



CLEEN
FOUNDATION
Justice Sector Reform



ANAMBRA
ELECTION **2025**

ANAMBRA 2025 GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION

SECURITY THREAT ASSESSMENT

SEPTEMBER 2025

Executive Summary



Anambra State has been part of the overall security deterioration across the country over the past decade. From 2021, security in the South East degenerated significantly due to activities of unknown gunmen, kidnappers, secessionists and other forms of violence. Anambra State was among the major centres of these evolving crimes that undermine security. The state however remain politically significant and security-sensitive. Historically, Anambra has experienced election-related violence and unrest, stemming from political rivalries and disputes over election results. It is essential to analyze the root causes of these past conflicts, such as local power struggles and external political influences, to anticipate potential threats in 2025. Current security challenges in the state involve issues with youth unemployment, which may increase the susceptibility of young people to political manipulation and violence. Additionally, the proliferation of small arms and the activities of various non-state actors, including political thugs and vigilante groups, pose critical security risks.

The role of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and its influence on the region's stability cannot be overlooked. Although IPOB activities primarily concern broader geopolitical interests, their impact on local security dynamics could affect the election process. Furthermore, the influence of social media and misinformation is expected to grow in significance during the elections. The rapid spread of rumors and fake news may potentially exacerbate conflicts. Still very fresh was the 2023 incident where a high-profile ambush targeting a U.S. consular convoy occurred in Ogbaru LGA, widely suspected to involve IPOB/ESN affiliates. This has a red flag on international election observers. Security situation further deteriorated late 2024 when sitting lawmaker Justice Azuka was kidnapped on December 24, 2024 and later found dead in February 2025.

Anambra State's electoral business cycle will mature again in November this year. Politicians and parties have started reviewing their electoral victory strategies. While the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) at the national level is eager to take over the government house in Anambra State, the All-Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), which is the ruling party in Anambra State, has waxed quite strong in the State and does not appear to be a pushover. The APC, which rules at the centre, has benefitted from the carpet crossing of several candidates who seek to bear the party's standard in the forthcoming election. Beyond these realignments, the main issue that will most likely dominate the campaign debates and condition popular choices in the election is the safety of lives and properties in the State.

CLEEN Foundation recommends the implementation of tailored early warning and response systems in high-risk communities and local government areas, targeted disarmament and prosecution of political thugs, robust voter education to combat misinformation and disinformation, professional conduct by electoral officials (INEC, security agencies, CSOs, observer groups, media & development partners) and the revitalization of local peacebuilding mechanisms. These measures are essential to restoring public confidence and ensuring a safe, inclusive, and credible electoral process.

This report serves as an advisory for stakeholders' consideration and implementation- INEC, security agencies, civil society organizations, accredited observer groups, media, development partners, presidential generals, traditional and opinion leaders committed to preventing electoral violence and safeguarding democratic institutions, standards and systems in Anambra State.

Introduction

Elections in Nigeria often reflect a mix of vibrant political engagement and persistent security threats. In Anambra State, this tension has become more acute, with recent cycles marked by violent contestation, voter intimidation, and attacks on democratic institutions. With over 6,000 polling units spread across 21 LGAs, the 2025 Anambra state governorship election is high-stakes. Armed groups, particularly secessionist elements linked to the Eastern Security Network (ESN), kidnappers and politically sponsored cult gangs are fueling instability, especially in some local government areas in the state such as Ihiala, Nnewi South, and Orumba-North. Attacks on police stations, INEC officials, and government infrastructure in areas like Aguata, Idemil- North, and Anambra-East local government areas highlight the scale of the threats.

This security threat assessment is one out of its series by CLEEN Foundation with three specific objectives (a) to identify security risk factors in the lead up to the 2025 governorship election in Anambra State; (b) to identify actors and actions that constitute threat to the peaceful conduct of the elections; (c) to proffer mitigation measures for implementation by stakeholders in response to the threats identified. Drawing on local intelligence, civil society observation and analysis, and media reporting, it offers evidence-based recommendations tailored to Anambra's unique political and security context. CLEEN Foundation remains committed to supporting stakeholders - INEC, security agencies, CSOs, observer groups, media, president generals, traditional leaders and development experts in promotion of public safety and security, accountability, protecting electoral integrity, and ensuring peaceful conduct of the 2025 governorship election in Anambra State.

