



THE  
ELECTORAL HUB

**DEEPENING DEMOCRACY  
INEC SAFEGUARDING THE  
INTEGRITY OF THE EDO AND  
ONDO STATE 2020 GOVERNORSHIP  
ELECTIONS**

---



---

## **ELECTORAL HUB TECHNICAL PAPER 3/2020**

---

**DEEPENING DEMOCRACY:**  
**INEC SAFEGUARDING THE**  
**INTEGRITY OF EDO AND ONDO STATES**  
**2020 GOVERNORSHIP ELECTIONS**



**INITIATIVE FOR RESEARCH,  
INNOVATION AND ADVOCACY  
IN DEVELOPMENT**

Copyright © 2020 Initiative for Research, Innovation and Advocacy in Development and The Electoral Hub. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system without the written permission of IRIAD.

Printing of this Paper is supported by  
**OPEN SOCIETY INITIATIVE FOR WEST AFRICA**



# Table of Contents

Acronyms .....	i
Introduction .....	1
Role of INEC in Edo and Ondo .....	2
Recommendations .....	9
Conclusion .....	11
Appendix A: INEC Activities in Edo .....	12
Appendix B: INEC Activities in Ondo .....	21

# Acronyms

APOs	Assistant Presiding Officers
CDS	Community Development Service
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EMB	Electoral Management Body
ICCES	Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security
IFES	International Foundation for Electoral Systems
International IDEA	International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
INEC	Independent National Electoral Commission
IRIAD	Initiative for Research, Innovation and Advocacy in Development
LGAs	Local Government Areas
NOA	National Orientation Agency
NPC	National Peace Committee
NYSC	National Youth Service Corps
POs	Presiding Officers
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
VCC	Voters Code of Conduct
YIAGA	Youth Initiative for Advocacy, Growth and Advancement

# Introduction

While conducting regular and credible elections are hallmark of a democracy, elections conducted with integrity embodies democracy, furthers development and promotes security. The Kofi Annan Foundation explains that elections with integrity are based on the democratic principles of universal suffrage and political equality and are professional, impartial, and transparent in their preparation and administration throughout the electoral cycle. Electoral management bodies (EMBs) have an important role to play in maintaining electoral integrity. According to International IDEA, EMBs should seek to follow the principles of independence, impartiality, integrity, transparency, efficiency, professionalism and service-mindedness. The EMB in Nigeria, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), is responsible for, among others, organising and supervising elections, conducting voter registration, conducting civic and voter education, and promoting knowledge of sound democratic election processes.

INEC conducted elections in Edo State on 19 September 2020, and in Ondo State on 10 October 2020. These were the first two major elections to be conducted during the coronavirus pandemic in Nigeria, which make them useful case studies for the conduct of elections during emergencies.

Prior to the Edo and Ondo elections, the Electoral Hub, an organ of the Initiative for Research, Innovation, and Advocacy in Development (IRIAD), published a technical brief with recommendations on how INEC can safeguard the integrity of those elections, with a particular focus on mitigating the impact of the pandemic. This paper analyses the role of INEC in safeguarding the integrity of the electoral process in the Edo and Ondo 2020 governorship elections, making note of the extent to which the recommendations in our technical brief were followed. It then offers further recommendations that INEC can follow to deepen electoral integrity in future elections. At the end of this paper are also tables and pictures of INEC's activities in Edo and Ondo for reference purposes.

---

<sup>1</sup>*African Union Election Observation Manual 2013 and The Report of the Global Commission on Elections, Democracy and Security (September 2012)*

<sup>2</sup>*“The Electoral Integrity Initiative”, Kofi Annan Foundation (2 May 2016). Available at: <https://www.kofiannanfoundation.org/supporting-democracy-and-elections-with-integrity/electoral-integrity-initiative/>*

<sup>3</sup>*Jeffrey Karp et al, New Policy Report: Professional Electoral Management (January 2017). Available at: <https://www.electoralintegrityproject.com/election-management>*

<sup>4</sup>*Section 15, Part 1 of the Third Schedule of the 1999 Constitution; Section 2, Electoral Act 2010*

<sup>5</sup>*The Electoral Hub, COVID-19 and Elections: Safeguarding the Integrity of the Electoral Process in Edo and Ondo Governorship Elections, Electoral Hub Technical Brief 1/2020. Available at: <https://electoralhub.iriadev.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ELECTORAL-HUB-TECHNICAL-BRIEF-INEC-EDO-ONDO-Elections-and-Covid-19.pdf>*

# Role of INEC in Edo and Ondo

For free and fair elections to hold, the critical attributes that should be possessed by EMBs are: independence and impartiality, efficiency and effectiveness, professionalism, impartial and speedy adjudication, and transparency. Furthermore, for elections to have integrity they must be conducted in a professional, non-partisan, transparent manner and voters must have confidence in their conduct.

For the Edo and Ondo elections, INEC carried out activities in relation to general logistics, the coronavirus pandemic, stakeholder engagement, voter education, citizen involvement, and peace interventions (see Appendix A and B for a detailed breakdown of activities, including pictures). This section explains how the activities carried out by INEC fulfil the critical attributes listed above, and therefore contributed to the integrity of the electoral processes, and free and fair elections in these states.

## 1. Logistics of the election

INEC has maintained an electronic voter register, and carries out electronic verification and accreditation of voters during elections using Smart Card Readers. However, since there was a fire incident in Ondo on 10 September 2020, which led to the loss of over 5,000 Smart Card Readers, INEC had to make arrangements for their prompt replacement. Less than two weeks after the incident, the replacements had arrived in Ondo. In accordance with previous practice, INEC also engaged additional 104 Registration Area Technical Support staff to respond rapidly to card reader issues on election day.

Furthermore, INEC conducted extensive training of its staff, particularly its Presiding Officers (POs) and Assistant Presiding Officers (APOs) in Edo. The INEC Chairman, Prof Mahmood Yakubu, also stated that recruitment, training, and screening of ad hoc staff were carried out for the Ondo election. These trainings were also done in line with COVID-19 guidelines such as social distancing and wearing of masks (as shown in the pictures in Appendix A and B).

