

EKITI STATE GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION

(OBSERVERS' PERSPECTIVES)

JULY 2018



Supported by:



Partnered With:



Introduction

By and large, allegations of unprofessional conduct by security personnel during the electoral processes have become a regular feature of electoral malpractices during every election held since 1999. Even though some of these allegations have not stood the test of time when election tribunals arbitrated in electoral disputes, the recurrence of such allegations and in some cases, glaring evidence of such unprofessional conducts by security personnel have become too often and regular that they could not be treated with a dismissive wave of the hand.

However, there was a need to look at possible ways to hold the process and its actors accountable for or against the smooth conduct of the Ekiti elections. This will entail an effective monitoring and documentation of the electoral process vis a vis the roles of electoral officials and the security agencies particularly the police that is the lead agency responsible for internal securities during elections. Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN) with the support of the National Policing Program (NPP) will train election observers to monitor Human Rights infractions in the Ekiti elections with the hope of improving the security architecture of policing elections.

Methodology

PWAN adopted four strategies in carrying out this observation namely;

- Collaborated with Justice Development and Peace Initiative (JDPI Ekiti) to designate CSO observers to monitor human rights infractions in the Ekiti elections;
- Trained 400 CSO members to monitor human rights infractions during the elections;
- Using an Android Application known as *"Kobo Collect"* observed human rights infractions at 213 polling units (making 10% of total polling units) across Ekiti state;
- Deployed 300 "visible observers" and "100 invisible observers" to ensure data verification.

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coffey

NPP

Supporting National Policing to Respond Locally



JUSTICE, DEVELOPMENT & PEACE INITIATIVE
EKITI DIOCESE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

ADO

EFON

EKITI EAST

EKITI SOUTH-WEST

EKITI WEST

EMURE

GBONYIN

IDO/OSI

IJERO

IKERE

IKOLE

ILEJEMEJE

IREPODUN/IFELODUN

ISE/ORUN

MOBA

OYE

POLITICAL PARTIES

A - Accord

AA - Action Alliance

ACD - Advance Congress of Democrats

AD - Alliance for Democracy

ADP - Action Democratic Party

AGA - All Grassroots Alliance

AGAP - All Grand Alliance Party

ANRP - Abundant Nigeria Renewal Party

APA - African Peoples Alliance

APC - All Progressives Congress

APDA - Advance Peoples Democratic Alliance

APGA - All Progressives Grand Alliance

BNPP - Better Nigeria Progressive Party

DA - Democratic Alternative

DPC - Democratic People's Congress

DPP - Democratic People's Party

FJP - Freedom and Justice Party

GNP - Green Party of Nigeria

ID - Independent Democrats

KP - KOWA Party

LP - Labour Party

MMN - Masses Movement of Nigeria

MPPP - Mega Progressive Peoples Party

NDCP - Nigeria Democratic Congress Party

NDLP - National Democratic Liberty Party

PANDEL - Peoples Alliance for National Development & Liberty

PDC - People for Democratic Change

PDP - Peoples democratic Party

PPA - Progressive Peoples Alliance

PPN - Peoples Party of Nigeria

SDP - Social Democratic Party

UDP - United Democratic Party

UPN - Unity Party of Nigeria

YDP - Young Democratic Party

YPP - Young Progressive Party

Background and observation process

PWAN together with implementing partners JDPI, PWAN Consultant, and Ekiti focal person, engaged to carry out a training of observers on how to track Human Rights Infractions in the Ekiti Elections. PWAN decided to work with JDPI Ekiti, as it is accredited organization with INEC.

In the first instance, a template of the observation was developed by PWAN in collaboration with both international and national consultants, after which template was reviewed and validated by a team from the National Human Rights Commission, Nigerian Bar Association, Federal Ministry of Justice, JDPI Ekiti and PWAN. The template was further reduced into an online and offline application known as "*Kobo Collect*" for ease of use by observers on the day of election.

A total of 400 observers were trained on how to use the App and upload election observation real time. It is both an online and offline application. It works offline when collecting data and online when it is time to upload.

On 14th July, all trained observers were deployed to the 213 polling units in 16 LGCs of Ekiti state. A total of 300 observers served as visible observers and while 100 were invisible observers.

Human Rights Infraction Observations

Rights of Parties

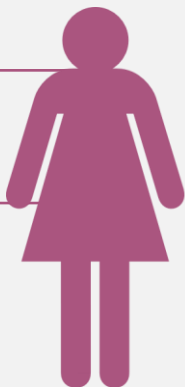
In accordance with S.43(4) of the Electoral Act 2010 (as amended), 99.7% of the observers reported that Polling Agents were allowed to stay throughout the electoral process.

99.4% of the observers reported that polling agents and observers were permitted to freely witness the counting and tabulation of results as stipulated by Section B art. 1.3.3 of the Manual for Election Official 2015.

