

# FACTSHEET ON EKITI STATE 2022 GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION

#EKITIDECIDES2022 #EKITIKETE!2022 #IPINUEKITIKETE!2022

On June 18, 2022, the Ekiti State governorship election is scheduled to hold to elect a new governor. This would be the sixth governorship election since the return to civil rule in 1999. It is also one of the major off-cycle elections conducted by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). The Ekiti State governorship election is important for many reasons not only because it will be a pointer/signpost to what would happen in the forthcoming 2023 general election, but it also provides an opportunity for INEC to perfect the implementation of the new policy on expanded access polling units; functioning of its latest election technology - the BVAS, transmission of results and more importantly the implementation of the new Electoral Act 2022 which was signed into law on February 25, 2022.

Against this context, The Electoral Hub, an organ of the Initiative for Research, Innovation, and Advocacy in Development (IRIAD) is monitoring the Ekiti State governorship electoral process and will observe the election day activities under the CSO situation room, an umbrella coalition of CSOs working on the election. The Electoral Hub has prepared this factsheet to increase stakeholders' understanding of the contexts and dynamics in which the upcoming election will hold. The factsheet covers four broad thematic areas: electoral background, political terrain, civil terrain, and integrity measures for the election.



S/N	ISSUE	FEATURE
	<b>ELECTORAL BACKGROUND</b>	
1	<b>The Election</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ The Ekiti State governorship election is scheduled for June 18, 2022.</li> <li>≠ This election will be the State’s 6th governorship election since the return to democratic rule in 1999.</li> <li>≠ Elections were held on January 9, 1999; April 19, 2003; April 14, 2007<sup>1</sup>; June 21, 2014; and July 14, 2018.</li> <li>≠ The election is to elect a governor for a term of four years.</li> <li>≠ The election provides the key opportunity to test the implementation of the new Electoral Act 2022 as it is the first major election since the Act came into being.</li> <li>≠ The election is happening against the backdrop of primaries and candidates’ nominations for the forthcoming 2023 general election.</li> <li>≠ The election is also happening less than eight months before the general election and would be a pointer to what would be expected at the general election.</li> </ul>
2	<b>Constitutional and Legal Framework</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ The conduct of elections in Nigeria is governed by the provisions of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) and the Electoral Act 2022.<sup>2</sup></li> <li>≠ Section 176(1)(2) of the 1999 Constitution provides for the establishment of the Office of the Governor.</li> <li>≠ Section 177 of the Constitution further outlines the qualifications for a candidate to be qualified for election to the office of Governor. The qualifications for contesting are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Must be a Nigerian by birth</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> The 2007 election was nullified in October of 2010, Segun Oni removed as governor and Dr Kayode Fayemi sworn-in as governor after a long court battle. This caused Ekiti State governorship elections to become one of the off-cycle election.

<sup>2</sup> 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Should not be less than 35 years old</li> <li>✚ Must be a member of a Political Party and be sponsored by that Party.</li> <li>✚ Should have been educated up to at least School Certificate level or its equivalent.</li> </ul> <p>≠ The Ekiti State Governorship Election is guided by the 1999 Constitution, The Electoral Act 2022, and INEC Regulations and Guidelines for the Conduct of Elections.</p> <p>≠ The election will be administered and managed by the Independent National Electoral Commission, Nigeria’s federal EMB statutorily conferred with power to organize, undertake and supervise all elections to the offices of the President and Vice-President, Governor and Deputy Governor of a State, and membership of the Senate, the House of Representatives and the House of Assembly of each State of the Federation (State Assemblies)<sup>3</sup>.</p>
3	<b>Ekiti State Electoral Delimitation et al.</b>	<p>≠ Ekiti State is delimited into 16 Local Government Areas, 177 Registration Areas (Electoral Wards), 3 Senatorial Districts, 6 Federal Constituencies, and 26 State Constituencies.</p> <p>≠ There are 988,923 registered voters<sup>4</sup>, and 2,445<sup>5</sup> polling units, an addition of 250 after INEC expands access to polling unit exercise.</p> <p>≠ It is instructive to note that the Ekiti register of voters is more than some countries in the West African sub-region e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ more than twice the register for Cape Verde’s 398,865<sup>6</sup></li> <li>✚ more than Gambia’s 962, 157<sup>7</sup></li> </ul> <p>≠ As of June 1, 2022, 739,747 people have collected their PVC. This is approximately 75% of the registered voters<sup>8</sup>.</p> <p>≠ 10,269 Electoral Officials will participate in the conduct of the June 18 election<sup>9</sup>.</p>

<sup>3</sup> See Third Schedule Item F paragraph 15(a) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended)

<sup>4</sup> Latest registration figures from INEC

<sup>5</sup> 2,195 polling units and 913,334 registered voters for 2019 General Election, see INEC 2019 Election Report

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.electionguide.org/countries/id/40/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://iec.gm/>

<sup>8</sup> Dr. Adeniran Tella Rahmon, INEC Resident Electoral Commissioner for Ekiti State during a Dialogue with CSO Situation Room, June 4, 2022

