



MEDIA MONITORING OF ONDODECISES2020

ELECTORAL HUB DATA BANK 2/2020

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About the Electoral Hub

The Electoral Hub, an organ of the Initiative for Research, Innovation and Advocacy in Development (IRIAD), is a multidisciplinary strategic think-tank which seeks to provide solutions to improve the credibility and integrity of the electoral process. It is conceptualized to complement the roles and activities of the different institutions, stakeholders and drivers of the electoral process and governance. The Electoral Hub's aim is to strengthen electoral governance and accountability in Nigeria through the provision of data and critical analysis supporting the credibility and integrity of the electoral process. We believe that the integrity of the electoral process is crucial in improving the electoral governance architecture and democracy in Nigeria. We also believe in contextual analysis for solutions rooted in the principles of justice and equity. Our core values are knowledge-exchange, inclusion, justice, equity, transparency and accountability.

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Knowledge + Innovation + Inclusion

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Introduction

The Ondo State governorship elections conducted on 10 October 2020 led to the victory of incumbent Governor Rotimi Akeredolu of the All Progressives Congress (APC). The elections were hailed for being largely free, fair, and credible. Some highpoints of the election were: effective logistics management by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), efficient security personnel, low level of violence, use of the virtual results viewing portal, and high level of citizen involvement across the country, as evidenced by the hashtag #ONDODECIDES2020 which was trending on social media throughout the elections.

The Ondo election was also the second major election to be conducted during the coronavirus pandemic in Nigeria (after the Edo election). This makes it a useful case study for the conduct of elections during emergencies. While there was poor enforcement of COVID-19 protocols on election day, the pandemic also had positive effects in terms of the virtual citizen engagement and the use of a virtual situation room by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

In order to further deepen understanding about the Ondo elections and the factors that contributed to its success, this database has been compiled by the Electoral Hub, an organ of the Initiative for Research, Innovation and Advocacy in Development. It includes summaries of reports from civil society organisation (CSOs), international agencies, and the media, which can be used by researchers, CSOs, other election practitioners, and the general public. It is hoped that the information provided in this database will facilitate further research and solutions to improve the integrity and credibility of our electoral process in Nigeria.

Date	Source	Key Points
7.08.2020	U.S Embassy & Consulate https://ng.usembassy.gov/tag/ondo-state/	<p>U.S. Embassy Statement on the Upcoming Elections in Ondo State</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The United States urges all stakeholders to continue to work toward free, fair, transparent, and peaceful elections in Ondo State. We reiterate our hope that all participants in the democratic process, including the INEC, political parties, and the security services, will take concrete steps to ensure a peaceful election that reflects the will of the people of Ondo state.
	European Centre for Electoral Support https://www.eces.eu/en/posts/a-photo-story-ondo-state-elections	<p>A PHOTO STORY: ONDO STATE ELECTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECES election watch team witnessed first-hand the training of election staff in transmitting results to the results viewing portal using the Commission’s Zpad, a technology innovation by INEC targeted at providing real-time status of results collection process from the Polling Unit at close of polls. • Ahead of E-day, ECES within the context of the European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) component one, supported INEC to organise series of preparatory activities. • Implementers Workshops (Amber and Red Zones) for the Election Monitoring Support Centre (EMSC), Citizens Radio Town Halls on Youth and non-violent participation in elections, Sensitisation workshops for Young Female Voters. • Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) workshops for INEC staff and other electoral stakeholders, Capacity Building for

		Voter Education Providers in Ondo state as well as an important partnership with the Kukah Centre to convene the Peace Accord signing ceremony by Chairpersons and Candidates of political parties.
8.08.2020	Vanguard https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/08/inec-introduces-election-result-viewing-portal-2/	<p>INEC introduces election result viewing portal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) introduced a dedicated public election result viewing portal, known as “The INEC Result Viewing (IReV)”. • The commission said IRev would enable Nigerians to view polling unit results in real-time as voting ends on election day. • The commission announced this in a statement on Thursday issued by Mr. Festus Okoye, National Commissioner, and Chairman, Information and Voter Education Committee, after its meeting held in Abuja. • To further strengthen the transparency in the election result management system, the commission has decided to introduce a dedicated public portal, IReV that will enable Nigerians to view polling unit results in real-time as the voting ends on election day.
10.08.2020	Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/ssouth-west/407938-ondo-2020-deputy-governor-ajayi-desperate-pdp.html	<p>Ondo 2020: Deputy Governor Ajayi desperate – PDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The People’s Democratic Party (PDP) in Ondo State has reacted to the defection of the state’s deputy governor, Agboola Ajayi, to the Zenith Labour Party (ZLP), saying he is desperate to be governor.
20.08.2020	BluePrint	Ondo guber: INEC commences training of EOs, others

