



TMG Conducting Pre- Election Observation Ahead of Kogi (Nov. 21) and Bayelsa (Dec.5) Gubernatorial Elections

September 4 – September 17, 2015

Summary and Recommendations

Transition Monitoring Group (TMG)'s observation during this reporting period September 4 – 17, indicates that INEC has commenced election-planning activities, including the conduct of continuous voter registration (CVR) and the distribution of the uncollected permanent voter cards (PVCs). Political parties and candidates have started campaigning in the run up to their party primaries. The reports from both states suggest the limited-existence of voter and civic information campaigns targeted at women to increase their participation in the electoral process. Hate speech on the basis of one's origin, which TMG defined broadly to encompass both ethnic and geographic origins, was observed to be prevalent in Bayelsa state.

Based on TMG's analysis of electoral trends during this reporting period, specific recommendations include:

- The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), National Orientation Agency (NOA) and CSOs should intensify voter education campaigns and go beyond the central senatorial zones in both Kogi and Bayelsa state..
- INEC is advised to provide citizens with more information on who, when and where permanent voter cards can be collected.
- INEC, NOA and CSOs are encouraged to implement national and INEC gender policies to enhance women participation in election activities
- INEC, NOA and CSOs are encouraged to increase their voter education campaigns targeted specifically at women.
- For political parties and candidates to adhere to the Abuja peace accord and denounce hate speech and acts of violence and commit to issue based campaigning.
- For CSOs to observe the conduct of political parties and candidates during the electoral process.
- For State Inter Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security to regularly meet and consult relevant stakeholders.

Data Usage

Unlike the TMG Quick Count methodology (<http://tmgtowards2015.org>) TMG does not rely on sample based observation to carry out its pre-election observation efforts. The reported data is therefore not statistical representatives of the states as a whole, but does provide an indication general emerging trends in the states. **TMG encourages end users of its reports and data to independently corroborate and respond appropriately to all trends identified and discussed in these reports.**

Key Findings of Reporting Period One

Election Preparation

INEC commenced the Continuous Voter Registration exercise on September 2 – 9 in both states. The CVR targets three groups: those who are eligible to vote but did not register for the 2015 general elections; those who are eligible but whose names are not on the voters register; and citizens who have attained the age of 18 years.

Observers reported that across both Kogi and Bayelsa state, INEC has commenced election preparation activities, including continuous voter registration and the distribution of uncollected permanent voter cards (PVC) from previous CVR exercise. INEC is encouraged to disseminate more information to citizens on who, when and where they can collect their permanent voter cards (PVCs). INEC should also ensure that distribution of PVCs for newly registered voters is done in a timely manner and it is therefore encouraged to publicly announce the timetable for distribution of the newly produced PVC as soon as possible.

Voter Information Campaigns

For purposes of pre-election observation, TMG defined voter information campaigns as sensitization or awareness programs on radio or television; distribution of materials such as handbills; road shows conducted by INEC, NOA or civil society organizations; or town hall meetings about the elections.

TMG observers found that exposure to voter information campaigns varied significantly within Kogi state with NOA and CSOs conducting the least voter information campaigns. TMG observers reported not to have been exposed to voter information campaigns conducted by INEC in Adavi, Ankpa, Ibaji, Idah, Igalamela, Kogi K.K, Mopa Moro, Yagba East and Yagba West LGAs. In Bayelsa state, TMG observers reported access to voter information campaigns by INEC, NOA or CSO in almost all the LGAs in Bayelsa state except for Brass LGA (Bayelsa East senatorial district), where voter information campaigns by both INEC and CSOs was not observed.

