

The Ballot

A WEEKLY UPDATE ON ELECTIONS

Series 1, Issue 28, 29th November, 2024



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the Newsletter



INEC knocks PDP governors over election rigging allegations

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has dismissed allegations by Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) governors accusing the commission of manipulating the 2024 Edo State governorship election results to favor the All Progressives Congress (APC). Reacting to claims made during a two-day meeting in Jos, Plateau State, where the PDP Governors alleged electoral irregularities and vote-rigging in both Edo and Ondo elections, INEC's Chief Press Secretary, Rotimi Oyekanmi, described the accusations as "unfortunate and inappropriate." Oyekanmi urged the governors to present their evidence in court instead of engaging in what he called a "media trial," stressing that INEC cannot comment on ongoing legal matters.

Read more: <https://dailypost.ng/2024/11/25/inec-knocks-pdp-governors-over-election-rigging-allegations/>

34 House Members Vow To Revive Bill For Single Six-year Term

Despite a recent setback, 34 members of the House of Representatives who sponsored the bill to amend the 1999 Constitution and introduce a single six-year term for the president, state governors, and local government chairmen remain optimistic. The lawmakers assured the public that they would intensify consultations with stakeholders and reintroduce the bill at a more strategic time to build broader consensus. The bill, which also proposed zonal rotation of presidential and governorship seats and conducting all elections on a single day, was rejected during plenary on Thursday. Lead sponsor Hon. Ikenga Ugochinyere, representing Ideato North and South Federal Constituency, expressed determination despite the decision.

Read more: <https://independent.ng/34-house-members-vow-to-revive-bill-for-single-six-year-term/>





Buhari removed ex-CJN Onnoghen to perpetrate electoral mischief – Clark

Elder statesman and Ijaw leader, Chief Edwin Clark, has accused former President Muhammadu Buhari and ex-Attorney General Abubakar Malami of oppressing and humiliating former Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN), Justice Walter Onnoghen. In a letter to the current CJN, Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun, Clark alleged that Onnoghen's removal ahead of the 2019 presidential election was orchestrated to facilitate questionable actions. He commended the recent Court of Appeal judgment acquitting Onnoghen of false asset declaration charges, criticizing Buhari's suspension of the former CJN as a breach of constitutional processes involving the NJC and National Assembly.

Read more:

https://punchng.com/buhari-removed-ex-cjn-onnoghen-to-perpetrate-electoral-mischief-clark/#google_vignette

MDC 2024: Experts dialogue on credible LG elections

Experts and stakeholders gathered in Abuja on Tuesday to discuss the challenges of organizing credible local government elections in Nigeria, highlighting widespread legal violations and systemic flaws that undermine the country's democratic process. The discussions took place during a session at the ongoing Media and Development Conference (MDC 2024), a three-day event focused on "Navigating Global Shifts: Media and Technology for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Africa."

Read more: <https://guardian.ng/politics/mdc-2024-experts-dialogue-on-credible-lg-elections/>



Ondo 2024: Electoral Hub hails INEC's service delivery

The Electoral Hub has praised the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for its professionalism and commitment to democratic values during the Ondo State governorship election, describing it as one of the most credible and efficient elections in recent times. Director Princess Hamman-Obels highlighted in a post-election statement that INEC's performance demonstrated integrity and ensured that citizens' voices were effectively heard.

Read more: <https://blueprint.ng/ondo-2024-electoral-hub-hails-inecs-service-delivery/>



Rivers: Appeal court nullifies judgment stopping LG election

Read more:

<https://thesun.ng/rivers-appeal-court-nullifies-judgment-stopping-lg-election/>

The Abuja division of the Court of Appeal has overturned a Federal High Court ruling that had prevented the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) from releasing the voters' register to the Rivers State Independent Electoral Commission (RSIEC) for the October 5 local government elections. The court's decision was celebrated by Hon. Ikenga Ugochinyere, spokesperson for the opposition Coalition lawmakers in the House of Representatives, who called it a significant win for democracy. The initial judgment, delivered by Justice Peter Lifu of the Federal High Court, had halted the election, citing RSIEC's failure to comply with the Electoral Act, including its failure to publish the required 90-day notice before scheduling the polls.



