



MEDIA MONITORING OF EDODECIDES2020

ELECTORAL HUB DATA BANK 1/2020

Media Monitoring of EDODECIDE2020

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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.



Introduction

The Edo State governorship elections conducted on 19 September 2020 led to the victory of incumbent Governor Godwin Obaseki of the People's Democratic Party (PDP). Some highpoints of the election were the low level of violence in contrast to the tense pre-election environment, the use of an online portal to transmit election results to the public, and the high level of citizen involvement across the country, as evidenced by the hashtag #EDODECIDES2020 which was trending on social media throughout the elections.

The Edo election was also one of the first elections to be conducted during the coronavirus pandemic in Nigeria, which 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 the sense that it forced some innovations such as the use of a virtual situation room by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to monitor the elections and respond to queries.

In order to further deepen understanding about the Edo 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) as well as 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
19.08.2020	Centre for Democracy and Development https://www.cddwestafrica.org/de-escalate-growing-tension-ahead-of-edo-election-cdd-tells-politicians/	<p data-bbox="1149 504 2089 563">New Allegiances, Familiar Faces A Preview of Edo's 2020 Gubernatorial Election</p> <ul data-bbox="1200 611 2089 1380" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1200 611 2089 738">• At the centre of the slide in the credibility of the process is the desperation by political parties to capture power, and by extension, the apparatus of the state, through manipulation or outright subversion of the election process. <li data-bbox="1200 746 2089 906">• Worryingly the pre-election environment in Edo State is witnessing the same trend of intemperate rhetoric, mudslinging and character assassination, which characterised recent flawed gubernatorial elections. A lot of the tension is being generated by intra party struggles for the control of key structures ahead of the election <li data-bbox="1200 914 2089 1313">• The fallout between Oshiomhole and his erstwhile political godson and incumbent governor, Godwin Obaseki has cast the election as a personal political supremacy battle between the godfather and his dissenting godson. Shortly before the dissolution of the APC National Working Committee, which he led, Oshiomhole allegedly influenced the Edo State Governorship Primary Screening Committee to disqualify Governor Obaseki from contesting on the APC governorship ticket. The political disagreement between Oshiomhole and Governor Obaseki came to a head with the disqualification of the latter from contesting in the party's primary election on 12 June. Governor Obaseki reacted to his disqualification by defecting, along with his deputy, to the PDP a week later. <li data-bbox="1200 1321 2089 1380">• It is not only the APC that has had its internal squabbles or defections. The APC candidate, Osagie Ize-Iyamu, contested for the

		<p>2016 Edo State governorship election on the platform of the PDP. In his explanation of the reasons for his decision to return to the APC, Ize-Iyamu stated that the PDP had been in disarray, a situation he claimed made it necessary for him to “return home” by re-joining the APC. In terms of geo-political origins within the state, both Obaseki and Ize-Iyamu are from Edo-South Senatorial districts and both candidates picked their running mate from Edo North Senatorial District, leaving Edo Central, as a key battleground for votes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fight over who controls of the Edo State House of Assembly, which has been an ongoing battle since the 2019 general elections has also heightened tensions. On 17 June 2019, the Edo State House of Assembly was controversially inaugurated with only 10 out of the 24 members inaugurated. • Those sitting and making laws for the state were said to be loyal to Obaseki while the remaining 14 legislators who remain loyal to former National Chairman, Oshiomhole were excluded from the legislative process. On August 3, there was a crack in the ranks of the pro-Obaseki lawmakers when Yekini Idiaye, deputy speaker in the pro-Obaseki legislative camp and two other previously pro-Obaseki legislators declared support for the governorship bid of Ize-Iyamu. This raised the number of legislators in the pro-Oshiomhole-Ize-Iyamy camp to 17. Idiaye was subsequently mpeached by six lawmakers in the pro-Obaseki House for his actions. • CDD observers report that instead of issue-based campaigning the political parties and their candidates have largely focused their messaging around praising their preferred candidate, while impugning the character of the opposing party candidate. • Since the start of the campaign there has been rampant defacing or outright destruction of campaign billboards. • CDD has observed several instances the use of government vehicles for the purpose of campaigning. This is in flagrant disregard for the provisions of the Electoral Act
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20.08.2020	<p>Nigerian Tribune https://tribuneonlineng.com/inec-hints-of-cancellation-of-ondo-edo-polls-if/</p>	<p>INEC Hints of Cancellation of Ondo, Edo Polls If...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Commissioner and Chairman Information and Voter Education Committee of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Mr Festus Okoye, has again dropped the hint of cancellation of the Edo and Ondo governorship polls in the event of violence. • Okoye who spoke in Benin yesterday at a one-day seminar for journalists advised politicians to eschew violence as there is no alternative to the peaceful conduct of the two-forthcoming election

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He warned that anybody buying or selling votes may likely be arrested by security agents present at the polling booths. • The commissioner added that no political parties should be allowed to use violence, money and intimidation to truncate the will of the people
21.08.2020	<p>Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/south-south-regional/410092-edo-poll-governorship-candidate-dumps-party-defects-to-pdp.html</p>	<p>Edo Poll: Governorship candidate dumps party, defects to PDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The candidate of the Accord Party in the September 19 governorship election in Edo State, Godday Idahosa, has defected to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). • He described Governor Godwin Obaseki as a great man, saying that his developmental stride prompted his defection to PDP. • “Our governor is doing well. He is a great man and he deserves to be re-elected. Even the sun and moon will cooperate to work for his success. • “In this election, my supporters and I are going to work for Obaseki. I am leading hundreds of my supporters to PDP today,” he said.
21.08.2020	<p>This Day https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/08/21/edo-poll-pdp-urges-un-eu-to-sanction-gambari-oshiomhole/</p>	<p>Edo Polls: PDP Urges UN, EU, to Sanction Gambari, Oshiomhole</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Peoples’ Democratic Party (PDP) yesterday charged the United Nation (UN), the European Union (EU) and other international bodies to place visa restriction on the Chief of Staff to the President, Prof. Ibrahim Gambari; a former National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Mr. Adams Oshiomhole, and other individuals as punishment for allegedly plotting to truncate democracy and good governance in Nigeria. • The PDP’s position was informed by the ongoing controversy over a video that has gone viral in which Gambari and Oshiomhole were allegedly plotting how to rig the forthcoming governorship election in Edo State. • In the video, which the presidency has dismissed as fake, Oshiomhole was allegedly telling Gambari to arrest top PDP leaders in Edo State to facilitate APC being victorious in the election.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, despite the presidency’s clarification and assurances by President Muhammadu Buhari and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to ensure free and fair poll in the state, the PDP called on the international community to deny visas to members of the APC for plotting to endanger democracy and enthrone bad governance. • “The interest and will of the people of Edo State should be paramount in all decisions and that should guide any action either by the INEC or the government. PDP remains vehemently opposed to any postponement of Edo and Ondo States governorship elections. September 19 and October 10 should be sacrosanct.” • He said: “Let it be known, and clearly too, that the PDP is standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the people of Edo State to resist Oshiomhole’s fake police and other fake security operatives they are planning to import into Edo for the September 19 election.
21.08.2020	The Guardian.ng https://guardian.ng/politics/edo-governorship-election-apc-tasks-gov-obaseki-on-peaceful-polls/	<p>Edo governorship election: APC tasks Gov. Obaseki on peaceful polls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The All Progressives Congress (APC) has called on Gov. Godwin Obaseki of Edo to ensure fair and peaceful process in the Sept. 19 governorship election • According to Obahiagbon, nobody’s ambition was worth the blood of any Edo resident. • “The protection of the integrity of the Edo Governorship election from the brooding and sprawling violence is a collective obligation.
21.08.2020	Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/south-south-regional/410108-political-tension-in-edo-may-lead-to-state-of-emergency-inec.html	<p>Political tension in Edo may lead to state of emergency – INEC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has warned that the fierce political tension brewing in Edo State ahead of the September 19 governorship poll may lead to a declaration of a state of emergency in the state, if not carefully managed. • Mr Okoye said the commission was ready for the Edo election but pleaded with leaderships of the political parties and their supporters to sheathe their swords and maintain the peace for a hitchfree poll. • “We don’t want anybody to jeopardise their health during the exercise and the commission will continue to fine tune the electoral process

		<p>within the ambit of the Constitution. We have advised political parties not to play with end-of-tenure elections because anything that disturbs election from being conducted and concluded on or before November 10 will create constitutional crisis that may lead to a state of emergency,” Mr Okoye said.</p>
22.08.2020	<p>Naija24/7 news online https://naija247news.com/2020/08/22/edo-governorship-election-centre-inec-urge-youth-to-shun-violence/#.X0OzRS2Q1PM</p>	<p>Edo Governorship Election: Centre, INEC urge youth to shun violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES) and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on Saturday called on the youths in Edo to resist being used for election violence in the state. • Yahaya said the initiative was to sensitise the youth on the need to take part in the electoral process to guarantee their future. • “We are saying that the youths of Edo should not allow themselves to be used as thugs by politicians for their personal political gains. • “They should not mortgage their future by allowing politicians to use them as agent for vote buying. • “If you take statistics of past election violence, you discover that the youths themselves are mostly the victims,” he said
24.08.2020	<p>Legit.ng https://www.legit.ng/1359135-we-deal-plotting-disrupt-edo-election-obaseki-says.html</p>	<p>We will deal with those plotting to disrupt Edo election, Obaseki says</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will deal with those plotting to disrupt Edo election, Obaseki says • Governor Godwin Obaseki of Edo state has threatened to deal with the people allegedly plotting to disrupt the forthcoming governorship election in the state. • The governor claimed that he defied intelligence reports asking him to suspend his campaign in the area • He urged members of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and his supporters not to succumb to any threats. • Similarly, the Edo state PDP campaign council has raised the alarm over alleged plans by the All Progressives Congress (APC) to intimidate electorates and cause mayhem ahead of the Edo governorship election. • According to the PDP, two branded buses have already been deployed from Kogi state to execute the plan