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

		<p>≠ 3,346 BVAs would be deployed for voters' accreditation and results uploading to the INEC result viewing portal (IREV).</p>
4	<p><b>Ekiti State Geography</b></p>	<p>≠ Ekiti State was carved out from pre-1996 Ondo State and has its capital as the city of Ado-Ekiti.</p> <p>≠ Ekiti was declared a State on October 1, 1996, by the military government of General Sani Abacha. Before this, it was part of the Ondo State in the Western Region of Nigeria.</p> <p>≠ An important feature of the state is the presence of many hills, which are often the sites of towns where most of the population resides.</p> <p>≠ The word 'Ekiti' was derived from the local term for a hill.<sup>10</sup></p> <p>≠ Ekiti State is in the Southwest region of Nigeria and has a total land area of 5887.9 square kilometers<sup>11</sup>.</p> <p>≠ The State shares boundaries with Kwara State in the north, Kogi State to the east, Osun State to the west, and bounded by Ondo State to the south.</p> <p>≠ Ekiti State is a very homogenous state in terms of culture, tradition, and language.</p> <p>≠ The people speak the Ekiti dialect of the Yoruba language. The slight differences in dialects amongst them are influenced by the spatial locations<sup>12</sup></p> <p>≠ Ekiti State's main towns are Ado, Ikere, Aramoko, Ode, Oye, Ikole, Ijero, Efon, and Ido.</p> <p>≠ It is predominantly an agrarian environment and rich in agricultural resources, with such products as cocoa, palm produce, timber, rubber, plantain, yam, cassava, etc. being cultivated.</p> <p>≠ The State is rich in mineral deposits which include granite, kaolinite, columbite, bulk clay, charnockite, iron ore, tin ore, tantalite, gneisses, feldspar, bauxite, beryl, Aquamarine, Gemstone, Phosphate, Limestone, and gemstones such as tourmaline (green and pink), beryl, and gold<sup>13</sup>.</p>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.ekitistate.gov.ng/about-ekiti/#geography-topography>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.ekitistate.gov.ng/about-ekiti/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.ekitistate.gov.ng/about-ekiti/people-culture/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.ekitistate.gov.ng/executive-council/mdas/office-of-solid-mineral-resources/>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ A unique feature of Ekiti State is the Ikogosi warm spring. And it is a key tourist attraction for the state. It is also presently processed and packaged as bottled water for commercial purposes by UAC Nigeria, a private company.</li> <li>≠ Ekiti State also has other tourist attractions such as Arinta waterfalls, Olosunta hills, Fajuyi memorial park, Egbe dam, Ero dam, and natural caves in Ikere- Ekiti. All of which contribute to the Ekiti State's GDP and IGR.</li> <li>≠ Imperative to note that this geography has implications for electoral planning, logistics, and deployment.</li> </ul>
5	<b>Ekiti State Electorate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ Ekiti State Electorate is composed of mostly Yoruba ethnic group</li> <li>≠ Data from INEC online Continuous Voter Registration (CVR), shows that an additional 168,478<sup>14</sup> persons have completed their registration in the state. This indicates an increase in the total number of Registered Voters for the June 18 election.</li> <li>≠ National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) 2016 population projection places Ekiti State's population at 3, 270,798<sup>15</sup> at 3.1% annual population change. From the 2006 population census, Ekiti State had a population of 2,384,212 (Male - 1,215,487 and Females - 1,183,470).<sup>16</sup></li> <li>≠ Ekiti ranks high in development indices with 95.79% literacy and 75.57% using improved sources of drinking water<sup>17</sup>.</li> <li>≠ 2019 poverty headcount ratio placed Ekiti State at 28%, the poverty income gap is 0.062, and the Gini coefficient of 29.7<sup>18</sup>.</li> <li>≠ Ekiti's poverty headcount ratio is the highest in the South-West despite being the 12<sup>th</sup> lowest in Nigeria.</li> </ul>

<sup>14</sup> Weekly Update Online Voter Registration, Q4. No. 8 as at 7am Monday, 6 June 2022

<sup>15</sup> <https://nigeria.opendataforafrica.org/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.citypopulation.de/php/nigeria-admin.php?adm1id=NGA013>

<sup>17</sup> <https://nigeria.opendataforafrica.org/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1121438/poverty-headcount-rate-in-nigeria-by-state/>, data released May 2020;

<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099730003152232753/pdf/P17630107476630fa09c990da780535511c.pdf>

- ≠ According to the World Bank 2022 Poverty Assessment, the median deflated consumption per person per year in Ekiti is N187,837. While the multidimensional poverty rate across six key indicators is 40,50, with 34.1% multidimensionally poor<sup>19</sup>.
- ≠ According to the NBS Living Standard Survey 2020, Ekiti State has the lowest average household size with 3.50 family members<sup>20</sup>.
- ≠ Ekiti State has an average share of the female-headed household of 25.3% and a dependency ratio of 0.075<sup>21</sup>
- ≠ There are 50,945<sup>22</sup> out-of-school children in Ekiti state as of 2018, one of the states with the lowest number of out-of-school children in the country. Although Governor Fayemi has claimed that there are no out-of-school children in the state<sup>23</sup>.
- ≠ The low out-of-school children could be because of the measures the state put in place to address the problem. For instance, it has domesticated the Child Rights Act, a policy of prosecution of parents whose children are not in school amongst other measures.
- ≠ The state is largely agrarian with agriculture as the mainstay of the state economy, employing 75% of the state working population
- ≠ Because of the lack of industries, the State Government is the largest employer of labour- so a predominantly civil service state like other non-industrial and commercial states in Nigeria.
- ≠ The State's tertiary institutions include Federal University, Oye-Ekiti; Ekiti State University; Bamidele Olumilua University of Education, Science, and Technology; Afe Babalola University. It is worth mentioning that Ekiti State is alleged to have the most number of Professors by origin.

