

The Ballot

A WEEKLY UPDATE ON ELECTIONS

Series 2, Issue 14, 4th April, 2025



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2027: Yiaga Africa Establishes 'Not Too Young To Run' Hub In Rivers

Ahead of the 2027 general election, Yiaga Africa has launched a 'Not Too Young To Run (NTYTR)' hub at the Ignatius Ajuru University of Education in Port Harcourt. Speaking at the event, Yiaga Africa's Senior Program Officer, Anthonia Omba, explained that the hub is part of the organization's initiative to encourage young people in tertiary institutions to engage in activities promoting political participation, human rights, and citizen engagement across Nigeria.

Read more: <https://leadership.ng/2027-yiaga-africa-establishes-not-too-young-to-run-hub-in-rivers/>

INEC: Petition For Natasha's Recall Did Not Meet Requirement

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has announced that the petition for the recall of Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan, representing Kogi Central, fails to meet the constitutional requirements outlined in Section 69(a) of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution. INEC made the statement via its official Twitter account on Thursday, following accusations of bias from the suspended lawmaker regarding the recall process.



Read more: <https://dailytrust.com/breaking-petition-for-natsahas-recall-did-not-meet-requirement-inec/>



10 Years After, Envoy Commends Jonathan For Conceding Defeat

Ten years after conceding victory to former President Muhammadu Buhari, the Executive Secretary of the International Supreme Council for Peace in Africa (ISCP), Amb. Simeon Uwah, has praised former President Goodluck Jonathan for his patriotic decision. Uwah described Jonathan's action as a political masterstroke and a display of true statesmanship, noting that had he acted differently, Nigeria could have been plunged into turmoil, potentially reversing the country's progress. Reflecting on the 2015 presidential election, Uwah emphasized that Jonathan's early concession, while votes were still being counted, remains a model for leadership in Africa's growing democracy, helping to avert widespread bloodshed.

Read more: <https://leadership.ng/10-years-after-envoy-commends-jonathan-for-conceding-defeat/>



BREAKING: Supreme Court sacks Abure as Labour Party chairman

The Supreme Court on Friday removed Julius Abure as the National Chairman of the Labour Party, overturning the Court of Appeal's decision that had recognized him in the role. A unanimous ruling by a five-member panel of the apex court stated that the appellate court lacked jurisdiction to make such a declaration, as the case pertained to the internal leadership of the party.

Read more: <https://punchng.com/breaking-supreme-court-sacks-abure-as-labour-party-chairman/?amp>

Tribunal Affirms Okpebholo, Ighodalo Vows to Appeal

The Edo State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal has upheld the election of Senator Monday Okpebholo as the state's governor, ruling unanimously on Wednesday that the petitioners, Asue Ighodalo and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), failed to prove claims of over-voting and electoral law violations. Despite the ruling, Ighodalo and the PDP announced plans to appeal the decision at the Court of Appeal. Okpebholo, the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate, was previously declared winner of the September 21, 2024, governorship election by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).



Read more: <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2025/04/03/tribunal-affirms-okpebholo-ighodalo-vows-to-appeal/>

Recall of lawmaker costlier than constituency election — INEC

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has revealed that the cost of recalling a serving lawmaker is higher than conducting a fresh constituency election. The issue gained national attention following a petition seeking the recall of suspended Kogi Central Senator, Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan, over alleged gross misconduct. Speaking at a virtual meeting on the 'INEC Regulation and Guidelines for Recall 2024,' the Special Adviser to the INEC Chairman, Prof. Mohammed Kunna, explained that once a petition is received and verified, the commission must conduct a verification exercise at the affected polling units.

Read more:

<https://blueprint.ng/recall-of-lawmaker-costlier-than-constituency-election-inec/>



African Centre Rejects National Assembly's Bill On Age Limit, Holding General Elections In One Day

The Peering Advocacy and Advancement Centre in Africa (PAACA), an African civic organization, has opposed a proposed bill by the House of Representatives that seeks to impose an age limit and conduct Nigeria's general elections on a single day. While acknowledging the need for electoral reforms, PAACA cautioned against rushing the process without sufficient preparation. Speaking in Abuja, PAACA Executive Director Ezenwa Nwagwu argued that while new approaches in Nigeria's democracy are welcome, they must not undermine the progress already made, emphasizing that the country's electoral challenges stem more from the attitudes of stakeholders than the current staggered election system.