24.08.2020	<p>All Africa https://allafrica.com/stories/202008240081.html</p>	<p>Nigeria: We Have No Interest in Edo Gov'ship Poll – Presidency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The presidency said yesterday that it has no partisan interest in the forthcoming governorship election Edo State billed for September 19. • The PDP, in the last few days, had been holding several press briefings over a video clip showing the chief of staff to the President, Ibrahim Gambari, chatting with former national chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Adams Oshiomhole, along a walkway in the presidential villa. • But a top presidency source told State House correspondents that the opposition party made a mistake by trying to malign the person of the president's chief of staff, stressing that all the efforts directed at discrediting Gambari have failed in the face of his solid credibility.
24.08.2020	<p>The Street Journal https://thestreetjournal.org/2020/08/leaked-video-pdp-calls-out-presidency-over-oshiomholes-arrest-comment/</p>	<p>Leaked Video: PDP calls out Presidency over Oshiomhole's arrest comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Peoples Democratic Party national campaign council for Edo Governorship Election has called out the Buhari Presidency over a trending video allegedly showing former All Progressives Congress, APC, national chairman, Adams Oshiomhole and the Chief of Staff to the President, Ibrahim Gambari discussing the “arrest” of unnamed persons. • The amateur video showed Oshiomhole walking briskly alongside Gambari, with the former Edo state governor saying, “Arrest...deal with and the whole will change,” while Gambari responded saying “we will go beyond...” • Addressing a press conference at the party's headquarters on Tuesday, national publicity secretary of the party, Kola Ologbondiyan said the arresting comment may not be unconnected with the September 19 governorship election in Edo state. • He said: “Nigerians were alarmed by the video in which Oshiomhole was seen emphatically urging the Chief of Staff to Mr President on the need to clampdown on certain unnamed Nigerians to achieve political suppression and submission ahead of the Edo election.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Our national campaign holds that the presence and involvement of the Chief of Staff to the President and the fact that the discussion held within the precincts of the Presidential Villa has made the Presidency complicit and place a huge burden on President Muhammadu Buhari. • “The video has validated earlier revelations of plots by Oshiomhole and the APC governorship candidate, Osagie Ize-Iyamu, to use compromised security operatives being mobilized by certain individuals in the Presidency, to arrest innocent Nigerians, including traditional, faith-based and community leaders on trumped-up charges, ahead of the Edo election.” • “Nigerians and the people of Edo state now know those to hold responsible should there be cases of illegal arrests, assassinations and unexplained killings, sudden disappearances of prominent people, accidental discharge by federal security operatives and mysterious accidents in the course of this Edo governorship election. • “The PDP national campaign council on Edo governorship election charges President Buhari to reassure Nigerians by immediately ordering that Adams Oshiomhole and Prof. Gambari be pulled in for questioning over the video. • “Anything short of decisive action on this matter will further indict the Buhari Presidency especially coming on the heels of public anxiety over Mr President’s widely condemned comment on the use of security forces for elections.
24,08.2020	All Africa https://allafrica.com/stories/202008250441.html	<p>Edo Governorship - APC Seeks Transfer of Suit Against Ize-Iyamu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The All Progressives Congress (APC) has petitioned the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, Justice John Tsoho, to transfer the suit seeking the disqualification of its candidate in the Edo State governorship election, Osagie Ize-Iyamu. • The suit was filed by Momoh Abdul-Razak through his lawyer, Friday Nwosu , against the APC, Ize-Iyamu, INEC and the deputy governorship candidate, Audu Ganiyu, challenging the candidate's participation in the election on account of alleged ineligibility.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • But in the petition dated August 20, 2020 and signed by the National Secretary of the party's Caretaker Committee, Senator John Akpanudoedehe, the party accused the presiding judge in the matter, Justice Taiwo Taiwo of preferring a speedy hearing by granting an application for abridgment of time. • The APC accused Justice Taiwo of being close to the chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Edo State governorship election national campaign council, Governor Nyesom Wike of Rivers State. • The APC specifically alleged that on August 10, Justice Taiwo on his own reduced the time allowed by law for the defendants to respond even when they had not been served with the originating summons by fixing the matter for August 24 when motion on notice for abridgment of time had not been moved by plaintiffs. • Consequently, the lawyers applied for adjournment to enable them respond to the issues raised in the suit. The suit was adjourned to September 3 for hearing
<p>25.08.2020</p>	<p>Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/south-south-regional/410684-apc-pdp-bicker-over-threats-to-scuttle-ward-to-ward-campaign-in-edo.html</p>	<p>APC, PDP bicker over threats to scuttle ward-to-ward campaign in Edo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two major political parties in the Edo State governorship election slated for September 19, the All Progressives Congress (APC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP, on Tuesday tackled each other over alleged plans to scuttle the ward-to-ward campaign in Owan East Local Government Area (LGA) of the state. • A chieftain of the APC in the state and former deputy chief whip of the House of Representatives, Pally Iriase, raised the alarm over acts of violence and intimidation allegedly masterminded by the state government and its agents to scuttle the ward-to-ward rallies scheduled for Tuesday in the council. • He specifically accused the state governor, Godwin Obaseki, and the chairman of Owan East LGA, Andrew Osigwe, of embarking on violent acts since Monday, designed to disrupt the planned ward rallies in the local government area.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • But reacting swiftly to the claims, Mr Osigwe said both Mr Obaseki and himself are law-abiding citizens of the state and the country and therefore cannot be involved in such violent acts. • The council chairman charged the APC to make room for a peaceful, free and fair governorship polls in the state. • Mr Osigwe said, “my governor and I are law-abiding citizens, we will never do such a thing. Even when they came to Afuze and they did their local government rally, they did not apply for the stadium yet I allowed them to use it. Why didn’t I send people to go and scatter the event? If they have an internal crisis among themselves they should go and sort it out. They should stop bringing Godwin Obaseki and myself into it. • “At Otuo, APC sought to use the same primary school field that Obaseki and the PDP used for their rally over a week ago but the governor’s alleged hoodlums led by the council chairman came to disrupt preparations, chanting war songs in the process.
<p>27.08.2020</p>	<p>Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/south-south-regional/411103-inec-ready-for-edo-election-yakubu.html</p>	<p>INEC ready for Edo election – Yakubu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The national chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Mahmood Yakubu, said on Thursday that the commission is fully prepared and ready for the conduct of the September 19, Edo governorship election • The INEC chairman noted that the Edo election would be the first major election the commission would be conducting amid COVID-19 pandemic. • He added that the commission had come out with a policy on how to conduct elections in a pandemic. “We test run the policy in small bye-election in Nasarawa state and we are ready with the big one in Edo.” • He said the commission was committed to ensuring a safe environment for the peaceful conduct of the election hence the meeting with ICCES, stakeholders and electoral officials in Edo. • Mr Yakubu assured that the commission would make the system open and transparent.

