

NIGERIA CIVIL SOCIETY
SITUATIONROOM

STAKEHOLDERS PERFORMANCE SCORECARD

SITUATION ROOM ELECTORAL ACCOUNTABILITY TRACKER (SEAT) 



JULY 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Situation Room Electoral Accountability Tracker (SEAT) Stakeholder Performance Scorecard for July 2026 comes at a critical moment as Nigeria enters one of the most politically sensitive periods ahead of the 2027 General Elections. As the last off-cycle Governorship Election before attention shifts fully to the 2027 General Elections, the conduct of the Osun State election has become an important indicator for Nigeria's electoral preparedness. Against this backdrop, this edition of the SEAT Stakeholder Scorecard examines whether recent political developments are strengthening or weakening the conditions necessary for credible elections, in line with the Situation Room's Credibility Threshold for the 2027 General Elections.

As highlighted in the May/June Stakeholder Scorecard, the July review revealed that election administration continued to advance, but several developments continue to signal institutional gaps. A significant part of July was geared towards preparedness for the 2026 Osun State Governorship Election. Ahead of the election, INEC continued to demonstrate operational preparedness with more than 1.5 million new voters in Osun State.

INEC also configured and tested its Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) in preparation for mock accreditation scheduled for 1st August 2026 in 12 LGAs in Osun, received candidate nominations from political parties and continued to assure Nigerians of its plans to pilot downloadable Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) during the forthcoming election.

While these indicate that INEC is focused on technological innovation and administrative preparedness, reports of politically motivated violence, allegations of vote buying and PVC trading, legal disputes among political parties, security concerns and increasing tension across several communities continued to raise questions about the broader environment in which the elections will be conducted.

National security remained one of the most significant threats to electoral credibility. Although security agencies recorded notable successes, including the rescue of abducted pupils and teachers in Oyo State and intensified operations against terrorist groups, these achievements were overshadowed by continued attacks on communities, renewed kidnappings, violent incidents in Plateau and Benue States, the abduction of a serving High Court judge in Kebbi State and growing reports of politically motivated violence ahead of elections.

Situation Room tracked at least four major incidents of election-related violence in July, including attacks on political supporters, destruction of campaign materials and killings linked to political disputes in Delta, Bauchi and Osun States. The arrest of the Osun State Secretary to the State Government (SSG) in July further added another layer of complexity to an already charged pre-election environment. Also particularly troubling was the concentration of violent incidents in Osun ahead of the Governorship Election, including the attack and the theft of Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) in one of INEC's offices in Odo-Otin LGA, Osun State.

The National Assembly remained active throughout July, with legislative attention focused on constitutional reform, security sector governance and institutional oversight. As one of the strategies in place to address insecurity, the constitutional amendment Bill to establish a State Police continued to gain momentum during the National Assembly's 2026 Open Week. The House of Representatives also intensified oversight through investigations into the alleged Presidential Foreign Intervention Promotion Council (PFIPC) controversy and renewed scrutiny of questionable budgetary allocations.

In July, the National Assembly also introduced the Foreign Aids (Regulation, Transparency and Disclosure) Bill (SB.1034), which seeks to establish a Foreign Aid Regulatory Commission to register, monitor and oversee all foreign aid received by Ministries, Departments and Agencies, State Governments, Local Government Councils, NGOs, Civil Society Organisations and private entities.

While the stated objectives of the Bill are to improve transparency, accountability and coordination of foreign-funded interventions, Situation Room emphasises that efforts to improve accountability in foreign aid management should avoid unnecessary regulatory duplication and preserve an enabling environment for legitimate civic action, citizen participation and partnership.

The Judiciary continued to play a central role in Nigeria's pre-election environment throughout July. The introduction of the Federal High Court Practice Directions for pre-election matters represents an important procedural reform aimed at expediting the resolution of electoral disputes ahead of the 2027 General Elections.

However, continuing litigation over party leadership, candidate nominations, party deregistration, candidate substitutions and other internal political disputes demonstrates that judicial decisions continue to have significant implications for Nigeria's electoral landscape. These developments reveal the need for consistency, independence of the judiciary and timely adjudication to preserve public confidence in the electoral process.