**NEW
PUBLICATION**



Index for Assessing the Integrity of Local Government Elections in Nigeria | 4

of the Local Election Index Tool

A comprehensive tool designed to evaluate the quality of local government elections, assesses key electoral aspects, provides insights into key areas for improvement, and offers targeted measures to address these issues. The tool covers various aspects of the electoral process, including: voter registration, election administration, ensuring free, fair, and transparent elections, and strengthening electoral institutions to ensure free, fair, and transparent elections.

Electoral Integrity Index

The tool uses a qualitative and quantitative method. The tool uses a qualitative and quantitative method. The tool uses a qualitative and quantitative method. The tool uses a qualitative and quantitative method. The tool uses a qualitative and quantitative method.

The tool is well-calibrated for local government elections, targeting the purpose of the evaluation.

**Local Government
Elections Integrity
Index**



Index for Assessing the Integrity of Local Government Elections in Nigeria | 5

Local Government Election Assessment Index (LGEAI)

Period	Sections	Questions
Pre-election	A. Electoral Context	1. The previous election that brought in the incumbent administration was credible and transparent.
		2. Incumbent administration performed well in governance.
Election Day	1. Electoral Laws	3. Citizens experienced freedom under the incumbent administration.
		4. The tenure of the incumbent was characterised by relative peace and security.
		5. The opposition party was not suppressed by the incumbent administration.
		6. The Opposition party did not boycott the last LGA elections in the state.
		7. There were few allegations during the last LGA elections.
		8. There was a high voter turnout in the last election.
		9. Citizens expressed satisfaction with the last election.
		10. Citizens expressed satisfaction with the last election.
Election Day	2. Electoral Procedures	1. Election guidelines complied with the provisions of the Electoral Act.
		2. Electoral laws were fair to smaller parties and candidates.
		3. Electoral laws did not only favour the governing party or parties.
		4. Election laws did not restrict the rights of i.e., disenfranchised citizens.
		5. Election procedures are consistent with the state electoral law.
		6. Electoral rules and procedures are clearly spelt out.
		7. Election regulations were accessible to all stakeholders.
		8. Election regulations and voting procedures were widely publicised.

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“The Local Government Elections Integrity Index” is developed as a tool to systematically assess key aspects of local government elections in Nigeria.



...of General Abacha. Fresh elections were held in December 2003 as part of the Abacha transition programme. Arafat headed into office as the first CDD securing a majority of the seats.

In the Republic, local government elections originally scheduled for 2002 were postponed, officially attributed to legislative challenges but widely believed to be politically motivated. After the terms of local councils expired in May 2003, a general election was held in March 2004. During the period, candidates were allowed to campaign in their constituencies, but the 2004 elections were marred by various irregularities.

The general elections of 2003 and subsequent local elections were held in a state of emergency. The Court ruled that state governments play a significant role in ensuring the integrity of local government elections and the regulation of the electoral process. The Court stressed the need for genuine democratic governance at the local level, and urged states to ensure the use of non-partisan processes in the local councils.

The Court's judgement on Local Government Elections in 2004 aimed at ensuring the financial autonomy of local governments. A flurry of activity among state governments to comply with the ruling resulted in 20 states having local government areas (LGAs) elections. The Court directed local government to cooperate with state governments, and the Court stressed the need for genuine democratic governance at the local level, and urged states to ensure the use of non-partisan processes in the local councils.