29.08.2020	Vanguard https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/08/edo-election-campaign-turns-to-smear-war/	Edo election campaign turns to smear war <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ongoing Edo State governorship election campaign which has already been adjudged as the dirtiest in the history of the state, this week, took a further dip into muddy waters with the smear campaign extending to the election regulatory body.• The attack on the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC came by way of salvos on one of the probable officials that could be deployed by the commission to preside over the election.• The smear campaign opened on Monday with the PDP bringing to the public the quiet apology by the APC over the claim the previous week that Pastor Osagie-Ize Iyamu, the APC candidate had been endorsed by the Benin Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (BENCCIMA).• The APC campaign had been forced on Sunday, to issue a quiet apology in which it blamed a low-ranking campaign staff for misconstruing the chamber's interaction with Ize-Iyamu into an endorsement.• Crusoe Osagie, Governor Godwin Obaseki's spokesman in a statement on Monday urged other groups whose names have been used by the APC to conjure endorsements that were never given, in the party's desperate bid to market and re-brand their gubernatorial candidate who is heavily burdened with credibility crisis, to speak up.• The APC retorted sharply on Wednesday when it brought the issue of the missing Edo State commissioner for arts and culture, Osaze Ero-Osemwingie as its main bullet. Ero-Osemwingie, the commissioner for arts and culture has been out of the country since last year having reportedly been apprehended in a European country over alleged transgressions.• The party made this challenge on Wednesday following what it described as the Governor's quiet replacement of the Commissioner with the swearing-in of Mr. Lawrence Ogieva as the new Commissioner for Arts, Culture, and Diaspora Affairs. He also questioned the governor's silence on the issue. In his response, Obaseki speaking through Osagie accused the APC of
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		<p>running out of steam and resorting to cheap blackmail and falsehoods in its bid to remain relevant in the ongoing electioneering campaigns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two sides have also fought over the outstanding court cases involving one another. The PDP had through its publicity secretary, Chris Nehikhare raised the alarm on the alleged plot by the APC to move court cases involving one another out of Edo State to Abuja. When later in the week the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court sanctioned the move, the APC remonstrated with the PDP saying: “It is on record that the PDP for many months now have been boasting that they will use the Court to subvert the will of the People. They know their candidate is not popular and has no single chance of winning the election, hence the only alternative is to get the mandate through the back door, reenacting the Bayelsa State travesty.” While the two candidates and their proxies have been turning on one another, the PDP campaign chief, Chief Dan Orbih has also not relented in his attacks on Comrade Adams Oshiomhole who he has repeatedly dubbed as the godfather of the APC candidate, Ize-Iyamu. • His campaign weapon has been to use Oshiomhole’s wounding words of 2016. Speaking at Ugbegun in Esan West Local Government Area on Monday, Orbih salvaged Oshiomhole as double mouthed saying: “He also told us that the pastor is not fit to rule this state; he also told us that he cannot be trusted with public funds. “To me, all what he said about his candidate has not changed. How can he make a u-turn and start telling Edo people to vote for that same man?” • On Thursday, the smear campaign extended to former civil rights activist and Resident Electoral Commissioner for Akwa Ibom State after the APC campaign accused him of a secret dalliance with Governor Obaseki. The APC in a statement issued by Mayaki alleged that Mike Igini met with Obaseki in the governor’s private residence where a deal to rig the election was allegedly plotted. Igini in a swift response made available to Saturday Vanguard denied the report saying he passed through Edo State to Delta State for a funeral ceremony.
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<p>30.08.2020</p>	<p>The Nation https://thenationonlineng.net/edo-2020-leaders-assess-obasekis-ize-iyamus-chances/</p>	<p>Edo 2020: Leaders assess Obaseki’s, Ize-Iyamu’s chances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ON the 18th of July, 2020, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) published the final list of candidates for the September 19 governorship election in Edo State. According to the list, 14 political parties will be fielding candidates for the election. The list revealed that 12, out of the 14 governorship candidates, were male. It also showed that only two of the deputy governorship candidates were female. With that, the stage was set for the political battle for the soul of Edo State among the parties and the candidates. • Going by the current voters’ registers in the state, a little less than two million eligible voters are expected to file out next month to decide who will govern the state after November 12, 2020, when the current four year term of Governor Godwin Obaseki will end. But not a few observers of the politics of the state have given the election away as a straight contest between the two frontline political parties, the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). While Governor Godwin Obaseki is the candidate of the PDP, Pastor Osagie Ize-Iyamu is running on the platform of the APC. • This position is based, among other factors, on the results of past elections held in the state since 2007. Also, since the commencement of campaigns, the candidates of the two political parties have been the most visible, dominating the political scenes across the state while the presence of the other 12 other political parties and their candidates is barely felt as the day of the election draws nearer. The media space has been taken up by these two candidates and their political parties. It is also convenient to say that the APC and the PDP, in comparison to the 12 other political parties, have the highest number of supporters across the state. • “If the two leading candidates are sure that the voters have alternatives to either of them, they will spend more time discussing issues and convincing the people of Edo State than fighting. But the sad reality is that beside APC and PDP in Edo State, in the last 12 years, there appears to be no other serious political party,” Idemudia added.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The governorship contest in Edo State in September, aside from being a rematch between two familiar combatants, also features a queer swapping of roles. The incumbent governor, Obaseki will on September 19, for the second time, be contesting against the man he defeated in 2016, Ize-Iyamu. But this time, the duo have exchanged platforms, with Obaseki, the incumbent governor, who got elected in 2016 as the candidate of the APC, now the PDP flag-bearer while Ize-Iyamu who ran on the platform of the PDP four years ago has parted ways with his former party and is today the candidate of APC. • Ironically, in their first contest in 2016, the then Governor Adams Oshiomhole, was the major force behind Obaseki against Ize-Iyamu. Before, during and after the 2016 election, Oshiomhole mounted a fierce resistance against Ize-iyamu's ambition as he toiled vigorously to ensure the eventual victory of Obaseki, his anointed successor. Today, the situation has changed completely, as the immediate past National Chairman of the APC is now the major force behind Ize-Iyamu against Obaseki. And he has not left anybody in doubt of his determination to unseat his erstwhile political protégée. • Similarly, Oshiomhole and Orbih are working hard to explain why they are today supporting the very same candidates they warned the people not to vote for four years ago. Of course, both, as politicians, have been offering various reasons. • Several factors are expected to determine where the pendulum will swing. For instance, some pundits say Obaseki, as a seating governor, will benefit from the incumbency factor. To his supporters, he has done enough for him to be re-elected. These may count for him and impact positively on his ambition. Obaseki's achievements, according to those supporting his re-election, set him apart as the favoured choice in the governorship race. But those opposed to his re-election insist he has not done enough to get another term of four years after the expiration of his current term in office.
31.08.2020	Sahara Reporter http://saharareporters.com/2020/08/31/apc-igini-trade-words-over-alleged-plot-rig-edo-governorship-poll	APC, Igini Trade Words Over Alleged Plot To Rig Edo Governorship Poll

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman of the All Progressives Congress in Edo, Col. David Imuse (retd.) and Resident Electoral Commissioner of the Independent National Electoral Commission in Akwa Ibom State, Mike Igini, have clashed over alleged plots to rig the September 19 governorship poll in the state. • Imuse accused Igini, a former Edo REC, of receiving a bribe from Governor Godwin Obaseki of the Peoples Democratic Party at his private residence in Benin to perfect the rigging plot. • Imuse said the APC had received testimony from some youth corps members, who detailed how they were approached by Igini and offered a deal to swap results with fake, pre-written ballots allegedly in production at the Edo State Government House. • “At the meeting, Igini, Obaseki and other top PDP allies designed and examined ways and strategies to rig the outcome of the September 19 governorship election in Edo State with an exclusive focus on the production of fake ballots and the inducement of recruited INEC ad hoc staff to aid the success of the rigging plan“But Igini denied the allegations, dismissing them as bare-faced lies and outright fabrications. • Already, before the meeting, we received information backed with proof on Igini’s illegal conscription of youth corps members who would be playing vital roles in the conduct of the election as ad hoc staff.” • “For the avoidance of doubt and to disabuse the minds of respected Edo citizens and voters, I urge everyone to disregard these lies and innuendos. I have never and will never be part of any scheme to rob voters of the right to choose their elected representatives.“I have never been at the back but at the forefront of electoral reforms to ensure those citizens’ rights and access to ballots as the best means of the expression of the will of the people are strengthened and will never be part of any design to chase them”.
31.08.2020	Naija News.com https://www.naijanews.com/2020/08/31/political-parties-releasing-thugs-to-disrupt-campaigns-pdp/	<p>Political Parties Releasing Thugs To Disrupt Campaigns – PDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edo state chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), has raised alarm over politically motivated attacks and violence during campaigns by supporters of political parties in the state.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nehikhare noted that people involved in the act are doing so in order to postpone the election scheduled for Sept. 19, governorship election in the state • He urged political parties to ensure that they engage in issue-based campaigns and avoid any form of violence and attacks on innocent citizens
31.08.2020	<p>This Day Live https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/08/31/edo-governorship-flying-the-trite-apcll-rig-kite/</p>	<p>Edo Governorship: Flying the Trite ‘APC’II Rig’ Kite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since Mr Charles Idahosa’s interview published on page 10 of New Telegraph of July 15, 2020, headlined: “Edo people’ll resist rigging of guber poll”, Governor Godwin Obaseki, for whom he works, his administration officials and leaders of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on which platform he (Obaseki) is contesting the September 19 governorship election in Edo State have continued to reinforce that fictive narrative. • I foresee a situation where, smarting from their forthcoming comprehensive defeat, the PDP apparatchiks would say to as many as would care to listen: did we not shout from the rooftops that the APC was planning to rig the election? Did we not alert the security agencies to the plots by the APC to undermine the process, using the federal might, and acting in cahoots with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)? • PDP’s burgeoning propaganda about APC’s plot to rig the poll is nothing but a cock-and-bull story being painstakingly concocted by its leaders to misrepresent the actual worth of its Godwin Obaseki/Phillip Shaibu’s joint governorship ticket • But reading and listening to their gobbledygook, I always, in soliloquy, ask rhetorically: who really wants to rig the September 19 governorship election in Edo between a very popular candidate with pervasive networks and high net worth and a chaotic candidate who had to leverage on the PDP structure after he was disqualified from seeking re-election on the APC platform? The answer to this question is, of course, blowing in the wind.
31.08.2020	Vanguard	EDO 2020: PDP raises alarm over attack on members by suspected thugs

