Factsheet ON YOUTH AND THE 2019 ELECTIONS IN NIGERIA

FEBRUARY 2019

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Factsheet on Youth and the 2019 Elections in Nigeria

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YIAGA AFRICA No 3, Off Frantz Fanon Crescent, 17th Road, 4th Avenue, Gwarinpa Abuja, Nigeria Tel: +2347032317640; 8006000100 Email: info@yiaga.org www.yiaga.org www.watchingthevote.org

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Itodo Samson Executive Director

Executive Summary

Since the return in 1999 to civil rule, Nigeria has conducted five general elections: 1999, 2003, 2007, 2011 and

2015. The five elections were noted for the low levels of youth participation as candidates. This situation was in part due to the 1999 Constitution which placed minimum age limits for those wishing to contest the following elective positions and seats: President 40 years, Senate, 35 years, House of Representatives, 30 years, Governors, 35 years and State Houses of Assembly, 30 years. The age requirements constitutional shut the door on Nigerian youth who constitute most of the population and registered voters.

The circumstances of the 2019 general elections scheduled for February 16, 2019 for Presidential and National Assembly and March 2, 2019 for the Gubernatorial and State Houses of Assembly polls are, however, significantly different, thanks to the passage of the Not Too Young To Run bill into law in 2018. The campaign to lower the constitutional age limit to increase the involvement of the youth, defined as Nigerians in the age bracket of 18-35 years in the electoral process, was spearheaded by Yiaga Africa and the Not Too Young To Run Movement. The coming into effect of the age reduction legislation has witnessed the emergence of a new wave of competent and credible young women and men, who are aspiring to run for political offices in 2019, with a fresh agenda committed to providing innovative, transformative, and responsive leadership in the public domain. Young people's right to run for

public office is immensely important because it deepens and sustains democracy. That regular elections are an indispensable feature of modern democracy, creating awareness on the importance of youth candidacy in elections, has become more relevant and urgent especially owing to Nigeria's youthful population.

The release of the list of candidates by the electoral umpire, the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, for elections into the National Assembly (House of Representatives and Senate), Office of the President, Governors and State Houses of Assembly. provides invaluable data and opportunity to carry out comprehensive analysis of youth candidacy in the 2019 general elections in Nigeria. The participation of the youth in the electoral process will enable them to effectively enforce their civic rights only when their political aspirations firmly protected are in the constitution. The Not Too Young To Run initiative and legislation is truly a landmark development in that regard. Its gains must be consolidated and sustained in 2019 and in subsequent elections in Nigeria.

The observable trends in the participation of youth candidates in the 2019 general elections are intwo broad segments. The first one ison youth participation in the National Assembly, and Presidential elections, while the second is on the Governorship and State Houses of Assembly elections.



With respect to National Assembly and Presidential elections, the following are among the most significant observations and trends:

- The list of all candidates in 2019 indicates that the passage of the Not Too Young To Run law opened up the political space for increased youth participation in the House of Representatives and Presidential elections, because it reduced the age for the President from 40 to 35 years and House of Representatives from 30 to 25 years.
- In total, 1,515 youth candidates, representing 23% of all the candidates, contested for seats in the National Assembly.
- Ten candidates or 14% of the Presidential candidates were aged between 35-40 years.
- Eleven or 15% of political parties fielded candidates for the Vice-Presidential position that were aged between 35-40 years.
- Youth candidacy increased from 18% in the 2015 House of Representatives election to 27.4% in the 2019 House of Representatives elections.
- The North West has the highest number of youth candidates for the House of Representatives

and Senate elections.

- There is a strong and positive relationship between the number of registered young voters and the number of youth candidates contesting election to the National Assembly.
- The candidate of the Restoration Party of Nigeria (RP) aged 33 years did not meet one of the electoral requirements for running for the Presidency.
- Four (4) political parties; Alliance for a United Nigeria (AUN), Peoples Coalition Party (PCP), Reform and Advancement Party (RAP) and We the People Nigeria (WTPN) have no candidates vying for positions in the National Assembly.
- Political parties with seemingly less national prominence have more youth candidates than the leading ones across all the elections; and finally,
- The number of young female candidates in the 2015 general elections was below 20%, is even lower in the 2019 general elections.

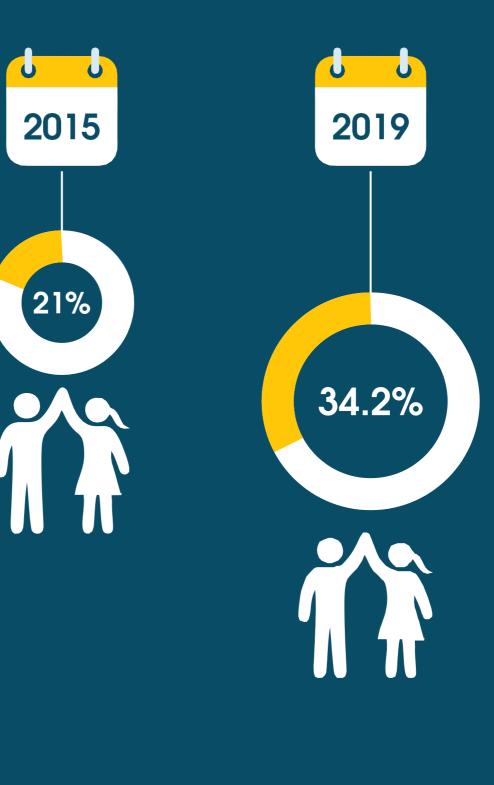
For the governorship and State Houses of Assembly elections, the defining trends are:

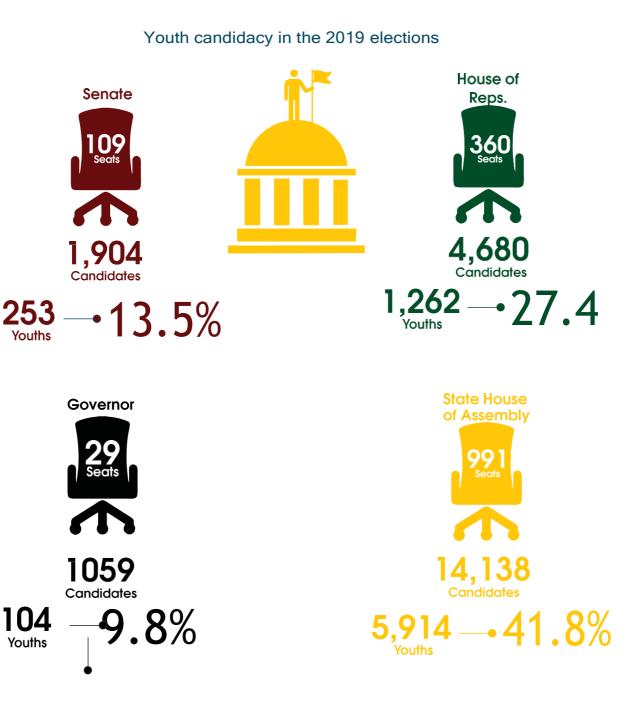
- Less than one tenth (9.8%) of the candidates vying for the position of the Governor in 29 states of the F e d e r a t i o n a r e y o u t h candidates compared to 22.9% c o n t e s t i n g f o r D e p u t y Governor.
- Majority of the youth candidates contesting for the positions of the Governor Deputy and the Governor are in the North West at 33.7% and 29.7% respectively of the total number of youth candidates contesting for these offices.
- Eighty-nine (89%) of the youth candidates for the positions of Governor are male, (11%) are female, compared to (72%) male and (28%) female, for the positions of Deputy Governor.
- Fifty-three (53) political parties fielded youth candidates for the Governorship election with JMPP having the highest number with 8 candidates, while 74 political parties fielded youth candidates for the Deputy Governorship positions with MPN having the h i g h e s t n u m b e r w i t h 1 3 candidates. The APC and PDP had no youth candidates for the positions of Governor and

Deputy Governor in all 29 states.

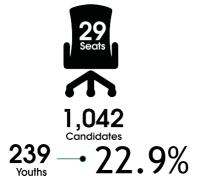
- There are 41.8% youth candidates vying for seats in State Houses of Assembly in all the 36 states with the majority (23.5%) from the North West.
- Only 13.9% of the youth candidates for State Houses of Assembly elections are female while 86.1% are male.
- Four political parties (ADC, APC, PDP, SDP) accounted for 16.2% of the total number of youth candidates in the State Houses of Assembly election.
- Among the states, Kano with (435) has the highest number of youth candidates for the State Houses of Assembly election.
- Among the political parties, the ADC with (434) has the highest number of youth candidates for the State Houses of Assembly election.

