



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

Ekiti 2022: Governorship Election

April 25th 2022



Executive Summary

The 2022 Ekiti state governorship election will be the first state-wide election to be conducted post the passage of the Electoral Act 2022 and will serve as a litmus test in assessing the implementation of key provisions of the new Act. The political significance of the Ekiti elections goes beyond the operationalisation of the new Electoral Act to other political dynamics and socio-economic factors which will influence the conduct of the election. First, the Ekiti Election often serves as a testing ground for assessing INECs preparedness for the general election; the 2023 general election. It presents an opportunity to assess the efficacy of the policies, processes and innovations introduced by INEC and identify the areas for improvement. Secondly, both the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) will be going into the election with a new party leadership after the successful conduct of their party convention; PDP in 2021 and APC in 2022. Thirdly, the Ekiti Election activities are being implemented alongside activities of the general election, like the candidate nomination process. Also important is the persisting insecurity in the country and the increasing level of poverty and inflation in the country. These factors may likely impact on the conduct of the elections and present important dynamics to consider in the planning for the elections.

As the Ekiti gubernatorial elections on June 18, 2022 draw closer, the contest will be among the new breed of politicians emerging from the party primaries who have support from the camp of the former governors. Based on the candidates list released by the Electoral Commission, a total of 16 parties and 16 candidates will be contesting.

There will be 2 female candidates while 1 candidate is under 40 years old (Find the breakdown in Appendix 1). The pre-election observation indicates a possible competition between the APC, PDP and Social Democratic Party (SDP). The INEC data on voters for Ekiti state indicates that as of 21 March 2022, 124, 797 new voters were registered in Ekiti state during the continuous voter registration exercise that was concluded in March 2022. In 2019 Ekiti state had a total of 909, 696 registered voters, projecting a possible increase in the number of registered voters to 1,034, 493 voters. For the election, INEC released a 14 activity calendar and has so far achieved 10 of the 14 activities. In addition, the Commission has added new polling units to increase the number of polling units from 2195 to 2445 polling units in the State. Ongoing preparatory activities by INEC in the state include the commencement of the sensitization for citizens, meetings with relevant stakeholders and the completion of the deployment of non-sensitive materials to the Registration Area Centers (RACs) in the State.

Yiaga Africa's Pre-Election Observation (PREO) report captures activities of the key election stakeholders: INEC, Political parties, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), and the National Orientation Agency (NOA), as well as indicators of electoral violence. The next section contains the key findings of the first observation period (between March 24 and April 7, 2022). Yiaga Africa's Watching the Vote currently has its trained Long term observers (LTO) deployed in the 16 LGAs until June 15, 2021. Reports of the observation findings will be shared mostly on a bi-weekly basis.

Summary

Observation Findings

Electoral Preparations

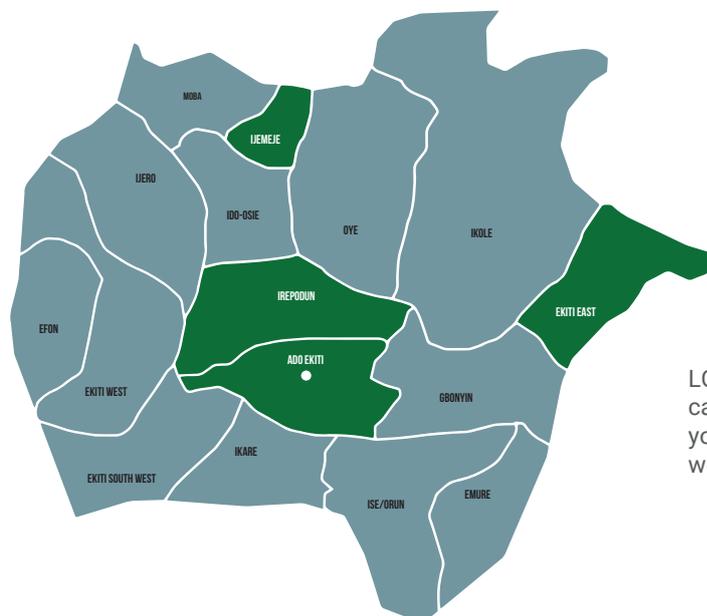
1 Activities by INEC

In the first WTV PREO reporting period, WTV LTOs witnessed and heard of at least one preparatory activity conducted by INEC from all 16 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Ekiti State. Specifically, the commission is currently cleaning up the updated register of voters after the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) and the Display Claims and Objections conducted in all the wards of the 16 LGAs in the state, voter sensitization, stakeholders' engagement and training of corps members who will serve as ad-hoc staff on election day.