Read more: <https://saharareporters.com/2025/03/31/african-centre-rejects-national-assemblys-bill-age-limit-holding-general-elections-one>

C'River 2027: APC foreclose automatic tickets for NASS members, others

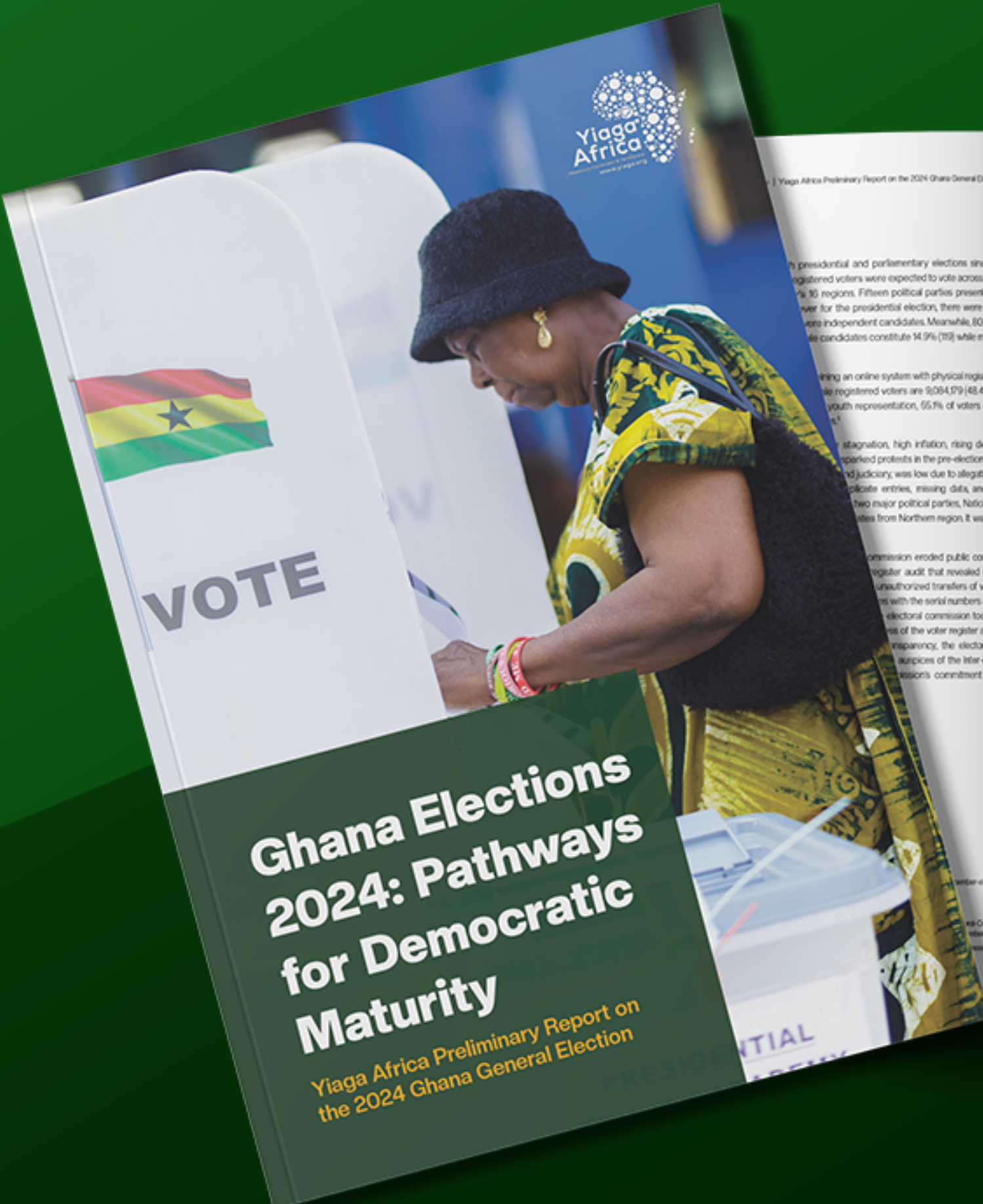
The Cross River chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC) has announced it will not grant automatic tickets to serving National Assembly and state lawmakers for the 2027 general elections. However, the party has extended automatic tickets to Governor Bassey Otu and his deputy, Peter Odey. The decision was made during the party's State Executive Council (SEC) meeting in Calabar on Tuesday.