93.8% of the observers reported that the official tabulated result forms were signed and dated and was given to the available police officers and party agents at the collation centers in line with S. 74 of the Electoral Act 2010.

OBSERVER

42.59%



57.41%



Observers by Local Government Areas

ADO	38.27%	OYE	3.77%
EFON	10.24%	EKITI WEST	2.96%
IJERO	7.28%	EMURE	2.96%
GBONYIN	7.01%	IKERE	2.70%
MOBA	5.12%	IREPODUN / IFELODUN	2.43%
IDO/OSI	4.85%	ILEJEMEJE	2.16%
EKITI SOUTH- WEST	4.31%	EKITI EAST	1.08%
ISE/ORUN	4.04%	IKOLE	0.81%

WARD & POLLING UNIT

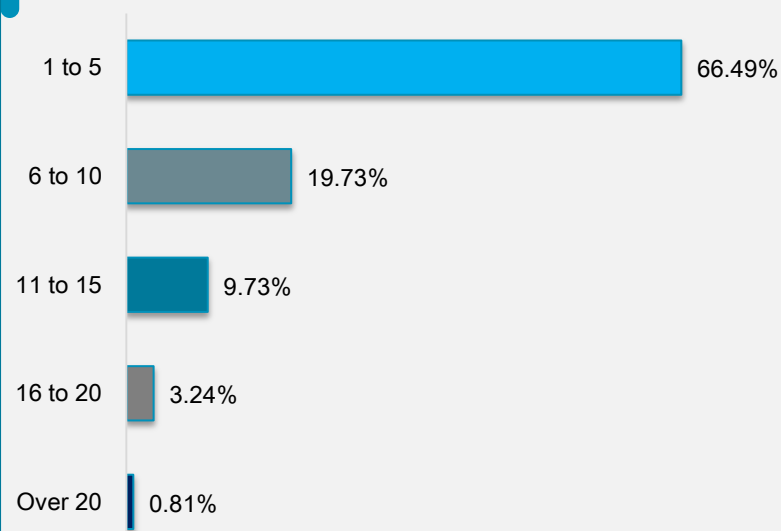
Ward

103

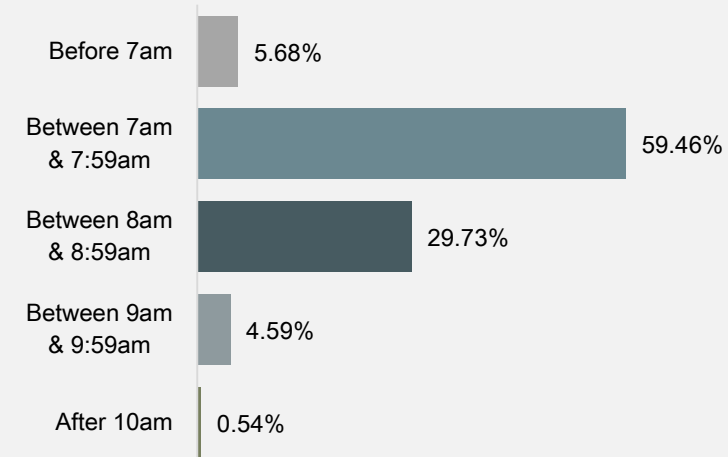
Polling Unit

154

How many Election Officials were at the polling unit?



When did Election Officials arrived the polling unit?



Did the Election Officials come with election materials?



0.3%

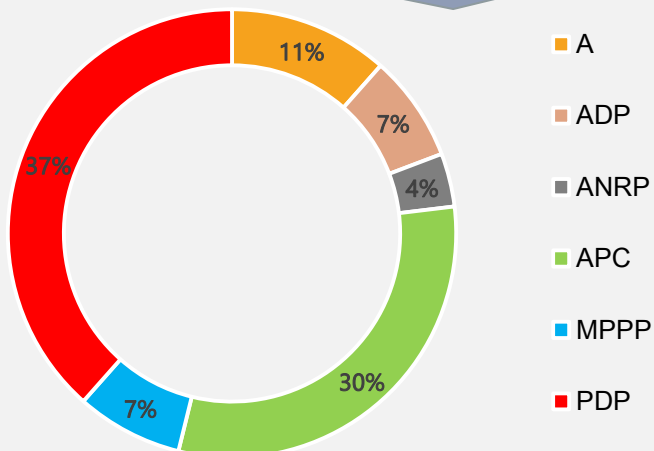
NO

Were polling agents present at the polling unit?



Which party's polling agent complained?

27 complaints by 6 political party's Agents



The number of party's polling agents present across polling units?

