



# ANAMBRA STATE 2021 GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION REPORT

NIGERIA CIVIL SOCIETY  
**SITUATIONROOM**



**ANAMBRA STATE 2021  
GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION  
REPORT**

**Published by**

NIGERIA CIVIL SOCIETY  
**SITUATIONROOM**

**Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room**

Plot 451 Gambo Jimeta Crescent,  
Guzape District, Abuja

**With Support from**



© Situation Room 2021

All Rights Reserved



# Table of Content

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
Electoral Statistics	2
<b>Political Environment Ahead of Anambra State Governorship Election</b>	<b>4</b>
Political Parties' primaries	4
List of Candidates	6
Political Campaigns	6
Inclusion	7
<b>Situation Room Pre-Election Activities</b>	<b>8</b>
Emergency Virtual Meeting	8
Dialogue Session with Security Agencies and South-East Zonal CSOs	8
Situation Room/INEC Dialogue Session on the Governorship Election	9
Situation Room Training of Election Observers	9
Radio/TV Peace Messaging Campaign and Voter Education	9
INEC Preparations	10
Voter Education	10
Continuous Voters' Registration (CVR)	10
Recruitment/Training of Election workers and Distribution of	
Election Materials	11
Stakeholders' Meeting and Signing of Peace Accord	11
Election Administration	12
Preparations by Security Agencies and State of Security	12
<b>Election-Day Observation</b>	<b>13</b>
Structure and Observation Methodology	13
Deployment of Observers	14

Arrival of Election Officials	14
Set-up of the Voting Cubicles	15
BVAS, Voting and Knowledge of election procedures by INEC ad hoc staff	16
Persons with Disabilities and Vulnerable Groups	17
Turnout and Conduct of Voters	17
Results Viewing Portal	18
Votes Trading	18
Internet Outage	19
Presence and Conduct of Party Agents	19
Election Day Security	20
Collation Process	21
<b>Post-Election Observation</b>	<b>22</b>
Vote tabulation and Declaration of Results	22
Resolution of Conflicts	23
<b>Conclusion and Recommendations</b>	<b>24</b>
The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)	25
Security Agencies	26
Political Parties and Candidates:	26
Legislature and Executive	27
<b>Statements Issued by the Situation</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Gallery</b>	<b>41</b>



## Introduction

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) conducted the Anambra State Governorship election 2021 on Saturday, 6th November 2021.

The election held to the relief of stakeholders in spite of the uncertainties surrounding the conduct of the election. Ahead of the Governorship election, there were violent attacks and incidents of arsons and vandalism of Police checkpoints, INEC offices and other Government offices by “Unknown Gun Men”. There were also sit-at-home orders issued by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) prohibiting Anambra citizens from participating in campaigning and voting on election day until it was rescinded two days before the election.<sup>1</sup>

Anambra State became the first State in Nigeria where Governorship election is conducted off the general elections’ cycle, following the judgment of the Court of Appeal on 15 March 2006 that overturned the INEC’s declaration of Chris Ngige as winner of the 2003 Governorship election and declared Peter Obi of PDP as the actual winner of the election.

The November 2021 Governorship election in Anambra State was the third Governorship election conducted by INEC in the era of coronavirus, following the Edo and Ondo States’ Governorship Elections held last year. Both the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), which leads national response to the pandemic, and INEC issued guidelines and policy documents to ensure safe conduct of the election.

This report contains the context of Anambra State Governorship election, highlights of key issues observed during the election and recommendations for improving future elections in Nigeria.

<sup>1</sup> This has been discussed in the Situation Room Pre-Assessment Report on the Governorship election.

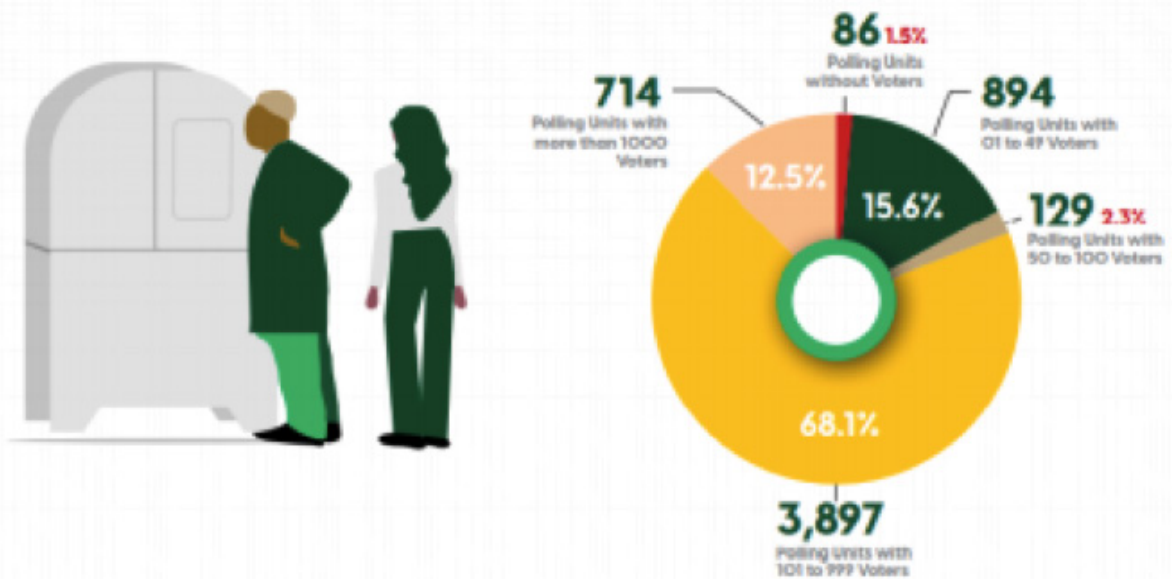
## ELECTORAL STATISTICS

According to INEC, Anambra State has 2,525,471 registered voters and 5,720 Polling Units (PUs). The distribution of the registered voters and PUs by Local Government Areas are shown in the table below:

S/N	LGA	No. of RAs/ Wards	No. of PUs	No. of Registered Voters
1.	Aguata	20	342	144,764
2.	Ayamelum	11	191	87,051
3.	Anambra East	15	241	98,474
4.	Anambra West	10	164	62,637
5.	Anaocha	19	320	109,860
6.	Awka North	14	150	72,036
7.	Awka South	20	390	188,736
8.	Dunukofia	14	165	74,882
9.	Ekwusigo	12	193	85,594
10.	Idemili North	12	467	222,441
11.	Idemili South	12	243	113,598
12.	Ihiala	20	323	148,407
13.	Njikoka	18	231	103,721
14.	Nnewi North	10	218	154,286
15.	Nnewi South	20	297	92,411
16.	Ogbaru	16	383	174,299
17.	Onitsha North	15	313	159,292
18.	Onitsha South	17	321	161,578
19.	Orumba North	18	253	93,620
20.	Orumba South	18	208	75,121
21.	Oyi	15	207	102,663
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>326</b>	<b>5,720</b>	<b>2,525,471</b>



## Distribution of Voters in Polling Units



Source: INEC





## POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT AHEAD OF ANAMBRA STATE GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION

History of elections in Anambra State, inflammatory statements and desperations occasioned by internal party conflicts, and violence mobilisations such as “Unknown Gun Men” (UGM) and the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), contributed in no small measures in shaping the political environment of the State ahead of the 2021 Governorship Election.

Only four of APC, APGA, PDP and YPP, out of the 18 political parties, have members who are elected legislators prior to the Governorship election. The APGA, PDP and YPP have legislators elected in the 2019 General Elections under their platforms while the APC benefitted from a gale of defections by members of APGA and PDP. Consequently, these four parties had established inroads into the political landscape of Anambra State.

### Political Parties' primaries

---

The 2021 Governorship election in Anambra State started in a perplexing way, as many political parties conducted their primary elections with rancour. This was evident in the primary elections conducted by APGA, APC and PDP, leading to several Court cases, mostly filed in Awka, Owerri, Jigawa, Abuja and Kano. Different factions of APGA and PDP conducted parallel primary elections ahead of the Governorship election. In the case of APGA, three parallel primary elections held on the same day -23rd June 2021. Charles Soludo was separately nominated through parallel congresses organised by two factions of the party – one led by



Victor Oye group and the other led by Edozie Njoku while the third faction led by Jude Okeke nominated Chukwuma Umeoji. However, the Supreme affirmed the primary election conducted by Victor Oye led Executive Council.