	<p>https://www.blueprint.ng/ondo-guber-inec-commences-training-of-eos-others/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has commenced the training plan for Ondo state governorship election scheduled for 10th October, 2020 with the Electoral Officers (EOs). • The training organised by the Electoral Institute (TEI) in partnership with International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES) commenced Thursday at the Royal Bird Hotel, Akure, Ondo State. • The IFES Country Director, Hermann Thiel in his goodwill message acknowledge the efforts the commission in making and mproving the quality and integrity of the electoral process especially the scanning and transmission of polling unit results.
<p>31.08.2020</p>	<p>Centre for Democracy and Development https://www.cddwestafrica.org/ondo-election-cdd-others-call-on-inec-to-intensify-voters-education/</p>	<p>Ondo election: CDD, others call on INEC to intensify voters' education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) has called on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to intensify voters' education ahead of the October 10, 2020, Ondo governorship election. • The centre during a roundtable meeting organised for Civil Society Organisations in Ondo State on Thursday, August 27, 2020, on the 2020 off-cycle governorship election in Ondo State said voter education is key to getting election process right in a democracy.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the meeting, the CSOs observed that the high level of violence during the LGA election has created a tense environment ahead of the governorship poll.
04.09.2020	<p>The Guardian https://guardian.ng/news/ondo-election-buhari-tasks-apc-to-return-akeredolu-governor/</p>	<p>Ondo election: Buhari tasks APC to return Akeredolu governor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Muhammadu Buhari Friday urged the governing All Progressives Congress to work diligently towards returning governorship candidate of the party, Rotimi Akeredolu, for a second term in office. The President, who presented the party’s flag to the candidate at the Presidential Villa, said the reconciliation process in the state branch of the party had provided a solid ground for an easier victory for the candidate than he achieved in his first term. While assuring Akeredolu of the party’s full support, the President said a peaceful and fair election that reflects the will of the people should be uppermost, urging adherence to the regulations of the Independent National Electoral Commission and protocols of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control.
05.09.2020	<p>Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/ssouth-west/412591-ondo-2020-apc-flags-off-campaign.html</p>	<p>Ondo 2020: APC flags-off campaign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The All Progressives Congress (APC) on Saturday in Akure officially flagged off the campaign of its candidate, Gov. Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, for the October 10 gubernatorial election in Ondo State.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The governor warned the people not to vote for “those who would come to ruin the gains that had been entrenched in the last three and a half years across the state.”
05.09.2020	<p>Channel Tv https://www.channelstv.com/2020/09/05/the-masses-are-with-us-pdp-confident-of-victory-in-ondo-election-says-jegade/</p>	<p>‘The Masses Are with Us’: PDP Confident of Victory in Ondo Election, Says Jegede</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidate of the Peoples’ Democratic Party for the forthcoming governorship election in Ondo State, Eyitayo Jegede on Saturday said his party was confident of victory. “The people of Ondo state have now seen the negative effects of APC administration,” Jegede said. “If they are sure of their position, then they should not have threatened violence, they shouldn’t have said they are relying on federal might, which is what they have been saying all along. “The masses are with us and they should not impose any violence on the state; let’s have a free and fair election, any day, any time APC will go down.
05.09.2020	<p>Sahara Reporter http://saharareporters.com/2020/09/05/we-need-money-petroleum-ministry-finance-ondo-election-and-you-must-deliver-akeredolu</p>	<p>We Need Money from Petroleum Ministry to Finance Ondo Election and You Must Deliver, Akeredolu Tells Sylva</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ondo State governor, Rotimi Akeredolu, has said that the All Progressives Congress needs fund from the Ministry of Petroleum Resources to fund the upcoming governorship election in the state. Akeredolu made this known in Akure on Saturday during a rally for his re-election campaign at the Akure Township Stadium.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He said, “I welcome all ministers, my friend Sylva is here, we need money. He is the Minister of Petroleum Resources and he must deliver.”
07.09.2020	<p>Pulse https://www.pulse.ng/news/politics/ondo-election-pdp-governorship-aspirant-resigns/lxt1e8c</p>	<p>Ondo election: PDP governorship aspirant resigns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Banji Okunomo, a People’s Democratic Party (PDP) governorship aspirant in the 2020 Governorship Election in Ondo State, has resigned his membership from the party. • Okunomo, a former Publicity Secretary of the PDP in the state, announced his resignation and planned defection to the Zenith Labour Party (ZLP) on Monday in Okitipupa. • He told newsmen in Okitipupa that he would <u>defect to ZLP officially</u> with no fewer than 15,000 members across the 18 local government areas, at a later date.
07.09.2020	<p>Business Day https://businessday.ng/politics/article/ondo-2020-home-grown-group-to-organise-governorship-debate-for-candidates/</p>	<p>Ondo 2020: Home-grown group to organise governorship debate for candidates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the October 10 gubernatorial election in Ondo state draws closer, a coalition of civil society organisations, media, labour, professional bodies, and religious bodies on Monday said it had concluded arrangements to organise a debate for governorship candidates in the forthcoming election in the state. • Speaking at a press conference at the NUJ Press Centre, Alagbaka Akure, Gbenga Abimbola said the purpose of the debate was creating a credible platform for an effective interface

		<p>between candidates and the people in the first instance, and among the candidates themselves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to Abimbola, “The event, which will hold on 29th of September and 4th of October, will be broadcast live on Radio and Television stations based in the state as well as on digital platforms. <p>“There is no gainsaying the fact that public debates among candidates seeking elective positions have become a norm in advanced democracies and is gradually being embraced in Nigeria, though a relatively new idea.”</p>
08.09.2020	<p>This Day Live https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/09/08/again-ig-warns-politicians-against-undermining-edo-ondo-gov-elections/</p>	<p>Again, IG Warns Politicians against Undermining Edo, Ondo Gov Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Mohammed Adamu, yesterday warned politicians involved in the governorship elections in Edo and Ondo States scheduled for September 19 and October 10, 2020, respectively to desist from acts capable of undermining the elections. • He also read the riot act to the commanders of the 79 Mobile Police Squadrons across the country to be deployed for the election to operate strictly within the dictates of the Electoral Act, exhibit high-level of professionalism, be non-partisan, and embrace a civil orientation to the electorate. • This is coming as the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has disclosed that the materials for the two

		elections are ready, promising to provide a level- playing field for all the parties.
9.09.2020	Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/ssouth-west/413475-ondo-2020-inec-seeks-armed-personnel-near-polling-units.html	<p>Ondo 2020: INEC seeks armed personnel near polling units</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Independent National Electoral Commission said on Wednesday that it would be deploying a total of 17,000 electoral personnel for the conduct of the October 10 governorship election in Ondo State. • The National Commissioner for Information and Voter Education, Festus Okoye, made this known at training for journalists ahead of the election, themed, Ondo 2020 Governorship Election: Election Process/Procedure, held in Akure, the Ondo State capital. • He noted that policemen deployed at the polling units are not allowed to bear arms within the voting area, but a fresh discussion was ongoing to ensure the presence of armed security men not too far away from the polling units. • Mr Okoye also restated INEC’s position that it would not postpone the election for fears of Covid-19 infection, arguing that the commission was constrained by the provisions of the Constitution not to do so.
9.09.2020	Punch NG https://punchng.com/ondo-poll-inec-recruits-17000-ad-hoc-staff/	Ondo poll: INEC recruits 17,000 ad hoc staff

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ahead of the October 10 governorship election in Ondo State, no fewer than 17,000 persons would be recruited as ad-hoc staff for the poll by the Independent National Electoral Commission. • According to the commission, the recruits comprised 15,000 corps members and 5,000 undergraduates of the federal higher institutions in the country.
10.09.2020	<p>Vanguard https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/09/ondo-party-supporter-machete-to-death-for-putting-on-partys-face-cap/</p>	<p>Ondo 2020: Man macheted to death for putting on party’s face cap</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than a month to the governorship election in Ondo state, one person has been killed while many others were injured during a bloody clash between supporters of the ruling All Progressive Congress APC and the Zenith Labour Party ZLP in Idanre area of the state. • Vanguard gathered that the death of the ZLP member led to demonstrations by other members of his party while the activities at the popular Alade Regional Market was disrupted for hours as market women ran helter sketter • Consequently, meetings to douse the political tension and stop inter-party clashes were held by stakeholders in the town. The leaders in the town pleaded that the electoral violence be stopped forthwith
10.09.2020	<p>Business Day https://businessday.ng/politics/article/ondo-2020-inec-to-deploy-17000-ad-hoc-staff/</p>	<p>Ondo 2020: INEC to deploy 17,000 ad-hoc staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), on Wednesday revealed that 17,000 ad- hoc staff would be engaged

