



ELECTORAL TECHNICAL NOTE 2024 ONDO GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION



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Contents

.....	1
Contents	2
Acronyms.....	3
Introduction and Background	4
Our Approach	6
Key Figures for Ondo Decides 2024	8
The Highlights	9
Conclusion	39

Acronyms

A	Accord
AA	Action Alliance
AAC	African Action Congress
CAN	Christian Association of Nigeria
AEOs	Assistant Electoral Officers
APC	All Progressive Congress
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
CEMESO	Centre for Media and Society
CJID	Centre for Journalism Innovation and Development
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CVR	Continuous Voter Registration
EMBs	Electoral Management Bodies
EOs	Electoral Officers
EVMAT	Election Violence Mitigation and Advocacy Tool
ICCES	Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security
INEC	Independent National Electoral Commission
IPC	International Press Centre
IReV	INEC Result Viewing Portal
IRIAD	Initiative for Research, Innovation and Advocacy in Development (IRIAD)
LGA	Local Government Area
LP	Labour Party
NBA	Nigeria Bar Association
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NOA	National Orientation Agency
NSCDC	Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps
NTA	National Television Authority
PDP	Peoples Democratic Party
POs	Presiding Officers
PU	Polling Units
PVCs	Permanent Voter Cards
PWD	People With Disability
RACs	Registration Area Centres
SPOs	Supervising Presiding Officers
STOs	State Training Officers
TEI	The Electoral Institute
ToT	Training of Trainers
ZLP	Zenith Labour Party

Introduction and Background

The Ondo State Governorship Election is scheduled for Saturday, November 16, 2024. This will be the seventh governorship election in the state since the return to democracy in 1999. The Ondo State governorship election is one of the off-cycle elections conducted after the 2023 general election. It became an off-cycle election because Olusegun Agagu's re-election as governor was annulled by a court in 2009 due to electoral irregularities which led to his removal from office. Olusegun Mimiko was subsequently sworn in as the new governor on February 24, 2009, replacing Agagu.

Electoral accountability and integrity matters across all democracies¹. To enhance electoral governance and integrity in Nigeria and achieve an improved electoral process for the Ondo governorship election, addressing issues that arose before, during, and after the general election is essential. Electoral governance here presupposes that substantive uncertainty requires procedural certainty. Its central task therefore, is organising electoral uncertainty by providing institutional certainty.² Meaning, the electoral process rules and procedures must be certain while electoral outcomes must be uncertain. Winners and losers of electoral contests should not be known beforehand, otherwise the institutions would be said to have been compromised.

Electoral integrity has been conceptualised³ in a variety of ways by researchers, electoral support bodies and practitioners. For instance, the Global Commission on Elections, Democracy, and Security Report (2012) defines electoral integrity as "any election that is based on the democratic principles of universal suffrage and political equality as reflected in international standards and agreements, and is professional, impartial, and transparent in its preparation and administration throughout the electoral cycle and depends on public confidence in electoral and political processes"⁴. Meaning, it is one thing to have electoral reforms, and another to convince citizens that the reforms deserve their confidence and trust. Electoral integrity is also a political problem as noted in the Report. Power, and the competition for power, must be regulated because it is not enough to have EMBs, political actors must respect and safeguard the independence and professionalism of election officials, judges and courts.⁵

¹ See Justin Fisher, J. and Sällberg, Y. (2020) Electoral integrity – The winner takes it all? Evidence from three British general elections. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, Vol. 22(3): 404– 420

² Mozaffar, S. and Schedler, A. (2002). "The Comparative Study of Electoral Governance-Introduction". *International Political Science Review*, Vol 23(1): 5-27. Page 11

³ See for instance, traditional conceptions by one of the leading researchers, Pippa Norris: electoral integrity is negative (characterised by fraud and malpractice) and positive (characterised by credibility and competitiveness)

⁴Global Commission on Elections, Democracy and Security (2012). "Deepening Democracy: A Strategy for Improving the Integrity of Elections Worldwide". Koffi Annan Foundation

⁵ Ibid

In this paper, electoral integrity is seen in a more holistic manner informed by human rights and capturing a wide range of electoral practices⁶. The Electoral Hub takes the same position postulated by Fisher and Sällberg (2020), “that analysis of electoral integrity should not only examine instances and perceptions of malpractice and fraud – negative electoral integrity, but also instances and perceptions of good practice – positive electoral integrity”⁷. This is because election processes will neither be all good nor all bad. What is required is an analysis of both the good and bad parts of these processes⁸.

⁶Fisher, J. and Sällberg, Y. (2020). “Electoral integrity – The winner takes it all? Evidence from three British general elections”. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, Vol. 22(3): 404– 420

⁷ Ibid, page 406

⁸ Ibid

Our Approach

For this election, The Electoral Hub as an accredited observer will monitor the process, and observe pre-electoral period, electoral period, and post-electoral period activities through *an electoral accountability framework*. This approach is rooted in the recognition and understanding that effective electoral governance alone does not guarantee good elections, because a “complex variety of social, economic and political variables affect the process, integrity, and outcome of democratic elections”⁹. However, good elections are impossible without effective electoral governance. In other words, elections are multifaceted, complex, and encompassing both socio-political and administrative dimensions. This perspective acknowledges that while the electoral management body (EMB) plays a crucial role, the responsibility for ensuring the credibility and integrity of elections extends to various key stakeholders and institutions of the electoral process and governance. These include the legislature, executive, judiciary, political parties, candidates, security agencies, voters, CSOs, and the media. Each of these stakeholders contribute significantly to shaping the integrity and quality of electoral governance, electoral processes and elections.