In addition, INEC top management (Chairman and National Commissioners) ensured readiness for the election by paying assessment visits to the INEC offices in some local

---

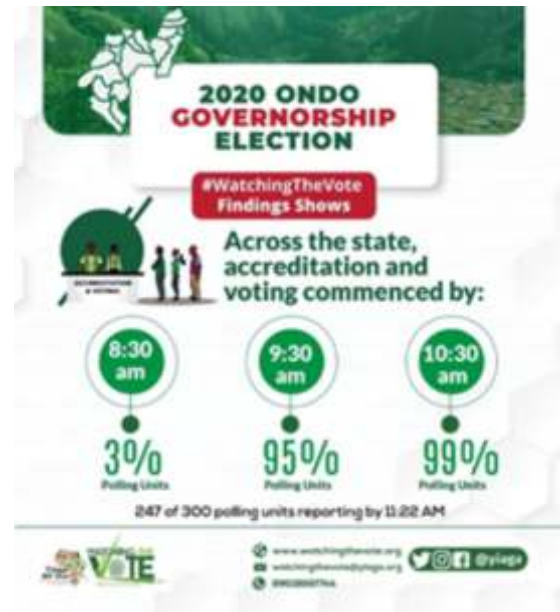
<sup>6</sup>International IDEA, *International Electoral Standards: Guidelines for reviewing the legal framework of elections*, pages 42-43. Available at: <https://www.idea.int/sites/default/files/publications/international-electoral-standards-guidelines-for-reviewing-the-legal-framework-of-elections.pdf>

<sup>7</sup>*The Report of the Global Commission on Elections, Democracy and Security* (September 2012)

<sup>8</sup>A Kabir, "Ondo 2020: Over 5000 card readers burnt in fire at INEC office", *Premium Times* (11 September 2020). Available at: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/413837-ondo-2020-over-5000-card-readers-burnt-in-fire-at-inec-office.html>

government areas (LGAs) in Edo and Ondo States. These visits included meetings with the electoral officers in the states. These activities were carried out to assess their state of preparedness, and ensured that they were adequately prepared to conduct credible elections.

Following this effective logistics management, it is no surprise that, according to YIAGA, INEC polling officials arrived in 77% of polling units at 7:30 am, while accreditation and voting had commenced by 9:30 am in 95% of polling units in Ondo. In this way, INEC demonstrated the attributes of efficiency, effectiveness, and professionalism.



## 2. Impact of the pandemic

To mitigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, INEC published a policy on conducting elections during the pandemic on 26 June 2020. This policy set out guidelines that INEC staff as well as voters should follow to ensure that the elections are conducted safely. The guidelines include, among others, redesigning of polling units to allow for social distancing, use of tags and twines to prevent overcrowding, compulsory wearing of face masks, and provision of hand sanitisers and infrared thermometers at polling units.

INEC's policy is in line with our recommendation that INEC should adopt measures for crowd control, enforce social distancing, and provide sufficient hand sanitisers. This policy is highly commendable and is in line with the attributes of efficiency and

<sup>9</sup>INEC, *Policy on Conducting Elections in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic*, INEC Policy Number 01/2020, page 10. Available at: <https://www.inecnigeria.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/INEC-POLICY-ON-CONDUCTING-ELECTIONS-IN-COVID19.pdf>

<sup>10</sup>The Electoral Hub, *COVID-19 and Elections: Safeguarding the Integrity of the Electoral Process in Edo and Ondo Governorship Elections (above n 5)*, page 8



effectiveness, as it contains measures that should mitigate the impact of the pandemic. However, the reality on election day was different as there was lax compliance with the policy. This is discussed further in the section on recommendations.

### 3. Stakeholder engagement

In preparation for the elections, INEC conducted visits and advocacy meetings with stakeholders including civil society organisations (CSOs), the media, security agencies, women and youth groups, and traditional and religious leaders. The following are examples of INEC's activities with stakeholders:

- *CSOs:* On 1 June 2020, INEC participated in a citizens' town hall meeting organised by YIAGA Africa, with a focus on the policies for the conduct of the Edo and Ondo elections. CSOs were also consulted by INEC before it released the policy on conducting elections during the pandemic in June. Additionally, CSOs were present in other stakeholder meetings organised by INEC in Edo and Ondo, including those on 30 May, 14 September, and October 5.
- *Media:* On 3 June, INEC convened a virtual meeting with the media discussing media engagement in the electoral process. On 4 June and 8 June, respectively, the INEC Chairman announced that the accreditation of media organisations and election observers for the Edo and Ondo elections would be done online. On 20 August, INEC organised a one-day workshop for journalists in Edo State on the topic of election processes and procedures. On 9 September, INEC also held a meeting with media executives in Ondo on the preparedness of the Commission to conduct a peaceful election. On 24 September, INEC held a meeting with journalists in Ondo to discuss their role in contributing to the success of the election.
- *Security agencies:* In June and August, INEC held several meetings with the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) in preparation for the Edo election. Some of these meetings were virtual while others were physical. On 25 September, INEC held a meeting with ICCES in Ondo to discuss critical security issues relating to the coming election in the state. On 26 June 2020, INEC also released the new Code of Conduct and Rules of Engagement for Security Personnel on Electoral Duty. This helped to ensure that security personnel were adequately prepared for the elections.
- *Political parties:* On 30 May 2020, INEC met with political parties (and other stakeholders) to discuss its policy on conducting elections during COVID-19. On 17 August, INEC presented soft copies of the voters register to 14 political parties participating in the Edo election. On October 5, INEC held a meeting with stakeholders including political party officials to brief them on plans for the Ondo election.
- *Women groups:* On 13 August 2020, INEC organised a live radio town hall meeting with women groups on the topic of women's participation in the electoral process in Edo. On 16 September, INEC also organised a live radio town hall meeting with women groups in Ondo State on the same topic.
- *Youth groups:* On 19 August, INEC organised a one-day engagement with identified CSOs, youth groups, and National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Voter Education CDS Groups in Edo State.
- *Traditional and religious leaders:* On 27 August, INEC visited the Oba of Benin, Ewuare II, to seek his assistance as a revered royal father, towards ensuring a peaceful and credible

election in Edo. On 3 September, INEC met with religious leaders in Edo. Similarly, INEC paid an advocacy visit to the Ondo State Council of Obas on 3 September and again on 2 October, seeking their assistance in the successful conduct of the election.

- *Other stakeholders:* A final stakeholders' meeting was held in Edo on 14 September, and in Ondo on 5 October.