		<p>for the October 10 governorship election in Ondo State. The INEC National Commissioner and Chairman, Information and Voters Education Committee, Festus Okoye made the disclosure in Akure at a workshop organised for journalists in the state on election processes and procedures in line with Covid-19 protocols.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The global pandemic has led to the acceleration in the use and application of technology in the electoral process. Prior to the pandemic, the commission maintained an electronic voter register and carried out electronic verification and accreditation of voters using the Smart Card Reader. “With the pandemic, the commission has introduced additional measures and innovations aimed at improving the transparency of the electoral process especially in collation and transmission of election result,” Okoye said. • “There shall be a two-tier queuing system at the polling unit one outside and the other in the voting area. Voters will be brought into the voting area periodically to prevent overcrowding. Tags and twines may be used to ensure crowd control and maintenance of social distance,” he said. • Contrary to speculations that National Youths Service Corps (NYSC) members would no longer be used for elections, Okoye said 15,000 corps members would be deployed as polling officers out of the 17,000 ad-hoc staff.
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	<p>Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/ssouth-west/414080-ondo-2020-secondus-mocks-akeredolu-as-pdp-flags-off-campaign.html</p>	<p>Ondo 2020: Secondus mocks Akeredolu as PDP flags off campaign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Chairman of the <u>Peoples’ Democratic Party</u>(PDP), Uche Secondus has claimed that the incumbent governor of Ondo State, Rotimi Akeredolu, can only win re-election if the October 10 governorship poll is rigged. • Mr Secondus disclosed this on Saturday at the official campaign flag-off for its candidate, Eyitayo Jegede, ahead of the election. • The campaign took place at M.K.O Abiola Democracy Park, in Akure, the state capital. There were hundreds of supporters from the 18 different local government areas of the state at the rally • “There would be a new face of Ondo State after I have been sworn in February 2021, there would be a reduction in school fees, there would be a reduction in hospital bills, there would be jobs for the youths, our economy will grow, vote for the PDP on October 10, 2020”. • It would be recalled that Mr Jegede earlier contested for the same office in 2016 under the umbrella of the same party but he came second. He is again contesting with 16 other candidates from different political parties.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Jegede major challengers are Mr Akeredolu of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) and Eyitayo Jegede of the Zenith Labour Party (ZLP).
12.09.2020	<p>Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/ssouth-west/414069-ondo-2020-inec-fire-incident-an-attempt-to-undermine-election-credibility-adc.html</p>	<p>Ondo 2020: INEC fire incident an attempt to undermine election credibility – ADC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <u>African Democratic Congress</u> (ADC) has said that the fire incident that occurred at the head office of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Akure, the Ondo State capital on Thursday is an attempt to undermine the credibility of the forthcoming governorship election. • PREMIUM TIMES reported that the fire, which was allegedly caused by an electricity surge, burnt no fewer than 5,141 card readers. • Earlier, INEC spokesperson, Festus Okoye, told PREMIUM TIMES that the incident would not affect the upcoming election • “The ADC as a party considers this (fire incident) very dramatic and an act of arson. The ADC as a party condemns, in all ramifications, this barbaric act that is likely coming from the ruling party with the sole purpose of destabilising the process of a free, fair and credible governorship election. • “The fire incident is an attempt to undermine the credibility of the electioneering process and ADC request that the Federal Government must replace the damaged smart cards before 10th October 2020, this is because manual vote counting would be most unacceptable in the coming election”

<p>12.09.2020</p>	<p>Vanguard https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/09/ondo-2020-any-attempt-to-rig-election-wouldve-dire-consequences---group/</p>	<p>ONDO 2020: Any attempt to rig election would've dire consequences — Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A group, Progressive Professionals Forum (PPF) has warned that any attempt to rig the forthcoming governorship election in Ondo State would have dire consequences. • The group which was reacting to the fire incident at the state headquarters of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) where 5,114 card readers meant for next month governorship election were burnt called for a probe into the incident. • A statement issued by its national publicity secretary, Hassan Isiaka, also called for a probe into “the activities of the state Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) and an INEC Commissioner, Festus Okoye, whose visit to Ondo State coincided with the fire outbreak. • While alerting the international community to what it called plans to manipulate the card readers to get predetermined results in Ondo State, the group warned that any attempt to rig the October governorship election would have disastrous consequences for the country as a whole.
<p>13.09.2020</p>	<p>This Day https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/09/13/ondo-2020-pdp-challenges-buhari-to-ensure-credible-election/</p>	<p>Ondo 2020: PDP Challenges Buhari to Ensure Credible Election</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Peoples’ Democratic Party (PDP) yesterday challenged President Muhammadu Buhari to ensure a free and fair election in the forthcoming Edo and Ondo State Governorship elections

		<p>saying time is up for All Progressives Congress government in Nigeria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Besides, the opposition party decried governance deficits under the government of All Progressives Congress (APC) at the federal and state levels.
13.09.2020	<p>Business Day https://businessday.ng/politics/article/ondo-2020-zlp-candidate-ajayi-accuses-akeredolu-of-frustrating-partys-campaign-rally/</p>	<p>Ondo 2020: ZLP candidate, Ajayi, accuses Akeredolu of frustrating party’s campaign rally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidate of the Zenith Labour Party (ZLP) in the forthcoming October 10 governorship election in Ondo State, Agboola Ajayi, has alleged that his boss, Oluwarotimi Akeredolu was frustrating all efforts of his party to hold its campaign rally in Akure. Ajayi, who is the deputy governor of the state, said his boss, Akeredolu had introduced policies that never existed in the state before in order not to allow him kick start his campaign rally at the state capital. The state governor, has however, denied the allegation, describing it as tissue of lies. But Tobi Ogunleye, special adviser to the governor on transport, who spoke with BusinessDay on the allegation, said: “The allegation started on the premises of lies because the issue of N11million did not in anywhere arise. That is number one lie; please ask them to give you the authentic story.
15.09.2020	<p>The Guardian https://guardian.ng/news/uk-to-seize-assets-impose-visa-ban-on-election-riggers-in-edo-ondo/</p>	<p>UK to seize assets, impose visa ban on election riggers in Edo, Ondo</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The United Kingdom has threatened to seize assets and impose visa restriction on individuals that are caught rigging during the Edo and Ondo State governorship elections. • “As a friend and partner of Nigeria we are closely following the lead up to the off-cycle governorship elections in Edo and Ondo states scheduled for September 19 and October 10 respectively,” the British High Commission in Nigeria said in a statement. • “The UK takes a strong stand against election-related violence and, just as we did in the general election in 2019, will continue to take action against individuals we identify as being responsible for violence during the elections. • “This could include restrictions on their eligibility to travel to the UK, restrictions on access to UK based assets or prosecution under international law.” • The threat by the UK came a day after the United States said it has imposed a visa ban on some Nigerians culpable for rigging during the Kogi and Bayelsa State governorship elections in 2019.
15.09.2020	<p>European Union to Support Democratic Governance in Nigeria</p> <p>http://democracy-support.eu/nigeria/posts/inec-live-citizens-radio-town-hall-ondo</p>	<p>Live Citizens Radio Town Hall on Youth and Non-Violent Participation in Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeting to improve youth representation in the electoral and political space, ECES within the context of the European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria(EU-SDGN), supported the #INEC Nigeria to organise a “Live Citizens Radio Town Hall on Youth And Non-Violent Participation In