In the primary election conducted using “Super Delegates” model by a Committee set-up by the National Executive Committee of PDP, Valentine Ozigbo emerged as the flag bearer of the party, beating 16 other aspirants. Super Delegates comprises of only party executives and elected officials. The Judiciary has since settled the controversy as it affirmed Valentine Ozigbo as the authentic candidate of PDP.

Relatedly, the APC primary election scheduled for 26th June 2021 raised a number of controversies. The Governor Dapo Abiodun led Committee declared Emmanuel Andy Uba winner of the party's ticket with 230,201 votes. However, eleven of the thirteen aspirants for the primary election, including a Minister and former Governor of the State –Chris Ngige, alleged that the primary election did not hold anywhere in the State as scheduled. Although INEC refused to recognise the “results” of the party's primary, claiming that the said election did not hold, a Federal High Court in Abuja ordered INEC to include Emmanuel Andy Uba on the list of candidates for the election.

In the case of PDP, Valentine Ozigbo and Ugochukwu Uba were nominated separately through another set of parallel primaries held on 26th June 2021. A faction led by Chukwudi Umeaba, allegedly loyal to a self-acclaimed godfather of Anambra politics, Chris Uba, nominated Ugochukwu Uba, a former Senator using a “list of delegates from all the wards”. Ugochukwu Uba is a brother to both Andy Uba, the APC candidate for the election, and Chris Uba, the alleged godfather of the PDP's faction and the erstwhile godfather of Chris Ngige.

The remaining fifteen political parties conducted their nomination process seamlessly.

Overall, money was a major determinant of the outcome of primary elections conducted by most of the political parties.

## List of Candidates

S/N	NAME	PARTY
1	Maduka Godwin A.	Accord (A)
2	Etiaba Bennet Chukwuogo	Action Alliance (AA)
3	Nwankwo Wilson Chidozie	African Action Congress (AAC)
4	Akachukwu Sullivan Nwankpo	African Democratic Congress (ADC)
5	Ume-Ezeoke Afam Luke Douglas	Action Democratic Party (ADP)
6	Emmanuel Andy Nnamdi Uba	All Progressives Congress (APC)
7	Charles Chukwuma Soludo	All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA)
8	Onyejebu Geoffrey Ukwudili	Allied Peoples Movement (APM)
9	Azubuike Philip Echetebe	Action Peoples Party (APP)
10	Chika Jerry Okeke	Boot Party (BP)
11	Agbasimalo Obiora Emmanuel	Labour Party (LP)
12	Ohajimkpo Leonard Emeka	New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP)
13	Ezenwafor Afamefuna Victor	National Rescue Movement (NRM)
14	Valentine Chineto Ozigbo	Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)
15	Nnandi Nwawuo	Peoples Redemption Party (PRP)
16	Uzoh Obinna Chukwudum Godwin	Social Democratic Party (SDP)
17	Ifeanyi Patrick Ubah	Young Progressives Party (YPP)
18	Okonkwo Obiora Francis	Zenith Labour Party (ZLP)

## Political Campaigns

Largely due to reported violent attacks, fears and conflicts from the poorly conducted party primaries, campaigns in Anambra 2021 did not start on time. Political campaigns were reduced to radio/TV messaging and supporters informally wooing people within their locale as against the conventional public gatherings and branded cars and wears, mainly due to fears of possible attack.



However when it eventually started the quality was abysmal, full of rhetoric and devoid of development issues. There were little discussions of development plans for the people of the State by the political parties and their candidates. Much of the campaign issues were centred on attaining power and verbal attacks on the personality of candidates instead of development pledges on social service issues, economic activities, security and general quality of life of the people of Anambra State.

## Inclusion

---

Based on the list of candidates released by INEC, the Anambra 2021 Governorship election lacked inclusion of young people, women and persons with disabilities (PWDs) among the candidates. No political party nominated a female Governorship candidate while only one candidate of the eighteen was a young person under the age of forty (40). It is still unclear if there was anyone in this category of citizens that obtained application of any political party to participate in primary elections. This is a stark contrast to Edo State Governorship election 2020 where ADC and NNPP nominated Mabel Oboh and Agol Tracy respectively, and Ondo 2020 where Labour Party featured Okunade Taiwo. Ms Oboh of ADC beat ten other candidates to come fourth in the Edo State Governorship election 2020.





## SITUATION ROOM PRE-ELECTION ACTIVITIES



In the lead up to the Anambra State Governorship election 2021, the Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room held several meetings with civil society organisations and other election stakeholders to discuss both the political and security situations of the State.

### Emergency Virtual Meeting

On Friday, 29th October 2021, just about a week to the Governorship election, the Situation Room convened an emergency virtual meeting to discuss issues of security following reports of incessant killings and attacks in the State, observation of the election and deployment plans of partner organisations. Also, participants deliberated on safety of observers, elections workers and materials as well as voters. The participants resolved to deepen sensitization for peace and mobilisation of voters at the local level and through media.

### Dialogue Session with Security Agencies and South-East Zonal CSOs

Situation Room held a Dialogue Session with Security Agencies and South-East Zonal CSOs on 6th October 2021 in Awka to discuss issues around sit-at-home orders supposedly handed down by IPOB agitators and activities of political actors ahead of the election. The Dialogue Session provided an opportunity to discuss strategy for peace messaging and encourage voters and citizens of Anambra State to eschew violence and come out en-masse to vote on election-day.

The meeting, which had members of security agencies, media, unions, and local CSOs also deliberated on flashpoints and how to promote issue-based campaigns.

### **Situation Room/INEC Dialogue Session on the Governorship Election**

---

Ahead of the Governorship elections, Situation Room also organised a dialogue sessions with the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) of INEC in Anambra State, Dr. Nkwachukwu Orji. The meeting was convened for civil society groups preparing to observe the election to interact with the REC on INECs preparedness for the election and to address some of the issues that may arise during election-day observation. The INEC REC of Anambra State assured participants of INEC's preparation for the election and affirmed that it had taken all necessary steps towards conducting a credible election. The steps taken, according to the REC, include completion of 12 of the 14 activities in the timetable and schedule of activities for the election, and was prepared to implement the remaining two activities –notice of end of campaigns and conduct of the election proper.

### **Situation Room Training of Election Observers**

---

On Saturday, 16th October 2021, Situation Room held a training session in Awka, Anambra State for its accredited observers and observers from partner organisations based in the State. The training session covered critical issues such as responsibilities and code of conduct for election observers, political environment and flashpoints, mapping, deployment and reporting template, amongst others. The training also ensured that observers would understand the working and set-up of the Election Situation Room.

### **Radio/TV Peace Messaging Campaign and Voter Education**

---

Following from the Dialogue Session with CSOs and Security agencies, where participated deliberated on the most effective format and content of peace messages and voter education that should be promoted and disseminated in Anambra State ahead of the election, the Situation Room further supported this campaign by developing television and radio jingles in both English and Igbo languages which was aired on popular TV and radio channels across the State. This was in addition to relevant fliers shared via social media platforms.



## INEC PREPARATIONS

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) commenced preparations for this election with the released of “timetable and schedule of activities” in January 2021. INEC had announced that it developed a work-plan for prosecuting the election that included voters’ registration and sensitization, election operations, training and conduct of the election proper, amongst others.

Earlier in the year, INEC held engagements with stakeholders including political parties and CSO groups on the need to expand voters’ access to polling units. These engagements enabled creation of additional polling units in Anambra State by converting the existing voting points into 1,112 substantive polling units. When added to the original 4,608 polling units, Anambra State had a total of 5,720 polling units going into the November 2021 election.

### Voter Education

---

During the first quarterly meeting with CSOs for 2021, INEC stated that the Commission will start early its voter education activities for the election at the State level. INEC however failed to do that, as it limited its sensitization to periodic press releases and briefings by the National Headquarters until few weeks to the election. Also, INEC failed to mark-out locations of the new polling units within the communities. Whether this occurrence or behaviour was due to violence incidents and attack on its facilities the period preceding the election is unclear. But when the voter education commenced, civil society organisations and community associations were engaged and conducted sensitization of voters through local networks and community outreaches.

### Continuous Voters’ Registration (CVR)

---

On 28th June 2021, INEC resumed Continuous Voters’ Registration (CVR) exercise nationwide. The last CVR exercise was conducted four years ago, coincidentally just before Anambra State Governorship election in 2017.