	<p>https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/08/edo-2020-pdp-raises-alarm-over-attack-on-members-by-suspected-thugs/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AS campaigns for the Edo State governorship election fixed for 19, September 2020 continues, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), has again raised the alarm over the continuous attack on its supporters and members by political thugs allegedly recruited by the All Progressives Congress (APC). He said, “We have been preaching peaceful election since our campaigns started unlike our opponent, the APC which has upped the ante to cause violence so that the election will be postpone “At Agbede in Etsako West Local government area on last Thursday, our people were attacked viciously in the residents of one of our leaders. Jah Usman. This was inside and not outside his compound. “Eleven armed men broke into the compound and shot sporadically, destroyed vehicles and inflicted injuries on about ten people. “According to the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in the area, two people have been arrested and they have confessed that they were sent by APC leaders to cause mayhem aimed at reliasing their agenda of having the election postponed”.
<p>31.08.2020</p>	<p>Sahara Reporter http://saharareporters.com/2020/08/31/violence-inspector-general-police-warns-edo-ondo-politicians-ahead-elections</p>	<p>Violence: Inspector-General Of Police Warns Edo, Ondo Politicians Ahead Of Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ahead of the governorship elections in Edo and Ondo states, the Inspector-General of Police, Mohammed Adamu, has warned politicians and their supporters to conduct themselves properly. He said, “The Election Security Threat Analysis reveals amongst other indicators: arming and movement of political thugs, use of inciting statements during political campaigns, high likelihood of violence and possible cross attack by political opponents, misinformation/disinformation aimed at heating-up the polity and deliberate efforts at delegitimising government institutions involved in the electoral processes. “The IGP has therefore ordered the Commissioners of Police in the two states – Edo and Ondo – to rejig their preparations for the elections to

		<p>accommodate and address the threats and emerging trends as contained in the security report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IGP, however, warns politicians and their supporters in Edo and Ondo that the Force will not hesitate to bring the full weight of the law on anyone or group, irrespective of status that may want to sabotage the security arrangement being emplaced for the elections.
31.08.2020	<p>Legit.ng https://www.legit.ng/1361251-edo-guber-pdp-claims-a-poll-sponsored-by-apc-predicted-massive-win-obaseki.html</p>	<p>Edo guber: PDP claims a poll sponsored by APC predicted massive win for Obaseki</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The political intrigues in Edo state took a new dimension on Sunday, August 30, after the Peoples’ Democratic Party (PDP) claimed that an opinion poll conducted by the All Progressives Congress (APC) projected that the incumbent governor, Godwin Obaseki, will win the Edo governorship election. He stated that the result showed that the PDP won overwhelmingly in at least 16 Local Government Areas (LGA's) out of the 18, leaving only two councils for APC. The PDP chieftain said the result of the poll has caused confusion and chaos among APC leaders. In response, however, the APC dismissed PDP’s claims as false. John Mayaki, the chairman of the Edo state media campaign council of the APC distanced his party from the reported poll. He said the APC does not have the funds to conduct any such polls.
31.08.2020	<p>This Day Live https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/08/31/edo-guber-inec-rec-denies-plot-to-rig-election-for-pdp/</p>	<p>Edo Guber: INEC REC Denies Plot to Rig Election for PDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Resident Electoral Commissioner, (REC) of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Akwa Ibom State, Mr. Mike Igini, has denied any plot with the Peoples’ Democratic Party (PDP) in Edo state to rig the forthcoming governorship election. Igini was reacting to a statement by the Chairman All Progressives Congress (APC) Media Campaign Council, Mr. John Mayaki, and Col. David Imuse to the effect that he received a bribe from the PDP to swing the polls in its favour. Mayaki had asked Igini to explain his presence at Protea Hotel in Benin City where National Commissioners of the electoral body from Abuja

		<p>were lodged, in fresh allegations raised by the party over Igini’s alleged connivance with Governor Godwin Obaseki to rig the Sept. 19 governorship election.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Igini said: “For the second time within a week, my name has been needlessly and maliciously dragged into a political group’s statement on the Edo election. The statement falsely and erroneously claimed that I was in Benin on Thursday 27th August 2020.
<p>31.08.2020</p>	<p>This Day Live https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/08/31/pdp-youth-leaders-express-optimism-on-obasekis-victory/</p>	<p>PDP Youth Leaders Express Optimism on Obaseki’s Victory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Peoples’ Democratic Party (PDP) Youth Assurance Movement (YAM) has predicted victory in the forthcoming governorship election in Edo State for the party standard-bearer and the Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki, “on back of huge grassroots’ support in the state.” • The youth arm of the party also condemned the political tension in the state “as a result of violence orchestrated by the leaders of the opposition party, All Progressives Congress (APC), knowing that they have been rejected by the Edo people.” • “We have also been reliably informed that leaders of the APC made frantic efforts to bribe officials of INEC in Edo State to help them rig the poll, but this was rebuffed by the INEC officials. We learnt that the sacked national chairman of the APC, Oshiomhole, has vowed to do everything humanly possible to ensure Obaseki doesn’t return as governor, even if he wins at the poll. So their next plan is to take the bribery game to the highest level and ‘penetrate INEC from above’. We appeal to the leadership of INEC to play by the rules and allow the will of Edo voters to prevail on September 19.” • They noted that the chances of Obaseki’s victory in the election is clear, as Edo people believe in justice and hard work, adding that “Obaseki has obviously done very well in the area of social-economic development of the state, including educational reforms, the Gelegele seaport, enhanced road network across the state, constant pension payment, workers’ salary, upgrade of Ambrose Alli University,

		<p>Ekpoma, agricultural development like the rubber plantation and other farms at Oronigbe and Benin-city, among other.</p>
<p>01.09.2020</p>	<p>Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/411848-edo-2020-report-shows-voters-scared-of-violence-covid-19-others.html</p>	<p>Edo 2020: Report shows voters scared of violence, COVID-19, others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pre-election survey conducted by Yiaga Africa and NOIPollsshow that voters and election officers are concerned about contracting COVID-19 in the coming Edo State governorship election. • The report also shows that voters are worried about electoral violence, intimidation and the credibility of the poll. • According to the report, about 68 per cent of respondents support INEC’s decision to hold Nigeria’s first off-cycle governorship election during the COVID-19 pandemic, while 42 per cent were concerned that voters and election officials could contract the virus on election-day. • Respondents also expressed major concerns about violence by political parties and security officials during the elections. And with less than three weeks to the poll, approximately one-in-ten respondents said they had directly experienced violence and intimidation related to the elections, while over one-third had heard political candidates using hate speech on the campaign trail. The report lists potential hot spots of violence where the electoral battles are expected to be fierce. • Forty-six per cent of respondents, it said, lack confidence in INEC’s ability to promote credible elections, 50 per cent question the electoral umpires’ independence and 44 per cent doubt the institutions’ preparedness for the election. • The report also reveals exclusion and under-representation of women. • “For the 2020 governorship election only one of the governorship candidates and three deputy governorship candidates are females. Ironically, 48% of registered voters in Edo are women. • “Campaign rallies and party mobilization teams also have high percentages of female members and supporters but issues of gender are yet to gain prominence in the election. Perhaps this can be explained by the strong traditional values of patriarchy and male domination among Nigerians,” part of the report read

<p>01.09.2020</p>	<p>Sun News Online https://www.sunnewsonline.com/gladiators-in-edo-governorship-election/</p>	<p>Gladiators in Edo Governorship Election</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is growing nervousness about the September 19, 2020, governorship election in Edo State. The uneasiness is driven by fear of unparalleled violence. The election has drawn an unusually high level of interest from across the country. Party leaders are interested in the election. National Assembly members are following the election campaigns. Other state governors are watching with great attention. The people of Edo State are trying to make their voices heard but, amid the din of drumbeats and angry election campaign rhetoric, it is difficult to hear a word. • Long before the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) fired the starter’s gun, the leading candidates and their parties had been out and about, wooing voters with exaggerated promises of a good life made in heaven; that is, life without ill health, life without economic hardships, life without water scarcity, life without school fees, life without electricity bills, life without herdsmen, life without kidnappers, life without bandits and assassins, and life without bad roads. Politicians know what citizens like to hear. • The political atmosphere is clouded with apocalyptic predictions. To be clear, it is not only the level of extraordinary interest shown by all parties, politicians, and ordinary citizens that gives the forthcoming Edo governorship election a note of uncertainty, it is also how and whether the outcomes of the election would be accepted by ordinary citizens. Would the result of the election generate mass protests, or would the election outcome strengthen inter-ethnic relations and entrench peaceful coexistence of the diverse people in the state? • There are reasons why everyone should be worried by the state of insecurity ahead of the governorship election. Political candidates, thugs, and local warlords have consistently described the election in chilling, macabre language. That objectionable behaviour has raised public concerns about safety during the election. This is one election that every candidate wants to win and one that the loser also wants to disrupt. There is an element of inevitability about the way the gladiators
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		<p>are preparing for the election. The dreadful language is: “We will fight to the finish”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edo State governorship election is different in many ways. No more than two political parties have dominated the campaigns. The minor parties are almost invisible and so are their candidates. One unique feature of the campaigns so far is the hyperactive involvement of Adams Oshiomhole, former state governor, former chairperson of the All Progressives Congress (APC), and former president of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC). • Oshiomhole and the APC leaders appear determined to win the election by any means. Weeks before the D-Day, there are daily exchanges of allegations and counter allegations by both political parties of plots to rig the election. Top party campaign managers have been drafted to Edo State by the APC and the People’s Democratic Party (PDP) to oversee the vigorous and sometimes noisy campaigns and to engineer their own party’s victory. The atmosphere is electric, literally and figurately. • In a situation in which the PDP and the APC have invested so much human, material, and financial resources into the election, the two parties are optimistic they would emerge victorious on 19 September. None is willing to admit the possibility that it could lose the election. Unfortunately, whether they like it or not, there will be a result. There will be a winner and a loser. Predicting who that winner or loser might be is as delicate as forecasting the exact hour and minute a pregnant woman would give birth. • A governorship election blemished by violence is likely to have major consequences for other elections coming up next year and beyond. In fact, a governorship election flawed by widespread infringements of the rules will reinforce that painful message about INEC’s inability to conduct free and transparent elections. • Edo State people and politicians have an opportunity in the coming election to show the world whether the processes for electing a governor are observed peacefully in the spirit of democracy or violated through violent and unscrupulous practices such as hijacking of ballot boxes,
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		thumb printing of ballot papers, intimidation and harassment of voters, as well as manipulation of election results. The choice is clear.
02.09.2020	All Africa https://allafrica.com/stories/202009020167.html	<p>Yiaga Raises Security Concerns in Edo Election, Identifies 13 Flashpoints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A coalition of civil rights organisations (CSOs) under the aegis of YIAGA Africa has expressed concerns over the increase of pre-election violence ahead of the Edo State governorship election scheduled for September 19. • The report read in part , "Based on our observation reports, the potential hotspots and flashpoints of violence include Etsako West, Etsako East, Etsako Central, Owan West, and Akoko-Edo in Edo North Senatorial district. • "In Edo South Senatorial district, our reports suggest Oredo, Orhionmwon, Egor, Ovia North East, and Ikpoba-Okha LGAs, while in Edo Central Senatorial District, Esan Central, Esan North East, and Esan West are potential hotspots. Reports from our LTOs suggest that the spate of violence and insecurity in the pre-election period may discourage voters from turning up to vote on election day." • The report attributed the violence to thugs, touts, gangsters, and cultists on the one hand, and the widespread belief that elections could not be won - or smooth governance guaranteed - without strong-arm tactics and the support of powerful thugs
02.09.2020	Vanguard https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/09/edo-election-pdp-apc-reduce-campaign-to-personalities-yiaga-africa/	<p>Edo Election: PDP, APC Reduce Campaign to Personalities – YIAGA Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An election monitoring group, YIAGA Africa, says the APC and the PDP have engaged in a campaign of calumny and mudslinging ahead of the Edo Sept. 19 Governorship poll. • It said that it was unfortunate that both parties had reduced their campaigns to contest of personalities rather than make the campaigns issue-based to win the people's votes. • "YIAGA Africa deployed long term observers throughout the state to observe the pre-election environment and monitor government responses to COVID-19 in the 18 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of