Read more: <https://businessday.ng/politics/article/criver-2027-apc-foreclose-automatic-tickets-for-nass-members-others/>



“Ghana Elections 2024: Pathways for Democratic Maturity” offers a comprehensive analysis of key aspects of the 2024 Ghana Presidential and Parliamentary elections, including election administration, voting rights, and the role of electoral technology.



2024 Ghana Presidential and Parliamentary Elections:

Key Insights

	Total Registered Voters 18,772,795	New Voters 708,282
	Male Voters 9,084,179 48.4%	Female Voters 9,689,980 51.6%
	Youth (ages 18-35 years) 10,343,810 55.1%	Persons with Disabilities 55,492
	Total Polling stations: 40,976 <small>Special voting centers: 328 Voter threshold per polling station across the country: 749</small>	Presidential candidate lists: 13 <small>Political party candidates: 9 Independent candidates: 4</small>
	Seats: 1 Presidential seat 276 Parliamentary seats across Ghana's 16 regions	Parliamentary candidates: 801 <small>(682 males and 119 females) Independent candidates: 111</small>



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**NEW
PUBLICATION**



**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 advocates for measures to address these issues. The tool covers various aspects of the electoral process, including voter registration, campaigning, polling, and the administration of elections. It is designed to be used by a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society organizations, government agencies, and international partners.

**Electoral
Integrity Index**

The index is a comprehensive and qualitative method. The index is designed to provide insights into the quality of the electoral process, focusing on legal and procedural aspects. It includes a set of indicators and questions that assess various aspects of the electoral process, from voter registration to the administration of elections. The index is designed to be used by a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society organizations, government agencies, and international partners.

**Local Government
Elections Integrity
Index**



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

**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. Election guidelines complied with the provisions of the Electoral Act.
Election Day	2. Electoral Procedures	1. Electoral laws were fair to smaller parties and candidates.
		2. Electoral laws did not only favour the governing party or parties.
		3. Election laws did not restrict the rights of, i.e., disenfranchised citizens.
		4. Election procedures are consistent with the state electoral law.
		5. Electoral rules and procedures are clearly spelt out.
		6. Election regulations were accessible to all stakeholders.
		7. Election regulations and voting procedures were widely publicised.
		8. Election regulations and voting procedures were widely publicised.

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

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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.



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

Preliminary Report on recent Local Government Elections

October 2024

**Judgement on Local Government
Elections**

On 18 October 2024, the Supreme Court handed down its judgment on the appeal filed by the Federal Government against the decision of the Court of Appeal in the case of *Attorney General of the Federation v. State Governors and Local Government Authorities*. The Court held that the current electoral process for local government elections is unconstitutional and ordered the state governments to hold fresh elections. The Court also ordered the state governments to pay a total of N10 billion to the local government authorities as compensation for the loss of office. The Court's judgment is a landmark decision that will have a significant impact on the political and legal landscape of Nigeria.

