



# THE ELECTORAL HUB 2023 GENERAL ELECTION FACTSHEET.

2023

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# Introduction

The 2023 general election is scheduled to hold on February 25 and March 11, 2023. The President, Vice President, Governors, National and State Assemblies members will be elected to govern for the next four years. The 2023 election is the seventh general election in Nigeria since its return to democratic rule in 1999. The 2023 general election is coming after the Ekiti and Osun States governorship election which were conducted on June 18, 2022, and July 16, 2022, respectively. The 2023 general election provides an opportunity for stakeholders to implement key lessons learned from the Ekiti and Osun States governorship elections, including addressing challenges encountered in these elections et al, during those elections as well as learning new lessons, all targeted at improving electoral governance and integrity in Nigeria.

The 2023 general election is important, as it is the main stage to assess the implementation of the progressive provisions in the new Electoral Act, 2022 which was signed into law on February 25, 2022. It provides another opportunity for INEC to strengthen its institutional capacity and integrity, as well as for consolidation of electoral democracy in Nigeria.

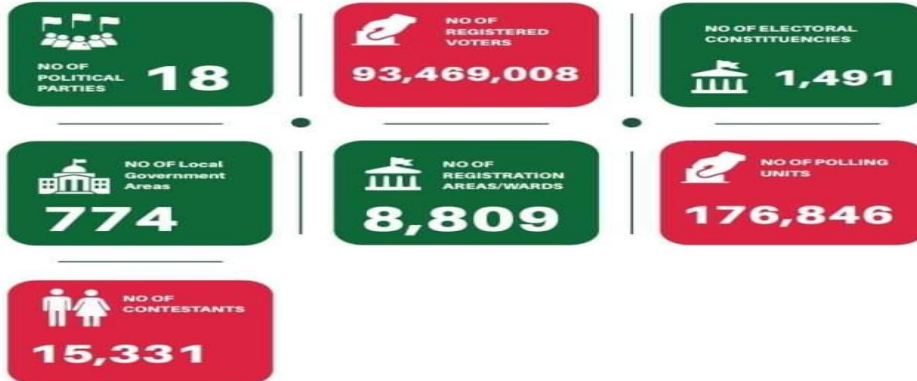
For the general election, The Electoral Hub is deploying 200 accredited observers and 50 citizens observers, to observe pre-electoral, electoral, and post-electoral periods. It will be observing and documenting issues such as: *compliance with legal framework, RAC preparations and set-ups, security presence, fuel and currency scarcity impacts, youth, women and PWDs participation, malpractices including vote trading and electoral violence, election related -violence against women, Ad-hoc staff performance, collation process management, and post collation electoral environment/conduct of key stakeholders including behaviors of political actors, electorates, and citizens.* These key areas would serve as basis for our analysis on the conduct of the election.

The Electoral Hub has prepared this factsheet to increase stakeholders' understanding of the contexts and dynamics in which the election will hold. The factsheet covers four broad

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thematic areas: electoral background, political terrain, civil terrain, and integrity measures for the election.

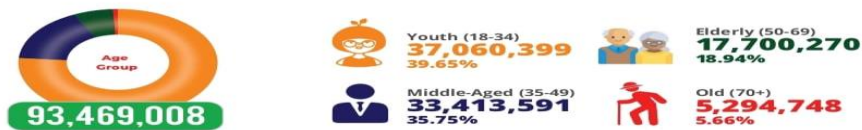
## DELIMITATION DATA FOR THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTION



## OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF REGISTERED VOTERS



## AGE GROUP OF REGISTERED VOTERS



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S/N	ISSUES	FEATURES
		<b>ELECTORAL BACKGROUND</b>
1	<b>The Election</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The general election is scheduled to hold on February 25 and March 11, 2023<sup>1</sup>.</li> <li>• This election will be the country’s seventh general election since the return to democratic rule in 1999.</li> <li>• General elections were held on February/April 1999, April 2003, April 2007, April 2011<sup>2</sup>, March 2015, and February 2019.</li> <li>• During the last general election, Governorship/State Assembly election were held on February 9, 2019, while Presidential/National Assembly was held on February 23, 2019<sup>3</sup>.</li> <li>• The election is to elect the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for a four-year term, Governors for a four-year term in thirty-one (31) States of the country, members of the State and National Assembly.</li> <li>• The election is coming as a backdrop to the Ekiti/Osun governorship elections and the first general election after the signing into law of the new Electoral Act, 2022.</li> <li>• The election also provides a key opportunity to strengthen the implementation of the new Electoral Act 2022, as the general election bring about a larger scope and coverage.</li> </ul>
2	<b>Constitutional and Legal Frameworks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The conduct of elections in Nigeria is governed by the provisions of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria (as amended), the Electoral Act, 2022 and INEC’s guidelines and regulations.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> <https://inecnigeria.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/TIMETABLE-FOR-2023-GENERAL-ELECTION.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> The 2011 General Election was recorded has the most violent election in Nigeria, <https://humanglemedia.com/nigerias-deadly-history-of-electoral-violence-in-five-charts/>

<sup>3</sup> According to the INEC the Election was from February 16, 2019 rescheduled to February 23, 2019 due to logistical issues, <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/313310-breaking-why-we-postponed-2019-elections-inec-chairman.html>.

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- Section 130 of the 1999 Constitution provides for the Office of the President.
- Section 131 of the Constitution outlines the qualifications for a candidate to be qualified for election to the Office of the President. The qualifications for contesting are as follows:
  - Must be a Nigerian by birth,
  - Must have attained the age of forty years,
  - Must be a member of a political party and be sponsored by that party,
  - Should be educated up to at least School Certificate Level or its equivalent.
- Section 176 (1), (2) of the 1999 Constitution provides for the Office of the Governor.
- Section 177 of the Constitution outlines the qualifications for a candidate to be qualified for election to the Office of the governor. The qualifications for contesting are as follows:
  - Must be a Nigerian by birth,
  - Should not be less than 35 years old,
  - Must be a member of a political party and be sponsored by that party,
  - Should be educated up to at least School Certificate Level or its equivalent.
- Section 65 of the Constitution outlines the qualifications for a candidate to be qualified for election as member of the National Assembly. The qualifications for contesting are as follows:
  - For Senate, must be a citizen of Nigeria and has attained the age of 35 years,
  - For House of Representatives, must be a citizen of Nigeria and has attained the age of 30 years,
  - Should be educated to at least School Certificate Level or its equivalent,

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Must be a member of a political party and be sponsored by that party.</li> <li>• The general election is guided by the 1999 Constitution, The Electoral Act, 2022, and INEC Regulations and Guidelines for the Conduct of Elections.</li> <li>• The election will be conducted and managed by INEC, Nigeria’s federal EMB, statutorily conferred with the power to organize, undertake, and supervise all elections to the office of President and Vice-president, Governor and Deputy Governor of a State, Membership of the Senate, House of Representatives, and the House of Assembly of each State of the Federation (State House of Assembly)<sup>4</sup>.</li> </ul>
3	<b>2023 Electoral Delimitation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nigeria is delimited into 774 Local Government Areas; 8,809 Registration Areas/Electoral Wards; 109 Senatorial Districts; 360 Federal Constituencies; and 991 State Constituencies.</li> <li>• There are 93,469,008 registered voters<sup>5</sup>, and 176,846, an addition of 56,872 polling units after the INEC expansion of access to polling unit exercise<sup>6</sup>.</li> <li>• According to INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, after the successful clean-up of the data harnessed from the Continuous Voters Registration exercise, the preliminary register of voters in Nigeria stands at 93,522,272<sup>7</sup>.</li> <li>• As the end of the CVR July 31, 2022, 12,298,944 persons completed the registration as new voters and following the clean-up, 2,780,765 registrants were found ineligible and subsequently removed from the</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> See Third Schedule Item F Paragraph 15(a) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended)

