**REPORT OF GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION HELD ON THE 22ND SEPTEMBER, 2018 IN OSUN STATE.**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Gubernatorial Election in Osun State took place on 22nd September, 2018 as scheduled.

These reports cover all the activities that took place in Osun State Directorate before, during and after the elections. In other words, it is an xray of events that summarizes the activities of National Orientation Agency in Osun State in order to have free, fair and credible election.

Our collaborative efforts made with the Stakeholders such as INEC, Security Agents, Associations, Unions, Clubs, Societies and Non-Governmental organizations before and during the election in terms of Sensitization, Enlightenment, Mobilization programmes embarked upon in all the Local Government Areas of the State are quite commendable.

Also the monitoring and supervision of the conduct of the election were carried out throughout the state.

**PRE-ELECTION ACTIVITIES:**

**COLLABORATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS –**

1. **Security Operatives** – The Directorate also visited the Heads of the Security Operatives such as police, the Directorate of State Security Services and the commandant of Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, the Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps. The State Director solicited the collaboration of these security organizations in the conduct of a peaceful election;
2. **Media Organisations** – The State Director was invited to educate Osun State masses on our activities and enlightenment on the gubernatorial election. They include: Osun State Broadcasting Corporation (OSBC), Gold FM Ilesa, TVC Television and Nigeria Television Authority (NTA), Osogbo. The Director was interviewed by Mr. Hamisu Rogo from NTA Abuja on Friday 21st September and it was aired on Tuesday on NTA Network News: The State Director used these fora to explain the level of preparation for the election and she educated the public on the electoral guidelines. There was close synergy between the NOA and media organizations to enlighten the electorate on dos and don’ts of the election; on Tuesday, 25th September after the election she was interviewed on TVC Television
3. **Non-Governmental Organisations** – The Directorate partnered with many Non-Governmental Organizations such as: Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) of Germany on promoting a credible 2018 Governorship Election in Osun State held at White Plain Hotel and Suites on Tuesday 17th July, 2018. Other Non-Governmental organizations include: International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), Vote-Not-Fight Campaigners, the Hope for Family Development Initiiative (HFDI), the Federation of Informal Workers’ Organisation of Nigeria (FIWON). Officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission INEC are living witnesses to these collaborative programmes.
4. **COLLABORATION WITH (INEC)** – The state Director attended several stakeholders meeting with INEC. The meetings include the following:

1). Sensitization and Mobilisation forum for persons with Disabilities (PWD) and youth groups

2). Implementation meeting with Voter Education providers;

3). Osun State Inter-Agency Advisory Committee on Voter Education and Publicity (SICVEP);

4). Voter Education Implementation meeting;

5). Voter Education Forum for Youth Groups in Osun State;

6). INEC Chairman’s Election Stakeholders Forum.

All these meetings were attended by the State Director in preparation for the Gubernatorial Election. The International foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) through the INEC organized a training programme for all our Community Orientation and Mobilisation Officers on Voters Education.

1. **ADVOCACY VISIT TO TRADITIONAL RULERS:**

The State Director in company of all management members paid advocacy visits to some traditional rulers to solicit their support for smooth conduct of the gubernatorial election. The Director sought their support in the area of admonishing their subjects especially the youths to shun political violence before during and after the election. Amongst the traditional rulers visited were His Imperial Majesty Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, Ojaja II, Ooni of Ife, the Akinrun of Ikirun H.R.M Oba Olawale Adedeji and Aragbiji of Iragbiji H.R.M Oba Abdulrasheed Olabomi, Odundun IV; the Alademure of Ibokun in Obokun LGA.

Other groups of people visited on enlightenment programmes are the CAN and the League of Immams;

1. **VOTER EDUCATION:**

Collection of Permanent Voters Card (PVC) – The first series of our voter education programmes centred on collection of Permanent Voters Card (PVC). The Directorate made use of our mobilization vehicle and embarked on motorized sensitization on collection of (PVC). Letters were written to all churches and central mosques in the state requesting the Vicar-In-Charge and Chief Imams respectively to include the need for the collection of Permanent Voters’ Cards in their sermons.

