	LP	M	Elected
	368	Oji River	SC/368/EN	Eze Ignatius Osita	LP	M	Elected
	369	Udenu	SC/369/EN	Ijere Obinna Anthony	LP	M	Elected
	370	Udi North	SC/370/EN	Ugwu Callistus Uche	PDP	M	Elected
	371	Udi South	SC/371/EN	Aneke Hycinth Okechukwu	PDP	M	Elected
	372	Uzo Uwani	SC/372/EN	Ekwueme C. I. Martins	PDP	M	Elected
Gombe	373	Akko West	SC/373/GM	Abdullahi Abubakar	APC	M	Elected
24	374	Akko Central	SC/374/GM	Mohammed Abubakar	APC	M	Elected
	375	Akko North	SC/375/GM	Mohammed A. Musa	APC	M	Elected
	376	Balanga North	SC/076GM	Buba Musa	APC	M	Elected
	377	Balanga South	SC/377/GM	Maigemi Lamido Isaac	APC	M	Elected
	378	Billiri East	SC/378/GM	Daniel Yakubu	PDP	M	Elected
	379	Billiri West	SC/379/GM	Malon Nimrod Yari	PDP	M	Elected
	380	Dukku North	SC/380/GM	Abdulkarim Nasiru	APC	M	Elected
	381	Dukku South	SC/381/GM	Umar Adamu A.	APC	M	Elected
	382	Funakaye North	SC/382/GM	Sadam Bello Sale	APC	M	Elected
	383	Funakaye South	SC/383/GM	Abubakar Dayi Muhammed	APC	M	Elected
	384	Gombe North	SC/384/GM	Manu Aliyu Baba	APC	M	Elected
	385	Gombe South	SC/385/GM	Mustapha Usman Hassan	APC	M	Elected
	386	Kaltungo West	SC/386/GM	Fushion Gabriel Galadima	PDP	M	Elected

	387	Kaltungo East	SC/387/GM	Ladan Yerima Gaule	APC	M	Elected
	388	Nafada North	SC/388/GM	Tahir Muhammed	APC	M	Elected
	389	Nafada South	SC/389/GM	Musa Adamu Ahmed	APC	M	Elected
	390	Shongom	SC/390/GM	Ayala Zubairu Pilate	PDP	M	Elected
	391	Pero Chonge	SC/391/GM	Golkos Gaius Gaji	APC	M	Elected
	392	Deba	SC/392/GM	Suleiman Mohammed Kabir	APC	M	Elected
	393	Yamaltu East	SC/393/GM	Adamu Sale Pata	APC	M	Elected
	394	Yamaltu West	SC/394/GM	Manaja Musa Zambuk	APC	M	Elected
	395	Kwami East	SC/395/GM	Haruna Shuaibu Adamu	APC	M	Elected
	396	Kwami West	SC/396/GM	Siddi Buba	APC	M	Elected
Imo	397	Aboh Mbaise	SC/397/IM	Obinna Edward Iheukwumere	APC	M	Elected
27	398	Ahiazu Mbaise	SC/398/IM	Otuibe Samuel Nkem	APC	M	Elected
	399	Ehime Mbano	SC/399/IM	Ozoemelam Bernard Ndubisi	APC	M	Elected
	400	Ezinihitte	SC/400/IM	Agbasonu Henry Chinemerem	APC	M	Elected
	401	Ideato North	SC/401/IM	Udeze Enerst Okechukwu	APC	M	Elected
	402	Ideato South	SC/402/IM	Azodo Vitalis Ndubuisi	A	M	Elected
	403	Ihite/Uboma	SC/403/IM	Olemgbe Chike	APC	M	Elected
	404	Ikeduru	SC/404/IM	Iheohe Johnleoba	APC	M	Elected
	405	Isiala Mbano	SC/405/IM	Osuji Samuel Ikechukwu	APC	M	Elected
	406	Isu	SC/406/IM	Osakwe Abiazie Modestus	PDP	M	Elected
	407	Mbaitoli	SC/407/IM	Ikpamezie I. Ikechukwu	APC	M	Elected
	408	Ngor Okpala	SC/408/IM	Egu Obinna Ambrose	APC	M	Elected
	409	Njaba	SC/409/IM	Ebonine Benneth O. Worship	APC	M	Elected

	410	Nwangele	SC/410/IM	Iwuanyanwu Amarachii Chyna	APC	F	Elected
	411	Nkwerre	SC/411/IM	Ojukwu Thaddeus Chisom	APC	M	Elected
	412	Obowo	SC/412/IM	Ibeh Kennedy Chidozie	APC	M	Elected
	413	Oguta	SC/413/IM	Nwosu Gilbert Chiedozie	APC	M	Elected
	414	Ohaji/Egbema	SC/414/IM	Osuoha Uzoma Francis	APC	M	Elected
	415	Okigwe	SC/415/IM	Ogbunikpa Chidi Samuel	APC	M	Elected
	416	Onuimo	SC/416/IM	Esile James Uba	APC	M	Elected
	417	Orlu	SC/417/IM	Ihezuo Ikenna Martin	APC	M	Elected
	418	Orsu	SC/418/IM	Agabige Francis Uche	APC	M	Elected
	419	Oru East	SC/419/IM	Nwaneri Chigozie Reginald	APC	M	Elected
	420	Oru West	SC/420/IM	Ezerioha Dominic Ugochukwu	APC	M	Elected
	421	Owerri Municipal	SC/421/IM	Obodo Ugochukwu Augustine	APC	M	Elected
	422	Owerri North	SC/422/IM	Ofurum Kelechi Onumajuru	APC	M	Elected
	423	Owerri West	SC/423/IM	Onyemachi Kanayo	APC	M	Elected
Jigawa	424	Auyo	SC/424/JG	Sani Ishaq	APC	M	Elected
30	425	Babura	SC/425/JG	Abdulrahman Masud Naruwa	APC	M	Elected
	426	Kanya	SC/426/JG	Ibrahim Hasim Kanya	APC	M	Elected
	427	Birnin Kudu	SC/427/JG	Ibrahi Kabir	PDP	M	Elected
	428	Birniwa	SC/428/JG	Keriya Hassan	APC	M	Elected
	429	Buji	SC/429/JG	Alhaji Baba Sule	APC	M	Elected
	430	Dutse	SC/430/JG	Ishaq Tasiu	APC	M	Elected
	431	Gagarawa	SC/431/JG	Yau Ibrahim	APC	M	Elected
	432	Garki	SC/432/JG	Ila Abdu Muku	APC	M	Elected

	433	Gumel	SC/433/JG	Abubakar Sani Isyaku	APC	M	Elected
	434	Guri	SC/434/JG	Tura Usman Abdullahi	APC	M	Elected
	435	Gwaram	SC/435/JG	Yakubu Ado Zandam	APC	M	Elected
	436	Fagam	SC/436/JG	Zakari Yahaya	PDP	M	Elected
	437	Gwiwa	SC/437/JG	Zakari Aminu	APC	M	Elected
	438	Hadeijia	SC/438/JG	Muhammad Abubakar Sadiq	APC	M	Elected
	439	Jahun	SC/439/JG	Garba Alhaji Idris	APC	M	Elected
	440	Kafin Hausa	SC/440/JG	Adamu Muhammad	APC	M	Elected
	441	Balangu	SC/441/JG	Yusuf Ahmed	APC	M	Elected
	442	Kiri-Kasamma	SC/442/JG	Ahmad Aliyu Aliyu	APC	M	Elected
	443	Kaugama	SC/443/JG	Sale Sani	APC	M	Elected
	444	Kazaure	SC/444/JG	Idris Mohammed Inuwa	APC	M	Elected
	445	Kiyawa	SC/445/JG	Mohammed Yahaya	APC	M	Elected
	446	Maigatari	SC/446/JG	Habu Mohammed	APC	M	Elected
	447	Mallam Madori	SC/447/JG	Ibrahim Hamza Adamu	APC	M	Elected
	448	Miga	SC/448/JG	Aliyu Dangyatin Haruna	APC	M	Elected
	449	Ringim	SC/449/JG	Sule Aminu	APC	M	Elected
	450	Roni	SC/450/JG	Muhammad Lawan Dansure	APC	M	Elected
	451	Sule-Tankarkar	SC/451/JG	Abubakar Saidu Mohammed	APC	M	Elected
	452	Taura	SC/452/JG	Shehu Dayyabu	APC	M	Elected
	453	Yankwashi	SC/453/JG	Muhammed Adozoto	APC	M	Elected
Kaduna	454	Magajin Gari	SC/454/KD	Shehu Abubakar	PDP	M	Elected
34	455	Kakangi	SC/455/KD	Musa Yahaya	APC	M	Elected