The physical registration centres were located at State and local government offices of INEC until 30th August when it decentralised registration to the Ward level in State for just a week before the it was stopped in compliance with Section

9(5) of the Electoral Act 2010, as amended. Thus, INEC conducted CVR exercise in Anambra State for ten (10) weeks ahead of the November Election. A total of 77, 475 valid registrations were captured; therefrom increased the number of registered voters in the State to 2,525,471.

To conclude the process, INEC displayed the register of new voters at the local government offices for seven (7) days in order for citizens to make claims and objections in compliance with section 19(1) of the Electoral Act 2020 (as amended). Permanent Voter's Cards (PVCs) Distribution.

INEC had promised that it would distribute PVCs to the respective voters ahead of the election, by contacting them through text messages and email. Despite the INEC giving assurance that registrants will get their PVC in order to vote on election day, it failed to do so. This was a setback for the election.

### **Recruitment/Training of Election workers and Distribution of Election Materials**

During the Situation Room Dialogue Session with INEC Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) of Anambra State held on Friday, 8th October 2021, the REC stated that about 26,000 ad-hoc staff were required for the November 6th Governorship election. According to the REC, INEC had started training poll officials including Presiding Officers, Electoral Officers (EOs), Assistant Electoral Officers (AEOs) and Supervising Presiding Officers.

### **Stakeholders' Meeting and Signing of Peace Accord**

INEC held a Stakeholders' Meeting on Wednesday, 3rd November 2021 at Dora Akunyili Centre, Awka to brief political parties and their candidates, observers and voters of its preparations and readiness to conduct the election. The INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu stated that the Commission has completed all the necessary steps towards conducting a credible Governorship election in Anambra State and reiterated the voting procedures, particularly the use of BVAS. Also, the National Peace Committee headed by a former Head of State, General Abdulsalami Abubakar convened political parties and candidates contesting the election on Thursday, 4th November in Awka to sign a Peace Accord ahead

of the election. The Peace Accord was signed by all the candidates publicly and committed to play by the civic rule, and ensured a peaceful election.

## **Election Administration**

---

Election materials particularly the non-sensitive ones were distributed to the 21 Local Government Areas at least 2 weeks before the election. Sensitive materials were distributed from the vault of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) branch in Awka to Local Government Offices and Registration Area Centres (RACs) of INEC in the week of the election, particularly from Wednesday, 3rd November 2021.

Distribution of the sensitive materials was done in the presence of party agents, media and accredited observers, with security personnel escorting the materials to the various locations. Included in the materials deployed were configured tablets hosting BVAS and IReV upload application, magnifying glasses and braille ballot guides.

INEC entered into a contractual relationship with members of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) and National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO) to provide vehicles for the transportation of staff and materials for the election, and made a 50% down payment in that respect.

## **Preparations by Security Agencies and State of Security**

---

The Inspector General of Police, IGP Mohammed Adamu, who is a co-chair of the Inter-Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) stated that conventional and special forces personnel have been adequately trained and deployed to ensure a violent-free election. The IGP warned violence perpetrators to stay clear of the election process and enjoined voters to come out to cast their vote peacefully.

The IGP announced that 34,587 officers have been deployed by the Police comprising of DIGs, 5 AIGs, 14 CPs, 31 DCPs, 48 ACPs, and 34,487 Officers, Men and Women of the Force for the election in Anambra State

The contingents for the election security operation were drawn from the Police Air-wing, Force Marine, Police Medical, Mobile and Force Animal Commands, as well as conventional Police officers and Special Forces personnel from the Counter Terrorism, Explosives Ordinance, Interpol, Intelligence and Special Protection units.



## ELECTION-DAY OBSERVATION

### Structure and Observation Methodology

---

Situation Room's Election Day set-up is generally divided into two: a Technical Team and an Analysts' Team. The Technical Team is further divided into a Call Centre, a Social Media Desk and an Escalation Desk. The Call Centre communicates with accredited field observers deployed by Situation Room to receive reports on the conduct of the election, and also receive reports from citizen observers using Situation Room's telephone lines and social media platforms and verify the reports. These reports are documented and then published on Situation Room's social media platforms to provide real-time updates on the election. Incidents' reports are verified and escalated to relevant agencies particularly INEC and the Police for intervention, depend on the nature of the incidents. The escalation process also involves follow up, to confirm if the reported issues are resolved.

All the reports received are discussed by the Team of Analysts to assess the electoral process in general and more specifically, the role of each election stakeholder. Conclusions reached from the discussions form the basis for Situation Room's press statements and report on the election.

Situation Room's Election Day set-up for this Governorship election was located in Maxbe Hotel, Awka, Anambra State



## Deployment of Observers

---

Situation Room deployed 140 accredited observers spread across the 21 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of the State. They set out early to polling units within their locations of deployment to examine the electoral process and collation centres to observe results collation process.

The observers were deployed to look out for the following:

- » Early Arrival of election materials and personnel;
- » Timely commencement of polls;
- » Voting procedures particularly the efficacy of the new Bi-modal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS)
- » Knowledge of election procedures by INEC ad hoc staff
- » Availability and use of assistive materials for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and other vulnerable groups;
- » Turnout and Conduct of voters;
- » Vote buying;
- » Pasting of Form EC60E (poster result sheets) at polling units and use of Z-pads to transmit images of Form EC8A (polling unit result sheets) to the INEC Result Viewing Portal;
- » Conduct of security agents; and
- » Transparent Collation process

## Arrival of Election Officials

---

The Anambra State Governorship Election began as scheduled on Saturday, 6th November 2021. The administration of the Anambra State Governorship Election appears to have suffered from severe logistical challenges. Situation Room observed protracted delays in the opening of polls in most polling units, as a result of late deployment of ad-hoc staff of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and materials from Registration Area Centres (RACs) across the State. In most LGAs, INEC officials arrived at an average time of 9:30am. Instances of opening time beginning at 11:00am and beyond were reported in Idemili North Local Government Area (LGA) as well as Achala Ward 1 to 3 in Awka North LGA.

In Ihiala LGA materials did not arrive due to reports of thuggery, leading to the postponement of election in the LGA.



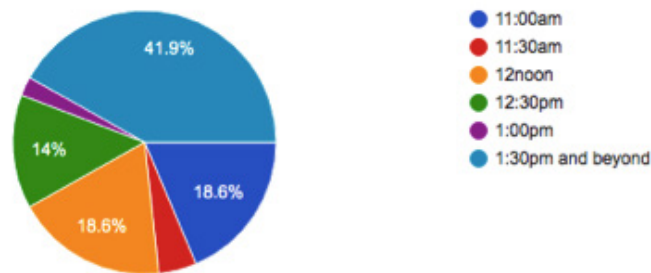


Figure 3.1: Opening of Polls during the Supplementary election in Ihiala LGA

On the whole, election officials and materials arrived late in 67% of the polling units (PUs) visited by Situation Room field observers. Polls commenced between 10:00am and 12:30pm in 53.5% of the voting locations observed. This was as a result of the late arrival of officials and materials. Some of the Polling Units that opened very late in the day include PU 001 and 008 in Amansea Ward of Awka North LGA, PU 017 and 018 in Uga Ward I of Aguata LGA and several others.

This issue reoccurred on a larger scale in the supplementary election held on Tuesday, 9th November 2021 in Ihiala Local Government Area as thugs and miscreants attempted to stop the election from hlding in the LGA.

### Set-up of the Voting Cubicles

The Voting Cubicles were generally set-up in open spaces as required except in a few polling units where it was placed in a way that could compromise the secrecy of the ballot.

Were Polling Booths located in a way to enable voters mark their ballot papers in secret?

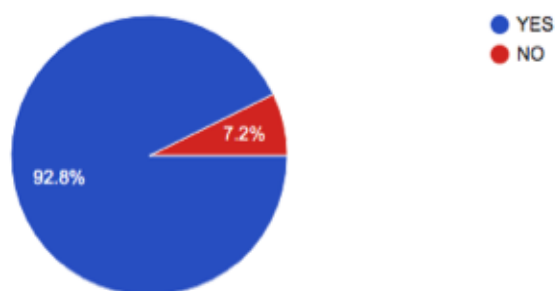


Figure 3.2: Set-up of Voting Cubicles

## BVAS, Voting and Knowledge of election procedures by INEC ad hoc staff

On Saturday, 6th November 2021, there were widespread reports of malfunctioning of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) causing delays in accreditation and voting. At the onset of the election, the BVAS failed to authenticate fingerprints and or verify facials of voters in many PUs while in some other PUs the batteries of the machines went flat. Although the BVAS eventually verified all voters following escalation of the challenges and consequent intervention of INEC's technical team, the initial hitches had caused delay in voting process ranging from 15 minutes to 1 hour in different PUs.