We also sent letters to the political parties mandating them to mobilize their party members to collect the PVC. Apart from this, the COMOs went to all the Associations, Community, Development Councils, Unions, and Societies during their meetings to sensitize them on the need to have their PVCs with them.

The COMOs monitored on daily basis the effects of their mobilization efforts on the collection by visiting the INEC offices to know the figures of uncollected PVC. The Director also liaised regularly with the Resident Electoral Commissioner on this;

1. Sensitization on Conduct of Election – The Directorate adopted Jehovah witness strategy of house to house mobilization of the electorate in all the nooks and crannies of the state. The National Headquarters sent two mobilization vans to Osun State in order to reach out to people at the grassroot. The vehicles were maximally utilized in addition to our Peugeot 504 Station wagon. The mobilization and sensitization drive was intensive, even some members of staff used their personal cars attached with Public Address System to relay our jingles in every corner of the state.

**CONDUCT OF ELECTION:**

The Gubernatorial election was conducted on Saturday 22nd September, 2018 across the state of Osun. About 48 political parties sponsored candidates for this election. The names of each party will be reflected in the attached results.

**COMMENCEMENT OF THE ELECTION:**

The election started at about 8:00am with accreditation and voting and ended around 2:00pm. Those who came between 8:00am and 2:00pm were allowed to vote.

**DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTORAL MATERIALS:**

The creation of Registration Area Centres (RAC) by INEC eases the distribution of election materials in all the polling units. The INEC distributed the materials to Registration Area centres on Friday 21st September, 2018. Electricity was provided at all centres till dawn with heavy security presence. The materials, both sensitive and non-sensitive, were distributed from designated centres in the wards to all polling units around 5:30am. Before 8:00am, all the materials and adhoc INEC personnel were at the polling units. The election started at 8:00am throughout the polling stations.

**ADEQUACY OF MATERIALS:**

The electoral materials were sufficiently available at all the polling centres across the state. There was no report/complaints of shortage or insufficiency of materials by anybody or political parties. The number of ballot papers provided in each unit was based on the number of registered voters. There was no polling unit where all the ballot papers were exhausted.

**TURN-OUT OF VOTER’S:**

The voter turn-out was highly impressive. The total number of registered voters in the state is **1,668,524** and the toal number of people who voted was **767,** **444** Representing **45.99%.**

**ADEQUACY OF PERSONNEL:**

The Personnel employed by the INEC were adequate. Corpers and other category of personnel from federal establishments were recruited. The level of literacy of these personnel assisted the smooth operation at the voting points. There was no voting point where cases of inadequacy of personnel was reported.

**SECURITY PRESENCE:**

The INEC provided adequate security personnel for the exercise. In all the voting points, security personnel were there. Several numbers of Policemen, Civil Defence Corps, Department of State Security Services, the Military, FRSC and even Immigration Officers were in attendance. At least six to 8 security personnel were deployed to man each of the voting points.

The presence of security agents did not pose any threat neither did they intimidate, harass or embarrass anybody not to vote. The Military personnel barricaded all the entry points to each town and this impeded free flow of vehicular traffic.

**PARTY AGENTS:**

The INEC accredited party agents were in all the voting points. In most of the voting points, party agents were numbered up to 14 or 15. Although, not all the 48 political parties that participated in the election had their party agent on ground but a handful of them had their representatives as party agents.

**VOTERS’ LITERACY:**

The enlightenment programme carried out by the NOA improved the literacy level of the electorate as evidenced by the percentage of rejected votes. The percentage of rejected votes was negligibly low in most voting points when compared with the previous elections. These could be observed from the attached results.

**SECRECY OF BALLOT PAPERS/BOXES:**

In all the wards and polling units, ballot boxes were conspicuously displayed. The INEC provided enough security; apart from this, two cubicles were provided in some polling units which enabled two people to vote at a time. The needed secrecy was provided for the Ballots.

