



Preliminary Statement on the Conduct of the April 11th 2015 Gubernatorial and State Houses of Assembly Elections in Nigeria

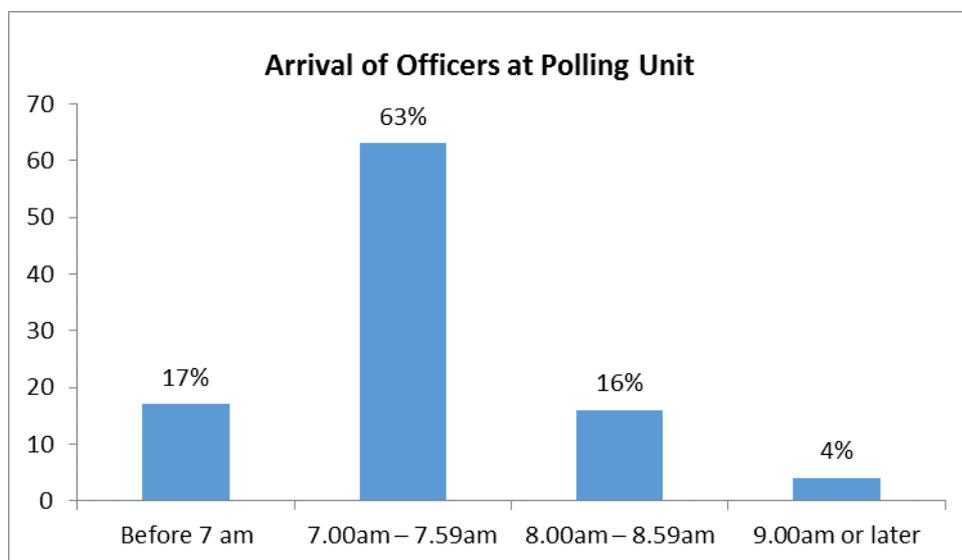
Introduction

As in every election since 2003, CLEEN Foundation deployed observers during the 2015 gubernatorial and state houses of assembly elections held on Saturday April 11, 2015. With support from Justice for All (J4A) Program of UK Department for International Development (DFID), CLEEN Foundation recruited, trained and mobilised a team of five hundred and twelve election observers to observe the conduct of security personnel in order to assess their effectiveness and adherence to the benchmark of acceptable behaviour. Furthermore, the Foundation printed and circulated posters and flyers of the abridged version of the Police Service Commission's Guidelines for the Conduct of Security Personnel on Election Duty with the aim of enlightening the police and the general public in this important exercise of ensuring effective and accountable policing during elections. This information, education and communication materials provided the public with hot-lines for complaints, report and commendation on the general conduct of the security personnel and the election proceedings in general.

This interim report presents a summary of our findings based on our observation of the 2015 Gubernatorial Elections.

Observation

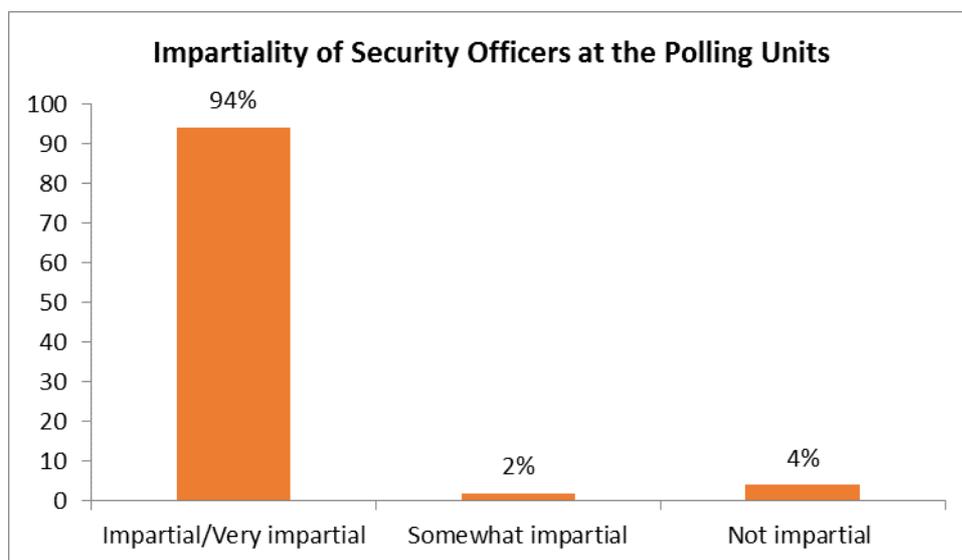
a) *Punctuality and adequacy of officers*