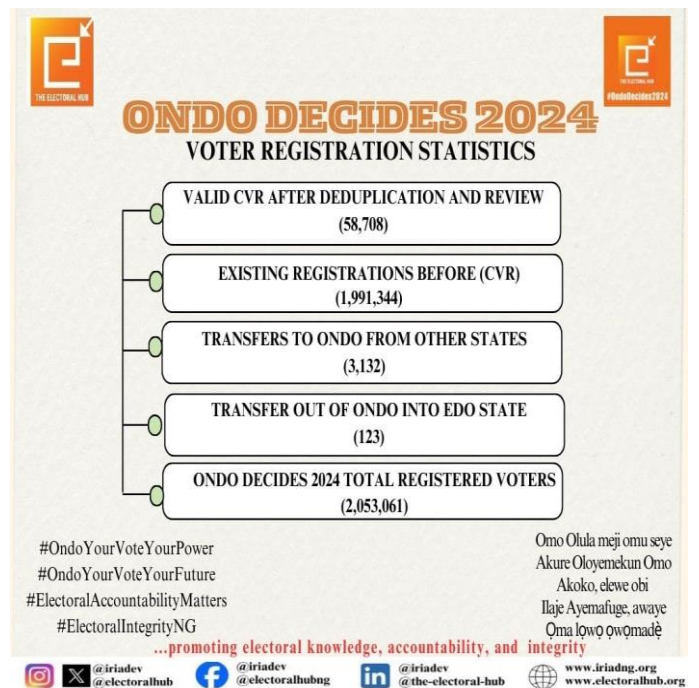
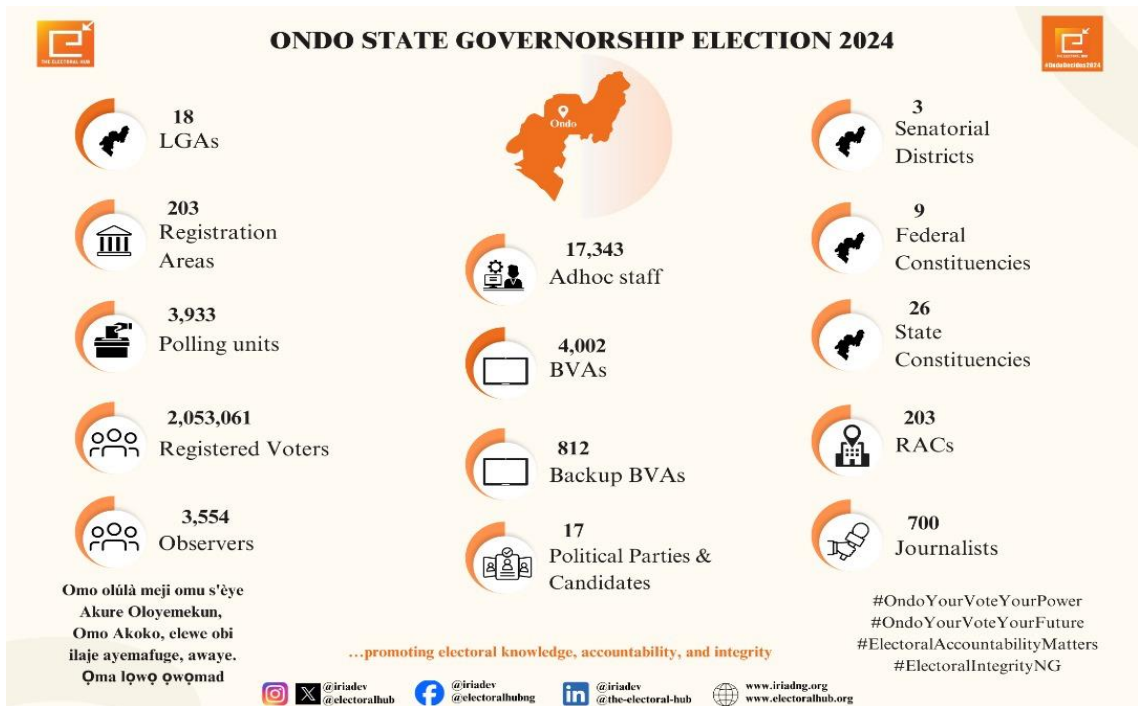
The Electoral Hub emphasises the need to amplify these critical stakeholders’ and institutions roles in safeguarding electoral integrity. By recognizing that elections are collective and complex enterprises with diverse interdependent, and interconnected institutions, actors and multifaceted activities, which are influenced by the sociocultural and political contexts, we seek to promote a holistic approach to improving electoral processes and governance. Considering that the success, quality, and legitimacy of elections depend on the collective efforts and interactions of all involved institutions and actors, rather than solely on the actions of the electoral management body. Through this comprehensive view, The Electoral Hub aims to advance electoral accountability and integrity while fostering collaboration among all electoral stakeholders, thus working towards elections that are not only administratively sound but also socially and politically meaningful.

This leaning guides our work and informs the production of this Electoral Technical Note to enlighten critical stakeholders, educate the electorate and sensitize the public on the socio-political context and power dynamics for the forthcoming Ondo State

⁹Mozaffar, S. and Andreas Schedler, A. (2002). “The Comparative Study of Electoral Governance-Introduction”. *International Political Science Review* (2002), Vol 23(1): 5-27. Page 6

governorship election. The Note provides key figures and covers five broad thematic areas namely: electoral background, socio-economic environment, political dynamics, civil terrain and stakeholders' engagements, and integrity measures for the election.

Key Figures for Ondo Decides 2024



The Highlights

S/N	ISSUE	FEATURE
ELECTORAL BACKGROUND		
1	The Election	<ul style="list-style-type: none">— The Ondo State Governorship Election is scheduled to hold on Saturday, 16 November 2024¹⁰.— The upcoming election will be the seventh governorship election in the state since the return to democracy in 1999.— Governorship elections were held on January 9, 1999; April 19, 2003; April 14, 2007; October 20, 2012¹¹; 26 November 2016; 10 October 2020.— The election is important as it provides another platform for implementing and deploying lessons from the 2023 November 11, off-cycle elections.— The election also provides an opportunity for the Commission to implement the provisions of the Electoral Act 2022.

¹⁰ https://inecnigeria.org/?page_id=12946

¹¹ In February 2009, Olusegun Agagu's re-election as governor was annulled by a court due to electoral irregularities, leading to his removal from office. Olusegun Mimiko was subsequently sworn in as the new governor, replacing Agagu.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — This election is to elect the governor and the deputy governor for a four-year term. It provides further opportunities for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and other stakeholders to enhance their institutional capacity, maintain the integrity of the electoral process, and reinforce Nigeria's electoral democracy.
2	<p>Constitutional and Legal Framework</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The conduct of elections in Nigeria is governed by the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and the Electoral Act 2022. — Section 176 (1) and (2) of the 1999 Constitution provides for the Office of the Governor. — Section 177 of the Constitution outlines the qualifications for candidates contesting for election to the Office of the governor as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 'he' is a citizen of Nigeria by birth; (b) 'he' has attained the age of thirty-five years; (c) 'he' is a member of a political party and is sponsored by that political party; and (d) 'he' has been educated up to at least School Certificate level or its equivalent. — The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), the Electoral Act, 2022, and INEC Regulations and Guidelines for the Conduct of Elections, 2022, constitute the legal frameworks governing the conduct of the November 16, 2024, election.

		<p>— The conduct and management of the election will be handled by INEC, the Federal Electoral Management Body (EMB) of Nigeria with the legal authority to plan, carry out, and oversee all elections for the offices of President and Vice President, Governor and Deputy Governor of a State, the National Assembly (the Senate, and House of Representatives) and House of Assembly of each State of the Federation (State House of Assembly).</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Electoral Delimitation</p>	<p>— Ondo State is delimited into 18 Local Government Areas (LGAs)¹², and 203 Registration Areas (RAs).</p> <p>— It is divided into three senatorial districts; Central Senatorial District; Northern Senatorial District and Southern Senatorial District.</p> <p>— Additionally, it has nine Federal Constituencies¹³, namely; Akoko South West/Akoko South East; Akoko North West/Akoko North East; Akure North/Akure South; Ondo East/Ondo West; Odigbo/Ile-Oluji/Oke-Igbo; Idanre/Ifedore; Ilaje/Ese-Odo; Owo/Ose; Okitipupa/Irele.</p> <p>— Ondo State has 26 State Constituencies.</p> <p>— Ondo State currently has 2,053,061 registered voters, reflecting a 3% increase from the 2023 General Election register of 1,991,344¹⁴. There are 3,933 Polling Units in the state.</p>

¹² <https://www.mepbondostate.org/meet-us/ondo-state-profile/>

¹³ [https://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng/pdfuploads/FACTS%20&%20FIGURES%20ON%20ONDO%20STATE%20\(2010\).pdf](https://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng/pdfuploads/FACTS%20&%20FIGURES%20ON%20ONDO%20STATE%20(2010).pdf)

¹⁴ <https://twitter.com/inecnigeria/status/1821172940651598002>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — 4,002 BVAS will be deployed for the election with 812 backups¹⁵.
4	Key Electoral Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Notification of Election – 22 November 2023¹⁶. — Party Primaries - 6 April 2024 – 27 April 2024. — Submission of forms EC9 and EC 9B online (Nomination Portal) – 29 April 2024 – 20 May 2024 — Publication of Personal Particulars of Candidates by INEC – 27 May 2024. — Last day for withdrawal by candidate (s)/replacement of withdrawn candidate (s) by political parties – 10 June 2024 — Submission of names of candidates by Political Parties - 17 June 2024 — Publication of the final list of candidates by INEC - 18 June 2024. — Last day for submission of names of Polling Agents for the Election to the Electoral Officer of the LGA by Political Parties – 30 September 2024 — Publication of the official Register of Voters for the election by INEC – 15 October 2024. — Publication of Notice of Poll by INEC - 2 November 2024. — Campaign by Political Parties in Public - 18 June 2024 – 14 November 2024. — Election Day - 16 November 2024.

