



Key Findings of Reporting Period Nine

6-16 March 2015

Summary and Recommendations

As Nigeria prepares for the March 28 presidential election, the Transition Monitoring Group (TMG) concentrates its ninth and final pre-election observation report on the readiness of the North East to organize elections. TMG observer reports indicate that tensions in North East remain high in the lead-up to the election day, with incidents of reported hate speech, destruction of property belonging to candidates and their supporters, attacks on candidates and their supporters by police or military, inter-communal conflicts, and government restrictions on political activities. Although Gombe is relatively more peaceful, these signs of tension are acutely concerning in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Taraba and Yobe. In addition, levels of internal displacement within the North East remain elevated. Observers also continue to report rising levels of vote buying in North East over time. According to TMG reports, however, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), National Orientation Agency (NOA) and civil society actors have responded well to these challenges, carrying out voter education and information campaigns in a majority of local government areas (LGAs) in North East. Reported levels of INEC preparations in North East are furthermore the highest out of all the geopolitical zones in Nigeria.

Based on TMG's analysis of trends in the previous nine reporting periods, specific recommendations include:

- INEC, NOA and relevant civil society actors should inform internally displaced persons (IDPs) about the procedures for their electoral participation and encourage them to take part in the electoral process.
- Police forces deployed to assure the security of the polls on election day should provide safe corridors for the passage of IDPs from camps and temporary residences to their designated polling units or voting points.
- Peace and security actors should pay particular attention to risks for violence in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Taraba and Yobe states, including ongoing inter-communal conflicts, destruction of property belonging to candidates and their supporters, elevated levels of hate speech, attacks on election officials, and attacks by military and police.
- Government actors in North East should ensure that all political parties are able to carry out their campaigns, including holding rallies and meetings, in accordance with the provisions of the electoral law.
- Candidates standing for office in North East should publically denounce hate speech and acts of violence - most especially acts of violence or destruction carried out by their own supporters - and commit to campaigning on issue-based platforms.
- Police should carry out prompt investigations of any attacks on election officials and refer the cases to appropriate authorities for follow-up.