Compared to the 2011 general elections, there was a marked improvement in the arrival of security officials at their designated polling units; before 8:00am when they opened: 80% of security officials had already reported at their posts and 4% arrived at 9:00am or thereafter. Furthermore, nearly a half of the observed polling units (48%) had three or more security officials in attendance. Another third of the polling units (34%) had two officers while 18% had one official.

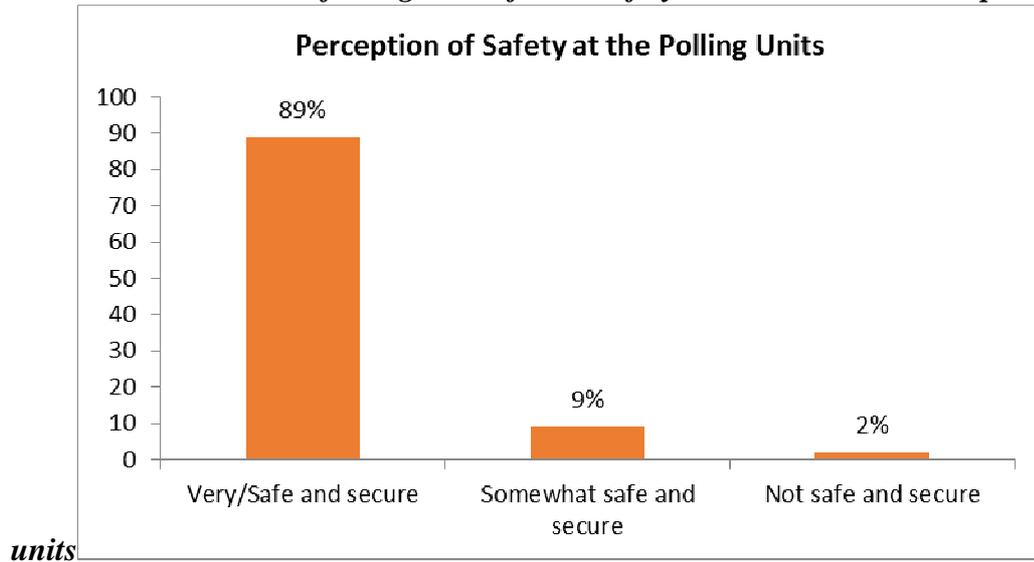
In 69% of the units, security officials remained at their post throughout the day, however, in 31% of the units, officers left for brief period, to ease themselves (64%); eat (29%) and for other reasons (7%).