456	Kajuru	SC/456/KD	Usman Danlami Stingo	PDP	M	Elected
457	Chikun I	SC/457/KD	Garba Madami	PDP	M	Elected
458	Giwa East	SC/458/KD	Adamu Mohammed Shika	APC	M	Elected
459	Giwa West	SC/459/KD	Auwal Umar	APC	M	Elected
460	Igabi East	SC/460/KD	Bala Salisu Dandada	APC	M	Elected
461	Igabi West	SC/461/KD	Zailani Yusuf Ibrahim	APC	M	Elected
462	Ikara	SC/462/KD	Mohammed Alhassan	PDP	M	Elected
463	Kubau	SC/463/KD	Yinusa Shehu	APC	M	Elected
464	Jema'a	SC/464/KD	Kalat Ali	PDP	M	Elected
465	Sanga	SC/465/KD	Haliru Gambo Dangana	APC	M	Elected
466	Kachia	SC/466/KD	Agite Peter	APC	M	Elected
467	Kagarko	SC/467/KD	Magaji Henry Danjuma	APC	M	Elected
468	Kawo	SC/468/KD	Sunusi Nazir Abubakar	APC	M	Elected
469	Doka/Gabasawa	SC/469/KD	Lawal Aminu Anty	APC	M	Elected
470	Tudun Wada	SC/470/KD	Usman Nasiru	APC	M	Elected
471	Makera	SC/471/KD	Dahiru Yusuf Liman	APC	M	Elected
472	Unguwar Sanusi	SC/472/KD	Yahaya Auwulu Muhammad	APC	M	Elected
473	Chawai/Kauru	SC/473/KD	Haruna Barnabas	APC	M	Elected
474	Lere West	SC/474/KD	Gatari Idris Bashir	APC	M	Elected
475	Saminaka (Lere East)	SC/475/KD	Suleiman Tanimu Munira	APC	M	Elected
476	Kudan	SC/476/KD	Abbas Faisal	APC	M	Elected
477	Makarfi	SC/477/KD	Ibrahim Ishaku	PDP	M	Elected

	478	Sabon Gari	SC/478/KD	Idris Mohammed Nasir	APC	M	Elected
	479	Basawa	SC/479/KD	Jamilu Abubakar Albani	APC	M	Elected
	480	Maigana	SC/480/KD	Mohammed Bello Abdullahi	PDP	M	Elected
	481	Soba	SC/481/KD	Magaji Suleiman	PDP	M	Elected
	482	Zangon Kataf	SC/482/KD	Kambai Samuel Kozah	PDP	M	Elected
	483	Zonkwa	SC/483/KD	Kantiok Emmanuel Bako	PDP	M	Elected
	484	Zaria Kewaye	SC/484/KD	Ahmed Mohammed	APC	M	Elected
	485	Zaria City	SC/485/KD	Ismaila Mahmud Lawal	APC	M	Elected
	486	Jaba	SC/486/KD	Marah Henry Zachariah	PDP	M	Elected
	487	Kaura	SC/487/KD	Mugu Yusufu	PDP	M	Elected
Kano	488	Albasu	SC/488/KN	Haruna Musa Tahir	NNPP	M	Elected
40	489	Shanono/Bagwai	SC/489/KN	Ibrahim Halilu Kundila	APC	M	Elected
	490	Bebeji	SC/490/KN	Mohamed Aliyu	NNPP	M	Elected
	491	Bichi	SC/491/KN	Shehu Lawan	APC	M	Elected
	492	Bunkure	SC/492/KN	Gambo Hafizu	NNPP	M	Elected
	493	Dala	SC/493/KN	Hussaini Lawan	NNPP	M	Elected
	494	Gwale	SC/494/KN	Uamr Abdulmajid Isa	NNPP	M	Elected
	495	Dambatta	SC/495/KN	Musa Murtala Kore	APC	M	Elected
	496	Makoda	SC/496/KN	Ahmad Mohammad Tomas	APC	M	Elected
	497	Dawakin Kudu	SC/497/KN	Rabiu Shuaibu	NNPP	M	Elected
	498	Dawakin Tofa	SC/498/KN	Ahmad Marke Sale	APC	M	Elected
	499	Doguwa	SC/499/KN	Mohammed Salisu Ibrahim	APC	M	Elected
	500	Gabasawa	SC/500/KN	Nuhu Zakariya Abdullahi	NNPP	M	Elected

501	Gaya	SC/501/KN	Danladi Isah Abubakar	APC	M	Elected
502	Ajingi	SC/502/KN	Lawan Tini Ajingi	NNPP	M	Elected
503	Gezawa	SC/503/KN	Yahaya Abdullahi	APC	M	Elected
504	Gwarzo	SC/504/KN	Haruna Kayyu Yunusa	APC	M	Elected
505	Kabo	SC/505/KN	Labaran Ayuba Alassan	APC	M	Electec
506	Kano Municipal	SC/506/KN	Yusuf Aliyu Daneji	NNPP	M	Elected
507	Tarauni	SC/507/KN	Sule Kabiru Dahiru	NNPP	M	Elected
508	Karaye	SC/508/KN	Ibrahim Ahmed	NNPP	M	Elected
509	Rogo	SC/509/KN	Ismail Jibril Falgore	NNPP	M	Elected
510	Kiru	SC/510/KN	Tasiu Usman Abubakar	NNPP	M	Elected
511	Kumbotso	SC/511/KN	Ibrahim Mudassir	NNPP	M	Elected
512	Kura/Gurun Mallam	SC/512/KN	Alhassan Zakariyya Ishaq	APC	M	Elected
513	Madobi	SC/513/KN	Muktar Sulaiman Ishaq	NNPP	M	Elected
514	Munjibir	SC/514/KN	Abdulhamid Abdul Minjibir	NNPP	M	Elected
515	Nassarawa	SC/515/KN	Yusuf Bello Aliyu	NNPP	M	Elected
516	Fagge	SC/516/KN	Mohammed Tukur	APC	M	Elected
517	Rano	SC/517/KN	Muhammad Ibrahim	NNPP	M	Elected
518	Kibiya	SC/518/KN	Shehu Garba Fammar	NNPP	M	Elected
519	Rimi Gado/Tofa	SC/519/KN	Bello Muhammad Butu Butu	NNPP	M	Elected
520	Sumaila	SC/520/KN	Massu Zubairu Hamza	NNPP	M	Elected
521	Takai	SC/521/KN	Ali Kachako Musa	APC	M	Elected
522	Tsanyawa/Kunchi	SC/522/KN	Ya'u Garba Gwarmai	APC	M	Elected
523	Tudun Wada	SC/523/KN	Lawan Sule	APC	M	Elected

	524	Ungogo	SC/524/KN	Saadu Aminu Ungogo	NNPP	M	Elected
	525	Warawa	SC/525/KN	Abdul Labaran Madari	APC	M	Elected
	526	Wudil	SC/526/KN	Abdullahi Ali Wudil Manager	NNPP	M	Elected
	527	Garko	SC/527/KN	Kadage Mohammad	NNPP	M	Elected
Katsina	528	Bakori	SC/528/KT	Abdulrahman Ahmed	APC	M	Elected
34	529	Batagarawa	SC/529/KT	Shagumba Tukur Iliyasu	APC	M	Elected
	530	Batsari	SC/530/KT	Tukur Mustapha	APC	M	Elected
	531	Baure	SC/531/KT	Umar Surajo	APC	M	Elected
	532	Bindawa	SC/532/KT	Ali Umar Bindawa	APC	M	Elected
	533	Charanchi	SC/533/KT	Isah Lawal Kuraye	APC	M	Elected
	534	Dandume	SC/534/KT	Nuhu Yahaya Mahuta	APC	M	Elected
	535	Danja	SC/535/KT	Abubakar Dabai Shamsudeen	APC	M	Elected
	536	Danmusa	SC/536/KT	Garba Aminu A.	APC	M	Elected
	537	Daura	SC/537/KT	Yahaya Nasir	APC	M	Elected
	538	Dutsi	SC/538/KT	Samaila Abduljalal	APC	M	Elected
	539	Dutsin-Ma	SC/539/KT	Abubakar Muhammad Hamisu	APC	M	Elected
	540	Faskari	SC/540/KT	Muazu Samaila Bawa	APC	M	Elected
	541	Funtua	SC/541/KT	Mohammed Abubakar Total	APC	M	Elected
	542	Ingawa	SC/542/KT	Suleman Abubakar Tunas	APC	M	Elected
	543	Jibia	SC/543/KT	Yusuf Mustapha	APC	M	Elected
	544	Kafur	SC/544/KT	Wakili Shuaibu	APC	M	Elected
	545	Kaita	SC/546/KT	Abdu Sirajo	APC	M	Elected
	546	Kankara	SC/547/KT	Abdu Ibrahim Lawal	PDP	M	Elected