<sup>19</sup>World Bank (2022). Nigeria Poverty Assessment 2022: A Better Future for All Nigerians. Accessed from

<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099730003152232753/pdf/P17630107476630fa09c990da780535511c.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> National Bureau of Statistics (2020). Nigeria Living Standards Survey 2020. Accessed from <https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/elibrary/read/1123>

<sup>21</sup> Ibid

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/483619-special-report-kano-akwa-ibom-eight-other-states-housed-most-of-nigerias-out-of-school-children.html>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.thecable.ng/fayemi-you-find-any-out-school-children-ekiti>; <https://punchng.com/ekiti-threatens-to-jail-parents-who-dont-enrol-children-in-school/>

6	<b>Key Electoral Dates for the Election<sup>24</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ Notification of polls, January 3, 2022</li> <li>≠ Party primaries, January 4 – 29, 2022</li> <li>≠ Submission of names of candidates, January 31 – February 4, 2022</li> <li>≠ Publication of personal particulars of candidates by INEC, February 11, 2022</li> <li>≠ Publication of final list of nominated candidates by INEC, May 19, 2022.</li> <li>≠ Release of the final list of candidates by INEC on March 14, 2022.</li> <li>≠ According to the final list of candidates released by INEC, 16 governorship and deputy governorship candidates are in the race for the 2022 Ekiti governorship election.<sup>25</sup></li> <li>≠ Two of the governorship candidates and seven of the deputy governorship candidates are women.</li> <li>≠ The last day for campaigns by political parties is June 16, 2022. This is also the last day for the collection of PVCs<sup>26</sup>.</li> <li>≠ The Election will hold on June 18, 2022.</li> </ul>
7	<b>INEC and Stakeholders Engagement<sup>27</sup></b>	<p>Engagement with stakeholders is an important component of the electoral process. And a core responsibility and expectation for EMBs. In line with this principle, and in preparation for the election INEC, both at the Abuja headquarters and Ado-Ekiti State Office carried out a series of stakeholders' engagements with different electoral stakeholders and citizens. These includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ On April 5, 2022, INEC launched an Online Portal for interested and eligible citizens to apply as ad-hoc staff for the elections<sup>28</sup>.</li> <li>≠ On May 10 -12, 2022, INEC headquarters held its regular quarterly consultative meetings with CSOs, Media, and security agencies with a particular focus on the Ekiti election.</li> </ul>

<sup>24</sup> INEC (2022). Ekiti State Governorship 2022 Timetable Schedule:

<https://inecnigeria.org/ekiti-state-governorship-2022-timetable-and-schedule-of-activities/>:

<sup>25</sup> INEC News Portal (2022); <https://www.channelstv.com/2022/03/14/inec-releases-final-list-of-ekiti-governorship-election-candidates/>; <https://www.thecable.ng/in-full-inec-releases-final-list-of-candidates-for-ekiti-governorship-election>

<sup>26</sup> INEC extended date for collection of PVC to June 16, 2022

<sup>27</sup> Information are from INEC Twitter handle and Facebook page unless otherwise stated.

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2022/04/05/inec-launches-application-portal-for-ad-hoc-staff-for-ekiti-osun-elections/>



- ≠ On May 12, 2022, The Electoral Institute (TEI) of INEC organized a ‘*Policy Dialogue on the Ekiti State Governorship Election: A Litmus Test for Election Administration in Nigeria Under the New Electoral Act, 2022*’<sup>29</sup>. During the event, the Commission called on the Security Agencies to look out and track those involved in vote-buying on Election Day.
- ≠ On May 21, 2022, the Ekiti State Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC), Dr. Tella Adeniran Rahmon engaged in a road show to sensitize residents on the need to vote and be peaceful in the forthcoming elections.
- ≠ On May 23, 2022, Ekiti State INEC organized a meeting on ‘*Discourse by INEC/CSO for Peaceful Ekiti Governorship Election*’ in Ado -Ekiti. During the meeting, INEC solicited CSOs’ support in conducting an election that would be peaceful, inclusive, and acceptable to all stakeholders.<sup>30</sup>
- ≠ On May 31, 2022, INEC led by the Chairman, Professor Mahmood Yakubu held a meeting in Ado -Ekiti with traditional rulers of Ekiti State on the peaceful conduct of the June 18 election.
- ≠ During the meeting the Chairman stated that INEC will partner with the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), and Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to ensure that voters are not induced by candidates or political parties in the June 18 governorship election<sup>31</sup>. And that the Commission will stand by the obligatory mission of ensuring that no extraneous interferences are allowed to affect the credibility of the June 18 election.
- ≠ On the same day May 31, 2022, INEC organized a consultative meeting with the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES)
- ≠ On 14 June 2022, INEC organized a consultative meeting with the Election Stakeholders Meeting

<sup>29</sup> <https://tribuneonlineng.com/ekiti-2022-look-beyond-polling-units-to-stop-vote-buying-inec-tells-security-agencies/>

<sup>30</sup> Nigeria Tribune (2022). Ekiti 2022: INEC engages CSOs, seeks peaceful, inclusive election.