Local Government Elections: A Travesty of Electoral Democracy? | 3

**States with Democratically Elected LGA before the
Supreme Court Judgement**



14 States

States with Elected LGAs after the Supreme Court Judgements



31 States

Legend: State Government, Local Government, State Government, Local Government

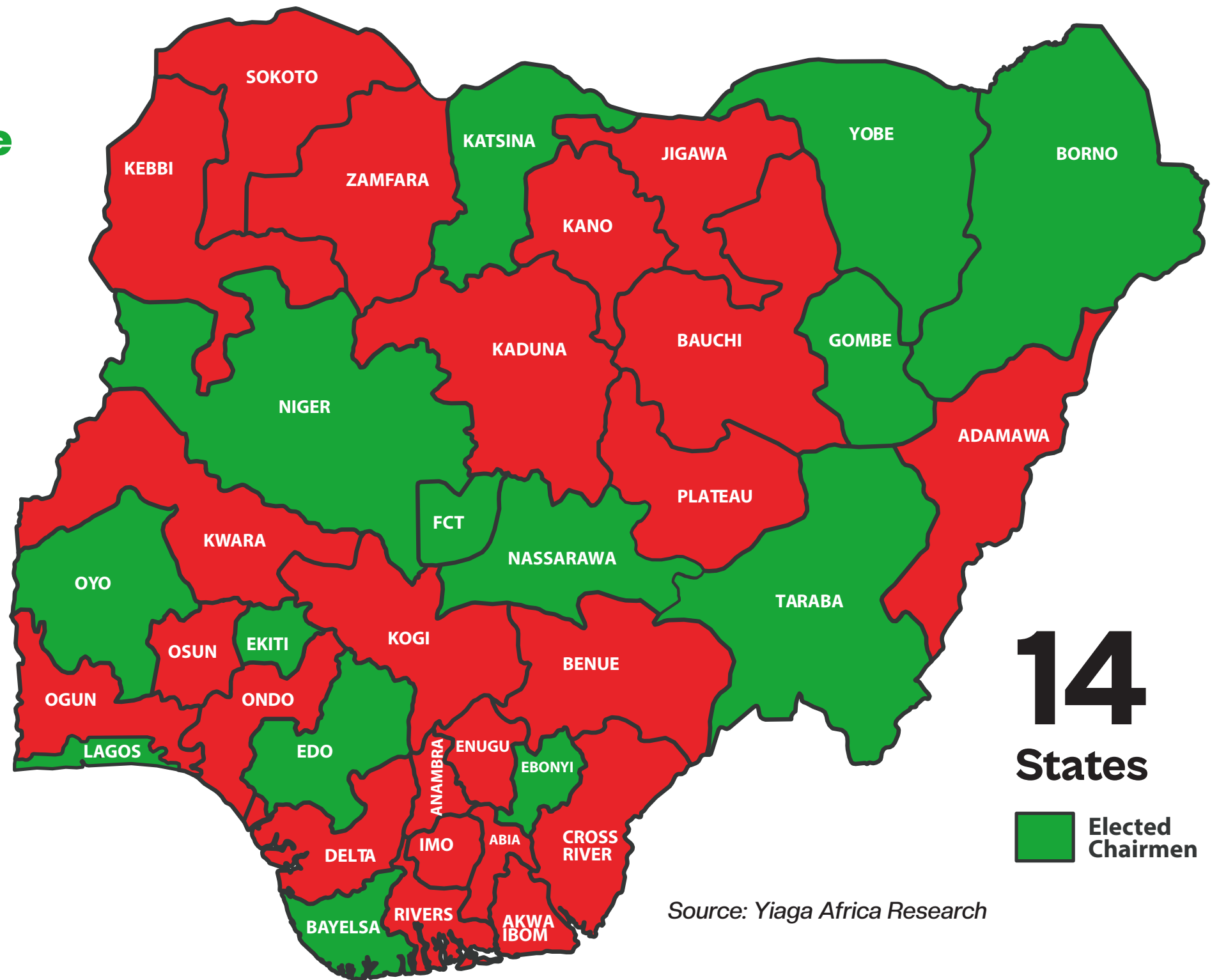
Local Government Elections: A Travesty of Electoral Democracy? | 4