		<p>the state. “This pre-election observation includes violence monitoring as part of an early warning system designed to prevent electoral violence and track the prevalence of human rights violations, particularly in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The WTV long term observers reported incidences of violent verbal and physical attacks, identity-based violence and hate speech rhetorics as campaign strategies employed by both parties. “The observers also reported the repositioning of cult groups as political merchandise for the election as well as sexual and gender-based violence in some of the LGAs in the state,” it stated. • It, however, lamented the spate of pre-election violence adding that the two dominant parties in the race were guilty of violent rhetoric, hate speech, vandalism, and violence. “The state is also witnessing a surge in cult group activities, especially in Ikpoba-Okha, Oredo, Orhionmwon, and Owan West LGAs. “This is mainly attributable to an entrenched subculture of violence built around well-known strongmen in these areas,” it added.
02.09.2020	<p>Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/south-south-regional/412110-edo-election-candidates-lament-exclusion-from-peace-meeting-as-oba-of-benin-cautions-obaseki-ize-iyamu.html</p>	<p>Edo election: Candidates lament exclusion from peace meeting as Oba of Benin cautions Obaseki, Ize-Iyamu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governorship candidates of different political parties for the September 19 election in Edo State on Wednesday decried their exclusion from a peace meeting called by the Oba of Benin, Oba Ewuare II, to address the spate of violence ahead of the elections • The Benin monarch had specifically invited the candidates of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and All Progressives Congress (APC), Godwin Obaseki and Osagie Ize-Iyamu respectively, and their deputies, as well as the top leaders of both parties. • The Oba of Benin’s meeting stemmed from the series of violent attacks that had trailed the ongoing electioneering among supporters of the two major political parties, the PDP and the APC.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been accusations and counter-accusations by the two parties over claims of violent attacks by alleged thugs in the past month. • However, Tracy Agol, the governorship candidate of the New Nigeria Peoples Party, in an exclusive interview with PREMIUM TIMES, said as stakeholders in the forthcoming election, they should have been part of the meeting. • Mrs Agol said, “I think the way they disseminated the information was not proper. I had to call other governorship candidates if they were aware of the peace pact at the palace, they said no.
05.09.2020	<p>Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/412450-interview-why-i-should-be-elected-edo-governor-emmanuel-iboi.html</p>	<p>INTERVIEW: Why I should be elected Edo Governor – Emmanuel Iboi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emmanuel Iboi is the governorship candidate of the Action Democratic Party (ADP) in the forthcoming September 19 election in Edo State. The 36-year-old Computer Science graduate of the University of Benin tells PREMIUM TIMES about his foray into politics and the need to change the narrative. • Iboi: If I am elected on September 19, what we would do differently are numerous. • First, governance is continuity, so we would continue with what is already on the ground. Also, we would empower the youth through the creation of jobs through what I call the PPI (Private-Public-Investors). • I have gone round the 18 local government areas of the state and I have identified (the) potential in each LGA. There are some LGAs that have high yields in the production of fruits, instead of harvesting and transporting these fruits to Lagos or other cities, we would site up processing industries in these areas. • We would also build skills acquisition centres in all the LGAs for free and when they graduate, we shall give them start-up funds. We would bring tourism back to the state, among many other developmental projects. We need good policies that can revive the state. • PT: The state has been in the news for wrong reasons during this election period, there had been violence and rising tensions, especially among the two major gladiators, APC and PDP. What can be done?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iboi: There are no big political parties, what we have are individuals. Vultures seek carcasses and when there are no carcasses for them to feed on, they fly away. Some vultures have made the Edo State treasury their carcass and they have also constituted the youth into carcasses. If there is no carcass for them, they will fly away. • I urge the Edo citizens and residents not to make themselves available as carcasses to these set of politicians. Let them use their voters' card wisely on September 19 and choose the ADP candidate that will bring development to the state.
07.09.2020	All Africa https://allafrica.com/stories/202009070169.html	<p>Checking Violence and Hate Speech in Edo 2020 Political Campaigns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ongoing campaigns for the Sept. 19 Edo governorship election are characterised by violence and hate speech. No one is claiming responsibility. However, political observers say that almost all the political gladiators are guilty. • Barely a month to the election, the fear of possible violence is palpable. • The signs of violence were first noticed at the launch of the PDP mega rally in Benin City, a few weeks ago, that had in attendance many of the PDP governors, led by Gov. Nysome Wike of Rivers. • The team had paid a courtesy visit to the Oba of Benin, Oba Ewuare II, in his palace. • political thugs had gathered at the entrance of Oba Palace, chanting all kinds of hate speech, name calling and booed Gov. Godwin Obaseki and his entourage. • Few of the thugs were arrested by security operatives. Nothing has been heard since then • The blame game continued as both the PDP and APC claimed ignorance and disowned the thugs.
08.09.2020	Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/south-south-regional/412999-edo-2020-obaseki-betrayed-edo-people-ize-iyamu.html	<p>Edo 2020: Obaseki betrayed Edo People – Ize-Iyamu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Osagie Ize-Iyamu, candidate of the All Progressives Congress(APC) in the Edo governorship election says Governor Godwin Obaseki has toyed with his chances for re-election by failing to keep to his electoral promises and 'betraying' his people.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He said Mr Obaseki, candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), “missed his chances of reelection when he betrayed the trust of people of the state”. • He said it was because the governor could not give account of his stewardship to Edo people that he decided to cross-carpet to PDP where he felt he would not be held accountable for his actions • Just like his major rival, whom he criticises, the cleric also recently cross-carpeted to the ruling APC. Both men had reversed roles in 2016: Mr Ize-Iyamu contested under the PDP while Mr Obaseki won under the APC • ““The governor did nothing for Edo people for almost four years and does not deserve a second term because he will also not work for the people,” he said, urging the electorate to vote massively for APC to restore Edo to the path of development. “We will bring more roads and employ teachers in your schools. In the area of manpower development, our women need more than wrappers, they need money to support their businesses,” Mr Ize-Iyamu said.
08.09.2020	<p>Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/413061-interview-how-ill-transform-edo-if-elected-governor-mabel-oboh.html</p>	<p>INTERVIEW: How I’ll transform Edo if elected governor – Mabel Oboh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mabel Oboh, a 56-year-old governorship candidate of African Democratic Congress (ADC) in the September 19 election in Edo State, is a criminologist and former broadcaster/journalist with the Nigerian Television Authority. She tells PREMIUM TIMES of election challenges in the state and the need to eliminate godfatherism, among others • PT: How do we eliminate vote selling and buying? Oboh: It is sad, but I think the only way is to appeal to people’s conscience. Nothing good comes easy. All the revolutions that have taken place globally took a few selected people to say no to (a) bad policy. It cannot be worse than this and Nigeria has got to that stage. • PT: The state has been in the news lately for violence, largely emanating from the camps of the APC and PDP, do you see it spilling into the election proper? Oboh: There is tension around, even among the people.