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**Local Government
Elections: A Tragedy of
Electoral Democracy?**

Preliminary Report on recent Local Government Elections

October 2024

Local Government Elections: A Tragedy of Electoral Democracy? | 5

States with Democratically Elected LGA before the Supreme Court Judgement



States with Elected LGAs after the Supreme Court Judgements

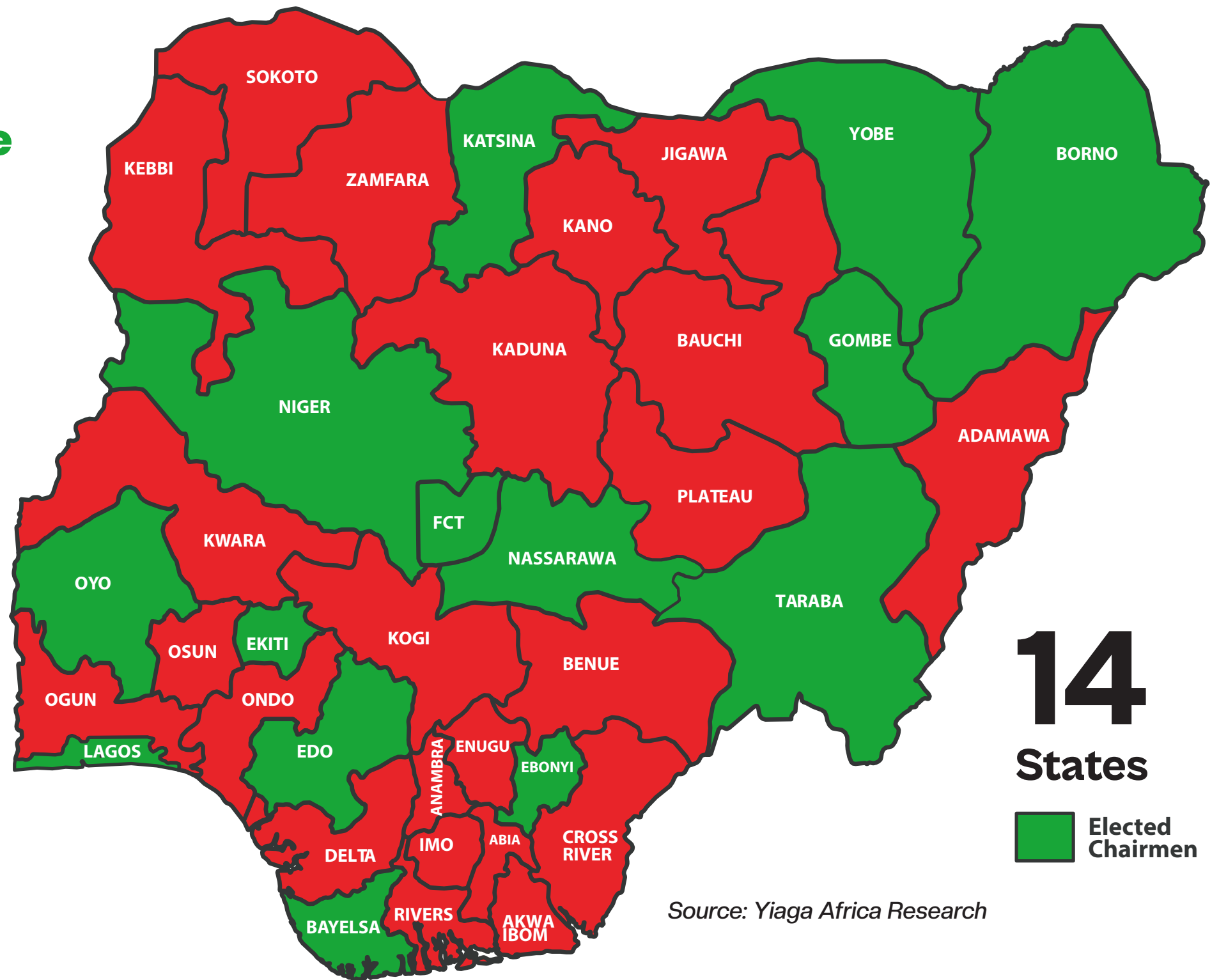