	547	Kankia	SC/545/KT	Hmaza Salisu Rimaye	APC	M	Elected
	548	Katsina	SC/548/KT	Abubakar Albaba Aliyu	APC	M	Elected
	549	Kurfi	SC/549/KT	Zaharadeen Usman Sani	APC	M	Elected
	550	Kusada	SC/550/KT	Garba Ghali	APC	M	Elected
	551	Mai'adua	SC/552/KT	Rabe Mustapha Musa	APC	M	Elected
	552	Malumfashi East	SC/551/KT	Ibrahim Aminu	APC	M	Elected
	553	Mani	SC/553/KT	Zayyana Shuaibu Bujawa	APC	M	Elected
	554	Mashi	SC/554/KT	Sani Bello Mustapha	APC	M	Elected
	555	Matazu	SC/555/KT	Dikko Ibrahim Umar	APC	M	Elected
	556	Musawa	SC/556/KT	Yaro H. Lawal	APC	M	Elected
	557	Rimi	SC/557/KT	Kurabau Abdulrahman Saleh	APC	M	Elected
	558	Sabuwa	SC/558/KT	Danjuma Ibrahim	APC	M	Elected
	559	Safana	SC/559/KT	Haruna Runka Abduljalal	APC	M	Elected
	560	Sandamu	SC/560/KT	Magaji Ruma Sale	APC	M	Elected
	561	Zango	SC/561/KT	Musa Maigari Tasiu	APC	M	Elected
Kebbi	562	Aleiro	SC/562/KB	Buhari Muhammad Aliero	PDP	M	Elected
24	563	Arewa	SC/563/KB	Rabiu Garba Kamba	APC	M	Elected
	564	Argungu	SC/564/KB	Na'amore Umar Mohammed	PDP	M	Elected
	565	Augie	SC/565/KB	Garba Muhammad Sani	APC	M	Elected
	566	Bagudo East	SC/566/KB	Samaila Mohammed	APC	M	Elected
	567	Bagudo West	SC/567/KB	Abubakar Lolo Mohammmed	APC	M	Elected
	568	Birnin Kebbi North	SC/568/KB	Umar Hassan	APC	M	Elected
	569	Birnin Kebbi South	SC/569/KB	Gulumbe Abubakar Aminu	APC	M	Elected

	570	Bunza	SC/570/KB	Abubakar Yusuf Tilli	PDP	M	Elected
	571	Dandi	SC/571/KB	Abubakar Sulaiman Fana	APC	M	Elected
	572	Fakai	SC/572/KB	Haruna Lawal Gele	APC	M	Elected
	573	Gwandu	SC/573/KB	Atiku Bello Kurya	APC	M	Elected
	574	Jega	SC/574/KB	Aliyu Faruku	APC	M	Elected
	575	Kalgo	SC/575/KB	Sahabi Rilwanu	APC	M	Elected
	576	Koko/Besse	SC/576/KB	Abubakar Imam Besse	APC	M	Elected
	577	Maiyama	SC/577/KB	Umaru Salah Sambawa	APC	M	Elected
	578	Ngaski	SC/578/KB	Muhammad Adamu B/Yauri	APC	M	Elected
	579	Sakaba	SC/579/KB	Dangoje Salihu M.	APC	M	Elected
	580	Shanga	SC/580/KB	Tukur Mohammed	APC	M	Elected
	581	Suru	SC/581/KB	Abubakar Faruku	APC	M	Elected
	582	Wasagu/Danko East	SC/582/KB	Garba Muhammad Bena	APC	M	Elected
	583	Wasagu/Danko West	SC/583/KB	Danjuma Abdullahi	APC	M	Elected
	584	Yauri	SC/584/KB	Usman Hashimu	PDP	M	Elected
	585	Zuru	SC/585/KB	Usman Mohammed	APC	M	Elected
Kogi	586	Adavi	SC/586/KG	Asemba Baba Haruna	APC	M	Elected
25	587	Ajaokuta	SC/587/KG	Abu Onoru-Oiza Jibrin	APC	M	Elected
	588	Ankpa I	SC/588/KG	Akus Lawal	APC	M	Elected
	589	Ankpa II	SC/589/KG	Ibrahim Abbas	APC	M	Elected
	590	Bassa	SC/590/KG	Daku Sunday	PDP	M	Elected

	591	Dekina/Biraidu	SC/591/KG	Ochidi Usman Shehu	APC	M	Elected
	592	Okura	SC/592/KG	Paul Enema	APC	M	Elected
	593	Ibaji	SC/593/KG	Comfort Ojoma Nwuchiola	APC	F	Elected
	594	Idah	SC/594/KG	Usman Halidu Adejoh	APC	M	Elected
	595	Igalamela-Odolu	SC/595/KG	Enefola Major	APC	M	Elected
	596	Ijumu	SC/596/KG	Ishaya Omotayo Adeleye	APC	M	Elected
	597	Kabba/Bunu	SC/597/KG	Bello Oluwaseyi Victor	APC	M	Elected
	598	Kogi (K.K)	SC/598/KG	Idrees Aliyu	APC	M	Elected
	599	Lokoja I	SC/599/KG	Bin-Ebaiya Shehu Tijjani	APC	M	Elected
	600	Lokoja II	SC/600/KG	Aliyu Umar Yusuf	APC	M	Elected
	601	Mopamuro	SC/601/KG	Jacob Sam Olawumi	APC	M	Elected
	602	Ofu	SC/602/KG	Amodu Seidu Shehu	APC	M	Elected
	603	Ogori/Magongo	SC/603/KG	Ogunmola Bode Gemini	APC	M	Elected
	604	Okehi	SC/604/KG	Otokiti Alhassan Zakariya	APC	M	Elected
	605	Okene Town	SC/605/KG	Suleiman Abdulrazak	APC	M	Elected
	606	Okene II (South)	SC/606/KG	Yusuf Zakari Eneve	APC	M	Elected
	607	Olamaboro I	SC/607/KG	Ujah Alewo Anthony	APC	M	Elected
	608	Omala	SC/608/KG	Yahaya Umar	APC	M	Elected
	609	Yagba East	SC/609/KG	Obaro Emmanuel	APC	M	Elected
	610	Yagba West	SC/610/KG	Idowu Ibikunle	ADC	M	Elected
Kwara	611	Afon	SC/611/KW	Bello Yinusa Oniboki	APC	M	Elected
24	612	Onire/Owode	SC/612/KW	Shittu Rukayat Motunrayo	APC	F	Elected
	613	Ilesha/Gwanara Barutin I	SC/613/KW	Yakubu Danladi Salihu	APC	M	Elected

614	Okuta/Ayashkira Barutin II	SC/614/KW	Salihu Mohammed Baba	APC	M	Elected
615	Lafiagi / Edu	SC/615/KW	Saba Yisa Gideon	APC	M	Elected
616	Patigi	SC/616/KW	Mohammed Kareem Musa	APC	M	Elected
617	Ekiti	SC/617/KW	Abolarin Ganiyu Gabriel	APC	M	Elected
618	Oke-Ero	SC/618/KW	Bamigboye Joseph Olajire	APC	M	Elected
619	Omupo/Igbaja Ifelodun I	SC/619/KW	Salahu Folabi Ganiyu	APC	M	Elected
620	Share/Oke-Ode Ifelodun II	SC/620/KW	Owolabi Olatunde Rasaq	APC	M	Elected
621	Ilorin East	SC/621/KW	Lawanl Arinola Fatimoh	APC	F	Elected
622	Ilorin South	SC/622/KW	Yusuf Maryam	APC	F	Elected
623	Ilorin Central / Ilorin West I	SC/623/KW	Oba Abdulkadir Magaji	APC	M	Elected
624	Ilorin West / Ilorin West II	SC/624/KW	Babatunde Ayi Olatundun	APC	M	Elected
625	Irepodun	SC/625/KW	Odetundu Olushola	APC	M	Elected
626	Isin	SC/626/KW	Omotosho Olakunle Rasaq	APC	M	Elected
627	Gwanabe/Adena/ Banni / Kaiama I	SC/627/KW	Ahmed Saidu Baba	APC	M	Elected
628	Kaiama/Wajibe/ Kemanji / Kaiama II	SC/628/KW	Abdullahi Halidu Bambaba	APC	M	Elected
629	Lanwa/Ejidongari / Moro I	SC/629/KW	Abdulraheem M. Motunrayo	APC	F	Elected
630	Oloru/Malete/ Ipaiye / Moro II	SC/630/KW	Lawal Ayanshola Saliu	APC	M	Elected
631	Balogun/Ojumu / Offa I	SC/631/KW	Oguniyi David Sheun	APC	M	Elected
632	Shawo/Essa / Offa II	SC/632/KW	Yussuf Abdulwaheed Gbenga	APC	M	Elected
633	Odo-Ogun/ Oyun I	SC/633/KW	Afolabi Taye Otumba	PDP	M	Elected
634	Oke-Ogun / Oyun II	SC/634/KW	Ojo Olayiiwola Oyebode	APC	M	Elected