¹⁵ Mrs. Oluwatoyin Babalola, Ondo REC Slide Presentation at the Situation Room Dialogue with Ondo State REC, October 29, 2024

¹⁶ https://inecnigeria.org/?page_id=12946

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

5 Ondo State People and Geography

- Ondo State has a land area of 14,788.723 square kilometers¹⁷. It is located in the Southwestern part of Nigeria¹⁸.
- Ondo State was established on February 3, 1976, following its separation from the former Western State. Initially, the state encompassed the current Ekiti State, which later became an independent state in 1996. Akure serves as the capital of Ondo State¹⁹.
- Ondo State is famous for hosting vibrant festivals, including the Ogun Festival in Ile-Oluji and the Ekimogun Festival in Ondo City, which highlight the area's diverse cultural heritage²⁰.
- There is also the Mountain Climbing and Cultural Festival (Mare) takes place in Idanre every December²¹.
- Another unique feature in the state is the Idanre hill. Idanre hill stands out as a natural terrain in Nigeria, featuring significant cultural landmarks such as Owa's Palace, Shrines, Old Court, Belfry, Agbooogun footprint, thunder water (Omi Apaara), as well as burial mounds and grounds²².

¹⁷ <https://www.mepbondostate.org/meet-us/ondo-state-profile/>

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ <https://ondostate.gov.ng/>

²⁰ <http://www.ekimogundescendant.org/odun-oba-festival-in-ondo-kingdom/>

²¹ <https://www.mepbondostate.org/meet-us/ondo-state-profile/>

²² <https://cultourism.ondostate.gov.ng/idanre-hills/>

- The hill is remarkable and has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site²³. It was included in the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List under the Cultural category on October 8, 2007²⁴.
- Other notable tourist features include; Araromi White Sand Beach, Idanre Hills Tourist Centre, Ebomi Lake Tourist Centre, Igbo Olodumare, Smokin Hill Golf Resort, Oke Maria (Christian Pilgrimage Center), Isarun Cave of Ashes, Owo Palace & Museum, Akure Palace, Idanre Botanical Gardens and Park, and The International Centre for Events and Culture, (The Dome)²⁵.
- Majority of people in Ondo State are Christians, however, there are also a substantial number of Muslims in Ikare and a few other areas in the state²⁶. Additionally, there are many traditional worshipers²⁷.
- Most of the populations are subsistence farmers, fishermen, and traders²⁸.
- Ondo State is bordered by Ekiti State to the north, Kogi State to the northeast, Edo State to the east, Delta State to the southeast, Ogun State to the southwest, Osun State to the northwest, and the Atlantic Ocean to the south²⁹.
- Major town and cities in Ondo State include, Akure, Okitipupa, Ondo, Ikare, Owo, Ode-Aye, Igbotako, Ilutitun, Ile-Oluji, Ore, Ifon, Igbara-Oke, Irele,

²³ Ibid

²⁴ <https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/5169/>

²⁵ <https://ondipa.org/tourism/>

²⁶ <https://synwpublications.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/ondo-state-pocket-factfinder.pdf>

²⁷ Ibid

²⁸ <https://www.mepbondostate.org/meet-us/ondo-state-profile/>

²⁹ <https://ondipa.org/about-ondo-state/>

Owena, Idanre, Oka, Igbokoda, Isua, Bolorunduro, Igbekebo, Iju, Ita-Ogbolu, Oke-Igbo, Ido-Ani, Ikun, Ilara, Ijare and Oke-Agbe³⁰.

- Ondo State is a major producer of oil palm, cassava, rubber, mango, and rice³¹.
- Ondo State is one of Nigeria's top producers of cassava, with an estimated 5 million metric tons of output in 2021³².
- Ondo State is one of the primary cocoa-producing states in Nigeria.³³
- It is also Nigeria's fifth-largest producer of hydrocarbons, producing over 60,000 barrels of crude oil a day³⁴.
- The state also has abundant mineral resources, including kaolin, limestone, bulk clay, silica sand, and granite. Notably, it is home to the largest deposit of bitumen in Africa³⁵.
- Additional mineral resources in the state include rock, tin, coal, columbite, quartz sand, granite, limestone, and talc³⁶. It has the longest coast line in Nigeria³⁷.
- The state's geography has an impact on election preparation, logistics, and deployment, which is crucial to highlight. These include difficult terrains such as a riverine Ilaje, and Ese Odo LGAs, and hilly Idanre and Akoko LGAs.

³⁰ [https://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng/pdfuploads/FACTS%20&%20FIGURES%20ON%20ONDO%20STATE%20\(2010\).pdf](https://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng/pdfuploads/FACTS%20&%20FIGURES%20ON%20ONDO%20STATE%20(2010).pdf)

³¹ <https://ondipa.org/about-ondo-state/#:~:text=It%20is%20a%20major%20producer,deposit%20of%20bitumen%20in%20Africa.>

³² <https://ondipa.org/agriculture/>

³³ ³³ <https://medium.com/zowasel/5-top-cocoa-sourcing-locations-in-nigeria-edf7a6a53f57#:~:text=Ondo%20State%20stands%20out%20as.a%20prominent%20role%20in%20production.>

³⁴ Ibid

³⁵ Ibid

³⁶ <https://www.mepbondostate.org/meet-us/ondo-state-profile/>

³⁷ Ibid

6

Ondo State Electorate

- Ondo state electorates are predominantly composed of Yoruba people, who can be broadly categorized into the following dialectical groups: Akoko, Owo, Ondo, Ikale, Ilaje, and Akure³⁸.
- However, the Ijaw-Arogbo and Ijaw-Apois, who inhabit riverine areas of the state, are not of Yoruba ancestry and represent distinct ethnic groups within the state's diverse population³⁹.
- From the 2006 census data, Ondo State had a total population of 3,460,877 with 1,745,057 males and 1,715,820 females⁴⁰ and a land mass of 14,606km²⁴¹. The population estimate in 2022, is 5,316,600 at a 2.1% annual population growth⁴².
- Its workforce is 55.2% of the total population⁴³ and 45.8% of households receive remittances, including 9.4 remittances internationally and 42.9 remittances domestically⁴⁴.
- Ondo State's poverty headcount rate for 2018/2019 is 12.5%⁴⁵, the poverty income gap is 0.023, and the Gini coefficient is 25.5⁴⁶.

³⁸ [https://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng/pdfuploads/FACTS%20&%20FIGURES%20ON%20ONDO%20STATE%20\(2010\).pdf](https://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng/pdfuploads/FACTS%20&%20FIGURES%20ON%20ONDO%20STATE%20(2010).pdf)

³⁹ Ibid

⁴⁰ <https://nigeria.opendataforafrica.org/xspplpb/nigeria-census>

⁴¹ <https://archive.ph/20130105064307/http://www.world-gazetteer.com/wg.php?x=1133987757&men=gadm&lng=en&gln=xx&dat=32&geo=-158&srt=pnan&col=aohdq&srt=apnn>

⁴² <https://www.citypopulation.de/en/nigeria/admin/>

⁴³ NBS (2020) Nigeria Living Standards Survey 2018/2019, page 49 <https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/download/1123>

⁴⁴ NBS (2020) Nigeria Living Standards Survey 2018/2019, page 62 <https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/download/1123>

⁴⁵ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1121438/poverty-headcount-rate-in-nigeria-by-state/>

⁴⁶ The World Bank (2022) Nigeria Poverty Assessment 2022: A Better Future for All Nigerians. Accessed from <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099730003152232753/pdf/P17630107476630fa09c990da780535511c.pdf>

- The 2022 Poverty Assessment Report by the World Bank states that Ondo State's median deflated consumption per person/year is ₦222,666, and 27.8% of the population are multidimensionally poor⁴⁷.
- Ondo State has an average household size of 3.88 family members⁴⁸
- The Ondo State dependence ratio in the Nigeria Living Standards Survey 2018/2019 is 0.90, and on average, 28.9% of households have female heads⁴⁹.
- The percentage of Persons with Disability (PWDs) in Ondo State is 1.41% for men and 1.58% for women⁵⁰.
- 65.58% of the people use better sources of drinking water, and 38.06% of the people are literate⁵¹. 69.3% of households are connected to the national grid and 65.8% of households have access to electricity⁵².
- The Ondo State Universal Basic Education Board revealed that there are at least 240,000 out-of-school children in the state⁵³.
- Ondo State, despite being an oil-producing state, relies on agriculture as the primary driver of its economy⁵⁴. Both oil and agriculture contribute to 90% of the State's Gross Domestic Product. Ondo State also accounts for 40% of cocoa exports from Nigeria⁵⁵.