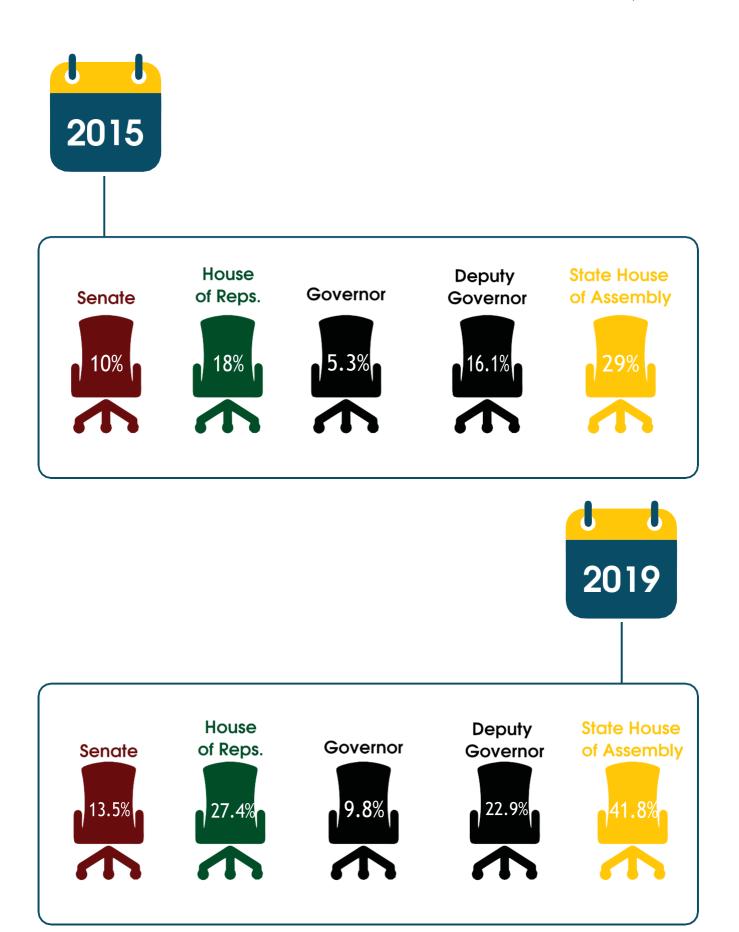
Overall youth candidacy in the 2015 and 2019 elections





Deputy Governor









The general perception of youth in Nigeria and other African countries is that they are apolitical. They do not seem to show significant interest in actively participating in national politics; voting for candidates of their choice or contesting for elective seats in the National Assembly, State Houses of Assembly; Presidency and Governorship positions. In Nigeria, there is still very low youth representation in the Senate, House of Representatives and even in State Houses of Assembly. This accepted viewpoint is in part due to te continuing domination of the political and governance space by the old guard', men and women who are often old enough to be their grandparents or great grandparents. It has also been observed that young people "...have not been able to use their numerical superiority to elect candidates that will put in place policies to address critical youth issues...such as unemployment and access to qualitative education in their respective countries..." But that is changing in Nigeria. According to the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, "Fromwhat we are seeing so far (in the ongoing (Continuous Voter Registration), CVR), 2019 is going to be the year of the youth. Quite a large number of those that have registered to vote are youths, meaning the young boys and girls between the ages of 18 and 35..." The implication of the INECChairman's observations is that if properly mobilized, Nigerian youth could sway election results in favour of Youth candidates or candidates with youth friendly programmes.

Who, then, is a youth? Defining a youth is fraught with some challenges because 'youth' is sometimes culturally defined, and as such definitions vary from one society or country to another. In certain African cultures, and against the background of the unprecedented youth unemployment and other serious roadblocks in their way,"...one would remain a youth until one is married and/or has a paid job to meet personal and extended family responsibilities, or is able to move out of the family house..." Aside from this major conceptual issue, national youth policies also add to the confusion by setting age floors that are also not universal. In West Africa, the Economic Community of West African States,

A Discussion Paper prepared for the Mandela Institute for Development Studies, MINDS, Johannesburg, South Africa, and delivered at a Youth Forum in Kigali, Rwanda, July 22, 2014, p6



PART 1

¹Amadu Sesay,, African Governance Systems in the Pre and Post-Independence Periods: Enduring Lessons and Opportunities for Youth in Africa, paper prepared for the Mandela Institute for Development Studies, MILD, and delivered at a youth forum in Kigali, Rwanda, July 22, 2014, p6 ²Ibid

³Professor Mahmood Yakubu, on https://punchng.com/youths-may-decide-winner-of-2019-elections-inecchairman/

⁴Amadu Sesay,, African Governance Systems in the Pre and Post-Independence Periods: Enduring Lessons and Opportunities for Youth in Africa,

Factsheet on Youth and the 2019 Elections in Nigeria

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"Youth" is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's independence and awareness of our interdependence as members of a community..."

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ECOWAS, defines youth as ..." young people between the ages of 15 and 35 years" while the UN defines 'youth' "...as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years, without prejudice to other definitions by Member States..." For understandable reasons, the UN definition left enough room for member states to manoeuvre in their definitions considering their own peculiar cultural environments.

Noticeable in the definitions is that 'youth' can be conceived 'inclusively' or 'exclusively'. Kenya and South Africa provide inclusive definitions; those of Nigeria and Sierra Leone are 'exclusive' since they cover only their own citizens. According to the South African youth policy, youth are "...Young people falling within the age group of 14 to 35 years...", while in Kenya, youth are "persons resident in Kenya in the age bracket 15 to 30 years". In Sierra Leone on the other hand, 'youth' refers to "...Sierra Leonean males and females between the ages of 15 and 35." Finally, Nigeria defines 'youth' as "...Young males and females aged 18-35 years, who are citizens of the Republic of Nigeria..."

Irrespective of the differences in the definitions, "Youth" is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's independence and awareness of our interdependence as members of a community..." All countries attach a lot of importance to their youth populations because they are generally regarded as their 'gate keepers'. It is widely believed the future of any nation belongs to the youth because they are the leaders of the future. "Young people are the valued possession of any nation or region. Without them there can be no future. They are the centre of reconstruction and development. They serve as a good measure of the extent to which a country can reproduce and sustain itself ... " In Nigeria, the youth are credited with having "The energy, adaptability, creativity, openness to new ideas and learning...some of those things that make Nigerian youths valuable potentials. These potentials of the youth when not recognised become a source of tension with negative consequences to national growth and development... Young people the world over require special attention from their governments to enable them realise their full potential in society and for them to contribute meaningfully to national development efforts. Youth across the world, are perceived as full of positive "energy, ambition, enthusiasm and creativity" attributes that should be tapped by their governments towards nation building generally and for socio-economic development in particular.

¹⁴ECOWAS Youth Policy, p3



⁵ECOWAS Youth Policy, 2009, p3

⁶http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/youth/youth-definition/ ⁷National Youth Policy 2015-2020, The Presidency, Republic of South Africa, p10

⁸Kenya Youth Policy 2006, Ministry of Youth Affairs, on: http://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Kenya_2006_National_Youth_Policy.pdf

⁹Sierra Leone Youth Policy 2003, p3, on:

http://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Sierra_Leone_2003_National_Youth_Policy.pdf ¹⁰Second National Youth Policy 2009, p6, on:

http://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Nigeria_2009_National_Youth_Policy.pdf,

[&]quot;http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/youth/youth-definition ¹²https://www.slideshare.net/gochi360/national-youthpolicy2009

¹³Olusade Adesola, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, on: : https://www.legit.ng/1202869-unemployed-youths-a-major-threat-nigerias-security-development-fg.html



The reality, however, is that in many societies, especially in the developing world and developing economies, the youth are faced with a variety of debilitating situations such as lack of employment opportunities even for graduates—high rates of unemployment, poor access to health facilities, harmful cultural practices, low self-esteem and drug abuse, which if left unattended, could inhibit their effective integrationinto society as well as their contribution to its overall development. Finally, in an age of unprecedented globalization processes that are driven by an equally breathtaking social media revolution and use across Africa and therest of the world, any African country that ignores the needs and welfare of its youth, does so at its own peril.

