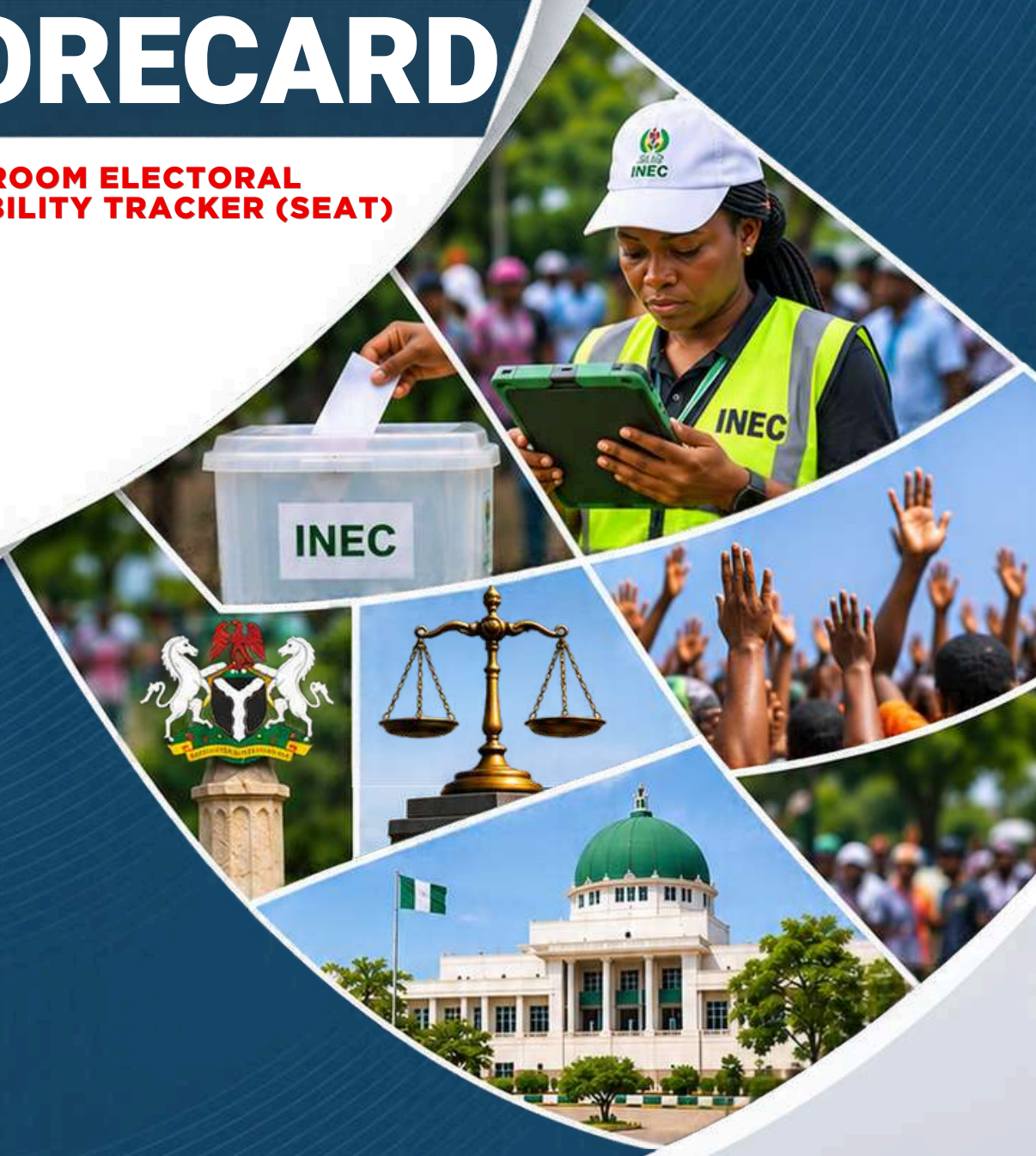
SEAT

SITUATION ROOM ELECTORAL ACCOUNTABILITY TRACKER

Tracking Progress. Driving Accountability

# STAKEHOLDER PERFORMANCE SCORECARD

## SITUATION ROOM ELECTORAL ACCOUNTABILITY TRACKER (SEAT)




OCTOBER 2026




# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room's October 2026 Electoral Accountability Tracker (SEAT) Stakeholder Performance Scorecard assesses the preparedness and performance of key electoral stakeholders as Nigeria moves closer to the 2027 General Elections. Using Situation Room's Credibility Threshold as its assessment framework, the Scorecard analyses the performance of eight stakeholder groups: INEC, Security Agencies, the National Assembly, the Judiciary, Political Parties, the Presidency/Federal Government, Civil Society Organisations and the Media. It identifies progress made, gaps that exist and the implications of these developments for the credibility of the 2027 elections.

Stakeholders' performance in October shows that improvement has not been consistent. INEC has maintained some positive momentum through steps taken towards election preparations, but concerns surrounding the integrity and transparency of the voter register show that progress in operational preparations must be matched by greater public accountability.