Period 1: 14 - 27 Nov. 2014

Period 2: 28 Nov. - 12 Dec. 2014

Period 3: 13 - 22 Dec 2014

Period 4: 23 Dec. 2014 - 8 Jan. 2015

Period 5: 9 Jan. - 22 Jan. 2015

Period 6: 23 Jan. - 5 Feb. 2015

Period 7: 6 - 19 Feb. 2015

Period 8: 20 Feb. - 5 March 2015

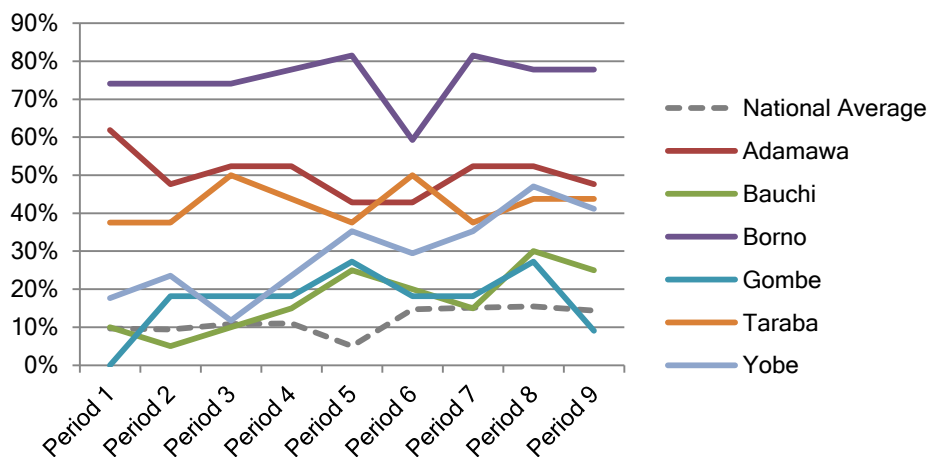
Period 9: 6-16 March 2015

Population Displacement

Population displacement, as measured by migrations of approximately 100 or more persons in or out of LGAs over each two week period, remains far higher than the national average throughout most of the North East. Observed migrations out of Borno have consistently affected most LGAs in the state of Borno, and significant proportions of the states of Adamawa, Taraba, and Yobe. Migration into the state is also well above the observed national average for all states in the North East. TMG calls upon INEC, NOA and relevant civil society actors to inform internally displaced persons (IDPs) about the procedures for their electoral participation and urges police forces deployed on election day to secure safe corridors for the passage of IDPs from camps and temporary residences to their designated polling units.

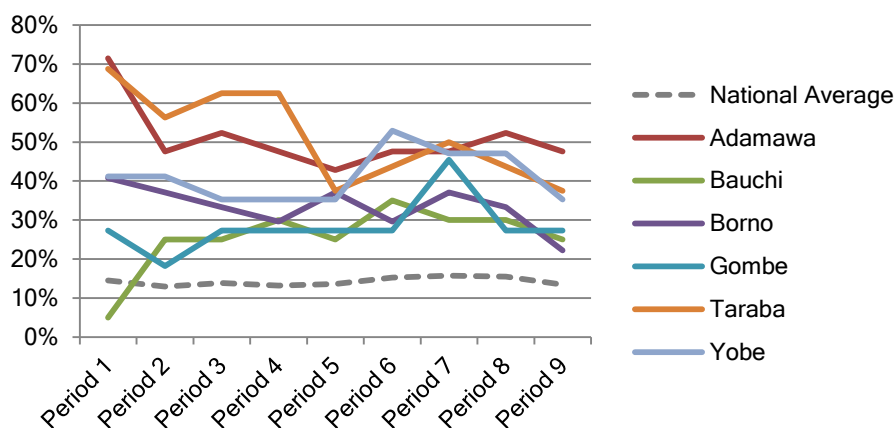
Migration of 100 or More Persons out of LGA

By percentage of LGAs reporting



Migration of 100 or More Persons into LGA

By percentage of LGAs reporting per state



Electoral Preparations

Reported levels of INEC preparations in reporting period nine were higher in North East than in any of the other geopolitical zones based on percentages of LGAs reporting and has been consistently higher since late December 2014/early January 2015. In period nine, observers in 95 percent of LGAs in North East reported ongoing INEC preparations. In addition, TMG reports indicate that INEC, the National

Period 1: 14 - 27 Nov. 2014

Period 2: 28 Nov. - 12 Dec. 2014

Period 3: 13 - 22 Dec 2014

Period 4: 23 Dec. 2014 - 8 Jan. 2015

Period 5: 9 Jan. - 22 Jan. 2015

Period 6: 23 Jan. - 5 Feb. 2015

Period 7: 6 - 19 Feb. 2015

Period 8: 20 Feb. - 5 March 2015

Period 9: 6-16 March 2015

Orientation Agency (NOA) and civil society actors are carrying out voter education/information campaigns in a majority of LGAs in North East.

Early Warning Signs of Violence

Over time, TMG has observed a series of concerning trends in North East that indicate heightened tensions in the lead-up to the elections. Although reports indicate that Gombe is relatively more peaceful, TMG urges peace and security actors to pay particular attention to risks for violence in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Taraba and Yobe states and to comport themselves in a professional, nonpartisan manner using non-lethal crowd control tactics as the preferred means of response. Candidates standing for office in these states should publically denounce hate speech and acts of violence - most especially acts of violence or destruction carried out by their own supporters -- and commit to campaigning on issue-based platforms. Moreover, TMG calls upon INEC, NOA and relevant civil society actors to undertake intensive civic and voter education in these states to emphasize the importance of peaceful political participation and outline mechanisms available to peacefully resolve electoral disputes in the post-election period. TMG categorically condemns attacks on election officials and calls upon police to carry out prompt investigations of any such attacks.