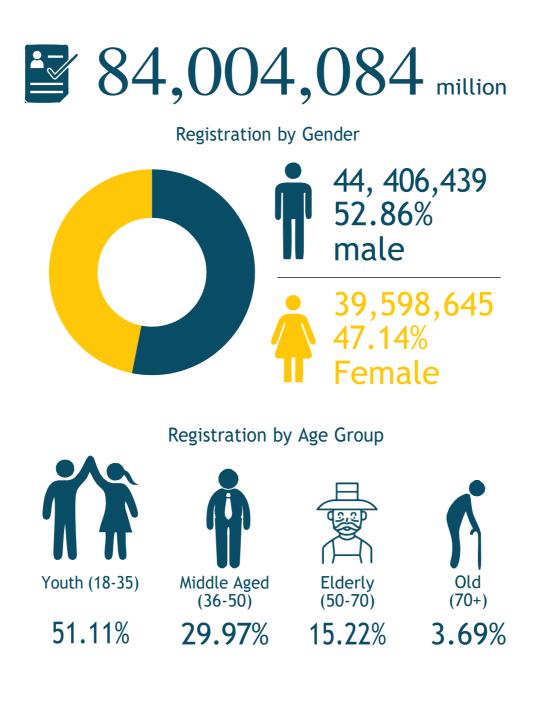






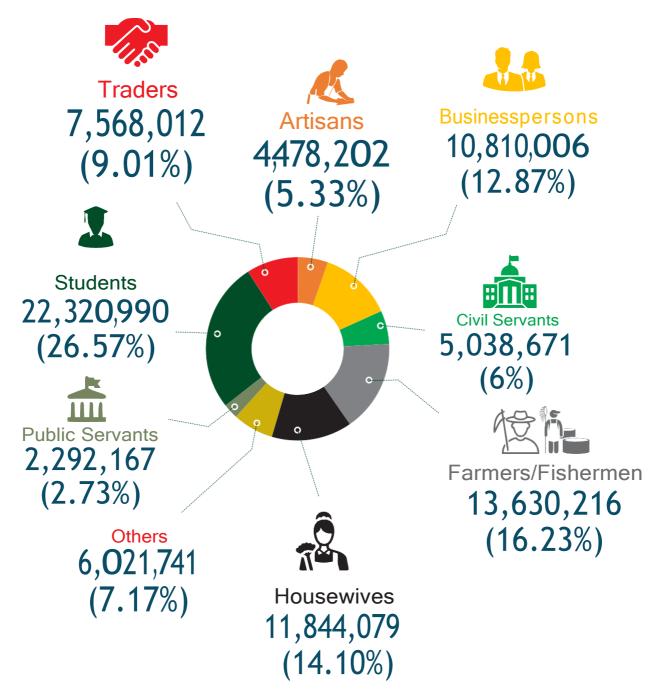
State of the Youth in Nigeria

It has been established beyond doubt that young people between the ages of 18 to 35 constitute the bulk of the country's population, currently estimated by the United Nations to be 200,962,417. The numerical superiority of the youth population in Nigeria is underscored by the INEC Registered Voters' List, which puts the percentage of youth registered voters at 51.11 percent of a total voter population of 84,004,084 million (see graphic 1 below).









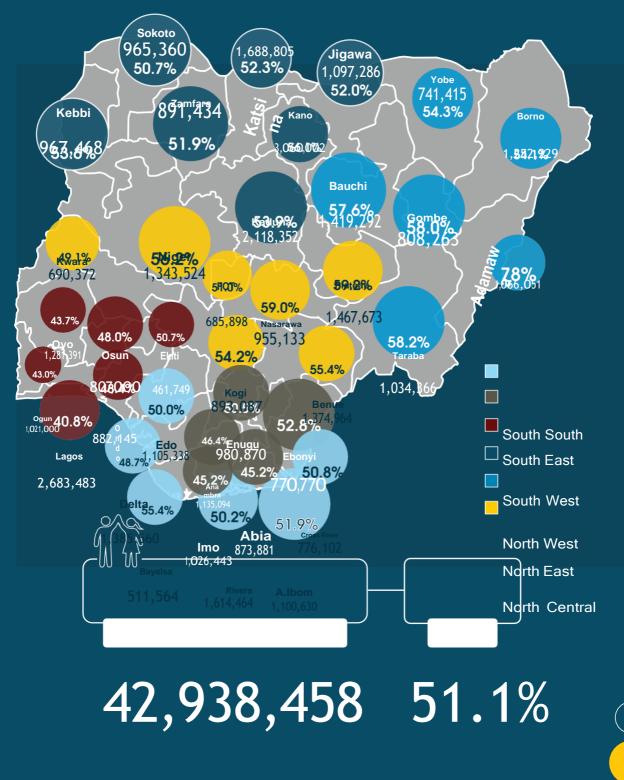
Occupation distribution of registered voters for 2019 general elections





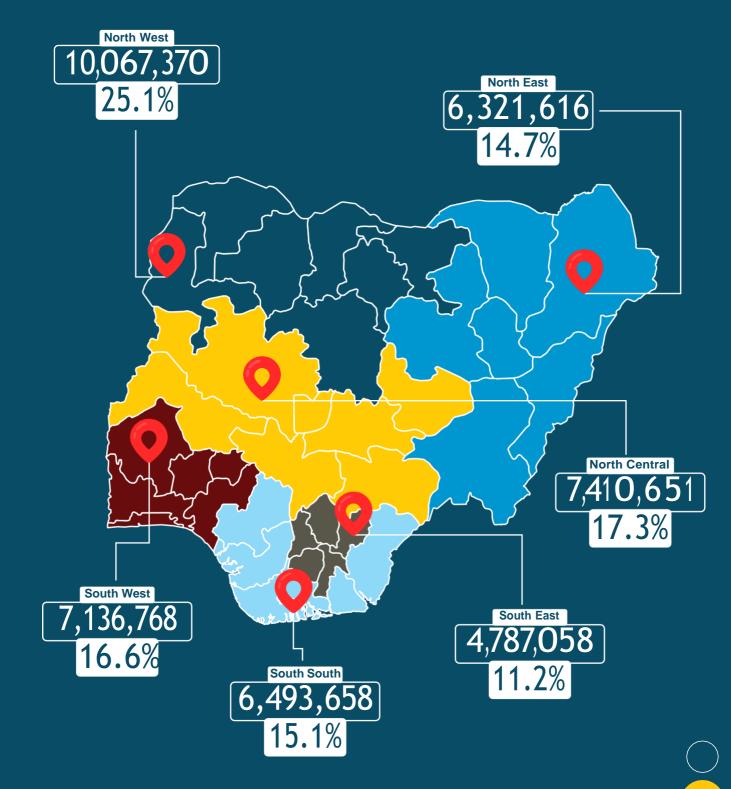


State distribution of registered young voters (18-35 years)



Source: Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)





Source: Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)

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Youth unemployment rate averaged 23.63 percent from 2014 until 2018, reaching an all-time high of 38 percent in the second quarter of 2018 and a record low of 11.70 percent in the fourth quarter of 2014.

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Youth unemployment presents a daunting challenge to African governments including Nigeria. According to the United Nations, youth unemployment refers to a young person between 15-24 years old who does not have a "...have a job but is actively seeking work..." Indeed, the phenomenon has at various times been described as a timebomb waiting to implode, and as "a ticking bomb." Despite the gravity of the youth unemployment and the youth situation generally, there are no accurate statistics or figures on the exact number or percentage of young people out of employment. However, the youth unemployment rate is said to have "...decreased to 36.50 percent in the tidquarter of 2018 from 38 percent in the second quarter of the same year in Nigeria. Youth unemployment rate averaged 23.63 percent from 2014 until 2018, reaching an all-time high of 38 percent in the second quarter of 2018. In

Nigeria, those most affected are "young persons in the median age of 21 years" are believed to be the ones that are most affected. It was widely reported in the national dailies in May 2016, that nearly one million young people submitted applications to the National Police Service Commission for the 10,000 vacant positions.



Source: National Bureau of Statistics

Why should governments and other stakeholders be bothered about the youth unemployment bulge in Nigeria? What are the possible consequences of massive youth unemployment? One of the most obvious consequences is that youth will not be able to contribute meaningfully to national development or participate in national politics. Idle but able-bodied young people, in the absence of gainful employment and to make ends met may also be tempted to engage in 'social bads' such as kidnapping, armed robbery, cultism, etc. They may also be involved in drug abuse with all its attendant effects on them personally and on society. Olusade Adesola, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Youth

¹⁶https://qz.com/africa/999641/the-unemployment-rate-in-nigeria-has-climbed-for-nine-consecutive-quarters/



¹⁵ http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/nigeria-population/, as of Saturday, February 2, 2019, based on the latest United Nations estimates. Another estimate however puts it at 198,847,407.

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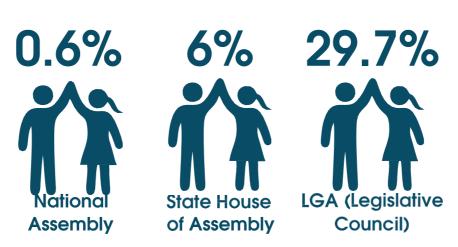
According to the "inaugural Global Youth Well-being Index" of 2016 and using data on youth wellbeing among 30 developed and developing countries, across all five continents "...Nigeria ranked 30, below nations like Vietnam, Peru, Colombia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

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and Sports Development has warned "...that the increasing number(s) of unemployed youths in the country poses a great threat to the nation's security and socioeconomic development..." African countries have beautiful national youth documents and policies, but their full and effective implementation remains a major challenge and an obstacle to youth development. According to the "inaugural Global Youth Well-being Index" of 2016, and using data on youth wellbeing among 30 developed and developing countries, across all five continents "...Nigeria ranked 30, below nations like Vietnam, Peru, Colombia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda..." The implication of this ranking is clear, there is much to be done to enhance the welfare and wellbeing of Nigeria's youthful population.