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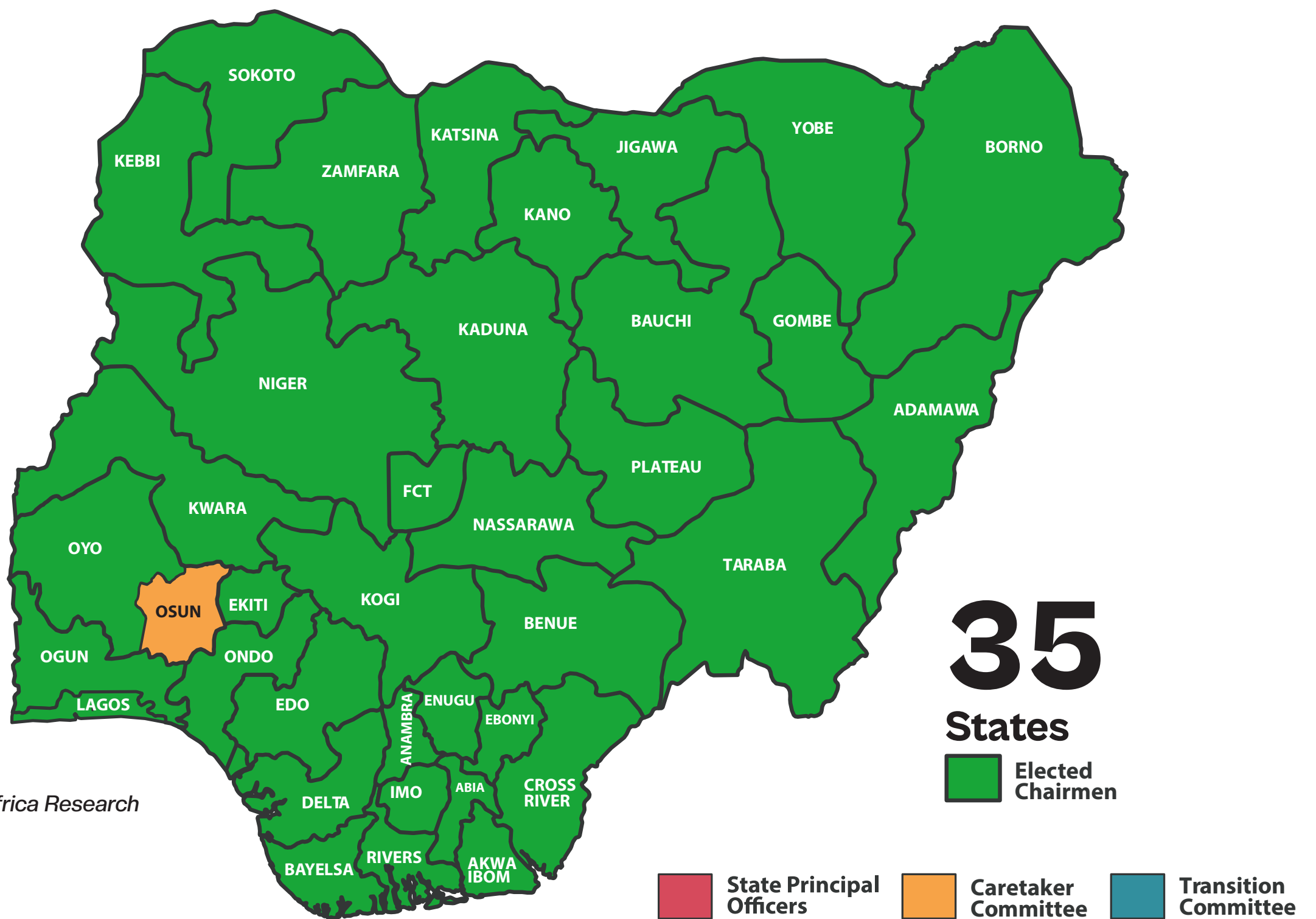


“Local Government Elections: A Tragedy of Electoral Democracy?” is designed to explain the current debacle over local government elections in Nigeria and highlight major issues in the public and policy discourse around the problems. The aim is to provide ingredients for discourse on local government elections in Nigeria.