		<p>Elections” ahead of the 10th October 2020 Governorship election in Ondo state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The activity highlighted the need for concerted and sustained efforts at engaging youth in Ondo State by way of mass sensitization and robust voter education through the traditional media in order to positively influence their attitude and behaviour, thereby promoting an atmosphere of non-violent election in Ondo state, while shaping their perception on governance through enlightened participation. • Minimising violent conduct especially from the youth constituency formed the basis of interactions at the citizens town hall with callers emphasizing the need to change the disturbing narrative of youth engagement as mercenaries for perpetration of electoral malpractices. • The town hall which saw the participation of the Mrs. Dorothy Lakunya Bello, INEC Deputy Director, CSO, Youth and PWD Division, Sylvestre Somo, ECES Senior Project Officer, Akintayo Faniran, Actor and INEC Youth Ambassador, implementing partners of the EU-SDGN programme, Civil Society representatives among others.
16.09.2020	<p>Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/ssouth-west/415182-ondo-2020-akoko-violence-meant-to-assassinate-me-jegede.html</p>	<p>Ondo 2020: Akoko violence meant to assassinate me – Jegede</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The governorship candidate of the People’s Democratic Party (PDP), in Ondo State, Eyitayo Jegede, has described the attack on his campaign train at Oba Akoko by supporters of the All Progressives Congress as an attempt on his life.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He told journalists in Akure on Wednesday that the firing of bullets sporadically at his vehicles by suspected political thugs confirmed insinuation that some elements wanted to murder him before the election day. • He said he had laid complaints before the State Security Services and the state Commissioner of Police on the matter.
17.09.2020	The Guardian https://guardian.ng/news/ondo-election-inec-moves-6000-smart-card-readers-from-oyo-office/	<p>Ondo election: INEC moves 6,000 smart card readers from Oyo office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), says it has ordered for a transfer of over 6,000 smart card readers from its Oyo state office to Ondo for the smooth conduct of the Oct. 10, governorship election in Ondo state • Okoye, was responding to questions on alternative plans the commission was putting in place for the Ondo election, given the destruction by fire of 5,141 smart card readers in its Ondo office
17.09.2020	Sahara Reporter http://saharareporters.com/2020/09/18/group-asks-police-call-parties-participating-ondo-election-peace-talk	<p>Group Asks Police To Call Parties Participating In Ondo Election To Peace Talk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the violent clash between supporters of the All Progressives Congress and the Peoples’ Democratic Party in Ondo State, the Oodua Youth Coalition has asked the police to call leaders of the political parties to a peace parley to avoid further violence ahead of the October 10 governorship poll in the state.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group said the continued clash between supporters of the APC and PDP had become a source of concern to stakeholders. • On Wednesday, supporters of the two political parties clashed, leaving destruction and apprehension in its trail. • No fewer than 20 branded vehicles belonging to PDP and the APC were destroyed while scores of supporters sustained injuries during the violent crash • Also, Zenith Labour Party has condemned brutal attacks on supporters mostly in the Idanre Local Government Area of the state. • "We in the Odua Youth Coalition believe in the tolerance entrenched in the tenet of our democracy and advise that every political party convey their programs to the people without intimidation. • "We also call on the security agents to live to their mandate of securing the lives and properties of the people of Ondo State during this election period. • "We want to also mandate the security agencies as a matter of urgency to call a peace meeting among political parties to forestall further occurrence."
18.09.2020	<p>Legit https://www.legit.ng/1367065-ondo-2020-deputy-governor-ajayi-denies-alleged-alliance-pdp.html</p>	<p>Ondo 2020: Deputy governor Ajayi denies alleged alliance with PDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barely two days after the reported alliance between the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the Zenith Labour Party (ZLP)

		<p>ahead of the Ondo governorship election, the state deputy governor, Agboola Ajayi, has denied the alleged plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun newspaper reports that Ajayi said the alleged alliance with the PDP candidate, Eyitayo Jegede, is a figment of the imagination of those making the claim. • Legit.ng gathered that he said those who reported the claim in the media are paid disinformation agents of the state government. • In a statement issued by the chief press secretary to the deputy governor, Babatope Okeowo, he said the publication was planted by Governor Rotimi Akeredolu.
18.09.2020	<p>Guardian https://guardian.ng/news/we-are-well-prepared-for-edo-ondo-elections-says-inec/</p>	<p>We are well prepared for Edo, Ondo elections, says INEC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) yesterday said it had made adequate preparations for the Edo State governorship election scheduled for tomorrow • The commission, which met yesterday to further review preparations for the Edo and Ondo states elections as well as all outstanding bye-elections, said all sensitive materials for the Edo poll had left the custody of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Benin City for the various Local Government Areas in the state.
18.09.2020	<p>All News https://allnews.ng/news/ondo-decides-2020-agboola-part-of-apc-s-failed-administration-jegade8105</p>	<p>Ondo Decides 2020: Agboola Part Of APC's Failed Administration – Jegede</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eyitayo Jegede, the candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) at the forthcoming election in Ondo state has said that Ajayi Agboola, the candidate of the Zenith Labour Party (ZLP) and the state's deputy Governor is part of the Rotimi Akeredolu-led All Progressives Congress (APC) failed administration. • Jegede who said this while explaining why he didn't pick Agboola as his running mate further revealed that Agboola's ambition was to become a Governor. • “Ajayi chose not to be my deputy. His ambition is to be a governor under a political party. He left the APC, came to PDP, defeated in our primary, and went to ZLP.
18.09.2020	<p>Ab-TC https://ab-tc.com/ondo-election-governor-akeredolu-distributes-customized-ludo-and-slippers-to-voters/</p>	<p>Ondo Election: Governor Akeredolu Distributes Customized Ludo And Slippers To Voters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ahead of the upcoming October 10 gubernatorial elections in Ondo State, governorship candidates have started campaigning. • The latest happening right now is the incumbent governor, Rotimi Akeredolu’s campaign team sharing branded Ludo game kits and slippers to voters to coerce voters in the coming elections.
19.09.2020	<p>Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/ssouth-west/415968-ondo-2020-agboola-ajayi-best-candidate-for-good-governance-mimiko.html</p>	<p>Ondo 2020: Agboola Ajayi, best candidate for good governance – Mimiko</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agboola Ajayi is the incumbent deputy governor and the ZLP's governorship candidate • The former governor of Ondo State and national leader of the Zenith Labour Party (ZLP), Olusegun Mimiko, has given