Youth Representation in government

Despite the huge youth demography, youth representation in government remains abysmally low. Youth representation in elective positions is relatively high compared to the national level positions. In the National Assembly, only 0.6% of legislators are youth. Data collected from thirty-four State Houses of Assembly indicates 6% youth representation in state assemblies. At the local government level, youth representation is 29.7%.²³



Youth representation in elective office

¹⁸https://tradingeconomics.com/nigeria/youth-unemployment-rate

²⁰*Ibid, for more on this.*

²²Punch, September 1, 2016, on https://punchng.com/state-nigerian-youth/amp/



¹⁷https://www.sunnewsonline.com/youth-unemployment-a-ticking-time-bomb/

¹⁹Ibid

 $^{{}^{21}}https://www.legit.ng/1202869-unemployed-youths-a-major-threat-nigerias-security-development-fg.html$

²³Democracy with Representation, Yiaga Africa Report of Mapping of Under presented groups in parliament, 2018





Youth Candidacy in the 2019 General Elections:

1. National Assembly and Presidential Elections

The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which ushered in the Fourth Republic and civilian rule, was promulgated after the return to civil rue and the inauguration of the 4th Republic, placed age restrictions for Nigerians aspiring to elective offices: at 40 years for the President, 35 years for Senate, and 30 years for House of Representatives and State Houses of Assembly respectively. The constitution also stipulated a floor of 35 for those wishing to run for elective office as Governors. A major psychological and practical consequence of this age baseline was the exclusion of a significantly large segment of the Nigerian population; youth aged 25-35 years, who were barred from running for such elective positions.

The 2019 general elections, scheduled for February 16, 2019, and March 2, 2019 for Presidential, National Assembly, Gubernatorial and State Houses of Assembly polls respectively, represented a significant departure from past elections due mainly to the efforts of Yiaga Africa, which spearheaded the campaign for the passage of the Not Too Young To Run Bill. The bill whichwas passed into law in 2018 reduced the age for those contesting for seats inthe National Assembly-House of Representatives and Senate-as well as State Houses of Assembly in the 2019 elections. The result has been a significant and noticeable increase in the number of youth candidates, defined as those in the age bracket of 25-35 years. As a result, Nigeria is truly witnessing the emergence of a new wave of competent and credible young women and men, who are running for political office in 2019 with fresh programmes and agenda, and committed to provide innovative, transformative and responsive leadership in the public domain. The release of the list of candidates by the electoral umpire, INEC, for election into the National Assembly (House of Representatives and Senates) and the Office of the President, provided Yiaga Africa not only with invaluable data butalso the opportunity to prepare this factsheet on youth candidacy in the 2019 Presidential and National Assembly elections.

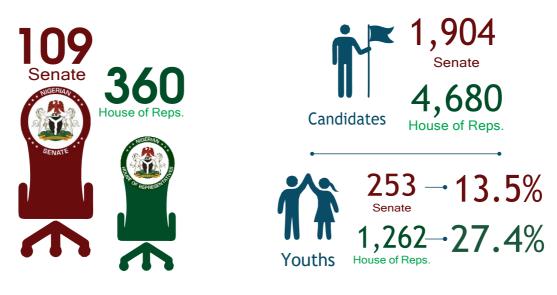


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Analyses of the geopolitical spread of youth candidacy in the House of Representatives elections in 2019 revealed that majority of the youth candidates are from the North-West zone, which accounted for 30.7% of all the candidates.

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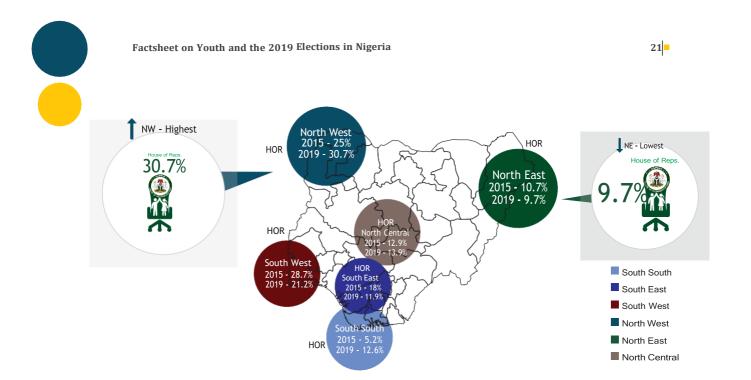
In total, 1,515 youth candidates, representing 23% of all the candidates, contested for seats in the National Assembly. Majority, 87%, of the youth candidates were male, while 201, representing 13% were female. Out of the 4,680 candidates that are contesting for seats in the House of Representatives, there are 1,262 youth candidates, representing 27.4% of total number of aspirants for seats in the House of Representatives elections.



This figure compares favourably with that for the 2015 elections in which a total of 1,774 contested for the 360 seats in the House of Representatives elections, out of which 326, or 18%, were youth candidates. In other words, there are more youth candidates for the same elections in 2019, representing a net increase of 935 aspirants.

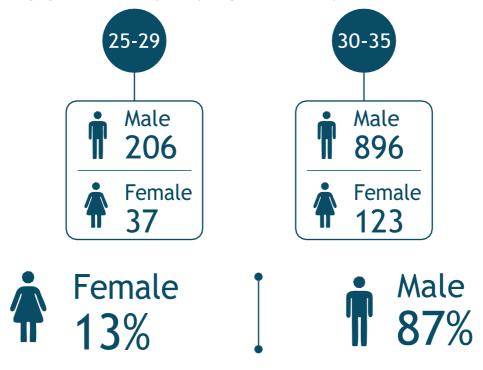
Analyses of the geopolitical spread of youth candidacy in the House of Representatives elections in 2019 revealed that majority of the youth candidates are from the North-West zone, which accounted for 30.7% of all the candidates. The South-West had 21.2%, North-Central 13.9%, South-South 12.6%, South East 11.9%. With just 9.7%, the North-East had the leastnumber of youth candidates in the elections. Most of the youth candidates for the House of Representatives elections, 80.7%, were within the age bracket of 30-35 years. This same age group 30-predominant among the candidates across the six geopolitical zones (see graphic 1 below)





Gender Distribution of Youth Candidates in the House of Representatives

A gender analysis of youth candidates in the House of Representatives in 2019 revealed that nine in 10 candidates, 87%, of the youth candidates contesting the elections for seats in the House of Representatives are male. This figure is indicative of the very low representation of the female gender in the elections. Only 13% of candidates for the House of Representatives were female. Also significant is that majority of the female youth candidates were in the age group of 30-34²⁵ years (see graphic 2 below).

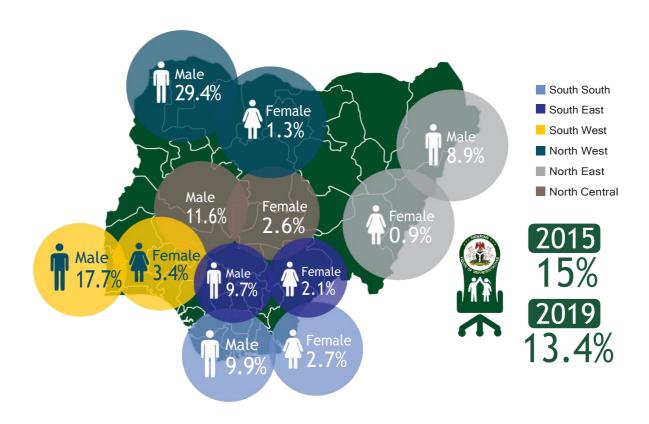


Gender distribution of youth candidates in the House of Representatives elections Source: Yiaga Africa Field Research, December 2018 and January 2019 Factsheet on Youth and the 2019 Elections in Nigeria





The zonal distribution of the youth candidates by gender in the 2019 House of Representatives elections showed that the South-West had the largest representation of female candidates, 3.4%, while the North-East with 0.9% had the least number of female youth candidates for the House of Representatives. With 29.4%, the North West had the largest number of male youh candidates, while the South-East, with 9.7%, had the least number of female youth candidates. The figures for the other zones are presented in the graphic 3 below.