<sup>5</sup> INEC (2023), INEC Briefing for Observers to the 2023 General Election. Before now the figure was 93,522,272 see Okocha C. (2022), INEC: Voter Register is Now 93,522,272, <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2022/10/27/inec-voter-register-is-now-93522272/>

<sup>6</sup> Adenekan S. (2021), INEC Creates 56,872 New Polling Units Bans Voting in Mosques, Churches, Palaces, <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/468074-inec-creates-56872-new-polling-units-bans-voting-in-mosques-churches-palaces.html>

<sup>7</sup> <https://inecnews.com/voters-register-hits-93-52m-inec-insists-on-bvas-irev-for-2023-polls/>

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		<p>record, leaving valid registration at 9,618,188 in addition to the existing register of 84,004,084<sup>8</sup> (as used for the 2019 General Election).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the 2023 General Election, there are 1,491 number of electoral constituencies. This is the number of positions/seats being contested by 15,331 candidates drawn from 18 registered political parties<sup>9</sup>.</li> <li>• 87.2 million voters have collected PVC. This is over 93.29% collection rate and the highest collection rate so far recorded in our electoral democracy.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Nigerian Geography</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nigeria is in the Western region of Africa and has a total land area of 923,770 square kilometers and 356,667 Square miles<sup>10</sup>.</li> <li>• Current Nigeria dates from 1914, when the English Protectorates of Northern and Southern Nigeria were joined.</li> <li>• Nigeria attained Independence on October 1, 1960, and in 1963 it became Republic and established a Republican constitution.</li> <li>• The name Nigeria was allegedly believed to have been coined by a British Journalist in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century; the name was derived from the Niger River flowing across the country<sup>11</sup>.</li> <li>• Nigeria shares border with Niger by the North, Chad and Cameroon to the East, the Gulf of Guinea of the Atlantic Ocean to the South, and Benin to the West.</li> <li>• Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, and most populous black country in the world.</li> <li>• The capital of Nigeria is the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and the capital city known as the Federal Capital City (FCC) located within the Abuja Municipal Area Council. The common or popular name for the FCC is Abuja</li> </ul>

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

<sup>9</sup> INEC (2023), INEC Briefing for Observers to the 2023 General Election

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.nigeriahc.org.uk/about-nigeria>, <https://www.countryreports.org/country/Nigeria/geography.htm>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.nigerianembmexico.org/history-of-nigeria>

- Lagos is the former capital of Nigeria and is the leading commercial and industrial State
- Major cities in Nigeria include Lagos, Kano, Ibadan, Port Harcourt, Abuja, Benin City, Aba, Jos, Ilorin, Uyo, Zaria.
- Nigeria's heartland (the Middlebelt region) is dominated by the Niger and Benue Rivers which form a Y-shaped confluence in Kogi State. These rivers support Nigeria's agriculture in the North and focal parts of the country as it is the source of water for agricultural production<sup>12</sup>.
- Agriculture is key source of national income besides crude oil. According to World Bank, as at 2020, agriculture provides employment for 35% of the population<sup>13</sup>.
- Agricultural sector of Nigeria is classified into fishing, crop production, forestry, and livestock rearing.
- Major crops produced includes beans, cocoa beans, soybeans, maize (corn), rice, cashew nut, sesame, bananas, groundnut, kolanut, millet, melon, palm kernel, palm oil, rubber, sorghum and yams.
- The country is rich in mineral resources such as Talc, Gypsum, Iron Ore, Lead/Zinc, Bentonite and Baryte, Gold, Bitumen, Coal, Rock Salt, Kaolin, Sapphire, Ruby, Aquamarine, Emerald, Tourmaline, Topaz, Garnet, Amethyst, Feldspar, Manganese, Sphalerite, Chalcopyrite etc.<sup>14</sup>.
- Crude oil remains Nigeria's mainstay of the economy as the major source of income and GDP contributing more than 80% to national income.
- It is important to keep in mind that the geography of the nation has an impact on electoral planning, logistics, and deployment, and as such, it should be considered throughout election preparations.

<sup>12</sup> <https://eros.usgs.gov/westafrika/ecoregions-and-topography/ecoregions-and-topography-nigeria>

<sup>13</sup> World Bank Data (2021), Employment in Agriculture (% of total population) (modeled ILO Estimate)- Nigeria, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.AGR.EMPL.ZS?locations=NG>

<sup>14</sup> <https://nigeriacottawa.ca/nigeria-solid-minerals/>



## 5 Nigerian Electorate

- Nigerian is a multi-ethnic and culturally diverse country. Nigeria is very heterogeneous in terms of culture, tradition, and language.
- It consists of 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory which houses the seat of power.
- The electorate is composed of over 50 ethnic groups with over 250 dialects with the trio of Yoruba, Hausa and Igbo being the top three<sup>15</sup>.
- The National Bureau of Statistics, NBS (2016) population projection, places Nigeria's population at 193,392,512<sup>16</sup>. From the 2006 census Nigeria a population of 140,431,790 (male- 71,345,488 and female-69,086,302)<sup>17</sup>.
- Rate of People living with Disability in Nigeria is 1.84% male and 2.35% female, of the total population<sup>18</sup>.
- From the Nigeria Living Standards Survey 2018/2019, Nigeria has an average household size of 5.06 family members.
- Nigeria has an average share of female-headed households of 18.8 and a dependency ratio of 0.97<sup>19</sup>.
- According to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Nigeria has 20 million out-of-school children, and this places the country as one the three countries with the highest number of out-of-school children in the world<sup>20</sup>. In Nigeria, 39.6% of the population has not completed 5 years of schooling, while child school attendance is 23.8%<sup>21</sup>.

<sup>15</sup> <https://fmic.gov.ng/culture/culture/>

<sup>16</sup> National Population Estimates, <https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/download/474>

<sup>17</sup> <https://nigeria.opendataforafrica.org/xspplpb/nigeria-census>

<sup>18</sup> NBS (2020) Nigeria Living Standards Survey 2018/2019, page 41 <https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/download/1123>

<sup>19</sup> NBS (2020) Nigeria Living Standards Survey 2018/2019, page 8 <https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/download/1123>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/551804-breaking-nigeria-now-has-20-million-out-of-school-children-unesco.html>

<sup>21</sup> Human Development Indices for the UNDP Nigeria Human Development Report (2016), page 22 <https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/download/830>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nigeria has a working population of 52.5% and 54.0% of households receive remittance (52.7% domestic and 5.7% international remittances)<sup>22</sup>.</li> <li>• The value of Human Development Index (HDI) in 2016 stands at 0.5114, Gross National Income (GNI) at 0.3659<sup>23</sup>.</li> <li>• According to the Nigeria Poverty Assessment 2022, in 2018/2019, 47.3% of Nigerians lived in multidimensional poverty<sup>24</sup>. World Bank collection of development indicators reported poverty headcount rate at 40.1%<sup>25</sup>.</li> <li>• Nigeria is a host to many tertiary institutions, including Federal government institutions, state-owned institutions and private-owned institutions. Some of these institutions include University of Ibadan, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), University of Jos, Usman Dan Fodio University, Redeemers University, Covenant University, Afe Babalola University, Bowen University.</li> </ul>
6	<b>Key Electoral Dates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notification of polls: February 28, 2022.</li> <li>• Party primaries: April 4 – June 9, 2022<sup>26</sup>.</li> <li>• Submission of names of candidates by Political Parties; Presidential &amp; National Assembly: June 10 - June 17, 2022.</li> <li>• Submission of names of candidates by Political Parties; Governorship &amp; State House of Assembly: July 1 – July 15, 2022.</li> <li>• Publication of personal particulars of candidates by INEC; Presidential &amp; National Assembly: June 24, 2022.</li> <li>• Publication of personal particulars of candidates by INEC; Governorship &amp; State House of Assembly: July 22, 2022.</li> </ul>