Lagos	635	Agege I	SC/635/LA	Obasa Mudashiru	APC	M	Elected
40	636	Agege II	SC/636/LA	Abdulkareem Jubreel Ayodeji	APC	M	Elected
	637	Ajeromi/Ifelodun I	SC/637/LA	Olumo Saad Lukman	APC	M	Elected
	638	Ajeromi/Ifelodun II	SC/638/LA	Oluwa Akanbi Sabur	APC	M	Elected
	639	Alimosho I	SC/639/LA	Jimoh Orelope L. Olatunji	APC	M	Elected
	640	Alimosho II	SC/640/LA	Joseph Kehinde Olaide	APC	M	Elected
	641	Amuwo Odofin I	SC/641/LA	Osafile Foluke Stella	LP	F	Elected
	642	Amuwo Odofin II	SC/642/LA	Tunde Fashina	LP	M	Elected
	643	Apapa I	SC/643/LA	Meranda Mojisola Lasbat	APC	F	Elected
	644	Apapa II	SC/644/LA	Lawal Aina Musibau	APC	M	Elected
	645	Badagry I	SC/645/LA	Bonu Solomon Saanu	APC	M	Elected
	646	Badagry II	SC/646/LA	David Setonji Samuel	APC	M	Elected
	647	Epe I	SC/647/LA	Tobun Mustainu Abiodun	APC	M	Elected
	648	Epe II	SC/648/LA	Ogunkelu S. Olwadahunsi	APC	M	Elected
	649	Eti-Osa I	SC/649/LA	Adams Noheem Babatunde	APC	M	Elected
	650	Eti-Osa II	SC/650/LA	Yishawo G. R. Olusegun Alabi	APC	M	Elected
	651	Ibeju-Lekki I	SC/651/LA	Mojeed Fatai Adebola	APC	M	Elected
	652	Ibeju-Lekki II	SC/652/LA	Ajayi Oladele Oluwadamilare	APC	M	Elected
	653	Ifako / Ijaiye I	SC/653/LA	Adewale Temitope Adedeji	APC	M	Elected
	654	Ifako / Ijaiye II	SC/654/LA	Olotu Ojo Emmanuel	APC	M	Elected
	655	Ikeja I	SC/655/LA	Lawal Adeseyi Lawal	APC	M	Elected
	656	Ikeja II	SC/656/LA	Kasunmu A. A. Richard	APC	M	Elected
	657	Ikorodu I	SC/657/LA	Ogunleye G. Adetokunbo	APC	M	Elected

	658	Ikorodu II	SC/658/LA	Aro Moshood Abiodun	APC	M	Elected
	659	Kosofe I	SC/659/LA	Sanni Ganiyu Babatunde	APC	M	Elected
	660	Kosofe II	SC/660/LA	Saheend Wasiu Obafemi	APC	M	Elected
	661	Lagos Island I	SC/661/LA	Lawal O. O. Omotade	APC	F	Elected
	662	Lagos Island II	SC/662/LA	Afinni Olanrewaju Suleiman	APC	M	Elected
	663	Lagos Mainland I	SC/663/LA	Owolabi Ibrahim Ajani	APC	M	Elected
	664	Lagos Mainland II	SC/664/LA	Shabi Rasheed A. Adekola	APC	M	Elected
	665	Mushin I	SC/665/LA	Akinsanya Ayinde Nureni	APC	M	Elected
	666	Mushin II	SC/666/LA	Kazeem Olayinka M.	APC	M	Elected
	667	Ojo I	SC/667/LA	Ege Olusegun Adebisi	APC	M	Elected
	668	Ojo II	SC/668/LA	Tijjani Suraju Olatunji	APC	M	Elected
	669	Oshodi/Isolo I	SC/669/LA	Ogundipe Stephen Olukoyode	APC	M	Elected
	670	Oshodi/Isolo II	SC/670/LA	Ajomale Oladipo Oluyinka	APC	M	Elected
	671	Shomolu I	SC/671/LA	Orekoya Abiodun	APC	M	Elected
	672	Shomolu II	SC/672/LA	Apata Samuel Olu	APC	M	Elected
	673	Surulere I	SC/673/LA	Elliot Olushola	APC	M	Elected
	674	Surulere II	SC/674/LA	Sangodara M. Rotimi	APC	M	Elected
Nasarawa	675	Akwanga North	SC/675/NW	Ven-Bawa Larry	APC	M	Court Order
24	676	Akwanga South	SC/676/NW	Aliyu Yusuf Chunbaya	PDP	M	Elected
	677	Awe North	SC/677/NW	Hudu Alhaji Hudu	APC	M	Elected
	678	Awe South	SC/678/NW	Yakubu Suleiman Abdullahi	APC	M	Elected
	679	Doma North	SC/679/NW	Adamu Muhammed Oyanki	PDP	M	Elected

	680	Doma South	SC/680/NW	Ibrahim Musa Abubakar	NNPP	M	Elected
	681	Karu/Gitata	SC/681/NW	Ali Jonah Dizaho	PDP	M	Elected
	682	Karshi/Uke	SC/682/NW	Musa Saidu Gude	SDP	M	Elected
	683	Keana	SC/683/NW	Adamu Mohammed Omadefu	APC	M	Elected
	684	Keffi West	SC/684/NW	Ibrahim Aliyu Nana	APC	M	Elected
	685	Keffi East	SC/685/NW	John Ovey	PDP	M	Elected
	686	Kokona East	SC/686/NW	Ogazi Daniel Ogah	APC	M	Elected
	687	Kokona West	SC/687/NW	Jatau Danladi Angbo	APC	M	Elected
	688	Lafia Central	SC/688/NW	Solomon Yakubu Akwashiki	SDP	M	Elected
	689	Lafia North	SC/689/NW	Mairiga Ambina Esson	PDP	M	Elected
	690	Nasarawa Central	SC/690/NW	Ibrahim Danyaro Hajarat	APC	F	Elected
	691	Nasarawa West (Loki/Udege)	SC/691/NW	Onarigu Onah Kana	SDP	M	Elected
	692	Nasarawa-Eggon West	SC/692/NW	Bala Abel Yakubu	PDP	M	Elected
	693	Nasarawa-Eggon East	SC/693/NW	Kudu Ajegana Jacob	APC	M	Elected
	694	Obi I	SC/694/NW	Akwe Ibrahim Peter	PDP	M	Elected
	695	Obi II	SC/695/NW	Zhekaba Iliya Luka	PDP	M	Elected
	696	Gadabuke/Toto (Toto I)	SC/696/NW	Garba Mohammed Isimbabi	NNPP	M	Elected
	697	Umaisha/Dausu (Toto II)	SC/697/NW	Abdullahi Ibrahim Balarabe	APC	M	Elected
	698	Wamba	SC/698/NW	Ezekiel Emmanuel Manding	APC	M	Elected
Niger	699	Agaie	SC/699/NG	Mohammed Isa Etsuagaie	APC	M	Elected
27	700	Agwara	SC/700/NG	Mohammed Garba	APC	M	Elected
	701	Bida I (North)	SC/701/NG	Sulieman M. Wanchiko	PDP	M	Elected
	702	Bida II (South)	SC/702/NG	Haruna Mohammed Alhaji	APC	M	Elected

703	Borgu	SC/703/NG	Gambo Abdulrahman Bala	APC	M	Elected
704	Bosso	SC/704/NG	Suleiman Abubakar Gomna	APC	M	Elected
705	Chanchanga	SC/705/NG	Abubakar Mohammed	APC	M	Elected
706	Edatti	SC/706/NG	Mohammed Ahmed	PDP	M	Elected
707	Gbako	SC/707/NG	Ahmadu Yahaya Abubakar	APC	M	Elected
708	Gurara	SC/708/NG	Afiniki Eunice Dauda	APC	F	Elected
709	Katcha	SC/709/NG	Yakubu Andulmalik Bala	SDP	M	Elected
710	Kontagora I	SC/710/NG	Phalal Bako Mohammed	APC	M	Elected
711	Kotangora II	SC/711/NG	Isah Abdullahi	APC	M	Elected
712	Lapai	SC/712/NG	Musa Idris Vatsa	APC	M	Elected
713	Lavun	SC/713/NG	Yusuf Baba Dabban	PDP	M	Elected
714	Magama	SC/714/NG	Mohammed G.N. Abdullazeez	APC	M	Elected
715	Mariga	SC/715/NG	Muhammed Abdulmalik	APC	M	Elected
716	Mashegu	SC/716/NG	Alhassan Isah	APC	M	Elected
717	Mokwa	SC/717/NG	Ndagi Zakari	PDP	M	Elected
718	Munya	SC/718/NG	Joseph Haruna Sduza	PDP	M	Elected
719	Paikoro	SC/719/NG	Umar Nasiru	APC	M	Elected
720	Rafi	SC/720/NG	Zubairu Ismaila	APC	M	Elected
721	Rijau	SC/721/NG	Bako Bello Alhaji	APC	M	Elected
722	Shiroro	SC/722/NG	Doma Andrew	PDP	M	Elected
723	Suleja	SC/723/NG	Murtala Adamu Badaru	APC	M	Elected
724	Tafa	SC/724/NG	Idris Muhammed Sani	APC	M	Elected
725	Wushishi	SC/725/NG	Sheshi Aliyu Wushishi	APC	M	Elected