The Judiciary which started with a 2/5 rating in the May/June Scorecard Edition, moved to retain a 3/5 rating in July, September and now October, suggesting that its performance has remained slightly unchanged. Political Parties have shown the most consistent decline due to weak internal party democracy, coalition building and unfair political competition. Its performance has remained at 1/5 from May to October 2026 and recent developments give no prospects of rising from its steadily declining trend. The patterns revealed in October highlight the difference between activity and measurable progress. INEC, for example, may be said to be progressing in terms of its activities, but can this be considered as measurable progress towards election credibility in 2027? The October assessment therefore looks beyond what stakeholders have done to consider whether their actions represent a genuine improvement in performance, address previously identified shortcomings and strengthen public confidence in the electoral process.

Situation Room's SEAT October Scorecard presents a mixed picture of Nigeria's preparedness for the 2027 General Elections. The assessments that follow examine how each stakeholder performed against Situation Room's Credibility Threshold and set out the areas requiring greater attention in the months ahead.

# KEY TAKEAWAYS



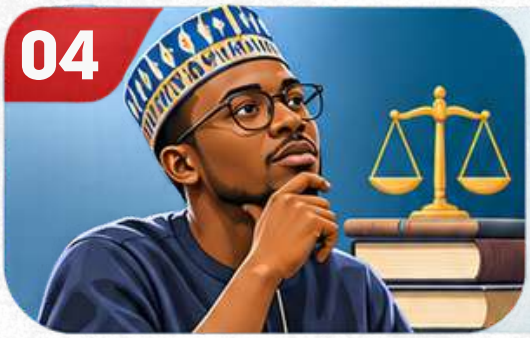

**Important election preparations are underway,** including INEC's AI plans, PVC collection and voter register display.




**Concerns persist** over the voter register, political violence and transparency in electoral processes.



**Political competition is intensifying,** with new alliances and ongoing party disputes.




**Broader governance issues,** external State Police and external borrowing, have implications for accountability and the election environment.

# ASSESSING STAKEHOLDER PREPAREDNESS AGAINST SITUATION ROOM'S CREDIBILITY THRESHOLD FOR THE 2027 GENERAL ELECTIONS

## METHODOLOGY

The SEAT Stakeholder Performance Scorecard assesses the preparedness and performance of key electoral stakeholders against expectations contained in Situation Room's Credibility Threshold for the 2027 General Elections. The performance ratings are intended to provide an objective assessment of preparedness ahead of the 2027 General Elections using Situation Room election observation findings, stakeholder engagements, media reports and publicly available institutional reports on developments recorded during the review period.

