Election Security
Threats Assessment
Ondo State Governorship
Election, 2020

Justice Sector Reform
Introduction

• This Election Security Threats Assessment (ESTA) report explores election risk factors in the 2020 Ondo governorship election.

• Main objective is to assist relevant stakeholders in devising and deploying appropriate responses to the risk factors.
Data and Methods

• Qualitative research design
• Use of primary and secondary data
• Primary data collected through the EVMAT (questionnaire designed by the Electoral Institute of INEC and CLEEN Foundation)
• 851 purposively selected respondents in 18 LGAs
• Equality of LGAs: 50 per LGA
Data and Methods

• Exemptions in 4 LGAs, namely Idanre (28), Okitipupa (42) and Owo (45); and Irele (0)
• Rural and urban dimensions captured
• 161 (19.75%) experts; 654 (80.24%) general public
• 345 (42.3%) male; 470 (57.7%) female
Key Findings

• Despite emerging signs to the contrary, especially violence in electioneering campaigns, fake news and hate speeches, there is a hugely impressive expectation of a peaceful election expressed by 86.4% of the respondents

• Only 4.3% of respondents thought otherwise
Key Findings

• This perception is buttressed by respondents’ views with respect to how they expect the election to go ‘on the whole’. In this regard, 82.3% of the respondents expects the election to be ‘peaceful’ or ‘very peaceful’ (Average: 84.35%).

• The possibility of a peaceful governorship election in the state is very high, especially if all the key actors discharge their responsibilities professionally and competently.
Key Findings

Yet, respondents identified election risk factors that could trigger violence if not mitigated:

- Exclusion and discrimination against the youth (92.3%)
- Undue influence of money and godfathers (86.9%)
- Activities of troublesome politicians, political parties, leaders and candidates (86.7%)
- Distribution, location and adequacy of polling units and voting points (80.4%)
- Political interference in the work of INEC (79.6%)
Key Findings

• Lack of transparency and corruption by party agents (77.5%)
• Movement/distribution of election materials (77.2%)
• Lack of transparency and disagreements over selection of party officials and candidates (76.7%)
• Overall disenchantment with the electoral process (75.1%)
• Disorderly party rallies and campaigns (73.1%)
• Resort to hate speech (72.7%)
• Widespread availability and use of hard drugs (72.2%).
Key Findings

• Actors whose in/actions could pose some security threats were also identified:

• a) Political party thugs (88.5%), b) Religious extremists/cultists/armed groups (74.9%), c) security agencies (73.3%), d) political parties (71.2%) e) the media (67.1%), f) INEC (65.0%) and g) the judiciary (64.8%)
Key Findings

• Risk factors associated with each actor:

• **Political parties:** undue influence of money and godfathers (86.9%), activities of troublesome politicians, political parties, leaders and candidates (86.7%), lack of transparency and disagreements over selection of party officials and candidates (76.7%),
Key Findings

• Political parties cont: inadequate training and corruption of party agents (77.5%), disorderly party rallies, processions and campaigns (73.1%), lack of respect for party rules (66.9%), defections and carpet crossing (65.7%), and contentious party conventions and primaries (64.7%)
Key Findings

• **INEC**: the partiality of INEC officials (83.0%), substitution of trained electoral officials (74.8%), failure to prosecute electoral offenders (72.9%), poor voter education (72.9%), movement/distribution of election materials (71.4%), distribution of PVCs (68.7%), quality of electoral officials (68.7%), underage registration (68.2%)
Key Findings

- **Security agencies**: partiality (88.1%), aggressive and excessive use of force (86.4%), inadequate or excessive presence of security agents (81.6%), poor training and low professionalism (81.4%), lack of synergy among security agents (81.0%), low sense of safety among the public (79.6%), lack of synergy between INEC and security agencies (79.5%), problems with deployment of security agents (77.2%), inadequate training and conduct of security agents (82.0%), problem with welfare of security agents (62.2%)
Key Findings

• The judiciary: corruption and integrity of the judiciary (85.4%); conflicting and contradicting court decisions (78.3%); partiality of the judiciary (77.7%), delay in the handling of pre-election cases (74.3%); capacity of the judiciary (71.2%)
Key Findings

• **Media**: Partisanship, favouritism and partiality (80.5%); misinformation of the public (79.1%); broadcasting and publishing of hate speech (77.2%); lack of professionalism (77.2%); sensationalism and provocation (74.8%); failure of regulatory bodies to ensure adherence to established rules by the media (74.7%); abuse of social media (68.6%); unequal access to media (65.7%).
Key Findings

• Overall, the expectation of a peaceful election is very high across the state
• However, there are variations across LGAs: 13 in Green, one in Ambers, three in Red
• Green: Akoko NW, Akoko SE, Akoko SW, Akure North, Ifedore, Ondo West, Ondo East, Odigbo, Irele, Ilaje, Ile Oluji/Oke Igbo, Okitipupa, Ose, Owo.
• Amber: Ese Odo
• Red: Akoko NE, Akure South and Idanre
Recommendations

• Collaboration and continuous stakeholders engagement (INEC, political parties, security agencies, mass media and CSOs)
• Intensification of political education and sensitization of citizens by stakeholders
• Effective regulation of the mass media: ensure compliance with established rules and standards; and punishment for defaulters
• Detection and punishment for the broadcasting/publishing of fake news and hate speech.
Recommendations

• Greater attention to the training, welfare and professionalism of security agents
• Effective regulation of political finance to reduce undue influence of money
• Special engagement with young people by stakeholders is critical.
• Prompt responses to the early warning signs identified in this and other related reports
• Arrest and prosecution of electoral offenders