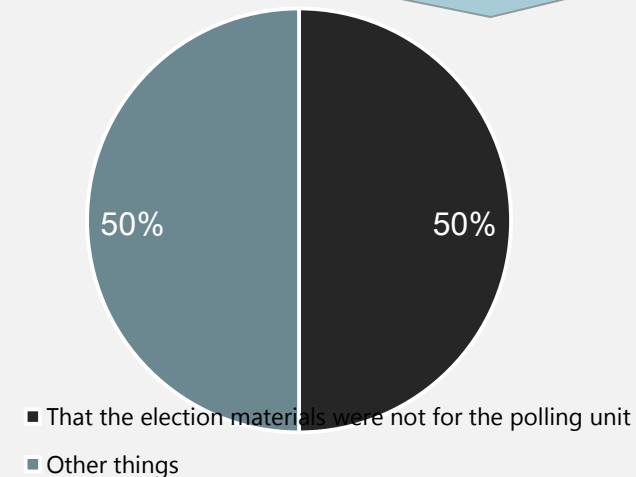
Party	Number of Agent
APC	349
PDP	336
ADP	70
LP	35
DPP	29
APA	25
ID	24
NDLP	24
MMN	23
SDP	23
BNPP	21
Accord	20
ACD	15
ANRP	13
APDA	12
MPPP	11
Others	10
AGA	9
PDC	8
APGA	7
PPN	7
AD	6
DPC	6
NDCP	5
AA	3
PPA	3
UPN	3
AGAP	2
DA	2
FJP	1
GNP	1
KOWA	1
PANDEL	1
UDP	1
YDP	1

Were the Polling Agents permitted to stay throughout the election processes?



What did the polling agent complain about?

12 complaints by Polling Agents



Rights of Voters

The rights of voters to participate in the voting process was not hampered by non-accessibility to polling Units as 98.3% of observers reported that Polling Units were accessible.

Rights of parties

99.4% of the observers reported that polling agents and observers were permitted to freely witness the counting and tabulation of results as stipulated by Section B art. 1.3.3 of the Manual for Election Official 2015.

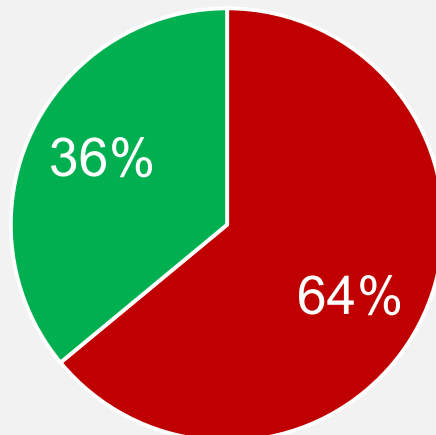
Rights of voters with disability

It was observed that 45.3% of voters in all polling Units had one form of disability or another and they were assisted in one way or another by polling official and those that came with them. This is in line with S.56(1) of the Electoral Act, 2010 (as amended).

Did any polling agent complain about the election materials?



How was the problem resolved?



■ No replacement for material ■ Material was replaced

Was the polling unit divided into voting points?



What were the other things the polling agent complained?

- 1 Agents were not shown the election materials before accreditation started
- 1 Ballot paper should not be fold in other to avoid voting being void
- 1 That instead of 1277 ballot papers, 1276 were counted
- 1 Card reader was malfunctioning
- 2 Failure of card readers to authenticate fingerprint

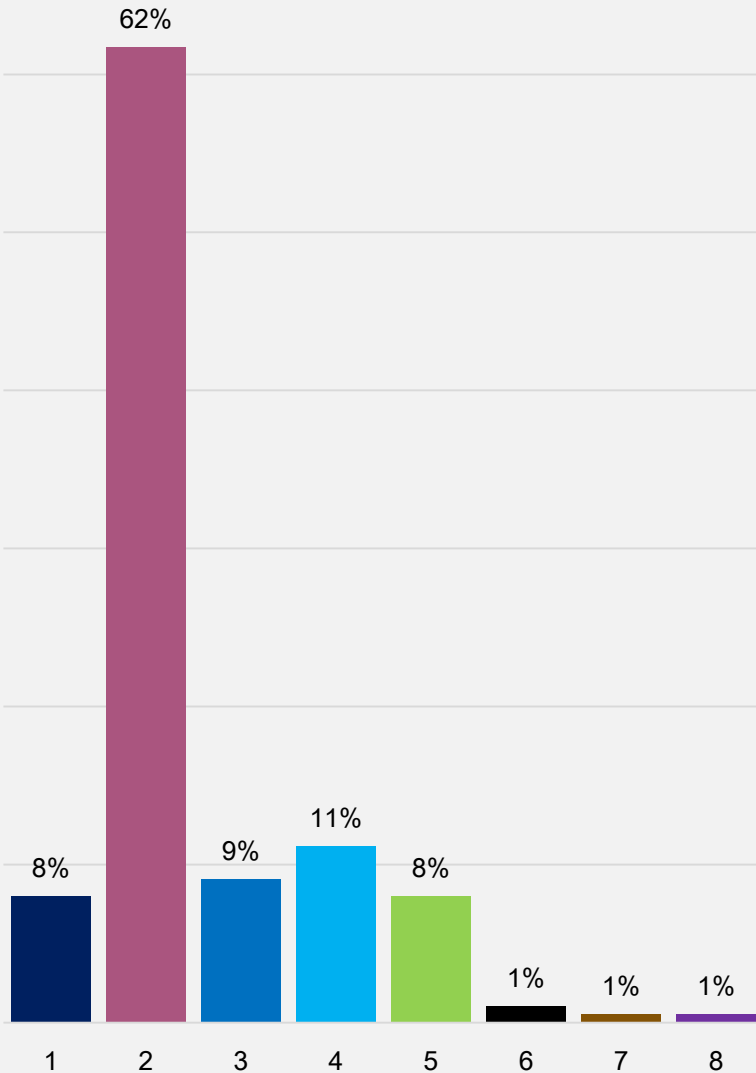
Was the polling unit easy to locate?