The performance of ad-hoc staff during the election showed that there were knowledge gaps of the election process. In a few PUs, our observers reported that ad-hoc staff struggled with operating the BVAS and were not aware of some procedures, such as displaying the register of voters in their polling unit of deployment. An example of a place where this occurred is PU 003 (New Market Road Primary School), Odoakpu Ward VI of Onitsha South LGA.

During the Saturday, 6th November election, the average accreditation time was up to 10 minutes due to these delays from the BVAS. However, the performance of the BVAS improved significantly in the supplementary election conducted in Ihiala LGA on 9th November. Reports from our observers indicated that it took an average of 3 minutes to accredit one voter when it worked, thereby making the voting process swift. Although INEC said it has now identified the cause of the initial challenges with BVAS, this would have been a major setback if there was huge voter turnout. Situation Room received reports of over-voting in some polling units, leading to

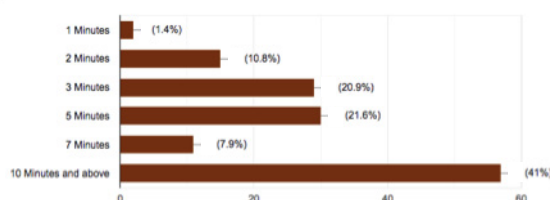


Figure 3.3: Average Accreditation time using BVAS on 6th, November

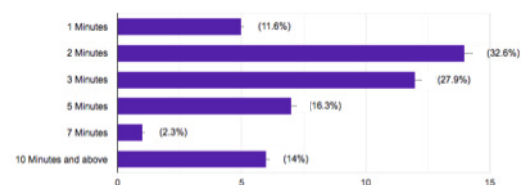


Figure 3.4: Average Accreditation time using BVAS in Ihiala on 9th, November

cancellation of results in the affected units. An example of where this occurred is PU004 and PU005, Umudisi Hall I and II, Abacha Ward, Idemili North LGA.

With respect to compliance with COVID-19 protocols, Situation Room observers sighted hand sanitisers at the polling units. However, social distancing and the use of face masks were not observed or enforced.

## Persons with Disabilities and Vulnerable Groups

Was preference given to women, the aged, and PWDs during voting?

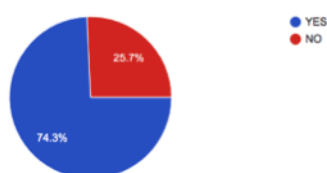


Figure 3.5: Priority Voting

Situation Room notes that election officials in some instances gave priority to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), elderly persons and pregnant women in most of the Polling Units observed. However, some of the PUs were not accessible to some categories of PWDs.

Was the Polling Unit easy to locate and accessible to all voters, including PWDs, pregnant and nursing women, the aged, etc? .

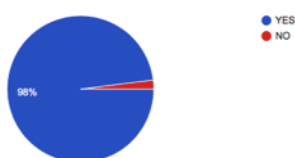


Figure 3.6: Location and accessibility of PU

Did you observe any voting aide for PWDs (e.g. braille guide, magnifying glasses etc)?

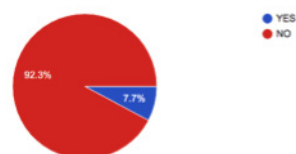


Figure 3.7: Voting aides for PWDs

Situation Room observed availability of braille ballot guides and magnifying glasses in many PUs across the State.

## Turnout and Conduct of Voters

Voter turnout was as expected low. However, the percentage that was recorded was fair in light of the initial apprehension that trailed the beginning of the electioneering process. Voters came out rather slowly across the State but increased towards noon and when BVAS started working moderately, to cast their votes peacefully.

According to the INEC statistics, a total of 253,388 voters were accredited to participate in this election. This number stands for barely 10% of the 2,525,471 registered voters in Anambra State. Situation Room notes that several newly registered voters were unable to collect their Permanent Voter's Cards (PVCs) within the few days provided for this exercise, just before the election. This may also have contributed to the low voter turnout, in addition to the tense political environment in the State in the lead up to the election.

## Results Viewing Portal

---

The upload of polling unit election results to INEC's Result Viewing (I-Rev) portal was satisfactory. From Situation Room's tracking, upload of results started at about 5:00pm, an hour after the extended time for the close of polls on Saturday, 6th November. As at 9:30pm, 60.1% of results had been uploaded. This rose to 73.5% at 12:30pm on Sunday, 7th November and further went up to 88.9% before 10:00am on Tuesday, 9th November. This meant that only 5.4% of polling unit results, apart from those from Ihiala LGA, were yet to be uploaded more than 48 hours after the conclusion of voting on 6th November.

## Votes Trading

---

The Situation Room Report of Assessment of Pre-election Environment showed that the tendency for vote trading in the election was very weighty and could reach crescendo in Nigeria's election. This became a reality. In some polling units observed, there was an organised procedure for identifying voters who cast their votes for a particular political party in order to reward them afterwards. In other instances, party agents were soliciting for votes, and it became a matter of becoming the highest bidder, to gain the votes of the electorate. This unfortunate, recurring trend appears to be deepening in Nigeria's elections and needs to be urgently addressed with the co-operation of all stakeholders involved, including political parties, citizens and security agents. However, Situation Room received the report of voters in Anambra State, who bluntly refused to sell their votes, chasing away the vote buyers. Situation Room is disappointed that the perpetrators of this electoral offence were not arrested by security operatives.

## Internet Outage

On the day of the Governorship election - Saturday, 6th November 2021, Situation Room observers experienced "internet outage" in Anambra State for about an hour thirty minutes between 9:00am and 11:00am. The reason for this outage is still unknown.

Whatever the intention for this may be, it is important to note the event for future elections especially since INEC is increasing deploying technologies for elections as well as the on-going national conversations on electronic voting.

## Presence and Conduct of Party Agents

Party agents were present at most polling units observed by the Situation Room. Observers identified mostly agents of the All Progressives Congress (APC), All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), People's Democratic Party (PDP) and Young Progressives Party (YPP) in majority of polling units observed. Of the 18 political parties on the ballot, the APC, APGA, the PDP and YPP had agents in at least 75% of the polling units visited while the remaining political parties respectively had agents in less than 25% of these locations.

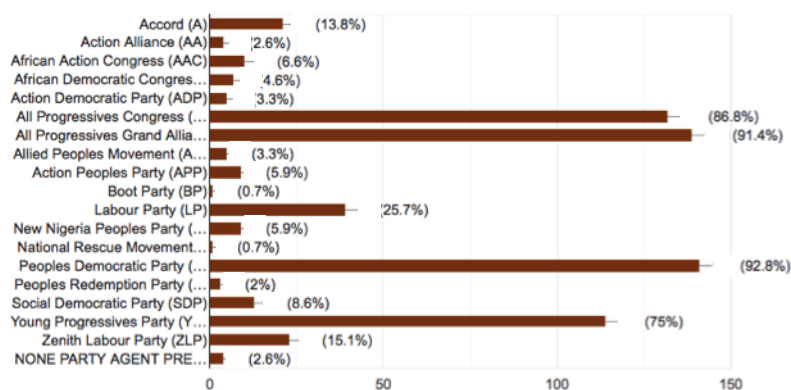


Figure 3.8: Presence of Party Agents at PUs

## Election Day Security

The Saturday, November 6th election was largely peaceful in spite of the peculiarities of the security situation in Anambra State in the months leading up to the election. There were only a few reports of skirmishes caused by thugs and miscreants in some areas, during the election except in Ihiala LGA.

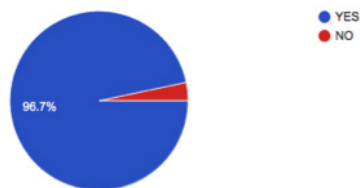


Figure 3.9: Presence of Security agents at PUs

Situation Room observers reported a significant presence of security personnel at PUs and along the major roads in Anambra State. Only a few polling units visited had no security personnel at all. Some of the security personnel our observers interacted with complained about not receiving payment for election duty while a few personnel confirmed receipt of their payment. In Awka North, security personnel refused to escort INEC officials to Achala Ward 1, 2 and 3 due to the delay in their payment.