Political parties remained the weakest-performing stakeholders during the review period. July was characterised by a significant increase in litigation arising from party primaries, candidate substitutions and leadership disputes across several political parties. Numerous aspirants challenged the outcomes of party primaries and these internal divisions and reconciliation efforts continued to expose organisational weaknesses within the parties. Rather than strengthening democratic competition through transparent internal processes, many political parties appeared increasingly preoccupied with elite negotiations, judicial contests and strategic alliances. Beyond internal disputes, July also witnessed at least four documented incidents of election-related violence linked to political activities in Delta, Bauchi and Osun States. These included the destruction of campaign posters, fatal violence arising from political disputes and deadly attacks allegedly involving political thugs.

The concentration of violent incidents in Osun, barely weeks before the Governorship Election further heightened concerns about the security of the electoral environment and the willingness of political actors to commit to peaceful campaigns and in accordance with the law, not just ahead of the Osun State Governorship Election, but also ahead of the 2027 General Elections.

Finally, the July 2026 Stakeholder Performance Scorecard suggests that Nigeria's preparations for the 2027 General Elections continue to progress operationally, but institutional gaps are obvious. With a combination of insecurity, political instability and declining public confidence, credible elections require more than effective election administration.

As attention gradually shifts from the Osun Governorship Election to the 2027 General Elections, stakeholders must move beyond procedural readiness and demonstrate a stronger commitment to accountability, transparency, security and democratic governance. The credibility of future elections will ultimately depend not only on how elections are conducted, but also on whether Nigeria's democratic institutions can effectively respond to the governance challenges that continue to undermine public trust.

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	TREND	STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE	INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE
INEC	↑ Improving	Moderate Compliance (3/5)	July 2026 represented another important phase in INEC's preparations for the Osun Governorship election and the 2027 General Elections. During the month, INEC concluded the nationwide Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise after registering more than 1.5 million new voters, received the submission of candidates by political parties, configured and tested its BVAS ahead of the Osun Governorship Election and continued to assure Nigerians of its plans to pilot downloadable Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs). However, it was clarified that the downloadable PVC feature is exclusively for validly registered voters in Osun State who already had their PVCs but have formally requested replacements due to card theft, loss, or severe physical damage making the card unreadable. Voters who meet these criteria can access and download a digital, printable copy of their card through the pilot module on the official INEC Continuous Voter Registration Portal after completing a replacement request. New voters or those who have never collected their initial cards are not eligible for this digital download and must collect their physical cards. Despite these laudable plans, July also demonstrated that operational preparedness alone cannot guarantee electoral credibility. The attack on the INEC office in Osogbo, during which election materials including Permanent Voter Cards were reportedly stolen, exposed the vulnerability of Nigeria's electoral infrastructure to security threats. Beyond the immediate loss of

STAKEHOLDER	TREND	STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE	INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE
			ensitive materials, the incident raises broader concerns about the protection of election assets, contingency planning and public confidence in the integrity of the electoral process. As preparations intensify ahead of both the Osun Governorship Election and the 2027 General Elections, safeguarding electoral infrastructure must become as important as improving election technology. The insistence on concluding the Nationwide Continuous Voter Registration exercise in July 2026 also revealed the need to balance operational efficiency and electoral inclusion. Despite sustained calls from political parties, civil society organisations and other stakeholders for an extension of the exercise, INEC maintained that extending the timetable would disrupt subsequent electoral activities and preparations for upcoming elections. Overall, the July developments suggest that INEC's greatest challenge is no longer simply preparing to conduct elections but ensuring that the broader electoral environment keeps pace with its operational improvements. Advances in technology, logistics and planning can only translate into credible elections where election materials are adequately protected, political actors comply with electoral rules and security agencies provide an environment in which both voters and election officials can participate without fear or intimidation. EVIDENCE: <u>INEC concludes nationwide Continuous Voter Registration.</u>