		<p>reasons why Agboola Ajayi, the incumbent deputy governor and the party’s governorship candidate, should be elected as the next governor in the state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Mimiko disclosed that if elected, Mr Ajayi would “restore” good governance and reform civil service for employment opportunities for resident • According to the News Agency of Nigeria, the immediate past governor advised the people of Ondo State to “stay away from vote buying and don’t be intimidated by stolen funds of the opposition. Ajayi will bring good governance and jobs.” • Speaking on his promises for the people, Mr Ajayi vowed to reduce tuition fees of the state tertiary institution from N150,000 to N50,000 and also improve the civil service system. • “We will create a civil service revolving credit scheme for civil servants who desire to build houses and buy cars. We believe this will serve as support for them.” • He promised to also carry out some infrastructural development.
20.09.2020	<p>This Day https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/09/21/ondo-ready-to-emulate-edo-says-jegade/</p>	<p>Ondo Ready to Emulate Edo, Says Jegede</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Governorship Candidate in October 10, 2020 Election in Ondo State, Mr. Eyitayo Jegede SAN has said that the people of Ondo State were ready to emulate the people of Edo State to reject the poor leadership of the All Progressives Congress (APC) led administration in the Sunshine State.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jegede, who expressed personal joy at the victory of Governor Godwin Obaseki in Saturday’s election in Edo State, said the result of the election was a manifestation of the people’s conviction that the PDP is the credible alternative, that can provide good governance for the people.
21.09.2020	<p>The Nation https://thenationonlineng.net/ondo-2020-im-focused-on-winning-says-sdp-candidate/</p>	<p>Ondo 2020: I’m focused on winning, says SDP candidate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The governorship candidate of the Social Democratic Party, Prince Peter Oyeleye Fasua, has said that he is focused on winning the October 10 governorship election and would not be distracted by activities of the big political parties. • Prince Fasua who insisted that there was no crisis within the Ondo SDP described the parallel primaries held by a faction of the party as ‘a get-together party. • Fasua who spoke in a chat with our reporter stated that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) recognised his candidacy and issued him the necessary code. • He said the SDP adopted the evangelism style of the campaign so as to be able to talk about his policies and programmes to people in their houses • On alleged plans to collapse structure for the APC, Fasua vowed to continue the battle of winning the election to the end.
21.09.2020	<p>Guardian https://guardian.ng/news/ondo-2020-there-is-gang-up-against-us-apc-spokesman/</p>	<p>Ondo 2020: There is gang up against us – APC spokesman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The All Progressives Congress (APC), in Ondo State, says it has uncovered plans by some political parties to employ crude

		<p>means to destroy the image of the party, ahead of the Oct. 10, gubernatorial polls.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The unholy alliance is informed by the fact that the political parties perceive APC as a common enemy because they are jittery over the rising profile of the ruling APC, on account of its performance. • “To achieve this, it was further gathered, the parties are to lay at the doorstep of the ruling party all forms of violence and acts of thuggery that will be carried out by their sponsored agents. • “Political leaders will do well to avoid making inflammatory statements that are capable of spurring their followers in unjustifiable and uncivilised actions.
23.09.2020	<p>Sahara Reporter http://saharareporters.com/2020/09/23/we-dont-need-thugs-guns-win-ondo-election---apc</p>	<p>We Don't Need Thugs, Guns To Win Ondo Election —APC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He said the APC was aware of an "uncoordinated blackmail" from the Peoples Democratic Party and Zenith Labour Party ahead of the governorship election in the state on October 10. • The All Progressives Congress in Ondo State has said that it does not need thugs or guns to win elections in the state. • “The governor of the state and APC flagbearer, Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, will never be a man to go about with thugs, guns or be a party to violence of whatever colouration • "Violence and thuggery are not in the character of the APC. It is astonishing to hear the PDP accused the ruling party of

		<p>promoting a do-or-die approach to the election, which is actually their second name.</p>
23.09.2020	<p>Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/ssouth-west/416618-ondo-2020-deputy-governors-aide-resigns-joins-akeredolus-team.html</p>	<p>Ondo 2020: Deputy governor’s aide resigns, joins Akeredolu’s team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the media aides of the Ondo State deputy governor and candidate of Zenith Labour Party (ZLP) Agboola Ajayi, has resigned his appointment. • The aide, Yemi Akintomide, disclosed that he is ready to support the second term agenda of Governor Rotimi Akeredolu in the <u>All Progressives Congress (APC)</u>. • Reacting to this, Mr Ajayi, through his spokesperson, Tope Okeowo, in an interview with PREMIUM TIMES said Mr Akintomide “has never been part of us. • “He’s free to go. He’s just forcing himself on us before now. He has never been with us,” the spokesperson told our correspondent.
23.09.2020	<p>Guardian https://guardian.ng/news/ondo-election-sensitive-materials-to-arrive-akure-oct-5-inec/</p>	<p>Ondo election: Sensitive materials to arrive Akure Oct. 5 – INEC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) says sensitive materials for Ondo State Governorship election will arrive Akure on Oct. 5. • So, we will deploy the same technology to upload results, real-time, from all the 3, 009 polling units, all the 203 Wards and the 18 Local Government Areas of Ondo state,” Yakubu said.
24.09.2020	<p>Vanguard https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/09/ondo-2020-rigging-not-part-of-our-plans-apc-tells-wike/</p>	<p>Ondo 2020: Rigging, not part of our plans, APC tells Wike</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The All Progressives Congress, APC, in Ondo State, Friday, optimism that it will win the October 10 governorship election in the state without resorting to rigging the poll • In a statement by its Publicity Secretary, Alex Kalejaye, the party said it will continue to appeal to the people of Ondo State to renew the mandate given its candidate four years ago, considering the efforts of the APC-led government to reposition the State. • Governor Nyesom Wike of Rivers State, in a Television programme in Port Harcourt on Thursday, alleged that APC in Ondo State has perfected plans to rig the governorship election. • But reacting to the governor’s statement, the APC said it is of the view that such a statement could only emanate from a man who never believed that elections could be won without crude intimidation, violence, and rigging.
24.09.2020	<p>European Centre for Electoral Support https://www.eces.eu/en/posts/alternative-dispute-resolution-workshop-for-religiouscommunity-leaders-youth-associations-2</p>	<p>Alternative Dispute Resolution Workshop For Religious/Community Leaders & Youth Associations – 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • within the context of component one of the European union support to democratic governance (EUSDGN), the European Centre for electoral support (ECES) supported the alternative dispute resolution directorate of INEC to organise a one-day sensitization workshop on alternative dispute resolution for religious and community leaders as well as youth associations in

		<p>Ondo state ahead of the 10th October 2020 governorship elections.</p> <p>the aim of the training was to sensitize participants on the potential benefits of alternative dispute resolution in resolving electoral disputes. the training was facilitated by two dispute resolution specialists, Mr. Iloyd Duru and Dr Aminu Adamu Bello as well as ECES senior electoral administration expert, Dr Isiaka Yahaya.</p>
25.09.2020	<p>The Nation https://thenationonlineng.net/ondo-2020-new-game-plans-for-apc-pdp-others/</p>	<p>Ondo 2020: New game plans for APC, PDP, others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the conclusion of the governorship election in Edo State and the emergence of Governor Godwin Obaseki of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) as the winner, political parties and their gubernatorial candidates have redirected their efforts towards the governorship election taking place in Ondo State next month. Consequently, political activities are expected to further heat up in the coming days and weeks across the nooks and crannies of the sunshine state. • “The two parties will have to return to the drawing board and see how lessons from Edo election will help them next month,” a source said. • According to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), a total of 17 of the 18 registered political parties are participating in the Ondo governorship election fixed for 10th October, 2020.