<sup>22</sup> NBS (2020) Nigeria Living Standards Survey 2018/2019, page 47 <https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/download/1123>

<sup>23</sup> Human Development Indices for the UNDP Nigeria Human Development Report (2016), page 11 <https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/download/830>

<sup>24</sup>The 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>25</sup> <https://tradingeconomics.com/nigeria/poverty-headcount-ratio-at-national-poverty-line-percent-of-population-wb-data.html>

<sup>26</sup> Deadline was originally slated for June 3, 2022 but was extended by INEC to June 9, 2022, <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/532915-updated-inec-makes-u-turn-extends-deadline-for-party-primaries.html>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publication of final list of nominated candidates by INEC; Presidential &amp; National Assembly: September 20, 2022.</li> <li>• Publication of final list of nominated candidates by INEC; Governorship &amp; State House of Assembly: October 4, 2022.</li> <li>• Commencement of campaign by political parties in public; Presidential &amp; National Assembly: September 28, 2022.</li> <li>• Commencement campaign by political parties in public; Governorship &amp; State House of Assembly: October 12, 2022.</li> <li>• Submission of polling agents for the election; Presidential &amp; National Assembly: December 30, 2022.</li> <li>• Submission of polling agents for the election; Governorship &amp; State House of Assembly: January 6, 2023.</li> <li>• Publication of official Register of Voters for the election by the Commission: January 12, 2023.</li> <li>• Publication of Notice of poll by the Commission: January 30, 2023.</li> <li>• Last day for campaigns by Political Parties; Presidential &amp; National Assembly: February 23, 2023.</li> <li>• Last day for campaigns by Political Parties; Governorship &amp; State House of Assembly: March 9, 2023.</li> <li>• The Presidential and National Assembly election will hold on February 25, 2023.</li> <li>• The Governorship and State House of Assembly election will hold on March 11, 2023<sup>27</sup>.</li> </ul>
7	<b>INEC and Stakeholders Engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On April 27 2021, INEC held a national stakeholders’ roundtable meeting on strengthening the capacity of persons with disabilities to advance their rights and participate in the political process<sup>28</sup>.</li> </ul>

<sup>27</sup> See INEC Timetable and Schedule of Activities for the 2023 General Election

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.placng.org/electionnewstrend/september-2021/>

- The Commission, after a meeting with Resident Electoral Commissioners, announced the commencement of physical registration of voters originally scheduled for Monday 19 July 2021, to begin on the July 26, 2021 due to public holidays.<sup>29</sup>
- On 22 June 2021, INEC held the second quarterly meeting with the media organizations, the Chairman of the Commission Prof. Mahmood Yakubu solicited for the support the media to ensure massive publicity for the upcoming continuous (CVR) voters' registration.<sup>30</sup>
- On September 6 2021, INEC held the third quarterly meeting with political parties. During the meeting, the Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu stated that the commission will introduce the Bimodal Voters Accreditation System (BVAS) in a bid to eliminate the possibility of voting using another person's permanent voter's card (CVR) during an election.
- On September 24, 2021 and ahead of the 2023 general elections, INEC displayed the details of the newly registered voters from the ongoing nationwide continuous voters' registration (CVR).
- On January 18, 2022, INEC chairman and members of the Commission had the first quarterly consultative meeting with leaders of political parties<sup>31</sup>.
- On January 19, 2022, INEC had a consultative meeting with civil society organizations (CSOs) at the commission conference room<sup>32</sup>.
- On February 26, 2022, The INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, in a press conference unveiled the timetable and scheduled activities for the 2023 General Elections at a media briefing.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>29</sup> <https://dailypost.ng/2021/07/16/inec-postpones-physical-registration-of-voters-announces-new-date/>

<sup>30</sup> <https://punchng.com/inec-worried-over-kidnapping-threatens-prosecution-over-false-information/>, <https://thesightnews.com/cvr-inec-seeks-media-support-to-ensure-massive-publicity/>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.blueprint.ng/2023-inec-charges-in-house-pr-officers-to-protect-polls-integrity/>

<sup>32</sup> <https://radionigeria.gov.ng/2022/01/19/inec-seeks-support-of-csos-on-voter-education/>

<sup>33</sup> <https://theabujainquirer.com/2022/02/26/inec-sets-new-date-for-2023-general-elections/>, <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/02/breaking-inec-adjusts-2023-election-timetable/>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On February 28, 2022, in compliance with section 28(1) of the Electoral Act 2022, INEC published the Notice of Election.</li> <li>• Presidential and National Assembly- Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023.</li> <li>• Governorship and State Assembly- Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023.</li> <li>• On March 3, 2022, INEC in a press release presented the list of new voters to political parties and implementation of the 2023 General Election Timetable.<sup>34</sup></li> <li>• On March 23, 2022, Hon. Chairman INEC, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu and members of the commission met with Director-General, Shuaibu Ibrahim to sign the review of the existing INEC/NYSC Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), ahead of the General elections of 2023<sup>35</sup>.</li> <li>• INEC urged the National Peace Committee (NPC), to engage with political actors well ahead of the 2023 General Election, to minimize the incidence of electoral violence<sup>36</sup>.</li> <li>• On September 7, 2022, INEC approved the INECPRES as the registration portal for interested applicants who wish to serve as ad-hoc staff in 2023 general election<sup>37</sup>.</li> <li>• INEC on September 14, 2022, opened the portal for interested applicants to apply to serve as ad-hoc staff in the 2023 general election.</li> <li>• On December 16, 2022, INEC had an engagement meeting with youth in Sokoto State to discuss the role of youth in the 2023 general election, which was tagged “Youth as a Vanguard of Impactful Change”<sup>38</sup>.</li> </ul>
8	<b>Training/Electoral Personnel Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 - 5 March, 2022, a two-day editorial capacity building workshop was organized for INEC public officers, Lagos state. This is anchored on the</li> </ul>

<sup>34</sup> <https://von.gov.ng/2022/03/02/2023-election-inec-presents-new-voters-list-to-political-parties/>

<sup>35</sup> <https://inecnews.com/inec-nysc-endorse-revised-mou-yakubu-says-corps-members-indispensable/>, <https://toscadst.com/2023-inec-nysc-review-mou-on-security/>

<sup>36</sup> <https://inecnews.com/2023-general-elections-inec-seeks-peace-committees-early-engagement-with-political-actors/>

<sup>37</sup> <https://tribuneonlineng.com/inec-opens-new-portal-for-staff-recruitment-ahead-of-2023-election/>

<sup>38</sup> INEC (2022), [Twitter @inecnigeria], <https://twitter.com/inecnigeria/status/1603743415564656640>

understanding that “Maximizing Social Media Benefits: Curtailing Misinformation and Disinformation”, is the responsibility of information managers to respond appropriately and accurately to information, either denouncing or correcting them<sup>39</sup>.