Ogun	726	Abeokuta South I	SC/726/OG	Lukmon Atobatele	PDP	M	Elected
26	727	Abeokuta South II	SC/727/OG	Ayodele Wasiu Sunday	APC	M	Elected
	728	Odeda Area	SC/728/OG	Elemide Oludaisi Olusegun	APC	M	Elected
	729	Abeokuta North	SC/729/OG	Tella Babatunde Opiolu	APC	M	Elected
	730	Obafemi/Owode	SC/730/OG	Sonieye Damilola Kayode	APC	M	Elected
	731	Ifo I	SC/731/OG	Oluomo Olakunle Taiwo	APC	M	Elected
	732	Ifo II	SC/732/OG	Salami Fatiu Folawewo	APC	M	Elected
	733	Ewekoro	SC/733/OG	Amosun Yusuf Olawole	APC	M	Elected
	734	Ijebu North I	SC/734/OG	Kashamu Rasheed	PDP	M	Elected
	735	Ijebu North II	SC/735/OG	Odunuga Kaka Olusegun Ayodele	APC	M	Elected
	736	Ijebu East Area	SC/736/OG	Owode Waliu Ifedolapo	PDP	M	Elected
	737	Ogun Waterside	SC/737/OG	Lawal Samusideen Adekunle	PDP	M	Elected
	738	Ijebu-Ode	SC/738/OG	Bakare Olanrenwaju Omolola	APC	M	Elected
	739	Odogbolu	SC/739/OG	Adeyele Lukman Olalekan	PDP	M	Elected
	740	Ijebu North East	SC/740/OG	Adesanya Oluseun Samuel	PDP	M	Elected
	741	Sagamu I Offin	SC/941/OG	Bello Mohamed Oluwadamilare	PDP	M	Elected
	742	Sagamu II Makun	SC/742/OG	Adeniran Ademola Adeyinka	APC	M	Elected
	743	Ikenne	SC/743/OG	Owodunne Babajide	PDP	M	Elected
	744	Remo North	SC/744/OG	Awolaja Dickson Kolawole	PDP	M	Elected
	745	Imeko-Afon	SC/745/OG	Akinbade Jemili Adigun	APC	M	Elected
	746	Egbado North I	SC/746/OG	Adeyanju Adegoke Olusesi	APC	M	Elected
	747	Egbado North II	SC/747/OG	Wahab Haruna Abiodun	APC	M	Elected
	748	Idiroko Ipokia	SC/748/OG	Oyedele Adebisi Jacob	APC	M	Elected

	749	Egbado South	SC/749/OG	Ajayi Bolanle Lateefat	APC	F	Elected
	750	Ado/Odo/Ota I	SC/750/OG	Yusuf Sheriff Abiodun	APC	M	Elected
	751	Ado-Odo/Ota II	SC/751/OG	Lamidi Musefiu Olatunji	APC	M	Elected
Ondo	752	Akoko North East	SC/752/OD	Japhet Victor Toyin	APC	M	Elected
26	753	Akoko North West I	SC/753/OD	Tiamiyu Fatai Ojara Atare Abolaji	APC	M	Elected
	754	Akoko North West II	SC/754/OD	Afe Felix	PDP	M	Elected
	755	Akoko South East	SC/755/OD	Suleiman Murtala	APC	M	Elected
	756	Akoko South West I	SC/756/OD	Daodu Oluwatoyin Raymond	PDP	M	Elected
	757	Akoko South West II	SC/757/OD	Agbulu Tope Akeem	PDP	M	Elected
	758	Akure North	SC/758/OD	Ologede Kolawole Michael	APC	M	Elected
	759	Akure South I	SC/759/OD	Oguntiodu Olajide Johnson	PDP	M	Elected
	760	Akure South II	SC/760/OD	Abitogun Rotimi Stephen	APC	M	Elected
	761	Ese Odo	SC/761/OD	Allen Messiah Oluwatoyin	APC	M	Elected
	762	Idanre	SC/762OD	Ogunlowo Olwatosin Ajirotutu	APC	M	Elected
	763	Ifedore	SC/763/OD	Akomolafe Temitope	APC	M	Elected
	764	Ilaje I	SC/764/OD	Akinruntan Abayomi Babatunde	APC	M	Elected
	765	Ilaje II	SC/765/OD	Fayemi Olawunmi Annah	APC	F	Elected
	766	Ile Oluji / Oke Igbo	SC/766/OD	Akinsoruji Akindolani Nelson	APC	M	Elected
	767	Irele	SC/767/OD	Ogunlana Christopher Akinwunmi	APC	M	Elected
	768	Odigbo I	SC/768/OD	Ifabiyi Samuel Olatunji	APC	M	Elected
	769	Odigbo II	SC/769/OD	Fasonu Oluwarotimi Babatunde	APC	M	Elected
	770	Okitipupa I	SC/770/OD	Ayebusiwa Odunayo Chris Ahris	APC	M	Elected
	771	Okitipupa II	SC/771/OD	Gbegudu Ololade James	APC	M	Elected

	772	Ondo East	SC/772/OD	Olajide Olumide Adesanmi	APC	M	Elected
	773	Ondo West I	SC/773/OD	Ogunwumiji Moyinolofun Taiwo	APC	M	Elected
	774	Ondo West II	SC/774/OD	Oladapo John Biola	APC	M	Elected
	775	Ose	SC/775/OD	Oshati Olatunji Emmanuel	APC	M	Elected
	776	Owo I	SC/776/OD	Ogunmolasuyi Oluwole Emanuel	APC	F	Elected
	777	Owo II	SC/777/OD	Witherspoon Atinuke Morenike	APC	M	Elected
Osun	778	Boripe/Boluwa-Duro	SC/778/OS	Popoola Simeon Olufemi	APC	M	Elected
26	779	Ifelodun	SC/779/OS	Adeyemi Tajudeen Akinloye	PDP	M	Elected
	780	Ila	SC/780/OS	Bajepade Akinolye Sikiru	PDP	M	Elected
	781	Ifedayo	SC/781/OS	Abolarin Kasope Ajibade	PDP	M	Elected
	782	Irepodun/Orulu	SC/782/OS	Oladimeji Adekunle Emmanuel	PDP	M	Elected
	783	Odo-Otin	SC/783/OS	Egbedun Adewole Olumide	PDP	M	Elected
	784	Olorunda	SC/784/OS	Ajibola Olaide Kolwole	PDP	M	Elected
	785	Osogbo	SC/785/OS	Lawal Bamidele Rasheed	PDP	M	Elected
	786	Atakunmosa East and West	SC/786/OS	Areoye Sanmi Ebenezer	PDP	M	Elected
	787	Ife Central	SC/787/OS	Awoyeye Abiola Jeremiah	PDP	M	Elected
	788	Ife East	SC/788/OS	Fatumisin Olumide Saheed	PDP	M	Elected
	789	Ife North	SC/789/OS	Oyewusi Akinyode Abidemi	PDP	F	Elected
	790	Ife South	SC/790/OS	Adeoti Lawrence Olalekan	PDP	M	Elected
	791	Ilesa East	SC/791/OS	Olatunbosu Oladiran Oyewole	PDP	M	Elected
	792	Ilesa West	SC/792/OS	Akerele Olawale Oladipupo	PDP	M	Elected
	793	Obokun	SC/793/OS	Adeyemi Adewumi	PDP	M	Elected
	794	Oriade	SC/794/OS	Ajibola Micahel Olakanmi	PDP	M	Elected

	795	Ayedade	SC/795/OS	Ogundare Folrunso Yemi	PDP	M	Elected
	796	Ayedire	SC/796/OS	Oderinwale Elisha Akinyeme	PDP	M	Elected
	797	Ede North	SC/797/OS	Adewumi Babajide Kofoworola	PDP	M	Elected
	798	Ede South	SC/798/OS	Olayiwola Taofeek Olalekan	PDP	M	Elected
	799	Egbedore	SC/799/OS	Ogunrinade Rotimi Adesola	PDP	M	Elected
	800	Irewole/Isokan	SC/800/OS	Ibrahim Abiola Waheed	PDP	M	Elected
	801	Iwo	SC/801/OS	Rabiu Adesina Atanda	PDP	M	Elected
	802	Ola-Oluwa	SC/802/OS	Ibrahim Afeez Abiodun	PDP	M	Elected
	803	Ejigbo	SC/803/OS	Asagade Olujimi A.	PDP	M	Elected
Oyo	804	Afijio	SC/804/OY	Oparinde Oladeji	PDP	M	Elected
32	805	Akinyele I	SC/805/OY	Abiola Monsuru Olalekan	PDP	M	Elected
	806	Akinyele II	SC/806/OY	Kehinde Olatunde Taofik	PDP	M	Elected
	807	Saki West	SC/807/OY	Shittu Ibraheem Aremu	APC	M	Elected
	808	Ibadan North West	SC/808/OY	Olalere Dawood	PDP	M	Elected
	809	Egbeda	SC/809/OY	Babalola Olasunkanmi Samson	PDP	M	Elected
	810	Ibadan North I	SC/810/OY	Olajide Olufunke Comforter	PDP	F	Elected
	811	Ibadan North II	SC/811/OY	Adebayo Babajide Gabriel	PDP	M	Elected
	812	Ibadan North East I	SC/812/OY	Babalola Abiodun Oluwaseun	PDP	M	Elected
	813	Ibadan North-East II	SC/813/OY	Owolabi Olusola Adewale	PDP	M	Elected
	814	Ibadan South-East I	SC/814/OY	Akande Modiu Opeyemi	PDP	M	Elected
	815	Ibadan South-East II	SC/815/OY	Omikunle Olayinka Ayobami	PDP	M	Elected
	816	Ibadan South-West I	SC/816/OY	Adebisi Yususf Oladeni	PDP	M	Elected
	817	Ibadan South West II	SC/817/OY	Oluwafowokanmi Oluwafemi Adebayo	PDP	M	Elected