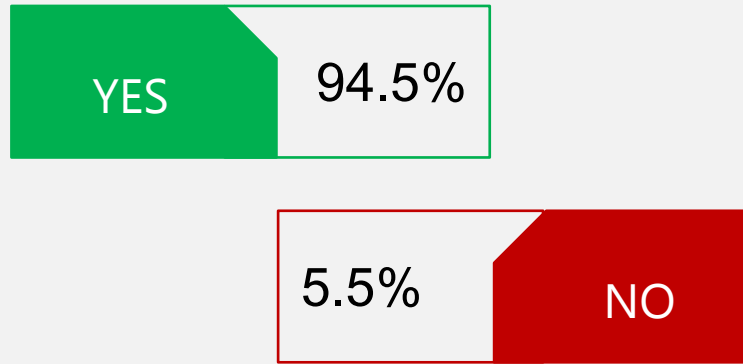
Did voters have free access to the polling unit?



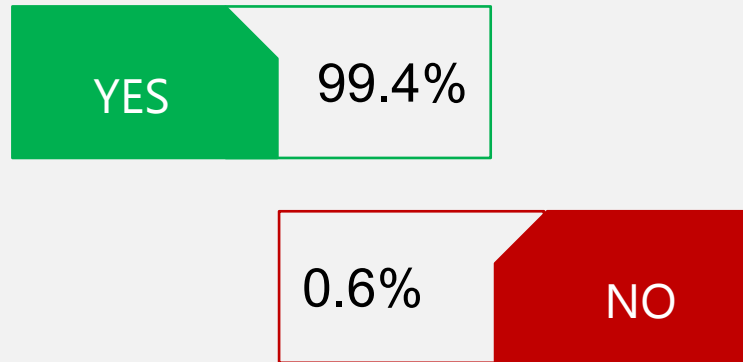
How many voting Points?



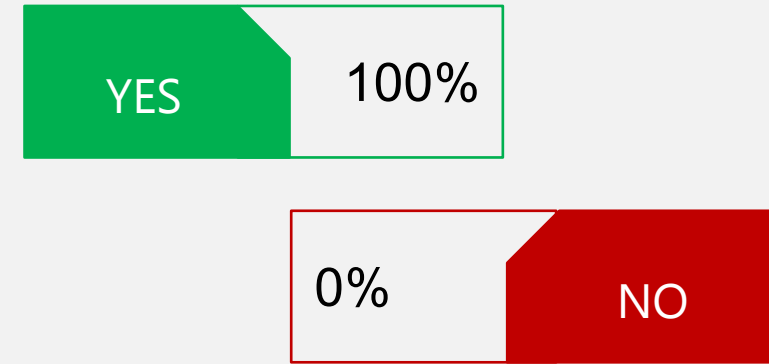
Before the commencement of voting, was the ballot box empty?



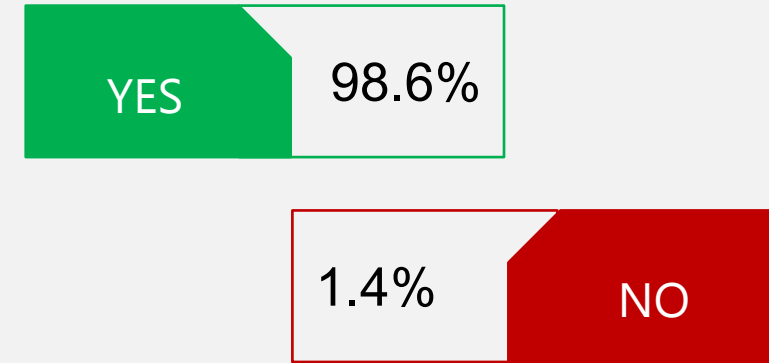
Did the setting of the voting cubicle protect the secrecy of voters?