Signs of Tension in North East in Period 9

By percentage of LGAs Reporting (both directly and indirectly)

	Adamawa	Bauchi	Borno	Gombe	Taraba	Yobe	National Average	Average for NE
Destruction of Candidate/ Supporters' Property	29%	35%	30%	9%	6%	35%	22%	26%
Attacks on Election Officials	29%	0%	4%	0%	13%	35%	8%	13%
Attacks on Candidates/ Supporters	43%	30%	19%	9%	25%	41%	25%	29%
Attacks on Candidates/ Supporters by Military/Police	29%	5%	19%	0%	6%	12%	6%	13%
Inter-Communal Conflicts	29%	0%	11%	0%	38%	59%	14%	22%
Government Restrictions on Political Activities	29%	10%	23%	0%	25%	18%	13%	19%
Gender-based Hate Speech	29%	30%	41%	9%	31%	6%	17%	27%
Region of Origin-Based Hate Speech	25%	40%	22%	0%	31%	19%	25%	28%

Period 1: 14 - 27 Nov. 2014

Period 2: 28 Nov. - 12 Dec. 2014

Period 3: 13 - 22 Dec 2014

Period 4: 23 Dec. 2014 - 8 Jan. 2015

Period 5: 9 Jan. - 22 Jan. 2015

Period 6: 23 Jan. - 5 Feb. 2015

Period 7: 6 - 19 Feb. 2015

Period 8: 20 Feb. - 5 March 2015

Period 9: 6-16 March 2015

Age-based Hate Speech	48%	25%	33%	0%	25%	18%	22%	28%
Disability-based Hate Speech	43%	5%	41%	0%	13%	12%	10%	22%
Religious-based Hate Speech	57%	40%	22%	0%	44%	0%	27%	29%

Violations of the Electoral Code

Increased Reports of Buying of Voters' Cards

Reports of buying of voters' cards continue to increase in North East, with observers in 46 percent of LGAs reporting either direct or indirect observation of the buying of voters' cards. This represents a significant increase over reported levels of voters' cards buying prior to the announcement of the election delay on February 7, 2015. During the January 23 to February 5 reporting period, observers in only 32 percent of LGAs reported directly or indirectly on the buying of voters' cards in North East.

Methodology

The TMG pre-election observation project leverages the presence of one locally recruited TMG election observer in each of the 774 LGAs of Nigeria to gather systematic information about the 2015 pre-electoral environment, including early warning signs of electoral violence. TMG pre-election observers will remain deployed until March 16, 2015 and are releasing a series of nine reports on the pre-election environment from November 2014 to March 2015.

TMG observers report both on events that they **observed directly/witnessed** (events personally witnessed) and events that they **observed indirectly/heard of** (events that were conveyed by a credible third party). These third parties may include credible media outlets or other members of the community. Before reporting on an incident as **observed indirectly/heard of**, TMG observers first seek to verify the event using a four-step process. Unlike the TMG Quick Count methodology (www.tmgowards2015.org/about), TMG does not rely on sample-based observation to carry out its pre-election observation efforts. The reported data is therefore not statistically representative of the country as a whole, but does provide an indication of general emerging trends nationally and within geopolitical zones. **TMG encourages end users of its reports and data to independently corroborate and respond appropriately to trends identified and discussed in these reports.**

Period 1: 14 - 27 Nov. 2014

Period 2: 28 Nov. - 12 Dec. 2014

Period 3: 13 - 22 Dec 2014

Period 4: 23 Dec. 2014 - 8 Jan. 2015

Period 5: 9 Jan. - 22 Jan. 2015

Period 6: 23 Jan. - 5 Feb. 2015

Period 7: 6 - 19 Feb. 2015

Period 8: 20 Feb. - 5 March 2015

Period 9: 6-16 March 2015