STAKEHOLDER	TREND	STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE	INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE
			<u>INEC rejects further extension of the CVR exercise despite appeals from stakeholders.</u> <u>INEC conducts mock BVAS accreditation ahead of the Osun Governorship Election.</u> <u>INEC reaffirms plans to pilot downloadable Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) during the Osun election.</u> <u>Reports of the attack on the INEC office in Osogbo and the theft of Permanent Voter Cards.</u>
SECURITY AGENCIES	↑ Improving	Partial Compliance (2/5)	Security agencies demonstrated both improved operational capability and continuing structural weaknesses during July 2026. During the review period, security agencies recorded notable successes, including the rescue of abducted pupils and teachers from the Oriire school kidnapping in Oyo State, intensified operations against terrorist groups and the successful prosecution of convicted Ansaru terrorists, an affiliate of the popular al-Qaeda terrorist group. Despite these gains, July witnessed a worrying pattern of politically related violence across several states. Media reports documented incidents ranging from the destruction of campaign materials in Delta State and the fatal stabbing of an Islamiyyah teacher in Bauchi following a dispute over political posters, to deadly attacks involving alleged political thugs in Osun State, the arrest of the SSG for alleged vote trading and possession of voting materials in the build-up to the Governorship Election. There were also reports of attacks on party supporters, allegations of PVC trading and

STAKEHOLDER	TREND	STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE	INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE
			growing tensions across several communities heightened concerns about the ability of security agencies to guarantee a peaceful electoral environment. The reported attack on the INEC office in Osogbo, during which sensitive election materials were stolen, further revealed the need for stronger preventive security measures for election materials. Although investigations into some of these incidents remain ongoing and competing accounts have emerged in certain cases, the frequency and geographical spread of such reports suggest that political intolerance and election-related violence continue to manifest well before election day. Other broad national security concerns in July include attacks in Plateau and Benue States, the abduction of a serving High Court Judge in Kebbi State (who later regained his freedom) and continued reports of kidnappings and banditry across several parts of the country demonstrate that insecurity remains widespread. Following growing concerns over the pre-election security environment in Osun, the Nigeria Police Force redeployed the Commissioner of Police in the state and appointed a new Commissioner ahead of the governorship election. Security agencies also commenced investigations into allegations linked to political violence, especially the arrest of senior state officials. While these actions may strengthen public confidence if handled professionally and impartially, their credibility will ultimately depend on transparent investigations, respect for due process and the avoidance of

STAKEHOLDER	TREND	STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE	INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE
			partisan enforcement. EVIDENCE: <u>Rescue of abducted pupils and teachers from the Oriire school kidnapping in Oyo State.</u> <u>Conviction and life imprisonment of Ansaru terrorists.</u> <u>NDC Raises Alarm Over Alleged Destruction of Campaign Posters by Suspected APC Thugs in Delta (Sahara Reporters, 4 July 2026)</u> <u>How Thugs Killed Islamic Teacher in Bauchi (Daily Trust, 5 July 2026)</u> <u>Fresh Bloodshed in Osun: Young Man Allegedly Killed by Suspected Political Thugs in Ikire (Sahara Reporters, 15 July 2026)</u> <u>Two APC Members Confirmed Killed in Osun as Party Alleges Political Violence (Sahara Reporters, 16 July 2026)</u> <u>Fresh attacks in Plateau and Benue States.</u> <u>Kidnapped High Court Judge in Kebbi State regains freedom.</u> <u>Attack on the INEC office in Osogbo and theft of sensitive election materials.</u> <u>Redeployment of the Osun State Commissioner of Police ahead of the governorship election.</u> <u>Investigation into allegations of political violence, including the arrest of the Osun State SSG.</u>
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	→ Static	Partial Compliance (2/5)	In July, the National Assembly focused on constitutional reform, especially deliberations on the constitutional amendment establishing State Police during its 2026 Open Week.