	818	Ibarapa North & Ibarapa Central	SC/818/OY	Ojedokun Peter Gbadegesin	PDP	M	Elected
	819	Ibarapa East	SC/819/OY	Ogundoye Adebo Edward	PDP	M	Elected
	820	Ido	SC/820/OY	Mabaje Rasaq Adekunle	PDP	M	Elected
	821	Saki East And Atisbo	SC/821/OY	Saminu Rilwan Gbadamosi	PDP	M	Elected
	822	Irepo & Olorunsogo	SC/822/OY	Salami Waliu Ayinde	APC	M	Elected
	823	Iseyin And Itesiwaju	SC/823/OY	Adeola Bamidele Oladeimeji	PDP	M	Elected
	824	Kajola	SC/824/OY	Azeez Musibau	APC	M	Elected
	825	Iwajowa	SC/825/OY	Ogunsola Anthony Oladeji	PDP	M	Elected
	826	Lagelu	SC/826/OY	Olajide Akintunde Emmanuel	PDP	M	Elected
	827	Ogbomoso North	SC/827/OY	Michael Olubisi Margeret	PDP	F	Elected
	828	Ogbomoso South	SC/828/OY	Onaolapo Sanjo Adedoyin	PDP	M	Elected
	829	Oluyole	SC/829/OY	Akintayo Waheed Kolawole	PDP	M	Elected
	830	Ona-Ara	SC/830/OY	Fadeyi Abiodun Moh	PDP	M	Elected
	831	Oorelope	SC/831/OY	Jimoh Lukman Ishiola	APC	M	Elected
	832	Oriire	SC/832/OY	Ogundele Johnson Akintola	PDP	M	Elected
	833	Atiba	SC/833/OY	Oyekola Gbenga Joseph	PDP	M	Elected
	834	Oyo West / Oyo East	SC/834/OY	Rahman Olorunpoto Cephas	PDP	M	Elected
	835	Ogo-Oluwa / Surulere	SC/835/OY	Ogundare Abideen Adeoye		PDP	M
Plateau	836	Barkin Ladi	SC/836/PL	Jwe Philip Gwom	PDP	M	Elected
24	837	Pengana	SC/837/PL	Happiness Matthew Akawu	PDP	F	Elected
	838	Rukuba/Irigwe	SC/838/PL	Agbalak Adukuchili Ibrahim	PDP	M	Elected
	839	Bokkos	SC/839/PL	Maren Ishaku	PDP	M	Elected
	840	Jos East	SC/840/PL	Madaki Isa Ajiji	APC	M	Elected

	841	Jos North	SC/841/PL	Aliyu Adamu	APC	M	Elected
	842	Jos North West	SC/842/PL	Azi Danjuma	PDP	M	Elected
	843	Jos South	SC/843/PL	Gwottson Dalyop Fom	PDP	M	Elected
	844	Kanke	SC/844/PL	Gokum Joseph Gomos	APC	M	Elected
	845	Pankshin North	SC/845/PL	Dewan Kundanggbena Gabriel	YPP	M	Elected
	846	Pankshin South	SC/846/PL	Wanglek Tanimu Salome	PDP	F	Elected
	847	Dengi	SC/847/PL	Idris Kalamudal	APC	M	Elected
	848	Kantana	SC/848/PL	Ismail Hudu Bala	APC	M	Elected
	849	Langtang North	SC/849/PL	Nannim Joseph Langyi	PDP	M	Elected
	850	Langtang Central	SC/850/PL	Rimvyat Nanbol	PDP	M	Elected
	851	Langtang South	SC/851/PL	Nimchak Samson Rims	PDP	M	Elected
	852	Mangu South	SC/852/PL	Fwangje Bala Ndat	PDP	M	Elected
	853	Mangu North	SC/853/PL	Abubakar Sani Idris	PDP	M	Elected
	854	Mikang	SC/854/PL	Sule Moses Thomas	PDP	M	Elected
	855	Qua'an Pan North	SC/855/PL	Datugun Paul Naankot	PDP	M	Elected
	856	Qua'an Pan South	SC/856/PL	Doe Yok Cornelius Donga'an	PDP	M	Elected
	857	Riyom	SC/857/PL	Datong Timothy Dalyop	PDP	M	Elected
	858	Shendam	SC/858/PL	Longshin Bakar Joseph	APC	M	Elected
	859	Wase	SC/859/PL	Adamu Ibrahim Galadima	APC	M	Elected
Rivers	860	Abua/Odual	SC/860/RV	John Dominc Iderima	PDP	M	Elected
32	861	Ahoada East I	SC/861/RV	Tony Williams Queen Uwuma	PDP	M	Elected
	862	Ahoada East II	SC/862/RV	Ehi Ogerenye Edison	PDP	M	Elected
	863	Ahoada West	SC/863/RV	Sokari Goodboy Sokari	PDP	M	Elected

864	Akuku-Toru I	SC/864/RV	Jack Major M.	PDP	M	Elected
865	Akuku-Toru II	SC/865/RV	Opuende Lolo Isaiah	PDP	M	Elected
866	Andoni I	SC/866/RV	Ofiks Kagbang Christopher	PDP	M	Elected
867	Asari-Toru I	SC/867/RV	Grandville Tekenari Wellington	PDP	M	Elected
868	Asari-Toru II	SC/868/RV	George Enemi Alabo	PDP	M	Elected
869	Bonny	SC/869/RV	Jumbo Victor Oko	PDP	M	Elected
870	Degema	SC/870/RV	Abbey Peter Enemeneya	PDP	M	Elected
871	Emohua	SC/871/RV	Emeji Justina	PDP	F	Elected
872	Eleme	SC/872/RV	Igwe Obey Aforji	PDP	M	Elected
873	Etche I	SC/873/RV	Onwuka Ignatius Obenachi	PDP	M	Elected
874	Etche II	SC/874/RV	Nwankwo Chimezie Christian	PDP	M	Elected
875	Gokana	SC/875/RV	Maol Dumle	PDP	M	Elected
876	Ikwere I	SC/876/RV	Nyeche Prince Lemechi	PDP	M	Elected
877	Khana I	SC/877/RV	Nwakoh Barlie	PDP	F	Elected
878	Khana Ii	SC/878/RV	Loolo Dinebari	PDP	M	Elected
879	Obio/Akpor I	SC/879/RV	Amaewhule Martin Chike	PDP	M	Elected
880	Obio/Akpor II	SC/880/RV	Amadi Emilia Lucky	PDP	F	Elected
881	Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni	SC/881/RV	Nwabochi Frankline Uchenna	PDP	M	Elected
882	Onelga II	SC/882/RV	Ezekwe Nkemjika Ijeoma	PDP	M	Elected
883	Ogu/Bolo	SC/883/RV	Davids Okobiriari Arnold	PDP	M	Elected
884	Okrika	SC/884/RV	Somiari –Stewart Linda Koroma	PDP	F	Elected
885	Omuma	SC/885/RV	Nwankwo Sylvanus Enyinna	PDP	M	Elected
886	Opobo/Nkoro	SC/886/RV	Orubienimigha Adolphus T.	PDP	M	Elected