Was the ballot paper given to voters stamped and signed at the back?



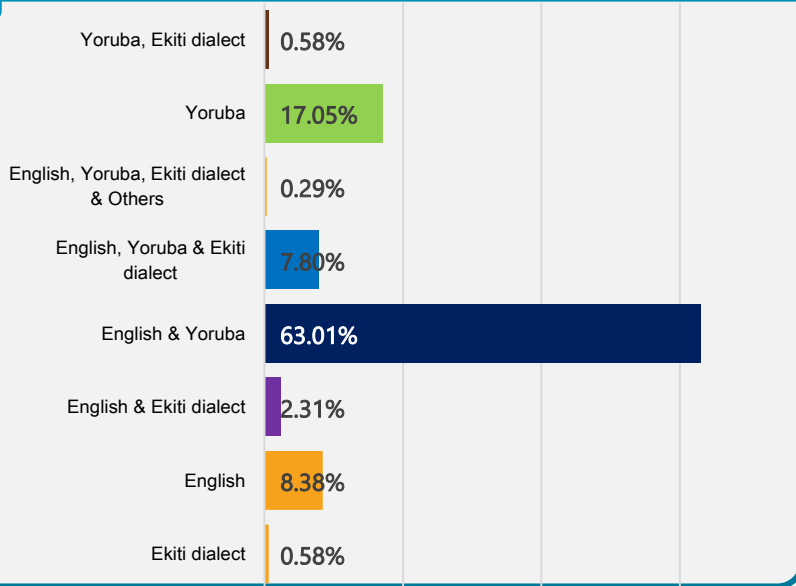
Did the Presiding Officer explain the voting procedure to the voters?



Did the Presiding Officer open the empty ballot box and show same to persons lawfully present at the Polling unit and then close and seal the box in such manner that it cannot be opened by unauthorized person(s)?



In what language did the Presiding Officer explain the voting procedure to the voters?



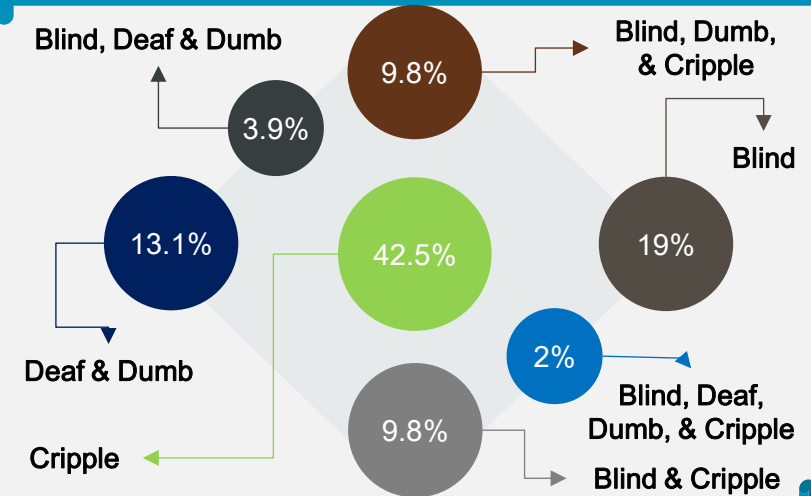
Were there voters with disabilities at the polling unit?



How many voters with disabilities did you see?



What were the nature of the disabilities?



Apart from cases of assisting voters with disabilities, did more than one person go to the voting cubicle at a time?



Right to enjoy a violence free election and duty of security officials

At the Ekiti 2018 Gubernatorial elections, 83.3% observers did not witness any unlawful activity going on at the polling units observed, which is in line with the provisions of S.129(1) of the Electoral Act 2010. However, 17.2% of the observers saw different forms of inducement by parties contrary to S.125(3) and S. 130(a) of the Electoral Act 2010. Most (making 84.7%) observers reported "cash for vote" as the main form of inducement. Although inducements were rampant 81.20% observers reported that no action was taken by security personnel present at polling units.

