



# Process & Results Statement on the 2024 Ondo State Governorship Election

Sunday,  
November 17th,  
2024

Delivered at the  
Dejavu Hotel,  
Alagbaka, Akure,  
Ondo State

## Introduction

On Saturday, November 16, 2024, Yiaga Africa deployed the Process and Results Verification for Transparency (PRVT) methodology to observe the Ondo State governorship election. This involved 300 stationary and 24 roving observers, covering a representative sample of polling units across all 18 LGAs. The PRVT enables Yiaga Africa to independently assess the quality of election day processes and verify the accuracy of the official election results as announced by INEC. Yiaga Africa observers also deployed to the State and LGA results collation centres to observe the process, ensuring timely and accurate reporting of the election process.

Yiaga Africa commends and congratulates the people of Ondo State for upholding peace during the voting, counting, and result collation process across the state. The election process was relatively calm and orderly, demonstrating citizens' interest in participating peacefully. Yiaga Africa also noted a significant improvement in logistics management for the Ondo 2024 governorship election. Almost every polling station in the state was open, giving eligible voters in Ondo an equal opportunity to vote.

The election day process was largely peaceful, and we commend the people of Ondo state for their orderliness, and the security agents for their professionalism and coordination. We condemn the observed incidents of vote-buying, which characterized the election as a major threat to the credibility of the electoral process. This practice promotes electoral corruption, erodes equality in election competition and undermines the legitimacy of electoral victory. Yiaga Africa calls on political parties to refrain from the culture of commercialization of elections in Nigeria and invest rather in practices that enhance trust in the elections.

## Key Findings on the Election Day Process

The key findings are based on additional reports received from 288 of 300 (96%) sampled polling units in Ondo state.

### Set up and Opening of Polling Units

- **Early Opening of Polls:** Yiaga Africa WTV observed the early arrival of polling officials and materials at polling units across the state. As of 7:30 am, Yiaga Africa WTV observers reported that INEC officials had arrived at 69% of polling units.
- **Early Start of Polls:** By 8:30 am, 46% of polling units had commenced accreditation and voting. This, however, increased to 91% by 9:30 am.

### **Deployment of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS)**

- Yiaga Africa observed the deployment of BVAS across all polling units visited. The BVAS was deployed in all the polling units observed. It functioned properly in 89% of polling units. However, it malfunctioned and was fixed in 10% of polling units, as well as replaced in 1% of polling units.

### **Deployment and professionalism of Polling Officials and Security:**

- On average, three polling officials were deployed to the polling units observed. Of these polling officials, two were women. Yiaga Africa also observed that the presiding officer was a woman in 42% of polling units.
- Reports from WTV Polling Unit observers revealed that INEC polling officials were unprofessional and partisan in 7% of polling units.
- Security personnel were present in all polling units observed. In addition, security personnel were unprofessional and partisan in 7% of polling units.

### **Secrecy of the ballots and attempts to influence polling officials**

- In 11% of polling units, it was possible to see how a voter's ballot paper was marked when it was put in the ballot box at some point throughout the day. Voters crowded the polling officials in 10% of polling units.
- At 12% of polling units, party agents were seen within two meters of the voting cubicle and were able to see how voters thump-printed their ballots before they were dropped in the ballot box.
- At 11% of polling units, party agents attempted to influence polling officials during counting.
- There were no voting cubicles at 3% of polling units. This incident was more prevalent in Ilaje and Ese-Odo LGAs.
- Inclusion of persons with disabilities
- In 7% of polling units where PWDs were present, they were not allowed priority voting.

### **Counting**

- Counting was done in the exact location of accreditation and voting in all of the observed polling units.
- Party agents for APC were present during counting and received the results sheets in 97% of the polling units. Party agents for PDP were present during counting and received the results sheets in 96% of the polling units.

### **Turnout**

INEC's turnout and rejected ballots for the 18 LGA released are consistent with Yiaga Africa WTV PRVT estimates. Yiaga Africa is able to estimate that turnout is between 24.8% and 27.6% (26.3%  $\pm$ 1.3%), while INEC's official result is 24.8%. Similarly, both Yiaga Africa's estimate and the official results for rejected ballots is approximately 2%.