- The list of parties and candidates on the INEC website has Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu as the candidate of the APC, the State Deputy Governor, Agboola Ajayi, as the candidate of the Zenith Labour Party (ZLP) with Eyitayo Jegede as the PDP candidate. And in spite of the presence of 14 other parties in the race, most pundits and observers insist the guber election is a three horse race among the three aforementioned candidates and parties.
- While Akeredolu of the APC is the incumbent governor and is expected to benefit immensely from the incumbency factor as well as the popularity of his political party in the state, his supporters are insisting that his performance in the last four years will garner the votes for him come October 10.
- But supporters of the PDP candidate disagree with claims that the governor has done well. It is for this reason they want Jegede to be given the opportunity to come in as governor on October 10. PDP State Publicity Secretary, Kennedy Ikantu Peretei, accused Akeredolu of arrogance, corruption, clannishness, selfishness, blackmail, poor performance, infrastructural decay and abandonment of the projects of the immediate past PDP administration
- “The people are prepared to vote and also resist rigging. The choice before the people now is between prosperity and poverty. It is between educated children and school drop outs. It is between darkness and light. For those who witnessed the giant

		<p>strides of the previous PDP government in our state, Akeredolu’s score card has given victory to Eyitayo Jegede (SAN) and our party, the PDP, in the October gubernatorial election,” Peretei boasted.</p> <p>For those who still see Ajayi and his party, the ZLP, as serious contenders in the race, the popularity of both the gubernatorial candidate and the leader of the party, former governor Olusegun Mimiko, across the state, as well as an expected close race between APC and PDP, remain the major reasons. ZLP supporters vow the party will win massively in Ondo South and Ondo Central where Ajayi and Mimiko hail from respectively, come October 10.</p>
25.09.2020	<p>NaijaNews https://www.naijanews.com/2020/09/25/ondodecides2020-inec-begins-media-accreditation-ahead-of-october-10/</p>	<p>#OndoDecides2020: INEC Begins Media Accreditation Ahead of October 10</p> <p>The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has announced the accreditation of media houses for the Ondo State governorship election.</p>
29.09.2020	<p>Gardaworld https://www.garda.com/crisis24/news-alerts/384386/nigeria-multiple-injured-in-political-violence-in-ondo-state-september-28</p>	<p>Nigeria: Multiple injured in political violence in Ondo state September 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 10 people were injured and dozens of vehicles were destroyed on Monday, September 28, in the Owo area of Ondo state due to political fighting in the town. Additionally, at least 20 vehicles and multiple motorcycles were destroyed during the skirmishes. The People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the All

		<p>Progressive Congress (APC) both blamed each other for the events.</p> <p>Both sides claimed the other initiated the attacks, who were largely identified by the political branding of their clothing. Further attacks are possible over the near term.</p>
29.09.2020	<p>Vanguard https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/09/2020-ondo-guber-election-yiaga-releases-1st-pre-election-report/</p>	<p>2020 Ondo Guber Election: Yiaga releases 1st pre-election report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the report, Yiaga Africa has been observing the political environment and conduct of political stakeholders as part of its Pre-Election Observation. The Pre-Election Observation commenced in August 2020 with the deployment of Long-Term Observers (LTOs) in all 18 eighteen LGAs of the State. • The report also explained that these LTOs are observing campaign activities and preparatory activities of all actors involved in the process including the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, security agencies, National Orientation Agency, NOA, and Civil Society Organisations, CSOs. • Given the fact that electoral politics in Nigeria is traditionally characterized by the tension-soaked atmosphere, outbreaks of violence, coupled with zero-sum politics which are high stakes and confrontational in nature, the PREO also identified potential security threats prior to the October 10 election.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The findings in this first reporting phase reveal heightened levels of political intrigues, counter-strategies, and violence.
29.09.2020	<p>All Africa https://allafrica.com/stories/202009290168.html</p>	<p>Nigeria: Ondo Guber Election - IG Pledges to Consolidate On Gains of Edo Poll</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ahead of the October 10 governorship election in Ondo State, the Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Mohammed Adamu, yesterday assured the nation of the determination of the police to ensure another peaceful election in the state. <p>He said he would replicate the gains recorded by the force and other security agencies in the recently concluded governorship election in Edo State</p>
29.09.2020	<p>European Union Support to Democratic Governance http://democracy-support.eu/nigeria/posts/ondo-state-training-of-community-voter-education-providers</p>	<p>Ondo State Training of Community Voter Education Providers - 29-30 September 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For an election to be successful and democratic, the voter must understand that to vote is this right and responsibility. Aware about the inclusiveness (minority, PWD, IDP and other marginalizing group) and the non-partisan of voter education. <p>Voter education should take into account factors such as high rates of illiteracy or the use of different languages in a country, making clear that suffrage is universal. A specific attention must be directed to the women and the youth.</p>