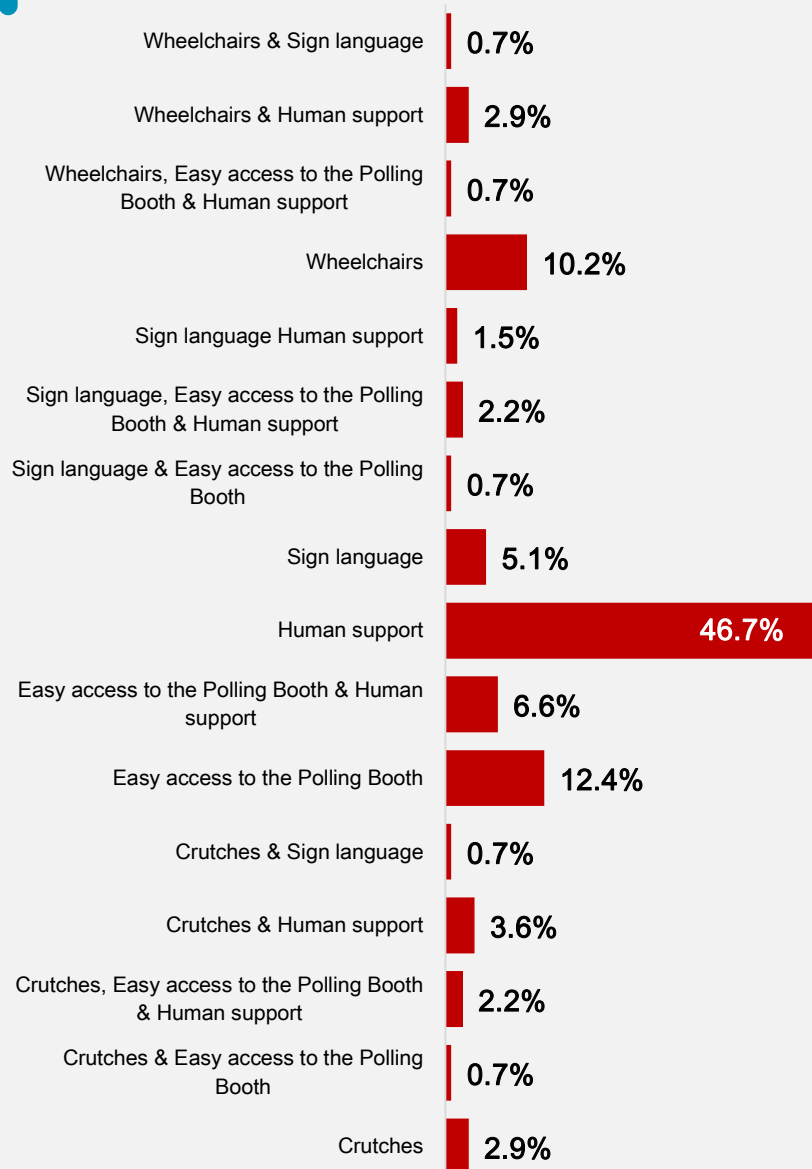
In terms of presence of security of security officials at polling units during elections, 99.4% observers recorded the presence of 867 security personnel out of which 41% were police, 21.8% NSCDC, 8.6% Road Safety Corp, 5.6% Immigration, 5.0% Military, 4.7% Department of State Security (DSS), 3.3% NDLEA and 3.7% as others.

Of the polling units observed, 55.0% had at least 1 to 5 security personnel; 34.8% 6 to 10 personnel while 10.2% polling units had more than 10 security personnel.

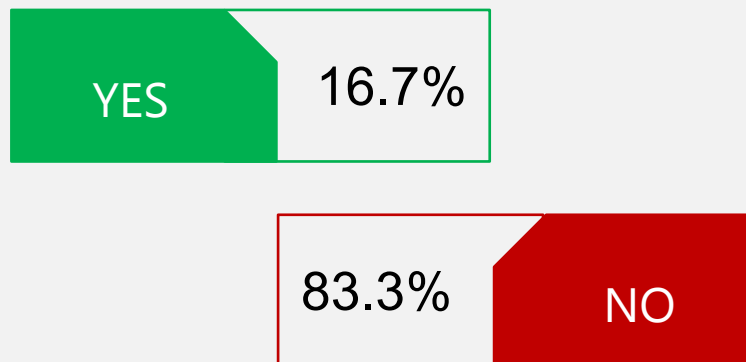
99.1% of the observers reported that the voting materials and result forms were duly secured and taken to the ward collation centers by the Presiding officers, the security personnel and the party agents in line with S.65 of the Electoral Act 2010.

In determining threat to violence or use of force 87.2% of the observers reported that they did not witness the presence of unauthorized persons at the collation centers. In the same vein, 98.6% of the observers reported that there was no intimidating presence or use of force by security personnel at the collation centers. Furthermore, 96.4% of the observers reported no incidence of violence between party supporters and any other group on election day.

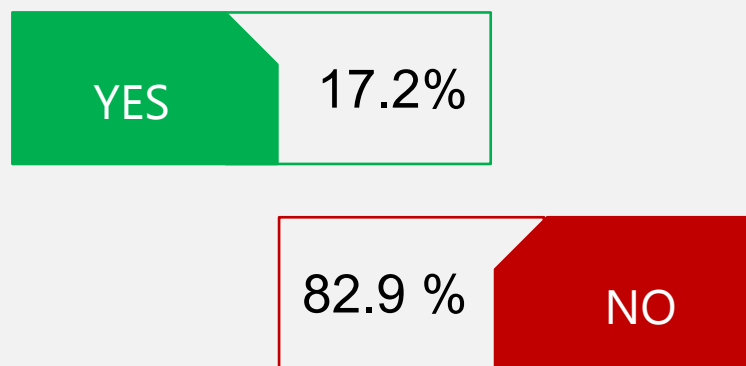
Types of support offered to voters with disabilities?