Source: Yiaga Africa



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Party Distribution of Youth Candidates, in the House of Representatives Elections

Regarding the distribution of youth candidates across Political Parties in the 2019 General Elections, 81 political parties fielded youth candidates for seats in the House of Representatives. For this study, the political parties weredivided into five broad groups, as follows: ADC, APC, PDP, SDP, and OTHERS. The four political parties, ADC, APC, PDP, and SDP, accounted for only one- tenth or 10% of youth candidates running for election into the House of Representatives. While the PDP had no youth candidate in the North- Central, both the PDP and APC had none in South-East zone in the 2019 elections (graphic4)

Distribution of Youth Candidates across Political Parties in the 2019 House of Representatives Elections

Democratic		
Alternative	(DA) -	85
Peoples Party of Nigeria	(PPN) -	80
African Democratio	C	
Congress	(ADC) -	72
People's Trust	(PT) –	43
Green Party of	(
Nigeria	(GPN) -	43

Source: Yiaga Africa Field Research, December 2018 and January 2019

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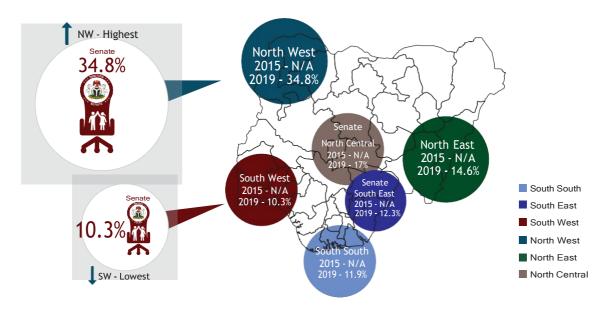
253 candidates representing 13.5% of the total number of aspirants for Senate seats were youth within the bracket of 25-35 years.

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A total of 1,904 candidates contested for the 109 Senate seats under the platforms of the different political parties. Twenty-two candidates (22) or 1% of the total number were captured as zero age, while the age of another candidate was not properly captured. The list indicates that 253 candidates representing 13.5% of the total number of aspirants for Senate seats were youth within the bracket of 25-35 years.

Youth Candidacy for Senate across the Six Geopolitical Zones in 2019

Analysis of youth candidacy for the Senate election revealed that 34.8% of them were from the North-West. The distribution across the other geopolitical zones was North-Central, 17.0%, North-East, 14.6%; South-East, 12.3, South-South, 11.9%, while the South-West with 10.3%, had the least number of youth candidates vying for seats in the Senate in 2019.



Youth Candidacy for Senate across the Six Geopolitical Zones in 2019 Source: Yiaga Africa

²⁶Four (4) political parties Alliance for a United Nigeria (AUN), Peoples Coalition Party (PCP), Reform and Advancement Party (RAP) and We the People Nigeria (WTPN) had no candidates for the National Assembly (House of Representatives and Senates) elections.





The above graphic also reveals that youth candidates within the age group 25-29 years constitute only 6% of the entire number of young aspirants, while those between the age group 30-35 years account for largest number across the six geopolitical zones. Candidates below the age of 35 years did not meet the minimum of 35 years age limit for those contesting for seats in the Senate, in line with the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

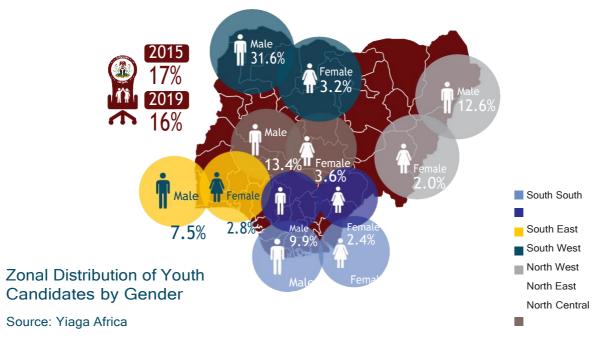
Gender Analysis of Youth Candidates for Senate

A total of 41 female youth candidates contested for Senate seats, representing only 16% of the total number. In other words, two out of every ten youth candidates running for election into the Senate is a female.



Youth Candidates by Gender for 2019 Senate Election Source: Yiaga Africa

With respect to the geopolitical distribution of youth candidates, the North-Central zone with 3.6% had the largest number of female youth candidates seeking for election into the Senate. With 31.6% the North-West had the largest number of male youth candidates contesting the election for Senate seats. Conversely, the North-East, 2.0%, and the South-West, 7.5%, had the least number of female and male youth candidates respectively. The zonal distribution of youth candidates is presented in the graphic below.



²⁶Four (4) political parties Alliance for a United Nigeria (AUN), Peoples Coalition Party (PCP), Reform and Advancement Party (RAP) and We the People Nigeria (WTPN) had no candidates for the National Assembly







The top five political parties with the highest number of youth candidates vying for seats in the Senate were the Democratic Alternative (DA, 25), Peoples Party of Nigeria (PPN, 14), Justice Must Prevail Party (JMP, 11), African Democratic Congress (ADC, 11) and Accord (A, 10).

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Party Distribution of Youth Candidates in the Senatorial Elections

Only sixty-two (62) political parties fielded youth candidates for election into the Senate, compared to 81 for the House of Representatives. Youth candidates running for election into the Senate under the platform of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), and the Social Democratic Party (SDP) accounted for only 7.9% of the total number. The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) had two candidates, one each in the North-West and South-West geopolitical zones. The AllPogeseCongress (APC) had no youth candidates for Senate.

The top five political parties with the highest number of youth candidates vying for seats in the Senate were the Democratic Alternative (DA, 25),Peoples Party of Nigeria (PPN, 14), Justice Must Prevail Party (JMP, 11), African Democratic Congress (ADC, 11) and Accord (A, 10). The parties with the lowest number of candidates overall vying for seats in the Senates were; the Action Alliance (AA 23), All Blending Party (ABP), 9, All Grassroots Alliance (AGA), 13, Alliance for New Nigeria (ANN,6), African People's Alliance (APA, 10), Advance People's Democratic Alliance (APDA,19), Fresh Democratic Party (FRESH, 4), Grassroots Democratic Party of Nigeria (GDPN, 10), National Interest Party (NIP, 4), (NPC,10), Republican Party, (RP,10) and Young Progressives Party (YPP, 21), presented one (1) candidate each.

In the 2015 elections, the All Progressives Congress (APC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), the two leading parties, fielded the most number of candidates with 109 each. Action Alliance (AA) had just one candidate while Advanced Congress of Democrats (ACD), African Peoples Alliance (APA), and the Democratic Peoples' Party (DPP), had 9 candidates each. None of these political parties fielded youth candidates for the 2015 Senatorial Elections.

The All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA) and the Progressive Peoples' Alliance (PPA), with 7 candidates each, had the highest number of youth candidates. The All Progressives Congress (APC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), the People for Democratic Change (PDC), and United Party of Nigeria (UPN) had no youth candidate in the 2015 Senatorial Election. Labour Party (LP) had the highest number, 40 candidates, between 36 and 50 years followed by All Progressives Congress (APC) with 33 and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) with 27 candidates.





Democratic					
Alternative		(D	A	-	25
Peoples Pa	rty of				
Nigeria		(PF	PN)	-	14
Justice Mus	t Prevail				
Denter					
Party		(JM	IPP) -	11
	mocratic	<u> </u>) -	11
African Dei	mocratic	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
Party African Dei Congress Accord	mocratic	(AI		-	11

Youth Candidacy in the Presidential Election

A total of seventy-three (73) candidates contested the February 16, 2019, presidential election in the list released by INEC. However, only 5 female candidates, representing 8.6% ran for President, while 22 or 31.4%, vied for Vice President. The list also indicates that the candidate of RP was less than 35 years old, while ten candidates or 14% of the aspirants were aged between 35-40 years. The parties with carddes in this age group were: the Advanced Allied Party (AAP), Sustainable National Party (SNP), Nigeria Community Movement Party (NCMP), Peoples Coalition Party (PCP), Action Peoples Party (APP), Change Nigeria Party (CNP), All Blending Party (ABP), National Democratic Liberty Party (NDLP), New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) and the National Interest Party (NIP). One female candidate, from National Interest Party (NIP) was in the agegroup 35-40. Eleven (15%) of political parties fielded candidates for the Vice-Presidential position that were aged between 35-40 years. Six out of the total number of candidates, 40%, were female while thirteen, 60%, were male. The parties with Vice Presidential candidates aged between 35-40 years were: Liberation Movement (LM), Masses Movement of Nigeria (MMN), Democratic Alternative (DA), Young Progressive Party (YPP), Sustainable National Party (SNP), All Grassroots Alliance (AGA), Action Peoples Party (APP), Better Nigeria Progressive Party (BNPP), Change Nigeria Party (CNP), National Interest Party (NIP) and Alliance for a United Nigeria (AUN).

Beneficiaries of the Not Too Young To Run Law

Candidates that benefited directly from of the 'Not too Young to Run' bill and law were 266, or one-fifth (20.7%) of the total number of youth candidates, and contested for seats in the House of Representatives. The distribution of the candidates by geopolitical zone indicated that 38.3% were in the North-West while the South-South with 7.9%, had the smallest number. The graphic below presents the distribution of youth candidates and beneficiaries of the Not Too Young To Run Bill in the 2019 elections.