**TRANSPARENCY OF BALLOTS COUNTING:**

After the election, the ballot papers for each of the candidates were sorted out openly with full concentration of the electorate that cared to wait. The counting of ballot papers were read aloud for each of the candidates in each voting point. In each of the voting points, the figures obtained by each Candidate were entered into the appropriate result sheet which was signed by the party agents present.

**IRREGULARITIES**

The election was marred with pockets of irregularities in some units in the few Local Governments in the State. Generally, the election was peacefully conducted in many of the Local Governments. The analysis of the irregularities are stated Local Government by Local Government

**EJIGBO LOCAL GOVERNMENT:**

1. The Smart Card Reader (SCR) could not read the card of Mrs. Suab Rasheedat at ward 10 unit 001 at Aato Village with the code 29-10-10- 001 and therefore she was not allowed to vote;
2. At Ola ward 6 unit 006, a woman was denied voting despite the fact that the Smart Card Reader accepted her card and fingers, the photograph displayed on the card reader has a male face;
3. Ward 10 Inisa, Aato Igbon Ika unit 06 Baptist Day School Ika, Card Reader was very slow in capturing the card;
4. Ward 10 Dc School Igbon, SCR broke down intermittently.

**IWO LOCAL GOVERNMENT:**

Isale Oba ward II Paku unit 009 some of the voters could not find their names in the voter list but card reader accepted them and they were allowed to vote. Isale Oba ward 3 unit 10, the voter list provided was entirely different and the voters could not find their names though the Smart Card Reader accepted their cards and fingers, and they were later allowed to vote.

**ISOKAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT:**

Asalu mogi mogi ward 08 unit 005 the Smart Card Reader did not accept the card and finger print of Mr. Arabambi despite the fact that he used the card for the Senatorial election in the 2017 by-election.

**IREPODUN LOCAL GOVERNMENT:**

Ward 9 Seriki Compound unit 007, Hon. Isiaka Magaji (Jaaji) a serving councilor in the Local Government came to the unit and snatched the ballot box

Though it was recovered by the Military Personnel around 6:30pm from him the ballot was intact, the votes were counted in the presence of all the Party Agents present.

**IFEDAYO LOCAL Government:**

Voting was prevented at Ajebandele ward I, unit 007 because the voters did not allow the INEC Adhoc staff have access to the polling unit. The roads leading to the unit were charmed and blocked to prevent voting. The unit 08 of ward I was cancelled because there was a duplication of voters names of unit 07 in unit 08.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **AREA AFFECTED** | **NO OF POLLING UNIT** | **NAME OF POLLING UNIT** | **WARD** | **UNIT** | **REASONS** | **NUMBER OF VOTE AFFECTED** |
| **1** | **OROLU L.G** | **3** | **-Egan Aaje village(open space)**  **-Idi Iya village (pry. Sch)**  **-Gbogbo village 1 (Gbogbo pry.sch)** | **8**  **8**  **9** | **3**  **4**  **3** | **Ballot box was snatched.**  **Ballot box was snatched.**  **Card reader was taken away but later found** | **947** |
| **2.** | **Ife South**  **Ife South** | **2** | **Olode**  **Alutierin** | **7**  **8** | **012**  **10** | **Political violence and 3 people were arrested.**  **Card reader malfunctioned and use of manual accreditation was made** | **1314** |
| **3.** | **Ife North** | **1** | **Alapata** | **2** | **2** | **Card reader malfunctioned, manual accreditation was used instead and this caused over voting** | **353** |
| **4.** | **Osogbo** | **1** | **Ataoja E.** | **5** | **17** | **Presiding officer absconded with sensitive voting materials (No voting took place)** | **884** |
|  | **TOTAL** | **7** |  |  |  |  | **3,498** |