It is also worthy of note that these forms of engagements were conducted in line with COVID-19 protocols. As shown in the examples above, virtual alternatives were used where possible. Similarly, where physical meetings were conducted, COVID-19 guidelines regarding social distancing and wearing of masks were adhered to (as shown in the media section in Appendix A and B). Despite the pandemic, INEC was therefore able to effectively engage with stakeholders. This facilitated effective communication, exchange of ideas, and collaboration, all of which ensured readiness for the election (professionalism). Ultimately, by engaging with stakeholders across different groups, INEC also demonstrated independence and impartiality.

#### 4. Voter education

In line with its function to conduct civic and voter education, INEC used a variety of meetings, online platforms, and infographics to educate voters. On 5 August, INEC met with the National Orientation Agency (NOA), NYSC, and INEC electoral officers in Edo to discuss the topic of voter enlightenment and publicity. A similar meeting was held in Ondo on 31 August.

INEC also ensured that its voter education programme was inclusive. On 18 August, it organised a live local government area voter education sensitisation forum for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Edo State. It also organised a voter education sensitization forum for PWDs and PWD focal CSOs in Ondo.

INEC launched an online campaign on 28 August, using well-known artists and actors to encourage the youth to vote peacefully and adhere strictly to INEC's policy on conducting elections during the pandemic. For example, a video titled "Heal the Land" was released as part of the campaign, starring celebrities such as Ali Nuhu, Uti Nwachukwu, Emmanuel Ikubese, Helen Paul, M.I., Tuface Idibia, and Funny Bone.

---

<sup>11</sup>INEC Nigeria, *Heal the Land* (13 September 2020), [https://www.instagram.com/p/CEstmNKD\\_BJ/](https://www.instagram.com/p/CEstmNKD_BJ/)

Again, INEC's voter education campaigns, which aim to reach different groups including PWDs, demonstrate its independence and impartiality.

Additionally, INEC designed a Voters Code of Conduct (VCC) to inform voters of how to vote safely during the pandemic. This was presented in the form of hand bills and posters (pictured below) and a YouTube video. In addition to the general VCC, a VCC for Ondo State was also created and published on INEC's social media platforms. The VCC is in line with our recommendation that INEC should reassure citizens that voting would be safe, as well as continually inform them of all changes to voting rules.

However, it is regrettable that the general VCC posters are not easily available online. To increase reach, the general VCC should have been uploaded on all of INEC's platforms and publicised effectively, particularly for the Edo election, as no specific VCC was created for that state.



*Voters Code of Conduct*

<sup>12</sup>The Electoral Hub, *COVID-19 and Elections: Safeguarding the Integrity of the Electoral Process in Edo and Ondo Governorship Elections (above n 5)*, pages 7-8



## 5. Citizen involvement

In addition to voter education, INEC also made it easier for citizens to be involved in the electoral process. One of the ways in which it did this was through the introduction of the online Results Viewing Portal on 6 August 2020. This portal was used in both Edo and Ondo. INEC officials were able to upload result sheets on the portal using Z-pads (tablets), which allowed citizens to track the results of the election in real time, regardless of their location. This improved transparency and confidence in the process.

Another way in which INEC improved citizen involvement was through the use of a virtual situation room. This allowed INEC commissioners and directors to track the election virtually and give rapid responses to issues. For example, during the Edo election, one polling unit was reported to be involved in vote buying and INEC immediately responded to this, ensuring that the vote buying was stopped.

<sup>13</sup>The portal can be viewed on <https://inecelectionresults.com>

Thus, even though theoretically the pandemic should have reduced citizen participation in the electoral process, INEC was able to use innovative virtual measures to ensure involvement from citizens across the country, and even in the diaspora. In this way, the EMB effectively demonstrated the attribute of transparency.

## 6. Peace interventions

INEC held peace interventions in the pre-election period to help de-escalate tensions and reduce the likelihood of violence on election day. On 2 June 2020, Professor Yakubu, in a press conference held with the media, implored political parties to conduct rancour-free primaries. On 21 August, INEC held a live citizens' radio town hall on youth and non-violent participation in the Edo election.

On 14 September, INEC in a symposium educated the youths and CSOs in Ondo on election offences and penalties. During the programme, INEC informed all parties present that no form of violence or misconduct would be tolerated, while emphasising that youths and CSOs in Ondo State have a crucial role to play in ensuring a peaceful and credible election. Similarly, on 15 September INEC organised a radio town meeting on youth and non-violent participation in the Ondo election.

As discussed earlier, INEC also met with traditional leaders, including the Oba of Benin and the Ondo State Council of Obas. These traditional leaders assisted significantly in maintaining peace in the states. In particular, the Oba of Benin held a meeting calling the candidates to order, after which they resolved to promote peace in the state.

Another major effort by INEC was the insistence that candidates and parties sign peace accords. INEC's engagements with the National Peace Committee (NPC) were crucial, as the peace accords were anchored by the NPC of Bishop Matthew Kukah and Former Head of State, Retired Major General Abubakar Abdulsalami, prior to the elections. In Edo, peace accords were signed by all parties and candidates, and a peace accord signing ceremony was held on 16 September. In Ondo, a peace accord was also signed on 6 October. The peace accords, meetings with traditional rulers, and other peace interventions may have contributed to the low level of violence during the elections, as observers noted. INEC's engagement with different stakeholders, including candidates of opposing parties at peace accord ceremonies, further demonstrates its independence and impartiality.

Overall, it is evident that INEC displayed critical attributes that are necessary for the conduct of free and fair elections, including independence and impartiality, efficiency and effectiveness, professionalism, and transparency. In this way, it was able to improve the integrity and credibility of the Edo and Ondo elections.

---

<sup>14</sup>Reports from CDD and PLAC situation rooms

# Recommendations

While INEC, through its activities, contributed to improving the integrity and credibility of the elections in Edo and Ondo, there are still areas of improvement in at least four areas: logistics, voter education, COVID-19 protocols, and online registration/voting.

## 1. Logistics

Although INEC has made improvements to its logistics management, particularly in Ondo, it can further improve this by increasing the quality of its card readers. In the Ondo election, there were reports of card reader failure, which led to some delays. Although there were support staff on ground to assist with card reader issues, it is always preferable to take all steps necessary to prevent these issues from occurring in the first place, so as to prevent unnecessary delays.