2 Voter Education by INEC, NOA and CSOs

In every election, voter education is necessary to ensure that all constituents understand their rights, their political system, the contests they are being asked to decide, and how and where to engage in the process. WTV LTOs reported visible and notable general voter education initiatives that were observed across all LGAs except for Ikere in this reporting phase. INEC, NOA and CSOs are at the forefront of undertaking those voter education activities. Specifically, INEC, NOA and CSO's voter education activities were reported in Ado-Ekiti, Efon, Ekiti East, Ekiti South-West, Ekiti West, Emure, Gbonyin, Ido-Osi, Ijero, Ikole, Ilejemeje, Irepodun/Ifelodun, Ise/Orun, Moba and Oye LGAs.

Voter Information Campaigns Targeted at the Marginalised Communities



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

WTV LTOs also observed that specific voter information campaigns targeted at women, youth, and Persons with Disability (PWDs) were very low across the state. Voter information campaigns targeted at women by INEC were recorded only in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti East, Ilejeme & Irepodun/Ifelodun LGAs; by CSOs and NOA in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti South-West, Ekiti West, Ise/Orun and Oye LGAs. Voter information campaigns targeted at youth by INEC were in Ekiti East and Irepodun/Ifelodun LGAs only; by CSOs and NOA in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti East, Ekiti South-West, Ekiti West, Ido-Osi, Ikole, Irepodun/Ifelodun, Ise/Orun and Oye LGAs; For PWDs, INEC conducted voted education in: Ekiti East and Irepodun/Ifelodun LGAs; CSOs and NOA in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti East, Ekiti South-West, Ikole, Irepodun/Ifelodun and Ise/Orun LGA.

Targeted voter education to special groups contributes significantly to the quality of participation of these special groups. For instance, there is a potential threat to youth participation in the state, especially with the level of poverty and increasing youth unemployment. In addition, the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) strike has further worsened the situation with students out of school for some months. These factors create disincentives for young people who feel disconnected from the government. While these factors may contribute to the level of apathy, or disinterest, they can also serve as a motivating factor to increase youth participation if properly harnessed to build content on target audience specific voter education engagement in the state.

In addition, with the new Electoral Act provides an opportunity for voter education that highlights how the new Act promotes the participation of special groups like PWDs to inspire participation of PWDs in the election. A focus on the opportunities for credible elections in the new law can also be a motivating factor for women and youth voter participation in the elections.

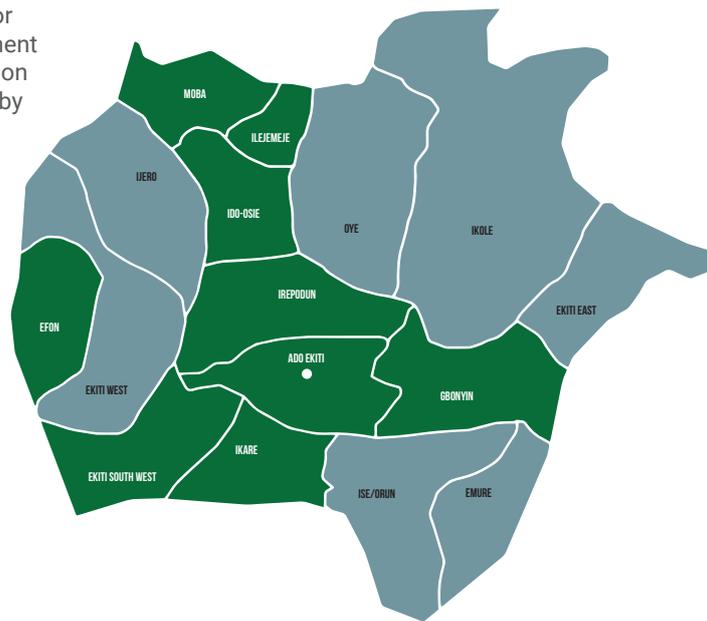
3 Campaign Activities by Political Party

WTV observation findings revealed that APC, PDP and SDP are actively carrying out campaign activities.



Campaigns play a vital role in democratic and electoral processes. Campaigns increase the overall election participation and create awareness of the election. When candidates are actively campaigning, they make their prospective voters aware that the election is truly a contest in which they should participate. In this reporting period, the focus was on tracking the commencement and visibility of the political parties at the LGA level. WTV observation findings revealed that APC, PDP and SDP are actively carrying out campaign activities. APC and PDP campaigns were witnessed/heard of in Ado-Ekiti, Efon, Ekiti East, Ekiti South-West, Ekiti West, Emure, Gbonyin, Ido-Osi, Ijero, Ikere, Ikole, Ilejemeje, Irepodun/Ifelodun, Ise/Orun, Moba LGAs. SDP campaigns were witnessed/heard of in Ado-Ekiti, Efon, Ekiti East, Ekiti South-West, Ekiti West, Emure, Gbonyin, Ido-Osi, Ijero, Ikole, Ilejemeje, Irepodun/Ifelodun, Ise/Orun, Moba and Oye LGAs. For Accord Party, campaigns were only heard of in Ekiti East, Ekiti South-West, Emure, Gbonyin, Ido-Osi and Irepodun/Ifelodun LGAs.