		<p>And a lot of them have expressed doubts, if they would go out to vote on that day. People have also urged me to leave the state before that day but I said I would never do that. I believe the state's security (agencies) is (are) up to the task because they have called us for several meetings on that. I was also quite honoured when I went to see the Oba of Benin (and) received my blessing. He also showed a big interest in that regard. The Oba even recognised my position on the debate by candidates because I believe that you can only convince the electorate through debates on how you plan to implement your manifesto. People have been asking how the candidates plan to implement their programmes, even though some of the politicians are lying, it means that the people are no longer stupid because they are beginning to ask critical questions. The chain of buying and selling of votes must be broken at one stage or the other. I do not allow money to tempt me one way or the other and there is no way I will give someone money to vote for me. If you believe in what I am selling to you, try me. If I disappoint you, then kick me out.</p>
<p>08.09.2020</p>	<p>All Africa https://allafrica.com/stories/202009080177.html</p>	<p>Edo/Ondo Polls - Don't Test Our Will to Act, IGP Warns Politicians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Mohammed Adamu, yesterday warned political actors in the forthcoming governorship elections in Edo and Ondo States against threatening the nation's democracy and security, saying the force will not hesitate to bring them to justice. • The IGP who issued the warning yesterday during a conference with the commanders of the 79 Police Mobile Force (PMF) at the Force headquarters, Abuja, cautioned all political gladiators to situate all their electioneering activities within the dictates of rule of law. • The IGP said, "I strongly warn all political gladiators and the electorate in Edo and Ondo States to situate all their electioneering activities within the dictates of rule of law. • "I affirm that anyone, regardless of his or her political leaning, that attempts to test our will by threatening our democratic values and national security on account of his or her electoral interests shall be promptly identified, isolated, and brought to desired justice"

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a related development, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) yesterday expressed concern over the unsavory comments by political actors ahead of the Edo and Ondo governorship election. • The electoral umpire lamented that such comments could stir violence and truncate the governorship elections in the two states. • He said, "As we approach the Edo Governorship election, it is clear that the good people of the state and Nigerians as a whole are very concerned about what will happen on election day. • As APC, PDP Wrangle Over Oba Of Benin's Peace Pact • In spite of the peace pact entered by the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the Peoples Democratic (PDP) at the instance of the Oba of Benin, Oba Ewuare II, the two major parties in the forthcoming governorship elections have traded blames over an alleged violent incident that happened over the weekend in the state. • The Benin monarch had last week summoned Governor Godwin Obaseki of PDP and Pastor Osagie Ize-Iyamu of APC alongside leaders of both parties to his palace over the violence that was trailing the campaigns. • Both candidates had at the meeting committed to ensuring no-violence for the rest of the electioneering process • But the truce was threatened over the weekend following an allegation by the APC that PDP agents attacked its members at Ewu in Esan Central local government area who were putting up posters of their governorship candidate, Ize-Iyamu. • Another youth, simply identified as Aguni, also alleged that PDP loyalists descended on him and other APC with dangerous weapons while they were installing mini billboards.
08.09.2020	Vanguard https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/09/edo-2020-apc-accuses-edo-deputy-governor-others-of-gun-running/	<p>Edo 2020: APC accuses Edo Deputy governor, others of gun-running</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The All Progressives Congress (APC) Tuesday accused the deputy governor of Edo State, Comrade Philip Shaibu and some other high profile members of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) of a gun-

		<p>running plot to manipulate the September 19th governorship election in some parts of the state particularly Akoko-Edo local government area. A statement by the Chairman, APC Media Campaign Council, John Mayaki alleged that the arms were being expected from Rivers, Delta and Kogi States which he said would be distributed by ten leaders of the PDP in the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citing “credible security intelligence,” the campaign alleged that guns had been supplied to the named persons for distribution to thugs already waiting to be brought in. Added that the alleged PDP plot was to “attack polling units where opposition is strong, destroy ward collation centres where they are losing, and visit a final attack on the LGA collation centre, to ensure there are no results from Akoko-Edo, should they lose the election.” • He said “Deputy Governor of Edo State Comrade Philip Shaibu was a member of Edo State House of Assembly for eight years he was never caught on arms dealing. He was an elected member of the National Assembly; he was never caught on arms dealing plot. Suddenly because he has left APC and joined the winning party PDP, he has suddenly become a gun dealer.
<p>08.09.2020</p>	<p>Blueprint https://www.blueprint.ng/edo-gov-poll-obaseki-visits-igp-raises-concerns-over-violence/</p>	<p>Edo gov poll: Obaseki visits IGP, raises concerns over violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Governor of Edo state, Godwin Obaseki, has raised concerns over violence that marred the governorship election campaigns in Edo state, even as he expressed fears that it could discourage voter participation in the forthcoming election. • Obaseki stated this, Monday, when he visited the Inspector General of Police, IGP Mohammed Adamu, in his office at the Force headquarters, Abuja. • Obaseki, who informed the IGP that the PDP had completed its campaigns in the 192 wards in the state, said one major issue the electorate raised concern over was the level of violence that marred the campaigns • “One of the reasons for apprehension is the case of violence in the last six weeks especially 10 significant incidents which has been giving then

		<p>concern. All were attacks against the PDP and 80 per cent in Edo North. “While violence or attacks are not new in campaigns but the concern is that despite the fact that these attacks were reported to the Police not one person has been prosecuted hence there is no deterrence for people not to take the law into their hands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I appeal that cases that have been reported that the public should see arrest and prosecution of those involved so that they believe that the Police will not seat back and allow violence during the election,” the governor stated. • He assured that the PDP as a party was committed to ensuring peaceful process because party faithful know the consequences of violence.
11.09.2020	This Day Live	<p>PDP Accuses INEC Official of Doctoring Edo Election Officers’ List</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ahead of the September 19 governorship election in Edo State, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) yesterday accused a National Commissioner of the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC), Dr. Mohammed Lecky, of tampering with the lists of supervisory presiding officers (SPOs) and assistant presiding officers (APOs). • Lecky is in charge of election planning and monitoring. • The PDP also accused Lecky of aiding the All Progressives Congress (APC) in cloning permanent voters register to be used to rig the election. But the INEC National Commissioner in charge of Information and Voter Education, Mr. Festus Okoye, dismissed the allegations and challenged PDP to forward the evidence to the commission.
13.09.2020	<p>Pulse https://www.pulse.ng/news/politics/labour-party-urges-buhari-to-use-edo-election-as-template-for-electoral-reform/b1v8vx6</p>	<p>Labour Party urges Buhari to use Edo election as template for electoral reform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National leadership of Labour Party (LP) on Saturday called on President Muhammadu Buhari to use the Sept. 19, governorship election in Edo as a template for his administration’s electoral reform agenda.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “We are calling on the President to ensure that the next week’s governorship election in the state is free, fair and credible. • “We urged him to use this Edo governorship election as a basis for his government’s electoral reform agenda,” he said.
13.09.2020	<p>PM News https://www.pmnewsnigeria.com/2020/09/13/edo-guber-yiaga-africa-trains-deploys-543-observers/</p>	<p>Yiaga Africa deploys 543 observers for Edo poll</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In line with its commitment to credible election under the Watching The Vote (WTV), Yiaga Africa says it has trained 543 observers for the Edo state governorship election slated for September 19. • This is even as the citizen-led movement said it deployed its cohort of 44 Master Trainers across all 18 local government areas of the state for the training of over 500 polling unit observers and 24 roving observers.
14.09.2020	<p>This Day Live https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/09/14/fireworks-as-obaseki-ize-iyamu-engage-in-edo-election-debate/</p>	<p>Fireworks as Obaseki, Ize-Iyamu Engage in Edo Election Debate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ahead of this Saturday’s governorship election in Edo State, the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Pastor Osagie Ize-Iyamu and Governor Godwin Obaseki of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), last night squared up in a debate to unfold their programmes to the people of Edo State • They spoke on the areas of security, health, agriculture, education, and employment, among others. • Kicking off the debate, Obaseki explained that in the last four years his administration had employed 157,000 persons and done well in all sectors. • But Pastor Ize-Iyamu disagreed, saying the figure of employment bandied by Obaseki was bogus, adding that schools and hospitals in the state were without teachers and doctors. • Responding, Obaseki said, “in terms of human capacity and employment, that is one area we believe we have accomplished quite a