## 2. Voter education

INEC should engage in more effective voter education, in collaboration with CSOs. This should help to increase voter turnout on election day, as this has been particularly poor – just 24.5% in Edo and 32.8% in Ondo. One of the ways to make voter education more effective is to upload the VCC on all of INEC's platforms and publicise it effectively before election day. As recommended in the Electoral Hub's paper on lessons from the Ondo election, voter education should also be contextualised and targeted, taking into account the differences within the six geo-political zones in Nigeria, as well as other demographic differences such as age, gender and rural versus urban populations.

## 3. COVID-19 protocols

Despite many promising features in INEC's policy on conducting elections during the pandemic, on election day COVID-19 protocols were largely ignored. According to observers, social distancing and wearing of masks did not occur in many polling units. It is not enough for INEC to have a policy on conducting elections during COVID-19 – it must also ensure that this policy is followed strictly in future elections.

---

<sup>15</sup>Reclaim Naija, <https://twitter.com/reclaimnaija/status/1314892264137723905>; “Drama As Card Reader Malfunctions At Jegede's Polling Unit”, Channels (10 September 2020). Available at: <https://www.channelstv.com/2020/10/10/just-in-drama-as-card-reader-malfunctions-at-jegedes-polling-unit/>

<sup>16</sup>INEC Nigeria, 2020 Edo Governorship Election: Declaration of Results (21 September 2020). Available at <https://twitter.com/inecnigeria/status/1308000156135165953>

<sup>17</sup>INEC Nigeria, <https://twitter.com/inecnigeria/>

<sup>18</sup>The Electoral Hub, Deepening Democracy: Lessons from Ondo State 2020 Governorship Election, Electoral Hub Technical Paper 2/2020, page 17. Available at: <https://electoralhub.iriadev.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/ELECTORAL-HUB-TECHNICAL-PAPER-on-Lessons-and-Result-Analysis-of-the-Ondo-State-Governorship-Election.pdf>

<sup>19</sup>Reports from CDD and PLAC situations rooms

In our technical brief on the role of INEC in safeguarding the integrity of the Edo and Ondo elections, we also recommended that special voting cubicles or centres should be set up at government-run isolation centres to allow people in isolation to vote. Similarly, we suggested that no one should be turned away from the polling unit even if they exhibit symptoms – instead, special provisions should be made for them. However, INEC does not provide for this in its policy. On the contrary, it states that persons showing symptoms will be isolated and the dedicated number for COVID-19 emergencies will be called. There are also no provisions for people in isolation centres to vote. This leads to further disenfranchisement and might have contributed to the particularly low turnout at the election.

#### **4. Online registration/voting**

Another recommendation we made in our technical brief was the adoption of online voter registration to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. However, INEC did not adopt this. Instead, it discontinued the Continuous Voter Registration altogether. As a result, new voters were unable to register to vote in the Edo and Ondo elections. This raises concerns over disenfranchisement.

Furthermore, the continuous use of manual voting and recording of results has led to problems such as mathematical inconsistencies and errors in recording. While we recognise that electronic voting is not a process that can be done quickly or easily, it should be considered in the near future so as to eliminate the problem of inaccuracy. Electronic voting would also reduce the likelihood of electoral malpractices, as it would be impossible to do things like snatching ballot boxes or stuffing multiple ballot papers in a ballot box.

These recommendations, if adopted by INEC, can help to further improve the integrity and success of future elections such as the bye-elections scheduled to hold on 31 October 2020.

---

<sup>20</sup>The Electoral Hub, *COVID-19 and Elections: Safeguarding the Integrity of the Electoral Process in Edo and Ondo Governorship Elections* (above n 5), page 8

<sup>21</sup>*Ibid*, page 9

<sup>22</sup>INEC, *Policy on Conducting Elections in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic* (above n 9), pages 4-5

<sup>23</sup>The Electoral Hub, *COVID-19 and Elections: Safeguarding the Integrity of the Electoral Process in Edo and Ondo Governorship Elections* (above n 5), page 7

<sup>24</sup>Gabriel Ewepu, "YIAGA receives INEC's commendation over credible observer role", *Vanguard* (11 August 2020). Available at: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/08/yiaga-receives-inecs-commendation-over-credible-observer-role/>

<sup>25</sup>See The Electoral Hub, *Deepening Democracy: Lessons from Edo State 2020 Governorship Election, Electoral Hub Technical Paper 1/2020*, page 4. Available at: <https://electoralhub.iriadev.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/TECHNICAL-PAPER-Lessons-from-Edo-State-Governorship-Election.pdf>; The Electoral Hub, *Deepening Democracy: Lessons from Ondo State 2020 Governorship Election* (above n 18), pages 4-5

## Conclusion

INEC has demonstrated significant improvements in its conduct of, first the Edo election, and later the Ondo election. Its logistics management, efforts to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, stakeholder engagement, voter education programmes, efforts to increase citizen involvement, and peace interventions are commendable to varying extents. These activities demonstrated INEC's independence and impartiality, efficiency and effectiveness, professionalism, and transparency. They also embodied the norms and standards of electoral integrity. It is therefore no surprise that results were achieved such as fewer delays in starting during the Ondo election, high level of citizen involvement across the country, election observers' commendations, and low level of violence in both elections.

However, there is still room for improvement. In the area of logistics, INEC can increase the quality of its card readers to prevent unnecessary delays due to card reader failure. INEC should also engage in contextualised and targeted voter education, starting with the online publication of the VCC.

With regard to the pandemic, INEC needs to ensure strict compliance with its policy on conducting elections, with a particular focus on social distancing and wearing of masks. INEC should also consider making special arrangements for people showing symptoms and those in isolation centres to vote, so that they are not unfairly disenfranchised.

Finally, in the near future, INEC should consider online registration and online voting in order to reduce the potential for disenfranchisement, the reduction/elimination of incidents of rejected votes as well as mathematical inaccuracies in the recording of results.

With the adoption of these recommendations, INEC can further deepen democracy in Nigeria, protect election integrity, and increase transparency and confidence in our electoral systems and processes.



## Appendix A: INEC Activities in Edo

Unless otherwise stated, all data in this section were taken from INEC's Twitter page (<https://twitter.com/inecnigeria>).