Insecurity prevented election from holding in Ihiala LGA on Saturday, 6th November 2021. Consequently, a Supplementary election was conducted in the LGA on Tuesday, 9th November 2021.

During the supplementary election in Ihiala LGA, there were several reports of violence perpetrated by thugs around the polling units. At PU 005 (Umuatuegwu Primary School) in Okija IV ward, an observer was almost beaten up by political thugs. Situation Room also received reports of disruptive activities by miscreants in Orsumoghu ward.

Situation Room notes that security agents on election duty were generally civil in their conduct and were not reported to have harassed or intimidated voters or election observers. However, in most of the voting locations, they let vote buying take place unabated, and without any arrest. There were also reports of inter-agency rivalry among security operatives.



## Collation Process

Due to the delay in opening of polls and the challenges with BVAS in the early stage of accreditation, voting time was extended to 4:00pm, after which sorting and counting of votes commenced. Presiding Officers started uploading polling unit result sheets to the Result Viewing Portal at 5:00pm on election. The Ward Collation process started late as well and went on into the late hours of the night in some areas. The Local Government Collation process went on smoothly in all LGAs except Orumba North LGA where the Collation Officer alleged manipulation by the INEC's Electoral Officer (EO) of the LGA. The Returning Officer for the election however accepted the results of the LGA after listening to both parties and verifying the results through the PU result sheets uploaded on the IReV Portal. INEC would need to provide clarification to the public on the conflict and open a case file to be forwarded to the Police for possible prosecution if there is a violation of any provision of the Electoral Act (2010) as amended.





## POST-ELECTION OBSERVATION



### Vote tabulation and Declaration of Results

Following the conclusion of the supplementary election in Ihiala Local Government area, the results of the Governorship election were announced in the wee hours of Wednesday, 10th November 2021 in Awka. Professor Florence Obi, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Calabar who served as the Returning Officer declared Prof. Chukwuma Charles Soludo of APGA as winner having scored the highest votes in the election. Professor Soludo scored 112, 229 votes to beat Valentine Ozigbo of PDP who scored 53,807 votes, Emmanuel Andy Uba of APC who scored 43,285 votes and 15 other candidates in the election.

According to INEC, 253,388 voters were accredited for the election, while the actual votes cast is 249,631 out of which 8,108 votes were rejected and 241,523 were valid.

### Reactions of Political Parties and Candidates

Upon the declaration of Prof. Soludo as winner of the election, the first runner-up and third runner-up in the election, Valentine Ozigbo and Patrick Ifeanyi Ubah respectively, announced that they have called the winner to congratulate and advise him to work selflessly to improve the lot of the people of Anambra State. Ozigbo and Ubah stated that they would not challenge the outcome of the election at the Tribunal.



President Muhammadu Buhari as well as Chris Ngige, both chieftains of APC, also congratulated Prof. Soludo on his victory in the election.

## Resolution of Conflicts

The candidate of APC, Senator Andy Uba who scored 43,285 votes to come third in the election rejected the results and declared his intention to challenge the outcome at the Election Petition Tribunal.

The Election Petition Tribunal received eleven petitions from the All Progressives Congress (APC), Action Democratic Party (ADP), Accord (A), and United Patriots (UP) amongst others challenging the victory of Prof. Soludo.





## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS



With the circumstance around Anambra State and the elections, INEC conducted the election to the best of its ability, and should be commended for it, especially the election officials.

The Anambra State Governorship election was violence free to the relief of stakeholders. The voters are the actual winners of this election for conducting themselves and casting their vote peacefully. Situation Room commends the commitment of individuals and groups, who made efforts to mediate peace and reduce political tension in the State ahead of the election.

INEC is specifically commended for going ahead with the election due to all the intervening factors. The introduction of the BVAS is a welcome development but election preparations need to be improved upon, to deliver efficiency in its use for the accreditation process.

The incidence of low voter turnout is an issue of serious concern in Anambra State and Nigeria as a whole. Election stakeholders need to critically interrogate the diminishing rate of citizens' participation in the electoral process, with a view to overturning this trend.

Vote trading has continued to feature in Nigeria's elections and will remain if perpetrators go unpunished. This brings to light the imminent need to establish the National Electoral Offences Commission to prosecute electoral offenders.



Situation Room makes the following recommendations in the light of its observation of the election:

### **The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)**

---

INEC should:

- » Build on the gains recorded in the use of Bimodal Voter Authentication System (BVAS) during the Anambra State Governorship election particularly in Ihiala LGA in future elections.
- » Further strengthen its processes for timely arrival and opening of polls using the FCT, Ekiti, and Osun elections as tests before the 2023 General Elections.
- » The inability of INEC to start voters education early in Anambra State was a setback for the election especially since the Commission converted existing voting points to substantive polling units. Going forward, INEC should start its voter education and sensitisation as soon as the election's timetable and schedule of activities is released.
- » Review its failure to distribute permanent voter's cards to new registrants in time for the election, with a view to preventing such occurrence in future elections. It is sad that INEC would disenfranchise any citizen especially at this time that voter of voters in Nigeria continue to deteriorate.
- » Intensify the timely upload of polling unit result sheets by Presiding Officers to its Election Result Viewing portal so as to deepen transparency of the collation process
- » As we held towards elections in 2022 and reports of emerging variance, INEC should work with health stakeholders to ensure improved compliance with COVID-19 protocols during elections held under this period.
- » Adequately exercise its oversight functions on political parties ahead of the election in the areas of Issue-based campaign, hate speech and party primaries.
- » Ensure sufficient training of Ad-hoc staff and security agents.
- » Review its relationship with members of the National Road Transport Workers and their affiliates and establish adequate safeguards to ensure smooth election-day operations, especially safe transportation of election officials and materials to and from the various voting stations.
- » Provide clarification to the public regarding the controversy on the results of

Orumba North LGA between the LGA Collation Officer and Electoral Officer and open a case file to be forwarded to the Police for possible prosecution if there is a violation of any provision of the Electoral Act (2010) as amended.

- » Investigate over-voting that led to the cancellation of results of some polling units and prosecute likely offenders to mitigate future occurrence.

## Security Agencies

---

- » Although Security operatives mainly conducted themselves in a civil manner, they failed to prevent obvious incidents of vote buying. The carefree behavior to vote buying by Security agencies statutorily required to prevent such an offence or prosecute offenders is increasing becoming a serious concern. With vote buying severally reported in both Edo and Ondo States' Governorship Elections held last year, the occurrence could gain greater momentum going into Ekiti in 2022 –a State known for “Stomach Infrastructure” in elections – if not checked. Therefore, Security Agencies should effectively enforce election laws that prohibit vote buying.
- » Ensure the welfare of their personnel deployed for an election, conduct adequate training ahead of the deployment and track them for misconduct.
- » Work in synergy to prevent inter-agency conflicts.

## Political Parties and Candidates:

---

Political parties should:

- » Adhere to provisions of the Law with regards to internal party democracy and conduct themselves to the dictates of democracy.
- » Cease from inducing voters; instead channel the funds into conducting voter education and issue-based campaigns to gain support of the electorate. One of the main responsibilities of political parties is to sensitize voters of their party's manifesto and candidate's development agenda as well as mobilize their supporters to come out and vote.
- » Take deliberate measures to ensure that their members and supporters commit to peaceful conduct before, during and after an election.
- » Provide adequate training for their election agents and deploy sufficiently across the polling units and collation centres.

## Legislature and Executive

---

- » The National Assembly should urgently proceed with legislative action to ensure the passage of the Electoral Offences Commission Bill.
- » The President should quickly give assent to the Electoral Bill 2021 to ensure improved environment for elections and bequeath a legacy of electoral reforms behind.

Situation Room enjoins all stakeholders to continue to sustain their efforts and support towards an improved electoral process and deepening democracy in Nigeria.



## APPENDICES

### Statements Issued by the Situation Room

#### NIGERIA CIVIL SOCIETY SITUATION ROOM

##### **PRELIMINARY STATEMENT BY NIGERIA CIVIL SOCIETY SITUATION ROOM ON ANAMBRA STATE GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION SCHEDULED FOR SATUR- DAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

**Issued: 10:30am, Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

The Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room (Situation Room) has convened in Awka, Anambra State to observe the Anambra State Governorship Election 2021. We note the peculiar tense political environment and the subsequent apprehension that have trailed the election. Despite the prevailing challenges, we commend the people of Anambra for their commitment to the democratic process in the State.