<https://tribuneonlineng.com/ekiti-2022-inec-engages-csos-seeks-peaceful-inclusive-election/>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.today.ng/news/nigeria/ekiti-2022-inec-partner-icpc-efcc-vote-buying-427091>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ On 14 June 2022, INEC met with officials of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) in Ado-Ekiti, to discuss logistics issues for the election.</li> <li>≠ On 15 June 2022, INEC organized the signing of the Peace Accord with the Candidates and Parties under the auspices of the National Peace Committee.</li> </ul>
8	<b>Training/ Electoral Personnel Engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ On April 26, 2022, a workshop on voter education and publicity implementation was organised for Electoral Officers (EOs), Assistant Electoral Officers (AEOs), and Gender Desk Officers in Ekiti state<sup>32</sup>.</li> <li>≠ The Electoral Institute conducted a 3days, 3-phased layer, cascaded training on electoral security for security operatives in Ekiti State<sup>33</sup>.</li> <li>≠ May -June 2022, there was training for the different categories of ad-hoc staff (presiding officers, assistant presiding officers, supervisory presiding officers, etc.) for the election<sup>34</sup>.</li> <li>≠ On 1 June 2022, INEC organized a meeting with all the Electoral Officers (EOs).</li> <li>≠ On 1 June 2022, INEC organized a training for the Supervisory Presiding Officers (SPOs).</li> <li>≠ On 4 June 2022, INEC organized Capacity Building/Training for Journalists on Constitutional and Legal Issues with Special Emphasis on the Electoral Act, 2022.</li> </ul>
<b>POLITICAL TERRAIN</b>		
9	<b>2018 Governorship Election</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ APC candidate, Dr. Kayode Fayemi, won the Ekiti State governorship election with 197,459 votes<sup>35</sup>.</li> <li>≠ Thirty-five (35) political parties Registered for the Ekiti governorship election in 2018.<sup>36</sup></li> <li>≠ The Federal Government deployed about 30,000 Policemen and 10,000 Soldiers for the Ekiti Gubernatorial Election to forestall electoral irregularities.<sup>37</sup></li> </ul>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.blueprint.ng/ekiti-election-ll-be-record-to-beat-rec/>

<sup>33</sup> Dr. Adeniran Tella Rahmon, INEC Resident Electoral Commissioner for Ekiti State during a Dialogue with CSO Situation Room, June 4, 2022

<sup>34</sup> Ibid

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.inecnigeria.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/EC-8-E-Ekiti-Gov-2018-15-Jul-2018-08-13-22-Page-1.pdf>

<sup>36</sup> Olowojolu, Olakunle & Ogundele, Oluwaseun. (2019). an overview of 2018 gubernatorial election in ekiti state:

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/332116680\\_an\\_overview\\_of\\_2018\\_gubernatorial\\_election\\_in\\_ekiti\\_state](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/332116680_an_overview_of_2018_gubernatorial_election_in_ekiti_state)

<sup>37</sup> [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/332116680\\_an\\_overview\\_of\\_2018\\_gubernatorial\\_election\\_in\\_ekiti\\_state](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/332116680_an_overview_of_2018_gubernatorial_election_in_ekiti_state)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ In a bid to win, political parties deployed propaganda using persuasive allegations, statements, and exaggerations to influence the minds and emotions of the public for their benefit.<sup>38</sup></li> <li>≠ During the Elections, it was alleged that APC and PDP paid sums into electorates' accounts to secure their votes and also bought votes at the polling units.</li> <li>≠ The police reportedly arrested some persons for allegedly distributing Cash to Voters.<sup>39</sup></li> </ul>
<b>10</b>	<b>Pre-election Litigations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ Unlike other Governorship elections, there have been limited numbers of pre-election cases in Ekiti State. The disputes recorded are centered around party factions.</li> </ul>
<b>11</b>	<b>Power Dynamics</b>	<p><b>The Governor and Traditional Rulers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ In 2019 the reshuffling of the Pelupelu order of first-class Oba by the Governor was a cause of new controversy in Ekiti State.</li> <li>≠ The Governor was accused of politicising the revered Pelupelu institution by promoting people without taking into consideration the traditions and customary laws of the people.</li> <li>≠ The Governor reportedly elevated a non- first-class Oba, “Alewa of Ilewa Ekiti” to the group of eleven Pelupelu most senior Obas of the State.<sup>40</sup></li> <li>≠ The appointment of Ajibade Alabi as the new chairman of the State Council of Traditional Rulers did not go down well with the other rulers.</li> <li>≠ The Governor allegedly queried the eleven Pelupelu kings for not attending the first meeting chaired by the newly elected Alawe<sup>41</sup>.</li> <li>≠ In response to the above, the Pelupelu obas dragged the Governor to court to challenge the appointment<sup>42</sup>.</li> </ul>

<sup>38</sup> Mike Opeyemi Omilusi (2021). party politics, passive stakeholders and vengeful governorship election campaign in Ekiti State, Nigeria:

<https://www.proquest.com/openview/ff9c0c321e60d64bc8a91a8f46c75d02/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=4852083>

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.channelstv.com/2018/07/15/breaking-inec-declares-kayode-fayemi-winner-of-ekiti-governorship-election/>

<sup>40</sup> Macaddys Gad (2020). The Power Dynamics Between Governors and Kings:

<https://articles.connectnigeria.com/the-power-dynamics-between-governors-and-kings/>

<sup>41</sup> Premium Times (2020): <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/ssouth-west/381548-ekiti-govt-queries-11-traditional-rulers-over-insubordination.html>

<sup>42</sup> <https://tribuneonlineng.com/long-walk-to-peace-on-ekiti-government-obas-impasse/>

- ≠ This, however, climaxed in an eight-month cold war between the affected Traditional Rulers and the Governor.<sup>43</sup>
- ≠ In March 2020, the Alaafin of Oyo and the Ooni of Ife had to intervene to resolve the protracted politico-traditional crises
- ≠ A letter of caution was reportedly sent to the Governor by the Alaafin stating that traditional institutions should not be desecrated all in the name of scoring cheap political points.

### **Political Parties and Post Primaries Grievances.**

#### **All Progressives Congress (APC)**

- ≠ A group under the umbrella of APC Unity Group petitioned the Mai Buni-led National Caretaker Committee against Governor Kayode Fayemi's alleged relationship with ex-governor Ayodele Fayose of PDP to impose an anointed candidate on the state in the forthcoming governorship election.<sup>44</sup>
- ≠ On 27 January 2022, seven (7) out of the eight (8) governorship aspirants on the APC platform protested against the list of local government and ward electoral committees, stating that the electoral officers are supporters of one of the aspirants, Biodun Oyebanji, the anointed candidate of Governor Kayode Fayemi.
- ≠ The aggrieved aspirants were: Senator Opeyemi Bamidele, Former Minister of State for works Senator Dayo Adeyeye, House of Representatives member Femi Bamisile, Former House of Representatives Bamidele Faparusi, Former Governorship Aspirant Kayode Ojo, Aviation expert Demola Popoola, and Oluwasola Afolabi.
- ≠ They, urged the APC leadership to compel the Badaru-led committee to suspend the process in the interest of the party<sup>45</sup>.
- ≠ On 28 January, governorship aspirant Mr. Kayode Ojo on the platform of APC Ekiti State, while addressing newsmen accused his party of conducting a fraudulent governorship

<sup>43</sup> Premium Times (2020): <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/ssouth-west/381548-ekiti-govt-queries-11-traditional-rulers-over-insubordination.html>

<sup>44</sup>Independent (2022), <https://independent.ng/ekiti-guber-group-petitions-apc-caretaker-chairman-over-fayemi-fayosealleged-secret-deal/>

<sup>45</sup>Punch (2022), Gov Poll: Ekiti APC, PDP in fresh post primaries crises, <https://punchng.com/gov-poll-ekiti-apc-pdp-in-fresh-post-primary-crisis/>

primary election. He alleged that figures were concocted for aspirants even when there was no election.<sup>46</sup>

- ≠ In response to the above grievances, APC Ekiti State set up a reconciliation committee to address the grievances of aggrieved governorship aspirants over the outcome of the January 27, 2022 governorship primary.<sup>47</sup>
- ≠ The reconciliation committee was headed by Ekiti State Former Deputy Governor Otunba Bisi Egbeyemi with Mr. Bunmi Adelugba as secretary.
- ≠ From the committee's work, three aspirants: Senator Opeyemi Bamidele, Mr. Femi Bamisile, and Mr. Bamidele Faparusi agreed to work for the party's victory in the election.
- ≠ The committee is expected to appease other aspirants and seek their support for the party during the June 18 governorship election.

### **Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)**

- ≠ Senator Biodun Olujimi and some other governorship aspirants who participated in the primary complained about manipulations and irregularities during the exercise.
- ≠ This resulted in the withdrawal of Senator Biodun Olujimi from the primary and the defection of former governor Segun Oni to SDP.<sup>48</sup>
- ≠ Some APC aggrieved aspirants are said to have aligned forces with Oni to strengthen the SDP in the state.
- ≠ The exit of Oni from the PDP to SDP, and alignment of these APC aggrieved aspirants with Oni's forces present the third force in Ekiti State. Particularly, Oni is believed to enjoy enormous support at the grassroots.

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<sup>46</sup>PMNews (2022), Ekiti APC governorship primaries fraudulent: Kayode Ojo, <https://pmnewsnigeria.com/2022/01/28/ekiti-apc-governorship-primary-fraudulent-kayode-ojo/>

<sup>47</sup>Vanguard (2022), Ekiti 2022: Will Bamidele's Sheathing Sword Save APC <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/02/ekiti-2022-will-bamideles-sheathing-of-sword-save-apc/>

<sup>48</sup>The Guardian (2022). Ekiti APC, PDP shadow election crises strengthen SDP: <https://guardian.ng/politics/ekiti-apc-pdp-shadow-election-crises-strengthen-sdp/>

≠ It is alleged that there were spirited efforts to prevent Senator Olujimi and her supporters from leaving the PDP.