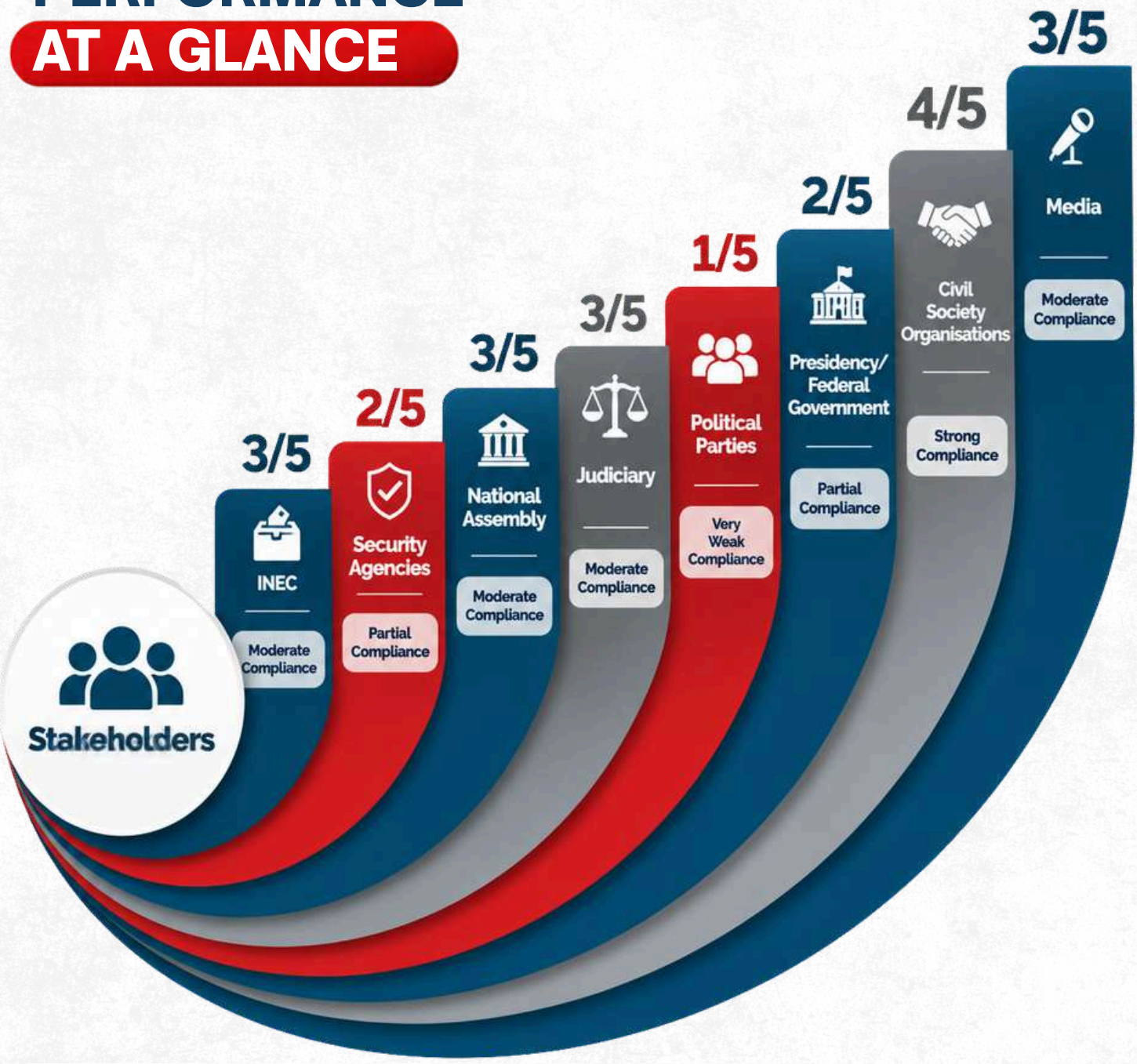



## COMPLIANCE/TREND RATING

| RATING | INTERPRETATION |
|---|---|
| 0 | NO COMPLIANCE |
| 1 | VERY WEAK COMPLIANCE |
| 2 | PARTIAL COMPLIANCE |
| 3 | MODERATE COMPLIANCE |
| 4 | STRONG COMPLIANCE |
| 5 | FULL COMPLIANCE |

| TREND | INTERPRETATION |
|---|---|
| GREEN | IMPROVING |
| AMBER | STATIC |
| RED | DECLINING |

# STAKEHOLDER PERFORMANCE AT A GLANCE




## Key

### Compliance Rating (Score)

- 4 – 5 Strong Compliance
- 3 Moderate Compliance
- 2 Partial Compliance
- 0 – 1 Very Weak Compliance

### Trend

- ↗ Improving
- ↔ Static
- ↘ Declining

| STAKEHOLDER | TREND | STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE | INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE |
|---|---|---|---|
| **INEC** | **↑ Improving (But public confidence remains a concern)** | **Moderate Compliance (3/5)** | INEC's World Press Conference and National Stakeholders' Meeting on 6th October was a major event in the Commission's preparations for the 2027 General Elections. At the meeting which was held to mark 100 days to the Presidential election, INEC Chairman, Professor Joash Amupitan, provided updates on the Commission's preparations.<br><br>He announced that the preliminary Register of Voters would be displayed at Registration Areas from 9th to 15th October to allow voters to inspect their details and submit claims and objections. The Commission reported that the three phases of Continuous Voter Registration had added 10,772,421 new voters, bringing the register to approximately 103 million **(Voice of Nigeria, 7th October; TheCable, 5th October).**<br><br>These were important preparatory steps, particularly as the Commission moves towards finalising the register ahead of the 2027 elections. However, this physical display does not do away with the legal requirement for online publication.<br><br>Section 19(1) of the Electoral Act 2026 requires the register to be made available for public scrutiny both at Registration Areas and on INEC's website. INEC did not publish the register online within the statutory period, prompting criticism that it had failed to comply with the law and was up to something sinister. Due to public pressure, the Commission eventually uploaded the register on 26th October. **(Premium Times, 21st October; Premium Times, 26th October).** |

| STAKEHOLDER | TREND | STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE | INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE |
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| | | | The subsequent discovery of suspicious photographs and images suspected to have been AI-generated, in the preliminary register raised a more serious question about the integrity of voter registration. INEC acknowledged that questionable records had been identified during the physical display and said it had commenced an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the photographs, including possible technical or procedural lapses. It also clarified that the online register was the original preliminary version and did not reflect all ongoing data-cleaning activities. Nevertheless, the appearance of apparently artificial photographs in the register points to possible weaknesses in registration verification and quality control. (Channels Television, 27th October; The Guardian, 28th October).<br><br>On 30th October 2026, INEC's ICT Director, Lawrence Bayode alleged that some compromised staff within INEC were responsible for the irregularities pointed out in the online Register of Voters **(The Cable News)**. The question remains: will these rogue staff be disciplined for the misconduct?<br><br>At the 6th October World Press Conference, the INEC Chairman also announced that the Commission had established a dedicated Artificial Intelligence Division within its Information and Communications Technology Department. He also disclosed that automated AI auditing tools had been integrated into the results verification process and that the Commission was working with a five-pillar AI governance framework, which would include mandatory human oversight. **(TheCable,** |

| STAKEHOLDER | TREND | STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE | INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE |
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| | | | 6**th October; Punch, 6th October).**<br><br>INEC announced its collaboration with Meta, Google, Microsoft and Rise Networks on a #AI4Elections Hackathon to encourage Nigerian innovation and tools developed to address electoral challenges. However, the questions remain about the specific functions the technology will perform in the 2027 General Elections, its legal basis, the data it will process, the level of human oversight and how its outputs will be independently verified.<br><br>In an election where voting and much of the collation process remain manual, INEC has been called to explain precisely where AI fits into the existing legal and operational framework. Without clear public guidelines, safeguards and audit mechanisms, the introduction of AI could create new doubts about the integrity of results rather than strengthen confidence in the process **(Premium Times, 26th October).**<br><br>In October, there were also concerns about INEC's financial transparency. Situation Room's Founding Convener, Clement Nwankwo, argue that INEC's challenge was not simply the availability of funds, but transparency in procurement and the management of election expenditure. This concern was reinforced by SERAP's suit seeking disclosure of the expenditure and procurement details relating to ₦126.46 billion appropriated for electoral operations, following allegations contained in the Auditor-General's 2023 report **(Channels TV, 18th October).**<br><br>The allegations have not been judicially established, and the suit remains an accou- |