- On November 22, 2022, INEC organized a ‘Trainers of Master Trainers on Election Technology’ for the 2023 General Elections.
- November 28 - 1 December 2022, INEC organized zonal training of trainers on communication/networking support or the North-East Zone<sup>40</sup>.
- On December 9, 2022, INEC organized capacity building training of trainers on technologies for North-Central zone in Benue State<sup>41</sup>.
- The Electoral Institute organized a two-day capacity building workshop for INEC Press Corps on Critical Issues in the Electoral Act, 2022 and the Commission’s Processes, Innovations, Preparations for the 2023 General Election<sup>42</sup>
- INEC organized a one-day capacity building workshop for voter education providers in Adamawa State in preparation for the conduct of the 2023 General Election. Participants were drawn from INEC, media organizations and CSOs<sup>43</sup>.
- The two-day workshop, organized by the UNDP, focused on the improvement of the Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC) and the review of the Election Management System (EMS)<sup>44</sup>.

## POLITICAL TERRAIN

<sup>39</sup> <https://theeagleonline.com.ng/2023-be-knowledgeable-abreast-of-new-electoral-act-inec-charges-staff/>

<sup>40</sup> INEC (2022) [Twitter @ inecnigeria], <https://twitter.com/inecnigeria/status/1599334072240988160>

<sup>41</sup> INEC (2022), [Twitter @ inecnigeria], <https://twitter.com/inecnigeria/status/1601220108474425344>

<sup>42</sup> <https://punchng.com/inec-to-train-1-4-million-ad-hoc-staff/>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/10/inec-begins-capacity-building-workshop-on-voter-education-in-adamawa/>, <https://www.nannews.ng/2022/10/17/inec-begins-capacity-building-workshop-on-voter-education-in-adamawa/>

<sup>44</sup> Oludare R. (2022), UNDP, INEC Move for Improved Election Management Ahead 2023 General Elections. *Guardian*, <https://guardian.ng/news/undp-inec-move-for-improved-election-management-ahead-2023-general-elections/>

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## 9 2019 General Election

- The 2019 general election was originally scheduled for February 16, 2019 but was rescheduled to February 23, 2019 for the Presidential and Senatorial election while, Governorship, State House of Assembly elections was slated for March 9, 2019<sup>45</sup>.
- According to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), the postponement was due to logistical issues encountered.
- This action led to some uproar from the two major parties, who alleged that the postponement was a plot by the Commission to undermine the election<sup>46</sup>.
- The 2019 general election was conducted on February 23, 2019 and March 9, 2019 respectively, with seven-three (73) political parties participating in it<sup>47</sup>.
- The presidential election led to the victory of President Muhammadu Buhari who was contesting for a second term in office, he pulled a total of 15, 191, 847 votes and winning 19 States, while his major contender, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar garnered a total of 10, 782, 007 votes and winning 17 States including FCT<sup>48</sup>.
- Governorship election was conducted in twenty-nine States out of the thirty-six States in Nigeria and this led to the victory of the ruling party in 15 States and the opposition party won in 14 States<sup>49</sup>.
- According to the Human Right Watch report on the 2019 general election, the elections were marred by political violence<sup>50</sup>.

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-47263122>

<sup>46</sup> Ibid

<sup>47</sup> Sahara Reporters (2019), <https://saharareporters.com/2019/02/27/glance-final-positions-all-73-parties-contested-presidential-election>

<sup>48</sup> Vanguard (2019), 2019 Presidential Election Results: Buhari Polled Over 15m Votes, <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2019/02/2019-presidential-election-results-buhari-polled-over15m-votes/>

<sup>49</sup> Ogundipe S. (2019), 2019 Governorship Elections Tally: APC 15 States, PDP 14 States, <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/324136-2019-governorship-elections-tally-apc-15-states-pdp-14.html>

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/06/10/nigeria-widespread-violence-ushers-presidents-new-term>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reacting to the results of the election, the presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, alleged that the election was marred by malpractices in different States and that undermined the credibility of the election<sup>51</sup>.</li> </ul>
10	<b>Political Parties and Candidates</b>	<p><b>Political Parties</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 political parties will participate in the election including;</li> <li>• APC- incumbent at the National level and 20 States</li> <li>• PDP- Major opposition and across 14 States</li> <li>• Labour Party- Emerging third force</li> </ul> <p><b>Candidates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On September 20, 2022, INEC released the final list for presidential and National Assembly candidates for the 2023 general elections<sup>52</sup>.</li> <li>• According to the final list, 18 presidential candidates and their running mates are in the race for the office of the President, while 4,223 candidates are contesting for seats in the National Assembly<sup>53</sup>. The candidates are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Imumolen Irene Christopher – Accord Party (A)</li> <li>✚ Almustapha Hamza – Action Alliance (AA)</li> <li>✚ Sowere Omoyele Stephen – African Action Congress (AAC)</li> <li>✚ Kachikwu Dumebi – African Democratic Congress (ADC)</li> <li>✚ Sani Yabaji Yusuf – Action Democratic Party (ADP)</li> <li>✚ Tinubu Bola Ahmed – All Progressives Congress (APC)</li> <li>✚ Umedi Peter Nnanna Chukwudi – All Progressives Grand Alliances (APGA)</li> <li>✚ Ojei Princess Chichi – Allied Peoples Movement (APM)</li> <li>✚ Nnedi Charles Osita – Action Peoples Party (APP)</li> <li>✚ Adenuga Sunday Oluwafemi – Boot Party (BP)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>51</sup> Punch (2019), Full Statement of Atiku’s Reaction to Election Result, <https://punchng.com/full-statement-of-atikus-reaction-to-presidential-election-result/>

<sup>52</sup> Akewushola N. (2022), INEC Releases Final List for 2023 Presidential, NASS Candidates, <https://www.icirnigeria.org/inec-releases-final-list-for-2023-presidential-nass-candidates/>

<sup>53</sup> Guardian (2022), 2023: INEC Publishes Final List of Candidates, <https://guardian.ng/news/2023-inec-publishes-final-list-of-candidates/>, <https://inecnigeria.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Final-List-of-Candidates-for-National-Elections-1.pdf>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Obi Peter Gregory – Labour Party (LP)</li> <li>✚ Musa Mohammed Rabiu Kwankwaso – New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP)</li> <li>✚ Osakwe Felix Johnson – National Rescue Movement (NRM)</li> <li>✚ Abubakar Atiku –Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)</li> <li>✚ Abiola Latifu Kolawole – Peoples Redemption Party (PRP)</li> <li>✚ Adebayo Adewole Ebenezer – Social Democratic Party (SDP)</li> <li>✚ Ado-Ibrahim Abdulmalik – Young Progressives Party (YPP)</li> <li>✚ Nwamyanwu Daniel Daberechukwu – Zenith Labour Party (ZLP)</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is only one female presidential candidate and zero/no female running mates.</li> <li>• There are 92 female senatorial candidates, and 288 female candidates contesting for seats in the House of Representatives<sup>54</sup>.</li> </ul>
11	<b>2022 Primaries, Special Convention and Congress</b>	<p>According to INEC timetable and schedule for the 2023 general election, primaries was to kick-off on April 4, 2022 and climax June 3, 2022, but due to plea from the Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC) the deadline was extended to June 9<sup>55</sup>, 2022. Below are some of the issues that emerged from the primaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Adoption of Indirect Primaries for Candidate Selection:</b> Section 84(2) of the Electoral Act, 2022, allows political party to nominate candidates, by direct, indirect primaries or consensus. This clause allows a political party to choose its medium to nominate candidate to be their flag bearer in elections. Following the conclusion of party primaries by parties, it was evident that most parties adopted the Indirect mode of primaries, where democratically elected delegate at party congresses, elect candidate on behalf of members of the party as flag bearers in an election.</li> </ul>