<p>30.09.2020</p>	<p>Channels TV https://www.channelstv.com/2020/09/30/ondo-election-apc-accuses-pdp-of-violence-in-owo/</p>	<p>Ondo Election: APC Accuses PDP Of Violence In Owo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The All Progressives Congress (APC) in Ondo State have accused the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) of attacking its party properties in Owo the hometown of Governor Rotimi Akeredolu. • They also accused some supporters of the opposition party of shooting at passers-by and damaging their vehicles, shops and other building in an attack reportedly carried out on Tuesday evening • According to reports, the APC campaign train was at Oka-Akoko in Akoko South West Local Council Area when the violence broke out. • The police have confirmed that an arrest have been made in connection to the attack, although the suspect absorbs himself of any violent engagement. • Meanwhile, PDP candidate in the upcoming Ondo governorship election, Eyitayo Jegede had earlier condemned the attack on his campaign train in Owo. • Jegede who was speaking to newsmen at his campaign office in Akure alleged that some suspected thugs allegedly working for the APC attacked his supporters in Ipele and Owo during the campaign. <p>According to Jegede, many PDP supporters were reportedly wounded while a campaign truck was set ablaze in Owo.</p>
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<p>30.09.2020</p>	<p>This Day https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/09/30/ondo-guber-yiaga-africa-raises-the-alarm-over-rising-violence/</p>	<p>Ondo Guber: Yiaga Africa Raises the Alarm over Rising Violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given the pervasive threat to safety and security in the coming October 10 governorship election in Ondo state , a civil society coalition group, the Yiaga Africa has urged the federal and state government to desist from partisan use of the police and security forces to manipulate the electoral process. • The civil society group said that there was a wave of under reported violence going on in Ondo state, especially the incidence of verbal and physical attacks and vandalilism in Akure South, Akoko South-East, Idanre, Owo and Akoko South West local government areas of the state. • Yiaga Africa observers reported incidents of physical violence and verbal attacks trailing political party campaigns. At least one incident of physical and/or verbal attacks during political party rallies, meetings and campaigns occurred in Akoko South-West, Akure South, Idanre, Owo and Akoko South-East LGA. In addition, there were reports of vandalism/destruction of properties such as cars, belonging to candidates and/or supporters, by perceived opponents.” <p>The group said that specific cases of voter inducement were reported in Akoko South West, Akure South, Akoko South-East, Akoko North West, Ifedore and Odigbo LGAs, where only “39% (1,822,346) of the entire population are registered to vote, a good number of registered voters 1,478,460 (81.1%) have collected their PVCs. This implies that only about 31.6% of the populations are eligible to participate in this</p>
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		year’s governorship poll. Since 2011, voter turnout has not exceeded 35% in Ondo state”.
3.10.2020	<p>Punch</p> <p>https://punchng.com/rigging-inec-marks-270-ondo-coastal-polling-units-as-flashpoints/</p>	<p>Rigging: INEC marks 270 Ondo coastal polling units as flashpoints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the Commission’s preparations towards a peaceful election in Ondo State on October 10, the Independent National Electoral Commission says it has enlisted the help of the military, police and other security agencies to flush out threats to the peaceful conduct of the exercise, especially in the creeks and other black spots in the state. <p>In a bid to ensure a peaceful exercise in the flashpoints, Okoye said, “The police, Navy and other security agencies have been mandated to engage in clearance operation and flush out groups and individuals that threaten the peace of the state and the electoral process especially in the creeks and other black spots.</p>
5.10.2020	<p>Premium Times</p> <p>https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/ssouth-west/418632-ondo-2020-inec-warns-officials-to-be-professional-apolitical.html</p>	<p>Ondo 2020: INEC warns officials to be professional, apolitical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Mahmoud Yakubu, has warned its officials, ad-hoc and regular staff to be professional, apolitical and non-partisan in discharging duties assigned to them during the forthcoming Ondo State governorship election. Mr Yakubu gave the warning on Monday in Akure during a stakeholders’ meeting with political party officials, traditional rulers, election observers and other officials.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He further stated that the Commission is committed to ensuring that the choice of who becomes the next governor of Ondo State is entirely in the hands of the voters and assures all eligible voters that every vote cast will count and only the choice made by the people of Ondo state will determine the outcome of the election.
5. 10.2020	<p>Pulse NG https://www.pulse.ng/news/politics/ondo-election-inec-says-only-voters-will-determine-result/0xqt5cl</p>	<p>INEC chairman says only voters will determine Ondo governorship election winner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Mahmood Yakubu, says no undue influence will be allowed to weigh on the upcoming Ondo governorship election. <p>He further stated that INEC has recruited, trained and screened all categories of ad hoc staff for the election, and delivered non-sensitive materials to all the 18 local government areas of Ondo ahead of the October 10 election.</p>
6.10. 2020	<p>Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/ssouth-west/418736-just-in-ondo-2020-akeredolu-jegade-others-sign-peace-accord.html</p>	<p>Ondo 2020: Akeredolu, Jegede, others sign peace accord.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The peace accord signing ceremony held on Tuesday in Ondo State capital, Akure. • The peace accord signing was facilitated by the National Peace Committee.

		<p>The candidates who signed the peace accord were Rotimi Akeredolu of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Eytayo Jegede of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Agboola Ajayi who is contesting under the banner of Zenith Labour Party (ZLP).</p>
6.10.202	<p>This Day https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/10/06/ondo-election-ig-to-deploy-33783-policemen/</p>	<p>Ondo Election: IG to Deploy 33,783 Policemen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ahead of the October 10 governorship election in Ondo State, the Inspector General of Police (IG), Mr. Mohammed Adamu, yesterday authorised the deployment of 33, 783 personnel for the purposes of election security. • Speaking at a stakeholders’ meeting in Akure ahead of the election, Adamu, said the deployment would comprise 30,933 conventional police personnel and 2,850 special police units. <p>He said the security agents would provide protection for the personnel and assets of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), the electorate, and the residents of Ondo State in general before, during and after the elections.</p>
8.10.2020	<p>The Africa Report https://www.theafricareport.com/</p>	<p>Ondo state polls set to be a tight race for ruling APC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The race for the Ondo Government House is largely seen as a contest between the APC and the PDP. But a third force, the ZLP, may yet spring a surprise. • A total of 17 political parties were cleared by the Independent National Electoral Commission for the election. While the APC, PDP, and ZLP had embarked on massive campaigning across

		<p>the state, the other 14 parties have either remained inactive or thrown their weight behind any of the big three.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ondo, one of Nigeria’s oil-rich states, has been governed by four different political parties since 1999. By winning the election, the APC will be the only party to have governed beyond eight years in the state. <p>Having lost in Edo State last month to the PDP, the APC is hoping to stamp its authority on this contest ahead of the 2023 general election.</p>
8.10.2020	<p>Vanguard https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/10/inec-begins-distribution-of-sensitive-materials-ahead-of-ondo-poll-amidst-tight-security/</p>	<p>INEC begins distribution of sensitive materials ahead of Ondo poll amidst tight security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) commenced the distribution of sensitive materials to various local government areas across Ondo State for Saturday’s election.
8.10.2020	<p>Nigerian Tribune https://tribuneonlineng.com/ondo-2020-inec-commences-distribution-of-sensitive-materials/</p>	<p>Ondo 2020: INEC Commences Distribution of Sensitive Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 48 hours to the governorship election in Ondo State, representatives of political parties participating in the election were at the office of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to witness the distribution of the sensitive materials.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The representative of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Hon Victor Olabitan commended the INEC over the smooth exercise saying the distribution was okay. • Hon Debo Ologunagba who is the Peoples’ Democratic Party (PDP) agent also described the distribution as seamless, saying “Sensitive documents have been packaged. INEC also gave us a checklist to cross-check and everything is there.” • The representative of the Zenith Labour Party (ZLP), Tunde Atere, said, “We are here to witness the distribution of sensitive materials. Everything is intact.
9.10.2020	<p>Centre for Democracy and Development https://www.cddwestafrica.org/cdd-pre-election-report-2020-ondo-state-off-cycle-governorship-elections/</p>	<p>CDD Pre-Election Report: 2020 Ondo State Off-Cycle Governorship Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In view of the success of the Edo state election, the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) through its dedicated Election Analysis Cen • +tre (EAC) has been observing and analyzing key processes in the Ondo State Governorship elections to determine the extent to which they substantially measure up to and conform with national, African and international codes and standards defining the conditions for free and fair elections. • The defection of Akereolu’s Deputy, Agboola Ajayi to the PDP in the hopes of clinching the governorship ticket. The development has generated a complex web of alliances, intrigues and political maneuverings entangling the elections.