| STAKEHOLDER | TREND | STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE | INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE |
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| | | | ntability action rather than proof of mismanagement. INEC should proactively disclose relevant procurement information rather than allow public scrutiny to depend on litigation **(Premium Times, 7th October; Channels Television, 18th October).**<br><br>Questions about INEC's institutional independence also emerged following President Bola Tinubu's nominations to the Commission and reported internal redeployments. On 16th October, the President nominated four National Commissioners and two Resident Electoral Commissioners to fill vacancies arising from the expiration of existing tenures. He also reappointed Dr Bala Bila as National Commissioner representing the North-East. The nominations included Professor Mustapha Aliu for the North-West and Bashir Muhammed Umar for the North-Central, while the current Resident Electoral Commissioner in Osun, Mrs Oluwatoyin Babalola, was nominated as National Commissioner for the South-West. The nominations were forwarded to the Senate for screening and confirmation **(State House, 16th October).**<br><br>The nomination of Professor Mustapha Aliu attracted criticism following allegations that he is related to Sokoto State Governor Ahmed Aliyu, an APC member seeking re-election in 2027. Separately, concerns were raised over the redeployment of Mrs Oluyemi Titilayo Adeyemi-Showunmi, previously Administrative Secretary of INEC in Lagos State, to head the Commission's Electoral Operations Department. She is married to Segun Showunmi, a member of the APC 2027 Presidential Campaign Council. |

| STAKEHOLDER | TREND | STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE | INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE |
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| | | | The previous Director of Electoral Operations, Isah Magaji Gummi, was redeployed to the Voter Registry Department **(TheCable, 22nd October; INEC Directors).**<br><br>The Commission faced questions over its final lists of candidates following the Supreme Court's 24th September judgment restoring Sections 77(5), 77(6) and 77(7) of the Electoral Act 2026 (This was analysed in detail in **SR's SEAT September Scorecard).** These provisions require political parties to submit their membership registers to INEC within the prescribed period and conduct their primaries using the submitted registers. They also provide that parties which fail to submit their registers as required are ineligible to sponsor candidates. The Supreme Court upheld INEC's timetable requiring parties to submit their registers between 21st April and 10th May 2026.<br><br>When INEC published its final list of Governorship candidates on 10th October, the PDP had no candidate listed in Gombe or Ogun State. Its candidates, Isa Pantami and Ladi Adebutu, were omitted. INEC explained that the exclusions resulted from the parties' failure to comply with the membership-register requirements and gave parties until 24th October to notify it of candidates they believed had been wrongly omitted, in line with Section 32(2) of the Electoral Act.<br><br>Following a review of complaints, INEC subsequently approved Pantami's inclusion in the Gombe governorship race, subject to the outcome of pending court proceedings, but rejected Adebutu's petition. |

| STAKEHOLDER | TREND | STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE | INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE |
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| | | | The Commission also reported receiving 130 petitions relating to Governorship and State Houses of Assembly nominations, of which 66 were successful. (**Premium Times, 11th October**; **Premium Times, 14th October**; **Premium Times, 30th October**).<br><br>The reports of inclusion of Kingsley Chinda as the APC governorship candidate in Rivers State has also raised questions about the consistent application of these provisions.<br><br>Although Kingsley Chinda registered with the APC on 27th April and emerged as its candidate on 21st May, a suit filed by the Peoples Redemption Party and its Governorship Candidate alleges that his name was not included in the membership register the APC submitted to INEC and that his registration took place after the register had been submitted.<br><br>The APC has maintained that he registered 24 days before the primary and was eligible to participate. The matter remains before the courts, and no finding has been made against his candidacy. A separate suit also challenges the timing and validity of his defection from the PDP to the APC, with a hearing fixed for 4th November **(Channels Television, 29th October; The Guardian, 30th September).** |
| **SECURITY AGENCIES** | **↓ Declining** | **Partial Compliance (2/5)** | In October, the Nigeria Police Force commenced training for 10,000 officers on election security management and announced plans for a dedicated 24-hour complaints line for reporting misconduct by personnel deployed for election duties. These are relevant steps towards building a more professional election security operation. |

| STAKEHOLDER | TREND | STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE | INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE |
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| | | | However, training and public assurances are preparatory measures; they do not establish that police personnel will act impartially when confronted with politically sensitive situations (**Voice of Nigeria, 23rd October**; **Punch, 22nd October**).<br><br>The conduct of security agencies in relation to political activities remains a particular concern. Reports of attacks on opposition campaign activities and political meetings, alongside allegations of restrictions on political gatherings, point to a growing need for impartial and consistent policing.<br>One of Situation Room's members - Rule of Law and Accountability Advocacy Centre (RULAAC) called on the President, INEC, the Police and the Department of State Services to respond to emerging threats, including intimidation, disruption of opposition meetings and threats against political opponents.<br><br>The Guardian also reported attacks and disruptions affecting political activities in different states. These reports do not, on their own, establish that security agencies were responsible for the incidents or that all incidents were politically coordinated. They do, however, raise questions about the effectiveness of preventive policing, the speed of investigations and whether all political actors enjoy equal protection (**The Guardian, 5th October; The Guardian, 19th October).**<br><br>The abduction of 20 prospective National Youth Service Corps members travelling to their orientation camps in Imo State was another indication of the continuing security challenges facing citizens. The victims were rescued on 7th October 2026 |