WTV LTOs witnessed or heard of voter inducement in the form of distribution of money or gift items by candidates or their supporters while campaigning



Indicators of Voter Inducement and Electoral Offence

During this reporting period, electoral offence in the form of the purchase of PVCs was reported from Ekiti West and Ekiti South-West LGAs. WTV LTOs witnessed or heard of voter inducement in the form of distribution of money or gift items by candidates or their supporters while campaigning in Ado-Ekiti, Efon, Ekiti South-West, Ekiti West, Gbonyin, Ido-Osi, Ijero, Ikere, Ilejemeje, Irepodun/Ifelodun and Moba LGAs.

4 Attack on political party campaign trails

WTV LTO reported an attack on SDP candidates and supporters during a campaign rally in Efon LGA. The political thugs attacked and disrupted the political campaign of the SDP candidate contesting for the governorship election. WTV observers gathered that the SDP rally attracted a large crowd that amazed the people in communities in Efon and as a result, the APC thugs/party members attacked the rally, inflicting injuries on people using cutlass and stones. The thugs tried to collect the ammunition from an NSCDC Official, but he resisted and fought them off.

Key Recommendation

Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)

1. INEC should sustain voter education engagements across the state. In addition, collaborate with NOA, CSOs, and other relevant stakeholders to intensify voter education engagements across the state. This should include intentional voter education targeted at women, youth and persons with disabilities.
2. INEC should leverage available partnerships and invest in popularising the new polling units in the state and the planned deployment of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS).
3. INEC should ensure proper coordination with the security agencies, especially in addressing the security concerns in the state.

National Orientation Agency (NOA)

4. Yiaga Africa calls on the National Orientation Agency to invest more in partnerships with INEC and CSOs and leverage its existing structure to conduct innovative voter education across the LGAs in the state. This includes targeted voter engagement and education of women, youth and persons with disabilities.

Security Agencies

5. As security is indispensable in the conduct of free, fair and credible elections, we recommend early planning and coordination to meet the security challenges in Ekiti State.
6. Security agencies should employ preventive measures to neutralise existing security threats of armed robberies in the state, to enable voters to exercise their constitutional right to vote in a peaceful and secured environment.

Political Parties

7. Political parties should embark on voter education, to encourage voters to turn up and vote on election day.
8. Political parties and candidates should desist from the inducement of voters and invest in issues-based campaigns.
9. Political parties should comply with COVID-19 protocol during campaigns, to avoid the spread of the virus.

Media

10. Voting in elections is the legitimate means of making citizens voices heard and of recruiting desirable leaders. Citizens should get involved in getting out the vote campaigns in the days leading up to the election in order to increase participation and voter turnout.

11. Media organisations should ensure all political parties and candidates are granted equal access to promote their campaigns.

Other Stakeholders

12. Yiaga Africa calls on Civil Society organisations and development partners to invest in in-depth civic and voter education that also includes education on the new Electoral Act and the opportunities for a credible election.
13. Yiaga Africa calls on election stakeholders, especially Civil Society and Development Partners, to invest in multi-stakeholder collaboration for in-depth scenario planning and risk mitigation strategies for the election.

In conclusion, the success of the election also depends on the commitment of the people to effectively participate in the process. Yiaga Africa calls on the Citizens in the state to prepare to vote on election day, safeguard their PVCs and report incidents of violence and perpetrators of violence to the security agencies. The election remains the process that empowers the people to hold their elected officials accountable and make demands on the system through their vote. The conduct of credible, free and fair elections remains non-negotiable in Nigeria's democracy.

Methodology

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

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

Appendix

FINAL LIST OF CANDIDATES 2022 Governorship Election

Ekiti State Saturday 18th June 2022



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

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

 **16**
Political Parties

 **16**
Governorship Candidates

 **14**
Male Candidates

 **2**
Female Candidates

 **0**
PWDs

icc@inec.gov.ng
www.inecnews.com
www.inecnigeria.org
www.inecnews.com

0700-CALL@NEC [0700-2255-4632]
 09050858629, 08180958715,
 09025038466, 07062896047
 Download 'MyInec' Mobile App  

INEC. Making your votes count...Consolidating our democracy.



WATCHING THE VOTE

Making Votes Count... **ORG**

rac



3, Frantz Fanon Street, 17th Road, 4th Avenue, Gwarimpa Estate, Abuja.