Methodology

This Security Threat Assessment for November 8, 2025, Anambra State governorship election was developed using a variety of methods, qualitative approach combining desk research, expert interviews, and media content analysis. CLEEN Foundation adopted this mixed approach to ensure a comprehensive and context-specific understanding of the security threats across Anambra's 21 Local Government Areas (LGAs), with particular attention to those with a history or emerging trend of electoral violence.

This assessment draws on a combination of desk research, field intelligence, and ongoing monitoring of political and security developments across Anambra State. Emphasis was placed on high-risk LGAs such as Ihiala, Nnewi South, Ogbaru, and Awka South, where trends in violence, political mobilization, and community-level tensions have been particularly pronounced. Insights were further informed by CLEEN Foundation's early warning and observation mechanisms, which track incidents of political violence, voter intimidation, and shifts in public sentiment especially in rural and hard-to-reach areas. This approach ensured a grounded

understanding of the evolving threat landscape ahead of the 2025 governorship election.

The assessment process was guided by CLEEN Foundation's Electoral Security Framework, which focuses on four pillars: political actor behaviour, institutional preparedness, community dynamics, and security agency performance. Risk factors were coded thematically to map out high-risk LGAs, potential triggers, and vulnerable populations, particularly women and youth. The methodology ensured a triangulated analysis that reflects both structural and situational risks to the electoral process. This participatory and evidence-informed approach enabled CLEEN Foundation to develop actionable recommendations tailored to the realities on the ground. While limitations such as access restrictions in high-conflict zones and underreporting in remote LGAs existed, mitigation strategies, including remote interviews and partner validation were employed to ensure data credibility and representativeness.

Background

Anambra State is one of Nigeria's most politically active and economically vibrant states, with 21 Local Government Areas (LGAs) that reflect a diverse mix of urban, semi-urban, and rural populations. Located in the restive South-East, where the presence of IPOB and its militant wing, the ESN, contributes significantly to the region's instability. Since 2022, over 200 lives have been lost in politically or ideologically motivated violence, with Ihiala accounting for over 46 confirmed deaths.



From 2023 to mid-2024, the state recorded:

- 9 attacks on INEC facilities (Aguata, Idemili North, Anambra East).
- 14 political assassinations, including the murder of a ward chairman in Nnewi North.
- Multiple cult-related killings during party primaries (Awka South, Onitsha North).

Flooding and economic strain in Ogburu, Ayamelum, and Anambra West have further strained youth livelihoods, making them susceptible to political manipulation¹.

Since the last gubernatorial election, Anambra has recorded attacks on police stations, military checkpoints, and INEC facilities in LGAs like Idemili North, Aguata, and Anambra East. These attacks have affected the deployment of electoral infrastructure and personnel, raising questions about the state's readiness for peaceful elections².

¹ CLEEN Foundation analysis using data from Nigeria Security Tracker (Council on Foreign Relations), SBM Intelligence (2023–2024), and verified media sources (Vanguard, Daily Trust). Flood impact data sourced from NEMA/SEMA situation reports (2023).

² CLEEN Foundation. (2024). Field monitoring report: Community security and electoral risks in Anambra State. Abuja: CLEEN Foundation. Policy Weekly, Nextier

In addition, the emergence of armed cult groups in urban centres such as Awka South and Onitsha North has added to the complexity of the security landscape. Furthermore, tensions remain high within the state's political scene as various interest groups realign ahead of the elections. The recent clashes between party factions in Nnewi North and Oyi LGAs during ward congresses exemplify how intra-party rivalries can escalate into violence if left unaddressed. Politicians continue to mobilise unemployed youth and cultist gangs as instruments of intimidation, particularly in competitive LGAs.

This report provides an updated, LGA-sensitive assessment of security threats in Anambra, drawing from local intelligence, field observations, civil society insights, and open-source media reports. CLEEN Foundation presents this report to guide the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), security agencies, political actors, and other stakeholders in proactively addressing the multifaceted security risks ahead of the Saturday, November 8, 2025, Anambra State governorship election.