STAKEHOLDER	TREND	STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE	INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE
			During the review period, public scrutiny over questionable appropriations contained in the 2026 budget reignited concerns about transparency during budget preparation and post-enactment oversight. First was a whopping N8.4-billion-naira worth of infrastructure projects reportedly inserted into the budget for the National Commission for Almajiri and Out-of-School Children, a stark deviation from its institutional mandate. Similarly, the controversy surrounding the purported Presidential Foreign Intervention Promotion Council (PFIPC) placed legislative oversight under the spotlight. Following widespread public concern over the Council's legal status, funding claims and operations, the House of Representatives commenced an investigation and summoned key government officials to account for the matter. As at the time of releasing this scorecard, investigations are still ongoing. July also experienced an important legislative development with potential implications for civil society. The Senate introduced the Foreign Aids (Regulation, Transparency and Disclosure) Bill (SB.1034), which proposes the establishment of a Foreign Aid Regulatory Commission to register, monitor and oversee foreign aid received by public institutions, NGOs, CSOs and private entities. While the Bill seeks to improve transparency, accountability and coordination of foreign-funded interventions, it has also generated debate over whether it duplicates existing reporting mechanisms and could introduce additional compliance requirements for NGOs. As the Bill progresses through the legislative process, broad-based consultation

STAKEHOLDER	TREND	STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE	INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE
			with government institutions, development partners and civil society will be essential to ensure that any new regulatory framework strengthens accountability without creating unnecessary bureaucratic burdens or undermining Nigeria's civic space. Despite these important legislative activities, questions remain regarding the effectiveness of parliamentary oversight and public participation. Civil society organisations continued to question whether the National Assembly's Open Week translated into meaningful citizen engagement or remained largely symbolic. As preparations for the 2027 General Elections intensify, the effectiveness of the legislature will be measured not only by the number of Bills considered or public engagements convened, but by its willingness to strengthen oversight, improve transparency and enact reforms that reinforce electoral integrity and democratic accountability. EVIDENCE: <u>National Assembly Open Week 2026 (14th -16th July 2026)</u> <u>House of Representatives Constitutes Conference Committee on State Police Bill and Ad Hoc Committees on PFIPC and Budget Oversight.</u> <u>House of Representatives inaugurates Ad Hoc Committee to investigate the PFIPC.</u> <u>Controversy as N8.4b road projects surfaces in Almajiri Commission 2026 budget.</u>

STAKEHOLDER	TREND	STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE	INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE
			<u>President Tinubu orders ICPC investigation into the purported PFIPC.</u> <u>Reports on the advancement of the State Police constitutional amendment in the House of Representatives.</u>
JUDICIARY	→ Static (Improving procedural efficiency)	Moderate Compliance (3/5)	The Judiciary continued to play a central role in shaping Nigeria's pre-election environment throughout July. As political parties concluded their primaries and began submitting candidates to INEC, the courts remained central for resolving disputes arising from party leadership contests, candidate substitutions, nominations and internal party disagreements. The volume of pre-election litigation confirms the extent to which political actors continue to rely on judicial intervention to settle issues that ought to have been resolved through transparent internal party processes. While the Judiciary has a constitutional responsibility to adjudicate such disputes, the growing dependence on the courts raises broader concerns about the health of internal party democracy and the increasing judicialisation of Nigeria's electoral process. Although it is still too early to assess, the implementation of the Federal High Court (Pre-Election) Practice Directions of 2026 began in July. This new guideline introduces stricter timelines for determining pre-election matters, expands the use of virtual proceedings and permits weekend sittings where necessary. . If implemented consistently, the Practice Directions could reduce delays that have historically disrupted election preparations

STAKEHOLDER	TREND	STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE	INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE
			and enhanced public confidence in the timely administration of electoral justice. Throughout July, judicial decisions (involving party leadership, governorship primaries, candidate substitutions, deregistration of political parties and the recognition of candidates across several states) continued to have far-reaching implications for the political landscape. The Court of Appeal reserved judgment in the challenge to the proposed deregistration of five political parties, while separate judgments and appeals involving the ADC, PDP, SDP, Gombe State Governorship primaries and other political parties reflected the extent to which litigation has become embedded in Nigeria's electoral process. Although judicial oversight remains indispensable in safeguarding the rule of law, continued reliance on the courts to resolve intra-party disputes reinforces concerns that political parties have yet to institutionalise credible internal dispute-resolution mechanisms. July also revealed that judicial integrity remains an essential component of electoral credibility. This was evident in the compulsory retirement of a Kano State judge over allegations of misconduct. As Nigeria moves closer to the 2027 General Elections, the Judiciary will be expected to continue delivering decisions that are timely, consistent and demonstrably impartial, particularly as politically sensitive cases increase in both volume and significance. EVIDENCE:

STAKEHOLDER	TREND	STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE	INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE
			Federal High Court issues new Practice Directions for pre-election matters (weekend sittings, virtual proceedings and stricter timelines). Appeal Court reserves judgment on the deregistration of five political parties. Court affirms David Mark's leadership of the ADC. Judiciary: Kano Judicial Commission sanctions judge with compulsory retirement over misconduct.
POLITICAL PARTIES	↓ Declining	Very Weak Compliance (1/5)	Political parties remained the weakest-performing stakeholders during the review period. Rather than strengthening internal democracy ahead of the 2027 General Elections, July was characterised by widespread disputes over party primaries, candidate substitutions, leadership contests, defections and pre-election litigation across several political parties. The APC, ADC, PDP, SDP and the NNPP all experienced varying degrees of internal disagreement, many of which ultimately required judicial intervention. The frequency of these disputes suggests that internal conflict has become a recurring feature of Nigeria's party politics, with courts increasingly serving as arbiters of issues that should ordinarily be resolved through transparent and credible party processes. July also revealed growing reliance on reconciliation committees and political negotiations to manage dissatisfaction arising from party primaries. Across several states, aggrieved aspirants protested alleged manipulation of delegate lists, candidate substitutions and irregular nomination processes, while party leaders sought to

STAKEHOLDER	TREND	STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE	INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE
			prevent defections and further litigation through post-primary reconciliation efforts. Preparations for the Osun State Governorship Election further exposed concerns about political conduct ahead of election day. Reports of politically motivated violence, allegations of vote buying and PVC trading, voter intimidation, inflammatory political rhetoric and rising tension across several communities reinforced concerns that electoral competition continues to be driven more by political advantage than by issue-based campaigns. Public exchanges between major political actors, repeated allegations of persecution and appeals for international intervention further illustrated the increasingly polarised political environment surrounding the election. Although many of these allegations remain contested, they contribute to an atmosphere capable of undermining public confidence and discouraging citizen participation. EVIDENCE: <u>APC begins upload of candidates amid protests over alleged substitutions.</u> <u>APC reconciliation efforts following primary disputes.</u> <u>Appeal Court hears SDP leadership dispute.</u> <u>Court affirms David Mark's leadership of the ADC amid internal crisis.</u> <u>Osun stakeholders raise concerns over election security and credibility.</u> <u>INEC urges journalists to investigate vote buying ahead of the Osun Governorship Election.</u>

STAKEHOLDER	TREND	STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE	INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE
PRESIDENCY / GOVERNMENT	→ Static	Partial Compliance (2/5)	In July, the Presidency continued to support ongoing constitutional reforms on State Police, approved additional security measures in response to rising insecurity and reiterated its commitment to tackling terrorism, banditry and violent crime. While these initiatives demonstrate recognition of the country's worsening security challenges, the persistence of attacks on communities and public officials suggests that translating policy commitments into improved security outcomes remains a significant challenge. With the Osun Governorship Election approaching, strengthening preventive security and safeguarding electoral infrastructure remain critical priorities. One of the most consequential governance developments in July was the controversy surrounding the Presidential Foreign Intervention Promotion Council (PFIPC), a purported government body whose legal status, mandate and establishment quickly came under intense public scrutiny. Following widespread public concern, the Presidency directed anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies to investigate the matter, while both the House of Representatives and oversight institutions commenced separate inquiries. Although the decision to initiate investigations demonstrated responsiveness to public accountability concerns, the episode exposed weaknesses in institutional verification, due diligence and administrative oversight. That an individual could allegedly operate under the guise of a presidential body for an extended period before its legitimacy was publicly challenged raises broader questions about institutional safeguards, transparency and public confiden-