### **African Democratic Party (ADP)**

≠ On 12 May 2022, the deputy governorship candidate for ADP, Idowu Afuye defected to APC.<sup>49</sup>

≠ Mr. Idowu stated that his reason for leaving the party was because he realized that the governorship candidate Kemi Elebute-Halle lacks the competence to be a good leader.

≠ In reaction to the defection the governorship candidate Kemi Elebute stated that it was illegal and it negates the provisions of the Electoral Act.<sup>50</sup>

≠ Crisis in the ADP deepened as the Chairman of the party Pastor Olakunle Abegunde left the party over alleged dictatorship.<sup>51</sup>

### **Action People's Party (APP) and Candidate Substitution**

≠ The Action People's Party called on INEC to effect changes to its governorship and deputy governorship candidates.<sup>52</sup>

≠ The State chairman Moses Awogbemi stated that the Ekiti State High Court had given the commission the order to recognize Adeyinka Alli as the governorship candidate and Christiana Olatawura as the deputy governorship candidate.

≠ The party chairman mentioned that the former governorship candidate Olatawura had written as mandated by the law her voluntary withdrawal as the party's candidate

<sup>49</sup>The Whistler (2022), ADP Deputy Governorship Candidate Defects to APC Days to Ekiti Election, <https://thewhistler.ng/adp-deputy-governorship-candidate-defects-to-apc-days-to-ekiti-election/>

<sup>50</sup>Premium Times (2022), Ekiti 2022: My Deputy's Defection to APC Is Illegal-ADP Governorship Candidate. <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/more-news/530049-ekiti-2022-my-deputys-defection-to-apc-illegal-adp-governorship-candidate.html>

<sup>51</sup>This Day Live (2022), Crisis Hits Ekiti ADP as Chairman Defects Over Alleged Dictatorship, <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2022/05/18/crisis-hits-ekiti-adp-as-chairman-defects-over-alleged-dictatorship/>

<sup>52</sup>Tribune (2022), Ekiti 2022: Election Invalid Without Our Candidates Name on Ballot APP Tells INEC, <https://tribuneonlineng.com/ekiti-2022-election-invalid-without-our-candidates-name-on-ballot-app-tells-inec/>

**Political Parties**

≠ 16 political parties will participate in the election including:

- ✚ APC – Incumbent party of the state and national
- ✚ PDP – Main opposition party
- ✚ SDP – Minor opposition party
- ✚ ADP – Minor opposition party

**Candidates**

≠ On March 14, 2022, The Independent Electoral Commission released the final list of candidates for the June 18 2022 governorship elections.<sup>53</sup>

≠ The list comprises 14 male candidates and 2 female candidates. These are:

- ✚ Reuben Boye Famuyibo, Accord Party
- ✚ Ajagunigbala Moses Olajide, African Action Congress (AAC)
- ✚ Oluwole Olumayokun Oluyede, Action Democratic Congress (ADC)
- ✚ Elebute-Halle Josephine Kemi, Action Democratic Party (ADP)
- ✚ Abiodun Abayomi Oyebanji, All Progressive Congress (APC)
- ✚ Benjamin Olufemi Obidoyin, All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA)
- ✚ Fagbemi Peter Adegbenro, All Allied Movement (APM)
- ✚ Christiana Modupe Olatawura, Action People Party (APP)
- ✚ Daramola Rowland Olugbenga, Labour Party (LP)
- ✚ Fatomilola Oladosu Abiodun, New Nigerian People Party (NNPP)
- ✚ Iyaniwura Tope Ifedayo, National Rescue Movement (NRM)
- ✚ Olabisi Kolawole, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)
- ✚ Agboola Olaniyi Ben, People Redemption Party (PRP)
- ✚ Olusegun Adebayo Oni, Social Democratic Party (SDP)

<sup>53</sup> INEC (2022): [https://www.inecnigeria.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/List-of-Candidates\\_Ekiti-State-Election\\_2022.pdf](https://www.inecnigeria.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/List-of-Candidates_Ekiti-State-Election_2022.pdf)

- ✚ Adebowale Oluranti Ajayi, Young Progressive Party (YPP)
- ✚ Adeolu Kolade Akinyemi, Zenith Labour Party ZLP)

## CIVIL TERRAIN

13	<b>Community Stakeholders' Engagements</b>	<b>Traditional Rulers Involvement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ Monarchs and traditional rulers in Ekiti State play major roles in the politics of the State.</li> <li>≠ Some of the traditional rulers are: Ogoga of Ikere, Arinjala of Ise (Ekiti South); Ewi of Ado Ekiti, Alawe of Ilawe (Ekiti Central); and Elekole of Ikole Ekiti, Olusan of Isan Ekiti (Ekiti North)</li> <li>≠ Candidates vying for positions in the State usually seek advice and endorsements from traditional rulers and monarchs. For instance, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ On June 2, 2022, the Ekiti State Council of Traditional Rulers chaired by Onisan of Isan-Ekiti, Oba Gabriel Ayodele Adejuwon expressed confidence that the APC governorship candidate, Biodun Oyebanji, would treat the monarchs with respect if he emerges as governor<sup>54</sup>.</li> <li>✚ In the same meeting, the Owa Ooye of Okemesi-Ekiti, Oba Gbadebo Adedeji, who led the royal blessings for Oyebanji stated that “the candidate was a true Ekiti son, who had demonstrated a high sense of responsibility and impacted the state and people positively in various ways”.</li> <li>✚ On May 20, 2022, 72 members of the Ekiti State traditional council of chiefs, endorsed the candidature of the governorship candidate of the Accord Party (A)<sup>55</sup>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
14	<b>Stakeholders (CSOs, Security Agencies, MDAs) Engagement with the Electoral Process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ On April 11, 2022, Search for Common Ground, an international peacebuilding organisation trained various CSOs on <i>Conflicts and Hate Speech Management</i> ahead of the June 18 Ekiti State governorship election<sup>56</sup>.</li> </ul>