		<p>For example, the Deputy Governor’s defection created a third force, likely to have substantial votes from each of the two major parties, the governing APC and the PDP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDD observation of the pre-election environment in Ondo State indicates that the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), and the Okada Riders’ Association will play a major role in the complex web of alliances, that will drive the elections. • CDD observers report that there was disproportionate more political advertising by the APC than by any other party. This advertising is particularly evident in the display of public billboards and campaign posters, and kindred advertisements and features on the state television and radio in the major towns and urban areas of the state.
<p>9.10.2020</p>	<p>This Day https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/10/09/ondo-guber-race-a-three-way-contest/</p>	<p>Ondo Election 2020: The Countdown Begins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) in Ondo State, Mr. Rufus Akeju, has expressed confidence that the commission is ready and prepared for Saturday’s governorship election, saying that it will be free, fair and transparent. • Yiaga Africa has released details of elections, saying that majority of the registered voters of 48 per cent are youths in the age range of 18 – 35. • Speaking in an interview with THISDAY in his office in Akure, the state capital, Akeju said: “As we speak, everything required

		<p>statutorily has been put in place for the registered voters in the state to vote for candidates of their choice on Saturday.</p>
<p>9.10.2020</p>	<p>Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/more-news/419375-profiles-know-the-candidates-for-ondo-2020-election.html</p>	<p>Profiles: Know the candidates for Ondo 2020 election</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The race to the Alagbaka Government House, however, is widely seen as a tight contest between three lawyers from three different senatorial districts and three major political parties in the state. • The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has 17 political parties on the ballot papers for the October 10 governorship election in Ondo State. • Rotimi Akeredolu (APC), the incumbent governor is seeking re-election under the banner of the APC. He had earlier served the state as attorney-general and was also a former president of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA). • Agboola Ajayi (ZLP) is a popular grassroots politician who has been in the game since the 80s under the Social Democratic Party (SDP), PDP and APC. • Eyitayo Jegede (PDP) hails from Akure, the capital of the state, in Ondo Central senatorial district. He was the Chancellor of Anglican Communion of Jalingo, Taraba State. Mr Jegede is also a former Chancellor of Anglican Dioceses of Yola and a member of the Implementation Committee of the American University, Yola, Adamawa State, as well as a member, Chairman Board of Governors, ABTI Academy International

		<p>School and member, Board of Trustees, Elizade University, Ilara Mokin, Ondo State.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dotun Ojon (YPP) The Young Progressive Party’s (YPP) candidate is the youngest person in the race. The 38-year-old candidate is a journalist and from the minority Ese-Odo council of Ondo South District. He worked with many media organisations before moving into politics and is popular among the youth of the state. • There is no information about the candidates of the AA – Joshua Adewole, APGA guber candidate – Olowoloba Dele APM – Aminu Akeem, APP’s governorship candidate – Olaoluwa Adesanya and LP’s candidate, Taiwo Okunade. Others, NPP’s candidate – Eniola Ojajuni, NRM’s candidate – Jenyo Atanuoko, and PRP’s candidate – Francis Alli., while the SDP’s candidate, Peter Fasua, said he has stepped down.
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5. 10.2020	<p>Pulse NG https://www.pulse.ng/news/politics/ondo-election-inec-says-only-voters-will-determine-result/0xqt5cl</p>	<p>INEC chairman says only voters will determine Ondo governorship election winner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Mahmood Yakubu, says no undue influence will be allowed to weigh on the upcoming Ondo governorship election. • He further stated that INEC has recruited, trained and screened all categories of ad hoc staff for the election, and delivered non-sensitive materials to
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		all the 18 local government areas of Ondo ahead of the October 10 election.
6.10. 2020	Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/ssouth-west/418736-just-in-ondo-2020-akeredolu-jegede-others-sign-peace-accord.html	<p>Ondo 2020: Akeredolu, Jegede, others sign peace accord.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The peace accord signing ceremony held on Tuesday in Ondo State capital, Akure. • The peace accord signing was facilitated by the National Peace Committee. • The candidates who signed the peace accord were Rotimi Akeredolu of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Eyitayo Jegede of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Agboola Ajayi who is contesting under the banner of Zenith Labour Party (ZLP).
6.10.202	This Day https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/10/06/ondo-election-ig-to-deploy-33783-policemen/	<p>Ondo Election: IG to Deploy 33,783 Policemen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ahead of the October 10 governorship election in Ondo State, the Inspector General of Police (IG), Mr. Mohammed Adamu, yesterday authorised the deployment of 33, 783 personnel for the purposes of election security. • Speaking at a stakeholders’ meeting in Akure ahead of the election, Adamu, said the deployment would comprise 30,933 conventional police personnel and 2,850 special police units.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He said the security agents would provide protection for the personnel and assets of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), the electorate, and the residents of Ondo State in general before, during and after the elections.
8.10.2020	<p>The Africa Report https://www.theafricareport.com/</p>	<p>Ondo state polls set to be a tight race for ruling APC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The race for the Ondo Government House is largely seen as a contest between the APC and the PDP. But a third force, the ZLP, may yet spring a surprise. • A total of 17 political parties were cleared by the Independent National Electoral Commission for the election. While the APC, PDP, and ZLP had embarked on massive campaigning across the state, the other 14 parties have either remained inactive or thrown their weight behind any of the big three. • Ondo, one of Nigeria’s oil-rich states, has been governed by four different political parties since 1999. By winning the election, the APC will be the only party to have governed beyond eight years in the state.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having lost in Edo State last month to the PDP, the APC is hoping to stamp its authority on this contest ahead of the 2023 general election.
8.10.2020	<p>Vanguard</p> <p>https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/10/inec-begins-distribution-of-sensitive-materials-ahead-of-ondo-poll-amidst-tight-security/</p>	<p>INEC begins distribution of sensitive materials ahead of Ondo poll amidst tight security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) commenced the distribution of sensitive materials to various local government areas across Ondo State for Saturday’s election.
8.10.2020	<p>Nigerian Tribune</p> <p>https://tribuneonlineng.com/ondo-2020-inec-commences-distribution-of-sensitive-materials/</p>	<p>Ondo 2020: INEC Commences Distribution of Sensitive Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 48 hours to the governorship election in Ondo State, representatives of political parties participating in the election were at the office of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to witness the distribution of the sensitive materials. • The representative of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Hon Victor Olabitan commended the INEC over the smooth exercise saying the distribution was okay. • Hon Debo Ologunagba who is the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) agent also described the

		<p>distribution as seamless, saying “Sensitive documents have been packaged. INEC also gave us a checklist to cross-check and everything is there.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The representative of the Zenith Labour Party (ZLP), Tunde Atere, said, “We are here to witness the distribution of sensitive materials. Everything is intact.
<p>9.10.2020</p>	<p>Centre for Democracy and Development https://www.cddwestafrica.org/cdd-pre-election-report-2020-ondo-state-off-cycle-governorship-elections/</p>	<p>Cdd Pre-Election Report: 2020 Ondo State Off-Cycle Governorship Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In view of the success of the Edo state election, the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) through its dedicated Election Analysis Cen • +tre (EAC) has been observing and analyzing key processes in the Ondo State Governorship elections to determine the extent to which they substantially measure up to and conform with national, African and international codes and standards defining the conditions for free and fair elections. • The defection of Akeredolu’s Deputy, Agboola Ajayi to the PDP in the hopes of clinching the governorship ticket. The development has generated a complex web of alliances, intrigues and political maneuverings entangling the elections. For example, the Deputy Governor’s defection

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