S/N	DATE	ACTIVITY
1	23 May 2020	Meeting with Resident Electoral Commissioners (RECs), political parties, CSOs, and other stakeholders to discuss INEC's policy on conducting elections during COVID-19.
2	1 June 2020	INEC informed the general public of the date of the Edo election. This notice is in accordance with Section 30 of the Electoral Act 2010 (as amended). The notice was later pasted at the Edo State INEC office.
3	1 June 2020	A citizens' town hall meeting was organised by YIAGA Africa with the support of the Delegation of the European Union to Nigeria and ECOWAS with a focus on the policies for the conduct of the Edo and Ondo elections.
4	1 June 2020	A virtual meeting was convened with a focus on INEC and political engagements.
5	2 June 2020	INEC Chairman, Prof Mahmood Yakubu, in a press conference held with the media implored political parties to conduct rancour-free primaries. <sup>26</sup>
6	3 June 2020	Virtual meeting with the media, discussing media engagement in the electoral process.
7	4 June 2020	INEC Chairman announced that in compliance with the safety protocols for conducting electoral activities, accreditation of media organisations for the Edo and Ondo elections would be done online. <sup>27</sup>
8	8 June 2020	INEC invites election observers to register online.
9	9 June 2020	INEC released the calendar for congress and primaries for the Edo election.
10	17 June 2020	At the second virtual meeting of INEC and ICCES, the INEC Chairman stated that there will be no extension of deadline for the conduct of primaries for all political parties interested in fielding candidates for the Edo election. <sup>28</sup>

<sup>26</sup><https://inecnews.com/inec-warns-political-parties-against-phoney-primaries/>

<sup>27</sup><https://inecnews.com/edo-2020-media-accreditation-to-be-done-online/>

<sup>28</sup><https://inecnews.com/edo2020-no-deadline-extension-for-conduct-of-primaries-yakubu-tells-parties/>

11	26 June 2020	INEC released the new Code of Conduct and Rules of Engagement for Security Personnel on Electoral Duty. <sup>29</sup>
12	26 June 2020	INEC released policy guidelines on conducting elections in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. <sup>30</sup>
13	30 June 2020	The provision list of nominated candidates for the election was released by INEC.
14	2 July 2020	INEC published the forms for candidates of the various political parties ahead of the Edo election. <sup>31</sup>
15	18 July 2020	The final list of candidates for the election was released by INEC.
16	28 July 2020	INEC released a Voters Code of Conduct (VCC) to inform voters on how to vote safely in the upcoming Edo and Ondo elections.
17	5 August 2020	Implementation Meeting with NOA, NYSC and INEC Electoral Officers on the topic of voter enlightenment and publicity.
18	6 August 2020	INEC in a press release warned political parties and its candidates not to underestimate its resolve to enforce rules and regulations.
19	6 August 2020	INEC revealed the Result Viewing Portal to the general public. The INEC Chairman stated that the essence of this innovation is to promote transparency and trust in the electoral process.
20	13 August 2020	Live radio town hall meeting with women groups on the topic of women's participation in the electoral process.
21	13 August 2020	Meeting with ICCES in preparation for the Edo election.
22	14 August 2020	A virtual INEC Communication Policy Workshop was conducted.
23	17 August 2020	INEC presented soft copies of the voters register to 14 political parties participating in the Edo election. <sup>32</sup>
24	17-18 August 2020	INEC, in conjunction with the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES), organised the Election Monitoring and Support Centre Implementers' Workshop .
25	18 August 2020	INEC in collaboration with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) organised a live local government area voter education sensitisation forum for persons with disabilities (PWDs).

<sup>29</sup><https://inecnigeria.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/CODE-OFCONDUCT.pdf>

<sup>30</sup><https://inecnigeria.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/INEC-Elections-and-COVID19-Documents-1.pdf>

<sup>31</sup><https://inecnigeria.org/publication-of-candidates-forms-for-edo-state-governorship-election/>

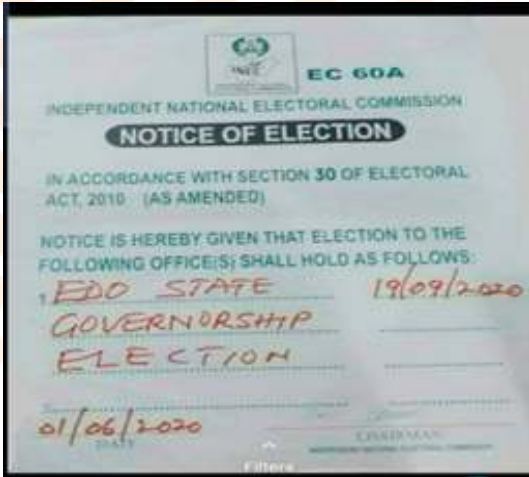
<sup>32</sup><https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/08/edo-gov-election-inec-presents-voters-register-to-14-political-parties/>

26	19 August 2020	INEC National Commissioner and Supervising Commissioner of Edo State, Mrs May Agbamuche - Mbu, REC in Edo State, Dr. Johnson Alalibo Sinikiem, and other staff of the Commission paid an assessment visit to 18 INEC LGA offices.
27	19 August 2020	INEC organised a one-day engagement with identified CSOs, youth groups, and NYSC Voter Education CDS Groups in Edo.
28	20 August 2020	INEC organised a one-day workshop for journalists in Edo State on the topic of election processes and procedures.
29	21 August 2020	INEC organised a live citizens' radio town hall on the topic of youth and non-violent participation in the Edo election.
30	21 August 2020	INEC paid a media tour visit to several media houses in Edo State, seeking their collaboration and robust coverage for the election.
31	21 August 2020	INEC organised a panel discussion on youth and peaceful participation in electoral process at the ongoing Live Citizens Radio Town Hall meeting on Youth and Non -Violent Participation in the 2020 Edo Governorship Election
32	26 August 2020	INEC visited the Commission's office in Benin City for a series of activities.
33	26 August 2020	INEC announced that the distribution of kits to approved media organisations for both Edo and Ondo elections would be done from 15-17 September 2020.
34	27 August 2020	Meeting with ICCES in Edo.
35	27 August 2020	INEC Chairman led a senior management team to the palace of the Oba of Benin, Ewuare II, to seek his assistance as a revered royal father, towards ensuring a peaceful, credible election in Edo.
36	28 August 2020	Meeting with electoral officers in Edo.
37	28 August 2020	Visit to all INEC LGA offices in Edo to assess their state of preparedness for the election.
38	N/A	INEC announced that the submission of all applications and documents for media accreditation for the Edo election will end on 12 September 2020. No late submission would be accepted, as the portal would automatically shut down at the expiration period.
39	3 September 2020	The REC in Edo State, Dr Johnson Alalibo, held a meeting with religious leaders in Edo.
40	3 September 2020	INEC organised a two-day Election Monitoring and Support Centre Implementers' Workshop .
41	5 September 2020	INEC trained Presiding Officers (POs) and Assistant Presiding Officers (APOs) across the 18 LGAs in Edo.