²⁶Four (4) political parties Alliance for a United Nigeria (AUN), Peoples Coalition Party (PCP), Reform and Advancement Party (RAP) and We the People Nigeria (WTPN) had no candidates for the National Assembly (House of Representatives and Senates) elections.

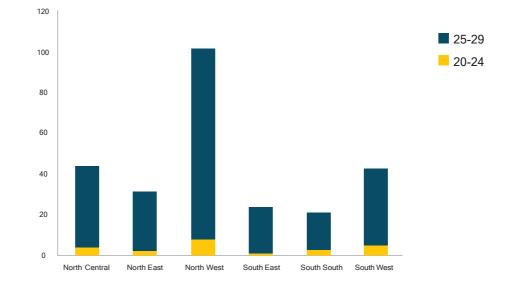




Beneficiaries of the Not Too Young To Run Law



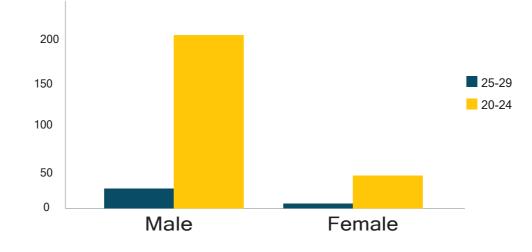
The chart below represents the distribution of the Not Too Young to Run beneficiaries across the six geopolitical zones for those aged between 20-24 and 25-29 years.



Distribution of youth candidates by geopolitical zones







Distribution of youth candidates by gender

Significant Observable Trends in the 2019 Elections

- The list of all candidates in 2019 indicates that the passage of the Not Too Young To Run law opened up the political space for increased youth participation in the House of Representatives and Presidential elections, because it reduced the age for the President from 40 to 35 years and House of Representatives from 30 to 25 years.
- Youth candidacy increased from 18% in the 2015 House of Representatives election to 27.4% in the 2019 House of Representatives elections.
- The North West had the highest number of youth candidates for the House of Representatives and Senate elections.
- There is a strong and positive relationship between the number of registered young voters and the number of youth candidates contesting election to the National Assembly.
- The candidate of the Restoration Party of Nigeria (RP) aged 33 years did not meet one of the electoral requirements for running for the Presidency.
- Four (4) political parties; Alliance for a United Nigeria (AUN), Peoples Coalition Party (PCP), Reform and Advancement Party (RAP) and We the People Nigeria (WTPN) have no candidates vying for positions in the National Assembly.
- Political parties with seemingly less national prominence have more youth candidates than the leading ones across all the elections; and finally,
- The number of youth female candidates in the 2015 general elections was below 20%, was even lower in the 2019 general elections.





There are Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred and Eighty (14,580) candidates contesting for the State Houses of Assembly elections in all the states of the federation under the platform of the different political parties. Of this number, 236, 1.6% of the candidates have their ages wrongly

recorded as zero,

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2. Youth Candidacy in the Gubernatorial and State Houses of Assembly Elections in 2019

Two Thousand One Hundred and Thirty-Two candidates (2,132) are contesting for the positions of Governor and Deputy Governor in Twenty-Nine (29) states of the Federation. This comprises of 1,066 candidates for Governorship and 1,066 candidates for Deputy Governorship positions.

For the position of Governor, five candidates under the platform of four parties (PT – Adamawa; JMPP – Cross River, Lagos; MAJA – Cross River; and AP–Sokoto) have their ages wrongly recorded as zero, two parties (SDP – Benue; and APGA – Enugu) are subject of litigation and were yet to submit name of candidates. As a result, 1,059 candidates were considered for this analysis. Of this number, 979 candidates representing 92.4% **are** male while 80 or 7.6% of the candidates **are** female.

For the position of Deputy Governor, twelve (12) candidates have their ages wrongly recorded as zero, two (2) candidates ages recorded as five (5) and six (6), while eight (8) candidates are aged 20 – 24. Similarly, two parties (SDP

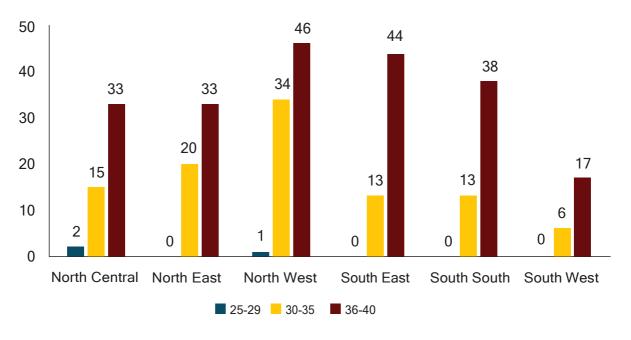
Benue; and APGA – Enugu) are subject of litigation and were yet to submit name of candidates. This results in 1,042 candidates being considered for this analysis. About three quarters, 74.4%, of the candidates are male while 25.6% female.

There are Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred and Eighty (14,580) candidates contesting for the State Houses of Assembly elections in all the states of the federation under the platform of the different political parties. Of this number, 236, 1.6% of the candidates have their ages wrongly recorded as zero, 204, 1.4% of the candidates have their ages between 3 – 24 while two (2) candidates have missing ages resulting to 14,138 candidates used in this analysis. About nine in ten (87.3%) of the candidates are male while 12.7% female.

Analysis of Ages of Youth Governorship Candidates in the Six Geopolitical Zones in 2019

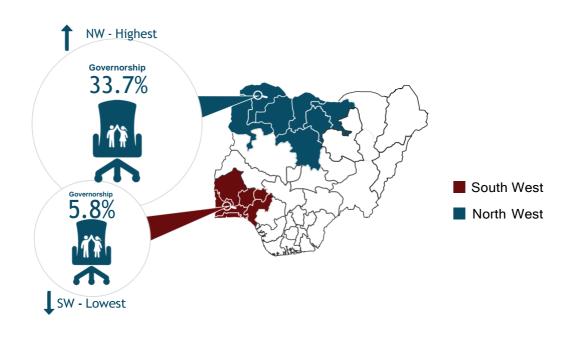
There are 104, 9.8% of the candidates in the age bracket 25-35 vying for the position of governor under the platform of different political parties.





Governorship Candidates by Geopolitical Zones

The graphic above indicates that while there were three youth candidates in the age bracket 25 – 29, there were no youth candidates in the same age bracket in the North East, South East, South- South and South West. Majority of the youth candidates, 97.1%, are in the age bracket 30 – 35. The North-West, 33.7%, had the highest number of youth candidates while the South-West, 5.8,) had the least. The top five states with the highest number of youth candidates were: Zamfara (8); Kano (7); Kebbi (6); Akwa Ibom (6); and Nassarawa (5) while six states had one youth candidate each; Abia, Cross River, Delta, Katsina, Lagos and Niger.





About nine in ten, 89%, of the youth candidates are male while 11% are female. The figure below indicates the gender distribution of youth candidates.



Distribution of Youth Candidates by Gender for the Position of Governor Source: Yiaga Africa

About one in five, 19.9% of the governorship candidates are aged 36 – 40. Among these candidates, 9.9% are female while 90.1% male.

Fifty-three political parties representing 59.6% of the political parties have youth candidates vying for the positions of the governor in 29 states. The top four political parties (ADC – 2, APC – 0, PDP – 0, SDP – 1) account for 2.9% of the youth candidates vying for Governorship position . The top five political parties with the highest number of youth candidates are given in the table below;

(î)						
Justice Must Prevail Party	(JMPP) -	8				
Nigeria Community Party	Movement (NCMP)	6				
Democratic Alternative	(DA) -	5				
Peoples Party of Nigeria	(PPN) -	4				
Zenith Labour Party	(ZLP)	4				

Political Parties with the Highest Number of Youth Candidates Source: Yiaga Africa



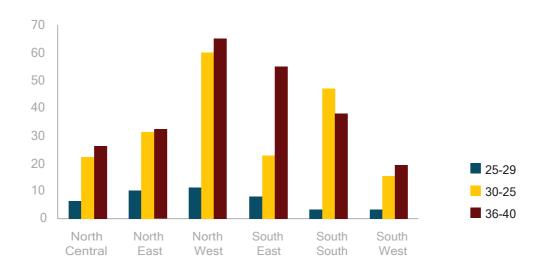
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North-West, 25.5%, had the largest representation of male youth candidates while South-West 3.3%, had the least representation for the position of Deputy Governor.

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Analysis of Young Deputy Governorship Candidates

About one quarter, 22.9% of the candidates vying for the Deputy Governor position are youth in the age bracket 25 – 35. Similarly, 22.6% of the candidates are in the age bracket 36 – 40. The distribution of the youth candidates according to geopolitical zones indicates that about ninein ten, 82.8% of the candidates are male in the age bracket 30-35. The chartbelow gives the distribution of the youth candidates.