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.icirnigeria.org/inec-releases-final-list-for-2023-presidential-nass-candidates/>

<sup>55</sup>Omeiza A. (2022), INEC Extends Primary Election Deadline by 6 Days. *Vanguard*, <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/05/breaking-inec-extends-primary-election-deadline-by-6-days/>, <https://www.channelstv.com/2022/05/27/breaking-inec-extends-schedule-of-2023-general-elections/>

- **Monetization/Dollarization of Primaries:** The recently conducted primaries was clouded with money for vote which is called vote buying and vote trading. This is where aspirants contesting for candidatedship of a political position in a party, pay huge sum of money to delegate to get their vote in the election. The most glaring, was the presidential primaries where delegates were paid \$20,000 to about \$50,000 or more. For instances, the major opposition party's major aspirant and challenger gave out \$20,000 to each delegate to defeat his closest contender who gave out \$10,000 to the delegate<sup>56</sup>. Similarly, in the ruling party there was also report of monetization of the primaries as aspirants paid delegates a sum of \$30,000 - \$50,000 to delegates who were willing to vote for them. This simply means that the primaries became the battle of rich, where higher vote goes to the highest bidder.
- **Withdrawal of Aspirants *before* the Primaries:** Another trend was the resignation of aspirants from primaries. An example was the resignation of Chris Ngige, the Minister of Labour, from the APC presidential primaries<sup>57</sup>. Chris Ngige was one of the APC presidential aspirants who bought the forms to contest in the primaries, but following the order from President Muhammadu Buhari, which was that every cabinet member with political ambition should resign to pursue their personal ambition<sup>58</sup>, he pulled out from the presidential race.

<sup>56</sup> <https://punchng.com/dollar-rain-drowns-pdp-presidential-primary-creates-bonanza-for-delegates/>

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/529551-2023-ngige-withdraws-from-presidential-race-seeks-to-continue-as-minister.html>

<sup>58</sup> <https://spunchng.com/breaking-buhari-orders-ministers-with-political-ambitions-to-resign/>

- **Withdrawal of Aspirant *during* the Primaries:** The presidential primary elections were also characterized by withdrawal of aspirants during the election, with the ruling party being at the center of it all. During the All-Progressives Congress (APC) presidential primaries', seven (7) presidential aspirants bid their support to the major contender in the party and also a national leader in the party, Bola Ahmed Tinubu Asiwaju, and stepped down for him. Similarly, one presidential aspirant stepped down for the Vice-President, aligning his support to him, while another aspirant pulled out of the race stating the lack of level playing field as his reason for stepping down<sup>59</sup>. The opposition party is not left out as during the primary election, one of the presidential aspirants stepped down from the race urging his supporters to vote for the former Vice-president, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, while another withdrew from the race alleging the monetization of the process<sup>60</sup>.
- **Non-Inclusion of Statutory Delegates:** The Senate amended Section 84(8) of the Electoral Act, to allow statutory delegates to participate and vote in party conventions, congresses and meetings<sup>61</sup>. The Statutory delegates refers to current and place political office holders. The primaries which were conducted did not include statutory delegates due the fact that President Muhammadu Buhari had not assented to the amendment of the Electoral Act, 2022.

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<sup>59</sup> <https://www.icirnigeria.org/apc-presidential-primary-nine-aspirants-who-withdrew-from-the-race/>

<sup>60</sup> <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/06/ndigbo-and-outcome-of-pdp-presidential-primaries/>

<sup>61</sup> <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/528821-senate-amends-electoral-act-to-allow-statutory-delegates-to-vote-at-party-congresses-conventions.html>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Allegations of Substitution of Delegates by the Accreditation Committee:</b> Another key issue in the primary elections conducted ahead of the 2023 general election was the allegations of substitution of ad-hoc staff by the accreditation committee. This was evident in the APC’s presidential primary election, where commotion rose as a result of individuals who were claiming to be delegates, but were refused entrance to go in because their names were not found on INEC delegates list. The affected persons alleged that the list had been changed to screen them out of the process<sup>62</sup>.</li> <li>• <b>Possible Emergence of a Third Political Force:</b> Following Peter Obi’s resignation from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), and withdrawal from the PDP presidential race,<sup>63</sup> as well as his defection to Labor Party (LP), and ultimately emerging as the presidential candidate of the party, poses a possible emergence of a third political force in the country.</li> <li>• <b>Currency of “Place Holders” in Nigerian Politics:</b> The presidential primaries also brought about the emergence of “Place Holders” in Nigerian politics. This was evident in the free will of other aspirants to step down for an aspirant even after spending huge sum of money to purchase presidential forms to contest in the primary election<sup>64</sup>.</li> </ul>
12	<b>Pre-election Litigations</b>	Leading to the 2023 general election, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has on so many occasions revealed that numerous pre-election litigations can hinder the preparation for the election, while noting that it

<sup>62</sup> <https://punchng.com/delegates-apc-ad-hoc-officials-clash-as-accreditation-begins/>

<https://dailypost.ng/2022/06/07/apc-presidential-primary-tinibus-loyalists-protest-delegates-list-video/>

<sup>63</sup> <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/05/breaking-peter-obi-dumps-pdp-withdraws-from-presidential-race/>

<sup>64</sup> The Electoral Hub (2022), Key Issues From 2022 Primaries, Special Convention and Congress.

		<p>has over 600 Suits that has been leveled against the Commission<sup>65</sup>. Outlined below are some of the pre-election litigations:</p> <p><b>APC VS APC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuhu Ribadu, an APC governorship aspirant filed a Suit to nullify the primaries that produced Sen. Aisha Binani, as the All-Progressives Congress' (APC) governorship candidate in Adamawa State, on the premise of over-voting and other electoral irregularities<sup>66</sup>.</li> <li>• The Judgment was overturned by an Appeal Court, and Senator Aisha Binani was restored as the rightful governorship candidate for the All-Progressives Congress (APC) in Adamawa State<sup>67</sup>.</li> </ul> <p><b>RAI VS APC &amp; PDP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporated Trustees of Rights for All International (RAI) and immediate-past minister of state for education, Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba, filed a Suit seeking to invalidate the primaries that produced Atiku Abubakar as the presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Asiwaju Bola Tinubu as the presidential candidate of the All-Progressives Congress (APC), on the bases of illegality, voter inducement and corruption. The suit was dismissed on December 15, 2022<sup>68</sup>.</li> </ul>
13	Power Dynamics	APC

<sup>65</sup>Abbas J. (2022), INEC Battles Litigations as Candidates Flood Courts. *Daily Trust*, <https://dailytrust.com/2023-inec-battles-litigations-as-candidates-flood-courts/>

<sup>66</sup> <https://leadership.ng/breaking-court-nullifies-apc-govship-primary-election-in-adamawa/>

<sup>67</sup> <https://punchng.com/just-in-appeal-court-upholds-bwacha-binanis-gov-candidacy/>

<sup>68</sup> <https://republic.com.ng/nigeria/2023-election-updates/>

- Some members of the National Working Committee (NWC) of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), accused the party's national chairman, Senator Abdullahi Adamu, of taking unilateral decisions<sup>69</sup>.
- In this regard, the aggrieved members called for the resignation of the party's National Chairman, Senator Abdullahi Adamu, so as to prevent the party from suffering loss in the 2023 general election<sup>70</sup>
- Tension rose up as the National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress, Senator Abdullahi Adamu declared Senate president, Ahmad Lawan as APC consensus presidential candidate<sup>71</sup>.
- Members of the NWC kicked against the move and demanded that other Presidential aspirants which incorporate Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, VP Yemi Osinbajo, Dr. Kayode Fayemi, Engr. David Umahi should be allowed to contest.