Did you see any unlawful act or thing done at the polling unit or within a distance of 300 metres of the polling unit?



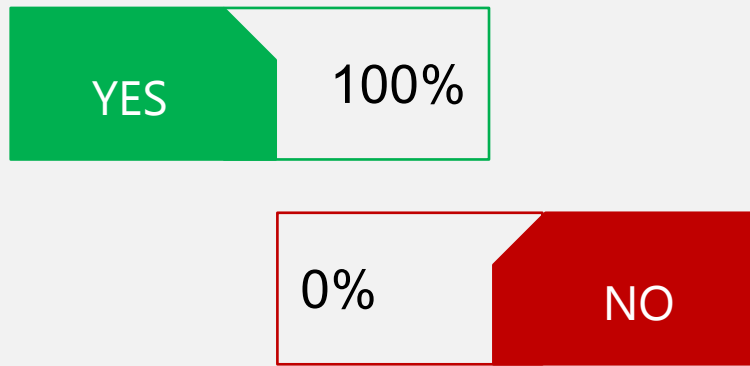
Did you observe any form of inducement?



Which of the following unlawful acts or things did you see done?

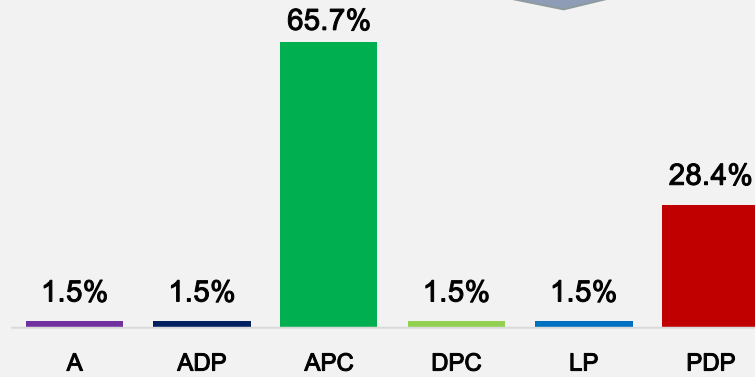
◆ Canvassing for votes. Soliciting for the vote of any voter	2.2%
◆ Canvassing for votes	33.3%
◆ Canvassing for votes. Public meeting holding during the hours of poll	4.4%
◆ Canvassing for votes Snatching or destruction of election materials	2.2%
◆ Canvassing for votes. Soliciting for the vote of any voter	15.6%
◆ Canvassing for votes. Soliciting for the vote of any voter. Loitering without lawful excuse after voting or after being refused to vote. Blaring of siren. Public meeting holding during the hours of poll	2.2%
◆ Canvassing for votes. Soliciting for the vote of any voter. Persuading voter(s) not to vote for any particular candidate	2.2%
◆ Canvassing for votes. Soliciting for the vote of any voter. Persuading voter(s) not to vote for any particular candidate. Being in possession of offensive weapon or wearing of dress or having facial or other decoration which in any event is calculated to intimidate voters	2.2%
◆ Canvassing for votes. Soliciting for the vote of any voter. Persuading voter(s) not to vote for any particular candidate. Loitering without lawful excuse after voting or after being refused to vote. Public meeting holding during the hours of poll	2.2%
◆ Canvassing for votes. Soliciting for the vote of any voter. Persuading voter(s) not to vote for any particular candidate. Shouting of slogans concerning the election. Loitering without lawful excuse after voting or after being refused to vote	2.2%
◆ Exhibition, wearing or tendering of notice, symbol, photograph or party card referring to the election	4.4%
◆ Loitering without lawful excuse after voting or after being refused to vote	6.7%
◆ Loitering without lawful excuse after voting or after being refused to vote. Public meeting holding during the hours of poll	2.2%
◆ Persuading voter(s) not to vote for any particular candidate	2.2%
◆ Shouting of slogans concerning the election	2.2%
◆ Snatching or destruction of election materials	4.4%
◆ Soliciting for the vote of any voter	6.7%
◆ Soliciting for the vote of any voter. Persuading voter(s) not to vote for any particular candidate. Shouting of slogans concerning the election	2.2%
◆ Loitering without lawful excuse after voting or after being refused to vote	2.2%

Were voters PVC verified by Card Reader?