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2022/06/02/2022-oyebanji-wont-disrespect-undermine-us-say-ekiti-monarchs/>

<sup>55</sup> <https://thewillnigeria.com/news/ekiti-2022-72-major-monarchs-endorse-pray-for-famuyibos-success/>

<sup>56</sup> Independent Nigeria (2022): <https://independent.ng/ekiti-2022-international-peacebuilding-org-trains-csos-on-conflictshate-speech-management/>



- ≠ On April 26, 2022, IFES supported training workshop on voter education and publicity implementation was organised for Electoral Officers (EOs), Assistant Electoral Officers (AEOs), and Gender Desk Officers in Ekiti state<sup>57</sup>.
- ≠ During the workshop, the Deputy Country Director of IFES, Mr. Obaje Uke, stated that IFES will support INEC in the successful implementation of the voter education plan and conduct of the Ekiti governorship election.
- ≠ The Coalition of Ekiti State Civil Society Organisations (COESCSOs) Observed the primary elections of various parties in Ekiti State<sup>58</sup>.
- ≠ On June 2, 2022, the CSOs reported that the Primaries did not witness bloodshed, killing, and violence making it better than the previous year's exercises.<sup>59</sup>
- ≠ On June 4, 2022, CSO Situation Room organised a dialogue session with the Ekiti State REC.
- ≠ CSOs such as Kimpact Development Initiatives (KDI), YIAGA Africa, and the Centre for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) conducted pre-election observations and assessments for the June 18 election.
- ≠ Ajoro Ekiti, a social pressure group embarked on an election security campaign to sensitize the people on how to use their smartphones as "Election Security Surveillance," to deter rigging and crimes during the election.
- ≠ The Commissioner of Police in Ekiti State commended the roles played by CSOs in the electoral process and stated that the Nigerian Police Force will collaborate with CSOs in forthcoming Elections<sup>60</sup>.

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.blueprint.ng/ekiti-election-ll-be-record-to-beat-rec/>

<sup>58</sup> <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2022/02/01/ekiti-apc-pdp-primaries-peaceful-but-dominated-by-godfathers-say-csos/> ; <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/tag/coalition-of-ekiti-state-civil-society-organisationscoescsos/>; <https://dailytrust.com/godfathers-influenced-ekiti-apc-pdp-primaries-observers>

<sup>59</sup> This Day (2022): <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2022/02/01/ekiti-apc-pdp-primaries-peaceful-but-dominated-by-godfathers-say-csos/>

<sup>60</sup> <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/03/ekiti-2022-cp-commends-yiaga-africas-role-in-election-observation-integrity/>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ On May 13, 2022, the National Security Adviser (NSA), General Babagana Monguno directed heads of security and law enforcement agencies to scale up security and commence profiling of political actors who exhibit tendencies to subvert the electoral process.<sup>61</sup></li> <li>≠ On June 4, 2022, CSO Situation Room organised a dialogue session with the Ekiti State REC on INEC’s plans and preparation for the governorship election.</li> <li>≠ Situation Room also sponsored a Town Hall Debate in collaboration with Channels TV for candidates to present their manifestos to the electorate. It also provides a platform for the electorate to know the candidates better.</li> <li>≠ The UN Women collaborated with CSOs on “Women-focused voters’ sensitization and education, monitoring, and reporting ahead of the election<sup>62</sup>.</li> <li>≠ CSOs such as Adopt A Goal, also conducted civic engagements to encourage citizens’ participation in the election including roadshows to sensitize citizens not to sell their votes (awareness and sensitization on vote selling and buying).</li> <li>≠ CSOs such as Breach Repairers Organisation for Sustainable Healthcare and Development (BROSHCAD) conducted community sensitization, and grassroots mobilisation to encourage grassroots participation in the election.</li> <li>≠ There are other CSOs on the ground working on the electoral process including engaging the REC on issues of concern<sup>63</sup>. These CSOs are also collaborating with the CSO Situation Room to observe the election and are: New Initiative for Social Development, Balm in Gilead Foundation, Gender Relevance Initiative Promotion, Centre for Better Health and Community Development, and New Generation Girls and Women Development Initiatives</li> </ul>
15	<b>Media in Ekiti State</b>	<b>TV Channels/Houses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) Ekiti State, Channel 5: Located in Ado-Ekiti and owned by the Federal Government</li> <li>≠ Ekiti State Television (EKTV): Located in Ado-Ekiti</li> </ul>

<sup>61</sup> Channels TV (2022): <https://www.channelstv.com/2022/05/13/election-nsa-directs-law-enforcement-agencies-to-beef-up-security-in-ekiti-osun/>

