



FACTSHEET ON KEBBI STATE 2022 LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTION

Local council elections are scheduled to hold in Kebbi State on 5 February 2022. Local elections are of high significance in a representative democracy, given that they are the elections closest to the people. However, local elections across Nigeria have been marked with voter apathy, ineffective administration, and lack of proper media coverage. This has led to elections being conducted to a poor standard of integrity. Against this context, The Electoral Hub, an organ of the Initiative for Research, Innovation and Advocacy in Development (IRIAD), has partnered with the Civic and Voter Education Committee of the Kebbi Development Forum (KDF) to monitor and document the 2022 Kebbi State local council elections. Through this factsheet, we hope to increase stakeholders' understanding of the contexts in which upcoming elections will hold.

S/N	ISSUE	FEATURE
		Electoral Background
	The Election	 The Kebbi State local council election is scheduled for February 5, 2022. This would be the sixth election since the return to civil rule in 1999. Elections were held in 1998, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2017, and 2019 The last election was held in October 2019 The elections are conducted for the positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for each of the 21 local government councils, and Councilor for each of the 225 electoral wards.¹









¹ Section 10(a) KESIEC Law 2000

Constitutional and Legal Framework

- All officials are elected for a term of three years.
- The conduct of federal and state elections in Nigeria is governed by the provisions of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), the Electoral Act 2010 (as amended), and regulations and guidelines of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).
- However, local council elections are determined by state law and conducted by State Independent Electoral Commissions (SIECs)².
- Section 10(a-f) of the KESIEC Law 2000 gives the Kebbi State Independent Electoral Commission (KESIEC) the power to conduct Local Council elections.
- The Kebbi State local council election is guided by the KESIEC Law 2000 and KESIEC guidelines for the local council general election 2021/2022 revised edition
- According to the guidelines, the qualifications for contesting are as follows:³
 - *Chairmanship*: Citizen of Nigeria, educated to at least secondary certificate level, not less than 30 years old, and payment of Non-Refundable Deposit of N400,000 (Four Hundred Thousand Naira)⁴.
 - *Vice-Chairmanship*: Citizen of Nigeria, educated to at least secondary certificate level, not less than 30 years old, and payment of Non-Refundable Deposit of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira).⁵
 - *Councillorship*: Citizen of Nigeria, educated to at least secondary certificate level, not less than 25 years old, and payment of Non-Refundable Deposit of N150,000 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira).⁶









² https://electoralhub.iriad.org/programmes/engaging-siec/

³ Article 3 (a-r) of the KESIEC Guidelines for the Local Government Council General Elections 2021/2022 Revised Edition

⁴ Article 3, particularly paragraph (j) Ibid.

⁵ Ibid particularly paragraph (k)

⁶ Ibid particularly paragraph (i)

	- The guidelines also state that voting is by open secret ballot, ⁷ and the accreditation and voting shall be commenced by the Presiding Officer ⁸ on the day and time stipulated by the Commission. ⁹
Kebbi State Electoral Delimitation	 Kebbi State is divided into 21 local government areas, 225 electoral wards, four emirate councils (Gwandu, Argungu, Yauri and Zuru), and 35 districts.¹⁰ There are 1, 340 Polling Units (PUs) and 1,806,231 register voters in Kebbi State as at 2019 general elections¹¹. From INEC's Continuous Voter Registration (CVR), the number of registered voters increased as at the November 19, 2021 by 41,373. This is the registration across the 21 wards¹².
Kebbi State Geography	 Kebbi State was part of North Western State between 1967 and 1976; and Sokoto State between 1976 and 1991. It was thereafter created on August 27, 1991, with Birnin-Kebbi as its capital¹³. Kebbi State is located on the north western part of Nigeria and has a total landmass of about 37,699 square kilometres out of which 36.46% is made up of farmlands¹⁴. A major geographical feature of Kebbi State is that it is has many inter-cultural and ethnic linkages. It shares an extensive border with Niger Republic to the North; and Benin Republic to the West. It is also internally bordered by Sokoto to the North-East; Zamfara to the East; and to the South by Niger State¹⁵.