		<p>lot. On the onset, I promised I will raise a minimum of 200,000 jobs within a minimum of a four-year period. And just before COVID-19 pandemic hit, we had created directed and indirect jobs for Edo people – as much as 157,000 jobs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “And where did the jobs come from? They came from the way the government decided to address the economy. The government’s role is creating an enabling environment for people to come and invest so that the economy can thrive. • According to Ize-Iyamu, “It is sad when the government that should be accurate with figures begins to falsify the figures. If it is true that we have been able to have the number of jobs that the Edo State governor claims, our IGR (internally generated revenue) will not be where it is; there will be a significant leap but I can tell you and they know, it has stagnated. • Continuing, he said, “I hope the governor is not going to mistake the appointments he is making now as jobs because I know that in the past one month, he has appointed over 200 people as SSAs on social media and the rest of them. Those are not jobs. • Reacting, Obaseki noted that the data he gave was verifiable, insisting that it was based on a survey conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). According to him: “You can’t just come to a debate and roll out figures, forgetting that everything you say can be googled. When you talk in general terms, understand that people can just google and find out the facts.” • But Ize-Iyamu disagreed, saying, “I think that in the past four years, the economy of Edo has been mismanaged, plundered and all the huge amounts that we receive at the inception of this administration has practically left our state without any serious project to show for it. • “We had the opportunity to diversify our economy. The governor made what I might call a very lame attempt and he failed completely and we are in a very sorry state. During Christmas for example, people were
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		going to Abakaliki to bring rice; they were going to Kebbi to bring rice because there is no rice mill in Edo State.”
14.09.2020	All Africa https://allafrica.com/stories/202009140879.html	<p>Nigeria: Edo 2020 - PDP Accuses Tinubu of Using Council Money to Win Edo Election</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edo state State Peoples Democratic Party Campaign Council has raised the alarm over a plot by the National Leader of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Bola Ahmed Tinubu, and APC chieftains in Edo to rig and buy votes during the September 19 governorship election with N300 million polled from local councils in Lagos State • Chairman of the council's publicity and media committee, Chris Osa Nehikhare, in a statement, said intelligence available to the council revealed that the local councils in Lagos State have been mandated to contribute N15 million each to finance the rigging plan. • According to him, "We are once again drawing the attention of the world and all lovers of democracy to the glaring fact that the APC is attempting to rig the Edo 2020 governorship election scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2020, by mobilising N300 million from Lagos State local councils, each council contributing N15 million to execute the sinister plan. • "It is regrettable and disturbing that at a time when Lagosians are suffering from the vagaries of biting economic hardship superintendent by the APC government's policies, the party is deploying Lagos State's resources to subvert the will of Edo People • But in his reaction, the Chairman of the APC Media Campaign Council, Mr. John Mayaki alleged that Nehikhare "fabricated" the story • He said, "The PDP is renowned countrywide for its matchless fabrications. They are masters of falsehood, but whenever Nehikhare gets excited and tries to fabricate one, he overdoes it. It is glaring that the man did not know what he was saying. He should meet Chief Dan Orbih, his mentor, to teach him the art."

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayaki explained further that, "Edo people know that APC has no interest in dishonest politics. What do we stand to gain from buying votes that the people have already promised us? Why would Lagos local government councils raise that kind of money for us? Don't they have anything to do with the money in Lagos? If Lagos went about furnishing APC states with that kind of outrageous sum, what will they use to develop themselves? I think their claim is due to our earlier exposure on Obaseki's order to council chairmen to release the sum of N1.7 million to 18 local government Electoral Officers (EOs)".
14.09.2020	All Africa https://allafrica.com/stories/202009140164.html	<p>Nigeria: Edo Poll - Residents Worry Over Violence Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benin — Ahead of Saturday's Edo State governorship election, anxiety and fear are palpable in the state over threats of violence during and after the poll. • Aside from the violence witnessed at the Oba's palace when Governor Godwin Obaseki and the PDP visited, there were several other attacks in the state, with the parties blaming each other • he violence, it was learnt, however, subsided following the recent peace meeting organised by the Oba of Benin, Oba Ewuare II, for the two major political parties and their candidates, Governor Godwin Obaseki of the PDP and APC's Pastor Osagie Ize-lyamu. • However, our correspondent reports that residents of the state are still expressing fear that the election may be marred by violence
15.09.2020	Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/south-south-regional/414815-edo-2020-police-to-deploy-over-30000-personnel-for-election-igp.html	<p>Edo 2020: Police to deploy over 30,000 personnel for election – IGP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Inspector-General of Police, Mohammed Adamu, has said the security agency would deploy a 31,000 police personnel ahead of the governorship election in Edo state. • However, there are also security challenges rocking the state, with reports of reports violence, shooting, and disruption of public peace during the electioneering campaigns in the state. • “Aside from the optimal deployment of our intelligence assets to pro-actively frustrate any threat to the elections, we shall be deploying a total of 31,000 Police personnel for the purpose of protecting the personnel

		<p>and assets of the Independent National Electoral Commission, the electorate, and residents of Edo State before, during and immediately after the elections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “As part of our election security plans, all the three senatorial districts, 18 local government areas, 192 wards and 2,627 polling units across the state have been appropriately mapped out, and adequate deployments will be made to ensure security,” he said. • In his remarks, the INEC chairman, Mahmood Yakubu, said the Commission is determined to deepen the deployment of technology in elections. • He said the new technology deployed by the commission called Z-pad would serve as biometric accreditation using the facial image of the voter fingerprint authentication. • INEC had also introduced last month a dedicated online portal, “INEC Result Viewing (IRV),” that will enable Nigerians to view results. • The electoral umpire, however, stressed that the innovation does not constitute electronic collation of results. • “Perhaps the most critical of the recent innovations introduced by the Commission is the use of a tablet now popularly called the z-pad. It is a new innovation introduced to serve as a secondary means of achieving full biometric accreditation using the facial image of the voter in support of the fingerprint authentication by the Smart Card Reader.
15.09.2020	<p>Sahara Reporter http://saharareporters.com/2020/09/15/edo-election-perpetrators-violence-should-be-tried-international-criminal-court-says-okei</p>	<p>Edo Election: Perpetrators Of Violence Should Be Tried At International Criminal Court, Says Okei-Odumakin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joe Okei-Odumakin, President, Women Arise and Centre for Change, has advocated for the trial of politicians involved in election violence in Nigeria at the International Criminal Court. • She also warned security agencies to ensure that they were not biased and ensure no life was wasted as she made reference to the public conduct of partisanship by security agencies during the Kogi 2019 governorship election.

<p>16.09.2020</p>	<p>This Day Live https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/09/16/the-race-for-the-soul-of-edo/</p>	<p>Edo Election 2020: The Countdown Begins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in this weekend’s governorship election in Edo state, Pastor Osagie Ize-Iyamu, has said that his administration will give priority to health, education and infrastructure. • he Governor promise to build primary healthcare centres in 192 wards has failed. He did 22 out of 192 which is about 11 percent and that’s failure. He didn’t make any promise for secondary health institutions.” • Pastor Osagie Ize-Iyamu, has described the insecurity in the state as alarming. • According to him, “The statistics of our security vote is frightening. Governor that increased security votes has not been able make any change in the security sector. What we found in this administration was a joke. Even the state police were not provided with brand new vehicles. The level of insecurity is all time high. We are faced with challenges of kidnapping, that’s why people are complaining. From our calculations, you can’t be collecting 600 million monthly, only spending about 20 million. So what are u doing with it.” • Ize-Iyamu said the unemployment statistics of Edo was a lot higher than disclosed, adding that there is need to diversify Edo economy • “Edo failed to plan for the rainy days, they concentrated on traditional form of revenue, hence the reason for stagnation and why they were not able to cushion effects of covid-19,” he said, while faulting the economic policies of the current PDP administration of Obaseki. • He said that he would leverage on the people of the state who are well positioned in the Diaspora so that they could pull resources and invest in projects in the state. • He said he was hoping that when he assumes office, if elected, the economic situation in the state will not be very bleak. • He said the SIMPLE agenda, which is an acronym that stands for Security, Infrastructural development, Manpower development, Public private partnership, Leadership and Employment creation, was all about job creation and repositioning the fortunes of the state economy.
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<p>16.09.2020</p>	<p>This Day Live https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/09/16/yiaga-africa-report-indicate-prevalence-of-small-arms-in-edo/</p>	<p>Yiaga Africa Report Indicate Prevalence of Small Arms in Edo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yiaga Africa has presented a voter analysis that compared elections in Edo state since 2011. In the report, it said that Edo governorship election in 2011 recorded 38.4percent voter turnout in the Presidential election. In the 2016 governorship election, turnout was 32percent, while in the 2019 general election turnout was 28percent for the Presidential election and 32.8percent for the state assembly election. • As published in the previous pre-election report released by Yiaga Africa, these LGAs have recorded incidence of pre-election violence during political campaigns as both the All Progressives Congress (APC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) battle to win the highest number of votes in these LGAs • In addition to campaigns, Yiaga Africa observed a spike in voter education activities by Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and information on Voter Code of Conduct for voting amidst COVID-19. The political parties have however failed to complement the efforts of INEC, the National Orientation Agency (NOA) and civil society organizations (CSOs) to promote voter education and issue-based discussion. • Yiaga Africa has drawn the attention of stakeholders to the constitutional requirements for declaring a candidate winner of a governorship election. Under Section 179 (2) of the Constitution, a political party/candidate must win majority of lawful votes in the election and garnered at least 25percent (one-quarter) of the total votes cast in two-thirds of the LGA in the state. In the case of Edo with 18 LGAs, a candidate must score majority of lawful votes and 25percent of total votes cast in 12 LGAs • The report said that there confirmed cases of vandalism or the destruction of property belonging to a candidate or his/her supporters. Most of the properties affected were personal cars and campaign vehicles. For instance, on August 30, the car of one of the dominant political party supporters was destroyed in Imiegiele, Etsako LGA.
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16.09.2020	Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/414999-edo-ondo-polls-electoral-offenders-to-face-visa-ban-asset-forfeiture-uk.html	<p>Edo/Ondo Polls: Electoral offenders to face visa ban, asset forfeiture—UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The United Kingdom has warned of imposing sanctions, including visa ban and asset seizure, on Nigerians who incite or execute violence in the Edo and Ondo governorship elections • The British High Commissioner to Nigeria, Catriona Laing, said in a statement on Tuesday that the UK greatly values the Nigerian democracy and thus will not condone any violent act that may undermine the democratic process in the coming elections. • “These elections are important, both as an essential element of effective governance within both states and an indicator of the strength of Nigeria’s democratic institutions,” the statement read. • he warning came days after the United States government announced it is imposing visa restrictions on some Nigerians undermining the electoral processes in the run-up to the governorship elections in Edo and Ondo states. • Ms Laing said the UK would deploy observers to the two states to monitor the elections.
16.09.2020	The Guardian	<p>Validate ECOWAS stance on credible process in Edo, Ondo polls, Saraki urges Buhari</p>