**GENERAL OBSERVATION**

1. It was observed that some RAC centers were not conducive enough for the Ad hoc-Staff, they were not well taken care of;
2. There was enthusiasm on the part of the voters despite this, the turnout was low;
3. There was a large number of voided votes which was as a result of the proliferation of the party agents who were at each other throats and some did not know how to fold the Ballot paper despite the public education imparted before the election.
4. There was secret vote buying despite the jingle, however it was reduced by the order against taking mobile phones to the cubicle.
5. The Card Reader functions effectively except for few places where it functioned slowly;
6. There is improvement on the effectiveness and use of card Reader except for some places where it functioned slowly (RAC OO7, Ife South, it took time to accept voter thumbprint and it caused apprehension.
7. It was observed that the INEC was time conscious as materials and personnel got to the voting centre on time. Except for some places e.g Ife South, Araromi oke-odo where it was delayed because of the bad roads.
8. It was observed that distruption, chaos and snatching of ballot boxes occurred during counting of votes by agents of Political parties.
9. Result sheets form EC8C were not well carbonized.
10. Some results Sheet were not pasted as expected by the Presiding Officers.
11. Some Presiding Officers did not cancel their unused ballot papers at the end of voting before sorting and counting of ballot papers.
12. Voting process commenced on time;
13. It was observed that the addition of valid and rejected votes did not agree with the number of accredited voters.
14. The materials were adequate and
15. The large number of observers added credibility and also prevented manipulation of the electoral process.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. There are too many political parties that participated in the Guber election. This necessitated having a long ballot paper with tiny party symbols. This made it difficult for voters in folding the ballot papers resulting in some voided votes on account of ink blotting. We want to recommend that there must be a restriction to the number of political parties registered in the sense that there should be provisions for constitutional amendments to this effect. It is desirable for the NASS to begin to think on how to reduce the number of registered political parties.
2. Also our politicians should imbibe a vibrant political culture. That is why our politicians do not always accept the results of elections. They need to know that election is a race and there is bound to be a winner and a loser. People should have confidence in the political process.
3. INEC should be unbundled. INEC does not have the personnel, resources, competence and time to prosecute electoral offences. Consequent upon this, the Electoral offences Tribunal should be constituted and special prosecutors or judges should be put in place to prosecute electoral offenders.
4. Political parties are recommended to complement NOA efforts on voter education;
5. The INEC Ad-hoc staff should be adequately taken care of at the Registration Area Centres (RAC) on pre-election day;
6. Adequate security as applicable in this election should be provided in subsequent elections;
7. NOA at the Headquarters should be provided with identification materials such as election jacket, tags to Assistant COMOs and Headquarters staff for easy monitoring;
8. INEC to organize intensive training for Party Agents on their roles during election;
9. Many monitors and observers should be encouraged to participate in electoral process to avoid manipulation in election process;
10. It is recommended that the style of stopping the usage of phone at the polling unit when casting votes be sustained. This curbed to a large extent the saying **“vote and cook soup”** (Dibo ko sebe);
11. It would be better if the constitution permits the reduction of the political parties to four or five. Some of these parties are not popular and this also makes the election process to be too expensive;
12. We recommended that in future elections, observers and monitors from different organizations and election Stakeholders be allowed access into the Registration Area Centres (RACs) to keep track of happenings there;
13. Cognizance should be taken of difficult terrains when preparing for elections in future. Such difficult terrains include marshy areas, area with bad roads, and remote locations so as to prevent a situation in which voting materials will not reach such areas on time for the election to be conducted and
14. INEC should work on improving on the print quality of her result sheets for the copies to have a clear view as the original and produce copies enough to go round for the aspirants, party and security.

**REPORT OF THE RE-RUN ELECTION HELD ON THURSDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2018.**

The voting exercise was carried out in four local governments namely: Ife North, Ife South, Orolu and Osogbo LGAs where elections were not held or there were disturbances in the course of the election process. The exercise started at 08.00am in the said polling units in the respective local governments.

**GENERAL OBSERVATION**

Prior to the day of election, military men were deployed to the state in droves which actually terrified or caused panic in the citizenry. People wondered why the need for this in a democratic set up. However, this did not discourage the voters from exercising their franchise.