Figure 1: TMG report showing where observers were exposed to voter information campaigns conducted by INEC in Kogi state

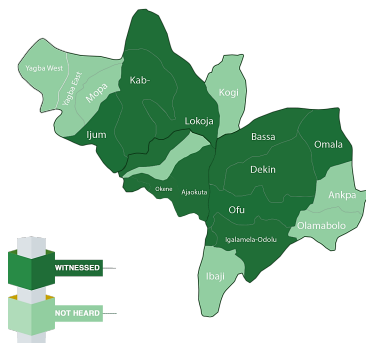


Figure 2: TMG report showing where observers were exposed to voter information campaigns conducted by NOA in Kogi state

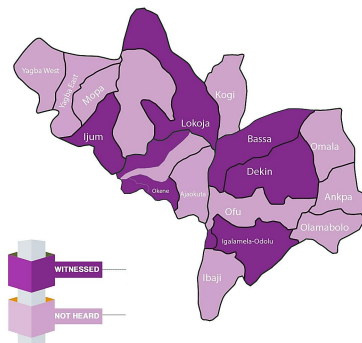


Figure 3: TMG report showing where observers were exposed to voter campaigns conducted by CSOs in Kogi state

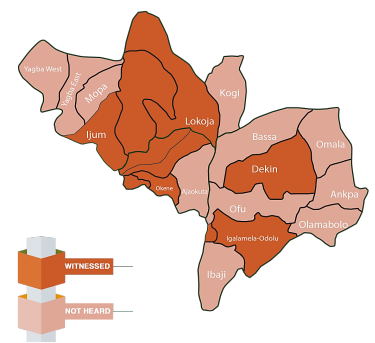


Figure 4: TMG report showing where observers were exposed to voter information campaigns conducted by INEC in Bayelsa state

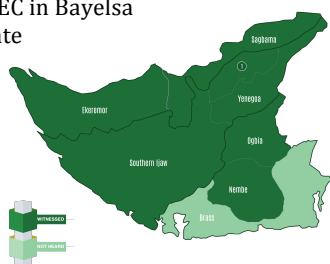


Figure 5: showing where observers were exposed to voter information campaigns conducted by NOA in Bayelsa state

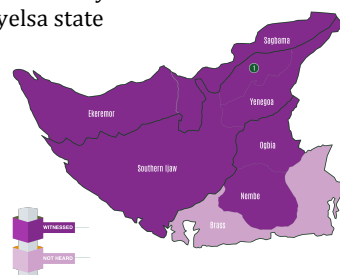
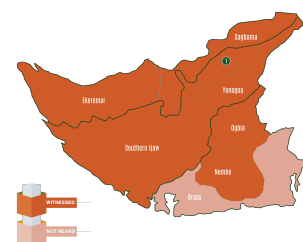


Figure 6: TMG report showing where observers were exposed to voter information campaigns conducted by CSOs in Bayelsa state



women were directly witnessed or heard of in Ekeremor and Yenagoa LGA. CSO voter information campaigns targeted at women were however observed in all LGAs in Bayelsa except in Brass and Ogbia LGAs.

Figure 11: Showing percentage distribution of voter information campaigns targeted at women conducted by INEC, NOA and CSOs in Bayelsa state