We note the efforts of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to conduct the election. We also acknowledge the efforts of the security agencies to maintain law and order. Situation Room is counting on the assurances of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and the Nigeria Police Force that they are fully prepared for the election, with INEC assuring that logistics and deployment are fully under its control and the Police assuring that it will keep the security situation under check.

Situation Room will work with her over 70 partners and networks to observe the election and receive reports from across the 21 local government areas of the State.

1. INEC and Election Administration: Early in the year 2021, INEC embarked on the expansion of voter access to polling units, under which new polling units were created, as well as the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise. However, these activities were stalled by sit-at-home orders in the South East and pockets of violence in Anambra State. Distribution of permanent voter's cards (PVCs) are still on-going in the State. Situation Room therefore urges registered voters to take advantage of the public

holiday in the State today, to go out en masse and collect their PVCs.

Situation Room expects an improved administration and management of the 2021 Anambra State Governorship Election and will be holding INEC accountable for its commitment and assurances of preparedness, and will look out for the following, as INEC administers the elections:

- i. Early distribution and deployment of personnel and materials
- ii. Timely opening of poll
- iii. Adherence to COVID-19 Protocols on Election day
- iv. Knowledge of election procedures by INEC ad hoc staff
- v. Voting procedures particularly the efficacy of the new Bi-modal Verification Accreditation System (BVAS)
- vi. Transmission of polling unit results
- vii. Transparent Collation process

Situation Room will also keep a close eye on the INEC Result Viewing (IREV) Portal as an additional layer of accountability and transparency in this election.

2. Security Agencies: Situation Room calls on all security agencies to deploy effectively across the State, taking special cognisance of the remote and riverine areas, as well as security flash points, while adhering strictly to the rules of engagement. We shall be observing the conduct of the security agencies. We further call on the Police to document evidence of violence, infractions and their perpetrators and share this information with INEC, in order to speedily bring offenders to book.
3. Political Parties: We call on the political parties to play by the rules and to support the conduct of a free, fair and credible election in Anambra State. They should note that this election is not worth the blood of any citizen of Anambra State and Nigerians at large. Parties and their candidates should uphold the spirit and contents of the Peace Accord they entered into in the full view of the world. There is a moral and legal obligation to abide by this agreement and there will be consequences in this regard, in accordance to the provisions of the Electoral Act.

Conclusion: Situation Room enjoins all eligible voters in Anambra State to come out tomorrow, Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and effectively participate in the process of electing a leader of their choice for the State.

-----  
SIGNED:

**Ene Obi**

*Convener, Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room*

**Asma'u Joda**

*Co-Convener, Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room*

**James Ugochukwu**

*Co-Convener, Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room*  
-----

**The Situation Room is made up of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working in support of credible and transparent elections in Nigeria numbering more than seventy. The Steering Committee is made up of: Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), CLEEN Foundation, Action Aid Nigeria, Centre for Women and Adolescent Empowerment, Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), Centre for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), African Centre for Entrepreneurship and Information Development (ACEIDEV), Justice Development and Peace Commission (JPDC) Nnewi, ASPILOS Foundation, Rule of Law and Accountability Advocacy Centre (RULAAC), Mac-Jim Foundation, Kimpact Development Initiative, Democratic Action Group (DAG), Women’s Rights to Education Programme, EDO CSOs, Young Innovators and Vocational Training Initiative (YVITI), New Initiative for Social Development (NISD). Other groups are Centre LSD, CISLAC, WARD-C, Proactive Gender Initiative (PGI), Enough is Enough Nigeria, WANGONET, JDPC, YIAGA Africa, Development Dynamics, Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN), Stakeholder Democracy Network, Human Rights Monitor, Reclaim Naija, CITAD, **Conscience for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution (CHRCR)**, Nigerian Women Trust Fund, The Albino Foundation, Alliance for Credible Elections (ACE), Electoral Hub etc**

-----  
**Contact information:**

**Website: [situationroom.placng.org](http://situationroom.placng.org)**

**Email: [situationroom@placng.org](mailto:situationroom@placng.org)**

**Twitter [@situationroomng](https://twitter.com/situationroomng)**

**[#NigeriaSituationRoom](https://twitter.com/situationroomng)**

**Facebook: [Facebook.com/situationroomnigeria](https://www.facebook.com/situationroomnigeria)**

**Hotlines: 09095050505, 09032999919**



## **SHORT STATEMENT BY SITUATION ROOM AS VOTING PROGRESSES IN 2021 ANAMBRA GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION**

**Issued: 2:00pm - Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

The Anambra State Governorship Election began as scheduled on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Reports from across the State from our networks of observers and partners showed late deployment of personnel and materials across the State. In most LGAs, INEC officials arrived at an average time of 9am. Instances of opening time beginning at 11am and beyond were reported in Ihiala and Idemili Local Government Areas (LGA) as well as Achala, ward 1,2 and 3 in Awka LGA.

Situation Room observers reporting from different Polling Units (PUs) indicate a modest turnout of voters. Voter turnout began slowly across the State with voters coming out early in some places. There were widespread reports of malfunctioning of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) causing delays in accreditation and voting. In most places, the fingerprints did not authenticate voters and there were lots of complaints on the photo capture and facial detection. In a few PUs our observers reported poor knowledge of the BVAS by the adhoc staff.

Situation Room observers reported a significant presence of security personnel at PUs, only a few polling units visited had no security personnel at all. Some of the security personnel our observers interacted with also complained about not receiving payment for election duty. In Awka North, security personnel refused to escort INEC officials to Achala Ward 1, 2 and 3 due to the delay in their payment. Although, a few of the security personnel confirmed receipt of their payment.

As voting time comes to an end at 2:30pm, Situation Room anticipates that tension may rise as anxiety mounts at the PUs where these delays have been reported. Situation Room calls on INEC to extend the voting time to enable citizens to vote. Situation Room also calls on INEC to increase the number of technical staff on the field to assist the adhoc staff in rectifying the glitches with the BVAS.

-----  
SIGNED:

**Ene Obi**

*Convener, Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room*

**Asma'u Joda**

*Co-Convener, Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room*

**James Ugochukwu**

*Co-Convener, Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room*  
-----

The Situation Room is made up of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working in support of credible and transparent elections in Nigeria numbering more than seventy. The Steering Committee is made up of: Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), CLEEN Foundation, Action Aid Nigeria, Centre for Women and Adolescent Empowerment, Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), Centre for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), African Centre for Entrepreneurship and Information Development (ACEIDEV), Justice Development and Peace Commission (JPDC) Nnewi, ASPILOS Foundation, Rule of Law and Accountability Advocacy Centre (RULAAC), Mac-Jim Foundation, Kimpact Development Initiative, Democratic Action Group (DAG), Women's Rights to Education Programme, EDO CSOs, Young Innovators and Vocational Training Initiative (YVITI), New Initiative for Social Development (NISD). Other groups are Centre LSD, CISLAC, WARD-C, Proactive Gender Initiative (PGI), Enough is Enough Nigeria, WANGONET, JDPC, YIAGA Africa, Development Dynamics, Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN), Stakeholder Democracy Network, Human Rights Monitor, Reclaim Naija, CITAD, **Conscience for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution (CHRCR,)** Nigerian Women Trust Fund, The Albino Foundation, Alliance for Credible Elections (ACE), Electoral Hub etc

-----  
**Contact information:**

**Website:** [situationroom.placng.org](http://situationroom.placng.org)

**Email:** [situationroom@placng.org](mailto:situationroom@placng.org)

**Twitter** @situationroomng

**#NigeriaSituationRoom**

**Facebook:** [Facebook.com/situationroomnigeria](https://www.facebook.com/situationroomnigeria)

**Hotlines:** 09095050505, 09032999919

## **NIGERIA CIVIL SOCIETY SITUATION ROOM INTERIM STATEMENT ON ANAMBRA STATE GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION 2021**

**Issued: In Awka at 9:30am, Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

The Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room (Situation Room) observed the Anambra State Governorship election and will continue to closely follow the process as it unfolds until its conclusion by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). Situation Room deployed observers across 21 Local Government Areas of the State.

At this time, we wish to make the following observations:

**General:** The election was generally peaceful. This was against the background of potential violence rhetoric leading up to the election, even though there were pockets of disturbances.