⁴⁷ Ibid

⁴⁸ NBS (2020) Nigeria Living Standards Survey 2018/2019, page 10 <https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/download/1123>

⁴⁹ Ibid

⁵⁰ NBS (2020) Nigeria Living Standards Survey 2018/2019, page 43 <https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/download/1123>

⁵¹ <https://nigeria.opendataforafrica.org/#>

⁵² NBS (2020) Nigeria Living Standards Survey 2018/2019, page 48 <https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/download/1123>

⁵³ Dada, P. (2024). SUBEB records 240,000 children out of school in Ondo. Punch Newspapers. <https://punchng.com/subeb-records-240000-children-out-of-school-in-ondo/>

⁵⁴ <https://ondipa.org/about-ondo-state/#:~:text=It%20is%20a%20major%20producer,deposit%20of%20bitumen%20in%20Africa.>

⁵⁵ Ibid

— Tertiary institutions in Ondo State include Elizade University, Ilara-Mokin; Federal University of Technology, Akure; Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba-Akoko; Ondo State University of Science and Technology, Okitipupa; Achievers University, Owo; Wesley University of Science and Technology, Ondo; Rufus Giwa Polytechnic, Owo; Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo; University of Medical Sciences, Ondo; Federal Polytechnic, Ile Oluji; and Federal College of Agriculture, Akure.

POLITICAL DYNAMICS

7 2020 Governorship Election

- The last governorship election in Ondo state was held on October 10, 2020, 17 political parties participated⁵⁶.
- Late Governor Rotimi Akeredolu of the All Progressives Congress (APC) was re-elected for a second term⁵⁷.
- Akeredolu defeated Eyitayo Jegede of the People’s Democratic Party (PDP) and Agboola Ajayi of the Zenith Labour Party (ZLP), along with candidates from other parties⁵⁸.

⁵⁶ This Day. (2020). 17 Political Parties to Participate in Ondo Guber Election. <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/07/10/17-political-parties-to-participate-in-ondo-guber-election/>

⁵⁷ Premium Times. (2020). Akeredolu Wins Ondo Governorship Election. <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/419976-just-in-ondodecides2020-akeredolu-wins-ondo-governorship-election.html>

⁵⁸ Ibid

- Akeredolu (APC) won with 51.1% of the votes, Eytayo Jegede (PDP) secured 34.2% of the votes, and Agboola Ajayi (ZLP) obtained 12.1% of the votes⁵⁹.
- Ahead of the election, there was a strained relationship between Governor Akeredolu and his deputy, Agboola Ajayi, which fueled political tension in the state⁶⁰.
- Reports preceding the election included Ajayi's convoy being restrained, and his police escort being withdrawn, with allegations against Governor Akeredolu and the Police Commissioner⁶¹.
- Before the election, Governor Akeredolu tested positive for COVID-19 and went into isolation, with disputes over whether he should have handed over to Ajayi⁶².
- The Ondo State House of Assembly also attempted to impeach Ajayi, who had defected to the PDP, but the Chief Judge declined to set up an investigative panel⁶³.
- Ifedayo Abegunde resigned, with speculations that he supported Ajayi's governorship ambition⁶⁴.

⁵⁹The Electoral Hub (2020), Lessons from Edo State 2020 Governorship Election <https://electoralhub.iriadng.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/P-Lessons-from-Ondo-State-Governorship-Election.pdf>

⁶⁰ Premium Times (2020), How Akeredolu-Ajayi Feud Will Affect Chances at the Poll, <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/features-and-interviews/419351-analysis-ondo2020-how-akeredolu-ajayi-feud-will-affect-chances-at-the-poll.html>

⁶¹ Olatunji, H. (2020). "My police escort has been withdrawn" -- Ondo deputy gov raises the alarm. The Cable. <https://www.thecable.ng/my-police-escort-has-been-withdrawn-ondo-deputy-gov-raises-the-alarm/>; Babajide, A. (2020). Ondo Deputy Gov, Ajayi fumes as Police Commissioner withdraws his security escort. Daily Post Nigeria. <https://dailypost.ng/2020/06/24/ondo-deputy-gov-ajayi-fumes-as-police-commissioner-withdraws-his-security-escort/>

⁶² Yakubu, T. (2020). You are incapacitated... hand over to me, deputy gov tells Akeredolu. TheCable. <https://www.thecable.ng/you-are-incapacitated-hand-over-to-me-deputy-gov-tells-akeredolu/>; <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/ssouth-west/401057-covid-19-akeredolu-deputy-spar-over-handing-over-of-governorship-seat.html>

⁶³ Yakubu, T. (2020). Ondo CJ rejects impeachment move against deputy governor. TheCable. <https://www.thecable.ng/breaking-ondo-chief-judge-rejects-impeachment-move-against-deputy-governor/>; <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/632979-impeachment-ondo-chief-judge-declines-setting-up-probe-panel-on-deputy-governor.html>

⁶⁴ This Day. (2020b). Ondo SSG Resigns from Akeredolu's Govt. <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/07/06/ondo-ssg-resigns-from-akeredolus-govt/>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — After the APC and PDP primaries, there were increased violent clashes and destruction of campaign materials. — Ajayi was seen as a potential strong contender alongside the APC and PDP candidates⁶⁵. — On the eve of the election, the PDP raised concerns about the impartiality of the Returning Officer, which INEC dismissed⁶⁶.
8	Political Parties, Candidates and Inclusivity	<p>17 political parties will be participating in the election including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — All Progressive Congress (APC) – Incumbent party at the state and national — People’s Democratic Party (PDP) – Major opposition — Labour Party – Minor opposition — Social Democratic Party – Minor opposition — Other 13 political parties <p>Candidates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The final list of candidates for the Ondo 2024 election was approved and published by INEC on Thursday, June 13, 2024⁶⁷. — The list is made up of 17 governorship candidates, and 17 deputy governorship candidates for the 2024 Ondo election. The candidates are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Falaiye Abraham Ajibola, Accord (A)

⁶⁵ <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/418746-analysis-ondo-2020-the-strengths-weaknesses-of-three-main-contenders.html>

⁶⁶ <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/ssouth-west/419346-ondo-2020-inec-replies-pdp-says-oau-vc-not-returning-officer.html?tztc=1>

⁶⁷ INEC Twitter (2024) [@inecnigeria], <https://twitter.com/inecnigeria/status/1801311728040325262>

2. Akinuli Fred Omolere, Action Alliance (AA)
3. Ajayi Adekunle Oluwaseyi, African Action Congress (AAC)
4. Nejo Adeyemi, Action Democratic Congress (ADC)
5. Akinnodi Ayodeji Emmanuel, Action Democratic Party (ADP)
6. Aiyedatiwa Lucky Orimisan, All Progressives Congress (APC)
7. Popoola Olatunji Tunde, All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA)
8. Ogunfeyimi Isaac Kolawole, Allied Peoples Movement (APM)
9. Fadoju Amos Babatunde, Action Peoples Party (APP)
10. Olorunfemi Ayodele Festus, Labour Party (LP)
11. Olugbenga Omogbemi Edema, New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP)
12. Ajayi Alfred Agboola, People's Democratic Party (PDP)
13. Alli Babatunde Francis, People's Redemption Party (PRP)
14. Akingboye Benson Bamidele, Social Democratic Party (SDP)
15. Akinmurele John Otitolaju, Young Progressive Party (YPP)
16. Adegoke Kehinde Paul, Youth Party (YP)
17. Mimiko Olubansile Abbas, Zenith Labour Party (ZLP)