⁷ Article 7 (1) and (2) Ibid









⁸ Article 16 Ibid

⁹ Article 15 Ibid

¹⁰ https://www.nigeriagalleria.com/Nigeria/States_Nigeria/Kebbi/

Information from partners in Kebbi suggest that KESIEC would be using the 2019 electoral delimitation and not the new delimitation by INEC. INEC 2019 General Election Report; Premium Times (2021), INEC to expand relocate 1,340 polling units in Kebbi – Official https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/nwest/459501-inec-to-expand-relocate-1340-polling-points-in-kebbi-official.html

¹² Vanguard (2021), CVR: INEC register 41,373 voters in Kebbi https://www.vanguardngr.com/2021/11/cvr-inec-registers-41373-voters-in-kebbi/

¹³ About Kebbi State - https://www.kebbistate.gov.ng/about-kebbi-state#:~:text=GEOGRAPHICAL%20BACKGROUND,is%20made%20up%20of%20farmland.

¹⁴ https://www.kebbistate.gov.ng/about-kebbi-state#:~:text=GEOGRAPHICAL%20BACKGROUND,is%20made%20up%20of%20farmland

¹⁵ Ibid

	 Another highlight of the State is the Sokoto (Kebbi) River. The River which is located in Yauri and Ngaski LGAs, the southern part of the state ¹⁶ makes up 80% of the Kainji Reservoir¹⁷ for the Kainji Dam further downstream on the Niger River¹⁸. Besides crop farming, there is also animal husbandry with major part of the land used for cattle, goats, and sheep grazing. The geography of Kebbi State is interesting to consider as it has an impact on election logistics, including access to polling units, delivery of election materials, transportation of election officials, and maintenance of election security. The presence of KESIEC is not felt as their office is only at Birnin-Kebbi. Also, incidents of banditry, kidnapping and the peculiar issues of insecurity abound within the State. These are important considerations towards planning for the election.
Kebbi State Electorate	 Kebbi State electorate is composed of mostly Hausa, Zarma, Fulani, Dakarki (Dakarawa), and Kamberi¹⁹. From the 2006 census Kebbi State had a population of 3,238,628 with males accounting for 1,617, 498 or 49.9% while the females are 1,621,130 or 50% ²⁰. After agriculture, commerce is the largest employer of human resources in the state. Commerce is dominated by distributive trade in manufactured goods and textiles. There is also some level of activity in primary products. Kebbi measures poorly in development index with an estimated poverty level of 72% the purchasing power of the citizenry is low.









¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Ibid

Kebbi State, Nigeria - https://www.britannica.com/place/Kebbi-state-Nigeria
 https://www.kebbi-state.gov.ng/about-kebbi-state

²⁰ Ibid

	 According to the 2020 Nigeria Education Data Survey (NEDS) report, Kebbi State has the highest rate of out of school children with 59%. Literacy rate is also very low at 30.9% for young women between 15-24years and 41.8% for young men of the same age range²¹ These statistics suggest that candidates who are able to appeal to the average masses will stand a better chance than those who appeal to the elite few.
	Kebbi State Independent Electoral Commission – KESIEC
The Commission - KESIEC	 KESIEC was established by KESIEC Law 2000 as an independent body not subject to direction or control of any other person²². KESIEC is composed of 5 members inclusive of the Chairperson appointed for a 5-year tenure²³ and eligible for an additional term of 5 years as contained in the KESIEC Law 2000. Current members are: Honourable Aliyu Muhammed Mera²⁴ - Chairman Ahmed Amadu Nasani - Member Hon. Saidu Mohd Dankolo - Member Mustapha Usman Kaoje - Member Aliyu Ahmed Adamu - Member Members of the Commission are appointed by the Governor subject to confirmation by a resolution of House of Assembly²⁵. The Chairman is the Chief Executive and Accounting Officer of the Commission²⁶

²¹ https://educeleb.com/young-adult-literacy-rate-in-nigeria/









²² Section 3 of KESIEC Law 2000 while Section 13 provides for its independence. ²³ Section 6 of KESIEC Law 2000