#### **PDP**

- Leading to the 2023 general election, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has been faced with crisis that emanated as a result of the outcome of the primaries that produced Alh. Atiku Abubakar as the party flag bearer.
- Nyesom Wike, Governor of River State, asked Sen. Iyorchia Ayu to resign his position as the party's National Chairman as he had promised to resign should the party's flag bearer emerge from the North<sup>72</sup>.
- A 14-member reconciliation committee was set up to reconcile the aggrieved members of the party.
- Members of the reconciliation from Wike's camp include former Governors Segun Mimiko of Ondo State, Donald Duke of Cross Rivers

<sup>69</sup> Bode O. APC Crisis: Adamu Taking Unilateral Decisions Blackmailing NWC Members – Zonal Chairmen, *Blue Print*. <https://www.blueprint.ng/apc-crisis-adamu-taking-unilateral-decisions-blackmailing-nwc-members-zonal-chairmen/>, <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2022/05/31/apc-leadership-crisis-deepens-as-nwc-members-accuse-adamu-of-taking-unilateral-decision/>

<sup>70</sup> <https://independent.ng/apc-crisis-and-plot-to-oust-adamu/>

<sup>71</sup> Clifford N. & Johnbosco A. (2022), APC Convention: Adamu Announces Lawan as Candidate at NWC Meeting

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/06/breaking-apc-convention-adamu-announces-lawan-as-consensus-candidate-at-nwc-meeting/>

<sup>72</sup>Esofia T. (2022), PDP Crisis: Ayu Must Resign Wike Insists. *Vanguard*, <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/09/pdp-crisis-ayu-must-resign-wike-insists/>



and Ibrahim Dankwambo of Gombe; a former Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Mohammed Adoke; and a former member of the House of Representatives, Nnena Ukeje<sup>73</sup>.

- While members of the reconciliation committee from Atiku's camp include; former Senate President, David Mark; Adamawa State Governor, Umaru Fintiri, a former Cross River Governor, Liyel Imoke; a former PDP governorship candidate in Ondo State, Eyitayo Jegede; and former Senator Ben Obi.
- The tension deepened as Governor Wike vowed not to step back on the call for resignation of Sen. Iyorchia Ayu, because according to him, the constitution did not validate the National Chairman and the Presidential Candidate coming from the same zone<sup>74</sup>.
- Governor Wike was not left out in the clamor for Sen. Ayu's resignation as elected governors in the party were also in this bid. These governors formed the G5 governors and they include; Governor Seyi Makinde (Oyo State), Governor Samuel Ortom (Benue State), Governor Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi (Enugu State) and Governor Okezie Ikpeazu (Abia State) with Governor Wike of River State as the leader of the group.
- All plans to resolve the crisis proved abortive as the aggrieved party members formed a group known as the 'integrity group', within the party to further express their grievances<sup>75</sup>.
- In what was believed to be a counterattack by the National Chairman, Senator Iyorchia Ayu against the G5 governors, he rejected the list of poll agents for the general election<sup>76</sup>.

<sup>73</sup> <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/548663-atiku-wike-set-up-14-member-reconciliation-committee-fix-meeting-date.html>

<sup>74</sup> Dennis A. (2022), No Peace In PDP unless Ayu Resigns- Wike. *Punch*, <https://punchng.com/no-peace-in-pdp-unless-ayu-resigns-wike/>

<sup>75</sup> Punch (2022), PDP Crisis: Wike Allies Form Integrity Group. <https://punchng.com/pdp-crisis-wike-allies-form-integrity-group/>

<sup>76</sup> The Nation (2023), PDP Crisis: Ayu Fights Block G5 Governors Nominees for Poll Duties, <https://thenationonlineng.net/pdp-crisis-ayu-fights-back-blocks-g5-govs-nominees-for-poll-duties/>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Despite reconciliation efforts in less than two month to the 2023 general election, the G5 governors still maintain stand on not supporting the flag bearer of the party in the general election<sup>77</sup>.</li> <li>• It is important that the party resolves its internal crisis so as not to sabotage its outing in the upcoming election.</li> </ul>
		<b>CIVIL TERRAIN</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Community Stakeholders Engagement</b>	<p><b>Traditional Rulers Involvement</b></p> <p>Candidates vying for elective positions in the State usually seek advice and endorsement from the traditional rulers. An example is;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The former governor of Lagos State, Bola Ahmed Tinubu paid a visit to the palaces of the Alake of Egbaland, Sikiru Adetona, Awujale of Ijebuland, Oba Adedotun Gbadebo, and the Olu of Ilaro and ruler of Yewaland, Oba Kehinde Olugbenle, to inform them of his intention to run in the presidential race<sup>78</sup>.</li> <li>• Also, Traditional rulers from Awori land in Lagos State, organized a prayer session for the success of the All Progressives Congress presidential candidate, Bola Tinubu in his presidential bid<sup>79</sup>.</li> <li>• Peter Obi, the former of governor of Anambra State declaring his intention to contest for the Office of the President before the Anambra State Traditional Rulers Council, and Anambra State Association of Town Unions (ASATU)<sup>80</sup>.</li> <li>• In response, representative of the Traditional Rulers from Anambra North, Igwe Ben Emeka, and his counterparts from Anambra Central, Igwe Peter Anugwu and South, Igwe Shedrack Moguluwa, pledged to rally support</li> </ul>

<sup>77</sup> <https://www.ripplesnigeria.com/pdp-crisis-ortom-re-enforces-g5-stand-denies-group-endorsed-atiku/>, <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/01/g5-governors-didnt-resolve-for-atiku-ortoms-aide-akase/>

<sup>78</sup> <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2022/02/13/2023-we-will-make-nigerians-happy-says-tinubu-after-visit-to-traditional-rulers-in-ogun/>

<sup>79</sup> <https://punchng.com/lagos-monarchs-hold-special-prayers-for-tinubu-sanwo-olu/>

<sup>80</sup> <https://www.blueprint.ng/2023-peter-obi-meets-traditional-rulers-town-leaders-in-anambra-unveils-presidential-ambition-pictures/>

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for Obi's presidential aspiration due to his outstanding performance as a governor<sup>81</sup>.

- Similarly, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) flag bearer, Alh. Atiku Abubakar, paid a visit to the Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi Ojaja II and the Owa Obokun Adimula of Ijesaland, Oba (Dr.) Gabriel Adekunle Aromolaran<sup>82</sup>.
- These visits and consultations reflect the critical roles that traditional institutions play in political consideration and social cohesion<sup>83</sup>.

**Other engagements include:**

- In view of the 2023 general elections, Rivers State Council of Traditional Rulers expressed support for the initiative by a group known as 'The Nigeria Agenda', to campaign against politics of religion and ethnicity<sup>84</sup>.
- Chairman of the Council, His Royal Highness, King Dandeson Jaja, the Amanayabo of Opobo Kingdom, portrayed the solidarity and citizens support national advocacy, as the suitable campaign that will prompt changing the idea of one Nigerian as it is seen now<sup>85</sup>.
- The Galadima of Muri, Alhaji Tukur Aba-Tukur, encouraged politicians in Taraba to take up the soul of sportsmanship without any trace of malice and harshness in the build-up to the 2023 General election.
- During a courtesy visit of the vice presidential candidate of the New Nigeria Peoples Party, Bishop Isaac Idahosa, the Olu of Warri, Ogiame Atuwatse III, noted that the 2023 general elections is key to Nigeria socio-economic and political well-being<sup>86</sup>.