	<p>https://guardian.ng/politics/validate-ecowas-stance-on-credible-process-in-edo-ondo-polls-saraki-urges-buhari/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former Senate President, Abubakar Bukola Saraki, has urged President Muhammadu Buhari to demonstrate the Economic Community of West African States’ (ECOWAS) position on credible electoral process through the Edo and Ondo states governorship elections. • Saraki also advocated that more serious attention be paid to the reforming the country’s electoral system. • He restated that the Edo and Ondo elections should be the starting point for Nigeria’s quest for a credible electoral process, insisting that President Buhari should ensure that the two elections signpost his desire to leave a legacy of true democracy and desirable electoral process for Nigeria and Africa.
<p>18.09.2020</p>	<p>Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/415354-election-30-notable-things-you-need-to-know-about-edo.html</p>	<p>Election: 30 notable things you need to know about Edo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As Edo State gets ready to elect a new governor this weekend, PREMIUM TIMES highlights 30 notable things you need to know about the state located in the oil-rich South-south region of Nigeria, the 6th most populated nation in the world. • 12. Edo has an estimated voter population of 2,210,534 but only 1,726, 738 people collected PVCs to vote in Saturday’s governorship election. • 13. Edo has 2,627 Polling Units. • 16. Edo State, like other states in the country, has three senatorial districts, namely Edo South, Edo Central and Edo North. While PDP won the South and Central districts in the 2019 general elections, the APC won in the Northern district. • 25. Mr Oshiomhole was succeeded in 2016 by the incumbent, Godwin Obaseki, a Bini, from Edo South. He won on the platform of the ruling APC
<p>18.09.2020</p>	<p>Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/south-south-regional/415448-edo-2020-troubling-voters-looking-for-buyers-cdd.html</p>	<p>Edo 2020: Troubling, voters looking for buyers – CDD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Centre for Democratic Development (CDD) has warned against vote buying and dissemination of fake news during Saturday’s governorship election in Edo State.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDD, in a statement on Thursday, issued its pre-election environment report said it has noticed a disturbing new trend in vote trading in Edo State. • “There is an emerging trend in the pattern of vote buying wherein it is the voters who are now searching for the highest bidder among the political camps to sell their vote to,” the centre said in the statement signed by its Director, Idayat Hassan. • “In spite of efforts of key stakeholders to persuade the major party candidates to commit to peaceful conduct and engage in issue-based campaigns, the electoral environment continues to be gripped by needless partisan tension.” • CDD warned against anti-democratic elements that may influence the outcome of the election. Some of these elements, it said, are parties’ claims and counterclaims of victory, delivery of polling unit directives, fake news and misinformation and vote buying and selling. • The centre further said the two major parties (APC and PDP) are involved in fake news, misinformation and disinformation campaigns that may dampen voter enthusiasm and participation in the process. • “Both the APC and PDP in Edo state have dedicated media teams with clearly defined structures designed to maximise their online presence.
19.09.2020	<p>Foreign Brief https://www.foreignbrief.com/daily-news/edo-state-election-to-take-place-in-nigeria/</p>	<p>Edo State Election to Take Place in Nigeria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nigeria will hold gubernatorial elections today in Edo state. • The ballot is contested by the incumbent Godwin Obaseki, who is campaigning with the People’s Democratic Party’s (PDP), and the All Progressives Congress’s (APC) Osagie Ize-Iyamu, following June primary elections. • Regional elections are key levers of power in Nigeria, where governors have almost executive authority over state finances and significant political clout. The allegiances of the regional governors often act as a weathervane to national policy and are likely to determine the outcome of the 2023 national election. • Pre-election violence has caused concern over the proceedings. PDP leaders and Obaseki were accosted by thugs during a visit to the Edo

		<p>State monarch in July. Furthermore, the posting of overseer Riskuwa Shehu by the Independent National Electoral Commission is troubling given his alleged rigging of the 2019 Kano state elections in favour of the APC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If APC fails to win the election in Edo State, the party won't have power in any state in the oil-rich Niger Delta region. The elections will undoubtedly be closely monitored given concerns over vote rigging and fraud, which could potentially lead to violence.
19.09.2020	<p>The Guardian https://guardian.ng/news/disquiet-as-edo-state-elects-governor-today/</p>	<p>Disquiet as Edo State elects governor today</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was uneasy calm yesterday in most parts of Edo State ahead of the governorship election holding today. Though a total of 14 political parties are participating in the polls, the battle for Osadebe House seems to be between the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and All Progressives Congress (APC)- battle for the soul of the state, with intermittent clashes of members and supporters, especially during the campaigns. • Ahead of the poll, Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, has charged the Commission's staff to be neutral in today's governorship election in Edo State. • "We must ensure that no political party or candidate is accorded any advantage over the other. We must be neutral at all times and stick strictly to our code of conduct and oath of neutrality to which we have all subscribed. For, at the end of the day, we would have all contributed to the sustenance of democracy and a strong electoral process that all Nigerians can trust."
20.09.2020	<p>Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/south-south-regional/415700-low-turnout-faulty-card-readers-late-commencement-characterise-edo-election.html</p>	<p>Low turnout, faulty card readers, late commencement characterise Edo election</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the Edo State gubernatorial election gets underway, the late arrivals of official, low voters turnout, faulty card readers and no adherence to COVID 19 have been observed in parts of the state.
20.09.2020	This Day	Live Updates: Edo Decides 2020

	<p>https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/09/20/the-race-for-the-soul-of-edo/</p>	<p>Key Statistics</p> <p>Registered Voters: 2,210,534</p> <p>Collected PVCs: 1,726,738</p> <p>Uncollected PVCs: 483,796</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Sunday morning began the state collation of results of Saturday’s Edo governorship election. • The governorship election was relatively peaceful and devoid of the anticipated violence • However, there were pockets of violence in some areas especially at Egor local government area where the wife of APC local government chairman was said to have been beaten and hospitalised while resisting some thugs who wanted to snatch election materials. • The Independent National Electoral Commission INEC has confirmed a shooting incident in Orhionmwon local government area of Edo state, saying it was working with the police and other security agencies to ensure the peaceful conduct of the ongoing governorship election. • The electoral body which condemned reports of vote-buying and selling also frowned at the violation of Covid-19 safety protocols especially with regards to the social distancing rule.
<p>20.09.2020</p>	<p>Nairametrics https://nairametrics.com/2020/09/20/godwin-obaseki-wins-edo-state-governorship-election/</p>	<p>Godwin Obaseki wins Edo State governorship election</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent National Electoral Commission(INEC) has declared Godwin Obaseki the winner of the Edo State gubernatorial election today. • Mr. Obaseki will return as the Governor of the state for a second term.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results were declared by INEC on Sunday afternoon after the results were counted from all LGA's on Saturday. Obaseki had 307,955 votes, which was enough to be declared a clear winner over Ize-Iyamu's 223,619 votes.
22.09.2020	Daily Post https://dailypost.ng/2020/09/22/edo-election-we-discovered-many-discrepancies-observer-group/	<p>Edo election: We discovered many discrepancies – Observer Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An observer group in the just concluded Edo State Governorship election, Intercontinental Leadership Initiative, has faulted the integrity of the Sept. 19 poll. Bisong, who disclosed that he had his officials across the 18 Local Government Areas of Edo State during the election, noted that non-functional card readers used for the election across the State raised integrity issues about the poll. He also cited the none display of voters registers five days before the poll as prescribed by the electoral act. According to him, another finding by the organisation was the late arrival of sensitive and non sensitive materials in about 80 per cent of polling units in most polling units, especially in Oredo, Ikpoba-Okha and Egor Local Government Areas.
22.09.2020	All Africa https://allafrica.com/stories/202009220750.html	<p>Nigeria: Edo 2020 - APC Congratulates Obaseki, Says Outcome Victory for Democracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> APC says the peaceful conduct of the Edo governorship election and its outcome are a victory for Nigeria's democracy Although the All Progressives Congress (APC) lost Saturday's governorship election, it has congratulated the victor, Governor Godwin Obaseki of the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP)
22.09.2020	Premium Times https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/416275-edo-election-relatively-credible-cdd-yiaga.html	<p>Edo election relatively credible – CDD, Yiaga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Election observer groups, Yiaga Africa and the Centre for Democratic Development (CDD), have described the just concluded Edo governorship election as relatively credible.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The groups in separate statements said this is despite reports of vote buying, intimidation of journalists and observers as well as disregard for COVID-19 safety protocols.• Saturday’s election witnessed the emergence of Governor Godwin Obaseki as winner for a second term of four years.• Mr Obaseki polled 307,955 votes to defeat his closest rival, Osagie Ize-Iyamu of the All Progressives Congress (APC), who polled 223,619 votes.
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