Electoral Inclusivity

- There are 17 governorship candidates, 0 female governorship candidates, 14 male and 3 female deputy governorship candidates, and 1 PWD governorship candidate.
- The female deputy governorship candidates are:
 - Moyosola Elizabeth Olorunmonu (ADP)
 - Adu Olabisi Olubukola (LP)

		<p style="text-align: center;">– Shekoni Susan Gbemisola (SDP)</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Pre-election Litigations</p>	<p>Elections in Nigeria are usually characterized by litigations from aggrieved party members during the pre-election period. The Ondo State 2024 governorship election is no different. As of June 26, 2024, the media already reported pre-election litigation with details as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Jimoh Ibrahim, a senator, and aspirant in the APC primaries, filed a suit (marked: FHC/ABJ/CS/588/2024) seeking to void the 20 April governorship primary election that produced Governor Aiyedatiwa as the APC candidate⁶⁸. — Ibrahim alleges non-compliance with the provisions of the Electoral Act, 2022, and the party’s guidelines during the primary⁶⁹. — He sought to set aside the primaries results, to prevent Aiyedatiwa from being the APC’s candidate for the election, and asked INEC to delist APC and Aiyedatiwa from the list of candidates unless a fresh primary is conducted⁷⁰. <p>All pre-election litigations must be resolved before the elections to ensure a fair and transparent electoral process, maintain public confidence in the democratic system,</p>

⁶⁸ Premium Times. (2024, May 14). Ondo 2024: Court orders Aiyedatiwa, others to file defence. Premium Times Nigeria. <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/ssouth-west/694371-ondo-2024-court-orders-aiyedatiwa-others-to-file-defence.html>; <https://thenationonlineng.net/ondo-guber-jimoh-ibrahim-urges-court-to-void-aiyedatiwas-nomination-as-apcs-candidate/>

⁶⁹ Ibid

⁷⁰ Ibid

		and prevent any potential disruptions that could undermine the legitimacy of the election results.
10	Power Dynamics	<p>For this election, the political landscape has been lively, with series of changes as evident in recent defections across party lines. The following provides some view of the power dynamics the state:</p> <p>PDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — In a significant political shift ahead of the Ondo State election, in February over 2000 members of the PDP, along with chieftains of ZLP, defected to the ruling APC⁷¹. — This wave of defections includes notable figures such as Dare Aliu, a former House of Representatives candidate; Dr. Felder Olatunji Adeoye; Hon. Prince Olu Falolu; Hon. Anodele Ikumawoyi; Pastor Olatunde Felix; Chief Pius Akinrinmola; Hon. Isaac Olaleye; Alhaji Adebayo Oyewumi; Hon. Yele Akinya; Chief Akinmoye Ajewole; General Adegborioye Sunday; Chief Ayekomilogboa Tayo; Mrs. Toyin Akindele; Com. Akinmade Babatunde; Mrs. Taju Mopinola; Hon. Tonu Ala; Hon. Dele Faboro, Deputy Leader of the PDP Leader’s Forum; Comrade Ajisafe Omobumi; Mr. Olusegun Samuel; Mr. Adeyeye Michael; Hon. Adermola Elegbe; Alhaji Jimoh Ibrahim; Hon. Adeolu Adeniran; Comrade Femi; and Hon. Rotimi A. Akindejoye⁷².

⁷¹ Olaiya, T. (2024, February 15). Ondo 2024: Hundreds of PDP, ZLP members defect to APC. Guardian Nigeria News. <https://guardian.ng/ondo-2024-hundreds-of-pdp-zlp-members-defect-to-apc/>

⁷² Ibid

- The defectors cited dissatisfaction with the PDP's effectiveness and leadership as their primary reasons for leaving. Following the defection, a former PDP lawmaker, Tomide Akinribido, emphasized their commitment to ensuring a total victory for the APC ⁷³.
- This influx of former PDP members into the APC is expected to significantly boost the APC's chances in winning the election.

APC

- Also significant is the June 2024 defection of over a thousand members of the APC to the PDP⁷⁴.
- Notable defectors include Akinwande Fayinminu, the former APC Organising Secretary in Akure South, and Boboye⁷⁵.
- The defectors cited dissatisfaction with the APC's leadership, blaming it for increased hunger, hardship, and lack of internal democracy within the party. They also criticized the APC for operating like an "occultic group" and failing to integrate many members⁷⁶.
- The defections could weaken the APC's popularity and strengthen the PDP's position in the election. The PDP, with Hon. Agboola Ajayi, as its flagbearer is positioning itself as a better alternative, aiming to capitalize on the internal issues

⁷³ Dada, P. (2024). Scores of Ondo PDP, ZLP members defect to APC. Punch Newspapers. <https://punchng.com/scores-of-ondo-pdp-zlp-members-defect-to-apc/>

⁷⁴ Dada, P. (2024). PDP candidate receives APC defectors, Vows to unseat Aiyedatiwa. Punch Newspapers. <https://punchng.com/pdp-candidate-receives-apc-defectors-vows-to-unseat-aiyedatiwa/>

⁷⁵ Ibid

⁷⁶ Ibid

within the APC and the general discontent among its members. Ajayi has assured the defectors of their rights within the party and emphasized the PDP's readiness to provide a better alternative and accelerate development in the state if elected.

During and after the APC and PDP primaries, there were increased violent clashes and destruction of campaign materials, which in some cases led to the death of some prominent party members⁷⁷.

CIVIL TERRAIN AND STAKEHOLDERS' ENGAGEMENT

11 INEC and Stakeholders' Engagement

- The Commission on March 19, 2024, held the first regular quarterly consultative meeting with political parties in Abuja⁷⁸. The meeting also focused on the preparations for the off-cycle Governorship elections in Edo and Ondo States⁷⁹.
- The Commission on March 20, 2024, held the first regular quarterly consultative meeting with representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs)⁸⁰. The meeting focused on the upcoming off-cycle governorship elections in Edo and Ondo States⁸¹.

⁷⁷ <https://www.icirnigeria.org/ondo-2024-threat-of-electoral-violence-raises-concerns-after-two-chieftains-death/>

⁷⁸ Habib, G. (2024). Parties' infighting, parallel primaries wasting INEC resources – Yakubu. Punch Newspapers. <https://punchng.com/parties-infighting-parallel-primaries-wasting-inec-resources-yakubu/>

⁷⁹ Ibid

⁸⁰ Balogun, Y. (2024). Ondo Guber: Observe party primaries, strengthen advocacy on inclusivity - INEC tells CSOs. Daily Post Nigeria.

<https://dailypost.ng/2024/03/20/ondo-guber-observe-party-primaries-strengthen-advocacy-on-inclusivity-inec-tells-csos/>

⁸¹ Ibid

- The Commission on March 21, 2024, held the first quarterly consultative meeting with media organizations⁸². The meeting focused on strategic collaborations and preparations for the governorship elections in Edo and Ondo States.
- The Commission on March 22, 2024, held the second Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) meeting for the governorship elections in Edo and Ondo States, Abuja⁸³.
- On May 13, 2023, INEC held its second regular quarterly consultative meeting with the Leaders of Political Parties at the Commission’s headquarters, Abuja, on Edo and Ondo governorship elections⁸⁴.
- On May 14, 2024, INEC held its Second Regular quarterly consultative meeting with civil society organizations focus on elections in Edo and Ondo States⁸⁵.
- On May 15, 2024, INEC held its quarterly consultative meeting in Abuja with Media Organizations, ahead of the 2024 Edo and Ondo States Governorship Elections⁸⁶.