Political Landscape and LGA-Specific Actor Dynamics

The political environment in the lead up to the election is characterized by proliferation of aspirants, party realignments, and competition for access to power and resources. The battle for

HIGH-RISK LGAS	
LGA	Key Risks
• Ihiala:	IPOB-linked violence, sit-at-home enforcement, INEC office attacks
• Ogbaru:	Riverine insecurity, arms stockpiling, political thuggery, terrain
• Nnewi South:	Cultism, forest training camps, political assassinations
• Orumba North:	Vigilante-politician collusion, poor police coverage
• Onitsha North:	Cultist turf wars, youth gang mobilization

control within dominant parties such as the All-Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), Labour Party (LP), and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) has intensified in LGAs like Anambra East (Governor Soludo's home base), Awka South, and Idemili North, where political control is crucial for broader electoral advantage. In Onitsha South, there is increased friction between emerging Labour Party youth groups and older APGA structures. This tension was evident in the 2024 local

council consultations, where protests broke out over the alleged imposition of candidates. In Orumba South, political actors are allegedly recruiting cult gangs to control rural polling units, especially in border communities where security presence is weak.

Nnewi North, with its influential political figures and industrial elite, is witnessing heightened political rivalries that have led to sporadic violence during town hall meetings and party congresses. The assassination of a prominent ward chairman in the LGA in early 2025 remains fresh, unresolved and has caused fear among party agents and local INEC staff ³. The area may become a hotspot if early interventions are not put in place.

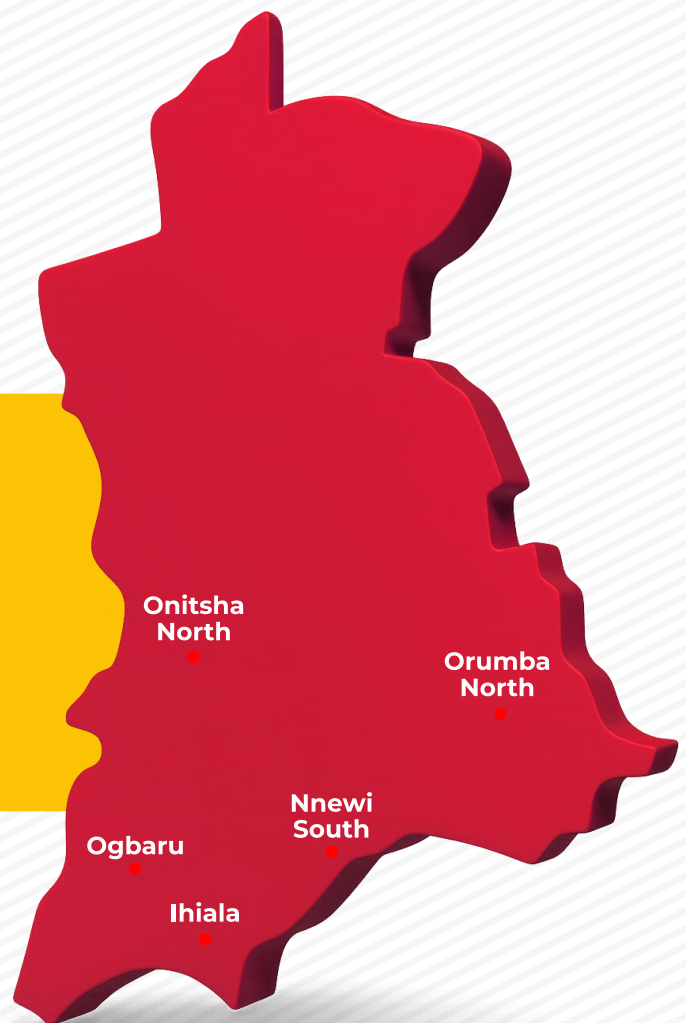
³ Punch. (2025, March 12). Ward chairman assassinated in Nnewi North. <https://www.punchng.com>

ELECTION SECURITY THREAT ASSESSMENT

ANAMBRA
ELECTION 2025

High Risk Local Govt Areas

Ihiala
Ogbaru
Nnewi South
Orumba North
Onitsha North



Election Date: November 8, 2025



Location: Anambra State



Security Situation: Violence, cultism, IPOB/ESN, thuggery, misinformation

The strategic importance of Ogbaru LGA, due to its voting population and border location, has made it vulnerable to violent political mobilisation. During the 2023 general elections, Ogbaru witnessed ballot snatching and armed intimidation in riverine communities like Ogbakuba and Atani. Political actors are allegedly stockpiling arms in these locations ahead of the next election cycle, posing a serious threat to voter turnout and INEC operations. Awka North and Dunukofia LGAs, though relatively stable, have seen rising political tension due to boundary disputes and chieftaincy crises being exploited for political gain. Politicians are reportedly sponsoring communal clashes to displace rival voting blocs. Without conflict resolution mechanisms and robust civic education in these communities, such manipulation could degenerate into large-scale violence during election season.