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<sup>81</sup> Ibid

<sup>82</sup> <https://www.channelstv.com/2022/12/06/photos-atiku-visits-ooni-of-ife-paramount-ruler-of-ijesaland/>

<sup>83</sup> Ibid

<sup>84</sup> <https://www.blueprint.ng/2023-rivers-council-of-traditional-rulers-back-nigeria-agenda-initiative/>

<sup>85</sup> Ibid

<sup>86</sup> <https://republic.com.ng/nigeria/2023-election-updates/>

## Stakeholder's (CSOs, Security Agents, MDAs) Engagement with the Electoral Process

- A stakeholder's roundtable on electoral technology was organized from Nov 30 - Dec 1, 2021, comprising the civil society, electoral officials, computer experts, politicians, police, and the media counsel INEC on the appropriate use of technology in the desire to guarantee credible election in Nigeria<sup>87</sup>.
- The Nigerian Civil Society Situation Room (a coalition of over 70 civil society organizations) urged the National Assembly to allow the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), to determine the mode of conduct of elections, including the transmission of results.<sup>88</sup>
- A committee of INEC-YIAGA joint national conference on the 2023 general elections was inaugurated, to identify and popularize innovations and reforms designed to enhance the integrity of the 2023 polls.<sup>89</sup>
- On September 19, 2022, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) organized a two days training for INEC staff ahead of the election. The training was tagged "Review of indicators and capacity building on Election Monitoring and Support Center (EMSC) Report Validation"<sup>90</sup>.
- The Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) in collaboration with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and the Nigeria Union of Journalist (NUJ), organized 2 days training for journalists and CSOs in the South-South on conflict-sensitive reporting and countering fake news<sup>91</sup>.
- YIAGA Africa in collaboration with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Channels Television launched Election Result Analysis Dashboard (ERAD) to facilitate transparency of election result management<sup>92</sup>.

<sup>87</sup> <https://www.ndr.org.ng/stakeholders-counsel-inec-on-election-technology-commend-phased-deployment/>

<sup>88</sup> <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2021/09/2023-elections-70-csos-insist-on-electronic-transmission-of-results/>

<sup>89</sup> <https://www.blueprint.ng/2023-inec-partners-csos-to-enhance-stakeholders-participation/>

<sup>90</sup> <https://guardian.ng/news/undp-trains-inec-staff-ahead-of-2023-general-elections/>

<sup>91</sup> <https://crossriverwatch.com/2022/11/journalists-csos-trained-on-conflict-sensitive-reporting-and-countering-fake-news-ahead-of-2023-general-elections/>

<sup>92</sup> <https://dailytrust.com/election-yiaga-africa-launches-dashboard-to-improve-transparency-of-result-management/>

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- Ahead of the general election, The Women’s Situation Room Nigeria (WSPN) inaugurated an early warning and response center to address potential violence against women in 2023 general election<sup>93</sup>.
- On December 13, 2022, Pan African Women Projects and INEC in collaboration organized a one-day Market Outreach to increase women participation in the electoral process, and also encourage them to collect their PVCs ahead of the 2023 general election.
- Meta had a group set up to screen posts by Nigerians pre, during, and post 2023 general election in the country, on Facebook and Instagram to tackle fake news<sup>94</sup>.
- Daria Media in partnership with News Central, and the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), among others organized presidential town hall series known as ‘The Candidates’<sup>95</sup>.
- Arise TV in collaboration with the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) organized a presidential town hall series for the candidates of the 2023 general election, where the candidates discuss pertinent issues in the country such as security and economy<sup>96</sup>.
- Women in Management, Business and Public Service, WIMBIZ, in engaging the electoral process established a Committee ‘Women Advocacy Program’, in an effort to boost women's participation and visibility in the next general elections<sup>97</sup>.
- In a bid to tackle voters apathy, The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), launched a project to improve citizens’ participation in the forthcoming 2023 general election. The project was tagged ‘Mobilizing

<sup>93</sup> <https://dailytrust.com/2023-response-centre-launched-to-address-violence-against-women/>

<sup>94</sup> <https://republic.com.ng/nigeria/2023-election-updates/>, <https://leadership.ng/meta-partners-inec-ngos-to-combat-2023-elections-fake-news/>

<sup>95</sup> <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/11/atiku-okowa-pull-out-of-presidential-town-hall-meeting/>

<sup>96</sup> <https://leadership.ng/arise-tv-cdd-partner-leadership-on-2023-town-hall-series-for-presidential-candidates/>

<sup>97</sup> Nonyelim C. (2022), WIZBIZ Advocates Increased Participation Visibility of Women, *Guardian*. <https://guardian.ng/guardian-woman/wimbiz-advocates-increased-participation-visibility-of-women/>, <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/10/2023-election-wimbiz-introduces-advocacy-program-and-initiative-to-increase-womens-participation/>

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Voters for Election (MOVE)’. During the event, the Executive Secretary of NHRC, Tony Ojukwu (SAN) revealed that the Commission would set up a national hate speech register to track inciteful and hate speeches in campaigns for the 2023 elections<sup>98</sup>.

- Transmission Monitoring Group (TMG), partnered with the USAID-funded initiative, Strengthening Civic Advocacy and Local Engagement (SCALE), to enhance voters’ participation in the general elections of 2023 and a peaceful election come 2023<sup>99</sup>.
- The Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) in collaboration with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), launched the Election Crisis Communication Team (ECCT) which will be saddled with the responsibility of ensuring communications and awareness to support the commission’s goal of conducting free, fair, transparent, and inclusive elections in the 2023 elections<sup>100</sup>.
- International Press Centre, IPC, organized training for female journalist with support from the European Union-Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria, EU-SDGN II, in partnership with the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists, NAWOJ. During the training, female journalist were encouraged to be fair, accurate, ethical and promote inclusive coverage of electoral processes in Nigeria<sup>101</sup>.
- The General Abdulsalam Abubakar-led National Peace Committee organized the signing of a peace accord by the 18 political parties

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<sup>98</sup> <https://www.thecable.ng/2023-nhrc-launches-project-to-increase-voter-participation-in-elections>, <https://punchng.com/campaigns-nhrc-to-set-up-hate-speech-register/>

<sup>99</sup> The Sun (2022), 2023 Election: TMG Partners for Citizens Engagement, <https://www.sunnewsonline.com/2023-elections-tmg-partners-usaid-for-citizen-engagement/>

<sup>100</sup> <https://republic.com.ng/nigeria/2023-election-updates/>

<sup>101</sup> Ebele O. (2022), 2023 Elections: IPC, EU-SDGN Train Female Journalists on Effective Reporting. *Vanguard*, <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/11/2023-elections-ipc-eu-sdgn-train-female-journalists-on-effective-reporting/>

		contesting in the presidential election, towards a peaceful general election <sup>102</sup> .
15	<b>Media Houses in Nigeria</b>	<p><b>TV Channels/Houses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nigerian Television Authority (NTA): Located in Abuja with 96 stations and 7 network centers across the geo-political zones and owned by the federal government.</li> <li>• African Independent Television (AIT): Located in FCT and several other States in the country and owned by Raymond Dokpesi<sup>103</sup>.</li> <li>• Channels TV: Located in FCT, Edo State, Lagos State and Kano State and owned by John Momoh.</li> <li>• Silverbird TV: Located in FCT, Lagos State and Rivers State and owned by Senator Ben Murray-Bruce who represented Bayelsa East senatorial district in 2015-2019.</li> <li>• TVC News: Located in Lagos State and owned by Tinubu Ahmed the All Progressives Congress' (APC) flag bearer.</li> <li>• Arise TV: Located in Abuja, Lagos State, New York, London, and Johannesburg and owned by Nduka Obiagbena, who is a business man and Editor-in-Chief of the 'This Day' media group<sup>104</sup>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Radio Houses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN): Located in FCT, Abuja and owned by the federal government<sup>105</sup>.</li> <li>• Ray Power FM: Located in Lagos State with sub stations across the country and owned by Raymond Dokpesi.</li> </ul>