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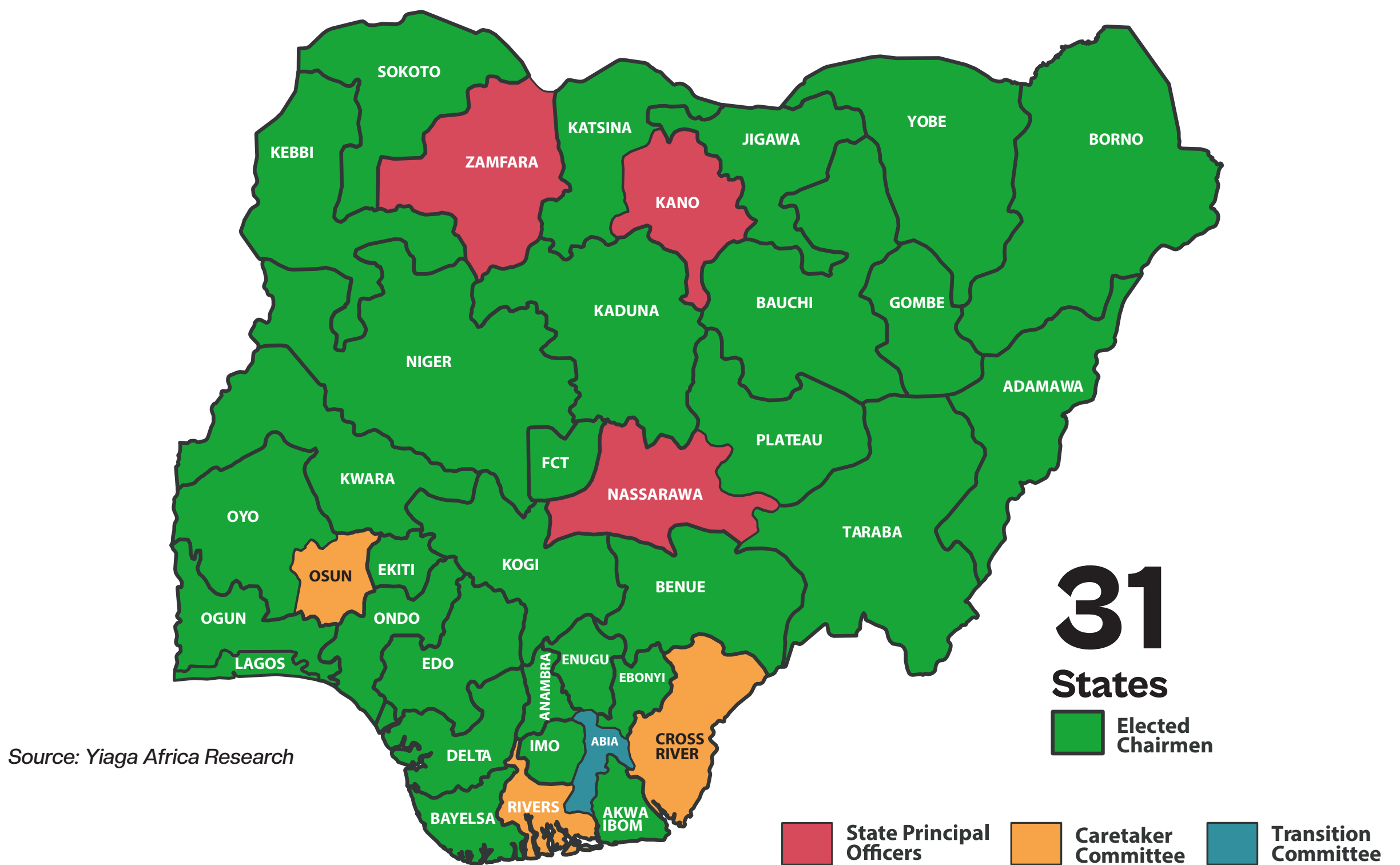


“Local Government Elections: A Travesty of Electoral Democracy?” is designed to explain the current debacle over local government elections in Nigeria and highlight major issues in the public and policy discourse around the problems. The aim is to provide ingredients for discourse on local government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