**Logistics and Commencement of Poll:** INEC ad hoc staff and election materials arrived late in 67% of the polling units (PU) visited by Situation Room field observers. Polls commenced between 10:00am and 12:30pm in 53.5% of the voting locations observed. This was as a result of the late arrival of officials and materials. These delays in the commencement of polls were observed in locations such as PU 001 and 008 in Amansea ward of Awka North LGA, PU 017 and 018 in Uga I ward of Aguata LGA and several others. In some other places, particularly voting locations in parts of Ihiala, Idemili North and Idemili South LGAs, no INEC staff or material was deployed.

**Bi-Modal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS):** Although the BVAS had been used in Isoko South constituency 1 bye elections, this would be the first major election where INEC deployed the BVAS. Reports from field observers indicated widespread malfunction of this technology, as it failed to authenticate voters' fingerprints and detect faces. This was the case in 59% of the PUs observed, with a minimum of five minutes to accredit one voter in 65.8% of the PUs observed. Furthermore, some of the ad-hoc staff experienced some difficulty in operating the machines. In some locations, the machines were working rather slowly and took as long as 10 minutes or more to accredit a single voter. This severely stalled the accreditation and voting process. These challenges were observed in the following locations: PU 007 in Awka-Etiti II ward in Idemili South LGA, PU 013 in Nawfia II ward of Njikoka LGA, PU 017 in Uruagu I ward of Nnewi North LGA, amongst others.

**Priority Voting:** Situation Room notes that INEC ad hoc officials in some instances, gave priority to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), elderly persons and pregnant women in most of the polling units observed. However, some of the PUs were not accessible to some categories of PWDs.

**Presence, Conduct and Welfare of Security Officials:** At this time, Situation Room notes that security officials were present at most of the polling units visited. The security agents were relatively civil in their conduct within and outside polling units. However, some of the security personnel stated that they had not received their allowances for election duty. This is contrary to the pronouncement by the Police authorities, that security agents on election duty had been remunerated.

**Party Agents:** Of the 18 political parties on the ballot, the All Progressives Congress (APC), All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), People’s Democratic Party (PDP) and Young Progressives Party (YPP) had agents in at least 75% of the polling units visited while the remaining political parties respectively had agents in less than 25% of these locations.

**Vote Buying:** Situation Room received reports of widespread vote buying by political party agents across the State. Some of the specific instances include sale of votes for amounts ranging from ₦1,000 and ₦6,000 at various locations. However, this was being carried out very discreetly in some PUs while in others the votes buying was done in full glare without prevention from the security personnel. Nevertheless, voters in a particular polling unit in the state rejected an inducement of ₦5,000 per vote. Situation Room commends the courage of these voters. For this, we say a big well done to Ndi Anambra.

**Voter Turnout:** On a general note, citizens came out to vote, contrary to the initial apprehension that trailed the beginning of the electioneering process. Even though there were not large crowds of voters, it was still a relief to see citizens come out eventually to exercise their rights. Also, the Situation Room commends the Media for following the process courageously despite the tensed political environment.

**Conclusion:** We call on the resilient people of Anambra to remain calm and law abiding as the election runs its course. We call on INEC to ensure the peaceful and transparent conclusion of this election. Situation Room also calls on security agencies to continue to maintain law and order through the remaining phases of this exercise.

-----  
SIGNED:

**Ene Obi**

*Convener, Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room*

**Asma’u Joda**

*Co-Convener, Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room*

**James Ugochukwu**

*Co-Convener, Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room*  
-----

**The Situation Room is made up of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working in support of credible and transparent elections in Nigeria numbering more than seventy. The Steering Committee is made up of: Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), CLEEN Foundation, Action Aid Nigeria, Centre for Women and Adolescent Empowerment, Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), Centre for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), African Centre for Entrepreneurship and Information Development (ACEIDEV), Justice Development and Peace Commission (JPDC) Nnewi, ASPILOS Foundation, Rule of Law and Accountability Advocacy Centre (RULAAC), MacJim Foundation, Kimpact Development Initiative, Democratic Action Group (DAG), Women’s Rights to Education Programme, EDO CSOs, Young Innovators and Vocational Training Initiative (YVITI), New Initiative for Social Development (NISD). Other groups are Centre LSD, CISLAC, WARD-C, Proactive Gender Initiative (PGI), Enough is Enough Nigeria, WANGONET, JDPC, YIAGA Africa, Development Dynamics, Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN), Stakeholder Democracy Network, Human Rights Monitor, Reclaim Naija, CITAD, Conscience for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution (CHRCR,) Nigerian Women Trust Fund, The Albino Foundation, Alliance for Credible Elections (ACE), Electoral Hub etc**

**SHORT STATEMENT BY SITUATION ROOM ON THE SUPPLEMENTARY GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION IN IHIALA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF ANAMBRA STATE 2021**

**Issued: 12:30pm - Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

Following INEC's rescheduling of the Anambra State Governorship Election in Ihiala Local Government Area to Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021, the Situation Room deployed 20 Observers (1 per ward) to observe the supplementary election.

Reports received from Ihiala LGA, indicate late deployment of materials and INEC staff from the LGA office. At 10.00am, which was the scheduled start time, there was no sign of INEC staff and voting materials at any of the polling units. The earliest report of arrival of INEC staff and materials was at 11:20am in Ndi Ezike Primary School, Umuamu 2, Ihiala LGA. At about 12noon several of the polling units had received their materials and the INEC officials were seen addressing the voters to commence accreditation or just setting up.

Situation Room observers have also reported late arrival of security officials at the polling units and in a few places the security personnel arrived before the INEC adhoc staff. A few voters were also seen arriving and leaving the polling units ahead of the arrival of the INEC adhoc staff. In one polling unit (PU 006 and PU 00, Azia Central School 1 and 2, Azia Ward, Ihiala LGA), Situation Room observers noticed less than 15 voters waiting for materials to be deployed and INEC staff to arrive.

Situation Room notes that voting is starting more than 2hours late on the average due to late deployment of voting materials and INEC adhoc staff. INEC will need to extend the time beyond 4pm to ensure all the voters who have come out to vote actually cast their votes.

As the voting process begins, Situation Room calls on INEC to ensure that the remaining part of the voting process goes on seamlessly particularly with the BVAS. Technical staff should be on hand to address any technical glitches with the machines. INEC should also mandate its ad-hoc staff to upload the results on the iRev portal immediately after the counting, sorting and announcement of results at PU levels to ensure transparency of the voting process.

-----  
SIGNED:

**Ene Obi**

*Convener, Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room*

**Asma'u Joda**

*Co-Convener, Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room*



**James Ugochukwu**

Co-Convener, Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room

-----

**The Situation Room is made up of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working in support of credible and transparent elections in Nigeria numbering more than seventy. The Steering Committee is made up of: Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), CLEEN Foundation, Action Aid Nigeria, Centre for Women and Adolescent Empowerment, Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), Centre for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), African Centre for Entrepreneurship and Information Development (ACEIDEV), Justice Development and Peace Commission (JPDC) Nnewi, ASPILOS Foundation, Rule of Law and Accountability Advocacy Centre (RULAAC), Mac-Jim Foundation, Kimpact Development Initiative, Democratic Action Group (DAG), Women's Rights to Education Programme, EDO CSOs, Young Innovators and Vocational Training Initiative (YVITI), New Initiative for Social Development (NISD). Other groups are Centre LSD, CISLAC, WARD-C, Proactive Gender Initiative (PGI), Enough is Enough Nigeria, WANGONET, JDPC, YIAGA Africa, Development Dynamics, Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN), Stakeholder Democracy Network, Human Rights Monitor, Reclaim Naija, CITAD, **Conscience for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution (CHRCR,)** Nigerian Women Trust Fund, The Albino Foundation, Alliance for Credible Elections (ACE), Electoral Hub etc**

-----

**Contact information:**

**Website: [situationroom.placng.org](http://situationroom.placng.org)**

**Email: [situationroom@placng.org](mailto:situationroom@placng.org)**

**Twitter @situationroomng**

**#NigeriaSituationRoom**

**Facebook: [Facebook.com/situationroomnigeria](https://www.facebook.com/situationroomnigeria)**

**Hotlines: 09095050505, 09032999919**

## **FINAL STATEMENT BY THE NIGERIA CIVIL SOCIETY SITUATION ROOM ON THE ANAMBRA STATE GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION 2021**

**Issued: In Abuja at 8:00am, Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

The Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room's observation of the Anambra State Governorship Election on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and the subsequent supplementary election conducted in Ihiala Local Government Area of Anambra State on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021, has come to a close. Situation Room received reports from its field observers, partners and networks in the course of the exercise.