	887	Oyigbo	SC/887/RV	Oforji Gerald	PDP	M	Elected
	888	Port-Harcourt I	SC/888/RV	Wami Solomon	PDP	M	Elected
	889	Port-Harcourt II	SC/889/RV	Adoki Tonye Smart	PDP	M	Elected
	890	Port-Harcourt III	SC/890/RV	Opara Azeru	PDP	M	Elected
	891	Tai	SC/891/RV	Ngbar Bernard Baridamue	PDP	M	Elected
Sokoto	892	Binji	SC/892/SO	Umar Tukr	APC	M	Elected
30	893	Bodinga North	SC/893/SO	Magaji Abubakar	PDP	M	Elected
	894	Bodinga South	SC/894/SO	Bala Tukur	APC	M	Elected
	895	Dange Shuni	SC/895/SO	Muhammed Sirajo	APC	M	Elected
	896	Gada East	SC/896/SO	Dauda Kabiru	APC	M	Elected
	897	Gada West	SC/897/SO	Awaisu M. Aliyu	PDP	M	Elected
	898	Goronyo	SC/898/SO	Adamu Nasiru	PDP	M	Elected
	899	Gudu	SC/899/SO	Yahaya Amadu	APC	M	Elected
	900	Gwadabawa North	SC/900/SO	Idris Bello	APC	M	Elected
	901	Gwadabawa South	SC/901/SO	Sidi Faruku	APC	M	Elected
	902	Illela	SC/902/SO	Sirajo Abdulkarim Danjuma	APC	M	Elected
	903	Isa	SC/903/SO	Halilu Habibu Modachi	PDP	M	Elected
	904	Kware	SC/904/SO	Ibrahim Kabiru	APC	M	Elected
	905	Kebbe	SC/905/SO	Hamisu Samaila	APC	M	Elected
	906	Rabah	SC/906/SO	Abdullahi Alhaji Zakari	APC	M	Elected
	907	Sabon Birni North	SC/907/SO	Almustapha Aminu Gobir	APC	M	Elected
	908	Sabon Birni South	SC/908/SO	Ibrahim Saidu Naino	APC	M	Elected
	909	Shagari	SC/909/SO	Mohammed Shagari Masa'ud	PDP	M	Elected

	910	Silame	SC/910/SO	Liman Atiku	PDP	M	Elected
	911	Sokoto North I	SC/911/SO	Haliru Buhari	PDP	M	Elected
	912	Sokoto North II	SC/912/SO	Tukur Faru Hussaini	APC	M	Elected
	913	Sokoto South I	SC/913/SO	Abdullahi Mustapha	APC	M	Elected
	914	Sokoto South II	SC/914/SO	Gidado Aminu Garba	APC	M	Elected
	915	Tambuwal West	SC/915/SO	Hantsi Sule Romo	PDP	M	Elected
	916	Tambuwal East	SC/916/SO	Isah Bashar	PDP	M	Elected
	917	Tangaza	SC/917/SO	Aliyu Lomo Usman	APC	M	Elected
	918	Tureta	SC/918/SO	Muhammed Randa Abdullahi	PDP	M	Elected
	919	Wamakko	SC/919/SO	Lamido Abubakar	APC	M	Elected
	920	Wurno	SC/920/SO	Aliyu Shamsu	APC	M	Elected
	921	Yabo	SC/921/SO	Shehu Yabo Abubakar	APC	M	Elected
Taraba	922	Bali I	SC/922/TR	Alhassan Veronica	PDP	F	Elected
24	923	Bali II	SC/923/TR	Abdullahi Hamman Adama Borkono	PDP	M	Elected
	924	Gassol I	SC/924/TR	Abdullahi Musa Abubakar	APC	M	Elected
	925	Gassol II	SC/925/TR	Abdullahi (Chul) Musa	PDP	M	Elected
	926	Jalingo I	SC/926/TR	Adamu Umar	NNPP	M	Elected
	927	Jalingo II	SC/927/TR	Mairiga Usman Uba	APC	M	Elected
	928	Ardo-Kola	SC/928/TR	Shonruba Happy Joshua	PDP	M	Elected
	929	Takum I	SC/929/TR	Tanko-Yusuf Abubakar John	PDP	M	Elected
	930	Kashimbila (Takum II)	SC/930/TR	Lamba John	PDP	M	Elected
	931	Ussa/Likam	SC/931/TR	Rikupki Joshua Urenyang	APC	M	Elected
	932	Gembu (Sardauna I)	SC/932/TR	Suleiman T. Abdul-Azeez Tanko	APC	M	Elected

	933	Nguroje	SC/933/TR	Cyprain Nelson Len	PDP	M	Elected
	934	Mbamnga	SC/934/TR	Peter Abel Diah	APC	M	Elected
	935	Kurmi	SC/935/TR	Tafarki Agbadu Eneme	PDP	M	Elected
	936	Zing	SC/936/TR	Bonzena Kizito John	PDP	M	Elected
	937	Karim Lamido I	SC/937/TR	Mike Dio M.M. Jen	PDP	M	Elected
	938	Karim Lamido II	SC/938/TR	Shuaibu Anas	APGA	M	Elected
	939	Wukari I	SC/939/TR	Zikengyu Yakubu Jethro	PDP	M	Elected
	940	Wukari II	SC/940/TR	Angye Josiah Yaro	PDP	M	Elected
	941	Ibi	SC/941/TR	Sanusi Zakari	NNPP	M	Elected
	942	Donda	SC/942/TR	Bibonga Dinkomiya Nulamuga	APC	M	Elected
	943	Gashaka	SC/943/TR	Muhammad Batulu Kaltume	APC	F	Elected
	944	Lau	SC/944/TR	Akila Nuhu Rantiyo	PDP	M	Elected
	945	Yorro	SC/945/TR	Kassong Kannoh Joseph	SDP	M	Elected
Yobe	946	Bade East	SC/946/YB	Sadiq Yahaya	PDP	M	Elelcted
24	947	Bade West	SC/947/YB	Karabade Sanda	APC	M	Elelcted
	948	Bursari	SC/948/YB	Zanna Baba Gana	APC	M	Elelcted
	949	Damaturu I	SC/949/YB	Hassan Yusuf Nasiru	APC	M	Elelcted
	950	Damaturu II	SC/950/YB	Ibrahim Buba	APC	M	Elelcted
	951	Fika/Ngalda	SC/951/YB	Suleiman Yakubu Maluri	APC	M	Elected
	952	Goya/Ngeji	SC/952/YB	Sani Ishaku Audu	APC	M	Elected
	953	Damagum	SC/953/YB	Digma Gana Maina	APC		
	954	Jajere	SC/954/YB	Buba Chiroma A.	APC	M	Elelcted
	955	Geidam South	SC/955/YB	Ali Mohammed	APC	M	Elelcted

	956	Geidam North	SC/956/YB	Mustapha Alhaji Bukar	APC	M	Elected
	957	Gujba	SC/957/YB	Bukar Bulama	APC	M	Elelcted
	958	Gulani	SC/958/YB	Zannani Bularaba Bunu	APC	M	Elected
	959	Jakusko	SC/959/YB	Yau Usman Dachia	APC	M	Elected
	960	Karasuwa	SC/960/YB	Dala Dogo Adamu	APC	M	Elected
	961	Machina	SC/961/YB	Maina Kachalla Saminu	APC	M	Elected
	962	Nangere	SC/962/YB	Lawan Musa Saminu	APC	M	Elected
	963	Nguru I	SC/963/YB	Inuwa Lawan Sani	APC	M	Elected
	964	Nguru II	SC/964/YB	Lawan Musa	PDP	M	Elected
	965	Potiskum Town	SC/965/YB	Adamu Ahmed	APC	M	Elected
	966	Mamudo	SC/966/YB	Isah Muhammad Bello	APC	M	Elected
	967	Tarmuwa	SC/967/YB	Maina Buba Saleh	APC	M	Elelcted
	968	Yunusari I	SC/968/YB	Musa Ahmed Dumbol	APC	M	Elected
	969	Yusufari II	SC/969/YB	Mohammed Hassan	APC	M	Elected
Zamfara	970	Kaura Namoda North	SC/970/ZF	Nasir Mukhtar	PDP	M	Elected
24	971	Kaura Namoda South	SC/971/ZF	Ibrahim Aminu	APC	M	Elected
	972	Birnin Magaji	SC/972/ZF	Dahiru Nura	APC	M	Elected
	973	Zurmi East	SC/973/ZF	Abdullahi Haliru Kuturu	PDP	M	Elected
	974	Zurmi West	SC/974/ZF	Ismail Bilyaminu	PDP	M	Elected
	975	Shinkafi	SC/975/ZF	Aliyu Usman Mahmud	APC	M	Elected
	976	Tsafe East	SC/976/ZF	Muhammed Bello	PDP	M	Elected
	977	Tsafe West	SC/977/ZF	Ahmed Amiru	PDP	M	Elected
	978	Gusau West	SC/978/ZF	Wambai Ibrahim Ibrahim	PDP	M	Elected

979	Gusau East	SC/979/ZF	Ibrahim Garba Liman	PDP	M	Elected
980	Bungudu East	SC/980/ZF	Yakubu Almajir	PDP	M	Elected
981	Bungudu West	SC/981/ZF	Bello Basiru	PDP	M	Elected
982	Maru North	SC/982/ZF	Abdullahi Nasiru	PDP	M	Elected
983	Maru South	SC/983/ZF	Mikailu Kabiru Dangulbi	PDP	M	Elected
984	Anka	SC/984/ZF	Marafa Rilwanu	PDP	M	Elected
985	Talata Mafara North	SC/985/ZF	Hassan Shamsudeen	APC	M	Elected
986	Talata Mafara South	SC/986/ZF	Ango Aliyu Kangara	APC	M	Elected
987	Bakura	SC/987/ZF	Tukur Tudu Ibrahim	APC	M	Elected
988	Maradun I	SC/988/ZF	Musa Faruk	APC	M	Elected
989	Maradun II	SC/989/ZF	Mahrazu Salisu	PDP	M	Elected
990	Gummi I	SC/990/ZF	Aliyu Bashar	PDP	M	Elected
991	Gummi II	SC/991/ZF	Adamu Aliyu	PDP	M	Elected
992	Bukkuyum North	SC/992/ZF	Abubakar Bashir	PDP	M	Elected
993	Bukkuyum South	SC/993/ZF	A Faru Hamisu	PDP	M	Elected