Distribution of Youth Candidates per Geopolitical Zone Source: Yiaga Africa

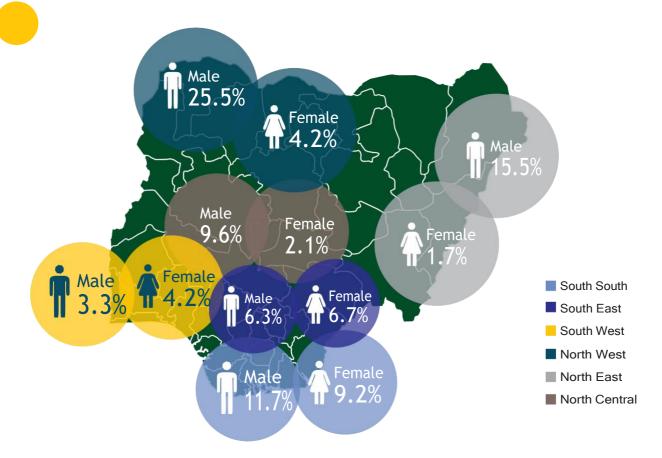
The Figure above indicates that the youth candidates (25 – 35) in the age bracket 30 – 35 dominate the age bracket 25 – 29 across the six geopolitical zones. The age group 36 – 40 is predominant in the youth candidates' age groups in all but one zone (South-South). Majority of the youth candidates 29.7% are from the North West for the position of the Deputy Governor. Other zones include South-South, 20.9%, North-East, 17.9%, South-East, 13.0%, North Central, 11.7%, and South West, 7.5%, had the least representation of youth candidates for the position of Deputy Governor.

Regarding the distribution of the Deputy Governor by gender, 72% of the youth candidates are male and 28% are females. The South-South, 9.2%, had the largest representation of female candidates and North-East, 2.1%, had the least. On the other hand, North-West, 25.5%, had the largest representation of male youth candidates while South-West 3.3%, had the least representation for the position of Deputy Governor. The percentages of other zones are given in the graphic below.



Factsheet on Youth and the 2019 Elections in Nigeria





Distribution of Youth Candidates by Gender in the Six Geopolitical Zones Source: Yiaga Africa

The distribution of the youth candidates according to political parties indicates that seventy-four political parties are fielding youth candidates as Deputy Governor in twenty-nine states of the federation. Four political parties, (ADC, APC, PDC and SDP) fielded only seven candidates for the position. It should be noted that while ADC and SDP fielded five (5) and two (2) youth candidates respectively, no youth candidates were fielded by the APC and PDP for this position. The parties with the highest number of youth candidates for this position are presented in the graphic below.





Political Parties with the highest number of Youth Candidates Source: Yiaga Africa

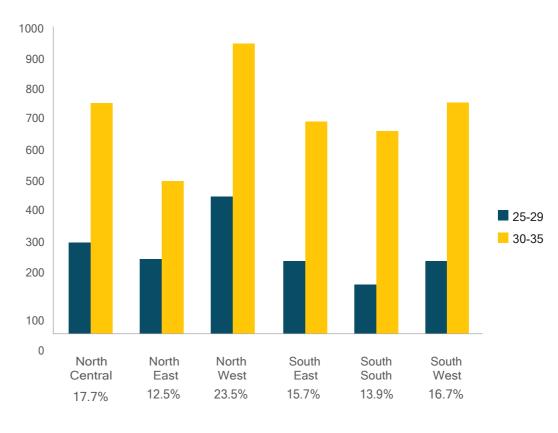
South-South, 13.9% and North-East, 12.5%, had the smallest representation of youth candidates

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Analysis of Candidates for State Houses of Assembly

There were 5,914, 9 41.8% of youth candidates vying for position under the platform of different political parties. The distribution of the youth candidates indicate most of the youth candidates, 23.5%, are from the North-West, North-Central, 17.7%, South-West, 16.7%, South-East, 15.7%, South-South, 13.9% and North-East, 12.5%, had the smallest representation of youth candidates. The chart below indicates the distribution of youth candidates in the six geopolitical zones.





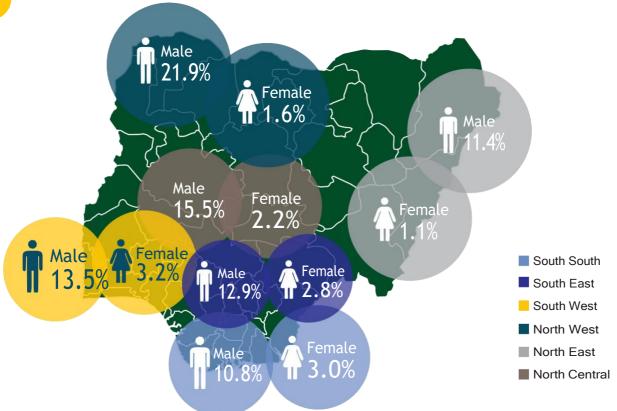
The chart above also indicates that the age group 30 – 35 is the predominant age group across the zones. Two in five, 20.5%, of the candidates are in the age group 36 – 40 years. For the distribution of the youth candidates as regards gender, 86.1% are male while 13.9% are female. Majority of the male youth candidates, 21.9%, were in the North-West while majority of the female youth candidates, 3.2%, were in the South-West. The distribution for other zones is as given in the graphic below.







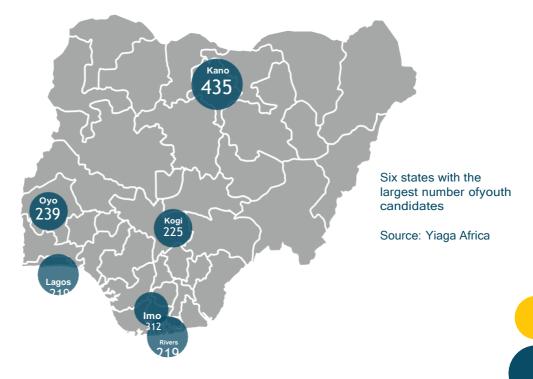
Factsheet on Youth and the 2019 Elections in Nigeria



Distribution of Youth Candidates by Gender in the Six Geopolitical Zones Source: Yiaga Africa

For candidates in the age group 36 - 60, 87% are male and 13% female.

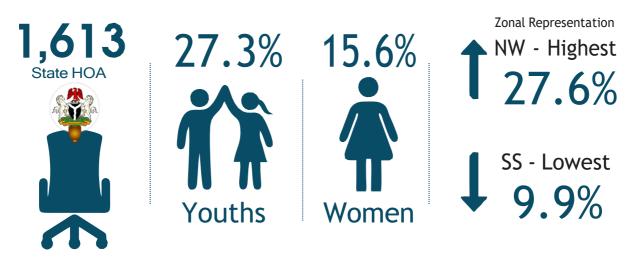
The distribution indicates that four political parties (ADC - 434, APC - 92, PDP - 109, SDP - 326) account for 16.2% of the candidates vying for position in different State Houses of Assembly. The six states with the largest number of youth candidates are given in the table below:







Political Parties with the highest number of Youth Candidates Source: Yiaga Africa



Beneficiaries of the Not Too Young To Run Law

Analysis of FCT Chairmanship List

The list contains twenty candidates vying for chairmanship of different constituencies in the FCT. Two of the candidates had their ages wrongly recorded as zero, while one candidate's age was recorded as of 22 years. Only four, 23.5%, of the remaining seventeen candidates are women while 76.5% are men. Three, 17.6%, of the candidates are youth in the age bracket25 – 35; one is a female (Action) while the remaining two candidates are male belonging to ANDP and PT. Four candidates, (one female, three male) of the seventeen candidates are in the age bracket 36 – 40. For the Vice-Chairmanship position, one of the candidates had his age recorded as zero. 41.2% of the candidates for this position are youth in the age bracket 25 – 35. The political parties with youth candidates for this position include APDA (2), DA(1), GPN (1), PPC (1), PPN (1) and SDP (1).





Analysis of FCT Chairmanship List

For this list, 79, 11.3%, candidates had their ages recorded as zero, 38, 5.4%, candidates aged between 19-24 years. There are 363 candidates between the ages 25-35 years, representing 51.8% of the total number of candidates. Four political parties; (ADC - 33, APC - 24, PDP - 23, SDP - 33) represent 31.1% of the entire candidates. There are 33 political parties fielding youth candidates for the councillorship positions in the FCT. Political parties with the highest number of youth candidates are presented in the graphic below.