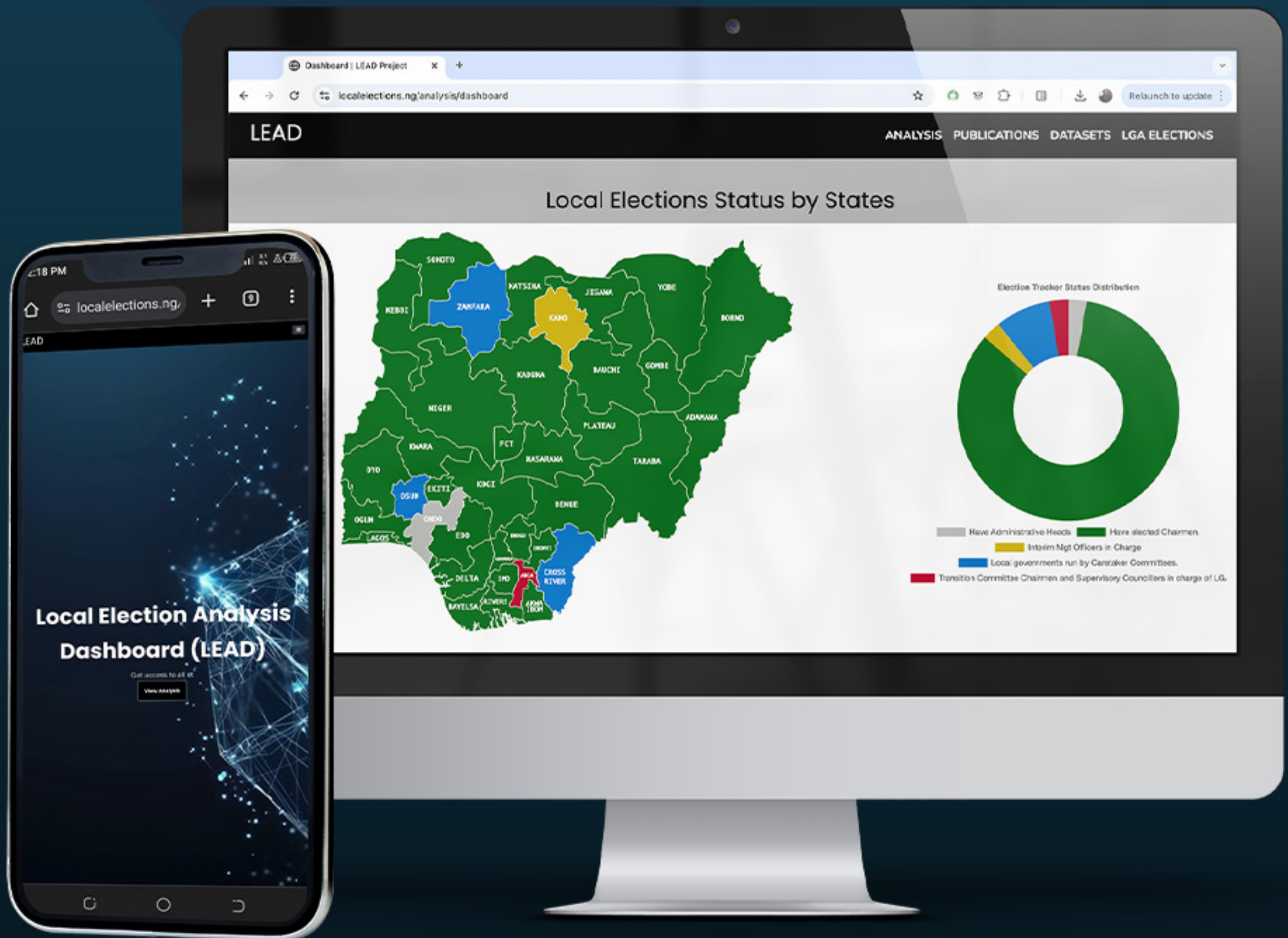
States with Democratically Elected LGA before the Supreme Court Judgement



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

1



TOTAL
NUMBER OF
LGAs

23



TOTAL
REGISTERED
VOTERS

3,537,190

Rivers
August 9,
2025



23

TOTAL
NUMBER OF
LGAs



As at 4th April, 2025