Annexure 7: Illustration of Election Results
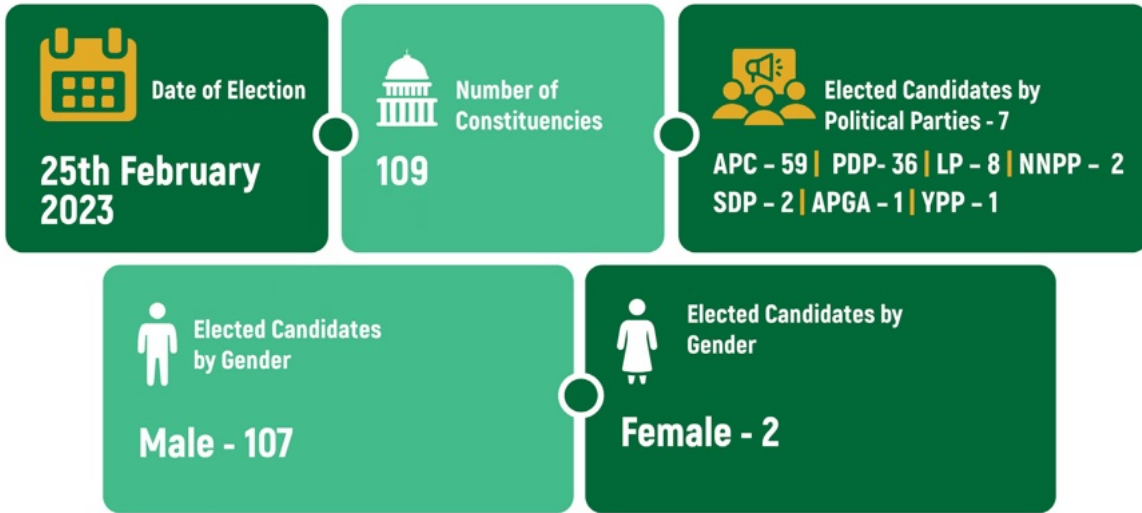
GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION

Date of Election
18th March 2023

Number of Constituencies
28

Elected Candidates by Political Parties - 4
APC - 16 | PDP - 10
LP - 1 | NNPP - 1

Elected Candidates by Gender - Governor
Male - 28 | Female- 0

Elected Candidates by Gender - Deputy Governor
Male - 21 | Female -7

STATE HOUSES OF ASSEMBLY ELECTION

Date of Election
18th March 2023

Number of Constituencies
993

Elected Candidates by Political Parties- 9
APC – 533 | PDP – 355 | LP – 38 | NNPP– 29 | APGA – 20 | YPP – 8 | SDP – 7 | A – 1 | ADC – 1

Elected Candidates by Gender
Male - 944

Elected Candidates by Gender
Female - 48
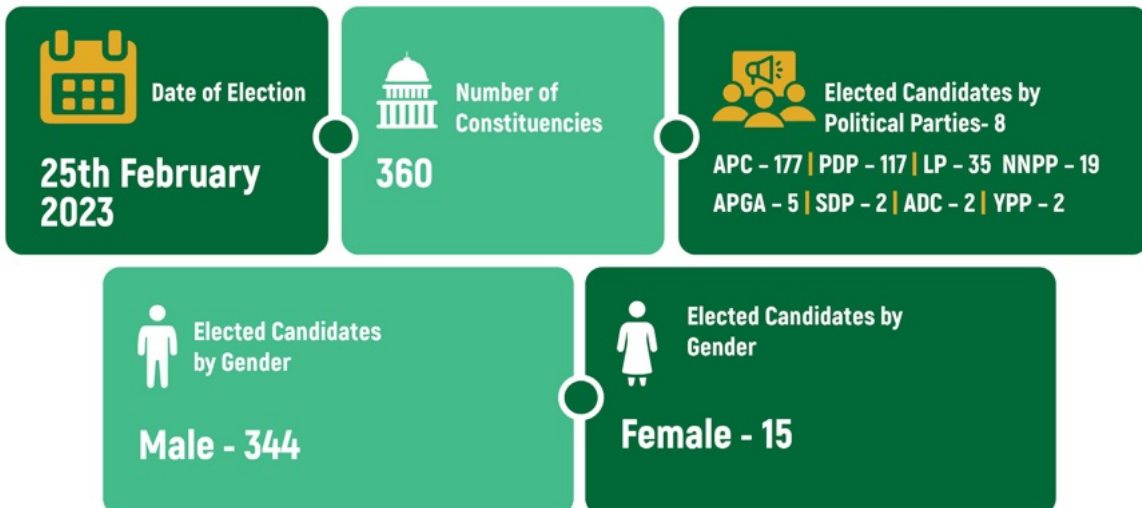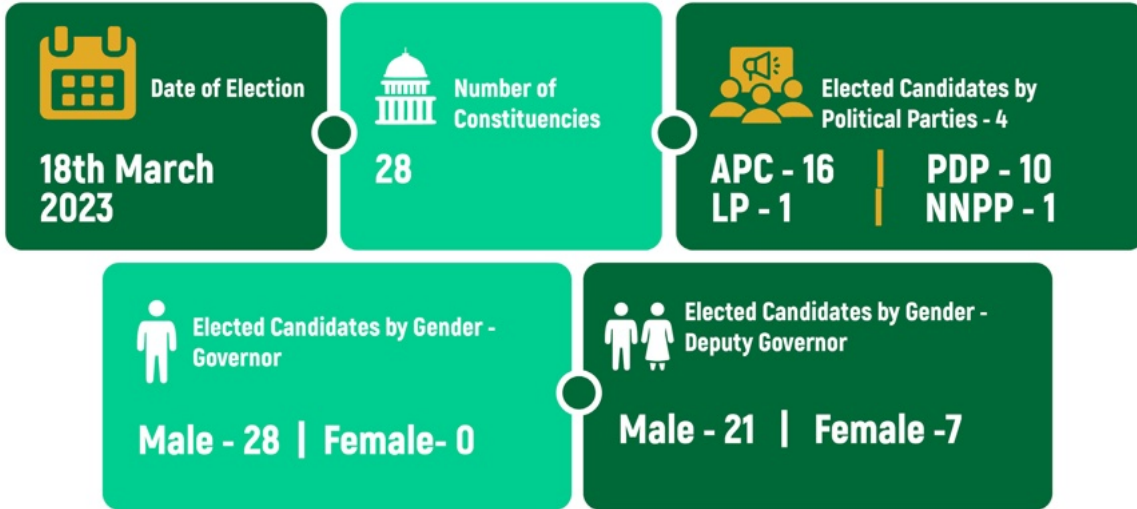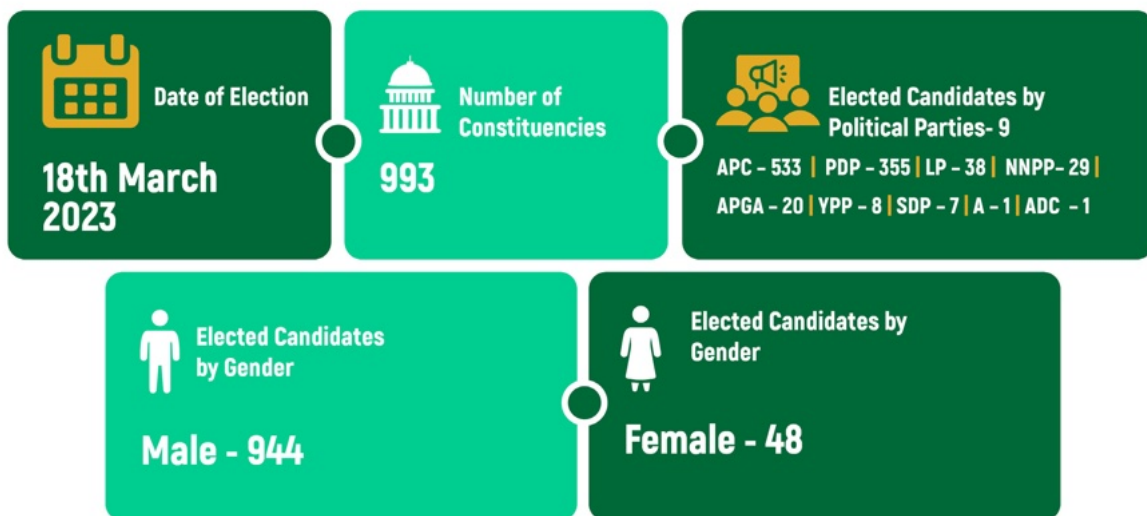
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