Emerging Flashpoints:

- **Anambra East:** Power tussles involving incumbent structures.
- **Oyi and Nnewi North:** Intra-party clashes and assassinations.
- **Awka North:** Boundary disputes being politicized.

Armed Groups, IPOB, and Non-State Actor Activity

The influence of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and its militant wing, the Eastern Security Network (ESN), remains a primary security concern in Anambra. While the group continues to deny involvement in violence, residents in Ihiala, Orumba North, Nnewi South, and parts of Anambra West have reported targeted killings, arson, and enforced sit-at-home orders allegedly carried out by suspected ESN operatives.⁴ These acts have significantly curtailed freedom of movement and civic expression.

Ihiala LGA remains the most volatile, with weekly killings and checkpoints set up by unknown gunmen enforcing movement restrictions. Residents fear being caught between security forces and armed agitators, especially following the 2024 attacks on INEC's local office and police patrols in Uli and Okija. Community leaders report declining voter registration and poor youth participation due to fear of reprisals.⁵ In Nnewi South and Aguata LGAs, ESN cells have allegedly infiltrated forest belts and rural settlements, using them as training camps. During the 2023 election, several ad hoc INEC staff were abducted and later released after negotiations through local intermediaries. Security personnel often avoid patrolling these areas at night, making it difficult for INEC to plan logistics and secure electoral materials in high-risk zones.

• IPOB/ESN Activity:

- **Ihiala:** Weekly attacks by unknown gunmen enforcing sit-at-home orders.
- **Nnewi South:** Forest camps used for training, with confirmed INEC staff abductions in 2023.
- **Anambra West:** Waterway smuggling routes, raising arms proliferation concerns.
- **Vigilantes:** In Orumba North, vigilantes fill the security vacuum but are increasingly co-opted by local politicians, creating accountability gaps.

⁴ International Crisis Group. (2024). Eastern Nigeria's Governance Crisis and Escalating Militancy. <https://www.crisisgroup.org>

⁵ SBM Intelligence. (2024). Tracking Election Violence in Nigeria: Anambra Southeast Region Update. <https://www.sbmintel.com>

In parts of Orumba North, vigilante groups have filled the gap left by overstretched police forces. While these groups have been useful in restoring local order, some are accused of operating extortion rackets and aligning with political actors. The lack of oversight and coordination with formal security agencies poses serious risks of abuse and inter-group clashes during elections. Residents of Ogbaru and Anambra West LGAs, which border Delta and Kogi states, fear spillover violence and smuggling of weapons through poorly monitored waterways. The proliferation of small arms in these areas has been flagged by civil society as a ticking time bomb ahead of the November 8th, 2025, Governorship Election. Security forces must prioritise disarmament efforts and build trust with communities to facilitate intelligence sharing.

Killings and Death Tolls

Anambra State has witnessed alarming levels of politically and ideologically motivated killings in the past two years. Between January 2022 and May 2024, no fewer than 213 persons were killed in violence linked to political unrest, secessionist activities, cult wars, and targeted assassinations, according to data compiled by the Council on Foreign Relations' Nigeria Security Tracker (2024).⁶ Ihiala alone accounted for over 46 fatalities, largely from attacks blamed on unknown gunmen enforcing sit-at-home orders and targeting government symbols. These included the ambush of security patrols and political convoys, such as the September 2023 attack that killed five persons, including two police officers, during a campaign tour in Uli.

Nnewi South and Orumba North LGAs recorded over 35 violent deaths combined, primarily due to cult rivalries and politically induced killings. The Eastern Security Network (ESN) has been accused of orchestrating multiple assaults in these areas, including the killing of three INEC ad hoc officials and local vigilante members in April 2023 (SBM Intelligence, 2023). Additionally, Ogbaru has been marked by riverine violence, including the killing of 11 persons during a confrontation between rival political thugs in Atani in December 2023.