²⁴ Conducted the October 2019 local council election

²⁵ Section 5 of KESIEC Law 2000

²⁶ Section 4(a) of KESIEC Law 2000

Key Electoral Dates for the Council Election²⁸

- The Law also provides for temporary membership where the Chairman of the Commission is incapacitated by illness or is otherwise unavailable to perform the function of the office²⁷.
- KESIEC is located at No. 4 Jalingo Crescent, Off Emir Haruna Road, GRA, Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State. There are no other offices in the state.
- KESIEC has no website or social media addresses/handles for public information dissemination and communication
- Notification of polls was November 1, 2021
- Public awareness by the Commission November 8 to December 13, 2021
- Party primaries December 13 to 23, 2021
- Submission of names of candidates December 23 -30, 2021
- Administrative charges for issuance of KESIEC nomination forms December 24, 2021 to January 5, 2022
- Sale of nomination forms began December 24, 2021, and was supposed to end on the 5th of January, 2022, but it was extended until January 10, 2022. KESIEC granted a request from political parties for a timeline extension.
- Submission of candidates by political parties December 13, 2021 to January 14, 2022
- Publication of names of eligible candidates to contest January 21, 2022. This has not been done such that one day to the election, the public do not have a list of eligible candidates.
- Submission of names of agents by political parties January 14 to January 21, 2022
- Political party campaigns began on December 23, 2021 and are slated to end on February 4, 2022.









²⁷ Section 13 of KESIEC Law 2000

²⁸ See ²⁸ KESIEC Guidelines for the Local Councils General Election 2021/2022 Revised Edition

	 On the January 23, 2022 the state's opposition party (PDP) launched its campaign in Argurgu, the headquarters of Argungu local government, where the party also confirmed its candidates for the positions of 21 chairmen and 225 councilors²⁹. The election will hold on February 5, 2022. If necessary, a runoff election is scheduled for February 12, 2022.
KESIEC Stakeholders' Engagement	 On November 1, 2021, Hon. Alhaji Muhammed Mera, Chairman of KESIEC, met with <i>media stakeholders</i> to explain the role of the Commission's Secretariat in the process of documenting nominations and preparing political parties for the election.³⁰ He also solicited the help and collaboration of all stakeholders and the electorate in order to conduct legitimate elections. Alhaji Suleiman Argungu, State Chairman of the PRP, remarked that a lack of openness in KESIEC's operations is a barrier to conducting credible local government elections in Kebbi.³¹ The KESIEC Commissioner in charge of media and publicity, Alhaji Mustapha Usman Kaoje said that the role of the media is critical to the success or otherwise of any election as their biased reportage may make elections. He advised journalists to avoid collecting monies to compromise their reports saying journalists are the foundation of society and democratic partners³². The European Union has trained 50 journalists in Kebbi state in support of democratic governance at the request of the KESIEC. On 20 January 2022, the EU Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) assisted KESIEC in launching a three-day back-to-back training that will bring together

³² Ibid.









²⁹ Blueprint (2022), As Kebbi prepares for council polls https://www.blueprint.ng/as-kebbi-prepares-for-council-polls/

³⁰ Nigerian Tribune (2021), 2022: KESIEC to conduct Kebbi Council Elections February 5 https://tribuneonlineng.com/2022-kesiec-to-conduct-kebbi-council-elections-february-5/

³¹ The Guardian (2021), Kebbi state to hold LG poll on Feb 5. https://guardian.ng/news/nigeria/kebbi-state-to-hold-lg-poll-on-feb-5/

Training of Electoral Personnel	stakeholders from the media, <i>civil society organizations</i> (representatives of marginalized groups), and electoral officers in order to build their capacities ahead of the elections. ³³ - Journalists were cautioned to ensure that their reporting is accurate, reliable, and free of bias in order to avoid escalating tensions that could lead to post-election violence. ³⁴ - KESIEC, in collaboration with the European Union Centre for Electoral Process, held refresher trainings for Electoral Officers and Returning Officers, as well as engaged and supported local observers in the state in preparation for the upcoming elections ³⁵ . - KESIEC, in collaboration with the European Union Centre for Electoral Process, held refresher trainings for Electoral Officers and Returning Officers, as well as engaged and supported local observers in the state in preparation for the upcoming elections. - The Executive Chairman, Kebbi State Independent Electoral Commission, Hon. Muhammad Aliyu Mera, said the training was for the attainment of electoral credibility which would be exemplary to other states in Nigeria ³⁶ .
	Political Terrain
2019 Local Council Election	 APC won all seats – 21 chairmanships and 225 councillorships. Results were rejected by the two major parties – APC and PDP, making it the first time results of local council elections would be rejected by all parties in an election.