⁸² Habib, G. (2024). Guard against fake news about INEC, Yakubu urges journalists. Punch Newspapers. <https://punchng.com/guide-against-fake-news-about-inec-yakubu-urges-journalists/>

⁸³ Habib, G. (2024). INEC chairman urges security agencies to ensure smooth Edo, Ondo gov polls. Punch Newspapers. <https://punchng.com/inec-chairman-urges-security-agencies-to-ensure-smooth-edo-ondo-gov-polls/>

⁸⁴ Oyekeanmi, R. (2024). Gov Polls: INEC To Resume CVR in Edo, Ondo States May 27. Official Newspaper of the Independent National Electoral Commission of Nigeria. <https://inecnews.com/gov-polls-inec-to-resume-cvr-in-edo-ondo-states-may-27/>

⁸⁵ Punch. (2024). INEC, parties mobilise for voter registration in Edo, Ondo. <https://punchng.com/inec-parties-mobilise-for-voter-registration-in-edo-ondo/>

⁸⁶ Ameh, G. (2024, May 16). INEC Seeks Media Support in Mobilizing Citizens for CVR Exercise in Edo, Ondo. TheSightNews. <https://thesightnews.com/2024/05/16/inec-seeks-media-support-in-mobilizing-citizens-for-cvr-exercise-in-edo-ondo/>; INEC. (2024). [@Inecnigeria]. <https://twitter.com/inecnigeria/status/1790717991002222823>

- On May 15, 2024, INEC held a stakeholder meeting on Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise for the 2024 Ondo State Governorship Election at Akure Ondo State⁸⁷.
- INEC held its quarterly consultative meeting with the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) on May 16, 2024, in preparation for the Edo and Ondo Governorship elections⁸⁸.
- INEC called on registered Civil Society Organizations and Non-governmental Organizations interested in observing the elections in Edo and Ondo states to send in applications via the designated link⁸⁹:
- On July 29, 2024, the Commission held its third regular quarterly consultative meeting with political parties.⁹⁰
- On July 30, 2024, the Commission held its third regular consultative meeting with CSOs⁹¹.
- On July 31, 2024, the Commission held its third regular consultative meeting with media organizations⁹². During the meeting, the Commission provides updates on the preparations for the Edo and Ondo governorship elections.

⁸⁷ <https://twitter.com/inecnigeria/status/1791108876261048615>

⁸⁸ Oyekanmi, R. (2024). INEC Enjoins Security Agencies To Prevent Negative Mobilisation By Parties in Edo, Ondo. Official Newspaper of the Independent National Electoral Commission of Nigeria. <https://inecnews.com/inec-enjoins-security-agencies-to-prevent-negative-mobilisation-by-parties-in-edo-ondo/>

⁸⁹ https://observergroups.inecnigeria.org/inec/observer_2_0/organization/add/.

⁹⁰ INEC (2024), [@inecnigeria]. <https://twitter.com/inecnigeria/status/1817875783605518626>

⁹¹ INEC (2024), [@inecnigeria]. <https://twitter.com/inecnigeria/status/1818235158849265925>

⁹² INEC (2024), [@inecnigeria]. <https://twitter.com/inecnigeria/status/1818597692689281474>

- INEC on August 14, 2024, held the third regular quarterly consultative meeting with ICCES⁹³. Security concerns of the Ondo election were also discussed.
- Ahead of the Ondo Governorship Election on August 26, 2024, the Commission held a capacity-building workshop for voter education providers in Akure, Ondo State.
- On September 9, 2024, the portal for Online Accreditation of media organisations for Ondo State Governorship Election was opened. Media organizations were expected to apply via the designated link:⁹⁴
- INEC released the summary of polling and collation agents submitted by political parties for the Ondo governorship election⁹⁵. The Commission revealed that, although they anticipated the participation of 74,790 agents, the political parties submitted only 24,148 agents for consideration⁹⁶.
- On October 15, 2024, the Commission presented the official Register of Voters to the political parties at the INEC Ondo State office⁹⁷. This contributes to promoting transparency in the electoral process.
- A one-day Roundtable discussion with the theme ‘Enhancing Voter Participation and Inclusivity in the 16th November 2024 Ondo Governorship Election’ was organized by the Commission through The Electoral Institute

⁹³INEC (2024), [@inecnigeria]. <https://twitter.com/inecnigeria/status/1823710898587877716>

⁹⁴ <https://imap.inecnigeria.org/>

⁹⁵INEC (2024), [@inecnigeria]. <https://twitter.com/inecnigeria/status/1842206044295991694>

⁹⁶Ibid

⁹⁷INEC (2024), [@inecnigeria]. <https://x.com/inecnigeria/status/1846160788920152087>

(TEI) on October 15, 2024⁹⁸. The event aimed at increasing voters' participation in the upcoming Ondo State governorship election⁹⁹.

- On October 17, 2024, the Commission held its Fourth Regular Consultative Meeting with Political Parties¹⁰⁰. During the meeting, the INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu updated the political party members on the ongoing activities of the Commission ahead of the election¹⁰¹.
- INEC organized a forum for on-air personalities, producers, and reporters¹⁰². The goal of this event was to provide media professionals with thorough knowledge of the policies, procedures, and norms of the approaching Ondo State Governorship Election in 2024¹⁰³.
- On October 31, 2024, the Commission held its fourth regular consultative meeting with CSOs¹⁰⁴. During the meeting, members of CSOs discussed extensively the lessons learned during the Edo governorship election and preparation for the Ondo election.
- On November 1, 2024, the Commission held its fourth regular consultative meeting with media organizations¹⁰⁵. The meeting focused on the Commission's preparations ahead of the Ondo governorship election¹⁰⁶.

⁹⁸INEC (2024), [@inecnigeria]. <https://x.com/inecnigeria/status/1846264365160583499>

⁹⁹ Ibid

¹⁰⁰INEC (2024), [@inecnigeria]. <https://x.com/inecnigeria/status/1846922143923163402>

¹⁰¹ Ibid

¹⁰² INEC (2024), [@inecnigeria]. <https://x.com/inecnigeria/status/1849039294947545227>

¹⁰³ Ibid

¹⁰⁴ INEC (2024), [@inecnigeria]. <https://x.com/inecnigeria/status/1852308790344880157>

¹⁰⁵ INEC (2024), [@inecnigeria]. <https://x.com/inecnigeria/status/1852308790344880157>

¹⁰⁶ Ibid

		<p>— On November 7, 2024, in preparation for the Ondo governorship election, INEC held a stakeholder meeting in Akure with major stakeholders including the Police, political parties, candidates, members of ICCES, traditional and religious leaders, CSOs/election observers, media organisations, etc.¹⁰⁷</p>
12	<p>Training/Electoral Personnel Engagement</p>	<p>— The Commission trained representatives CSOs for Ondo and Edo states governorship elections.¹⁰⁸</p> <p>— On May 21, 2024, the Training of Trainers (ToT) in preparation for the deployment of trainers For Continuous Voter Registration Exercise (CVR) In Edo and Ondo States, was held at TEI Auditorium.¹⁰⁹</p> <p>— INEC held a retreat for RECs on Edo and Ondo governorship elections on June 1 – June 3, 2024¹¹⁰. During the retreat, the INEC chairman emphasized how crucial it is to provide the incoming RECs with the instruction and tools they need to carry out their duties efficiently¹¹¹.</p> <p>— On July 24, INEC organized a workshop on Election Violence Mitigation and Advocacy Tool (EVMAT) for field agents in Akure for the election ¹¹².</p>

¹⁰⁷ INEC (2024), [@inecnigeria]. <https://x.com/inecnigeria/status/1854495288288813550>