<sup>62</sup> <https://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us/programme-implementation/2022/05/call-for-proposals-unw-wcaro-wpe-cfp-2022-001-voters-sensitization-education-monitoring-and-reporting-nigeria>

<sup>63</sup> Situation Room Dialogue with Ekiti State REC June 4, 2022

- ≠ Broadcasting Service of Ekiti State (BSES), Channel 41 UHF: Located in Ado-Ekiti and owned by the State Government

### **News Paper Houses**

- ≠ Fountain Newsbreaker<sup>64</sup>: Located in Ado-Ekiti, is published by Cotai Communications Network and owned by Tai Oguntayo, Ekiti State Chairman of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA), former Ekiti State Chairman of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), and the Akogun Aafin of Ipole Ijoro Ekiti
- ≠ Ekiti Standard Newspaper: Located in Ado-Ekiti, is published by Ekiti Standard Ventures owners of OSKO Press. Ekiti Standard Newspaper is the physical paper while Ekiti Standard News is the online version.
- ≠ National papers such as Premium Times, The Punch Newspaper, The Guardian Newspaper, and Blueprint are some of the other newspapers that provide information on Ekiti electoral and political issues

### **Radio Houses**

- ≠ FRCN Progress FM: Located in the capital, Ado Ekiti, and owned by the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN)
- ≠ Progress FM: Located in Ado Ekiti and owned by the State Government. It is one of the arms of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN).
- ≠ Golden FM/Ekiti FM: Located in Ado-Ekiti and owned by the State Government.
- ≠ Ayoba FM<sup>65</sup>: Located in Ado-Ekiti and chaired by Barrister Jide Bello.
- ≠ Voice FM: Located in Ado Ekiti and owned by former Minister of Works, Prince Dayo Adeyeye, an active politician, and PDP steward in Ekiti State.

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<sup>64</sup> Covers politics and thought-provoking issues, and prides itself as the only paper that discuss what others considers no-go-areas.

<http://www.fountainnewsbreakerng.com/p/about-us.html>

<sup>65</sup> It has been alleged that the FM is owned by Governor Kayode Fayemi. See e.g. <https://www.thenigerianvoice.com/news/272180/group-accuses-fayemi-of-setting-up-illegal-ayoba-fm-radio-to.html>

- ≠ New Cruse FM: Located in Ikere and owned by Mr. Wole Olanipekun, SAN, and operated by WOLDAB Communications.
- ≠ Our People’s FM: Located in Ado Ekiti and owned by the former Governor, Ayo Fayose.
- ≠ Fresh FM: located in Ado Ekiti and owned by Olayinka Joel Ayefele.

## **INTEGRITY MEASURES**

### **16 Integrity measures for Ekiti State Electoral Process**

From our monitoring actions of the EMB and the Ekiti State governorship electoral process, we found to an adequate extent the presence of global norms and standards for measuring electoral integrity, such as a level playing field for all stakeholders, transparency, and the openness of the entire process, universal and equal suffrage, and accountability to the electorate. This is supported by the following actions undertaken by the EMB, INEC which bear evidence from the following:

- ≠ INEC has adhered to the timetable and schedule for the June 18 election and publicized regulations and guidelines accordingly. This creates certainty and stability in the process.
- ≠ Regulations and guidelines for the election which elaborate on the ‘rule of the game’ were, however, not released on time.
- ≠ There is sustained stakeholders’ engagement by the INEC. INEC has communicated regularly information including plans and preparations for the election. This was done through regular meetings with key stakeholders.
- ≠ INEC has also engaged regularly with the electorate and citizens at large through the dissemination of information on its websites, and traditional and social media engagement.
- ≠ All Information about the election has been adequately communicated to the stakeholders and the public. Information on issues such as voter registration, PVC collection, political parties, and their candidates’ lists, etc. are available in the public domain.
- ≠ There have also been voter education exercises using different media, offline and online including messaging in the local Ekiti language.

- ≠ To a large extent, there has been a high level of stakeholder engagement in the Electoral Process at all levels as stakeholders have been properly informed on programmes of INEC even at the community levels.
- ≠ To ensure universal suffrage, INEC on May 30, 2022, conducted a mock election exercise with the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) to test and ensure its efficacy for the election given reports of multiple instances of failures in past elections.<sup>66</sup>
- ≠ The result viewing portal (IReV portal) to be deployed by INEC adds to the integrity of the process as a transparency and accountability mechanism.
- ≠ To ensure that the election is transparent and conforms to global practices, INEC has also accredited 79 local observer groups and 8 foreign observer groups to observe the election.
- ≠ The political consciousness of the people is also very high according to the pre-election assessment of KDI<sup>67</sup>
- ≠ There have been no reports of political parties/candidates gagging or refusing to use public spaces.
- ≠ Civil society and other stakeholders have had freedom of participation in the process and engagement with the EMB.
- ≠ Also, there have been no reports of restrictions on media coverage of the process

<sup>66</sup> Channels TV (2022): <https://www.channelstv.com/2022/05/30/inec-test-runs-bvas-in-ekiti-ahead-of-governorship-election/>

<sup>67</sup> KDI (2022) Ekiti and Osun Election Security Risk Assessment

## About The Electoral Hub

The Electoral Hub is a multidisciplinary strategic knowledge and advocacy hub 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.

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