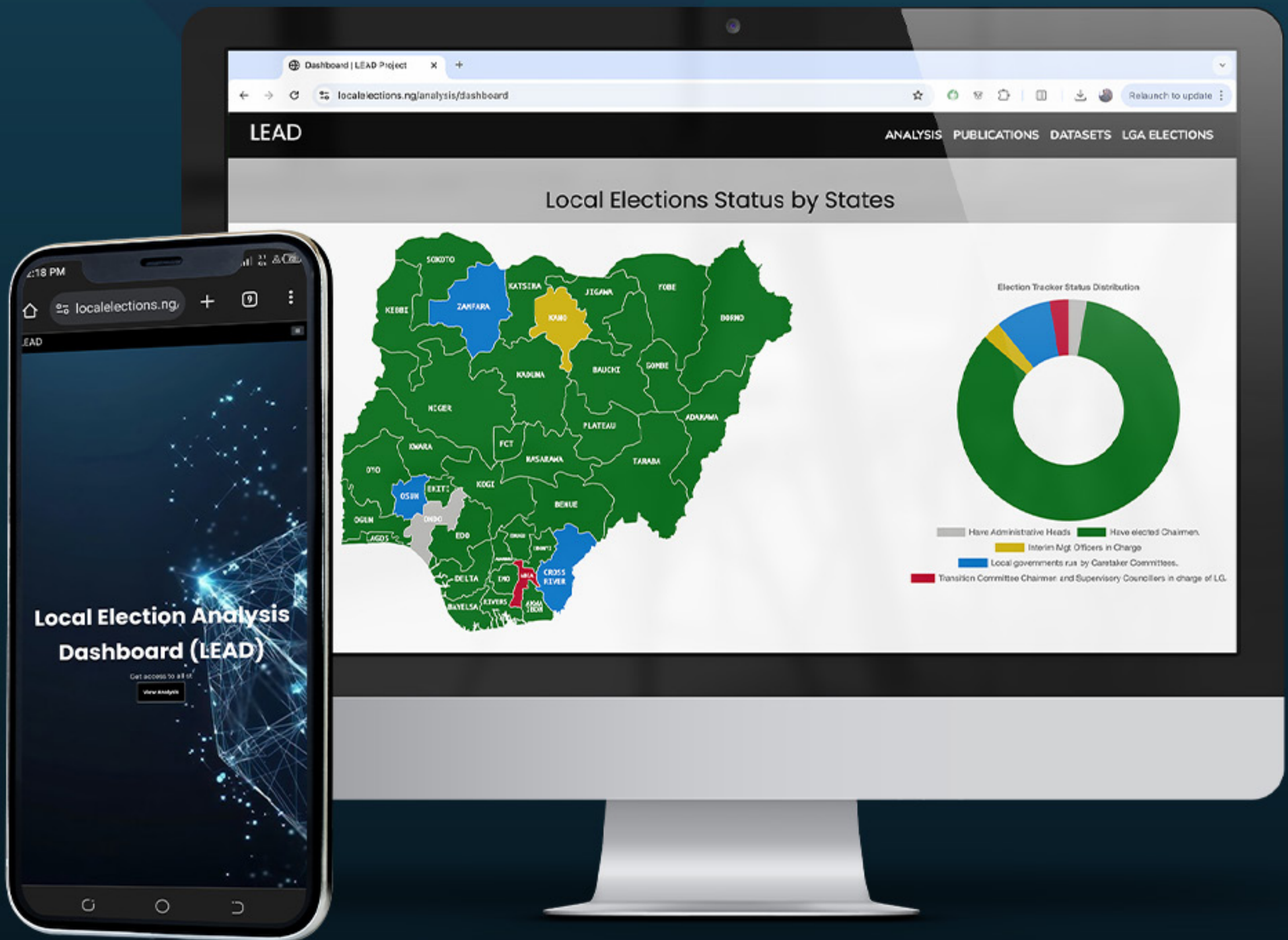
States with Democratically Elected LGA before the Supreme Court Judgement