¹⁰⁸ <https://www.channelstv.com/2024/05/14/inec-to-train-794-cso-officials-ahead-of-edo-ondo-governorship-elections/>; <https://independent.ng/inec-holds-pre-election-training-for-observers-ahead-of-edo-ondo-guber-polls/>

¹⁰⁹ <https://twitter.com/inecnigeria/status/1793145663389094265>

¹¹⁰ Habib, G. (2024d). INEC holds retreat for RECs ahead of Edo, Ondo gov polls. Punch Newspapers. <https://punchng.com/inec-holds-retreat-for-recs-ahead-of-edo-ondo-gov-polls/>

¹¹¹ Ibid

¹¹² INEC (2024), [@inecnigeria]. <https://twitter.com/inecnigeria/status/1816213432405762346>

- TEI conducted three-day training for electoral security personnel¹¹³. The aim of the training is to ensure that security personnel carried their electoral duty effectively while displaying high level of professionalism¹¹⁴.
- TEI on October 28, 2024, commenced the Training of Trainers (ToT) in Preparation for the Ondo governorship election¹¹⁵. The purpose of the ToT training is to give a thorough education to selected INEC officials, who would then instruct field personnel on election-related technology, voter management, and election-day processes.
- The Commission held technical training for Electoral Officers (EOs) and Assistant Electoral Officers (AEOs) on polling and counting procedures, as well as pre-election preparation training for EOs and AEOs, training for RAC managers¹¹⁶.
- The SPO readiness training was conducted October 30 – 31, 2024¹¹⁷. The Electoral Institute organized the training with the goal that participants would be able to effectively carry out the electoral duties of SPOs in accordance with the Regulation and Guidelines for the Conduct of Elections, 2022, and organize and conduct training of POs/APOs on polling and counting procedures¹¹⁸.
- The Commission organized training for SPOs from November 1 – 3, 2024¹¹⁹.

¹¹³INEC (2024), [@inecnigeria]. <https://x.com/inecnigeria/status/1845908354645864608>; <https://x.com/OndoPoliceNg/status/1845839924047614021>

¹¹⁴ Ibid

¹¹⁵ INEC (2024), [@inecnigeria]. <https://x.com/inecnigeria/status/1850853513888203133>

¹¹⁶ Mrs. Oluwatoyin Babalola, Ondo REC, Slide Presentation

¹¹⁷ INEC (2024), [@inecnigeria]. <https://x.com/inecnigeria/status/1852424943545303261>

¹¹⁸ Ibid

¹¹⁹ Ibid

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Training of PO/APOs was conducted from November 8 – 10, 2024¹²⁰. — Given that presiding officers make up the majority of poll officials, the state undertook a 13-week intensive training program for NYSC members before the general training to make sure they understood their obligations¹²¹.
13	Community Stakeholders Engagements	<p>Traditional Rulers Engagement</p> <p>Traditional rulers in Ondo State play a key role in elections in the state as demonstrated by their endorsements and strategic engagements with candidates.</p> <p>Below are some of these engagements by Traditional rulers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Under the aegis of 130 Crown Obas, a group of Ondo State traditional leaders declared their support for Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa, stating that his victory in the APC governorship primaries was a divine agenda¹²². — Hon. Oluwole Emmanuel Ogunmolasuyi, the Majority Leader of the State House of Assembly, paid courtesy visits to prominent traditional rulers in the Owo LGA to secure support for the APC candidate, Governor Aiyedatiwa¹²³. — These traditional rulers include: HRM Oba Ajibade Gbadegesin Ogunoye III, the Olowo of Owo; HRM Olufemi Joel Adeluwoye II, the Asuada of Isuada;

¹²⁰ Ibid

¹²¹ Ibid

¹²² <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/04/apc-primary-ondo-130-crown-obas-congratulate-aiyedatiwa/>

¹²³ <https://sunshinetruthng.com/2024/08/29/ondo-2024-hon-ogunmolasuyi-galvanizes-support-of-owo-monarchs-for-aiyedatiwa/>

		<p>HRM Ebenezer Adewumi Ogunmolasuyi II, the Olupenmen of Ipenmen, and HRM Alayeluwa Oba Kokumo Oluwabamise Olotu Upa Ogbomaga III, the Alale of Idasen¹²⁴.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The PDP governorship candidate, Agoola Ajayi paid a courtesy visit to the Kalasue of Apoi land¹²⁵ and got pledge of support from rulers in Apoi. — The Deji of Akure, Oba (Dr.) Aladetoyinbo Ogunlade Aladelusi CFR, the chairman, Council of Obas, hosted members of the State Peace Mediation Working Committee. He commended the Committee and encourage citizens peaceful participation in the election¹²⁶. — The Alajowa of Ajowa, Idanre LGA, Oba Albert Omosebi, asked for continuous engagement of rural communities to guarantee benefit from democracy¹²⁷. HRM made the appeal during Community Engagement for Lucky Aiyedatiwa (CELA) door-to-door rural campaign. — APC candidate campaign tour in Ese Odo LGA included visit to HRM the Anananawe of Bolowou, (Pere) Judge Ugulapelewei Jemine¹²⁸.
14	<p>Stakeholder’s Engagement with the Electoral Process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The Electoral Hub prepared this electoral technical note and Political Context Analysis to provide insight into the political and social contexts for the election. The Electoral Hub also produced and disseminated series of infographics about

¹²⁴ Ibid

¹²⁵ <https://thefolderng.com/news.php?a=ondo-2024--apoi-royal-fathers-receive-agboola-ajayi--s-return-certificate--endorse-ambition->

¹²⁶ <https://www.thehopenewspaper.com/ondo-2024-traditional-rulers-seek-peaceful-election/>

¹²⁷ <https://tracnewsmagazine.com/dividends-of-democracy-traditional-ruler-tasks-ondo-government-on-rural-engagement/>

¹²⁸ <https://www.tvcnews.tv/2024/10/ese-odo-traditional-rulers-leaders-endorse-aiyedatiwa/>

the election as part of its civic education engagements aimed at increasing electoral knowledge in citizens and sensitizing them about the election.

- Kimpact Development Initiative (KDI) launched an AI platform called ‘Naija Elections’ to address electoral misinformation and hate speech issues¹²⁹.
- KDI in partnership with the Ondo State Police Command, and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) held the Ondo Election Peace and Security Summit¹³⁰. The Summit had security actors discuss security and peaceful elections.
- Members of the Ondo State Peace Mediation Working Committee conducted advocacy visits to key stakeholders. Members are from the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) and the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA); traditional institutions, religious organizations, and market women, among others¹³¹. This effort is aimed at enhancing the peaceful involvement of citizens and stakeholders in the governorship election¹³².
- The International Press Centre (IPC) and the Centre for Media and Society (CEMESO) organized a series of dialogues and stakeholder engagements aimed at promoting fair, ethical, and inclusive media coverage of electoral processes¹³³. Their objective is to foster peaceful behavior among citizens during these critical times.

¹²⁹ Guardian. (2024). CSO unveils AI tool to tackle hate speech, fake news ahead of Edo, Ondo polls. Guardian Nigeria News. <https://guardian.ng/cso-unveils-ai-tool-to-tackle-hate-speech-fake-news-ahead-of-edo-ondo-polls/>

¹³⁰ https://x.com/KDI_ng/status/1846179281522610499

¹³¹ Ibid

¹³² Ibid

¹³³ <https://justambitioustoserveinfo.org/2024/09/11/2024-ipc-cemeso-prepare-ondo-journalists-for-credible-issue-based-election-coverage/>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — DAI - European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria Programme (EU-SDGN) supported the training of INEC staff in Ondo state¹³⁴. The goal of the training was to improve INEC staff members' competency to conduct a free, fair, credible, and transparent election in the state. — The Centre for Journalism Innovation and Development (CJID) as part of its Media in National Election (MiNE) project, produced a Citizens' Perception Survey on the election¹³⁵. — In an effort to enhance female participation in the election, the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) launched a sensitization campaign to empower women and raise awareness about their roles in the electoral process¹³⁶. — Yiaga Africa produced a Pre-Election Assessment of the Security Trends for the election¹³⁷.
15	Media in Ondo State	<p>Radio Stations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Radio Nigeria Positive FM, 102.5 FM, Akure, owned by the Federal Government. The station has a wide coverage, reaching neighboring states. — Orange FM Akure, 94.5 FM, Orita Obele, Akure, owned by the State Government.