42	10 September 2020	At the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 press briefing, the INEC Chairman displayed the ten-Point Voters Code of Conduct poster and hand bill, braille version of the INEC policy on conducting elections during COVID-19, and the Code of Conduct/Rules of Engagement for Security. The Chairman also reassured Nigerians of a free, fair and credible election in the context of the pandemic. <sup>33</sup>
43	14 September 2020	INEC organised a stakeholders' meeting at the Oba Akenzua II Cultural Centre, Benin City, Edo State.
44	16 September 2020	INEC organised a peace accord signing ceremony, where all parties affirmed their commitment to peaceful conduct during the Edo election.

---

<sup>33</sup><https://inecnews.com/despite-covid-19-inec-will-conduct-free-fair-governorship-elections-in-edo-ondo-yukubu-assures/>



Notice of the Edo State Governorship Election has now been pasted at the Edo State office of the Commission



Virtual Meeting: INEC and Political Parties Engagement

**CALENDAR OF CONGRESSES/PRIMARIES FOR EDO STATE 2020 GOVERNORSHIP ELECTIONS**

Political Party	Date of Elections	Mode of Elections
APC	24th June 2020	Hybrid
PP	24th June 2020	Hybrid
CP	27th June 2020	Hybrid
SDP	27th June 2020	Hybrid
CON	27th June 2020	Hybrid
ANPP	27th June 2020	Hybrid
UCP	27th June 2020	Hybrid
APC	27th June 2020	Hybrid
PP	27th June 2020	Hybrid
CP	27th June 2020	Hybrid
SDP	27th June 2020	Hybrid
CON	27th June 2020	Hybrid
ANPP	27th June 2020	Hybrid
UCP	27th June 2020	Hybrid
APC	27th June 2020	Hybrid
PP	27th June 2020	Hybrid
CP	27th June 2020	Hybrid
SDP	27th June 2020	Hybrid
CON	27th June 2020	Hybrid
ANPP	27th June 2020	Hybrid
UCP	27th June 2020	Hybrid

Calendar of Congresses/ Primaries for Edo State 2020 Governorship Election.

**PROVISIONAL LIST OF CANDIDATES 2020 Governorship Election - Edo State**

Political Party	Candidate	Male	Female	Age	Education
APC	Abiodun Oluwole	✓		45	BA, MA, PhD
PP	Abiodun Oluwole	✓		45	BA, MA, PhD
CP	Abiodun Oluwole	✓		45	BA, MA, PhD
SDP	Abiodun Oluwole	✓		45	BA, MA, PhD
CON	Abiodun Oluwole	✓		45	BA, MA, PhD
ANPP	Abiodun Oluwole	✓		45	BA, MA, PhD
UCP	Abiodun Oluwole	✓		45	BA, MA, PhD
APC	Abiodun Oluwole	✓		45	BA, MA, PhD
PP	Abiodun Oluwole	✓		45	BA, MA, PhD
CP	Abiodun Oluwole	✓		45	BA, MA, PhD
SDP	Abiodun Oluwole	✓		45	BA, MA, PhD
CON	Abiodun Oluwole	✓		45	BA, MA, PhD
ANPP	Abiodun Oluwole	✓		45	BA, MA, PhD
UCP	Abiodun Oluwole	✓		45	BA, MA, PhD
APC	Abiodun Oluwole	✓		45	BA, MA, PhD
PP	Abiodun Oluwole	✓		45	BA, MA, PhD
CP	Abiodun Oluwole	✓		45	BA, MA, PhD
SDP	Abiodun Oluwole	✓		45	BA, MA, PhD
CON	Abiodun Oluwole	✓		45	BA, MA, PhD
ANPP	Abiodun Oluwole	✓		45	BA, MA, PhD
UCP	Abiodun Oluwole	✓		45	BA, MA, PhD

Provisional List of Nominated Candidates for Edo Governorship Election.



Implementation Meeting with NOA, NYSC and INEC Electoral Officers on Voter Enlightenment and Publicity for #EdoDecides2020 Election in Benin, Edo State.



Live Radio Town Hall Meeting with Women Group on Women's Participation in the Electoral Process in Benin, Edo State ahead of the #EdoDecides2020 election



*Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) Meeting on preparation for #EdoDecides2020 at the INEC State Head Office, Edo State.*



*INEC National Commissioner and Supervising Commissioner of Edo, Bayelsa and Rivers States, Mrs. May Agbamuche-Mbu in a Radio Programme on Vibes FM 97.3, discussing INEC preparation on Conducting of election under the context of Covid-19 Pandemic.*



*INEC National Commissioner & Supervising Commissioner of Edo State, Mrs. May Agbamuche-Mbu, REC Edo State, Dr. Johnson Alalibo Sinikem and other staff of the Commission pays assessment visit to INEC Ovia North East LGA office ahead of the #EdoDecides2020.*



*Readiness assessment visit by INEC National Commissioner & Supervising Commissioner of Edo State, Mrs. May Agbamuche-Mbu and REC Edo State, Dr. Johnson Alalibo to INEC Orhionmwon LGA & Ikpoba-Okha LGA offices ahead of #EdoDecides2020.*



*INEC workshop for Journalists in Edo State On Election Processes and Procedures #EdoDecides2020.*



*One-Day Engagement with Identified CSOs, Youth Groups and NYSC (Voter Education Community Development CD Group) ahead of the #EdoDecides2020 election.*



*INEC Forum for media executives in Edo State on the Conduct of Governorship election.*



*Media Tour visit to Nigeria Television Authority Benin-City, Edo State, by INEC National Commissioner & Chairman IVEC, Barr. Festus Okoye and other staff of the Commission to collaborate on effective and robust coverage for the #EdoDecides2020 election.*