<sup>102</sup>Enameh G. (2022), 2023 Poll: Beyond Signing of Peace Accord, <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2022/10/03/2023-poll-beyond-signing-of-peace-accord/>

<sup>103</sup> <https://massmediang.com/list-of-television-stations-in-nigeria-their-owners-and-slogans/>

<sup>104</sup> <https://www.weforum.org/people/nduka-obaigbena>

<sup>105</sup> <https://interstatearchitects.com/portfolio-items/federal-radio-corporation-of-nigeria-radio-house-abuja/>



- Wazobia FM: Located in Lagos State with other stations across the country and owned by Globe Broadcasting and Communications/Amin Moussalli Nouri.
- Nigeria Info FM: Located in Abuja, Lagos State and Port Harcourt and owned by Info FM Nigeria Limited/Amin Moussali Nouri.
- Cool FM: Located in Abuja, Lagos State, Kano State, and Port Harcourt and owned by Amin Moussali Nouri.

#### **Newspapers Houses**

- The Punch: Located in Lagos State and owned by James Olubunmi Aboderin.
- The Nation: Located in Lagos State, Abuja and Port Harcourt, the newspaper is believed to be linked to the All Progressives Congress' (APC) presidential candidate, Tinubu Bola Ahmed.
- Guardian: Located in Lagos and was established by Alex Ibru and Stanley Macebuh, a Journalist.
- Daily Trust: Located in Abuja and owned by Mallam Kabiru Yusuf.
- This Day: Located in Lagos and owed by Nduka Obaigbena.
- Premium Times: Located in Abuja and owned by Dapo Olorunyomi.
- The Sun: Located in Lagos and owned by former Governor of Abia State, Dr. Orji Uzor Kalu<sup>106</sup>.
- Nigeria Tribune: Located in Ibadan and established by Obafemi Awolowo.
- Vanguard: Located in Delta and owned by Sam Amuka Pemu who was a journalist, columnist and publisher.
- Blueprints: Located in Abuja and owned by Blueprints Newspapers Limited.

## **15 Insecurity Issues**

In the build up to the 2023 general election, the Commission has been faced with numerous attacks on its facilities.

<sup>106</sup> <https://nigerianinfopedia.com.ng/the-sun-newspapers-nigeria/>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to reports, Imo State is the most affected with the highest number of attacks on INEC offices across the state<sup>107</sup>. According to the INEC Chairman, Professor Mahmood Yakubu revealed that between February 2019 and May 2021, there were attacks on INEC offices in 14 States of the country</li> <li>• In the attack on INEC Office Ebonyi State, 340 ballot boxes and an unknown number of permanent voters cards (PVCs) were among the items lost in the attack<sup>108</sup>.</li> <li>• INEC offices in Ede South LGA of Osun State and Abeokuta South LGA, Ogun State, were maliciously attacked and set ablaze by criminals<sup>109</sup>.</li> <li>• The main office of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Owerri, capital of Imo state was attacked by gunmen who vandalized the facilities<sup>110</sup>.</li> <li>• The murder of Mrs. Victoria Chintex, women leader of the Labour party in Kaduna.</li> <li>• These issues if not properly addressed would dissuade electorates from participating in the election for fear of their safety, thereby affecting the integrity of the election<sup>111</sup>.</li> </ul>
<b>INTERGRITY MEASURES</b>		
16	<b>Integrity Measures for the General Election</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• INEC has adhered to the timetable and schedule for the general election and duly publicized Regulations and Guidelines, thereby creating stability and certainty in the process.</li> </ul>

<sup>107</sup> <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/464658-timeline-41-inec-offices-attacked-in-two-years.html>

<sup>108</sup> <https://republic.com.ng/december-2022/inec-resists-worrisome-attacks/>

<sup>109</sup> Opening Remarks by The Hon. National Commissioner And Chairman Outreach And Partnership Committee (OPC), Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Kunle Ajayi, at the One-Day National Dialogue With CSOs Ahead Of The 2023 General Elections

<sup>110</sup> <https://guardian.ng/news/three-killed-in-attack-on-imo-inec-office/>

<sup>111</sup> <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/nwest/568150-just-in-gunmen-kill-labour-partys-women-leader-in-kaduna.html>

... promoting electoral knowledge, accountability, and integrity.

- There is compelling commitment with stakeholders by INEC. INEC through a progression of gatherings has shared routinely, its arrangements and groundwork for the election.
- Exercises for voter education have been conducted. Both offline methods, holding actual meetings and engaging with grassroots communities and online methods - social media engagements, were used to accomplish these.
- Additionally, INEC has routinely communicated with the electorate and the general public by posting information on its website and participating in traditional and social media activities.
- The public and other stakeholders have been informed of all election-related information. For instance, the public has access to information on issues like voter registration, PVC collecting, election technology, political parties, and their candidate lists.
- Disaggregation of data of the voters register as shown that the Commission is also taking the lead in ensuring that no one is left behind in the electoral process.
- The launching of the INEC Framework on Access and Participation of Persons with Disabilities in the Electoral Process, and the available database of over eighty -four thousand (84,000) PWDs on INEC's voters register, is one of the efforts of the Commission in providing adequate specific assistive needs and thereby promoting inclusivity.
- Introduction of new technologies like the INEC Voter Enrollment Device (IVED) for Continuous Voter Registration (CVR), Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) to reduce issues of identity theft during election, and INEC Results Viewing (IRev) Portal for upload of polling units result allows for real time monitoring of election results.
- The Commission carried out an exercise "Claims and Objections" which commenced November 12, 2022 and climaxed November 25, 2022, were

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the preliminary voter register was displayed nationwide to allow citizens to scrutinized and identify errors for corrections<sup>112</sup>.

- The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), the Nigerian EMB, have allowed civil society as well as other stakeholders, to freely participate and engage in the process.
- To ensure that eligible voters exercise their franchise, and vote in the forthcoming 2023 general election slated for February 25 and March 11, 2023, INEC extended the collection of PVCs from January 22 - January 29, 2023<sup>113</sup>.

## About The Electoral Hub

**The Electoral Hub** is a strategic knowledge and advocacy hub committed to strengthening electoral governance, accountability, and integrity in Nigeria. The Electoral Hub works to promote electoral knowledge, accountability, and integrity, as well as enhance electoral credibility through research, documentation, electoral education, policy and legal influencing, and impact advocacy.

### Contact

9B Omolara Adeyemi Street, Kukwaba, Abuja, Nigeria

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

Email: [electoralhub.electoralhub@gmail.com](mailto:electoralhub.electoralhub@gmail.com) and [electoralhub@gmail.com](mailto:electoralhub@gmail.com)

Social Media Channels

Twitter and Instagram: @electoralhub; Facebook: @electoralhubng

Websites: <https://iriad.org> and <https://electoralhub.iriadng.org>



<sup>112</sup> <https://guardian.ng/news/inec-releases-methodology-for-claims-objections-on-voters-register/>

<sup>113</sup> <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/575472-inec-extends-deadline-for-collection-of-pvcs.html>



# **THE ELECTORAL HUB** 2023 GENERAL ELECTION **FACTSHEET**

**2023**

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