| STAKEHOLDER | TREND | STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE | INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE |
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| | | | a joint operation, and five suspects were subsequently arrested and arraigned. These events raise serious concerns about the safety of citizens travelling on major routes and the security arrangements especially as the General Election draws closer **(Channels Television, 20th October; TheCable, 22nd October).**<br><br>In October, the National Peace Committee had tracked 60 election-related incidents despite the signing of the Peace Accord. All these call for security agencies to move beyond reactive responses. The Police must work with INEC, political parties and civil society to identify flashpoints, protect lawful political activities and investigate reported violations. The value of Nigeria's Police Force will be measured by whether citizens can campaign, attend meetings, express political opinions and travel without intimidation or violence **(Daily Trust, 6th October).** |
| **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY** | **↑ Improving (But motivated by self-interest)** | **Moderate Compliance (3/5)** | In October, the constitutional amendment to establish State Police secured the required approval of at least two-thirds of the State Houses of Assembly. By 23rd October, the Presidential Working Group on the National Policing Bill announced that 24 states had approved the amendment, meeting the threshold under Section 9 of the Constitution. This followed the passage of the amendment by both chambers of the National Assembly and its transmission to the state legislatures in September (**The State House, 23rd October**; **The Guardian, 24th October**).<br><br>However, the constitutional approval is not the same as the establishment of an operational State Police system. |

| STAKEHOLDER | TREND | STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE | INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE |
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| | | | The proposed National Policing Bill and related legislation will determine how the new structure is funded, staffed, supervised and held accountable. This is particularly important given the risk that State Governors could exercise excessive influence over state police commands.<br><br>The National Assembly must ensure that the implementing legislation provides enforceable safeguards for operational independence, recruitment, discipline, human rights, transparent funding and legislative oversight. It must also address how conflicts between federal and state policing institutions will be resolved.<br><br>The President's request for approval to secure external borrowing of $20.517 billion and €1.045 billion for the 2026–2027 period also placed the National Assembly's oversight responsibilities in focus. The proposed borrowing is intended to finance infrastructure, agriculture, healthcare, education, water supply, security and other programmes. The request is not evidence that the loans have been approved or disbursed. Lawmakers must therefore scrutinise the proposed facilities, their terms, project-specific allocations, repayment implications and the government's capacity to manage the resulting debt. This is particularly important in a context of continuing public concern about debt sustainability and the implementation of previous borrowing plans (Reuters, 27th October; TheCable, 27th October).<br>The National Assembly also has an important oversight role in relation to INEC's election expenditure. SERAP's suit over ₦126.46 billion in electoral funds, |

| STAKEHOLDER | TREND | STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE | INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE |
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| | | | based on allegations contained in the Auditor-General's report, raises questions that require more than a court process. The relevant committees should seek explanations from INEC, examine procurement records and ensure that funds allocated for the 2027 elections are properly accounted for. Legislative oversight should not be limited to approving the INEC's budget or demanding prompt release of funds; it must also ensure that expenditure is transparent and delivers value. |
| **JUDICIARY** | **→ Static** | **Moderate Compliance (3/5)** | A major development in October was the Federal High Court's 29th October judgment in the dispute over the APC Imo West senatorial primary. The court declared Rochas Okorocha the winner of the 18th May primary and ordered INEC to recognise and publish his name as the party's candidate, while restraining Governor Hope Uzodimma from presenting himself as the candidate.<br><br>The court relied on the primary result form and certified INEC records which showed that Okorocha had secured 150,780 votes against Uzodimma's 102,158. It found that although the APC Primary Committee officials had initially reported Okorocha as the winner, the party subsequently forwarded Uzodimma's name to INEC. The court also identified inconsistencies in the competing result documents relied upon to support Uzodimma's nomination.<br><br>This was not a case in which the court found that Okorocha's name had first been submitted and later substituted; rather, it held that the party had failed to forward the name of the aspirant who won the Primary, |

| STAKEHOLDER | TREND | STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE | INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE |
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| | | | contrary to Section 29 of the Electoral Act 2026. The judgment raises serious questions about the integrity of party primary processes and INEC's monitoring and documentation systems, particularly as the Commission had publicly disputed the records identifying Okorocha as the winner before the judgment. **(TheCable, 29th October).**<br><br>The Judiciary's role in addressing insecurity was also evident in the proceedings against five suspects accused of abducting 20 prospective NYSC members in Imo State. The court's decision to fast-track proceedings and set aside consecutive days for the trial ahead of the January 2027 elections shows that the case is being handled with the seriousness it deserves **(TheCable, 22nd October).** |
| **POLITICAL PARTIES** | **↓ Declining** | **Very Weak Compliance (1/5)** | In October, the Rainbow Coalition, associated with the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Nyesom Wike, became one of the most prominent political developments of the month. Wike, a member of the PDP serving in an APC-led Federal Government, openly supported President Tinubu's re-election and promoted a coalition involving politicians from different parties.<br><br>The expanded APC presidential campaign council also included Rivers State Governor Siminalayi Fubara, Anambra State Governor Chukwuma Soludo of APGA and Osun State Governor Ademola Adeleke of the Accord Party. Wike subsequently described the coalition as a platform for political cooperation across party lines **(TheCable, 13th October; Channels Television, 13th October; TheCable, 27th October).** |