STAKEHOLDER	TREND	STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE	INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE
			ce in government processes. Finally, the introduction of the Foreign Aids (Regulation, Transparency and Disclosure) Bill (SB.1034) has also generated legitimate debate regarding the duplicity of functions already being performed by some existing government institutions. Nonetheless, the Federal Government's actions in the months ahead will significantly impact preparations for the 2027 General Elections intensify. EVIDENCE: <u>President Tinubu orders investigation into the PFIPC controversy.</u> <u>House of Representatives probes the PFIPC controversy.</u> <u>State Police constitutional amendment advances with executive backing.</u> <u>President reaffirms commitment to tackling insecurity through technology and indigenous defence.</u> <u>Foreign Aids (Regulation, Transparency and Disclosure) Bill (SB.1034) introduced in the Senate.</u>
CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS	↑ Improving	Strong Compliance (4/5)	Civil society organisations remained among the strongest-performing stakeholders during the review period as they continued to play a vital role in promoting transparency, accountability and democratic governance. As preparations intensified for the Osun State Governorship Election and the 2027 General Elections, civil society organisations have sustained pre-election observations, voter education and

STAKEHOLDER	TREND	STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE	INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE
			Civil society organisations remained among the strongest-performing stakeholders during the review period as they continued to play a vital role in promoting transparency, accountability and democratic governance. As preparations intensified for the Osun State Governorship Election and the 2027 General Elections, civil society organisations have sustained pre-election observations, voter education and stakeholder engagement aimed at strengthening public confidence in the electoral process. Situation Room, alongside several partner organisations, engaged regularly with stakeholders on election preparedness political developments, especially in red zones. These engagements help to ensure that emerging risks are identified and brought into the public domain before election day. July also demonstrated the broader accountability role that civil society continues to play beyond election observation. During the controversy surrounding the purported Presidential Foreign Intervention Promotion Council (PFIPC), Situation Room publicly called for a transparent, independent and comprehensive investigation, reinforcing the principle that allegations involving public institutions must be subjected to credible scrutiny irrespective of the individuals involved. Civil society organisations similarly used the period to advocate for stronger transparency and accountability in public finance, legislative oversight and governance, including active participation in the National Assembly's Open Week. These interventions reaffirm the import-

STAKEHOLDER	TREND	STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE	INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE
			ant role of organised citizens in demanding openness and strengthening democratic accountability. The review period also brought renewed attention to the operating environment for civil society. The introduction of the Foreign Aids (Regulation, Transparency and Disclosure) Bill (SB.1034) generated widespread discussion among civil society organisations and development partners because of its potential implications for organisations that receive foreign grants and technical assistance. While many stakeholders acknowledged the importance of improving transparency and accountability in the management of foreign aid, concerns were also raised about possible regulatory duplication, increased compliance obligations and the need to preserve an enabling environment for civic participation. EVIDENCE: <u>Situation Room calls for a transparent, independent and comprehensive investigation into the PFIPC controversy.</u> <u>PLAC calls for stronger legislative oversight and transparency in National Assembly Open Week.</u> <u>KDI urges INEC to gazette 2026 Election Regulations, says delay creates legal uncertainty ahead of 2027.</u>
MEDIA	↑ Improving	Strong Compliance (4/5)	Nigerian media organisations continued to play a vital accountability role throughout July by providing sustained coverage of developments that shape Nigeria's electoral and democratic environment. As preparations for the Osun State Governorship Election intensified, the media int-

STAKEHOLDER	TREND	STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE	INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE
			ensified extensively reported activities around election administration, political parties, security developments and judicial proceedings, ensuring that citizens remained informed about issues capable of influencing the credibility of the forthcoming poll. Investigative reporting was instrumental in bringing the Presidential Foreign Intervention Promotion Council (PFIPC) controversy to national attention, prompting widespread public scrutiny and eventually triggering investigations by the House of Representatives, the Nigeria Police Force and the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC). By consistently reporting these developments, media organisations helped expose weaknesses in internal party democracy while enabling citizens to better understand the political dynamics shaping preparations for the 2027 General Elections. This sustained scrutiny reinforces the media's role not merely as an information platform but as a critical institution for democratic accountability. As political activities intensify ahead of the 2027 General Elections, the responsibility of the media will become even more significant. Sustaining fact-based reporting, strengthening investigative journalism, countering misinformation and disinformation, verifying politically sensitive claims and providing balanced election coverage will remain essential to preserving public confidence and supporting informed citizen participation throughout the electoral process. EVIDENCE:

STAKEHOLDER	TREND	STATUS / ACCOUNTABILITY SCORE	INSIGHT ON PERFORMANCE
			<u>Media reports on the attack on the Osun INEC office and theft of PVCs ahead of the Governorship Election.</u> <u>INEC urges journalists to investigate vote buying ahead of the Osun Governorship Election.</u> <u>Investigative reporting on the PFIPC controversy prompting public scrutiny.</u> <u>Reports on the proposed Foreign Aids (Regulation, Transparency and Disclosure) Bill (SB.1034).</u> <u>Coverage of the National Assembly Open Week and calls for stronger legislative oversight.</u>

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN JULY 2026

1. INEC nationwide Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) officially comes to an end.
2. Preparations for the Osun State Governorship Election intensified amid growing concerns over political violence, election security and attacks on electoral infrastructure.
3. Insecurity remained a major national concern despite ongoing counter-terrorism operations, with renewed attacks, kidnappings and violence continuing across several states.
4. Attack on Osun INEC Office Raised Fresh Concerns Over the Security of Electoral Materials and Infrastructure in the 2026 Osun Governorship Election.
5. Political Violence and Growing Insecurity Heightened Risks Ahead of Nigeria's 2027 General Elections.
6. Form EC8A and eEC8A Provisions in Electoral Act 2026 and INEC 2026 Guidelines Raised Concerns Over the Transparency of Election Results and Manipulation in Both the Osun and 2027 General Elections.
7. Political Party Primaries, Candidate Substitutions and Leadership Disputes Continue to Trigger Widespread Pre-election Litigation.

PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUGUST 2026

The SEAT July 2026 Stakeholder Performance Scorecard demonstrates that the Osun State Governorship Election will be an important test of Nigeria's preparedness for the 2027 General Elections. To strengthen electoral credibility, Situation Room recommends the following priority actions:

1. INEC to own the responsibility for protecting the credibility of the Osun Governorship Election 2026. Therefore, the Commission should continue to engage the public proactively on measures being taken to safeguard election materials, protect voting processes and reassure voters that every legitimate vote will count.
2. INEC should clarify and publicly communicate the relationship between BVAS data, IReV data, and Forms EC8A and eEC8A as contained in the 2026 Electoral Act and INEC 2026 Guidelines to ensure safeguards against discrepancies between manually recorded and electronically transmitted results.
3. Security Agencies should adopt a proactive approach to election security by protecting electoral infrastructure, addressing political violence and ensuring the timely investigation and prosecution of electoral offences.
4. Political Parties should refrain from inflammatory rhetoric, respect the Electoral Act and party constitutions, strengthen internal democracy and discourage vote buying, voter intimidation and other forms of electoral malpractice.
5. The National Assembly should sustain momentum on electoral and constitutional reforms, strengthen legislative oversight and ensure that proposed legislation affecting civic space is subjected to broad stakeholder consultation.
6. The Judiciary should continue to ensure the timely, consistent, and impartial determination of pre-election disputes to strengthen public confidence in the electoral process.
7. The Federal and State Governments should refrain from using state resources to confer partisan advantage during the electoral process and should uphold the principles of neutrality, fairness and equal political competition.
8. Civil Society Organisations should intensify election observation, voter education, early warning and public accountability initiatives throughout the Osun Governorship Election.
9. The Media should sustain accurate, balanced and investigative reporting on election preparedness while actively countering misinformation and disinformation.
10. The National Peace Committee, traditional rulers, religious leaders and respected community voices to intensify peace messaging across the state and encourage restraint among 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.

Explore SEAT: www.situationroomng.org/seat