*INEC Live Citizens Radio Town Hall on Youth and Non-Violent Participation in the 2020 Edo Governorship Election. Kindly tune to Raypower 105.5 Benin City Edo State to be part of the program. #EdoDecides2020*



*Panel discussion on Youth and peaceful participation in electoral process at the Live Citizens Radio Town Hall on Youth and Non-Violent Participation in the 2020 Edo Governorship Election. #EdoDecides2020*



*Election Monitoring and Support Centre Implementers' Workshop from 17th to 18th Aug in Benin City.*



*National Commissioner and Supervising Commissioner of Edo State, Mrs. May Agbamuche-Mbu Unveiling the EPOs Pre-Election Preparation (PEP) Technical Workshop in the Context of #Covid19 Pandemic for EOs, AEOs(Operations), HODs(EOPs,/ICT/VR) & HOU Training ahead of the Edo election.*



Chairman, Prof Mahmood Yakubu, some National Commissioners, the Technical Team and some Directors are at the Commission's office in Benin City for a series of activities, as part of preparations for the governorship election slated for 19th September 2020. #EdoDecides2020



Meeting of the Hon. Chairman INEC, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu with the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCCEs) at Benin Edo State. #EdoDecides2020.



Hon. Chairman INEC, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu and Members of the Commission on a courtesy visit to the Oba of Benin, Oba Ewuare II ahead of the #EdoDecides2020 Governorship election.



Chairman INEC, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, Members of the Commission, his technical team and Directors of the commission in a meeting with Electoral Officers in Benin, Edo State. #EdoDecides2020



Hon. Chairman INEC, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu & Members of the Commission pays a visit to the INEC State Head office in Benin; to assess the preparedness of the Commission ahead of #EdoDecides2020 Governorship Election.



REC Edo State, Dr. Johnson Alalibo in a Stakeholders Meeting with Religious leaders in Benin ahead of the #EdoDecides2020 election.





The 2-Day Election Monitoring and Support Centre Implementers' Workshop, which begins today in Benin city. #EdoDecides2020



National Commissioners Mohammed Haruna and Hajiya Amina Zakari Supervising the training of Presiding Officers (POs) and Assistant Presiding Officers (APOs) at Oredo, Benin, Edo State



The 2020 Edo State Governorship Election Stakeholders' Meeting begins in Benin City. #EdoDecides2020.



Peace Accord Signing Ceremony #edodecides#.

## Appendix B: INEC Activities in Ondo

Unless otherwise stated, all data in this section were taken from INEC's Twitter page (<https://twitter.com/inecnigeria>)

S/N	DATE	ACTIVITY
1	20-21 August 2020	INEC in conjunction with ECES organised the Election Monitoring and Support Centre Implementers' Workshop in Akure , Ondo State.
2	24 August 2020	The REC in Ondo State, Mr Rufus Akeju, had a meeting with electoral officers in the state to discuss logistics and overall preparations for the Ondo election.
3	28 August 2020	INEC launched an online campaign using well -known artist and actors to encourage the youth to vote peacefully and adhere strictly to the INEC policy on conducting elections during COVID-19. <sup>1</sup>
4	31 August 2020	INEC held an implementation meeting on voter education and publicity at Bliss Hotel, Ijapo Akure, Ondo State.
5	3 September 2020	The REC in Ondo State, Mr Akeju, paid an advocacy visit to the Ondo State Council of Obas. During his visit, he stated that the relevance of the traditional institutions cannot be overemphasised as the traditional rulers play a major role in the conduct of a successful governorship election in the state. The traditional rulers assured Mr Akeju of their support in achieving a peaceful and credible election.
6	9 September 2020	INEC officials held a meeting with media executives in Akure to speak on the preparedness of the Commission to conduct a peaceful poll.
7	14 September 2020	INEC in a symposium, educated the youths and CSOs in Ondo State on election offences and penalties. During the programme, INEC informed all parties present that no form of violence or misconduct would be tolerated, while emphasising that youths and CSOs in Ondo state have a crucial role to play in ensuring a peaceful and credible election.
8	15 September 2020	INEC organised a radio town meeting on the topic of youth and non-violent participation in the Ondo election.
9	16 September 2020	INEC organised a forum with the theme "Awareness Creation for the Young Female Voter".
10	16 September 2020	INEC organised a live radio town hall meeting with women groups in Ondo on the topic of women's participation in the electoral process.

<sup>34</sup><https://instagram.com/inecnigeria>

11	N/A	<b>INEC organised a voter education sensitisation forum for PWDs and PWD focal CSOs, in order to let them know that they are inclusive and have the right to cast their votes during elections.</b>
12	23 September 2020	INEC held a meeting to discuss logistics and to ascertain the preparedness of the State Commission towards the Ondo election.
13	24 September 2020	INEC held a meeting with journalists in Akure to discuss their role in contributing to the success of the election. In this meeting, the INEC Chairman showed the journalists the new Smart Card Readers sent to the Ondo office to replace the over 5,000 units burnt in the fire incident of 10 September 2020.
14	24 September 2020	The INEC Chairman, during an interaction with the media in Akure, disclosed that all sensitive materials for the Ondo election would arrive Akure on 5 October 2020. He further stated that the non-sensitive materials for the election had been delivered.
15	25 September 2020	Meeting with ICCES to discuss critical security issues relating to the election in the state.
16	25 September 2020	Meeting with the electoral officers in Akure and visits to INEC offices in the eighteen Ondo LGAs to assess their state of preparedness ahead of the election.
17	27 September 2020	INEC announced that media accreditation for the Ondo election would soon end, and that strict compliance with the deadline is advised as late submissions would not be accepted.
18	1 October 2020	INEC announced this day to be the deadline for accreditation of media for the Ondo election.
19	N/A	The INEC Chairman while speaking to newsmen disclosed that fourteen activities were scheduled for the Ondo election – twelve had been accomplished and the remaining two were submission of the list of polling agents for political parties, and the conduct of the election.
20	2 October 2020	INEC organised the Election Monitoring and Support Centre Red Zone Implementers' Workshop.
21	2 October 2020	The REC in Ondo, Mr Akeju, held a meeting with the Obas. While addressing the traditional rulers, he assured them that INEC was determined to conduct a free, fair and credible election in the state.
22	3 October 2020	The National Commissioner in charge of Lagos, Ogun and Ondo States, Dr Adekunle Ogunmola, held a meeting with the electoral officers in the state. He admonished them to ensure that braille guides, magnifying glasses and all materials needed by PWDs get to all polling units on time during the election.
23	4 October 2020	INEC paid a readiness assessment visit to its office in Ifedore LGA.