| STAKEHOLDER | TREND | STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE | INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE |
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| | | | The Rainbow Coalition Governors also stepped down the mobilisation activities in their States. In Osun State, Governor Ademola Adeleke inaugurated a Presidential Campaign Council on 22nd October, bringing together political figures and structures from the Accord Party, APC and PDP to mobilise support for President Tinubu's re-election. Adeleke stated that the alliance was limited to the presidential election and would not extend to legislative contests. **(Osun State Government, 22 October 2026)**<br><br>In Anambra State, Governor Chukwuma Soludo convened a joint APGA-APC stakeholders' meeting scheduled for 1 November, with wider participation from PDP and Accord members. The meeting subsequently led to the inauguration of a 4,600-member Presidential Campaign Council comprising the four parties on 2 November. **(Voice of Nigeria, 23 October 2026; Anambra campaign council report)**<br><br>However, the disagreement between Wike and some APC governors (especially Imo State Governor Hope Uzodimma), over the scope of the arrangement points to competing interests within the political structures supporting the President. Hope Uzodimma publicly rejected the existence of the Rainbow Coalition in Imo State on 27th October, insisting that political mobilisation in the state should support Tinubu and APC candidates. **(Premium Times, 27th October 2026)**<br><br>There were also accusations that opposition governors were being pressured or drawn into the ruling party's campaign arrangements without formally defecting. |

| STAKEHOLDER | TREND | STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE | INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE |
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| | | | The ADC described the expanded campaign council as an attempt to weaken multiparty competition, alleging that opposition governors were being coerced or incorporated despite their party affiliations **(TheCable, 15th October).**<br><br>The security of political participation was also a challenge. The National Peace Committee had earlier reported 60 election-related incidents between 19th August and 19th September and reports in October continued to show disruptions of opposition political activities in different states.<br><br>The National Peace Accord signed by political parties and candidates in August has therefore not yet translated into a sufficiently peaceful campaign environment. Political Parties have also failed to take responsibility for the conduct of their supporters **(The Guardian, 6th October; The Guardian, 19th October).** |
| **PRESIDENCY \ FEDERAL GOVERNMENT** | **→ Static** | **Partial Compliance (2/5)** | On 16th October 2026, the President The nominated five persons to National Commissioner and Resident Electoral Commissioner positions and reappointed Dr Bala Bila to fill vacancies arising from the expiration of existing tenures and questions were raised about the political relationships of some nominees and the implications for the Commission's perceived independence. Of particular concern was the nomination of Professor Mustapha Aliu as National Commissioner representing the North-West, following allegations that he is related to Sokoto State Governor Ahmed Aliyu, an APC member. |

| STAKEHOLDER | TREND | STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE | INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE |
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| | | | Under Section 154(1) and (3) of the Constitution, appointments to INEC require Senate confirmation and consultation with the Council of State. Paragraph 14(2)(a) of Part I of the Third Schedule also requires members of the Commission to be non-partisan and persons of unquestionable integrity. **(State House, 16th October; Situation Room statement on INEC appointments).**<br><br>On 23rd October 2026, the Presidential Working Group announced that the required 24 State Houses of Assembly had approved the Constitutional amendment to provide for State Police. The Working Group also disclosed that draft legislation to operationalise the proposed dual policing structure was undergoing review at the Federal Ministry of Justice. Regardless of how progressive a State Police system may appear, the Federal Government must ensure that the process is not reduced to the constitutional amendment alone. The implementing laws must establish clear safeguards against political interference, arbitrary arrests, human rights abuses and the use of state police to intimidate political opponents. **(The State House, 23rd October).**<br><br>In October, the President's request for approval to secure $20.517 billion and €1.045 billion in external borrowing for the 2026–2027 period raised significant questions about public finance accountability. While borrowing may be necessary to finance development priorities, the scale of the request makes transparency over the terms, project selection, expected returns and repayment obligations particularly important. |

| STAKEHOLDER | TREND | STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE | INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE |
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| | | | The Federal Government should provide clear information on how the proposed loans relate to previous borrowing commitments, the status of ongoing projects and the outstanding obligations to contractors. The request remains subject to legislative consideration and should not be treated as an approved or disbursed facility. The National Assembly must be allowed sufficient information and time to scrutinise the proposal rather than merely expedite its approval **(Reuters, 27th October; Punch, 28th October).** |
| **CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS** | **↑ Improving** | **Strong Compliance (4/5)** | Some of the key concerns for civil society organisations in October included the President's appointment into INEC, the credibility of INEC's Voter Register and the conduct of political parties ahead of the 2027 General Elections.<br><br>In response to this, Civil Society organised a range of interventions for sustained electoral accountability during October. The activities of Situation Room members reflected a growing recognition that the credibility of the 2027 general elections will depend not only on INEC's performance but also on the wider political and institutional environment in which the elections will take place.<br><br>Situation Room members contributed to the scrutiny of electoral preparations. The Rule of Law and Accountability Advocacy Centre (RULAAC) also called on the President, INEC, the Nigeria Police Force and the Department of State Services to respond to reported intimidation, disruptions of opposition political meetings, threats against political actors and other emerging risks ahead of the 2027 elections. |