³³ Facebook (2022), European Centre for Electoral Support https://www.facebook.com/eces.eu/posts/4926209744103905

³⁴ Vanguard (2022), European Union supports democratic governance in Nigeria, trains journalists on election reporting in Kebbi https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/01/european-union-supportsdemocratic-governance-in-nigeria-trains-journalists-on-election-reporting-in-kebbi/

³⁵ EU Trains Officers Of KESIEC On Election Administration https://www.radionigeriakaduna.gov.ng/blog/2022/01/22/eu-trains-officers-of-kesiec-on-election- administration

³⁶ Ibid

	 APC leadership in the state accused KESIEC of secretly substituting names of candidates submitted by the party³⁷. PDP "alleged collusion by security agents with political thugs in perpetrating gross electoral irregularities"³⁸.
Pre-Election Litigations	 PRP vs. KESIEC The case is regarding nomination fee for Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Councilor posts. On 29 December, 2021, the People's Redemption Party (PRP) filed a lawsuit against KSIEC for unconstitutional registration fees. The PRP is seeking inclusion in the contest without the imposition of a charge for nomination forms. PRP's case was heard at a hearing on Wednesday, February 2, 2022.
	 APC vs. APC The case involved one faction of the APC vying for recognition of their list of candidates over the candidates listed by the other faction. The former APC faction in Kebbi alleged that the latter had conducted unjust congresses.³⁹. The former claimed that the Kebbi government, led by Bagudu, violated an earlier agreement reached prior to the congresses, which is also stated in the party's constitution, that all party executives should be retained except those who are dead, those who have been caught doing anti-party activities, and/or those who have left the party.
Power Dynamics	Bagudu-Aleiro APC Rift









³⁷ https://guardian.ng/politics/much-ado-about-kebbi-state-local-government-election/ and https://www.pulse.ng/news/politics/apc-sweeps-kebbi-state-lg-poll/fczf58j

³⁸ https://guardian.ng/politics/much-ado-about-kebbi-state-local-government-election/

³⁹ Vanguard (2022), Kebbi factional APC sue party over alleged unjust congresses https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/01/kebbi-factional-apc-sue-party-over-alleged-unjust-congresses/

- In addition to occupying the position of Executive Governor of the State, APC controls the legislature.
- The party is presently factionalized, with two primary groups loyal to the sitting Governor Abubakar Atiku Bagudu and Attorney General of the Federation, Abubakar Malami, on the one side, and Senator Adamu Aleiro, former Governor of the State and Senator representing Kebbi Central, on the other.⁴⁰.
- The battle for control of party structures at various levels in the state is thought to be part of the 2023 succession war.
- The APC's incumbent Governor Atiku Bagudu allegedly has plans to impose Abubakar Malami, AGF, as the APC's governorship candidate in the next governorship elections.⁴¹.
- Mr Aliero's faction, on the other hand, favours the Senate Majority Leader, Mr Abubakar.
- The problem was exacerbated recently when Mr Aliero and Senate Majority Leader Yahaya Abdullahi, who represents Kebbi North, rejected the state executive committee of the party loyal to Governor Bagudu and attempted to establish a state secretariat of the faction in Birnin Kebbi.
- Security personnel, according to reports, dispersed the crowd and halted the facility's unveiling.
- After security officers dispersed the gathering, the faction's spokesperson, Sani Dododo, told the media that the party problem stems from mass sentiments of marginalization in the state's ward and local government congresses.
- As at January 16, 2022, two APC Secretariats exist in Birnin Kebbi, the state capital⁴².