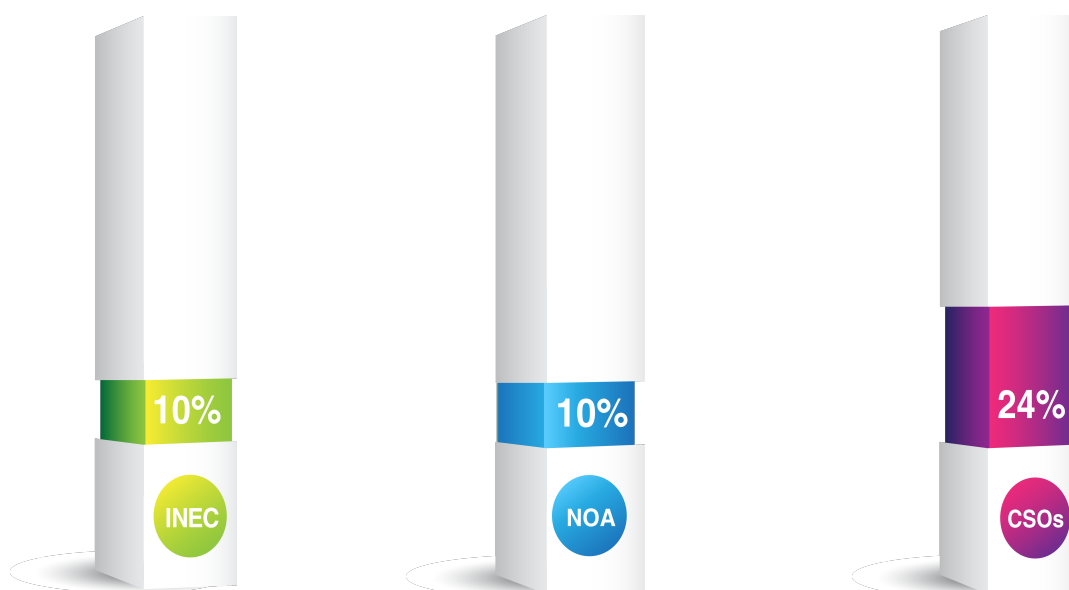
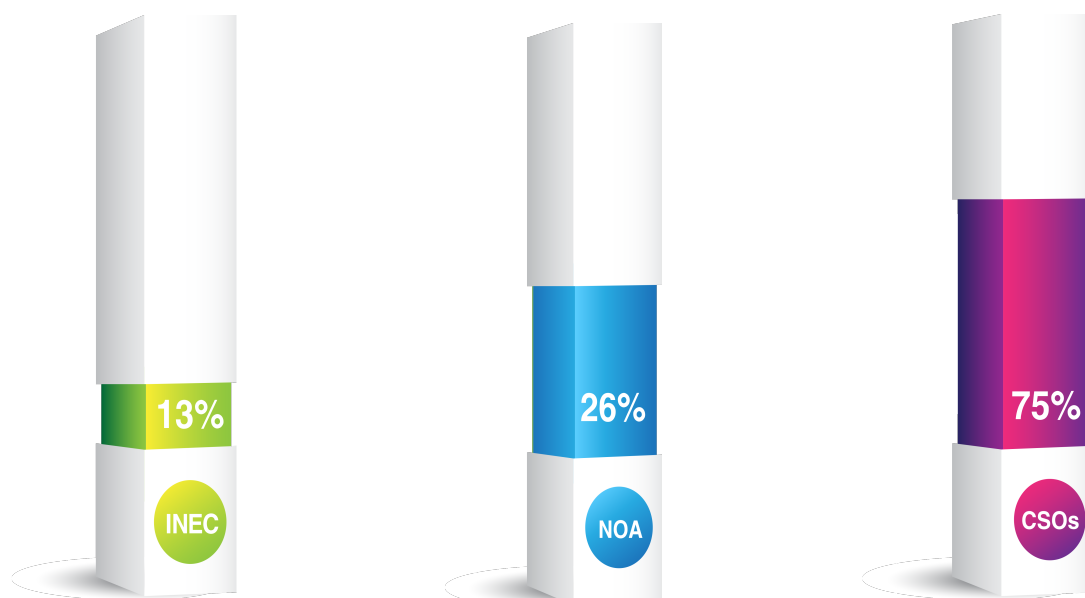


Figure 12: Showing percentage distribution of voter information campaigns targeted at women conducted by INEC, NOA and CSOs in Bayelsa state



Activities of Women Associations

TMG observation of women association includes; activities of commercial based women associations, faith based women associations, traditional women associations and professional women associations. For this reporting period, TMG observers reported to have either directly observed or heard of

commercial women groups canvassing for votes in Ofu, Okehi, Kogi KK and Dekina LGA. Compared with Kogi state, women associations/groups in Bayelsa state were more involved in canvassing for votes for political candidates in the forthcoming governorship election.

Figure 13: Maps showing activities of commercial women group canvassing for votes

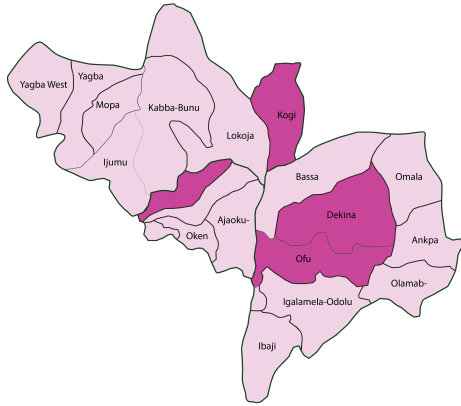
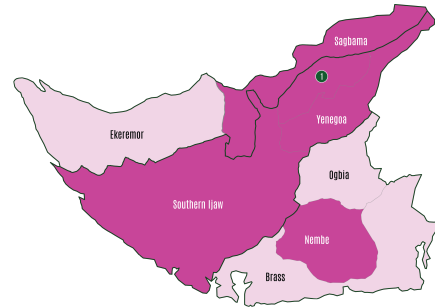