¹³⁴ <https://eusdgn.org/ondo-governorship-election-eu-supports-the-training-inec-staff-on-effective-electoral-administration/>

¹³⁵ <https://thecjid.org/cjid-releases-citizens-perception-report-on-edo-and-ondo-2024-gubernatorial-elections/>

¹³⁶ <https://thewhistler.ng/edo-ondo-polls-when-nawoj-engaged-women-for-robust-participation/>

¹³⁷ <https://yiaga.org/publications/edo-ondo-political-and-security-trends-pre-election-assessment-of-the-edo-and-ondo-2024-governorship-election/>

- Alalaye, 96.5 FM: Located in Orita Obele, Akure, and owned by the state government. Alalaye is a part of the Ondo State Radiovision Corporation (OSRC).
- Empire FM Akure, 104.5 FM: Located in Akure.
- Crest FM Akure, 88.7 FM, Alagbaka, Akure. Owned by Chief Olumide Origunloye, a prominent personality in Ondo State and a farmer.
- Don Bosco Internet Radio, Akure. Owned by Salesians of Don Bosco (SDB)
- Adaba FM Akure, 88.9 FM: Located in Ilara-Mokin, Akure, it is a subsidiary of TVC Communications owned by Mr. President, Senator Ahmed Tinubu.
- Breeze, 91.9 FM, Akure.
- Suncity Radio, 101.1 FM, Ondo city. Owned High Chief Sir Dr. Engr. Olabanji Akinyomide Akingbule, MICE, MFR, JP, SPN.
- Rugipo 103.3 FM, Owo and owned by the Rufus Giwa Polytechnic, a state polytechnic.
- Kàkàkí Òndó FM: Located in Ondo City.
- Eki Radio 100.9 FM, Ondo City and it is owned by late Chief Jiseoluwa Akinmurele.
- FUTA Radio, 98.1 FM, Akure and owned by the Federal University of Technology Akure.

TV Stations

- National Television Authority (NTA) Akure: A Federal government owned television with wide coverage in the state.

- OSRC TV: It is state owned television and has wide coverage in the state.
- Remdel Television: An indigenous television that is owned by Late Biodun Ibitola.
- Kaftan TV: It is owned by Adewole Adebayo with coverage in Ondo, Lagos and Abuja.

Newspapers

- The Hope Newspaper, Akure: A state-owned newspaper located in Akure. It focuses on providing information from Ondo State and Nigeria as a whole.

INTEGRITY MEASURES

16 Integrity Measures for Ondo State Electoral Process

- INEC has followed the timeline and schedule and properly made regulations and guidelines public. Hence fostering certainty and stability.
- INEC effectively engages with stakeholders evidenced by INEC routinely communicating the election preparations through several meetings.
- Additionally, INEC has consistently educated and sensitized the electorate and the public by posting information on its website and engaging through meetings at the local levels, conventional and social media.
- To ensure that every eligible voter is listed in the voter registration for the 2024 Ondo State Governorship Election, the Commission authorized the CVR exercise, which took place from May 27 to June 2024.

- Voter education activities have been conducted. These were carried out offline - grassroots community interactions, and online - social media engagements.
- INEC has disclosed all election-related information to all key stakeholders and the public. The public can, for instance, could get details on candidates, political parties, PVC collection, election technology, and voter registration.
- As was the practice of INEC, the implementation of the INEC Results Viewing portal (IReV) would strengthen the process' integrity through measures of transparency and accountability.
- There is freedom for CSOs other stakeholders to engage in the process and engage with the INEC.
- The Commission for seven days displayed the voters register claims and objections by citizens in Edo and Ondo states in the 395 Wards across the two States¹³⁸.
- PVCs have been made available to citizens in two stages. The first collection of 55,859 PVCs at RAs from October 17 – 21, 2024. The second collection of 61,919 PVCs at LGAs from October 23- 29, 2024¹³⁹.
- On November 6, 2024, the Commission tested the BVAS machine's usability, effectiveness, and operation at selected PUs and LGAs in the state as part of INEC's preparation for the election. Functionality of the IReV was also tested¹⁴⁰.

¹³⁸ Ukoh, E. (2024, June 12). Guber Elections: INEC To Display Voters' Register For Claims and Objections. Voice of Nigeria. <https://von.gov.ng/guber-elections-inec-to-display-voters-register-for-claims-and-objections/>

¹³⁹ Mrs. Oluwatoyin Babalola, Ondo REC Slide Presentation

¹⁴⁰ Ibid; <https://inecnews.com/inec-conducts-mock-accreditation-affirms-readiness-for-gov-election/>

Conclusion

Electoral Accountability and Integrity Matters! As already stated in the introduction, electoral processes comprise inordinate complexity and interdependence of diverse stakeholders and multifaceted activities. All these different stakeholders are responsible for the quality, credibility and integrity of electoral process and governance. In other words, they are important for free, fair, and credible elections.

The forthcoming 2024 Ondo State governorship election will significantly impact the state's future. Given its significance, this Electoral Technical Note offers a comprehensive overview of the various aspects of this election, scheduled for November 16, 2024. It is crucial to understand the context of the election. This marks the seventh governorship election in Ondo following the restoration of civilian government in 1999. It presents an opportunity to enforce the Electoral Act, 2022, to enhance INEC's capacities and reinforce the integrity of elections in Nigeria. Moreover, this election provides an opportunity for INEC and other electoral stakeholders to apply the lessons learned from other off-cycle elections. Ondo State's unique geography, cultural diversity, and population will all contribute to shaping the election. The political landscape is dynamic, with 17 political parties vying for power, including the incumbent APC and the primary opposition, the PDP. Political defections underscore power dynamics and their potential impact on election outcomes.

The involvement of community stakeholders and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) is also a crucial aspect of the civil domain. The impact of traditional leaders, alongside the active participation of CSOs collaborating with security agencies, is vital to maintaining a peaceful election environment. Lastly, measures to ensure transparency and trust have been implemented such as stakeholders' engagements, the deployment of electoral technologies, accredited observers and a test of the BVAS and IReV from the mock accreditation exercise aim to enhance the integrity of the electoral process.

For this election, the knowledge gained and lessons learned from past elections, the active participation of stakeholders, and the implementation of measures to ensure integrity will all play a part in creating a more transparent, credible, trustworthy, accountable, and peaceful electoral process. The citizens of Ondo and the entire nation eagerly anticipate the outcome of this decisive election, which will undoubtedly influence the state's governance for the next four years. Our collective aspiration is that this election will signify progress toward enhancing the credibility and integrity of Nigeria's electoral governance and democratic development.

About The Electoral Hub

The Electoral Hub is an interdisciplinary knowledge, policy and advocacy centre promoting electoral knowledge, accountability, and integrity. We are committed to providing solutions to improve the credibility and integrity of the electoral process and governance. Our mission is to strengthen electoral governance in Nigeria through the provision of critical and contextualized analysis. We believe that the integrity of the electoral process is crucial in improving electoral governance and sustaining democracy in Nigeria. We also believe in solutions rooted in the principles of justice and equity.

Our vision is to be an electoral knowledge and innovation one-stop-shop for sustainable democracy. Our values are knowledge-exchange, inclusion, justice, equity, transparency, and accountability.

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