⁴⁰ Nigerian Tribune (2021), New Faction of APC Emerges in Kebbi State https://tribuneonlineng.com/new-faction-of-apc-emerges-in-kebbi-state/

⁴¹ Premium Times (2022), Analysis: 2023: Alleged plot to impose Malami as governorship candidate fueling Kebbi APC Crisis https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/507811-analysis-2023-alleged-plot-to-impose-malami-as-governorship-candidate-fueling-kebbi-apc-crisis.html

⁴² Daily Trust (2022), 2023: Bagudu Battles Aliero over Malami, Senate Leader as APC crises gets messier https://dailytrust.com/2023-bagudu-battles-aliero-over-malami-senate-leader-as-apc-crises-get-messier

- Both factions have submitted names of Chairmanship and Councillorship candidates to KESIEC for the impending LGA council elections in the 21 LGAs.
- In response, Mustapha Usman Ka'oje, Commissioner for Publicity and Voter Education, KESIEC, indicated at a public engagement on January 13, 2022, that the Commission would not tolerate factions and would only consider a single APC in order to maintain the legitimacy of the electoral process⁴³.
- In January 2022, Governor Bagudu led APC members in an APC rally in Kabba town, Deidei LGA, to campaign for the support of the party candidates in the impending LGA council elections. He urged the electorate to work together to promote peace, prosperity, and the credibility of the next LGA council elections.
- The Attorney General of the Federation, Abubakar Malami, was also present at the gathering, soliciting support for the APC. He referred to the APC as the "governing party" and lauded them for their "effort in the state."

Alleged Factions in the PDP

- It is alleged that Barr. Kabiru Taminu (SAN), a senior member of the PDP, is working in secret with the APC in Kebbi State.
- In response, Hajya Rakuyya Yauri, the PDP's Assistant State Women Leader in Kebbi state, noted that Barr. Kabiru Taminu (SAN) has been a pillar of support to the party from its establishment in Kebbi State.
- She said that Barr. Kabiru Taminu (SAN) had helped the PDP prepare for the impending LGA council elections by acquiring candidate registration forms⁴⁴.

⁴⁴ Vanguard (2022), We have no moles in our party – Kebbi PDP Chieftain https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/01/we-have-no-moles-in-our-party-kebbi-pdp-chieftain/
...promoting electoral knowledge, accountability and integrity









⁴³ Daily Trust (2022), 18 Parties to participate in Kebbi LG Poll https://dailytrust.com/18-parties-to-participate-in-kebbi-lg-poll

	 According to Hajya Rakuyya Yauri, the PDP intends to seek redress if KESIEC is biased in the upcoming LGA council elections and skews the results in favor of the APC. The PDP, Assistant State Women Leader, also stated that the alleged rumors of factions in the PDP are false and are being peddled by moles in the party. She further indicated that the supposed allegations of factions in the PDP are incorrect and are being spread by moles within the party. Opposition Parties Currently, the main opposition parties are the PDP and the PRP. The opposition led by the PDP has not been formidable. The PRP, on the other hand, is becoming a force to be reckoned with in this regard. Other political parties exist, although they do not now pose a serious opposition.
Political Parties and Candidates	 Political Parties 18 political parties are fielding candidates for various offices including⁴⁵: APC – Incumbent party
	- PDP – Main opposition party
	- PRP – minor opposition party
	 Candidates As at February 4, 2022, KESIEC has not provided the list of candidates contesting in the
	Council Elections.
	Civil Terrain
Community Stakeholder	Traditional Rulers Involvement
Engagement	- Traditional rulers are mostly nonpartisan.

⁴⁵ Daily Trust (2022), 18 Parties to participate in Kebbi LG Poll https://dailytrust.com/18-parties-to-participate-in-kebbi-lg-poll ...promoting electoral knowledge, accountability and integrity









	- During elections they promote peace.
CSO Engagement with the Electoral Process	 Kebbi Development Forum - KDF With a dedicated Committee on Civic and Voter Education, KDF has been a vital player over the years. The Forum's previous contributions in voter sensitization and election monitoring were recognized and appreciated by KESIEC, and they have been partners in ensuring that youths are mobilized to both participate and engage the electoral process. KDF held a stakeholder engagement session with important participants such as KESIEC, political parties, and security agencies in order to promote a peaceful, free, fair, and credible LGs election. The meeting was held on Thursday, February 3, 2022, in Birnin Kebbi. A town hall gathering organized by the KDF, RYI, and the BYI drew a diverse group of NGOs, CSOs, media, religious and traditional leaders, security governance agencies, and staff of the INEC to hold a discussion on citizen participation in government and voter education. Other CSOs include: Kebbi Network for Good-governance & Development (KNGD Rural Youth Initiative (RYI), Barewa Youths Initiative (BY1), Kebbi Concerned Citizens (KCC).
Media Houses in Kebbi State	 Newspaper Houses Daily Trust has a correspondent in Kebbi State. Kebbi Daily News The Punch News Paper The Guardian Newspaper