| STAKEHOLDER | TREND | STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE | INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE |
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| | | | This intervention was particularly relevant in light of the National Peace Committee's disclosure that it had recorded 60 election-related incidents within a month of the signing of the National Peace Accord **(The Guardian, 5th October; The Guardian, 6th October).**<br><br>The Executive Director of the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), Clement Nwankwo, raised concerns about transparency in INEC's procurement processes and management of electoral funds, arguing that funding alone was not the Commission's major challenge.<br>Similarly, the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) instituted legal action against INEC over ₦126.46 billion appropriated for electoral operations, seeking disclosure of expenditure, procurement contracts, payments and contractors **(Premium Times, 7th October; The Guardian, 19th October).**<br><br>Through its Youth Electoral Reform Project (YERP Naija), Kimpact Development Initiative (KDI) published a communiqué from its multi-stakeholder roundtable, which examined lessons from the 2026 Ekiti and Osun governorship elections and their implications for the 2027 general elections. KDI also convened an Electoral Integrity Summit on 30th October to sustain engagement on these issues. (KDI, 18th October).<br><br>Situation Room also convened a webinar on 21st October on harnessing Artificial Intelligence for electoral integrity and citizen accountability, bringing attention to the opportunities and risks associated with emerging technologies in the electoral process **(Situation Room).** |

| STAKEHOLDER | TREND | STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE | INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE |
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| | | | In October, ActionAid, Centre LSD and some other partners called on INEC to provide verifiable evidence of its preparations for the 2027 elections. At a press briefing on 28th October, the organisations urged the Commission to publish a comprehensive logistics plan, provide greater transparency around the recruitment and training of election personnel and establish a state-by-state dashboard showing progress in its preparations **(The Guardian, 28th October).**<br><br>The protection of civic freedoms remained another important concern. The disruption of the 20 October #EndSARS memorial procession at the Lekki Toll Gate, organised by the Enough is Enough movement, and the use of tear gas by the Police against participants and journalists raised questions about the ability of citizens to exercise their rights to peaceful assembly and expression. Such incidents are relevant to electoral accountability because a credible election requires an environment in which citizens, political actors, journalists and civil society organisations can participate freely and without intimidation.<br><br>Despite the range of activities undertaken by civil society, the impact of these interventions will depend on sustained monitoring and follow-up. Public statements and stakeholder meetings must translate into verifiable institutional responses, while organisations must strengthen coordination, share evidence and maintain their independence and non-partisan credibility. |

| STAKEHOLDER | TREND | STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE | INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE |
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| **MEDIA** | **↑ Improving** | **Moderate Compliance (3/5)** | The media continued to perform an important watchdog role during October by reporting on INEC's preparations, the voter register controversy, election-related procurement, party realignments, political violence and the proposed use of Artificial Intelligence in election management.<br><br>Reporting on the delayed online publication of the preliminary voter register helped bring public attention to the statutory requirements under Section 19(1) of the Electoral Act 2026. Subsequent reporting on the appearance of suspicious photographs in the register also brought pressure for INEC to explain the circumstances and disclose the steps being taken to investigate the records (**Premium Times, 21st October**; **Channels Television, 27th October**).<br><br>The media also helped expose the implications of the growing political realignments around the Rainbow Coalition and the inclusion of opposition party figures in the APC presidential campaign council. Reporting and analysis raised questions about party identity, the strength of opposition structures and the possible implications of cross-party political arrangements for multiparty democracy (**TheCable, 16th October**; **TheCable, 15th October**).<br><br>The threat posed by AI-generated images, deepfakes, fabricated results and manipulated political content remains a major challenge for election reporting. Hence the Nigerian Guild of Editors' emphasis on fact-checking and digital verification ahead of the 2027 elections remains relevant in this regard **(Voice of Nigeria, 25th September; The Guardian, 28th October).** |

# KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN OCTOBER 2026

## 01 INEC Press Conference

INEC held a World Press Conference on 6th October 2026 to outline its preparations for the 2027 General Elections, 100 days to the Presidential election.




## 02 INEC Appointments

President Tinubu nominated four National Commissioners and two Resident Electoral Commissioners to INEC, while the redeployment of Mrs Olyyemi Titilayo Adeyemi-Showunmi to head Electoral Operations attracted questions about impartiality and internal posting decisions.




## 03 Voter Register Controversy

INEC's digital copy of the preliminary Voter Register stirred controversy, revealing AI-generated images and inconsistent records.



## 04 Okorocha Primary Ruling

The Federal High Court ordered INEC to recognise Rochas Okorocha as the winner of the APC Imo West senatorial primary and directed Governor Hope Uzodimma to stop presenting himself as the party's candidate.