Urban LGAs have also not been spared. In Onitsha North and Awka South, gang-related killings

Killings and Death Toll (2022–2024)		
LGA	Estimated Fatalities	Cause
Ihiala	46+	IPOB/ESN violence, political killings
Nnewi South	22	Cult violence, targeted attacks
Orumba North	13	Political clashes, vigilante abuses
Ogbaru	11	Riverine thug violence
Awka South	15	Cult killings tied to political groups
Onitsha North	13	Youth gang assassinations

⁶ Nigeria Security Tracker. (2024). Nigeria violence database. Council on Foreign Relations. <https://www.cfr.org/nigeria/nigeria-security-tracker>

linked to political cultism have led to over 28 deaths since 2022, with most victims being youth recruited during party primaries and election preparations (Vanguard, 2024). In January 2024, the State Police Command confirmed the arrest of 14 cultists following the killing of a youth leader during a party meeting in Awka. The climate of fear generated by these violent acts has resulted in voter apathy and migration from conflict-prone zones to perceived safe LGAs like Njikoka and Awka North.

While the Anambra State Government has launched countermeasures, including joint task forces and night patrols, these have achieved limited deterrence. The state continues to experience under-reporting of deaths, especially in hard-to-reach rural areas, suggesting that actual figures may be higher. Civil society organisations have called for enhanced data transparency and conflict documentation as tools to guide strategic interventions and de-escalation planning.

State Security Agencies and Electoral Readiness

Despite repeated calls for proactive planning, the operational readiness of security agencies in Anambra remains inconsistent. Police formations in areas like Ihiala, Anambra East, and Ogbaru are chronically under-staffed and under-equipped. Several police stations destroyed in the 2021–2023 unrest have yet to be rebuilt, leaving large communities with no permanent security presence.⁷ Reports from LGAs like Onitsha South and Nnewi North suggest some security personnel maintain close ties with political actors, leading to biased enforcement during political rallies and primaries. Lack of accountability mechanisms, such as electoral security observers, hotlines or complaint desks, fosters a culture of impunity and undermines public trust in the neutrality and partiality of the security forces.⁸

INEC facilities in Idemili South and Aguata have experienced vandalism and arson in recent years. Despite federal assurances, many of these locations still lack perimeter security, fire control systems, and CCTV surveillance. Such vulnerabilities could be exploited to disrupt logistics, particularly during the sensitive pre-election period.⁹ Intelligence gathering remains rudimentary in rural LGAs, where community policing structures are weak or non-existent. Many security agencies rely on reactive operations rather than strategic pre-deployment based on risk analysis. Integrating traditional rulers and local vigilantes into a formal intelligence-sharing framework could enhance early warning capacity, particularly in Orumba, Anambra West, and Awka North.

There is also an urgent need for gender-sensitive training for security officers, as reports from past elections show female voters in Ogbaru, Dunukofia, and Ayamelum LGAs face harassment and exclusion due to fear of violence or culturally rooted biases. Security planning must therefore include protocols for protecting vulnerable groups before, during, and after the elections.

⁷ CLEEN Foundation. (2024). Field monitoring report: Community security and electoral risks in Anambra State. Abuja: CLEEN Foundation.

⁸ YIAGA Africa. (2023). Watching the Vote: Post-election observation report on Anambra State. <https://www.yiaga.org>

⁹ INEC. (2024). Anambra State Election Preparedness Briefing. Abuja: Independent National Electoral Commission.

Economic hardship and youth unemployment are acute in many LGAs, particularly in Ihiala, Ogbaru, and Ayamelum, where agrarian livelihoods have been disrupted by insecurity and flooding. The economic desperation of many young men makes them susceptible to recruitment as political thugs or gang members. Political actors exploit these conditions to arm and mobilise unemployed youth during elections.¹⁰ In urban LGAs like Awka South and Onitsha North, cult-related killings have resurged. These cults, often with political sponsors, engage in turf wars that spill into school campuses, motor parks, and town halls. Their activities pose a direct threat to election security, especially as these groups have strong local intelligence networks and access to arms.¹¹

Youth Unemployment:

- Over 36% unemployment rate in youth-heavy LGAs (NBS, 2024).
- Political actors exploiting idle youth for violent purposes.

Cultural Institutions:

- Politically motivated dethronement of traditional rulers (e.g., Njikoka, Dunukofia).
- Erosion of traditional mediation mechanisms.