- 24** 5 October 2020 INEC organised a meeting with stakeholders including political party officials, traditional rulers, election observers and other officials. The INEC Chairman outlined the following additional activities conducted by INEC in preparation for the Ondo election:
- Recruitment, training and screening of all categories of ad hoc staff for the election
  - Arrangements for the movement of personnel and materials to electoral locations in all 3,009 polling units and 203 electoral wards across the State
  - Deployment of magnifying glasses and braille ballot guides to assist PWDs to vote unaided
  - Collaboration with health authorities so as to enforce safety measures at polling units, including the compulsory wearing of face masks and the provision of hand sanitisers and infra-red thermometers at polling units and collation centres
  - Engagement with land and maritime transport owners for forward and reverse logistics to and from land and riverine locations
  - Engagement of additional 104 Registration Area Technical Support staff to respond rapidly to issues with card readers on election day
- 25** 6 October 2020 INEC organised the signing of a peace accord by the governorship candidates. The signing of the peace accord is a way of reaffirming that the candidates must conduct themselves in a professional and peaceful manner.



Remarks by the Chairman of the Commission, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, at the ongoing Stakeholders Meeting ahead of the #OndoDecides2020 Governorship Election.



The singing of Peace Accord by #OndoDecides2020 Governorship Candidates



Stakeholders Meeting ahead of the #OndoDecides2020 Governorship Election



Ondo2020: INEC Chairman Pays Readiness Assessment Visit to Ifedore LGA.



Ondo State Election Monitoring & Support Centre Red Zone Implementers' Workshop.



INEC Chairman, National Commissioners, REC Ondo State, HODs, Electoral Officer Ifedore LGA and other Staff.



*Presentation by INEC National Commissioner and Chairman Planning, Monitoring and Strategy Committee Dr Lecky Mustapher, at the EMSC Implementer's Workshop in Akure*



*Hon. Chairman INEC, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, some National Commissioners, the Technical team and some Directors of the commission in a meeting with Electoral Officers in Akure, Ondo State. #OndoDecides2020*



*INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu is currently chairing the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security meeting in Akure Ondo State to discuss critical security issues relating to the governorship election scheduled for 10th October 2020*



*INEC Chairman, Prof Mahmood Yakubu and team of National Commissioners, Technical team and some directors in Meeting Ondo state council of Obas in session at the cocoa conference hall Akure Ondo State.*



*INEC Chairman, Prof Mahmood Yakubu and team of National Commissioners, Technical team and some directors are meeting with the Media in Akure Ondo State.*



*Chairman, Prof Mahmood Yakubu, some National Commissioners, the Technical Team and some Directors are at the Commission's office in Akure Ondo State for a series of activities leading to Ondo State Governorship Election slated for 10th October 2020.*



Group Photograph of participants @ the Awareness Creation Forum For Young Female Voter Towards 2020 Governorship Election event in #OndoDecides2020



Voter Education Sensitization Forum for Persons with Disabilities and PWD Focal CSOs



Call-in session by Mrs. Lakunuya Dorothy Bello, Deputy Director, CSO @ the ongoing live programme in Akure ahead of the #OndoDecides2020.



Live Radio Town Hall Meeting with Women Groups on Women's Participation in the Electoral Process. #OndoDecides2020.



One-Day Virtual Engagement with Identified CSO/Youth Groups and NYSC ahead of the #OndoDecides2020 in Ondo State.



Hon. Chairman INEC, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, some National Commissioners, the Technical Team and some Directors visits INEC Akure South LGA office to assess the state of preparedness ahead of the #OndoDecides2020 Governorship Election.



INEC National Commissioner, Dr Adekunle Ogunmola, Special Adviser to INEC Chairman, Professor Mohammad Kuna and Director of Planning and Monitoring, Engr. Paul Omokore at EMSC Implementers' Workshop in Akure, Ondo State



INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu displays the 10-Point Voters' Code of Conduct poster and hand bill; Braille version of the INEC Policy in Conducting Elections in the Context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Code of Conduct/Rules of Engagement for Security.



INEC National Commissioner and Chairman, Information and Voter Education Committee (IVEC), Barr. Festus Okoye and his team visits media houses in Akure ahead of the #OndoDecides2020 to speak on the preparedness of Commission to conduct a peaceful poll on Saturday 10th Oct. 2020.



The Election Monitoring and Support Centre Red Zone Implementers' Workshop in Akure, Ondo State.



Resident Electoral Commissioner, Amb. Rufus Akeju, giving the assurances at a meeting with the Obas on 2nd October in Akure



Hon. Chairman INEC, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, Members of the Commission, Technical Aides of the Hon. Chairman and Directors of the Commission @ the #OndoDecides2020 Stakeholders Meeting in Akure.





**#EdoDecides2020**



**#OndoDecides2020**



## ABOUT

The Electoral Hub is an organ of the Initiative for Research, Innovation and Advocacy in Development (IRIAD). It is a multidisciplinary strategic think-tank aimed at strengthening electoral governance and accountability in Nigeria through the provision of data, critical and contextualized analysis and solutions to improve the credibility and integrity of the electoral process. The Electoral Hub is conceptualized to complement the roles and activities of the different institutions, stakeholders and drivers of the electoral process and governance by providing back-end support service to stakeholders and institutions of the electoral process.

### THE ELECTORAL HUB

#### KNOWLEDGE + INNOVATION + INCLUSION

8A Remilekun Street, Kings Park Estate IV, Kukwaba, Abuja, Nigeria

Phone: +234 8077222801 and +234 9092068680;

Email: [comms@electoralhubng.org](mailto:comms@electoralhubng.org)

Twitter: [@electoralhub](https://twitter.com/electoralhub);

Instagram: [@electoralhub](https://www.instagram.com/electoralhub);

Facebook: [@electoralhubng](https://www.facebook.com/electoralhubng)

Website: <https://electoralhub.iriadev.org>

Printing supported by