b) *Civility and impartiality of officers*



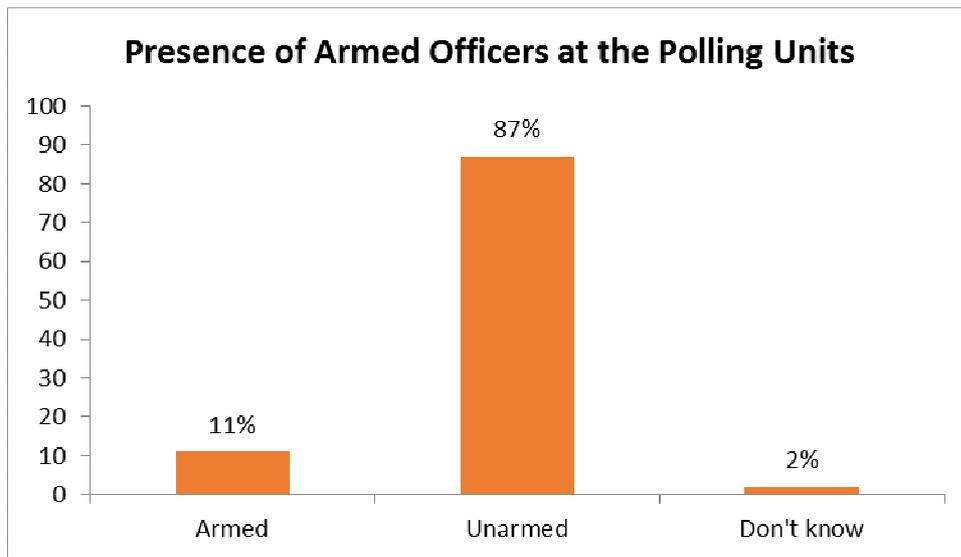
In 95% of the units observed, security officials were described as very approachable and approachable, only in 5% of units were they described as somewhat approachable. Furthermore, in 97% of the polling units, officers wore name tags that were easily identifiable to observers. Officers were described as impartial in 94% of the units. At the close of polls, security officials were reported to have provided escort for the election materials to the collation centres in 90% of the polling units.

b) *Orderliness and feeling of safety at the polling*



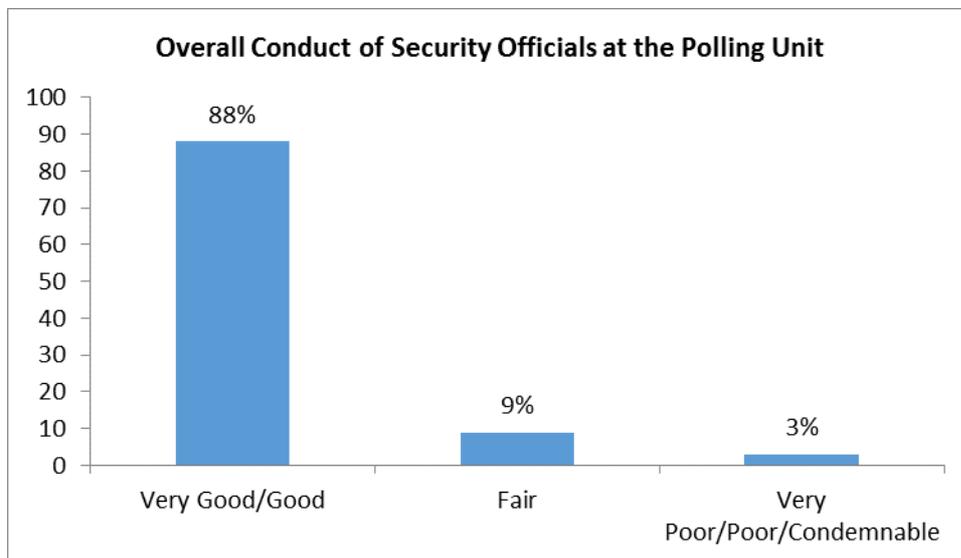
Orderliness and crowd control are essential to the election process. Observers described 89% of the polling unit as orderly. Consequently, 89% of the polling units were observed to be safe and secure. However, some polling units in Rivers, Edo, Imo, Akwa Ibom, and Abia were observed to be insecure. In 98% of the polling units, security officials complied with the instructions of presiding officers. Incidents which threaten the security of the polling unit were reported in 16% of the observed units. Observers also reported that the incidents which arose were well handled (78%) by the security officials present.

d) Use of Force



There was no use of force in 87% of the units. However, in 11% of the units, the use of force by security officials was observed; an increase of 5% compared to the trend observed during the Presidential and National Assembly Elections. Security officials bearing firearms were sighted in 11% of the polling units.

e) Overall Assessment of the Conduct of Security Officials at the Polling Unit



In the light of the findings above, the conduct of the security officials during the elections were judged as good in 88% of the polling units by the observers.