Misinformation & Voter Apathy:

- Viral fake news—e.g., alleged INEC bias in Anambra East—undermines trust. Increased migration from conflict zones like Ihiala to Awka and Njikoka

Traditional institutions in places like Nnewi North, Njikoka, and Dunukofia are being undermined by political divisions. Some Igwe (traditional rulers) have been allegedly suspended or dethroned due to political alliances, weakening community cohesion. Without trusted neutral mediators, local conflicts may escalate in the lead-up to the elections. Disinformation campaigns are already gaining momentum across social media platforms, targeting Anambra residents. Viral posts have falsely accused INEC officials in Anambra East of rigging primaries, while others spread secessionist propaganda to discourage voter participation. These narratives increase voter apathy, especially among first-time voters in urban centres like Awka and Nnewi.¹²

Finally, the increasing trend of migration from high-risk areas like Ihiala and Orumba North to safer LGAs like Awka South and Njikoka may distort electoral demography and burden

polling logistics. Electoral mapping and INEC planning must take population displacement and registration gaps into account to ensure equity and security on election-day.

¹⁰ Brookings Institution. (2024). Youth insecurity and elections in West Africa. <https://www.brookings.edu>

¹¹ Vanguard. (2025, January 8). Cult clashes escalate in Onitsha and Awka. <https://www.vanguardngr.com>

¹² Dubberley, S., Koenig, M., & Murray, D. (2024). Disinformation, elections, and digital militancy in Africa. Oxford Internet Institute.

Key Findings

Key findings from the security threat assessment ahead of the gubernatorial elections in Anambra state are:

- **Heightened Insecurity in Specific LGAs:** LGAs such as Ihiala, Nnewi South, Orumba North, and Ogbaru have recorded persistent insecurity, including killings, attacks on INEC facilities, enforcement of sit-at-home orders, and abduction of electoral officers. These LGAs are designated high-risk zones for electoral violence and disruptions.
- **Politicisation of Cult and Youth Gangs:** Urban centres like Onitsha North, Awka South, and Nnewi North are experiencing a resurgence of cult-related violence tied to political sponsorship. These gangs are used for voter intimidation, ballot snatching, and disruption of opponent rallies, especially during primaries and campaign periods.
- **Weak Security Infrastructure and Institutional Gaps:** Several police stations and INEC offices, particularly in Anambra East, Idemili South, and Ogbaru, remain under-resourced or unrehabilitated following past attacks. There is limited presence of security forces in rural or riverine areas, and weak inter-agency coordination undermines rapid response capacity.
- **Voter Suppression through Fear, Misinformation, and Mobility Constraints:** Fear of violence, targeted killings, and widespread misinformation campaigns—especially via social media—have suppressed voter confidence, especially in volatile areas. There is also evidence of voter migration from unsafe LGAs to more stable ones, which may skew electoral logistics and turnout.
- **Community Fragmentation and Manipulation of Traditional Institution:** Chieftaincy and communal disputes, especially in Dunukofia, Njikoka, and Orumba South, are being exploited by political actors to fracture communities and disenfranchise segments of the population. Traditional rulers are being suspended or influenced to align politically, weakening local peacebuilding structures.

Recommendations

Sequel to the findings ahead of the governorship election in Anambra State, CLEEN Foundation recommends the following:

Security Agencies

- **LGA-Specific Risk Mapping and Early Warning:** To improve preparedness in high-risk LGAs like Ihiala, Ogbaru, and Orumba North, it is essential to conduct regular, data-driven threat assessments and establish local early warning systems. These should involve community stakeholders, INEC, traditional leaders, president generals, peacebuilding structures and agencies, security agencies, CSOs and media to for timely response to security threats and prevent the escalation of violence before, during and after the election.
- **Disarmament of Politically-Linked Cult Groups:** Security agencies must prioritise the identification, disarmament, and prosecution of cult groups and their political sponsors, especially in flashpoints like Nnewi and Onitsha. Efforts should include intelligence-driven operations, legal accountability mechanisms, and youth reintegration programs to dismantle the cycle of politically motivated violence.
- **Enhance Security Infrastructure and Deployment Equity:** To ensure all LGAs are adequately protected, police stations and INEC offices in previously attacked or underserved areas—such as Anambra East, Ogbaru, and Idemili South—must be rebuilt and strengthened. Security deployments should be based on threat levels rather than political interests, with adequate resources provided for rural and riverine communities.