States with Elected LGAs after the Supreme Court Judgements



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION ANALYSIS DASHBOARD



www.localelections.ng

COMING SOON

Upcoming Local Government Elections



TOTAL NUMBER OF STATES

2



TOTAL NUMBER OF LGAs

48



TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS

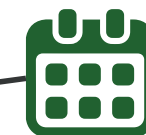
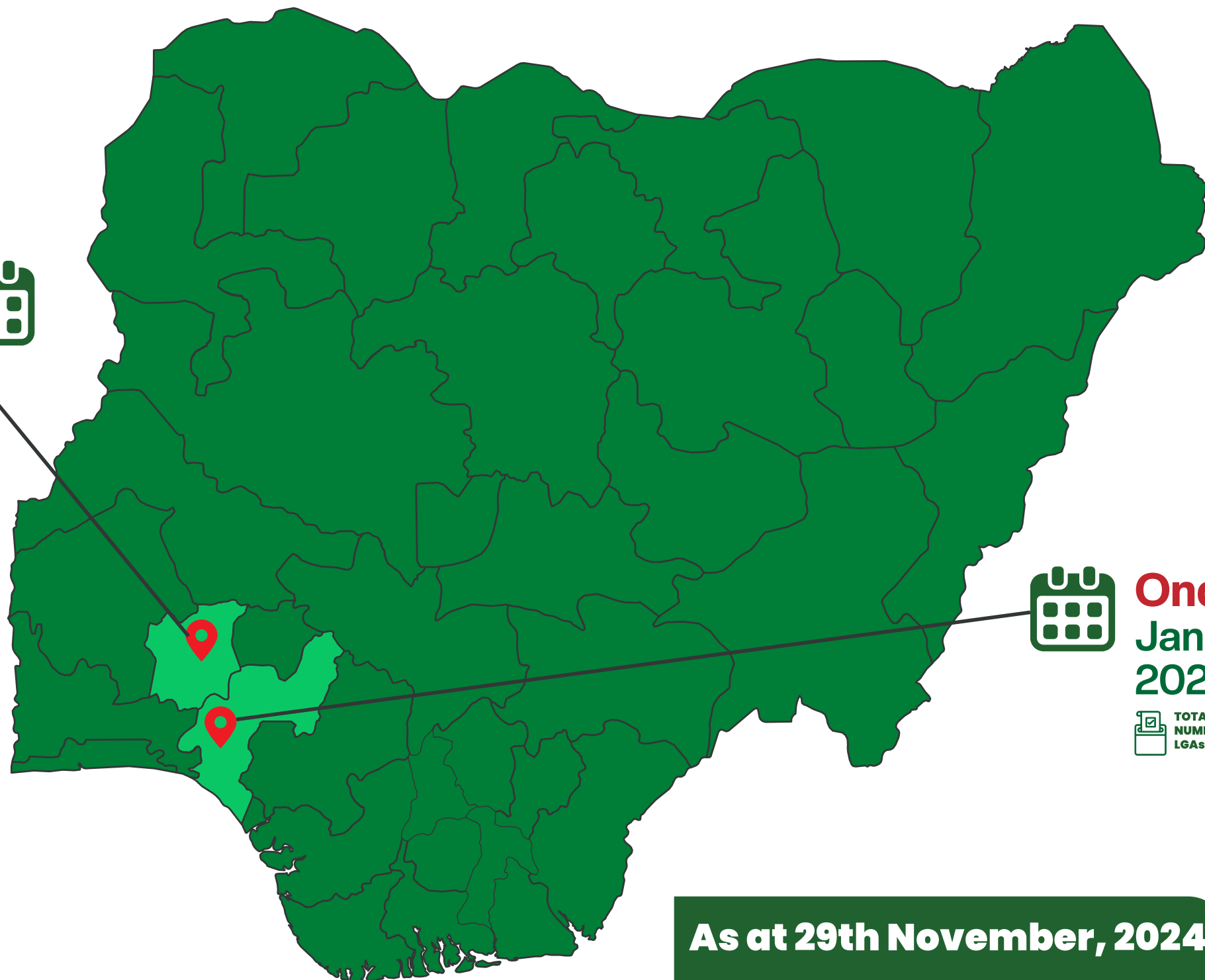
3,946,144

Osun
February 22,
2025



30

TOTAL NUMBER OF LGAs



Ondo
January 18,
2025

TOTAL NUMBER OF LGAs

18

As at 29th November, 2024