In addition to our previous statements on the Anambra State Governorship Election, Situation Room notes as follows:

**Election Administration:** The administration of the Anambra State Governorship Election appears to have suffered from severe logistical challenges. Situation Room observed protracted delays in the opening of polls in most polling units, as a result of late deployment of ad-hoc staff of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and materials from Registration Area Centres (RACs) across the State. This issue reoccurred on a larger scale in the supplementary election held in Ihiala Local Government Area and was rather disappointing as it was expected that INEC would have been better prepared to deploy staff and materials early, with polls slated to open at 10:00am and the supplementary election holding in only one Local Government Area.

At the onset of the election on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> November, the Bi-modal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) posed challenges to the accreditation process in many voting locations, particularly failure to authenticate fingerprints and detect faces. This delayed the voting process. In some other instances where the batteries of the machines went flat, INEC's technical team responded and rectified the situation when contacted. However, the performance of the BVAS improved significantly in the supplementary election conducted in Ihiala LGA on 9<sup>th</sup> November. Reports from our observers indicated that it took an average of 3 minutes to accredit one voter when it worked, thereby making the voting process swift. During the Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> November election, the intervals between voters lasted up to 10 minutes due to these delays from the BVAS. Although INEC has now identified the cause of the delays, this would have been a major setback if there was huge voter turnout.

The upload of polling unit election results to INEC's Result Viewing (I-Rev) portal was satisfactory. From Situation Room's tracking, upload of results started at about 5:00pm, an hour after the extended time for the close of polls on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> November. As at 9:30pm, 60.1% of results had been uploaded. This rose to 73.5% at 12:30pm on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> November and further went up to 88.9% before 10:00am on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> November. This meant that 5.4% of polling unit results, apart from those from Ihiala LGA were yet to be uploaded more than 48 hours after the conclusion of voting on 6<sup>th</sup> November. Following the conclusion of the election with the conduct of the supplementary election in Ihiala LGA,

upload of results from eight LGAs are yet to be completed.

With respect to compliance with COVID-19 protocols, Situation Room observers sighted hand sanitisers at the polling units. However, social distancing and the use of face masks were not enforced.

The performance of ad-hoc staff during the election showed that there were knowledge gaps of the election process. In some of the polling units observed, ad-hoc staff struggled with operating the BVAS and were not aware of some procedures, such as displaying the register of voters in their polling unit of deployment. An example of this was observed in PU 003 (New Road Market Primary School), Odoakpu VI ward of Onitsha South LGA.

**Election Security:** The Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> election was largely peaceful in spite of the peculiarities of the security situation in Anambra State in the months leading up to the election. There were only a few reports of skirmishes caused by thugs and miscreants in some areas, during the election. Security agents were deployed to most of the polling units observed. The absence of security agents in a few polling units did not adversely affect the voting process.

During the supplementary election in Ihiala LGA, there were several reports of violence perpetrated by thugs around the polling units. At PU 005 (Umuatuegwu Primary School) in Okija IV ward, one of our observers was almost beaten up by political thugs. We also received reports of disruptive activities by miscreants in PU 001 (Orsu Central School) in Orsumoghu ward.

Situation Room notes that security agents on election duty were mostly civil in their conduct and were not reported to have harassed or intimidated voters or election observers. However, in some of the voting locations, they let vote buying take place unabated. There were also reports of inter-agency rivalry among security agents. Some security operatives from Nigeria Police also complained of non-payment of their election duty allowances. This is coming after reassurances by the Police that all personnel had been paid before the commencement of the election.

**Voter Turnout:** According to INEC, a total of 253,388 voters were accredited to participate in this election. This number stands for 10.3% of the 2,466,638 registered voters in Anambra State. Situation Room notes that several newly registered voters were unable to collect their Permanent Voter's Cards (PVCs) within the few days provided for this exercise, just before the election. This may have contributed to the low voter turnout, in addition to the tense political environment in the State in the lead up to the election.

**Vote Buying:** The menace of vote trading was once again observed in this election. In some polling units observed, there was an organised procedure for identifying voters who cast their votes for a particular political party in order to reward them afterwards. In other instances, party agents were soliciting for votes, and it became a matter of becoming the highest bidder, to gain the votes of the electorate. This unfortunate, recurring trend appears to be deepening in Nigeria's elections and needs to be urgently addressed with the co-operation of all stakeholders involved, including political parties, citizens and security agents. However, Situation Room

received the report of voters in Anambra State who bluntly refused to sell their votes, chasing away the vote buyers. Situation Room is disappointed that the perpetrators of this electoral offence were not arrested by security operatives .

## **Conclusion**

- Generally, the Anambra State Governorship election was violence free to the relief of stakeholders. Situation Room commends the commitment of individuals and groups, who made efforts to mediate peace and reduce political tension in the State.
- INEC's administration of the election fell short of the expected standard, especially in the light of the fact that the Commission had repeatedly assured of its readiness to conduct the election. The introduction of the BVAS is a welcome development but election preparations need to be improved upon, to deliver efficiency in its use for the accreditation process. Situation Room calls on INEC to make the necessary efforts to adequately prepare for other off-cycle elections scheduled for 2022 (Ekiti and Osun States) as well as the 2023 general elections. Where the Commission finds that it is unprepared to hold an election, it should resort to alternatives within the limits of the law, to decide on the best course of action.
- The incidence of low voter turnout is an issue of serious concern in Anambra State and Nigeria as a whole. Election stakeholders need to critically interrogate the diminishing rate of citizens' participation in the electoral process, with a view to overturning this trend.
- Vote trading has continued to feature in Nigeria's elections and will remain if perpetrators go unpunished. This brings to light the imminent need to establish the National Electoral Offences Commission prosecute electoral offenders.
- We commend the women in Anambra State for rejecting money to sell their votes and going ahead to vote their conscience. This should be emulated by other citizens who continue to sell their votes to the highest bidder without drawing the linkages between this act and the inability to demand for accountability and better governance from leaders.
- Situation Room enjoins all stakeholders to continue to sustain their efforts and support towards an improved electoral process and deepening democracy in Nigeria.

---

### **SIGNED:**

**Ene Obi**

*Convener, Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room*

**Asma'u Joda**

*Co-Convener, Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room*

**James Ugochukwu**

*Co-Convener Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room*

-----  
**The Situation Room is made up of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working in support of credible and transparent elections in Nigeria numbering more than seventy. The Steering Committee is made up of: Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), CLEEN Foundation, Action Aid Nigeria, Centre for Women and Adolescent Empowerment, Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), Centre for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), African Centre for Entrepreneurship and Information Development (ACEIDEV), Justice Development and Peace Commission (JPDC) Nnewi, ASPILOS Foundation, Rule of Law and Accountability Advocacy Centre (RULAAC), Mac-Jim Foundation, Kimpact Development Initiative, Democratic Action Group (DAG), Women’s Rights to Education Programme, EDO CSOs, Young Innovators and Vocational Training Initiative (YVI-TI), New Initiative for Social Development (NISD). Other groups are Centre LSD, CISLAC, WARD-C, Proactive Gender Initiative (PGI), Enough is Enough Nigeria, WANGONET, JDPC, YIAGA Africa, Development Dynamics, Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN), Stakeholder Democracy Network, Human Rights Monitor, Reclaim Naija, CITAD, Conscience for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution (CHRCR,) Nigerian Women Trust Fund, The Albino Foundation, Alliance for Credible Elections (ACE), Electoral Hub etc**



## GALLERY

















## ABOUT SITUATION ROOM

The Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room provides a co-ordinating platform for civil society engagement on governance issues. It is also a platform for information sharing among civil society groups working on elections and topical national issues. It intervenes in the electoral process by promoting collaboration, proactive advocacy and rapid response to crisis in the electoral process. The Situation Room provides a forum of advance planning, scenario building, evidence based analysis, constructive engagement with various stakeholders in the electoral process and observation of elections. PLAC hosts the secretariat of the Situation Room and is a member of its steering committee.

### Situation Room Secretariat:

Plot 451 Gambo Jimeta Crescent off Nasir EL-Rufai Crescent,

via Gilmor Junction, Guzape District, Abuja

Phone: 09095050505, 09032999919

Website: <https://situationroomng.org>

Facebook: [facebook.com/situationroomnigeria](https://facebook.com/situationroomnigeria)

Twitter: @situationroomng



NIGERIA CIVIL SOCIETY  
**SITUATIONROOM**