Significant Observable Trends in the 2019 Elections for Governorship and State Houses of Assembly Elections

- Less than one tenth or 9.8% of the candidates vying for the positions of the Governor in 29 states of the Federation are youth candidates compared to 22.9% contesting for Deputy Governor.
- Majority of the youth candidates contesting for the positions of the Governor, 33.7% and Deputy Governor, 29.7%, were in the North-West.
- Eighty-nine, 89%, of the youth candidates for the positions of Governor are male, 11%, are female, compared to 72% male and 28% female, for the positions of Deputy Governor.
- Fifty-three (53) political parties fielded youth candidates for the Governorship election with JMPP (8) having the highest number, while 74 political parties fielded youth candidates for the Deputy Governorship positions with MPN (13) having the highest number. The APC and PDP have no youth candidates for the positions of Governor and Deputy Governor in all 29 states.
- There are 41.8% youth candidates vying for seats in State Houses of Assembly in all the 36 states with the majority (23.5%) from the North West.
- Only 13.9% of the youth candidates for State Houses of Assembly elections are female while 86.1% are male.
- Four political parties (ADC, APC, PDP, SDP) accounted for 16.2% of the total number of youth candidates in the State Houses of Assembly election.
- Among the states, Kano with (435) had the highest number of youth candidates for the State Houses of Assembly election.
- Among political parties, the ADC with (434A) had the highest number of youth candidates for the State Houses of Assembly election.



Factsheet on Youth and the 2019 Elections in Nigeria

Political party ranking on youth candidacy

S / N	Party	No of Youth Candidates for NASS Election	No of Youth Candidates for Gubernatorial Election	No of Youth Candidates for State House of Assembly Election	Total number of Youth Candidates	% of Youth Candidates	Rank
		83	7	ЛЗЛ	524	6 74%	
2	Democratic	110	12	338	460	5.92%	2
	Alternative (DA) Peoples Party of	Q/	10	303	407	5 24%	2
4	Social Democratic	47	3	326	376	4.84%	4
	Party (SDP)	45	10	047	070		
6	Labour Party (LP)	43	2	202	247	3.18%	6
	Green Party of Nigeria	50	0	100	0.10	0.000/	
8	Accord	52	6	134	192	2.47%	8
	Mega Party of	20	10	100	100	0.1.10/	
10	People's Trust (PT)	48	2	131	181	2.33%	10
	Action Democratic	15		450	4 7 7	0.000/	
12	Zenith Labour Party (ZLP)	24	8	136	168	2.16%	12
	National Rescue	10	10	100	105	0.100/	
14	United Progressive Party (UPP)	43	8	104	155	1.99%	14
	Advanced Congress	20	<u>^</u>		150	1.000/	
16	CAP	28	7	111	146	1.88%	16
	Alliance for Democracy	20	^	<u>^</u>	100	4 750/	
18	Independent Democrats (ID)	30	6	92	128	1.65%	18
			2	100	107	1.000/	
20	Peoples Redemption Party (PRP)	12	3	108	123	1.58%	20
21	National Conscience				100		
22	People's Democratic Part y (PDP)	8	0	109	117	1.51%	22
22	Providence People's	10	Λ	01	11/	1 / 7%	<u> </u>
24	Young Progressives Party (YPP)	15	5	92	112	1.44%	23
25	United People's Congress (UPC)	01			100	1 100/	
26	All Progressives Congress (APC)	14	0	92	106	1.36%	26
	Progressive People's			76	100	1.000/	
28	Alliance National Party (ANP)	20	4	81	105	1.35%	28
20	All Grand Alliance Party (AGAP)	22			100	1.000/	





30 Democratic People's Party (DPP)	17	5	76	98	1.26%	30 🍸
31 Action Alliance (AA)	11	5	69	85	1.09%	31
32 All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA)	16	0	68	84	1.08%	32 🍸
33 Alliance of Social Democrats (ASD)	10	4	68	82	1.06%	33
34 Allied Congress Party of Nigeria (ACPN)	21	3	54	78	1.00%	34 🍸
35 African Peoples Party (APP)	22	3	50	75	0.97%	35
36 Advanced Peoples Democratic Alliance (APDA)	14	2	58	74	0.95%	36 🍸
37 Democratic People's Congress (DPC)	19	8	42	69	0.89%	37
38 Advanced Allied Party (AAP)	14	6	46	66	0.85%	38 🍸
39 Alliance for New Nigeria (ANN)	5	2	57	64	0.82%	39 ⁹
40 Allied Peoples Movement (APM)	13	3	43	59	0.76%	40 🍸
41 Sustainable National Party (SNP)	13	5	40	58	0.75%	41 2
42 African People Alliance (APA)	12	4	41	57	0.73%	42 🍸
43 Mass Action Joint Alliance (MAJA)	5	6	43	54	0.69%	43 👂
44 People for Democratic Change (PDC)	15	2	37	54	0.69%	43 🍸
45 All Grand Alliance Party (AGAP)	4	1	47	52	0.67%	45
46 African Action Congress (AAC)	7	1	43	51	0.66%	46 🍸
47 New Progressive Movement (NPM)	9	0	42	51	0.66%	46 🦹
48 Hope Democratic Party (HDP)	20	5	25	50	0.64%	48 🍸
49 Youth Democratic Party (YDP)	6	5	39	50	0.64%	48 🦹
50 Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN)	12	5	32	49	0.63%	50 🍷
51 L gacy Party of Nigeria (LPN)	7	2	37	46	0.59%	51
52 Nigeria People's Congress (NPC)	14	2	30	46	0.59%	51 🍷
53 All Blending Party (ABP)	10	2	33	45	0.58%	53 <mark>p</mark>
54 Grassroots Development Party of Nigeria (GDPN)	5	4	36	45	0.58%	53 🍷
Movement for the Restoration and Defence of Democracy (MRDD)	9	5	24	38	0.49%	55 <mark>r</mark>
56 Coalition for Change (C4C)	13	3	20	36	0.46%	56 🍷
57 National Democratic Liberty Party (NDLP)	19	2	15	36	0.46%	56 <mark>p</mark>
58 Masses Movement of Nigeria (MMN)	9	3	23	35	0.45%	58 🍷
New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP)	5	2	28	35	0.45%	58 <mark>p</mark>
60 National Action Council (NAC)	10	5	18	33	0.42%	60 🍷
61 Nigeria Elements Progressive Party (NEPP)	7	5	21	33	0.42%	60 ^p
62 Nigeria for Democracy (NFD)	14	3	16	33	0.42%	60 🍸
63 Restoration Party of Nigeria (RP)	3	5	24	32	0.41%	63 ^p





64	United Democratic Party (UDP)	1	0	30	31	0.40%	64 🍸
65	Yes Electorates Solidarity (YES)	4	2	25	31	0.40%	64 👂
66	People's Progressive Party (PPP)	17	1	11	29	0.37%	66 🍷
67	Nigeria Community Movement Party (NCMP)	3	11	14	28	0.36%	67 👂
68	Better Nigeria Progressive Party (BNPP)	8	7	11	26	0.33%	68 🍷
69	Advanced Nigeria Democratic Party (ANDP)	13	0	12	25	0.32%	69 👂
70	Abundant Nigeria Renewal Party (ANRP)	1	0	22	23	0.30%	70 🍸
71	AUN	0	0	20	20	0.26%	71 👂
72	Re-Build Nigeria Party (RBNP)	5	3	11	19	0.24%	72 🍸
73	National Unity Party (NUP)	3	3	12	18	0.23%	73 📍
74	National Interest Party (NIP)	2	3	12	17	0.22%	74 🍸
75	Freedom and Justice Party (FJP)	4	3	9	16	0.21%	75 ⁹
76	WTPN	0	4	12	16	0.21%	75 🍷
77	Alternative Party of Nigeria (APN)	0	1	8	9	0.12%	77 👂
78	PCP	0	1	8	9	0.12%	77 🍸
79	Save Nigeria Congress (SNC)	0	2	7	9	0.12%	77 📍
80	Fresh Democratic Party (FRESH)	4	1	2	7	0.09%	80 🍸
81	Youth Party (YP)	1	0	5	6	0.08%	81 📍
82	Change Nigeria Party (CNP)	1	0	4	5	0.06%	82 🍸
83	Liberation Movement (LM)	1	1	2	4	0.05%	83 📍
84	RAP	0	1	3	4	0.05%	83 🍸
85	Modern Democratic Party (MDP)	1	0	0	1	0.01%	85 🥇
86	Nigeria Democratic Congress Party (NDCP)	1	0	0	1	0.01%	85 🍷
87	New Generation Party of Nigeria (NGP)	0	0	1	1	0.01%	85 🦻
88	Peoples Democratic Movement (PDM)	1	0	0	1	0.01%	85 🍷
89	SPN	0	0	1	1	0.01%	89 🦻
90	United Patriots (UP)	0	1	0	1	0.01%	89 🍸
	TOTAL	1515	343	5914	7772		



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No 3. Frantz Fanon Crescent, 17 Road 3rd Avenue, Gwarimpa, Abuja. 09038007744