TV Channels/Houses⁴⁶

- NTA Kebbi State, Channel 39 UHF: Located in Birni Kebbi and owned by the Federal Government
- Kebbi Television, Channel 25 UHF: Located in Birni Kebbi and owned by State Government
- Kebbi State Broadcasting Service: Free to air Government owned television platform broadcasting local content

Radio Houses⁴⁷

- Equity FM: Located in the state capital Birni Kebbi and owned by the Federal Government. It has restricted coverage to the capital and environs.
- Kebbi Radio: Located in Birni Kebbi and owned by State Government. Also has restricted coverage to the capital and environs. Further local governments such as Yauri etc. do not get signal.
- Vision FM: Located in Birni and owned by Alhaji Umar Faruk. Umar Faruk is a former staff of Hausa VOA
- Rayyan FM: Located in Birni and owned by Abubakar Malami SAN, Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice
- Brinkle FM: Located in Zuru and owned by Senator Bala Ibn Na Allah, a member of APC representing Kebbi South Senatorial District in the 9th NASS
- Haske FM: Located in Gwandu and owned by Buhari Adamu an APC steward in the state

NOTE: All stations have limited coverage to their location and immediate environs. This means many LGAs and communities would be excluded from information shared on these channels. KESIEC would have to use other medias including traditional means to ensure all citizens have equal access to it's information etc.

⁴⁷ FM Radio Stations in Nigeria https://radio-africa.org/fm/fm.php?itu=Nigeria®ion=kbb and interviews with residents of the state.

...promoting electoral knowledge, accountability and integrity









⁴⁶ Media Nigeria (2018), List of Television Stations in Kebbi state and their Channels https://www.medianigeria.com/list-of-television-stations-in-kebbi-state-and-their-channels/

Electoral Integrity

Integrity Measures for the Upcoming Election

- Based on our research, it is evident that universal principles for measuring electoral integrity, including a level playing field for all stakeholders, transparency and openness of the entire process, and accountability to the electorate, are missing. This is due to the following factors:
 - The list of candidates is still not out two days to the elections
 - There is poor voter sensitization, as most people are not aware of the election. This is not surprising given that KESIEC has no website or social media handles for public information dissemination and communication.
 - There is poor stakeholder engagement. Stakeholders have not been properly informed about the process or programmes of KESIEC
 - The electoral process is opaque
 - KESIEC's guidelines for the elections which elaborates the 'rules of the game' came out in January 2022, few weeks to the election. It has also not been adequately publicized.
 - PRP is still in litigation with KESIEC over the non-refundable deposit in its guidelines











About The Electoral Hub

The Electoral Hub is a multidisciplinary strategic think tank committed to strengthening electoral governance, and accountability in Nigeria. The Electoral Hub works to enhance electoral integrity and credibility through research, documentation, electoral education, policy and legal influencing, and impact advocacy.

The main focus of The Electoral Hub's intervention in the electoral governance process is on complementing the roles and activities of the different institutions, stakeholders and drivers of the electoral process by providing back-end support services to them. Since its establishment, The Electoral Hub has grown into a leading research, knowledge and advocacy hub with the capacity to conduct ground-breaking research and analysis of electoral issues.

Contact

8A Remilekun Street, Kukwaba, Abuja, Nigeria

Phone: +234 912 155 1337 and +234 908 699 8850

Email: electoralhub@electoralhubng.org and electoralhub@gmail.com

Social Media Channels

Twitter: @electoralhub; Instagram: @electoralhub; Facebook: @electoralhubng

Websites: https://iriad.org and https://electoralhub.iriad.org