## 05 Rainbow Coalition Expands

FCT Minister Nyesom Wike's Rainbow Coalition openly declared support for President Tinubu's re-election, raising questions about opposition cohesion and use of public office. State Governors expanded the movement to State-Level Mobilisation Structures, including in Osun, Rivers and Anambra (with a joint APGA-APC stakeholders' meeting on 1st November 2026).



## 06 State Police Amendment

The constitutional amendment to establish State Police secured approval from the required 24 State Houses of Assembly, meeting the threshold under Section 9 of the Constitution.



## 07 External Borrowing Request

President Tinubu requested National Assembly approval for external borrowing facilities of $20.517 billion and €1.045 billion under the Federal Government's 2026-2027 borrowing plan.



# PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NOVEMBER 2026

# INEC

- **INEC** should complete a transparent review of the preliminary Register of Voters and disclose the findings from its investigation into suspicious photographs and other questionable registration records. The Commission should make public the corrective measures taken against erring staff and the procedures for preventing similar lapses. The final register should be certified only after adequate verification and the completion of the statutory claims-and-objections process.

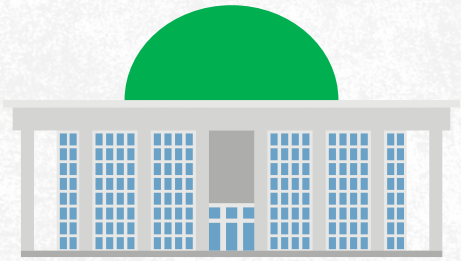
- **INEC** should publish a clear framework for the proposed use of Artificial Intelligence in the 2027 elections. The framework should specify the functions AI is expected to perform, its legal and operational basis, the extent of human oversight, data protection safeguards, independent audit arrangements and procedures for addressing errors or disputed outputs.

- **INEC** should strengthen public communication and accessibility arrangements for PVC collection. The Commission should provide clear information on collection centres, schedules, card readiness and procedures for voters who registered, transferred or requested replacement cards. It should also ensure that the introduction of printable PVCs and QR-code systems does not create additional barriers for voters who lack access to digital devices or reliable internet services.

- **INEC** should proactively disclose relevant procurement information, including contracts awarded, contractors, procurement timelines and the status of major election-related purchases.

- **INEC** should publicly explain the criteria and considerations guiding the redeployment of senior officials, particularly appointments to sensitive departments such as Electoral Operations.

# SENATE



**The Senate** should subject the nominees for appointment as INEC National Commissioners and Resident Electoral Commissioners to careful and transparent scrutiny. The scrutiny should go beyond formal compliance with constitutional requirements and consider whether the appointment process protects public confidence in INEC's independence and impartiality.

**The National Assembly** should subject the proposed external borrowing facilities to thorough legislative scrutiny. Lawmakers should examine the terms and conditions of the loans, proposed project allocations, repayment obligations and implications for Nigeria's debt sustainability. The Federal Government should provide clear information on previous borrowing, project implementation and outstanding financial obligations to support informed legislative decisions.

# GOVERNMENT

**The Federal Government** and the **National Assembly** should ensure that the proposed State Police framework contains enforceable safeguards against political interference and abuse. The implementing legislation should provide clear provisions on recruitment, appointments, operational independence, funding, disciplinary action, human rights, public complaints, legislative oversight and accountability. The process should include broad consultation with civil society, security experts and citizens.




# POLITICAL PARTIES



**Political parties** should comply fully with the Electoral Act 2026 and their respective constitutions, especially their processes for resolving internal disputes.

**Political parties** and **public officeholders** should maintain a clear distinction between official government responsibilities and partisan campaign activities. Public resources, government facilities, security structures, official staff and administrative powers must not be used to advantage or disadvantage any political party or candidate.

# SECURITY AGENCIES

**Security agencies** should strengthen preventive measures against political violence, intimidation and attacks on campaign activities. They should identify electoral flashpoints, improve intelligence gathering and ensure prompt responses to reported threats, attacks and disruptions of lawful political activities.

**The Nigeria Police Force** should ensure that the training of 10,000 officers translates into measurable improvements in election security and professional conduct during the 2027 General Elections. The proposed 24-hour complaints line should be operationalised and publicised, with clear procedures for receiving, investigating and resolving complaints against officers. The Police should also publish periodic updates on reported election-related incidents and actions taken.

# CSOs

**Civil Society Organisations** should strengthen coordination around shared priorities for electoral accountability and democratic protection. Organisations should develop coordinated responses to emerging issues. Monitoring and advocacy should be supported by verifiable evidence, citizen engagement and sustained follow-up with responsible institutions.

# MEDIA

Media organisations should strengthen fact-checking, digital verification and responsible election reporting ahead of the 2027 elections. Newsrooms should develop the capacity to identify AI-generated images, deepfakes, fabricated results and manipulated political content. They should avoid amplifying unverified allegations, clearly distinguish facts from claims and maintain independent scrutiny of public institutions and political actors.



# About SEAT

**The Situation Room Electoral Accountability Tracker (SEAT) is the Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room's digital platform for promoting electoral transparency, accountability, and citizen participation.**

**SEAT provides timely election information, citizen reporting tools, data-driven insights, and election observation resources that strengthen democratic governance across Nigeria.**

**Through SEAT, citizens, observers, journalists, researchers, and stakeholders can access credible election data, monitor electoral developments, and contribute to safeguarding the integrity of Nigeria's democratic processes.**

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