Figure 14: Maps showing activities of commercial women group canvassing for votes in Bayelsa state



Partisan Senior Civil Servants

Under the public service rules (2008 edition), engaging in partisan political activities is classified as a serious act of misconduct. For public servants desirous in engaging in partisan activities, the rule requires that such people resign from service before engaging in partisan politics.

TMG observers reported to have directly observed or heard of senior civil servants canvassing for votes for political candidates. These instances were observed in Dekina, Igalamela, Lokoja, Ogori Magongo and Yagba west LGAs in Kogi state. TMG observers reported to have directly witnessed or heard of senior civil servants openly canvassing for votes for a certain candidate in Nembe, Ogbia and Southern Ijaw LGAs.

Figure 15: Kogi state map showing where Partisan senior servants have been reported

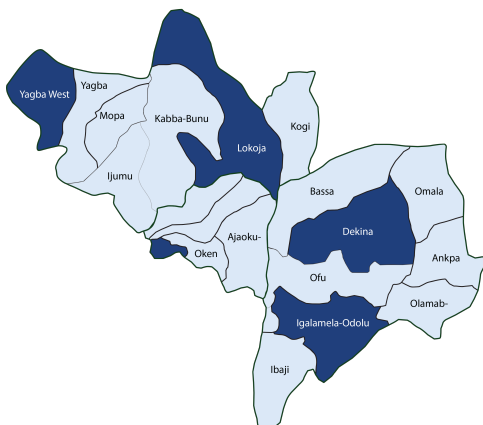
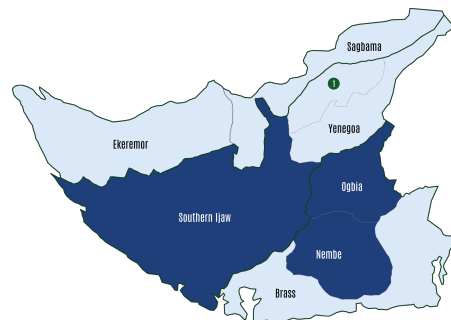


Figure 16: Bayelsa state map showing where partisan senior servants have been reported



Hate Speech

Hate speech which constitutes using intimidating or derogatory words or phrases targeted at a specific group is concerning behavior in any pre-election period and often a signal of closing democratic space for particular demographics. Use of incendiary language that demeans a specific group of people can also serve as an early warning sign for politically motivated conflict.

TMG observers reported to have heard of hate speech, violence or intimidation against political candidates or people because of where they come from in Ofu, Okehi and Yagba West LGA in Kogi state. TMG observers reported to have directly witnessed or heard of hate speech, violence or intimidation against candidate because or people because of where they come from Brass, Ekeremor, Nembe and Yenagoa LGA of Bayelsa state

Figure 17: Map of Kogi state, showing where hate speech, violence or intimidation against political candidates because of where they come from was reported.

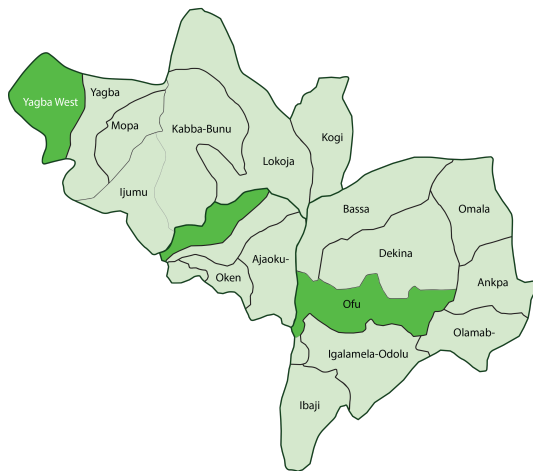


Figure 18: Map of Bayelsa state showing where hate speech, violence or intimidation against candidates because of they come from was reported