Government and INEC

- **Counter Voter Suppression and Misinformation:** Voter education and public sensitisation campaigns should be intensified in areas affected by fear and misinformation, such as Anambra West and Ihiala. Platforms for the campaigns should include-TV, radio, new media, town hall meetings, and collaboration with social media influencers and platforms to counter fake news and restore voter confidence.
- **Capacity Building for Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security and**

Recommendations

Security Officials: INEC staff and security personnel deployed for the November 8th, 2025, gubernatorial election should undergo specialised training on election security, conflict sensitivity, and human rights. This should include gender-sensitive approaches and trauma-informed practices, especially for deployments in high-risk or previously affected LGAs.

- **Address Voter Displacement and Access Issues:** With continued insecurity forcing people to migrate within the state, INEC should update the voter register to reflect new residence patterns and establish temporary polling access points where needed. Additionally, transport and security arrangements must be made to ensure all eligible voters can participate without fear or hindrance.



Civil Society Organisations

- **Empower Community and Traditional Institutions for Peace & Social Cohesion:** Traditional rulers, religious leaders, and community elders must be empowered to mediate conflicts and discourage political manipulation within their domains. Non-partisan support and regular dialogue forums should be introduced or revived to promote peacebuilding and social cohesion ahead of the elections.
- **Intensify Voter Education: Campaign:** CSOs should intensify efforts in educating the public on their rights, roles and responsibilities as voters and electorates towards the election; this should be done in pijin english and local dialects and widely disseminated.
- **FactCheck & Counter Misinformation:** Credible CSOs and investigative journalist should factcheck and counter misinformation before, during and post the elections. This is to promote peace and a calm atmosphere for the election.



Conclusion

The 2025 governorship election in Anambra is unfolding against a backdrop of insecurity, institutional weaknesses, and political weaponization of violence. Anambra State stands at a delicate intersection of political competition and security fragility. The resurgence of armed secessionist violence, the proliferation of politically sponsored cult groups, and the institutional weaknesses within security and electoral agencies collectively threaten the credibility, inclusiveness, and safety of the upcoming polls. While certain LGAs remain relatively stable, the cumulative effect of violence in key zones like Ihiala, Ogbaru, and Orumba could erode public confidence in the electoral process and discourage participation.

CLEEN Foundation's assessment highlights the urgency of proactive, coordinated, and localised security interventions that respond to both structural and immediate drivers of violence. Without deliberate efforts to address voter suppression, reform security deployment strategies, and restore trust in community institutions, the risks of election-day violence and post-election grievances remain high. The future of democracy in Anambra, and by extension the Southeast, depends on safeguarding citizens' right to vote without fear, while holding political actors and state institutions accountable for enabling a peaceful electoral environment. Election security is not just about policing threats, it is about restoring civic trust, inclusion, and the integrity of governance. Without urgent and coordinated intervention, the credibility of the elections and the safety of its participants are at risk. Restoring public trust will require targeted, community-specific strategies that integrate early warning, security deployment, civic



CLEEN Foundation is an indigenous NGO with offices across 6 geo-political zones in Nigeria, the organization has gained recognition for its efforts in promoting public safety and security for over 25 years. CLEEN Foundation promotes security, justice, and good governance in Nigeria.

Through our research, advocacy, capacity building, and partnership initiatives we strive to create positive change and drive sustainable development. At CLEEN Foundation there are two key focus areas promoting security, justice, and good governance, and strengthening democratic institutions. In the pursuit of a safe and just society, we work towards enhancing public safety, protecting citizens' rights and promoting accountability and transparency in governance. Additionally, it is focused on strengthening democratic institutions to ensure active citizen participation and foster a vibrant democracy.




CLEEN Foundation utilizes a multi-faceted approach that encompasses research, advocacy, capacity building and partnership/collaboration. Through rigorous research, the Foundation gain insights into the challenges faced in the areas of security, justice, and governance. CLEEN utilize these findings for evidence-based advocacy, engaging with stakeholders to drive policy reforms and institutional changes. Additionally, CLEEN Foundation prioritizes capacity building to empower individuals and organizations and foster partnerships and collaborations to leverage collective resources and expertise.

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