Highlights of insecurity and misconducts at Polling Units

In spite of the satisfactory conduct of security personnel, cases of insecurity and misconduct were observed in some polling units, some of which are highlighted below:

- Ballot snatching, illegal possession of ballot papers and result sheets across the country, including snatching of result sheets and attack on voters by a retired senior police officer in Urukaman LGA, Akwa Ibom.
- Cases of murder in several states including Rivers, Imo, Ebonyi, Jigawa, Katsina, Kebbi, Akwa Ibom, Abia and Lagos.
- Arson in a few states including Rivers and Ebonyi
- Violent attacks and intimidation by thugs in many states across the country.
- Killing and assault of security agents by thugs.
- Violence in polling units across Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Imo, Abia, Enugu, Katsina states.
- Isolated incidences of security officers killing thugs at polling units for example, in Ali- Kazaure Ward, Jos in Plateau state and Bayan-Dutse in Zuru LGA of Kebbi state where three people were reportedly killed by soldiers.
- Inducement of voters with money, food and other materials within polling units.

Recommendations

At the end of the 2015 Gubernatorial Elections, the following recommendations are hereby presented for improving elections security management in future elections in Nigeria:

1. Institute effective mechanisms for the investigation and prosecution of electoral offenders, especially prominent politicians, security agencies and INEC officials across the country:
2. Logistics arrangement for security officials need to be improved to ensure prompt commencement and effective conduct of security officials on election duties. In that regard, the following are imperative:
 - Adequate provision of vehicles to convey INEC and security officials as well as election materials.
 - Creation of additional polling units and voting points to improve management at the polling units that have large number of registered voters.
 - Provision of more roving patrol teams for effective support to officers on electoral duties at polling units
 - Effective response to malfunctioning polling devices, shortages of materials, power outage and other contingent facilities
 - Effective arrangement be made for the welfare and convenience of polling and security officials
 - Effective protection of ad hoc staff, particularly Youth Corp members during and immediately after elections.
3. Continuous improvement and investment in technology driven electoral process in the country.
4. Institutionalizing the monitoring of the conduct of security officials on election duty with a view to improving professionalism in election security management. In that regard, oversight agencies such as the Police Service Commission should be involved

in the monitoring and observation of the conduct of security personnel on election duty.

5. Security agencies, INEC and other election stakeholders should convene a post-election reflection session which would allow for the evaluation of the management of election security during the 2015 general elections and lay out the framework for future elections.

About CLEEN Foundation

CLEEN Foundation is a nongovernmental organisation established in 1998 and registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) in Nigeria to promote public safety, security and Justice. These priorities are pursued through the strategies of empirical research, legislative advocacy, demonstration programmes and publications in partnership with government and civil society.

Since 2003, the CLEEN Foundation has been observing the conduct of security personnel on election duty. In this role, CLEEN Foundation collaborates with the Police Service Commission, the civilian oversight agency of the police, responsible for the appointment, promotion and discipline of police officers in Nigeria.

Methodology

CLEEN Foundation observers documented their observation of the polling unit using a checklist containing several indicators pertaining to punctuality, impartiality, fairness, responsiveness and professionalism of security personnel at the polling stations. Observers also recorded incidence of misconduct and exceptional good behaviour of officials. CLEEN Foundation deployed observers in all states of the federation – including those where only the House of Assembly elections were held. We also operated three Call Centres in collaboration with the Police Service Commission from where incident reports from the field were documented and communicated to relevant agencies for prompt action.

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