## Results Verification

Based on reports from 286 of 300 (95%) sampled polling units, Yiaga Africa's statistical analysis shows that the All Progressives Congress (APC) should receive between 72.1% and 75.7% of the vote, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) 22.0% and 25.4%, and no other political party should receive more than 3.7% of the vote

Comparison of INEC Official Results for the 18 LGAs released with Yiaga Africa WTV PRVT Estimates for Select Political Parties for the 2024 Ondo gubernatorial Election						
Party	INEC	Yiaga Africa WTV PRVT estimates			Verified	
	Official Result	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimated Range		
				Lower Limit		Upper Limit
APC	73.8%	73.9%	±1.8%	72.1% - 75.7%	✓	
PDP	23.7%	23.7%	±1.7%	22.0% - 25.4%	✓	

*Note: No other party received more than 3.7% of the vote share*

*Source Yiaga Africa WTV November 2024*

Therefore, the PRVT findings reveal that the results announced by INEC for all 18 LGAs are consistent with the PRVT estimates for the governorship election in Ondo state. Had the official results been changed at the ward, LGA, or state collation centres, they would not have fallen within the Yiaga Africa WTV estimated ranges. Because the official results fall within the estimated ranges, governorship contestants, parties, and voters should have confidence that the official results for the 2024 Ondo governorship election reflect the ballots cast at polling units.

## Recommendations:

1. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) should take deliberate steps to protect the secrecy of the ballot and enforce its electoral guidelines especially as it relates to the secrecy of the ballot.
2. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) should ensure that the BVAS is consistently updated and upgraded to ensure optimal functionality.
3. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) should ensure that the ad-hoc officials are properly trained on disability provisions for each election. This includes ensuring the polling units are set up in a manner that enables access for voters with disability, the magnifying glasses and braille ballot guide are provided to voters who need them and the form EC 40H is duly completed in every election. This will ensure that voters with disabilities are properly catered to. We also call on the State to ensure public facilities are disability friendly.
4. Election offenders arrested during the Ondo election should be handed over to the police for due prosecution. In addition, security agencies should be more proactive in arresting and prosecuting perpetrators of voter inducement and vote buying.
5. Political parties and candidates should refrain from this persistent and unacceptable culture of impunity and this ugly trend of buying votes and looking for ways to undermine the integrity of the electoral process.

6. Political parties and candidates should encourage issue-based participation in elections and invest in building political parties that uphold democratic principles and promote electoral integrity.
7. Political parties should commit to gender-inclusive leadership recruitment by ensuring that women are elected into party leadership positions and elected in party primaries in subsequent elections.
8. Stakeholders such as INEC, NOA, and CSOs should invest in political and voter education to build citizens' consciousness on the importance of democracy and the value of the vote.

## Conclusion

Yiaga Africa urges Mr. Lucky Aiyadatiwa and all APC supporters to be magnanimous in their victory and calls on all candidates, political parties, and Nigerians to display political maturity and uphold peace. Yiaga Africa commends INEC on the timely opening of polls with essential materials present and the timely announcement of results.

We commend the Interagency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) for its efforts in coordinating and mobilizing the required resources for a peaceful election as evident in the level of order that characterized the conduct of the election.

Yiaga Africa commends the people of Ondo for their resilience and dedication to conducting a non-violent election. We encourage the people of Ondo state to engage in the democratic process even after the elections by ensuring that elected officials are held accountable for their campaign promises.

Yiaga Africa extends its gratitude to the many Nigerians across the state who volunteered to serve as non-partisan citizen observers for the Watching the Vote (WTV) initiative on behalf of the people of Ondo. We commend the dedication of the permanent staff of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Ondo State and beyond for their efforts in organizing the election. We also appreciate the commitment of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members who served as poll officials.

Furthermore, Yiaga Africa would like to thank the media, other election observer organizations and the international community for their support and solidarity in the Ondo 2024 governorship election. Yiaga Africa remains committed to promoting credible elections and the integrity of Nigeria's electoral process. The strength of Nigeria's democracy is dependent on our consistency as citizens to constantly demand accountability and hold our institutions to high standards.

The Watching The Vote project is **"Driven by Data – For All Nigerians – Beholden to None!"**  
Thank you, and God Bless the people of Ondo State!

For media inquiries, please contact Jennifer Dafwat, Media Officer, Yiaga Africa Tel. +234 (0) 806 899 5644, Email: [jdfwat@yiaga.org](mailto:jdfwat@yiaga.org). Learn more about #WatchingTheVote at [www.watchingthevote.org](http://www.watchingthevote.org) or on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/yiaga.org](https://facebook.com/yiaga.org) or on Twitter @yiaga.