**IRREGULARITIES**

On the day of election at Ataoja E Ward 5 Unit 17, the turnout was very impressive, even though there was palpable tension because of the large number of armed security personnel. There were reports from Orolu, Ife North and Ife South Local Government Areas of harassment against some voters who were denied voting. They alleged they were sent back by some thugs while the security personnel they thought should protect the voters did nothing. This was not very clear as nobody was apprehended. In Osogbo Local Government Area, Ataoja E Ward 5 unit 17 it took the intervention of the INEC Official and the Commissioner of Police (CP) in charge of election operations Mr. Omololu Bishi before they allowed the Media men to come in to observe around 12 noon.

It was reported that there were sporadic gunshots at the venue of this voting centre which would have advertently frightened voters away. This they see as an aberration.

At Ward 9 Unit 3 in Gbogbo village in Orolu Local Government Area information had it that voters who were allowed into the polling unit to vote had white handkerchiefs tied to their wrists. This, they say is a symbol that they are voting for a particular party and should be allowed into the polling arena. Others without this were turned back.

Voters claimed they were disenfranchised because apart from turning them back at polling stations, their cards were even snatched from them in some places and given to others to use. It was alleged that impersonation took place at random even with the PVC in use and the card reader.

At Ife South, Adereti village, observers were denied access to the polling unit. The PDP Party Agent was conspicuously absent from the venue of voting at so crucial and an important exercise. No one could adduce the reason why this is so.

In Ife North, there was alleged under age voting at Alapata Oyere II.

Vandalization of Osun State Broadcasting Corporation correspondents’ equipment who came to cover the electoral process by some hoodlums at Akindeko junction of Alekuwodo road, Osogbo was recorded. The OSBC correspondent was alleged to have been mercilessly beaten to a state of stupor as reported by the Osun State NUJ Chairman and has been hospitalised while another correspondent had his hand matcheted and may have lost the use of the hand.

It was highly appalling that the election that was acclaimed to be free and fair on the 22nd of September turned out to be a fracas at the re-run on the 27th.

Those who were disenfranchised felt cheated and wondered why the need to collect their PVC when at the end of the day they could not use it.

**NOTES:**

Most of the electorate appeared to be intimidated as a result of heavy presence of Security Operatives e.g in Unit 001 kajola village at Ward 8 in Orolu Local Government there were 33 Police men, 17 NSCDC and 13 Military personnel.

At Olode and Aluti-erin Units in Ife-South Local Government, Voters complained seriously of not being allowed to cast their votes.

Thugs freely used dangerous weapons to intimidate voters without being challenged.

**OROLU LOCAL GOVERNMENT:**

The PDP Supporters alleged non- access to the three(3) Polling Units i.e Ward 8 Unit 003 Gbogbo Primary School, Ward 8 Unit 004 ldi-lya and Ward 8 Unit 001 Kajola Village.

**IFE-NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT:**

Some of the Domestic Observers were not allowed access to the polling unit at Oyere Alapata.

**IFE-SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT:**

Some thugs invaded the Polling Units 007 and 012 and prevented the voters to cast their votes. Some voters complained of not being allowed to use their Permanent Voter Cards which they had struggled to collect from the INEC.

**OSOGBO LOCAL GOVERNMENT:**

At ward o5 Ataoja E unit 17, Osun State Broadcasting Corporation (OSBC) Journalist was harassed, beaten and intimidated. The affected journalist was later taken to the hospital for treatment.

**CONCLUSION:** The election was keenly contested among five major political parties that is, ADC, ADP, APC, PDP and SDP. Although, there were forty-eight political parties on the ballot papers and this caused confusion among the aged and illiterate voters who found it difficult to look for their party logo. The election can be adjudged not to be totally free and fair because of the aforementioned instances of intimidation and attacks.

On the whole, INEC has done well, but there are still rooms for improvement in the area of welfare of personnel and planning.