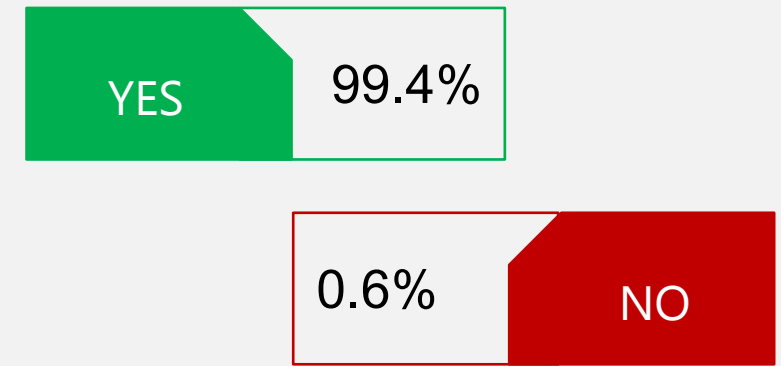


Who were the actors

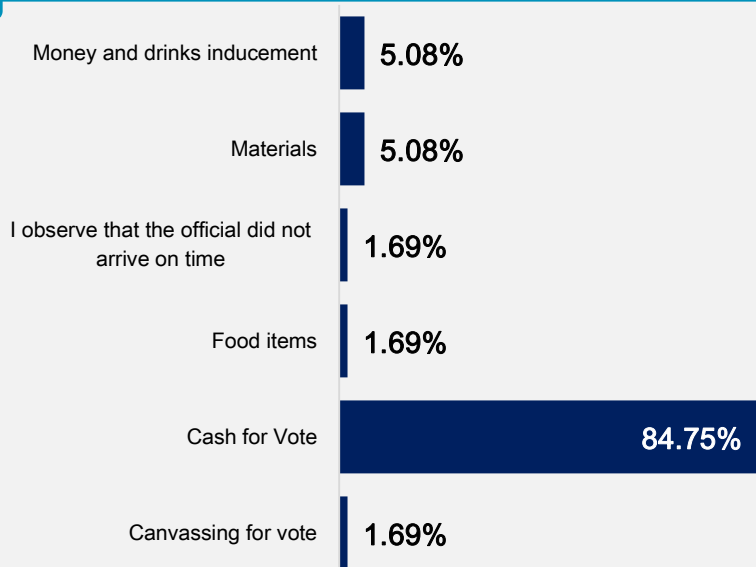
67 cases of inducements were observed:



Were there security agents at the polling unit?

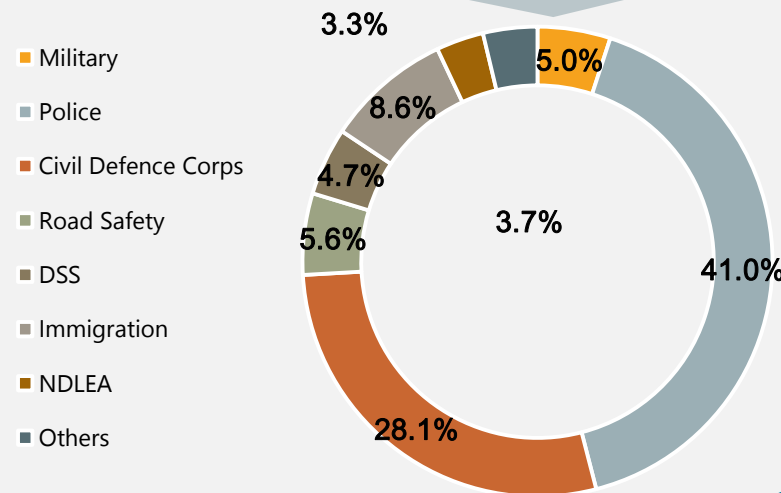


What did you observe?



How many personnel of each Security Agency were present

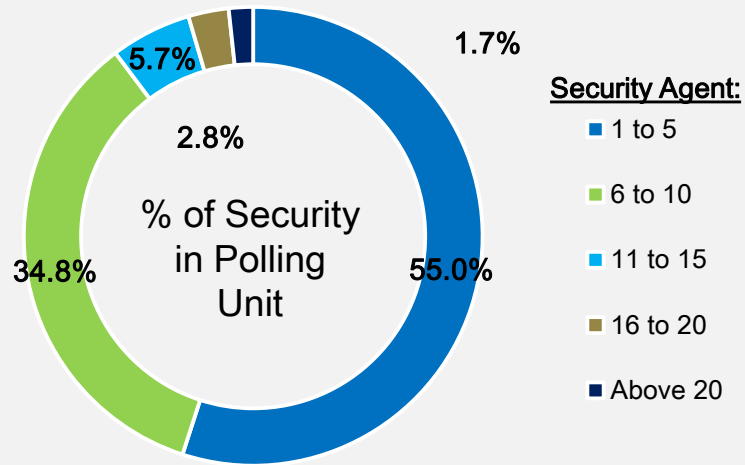
857 Security Personnel were observed:



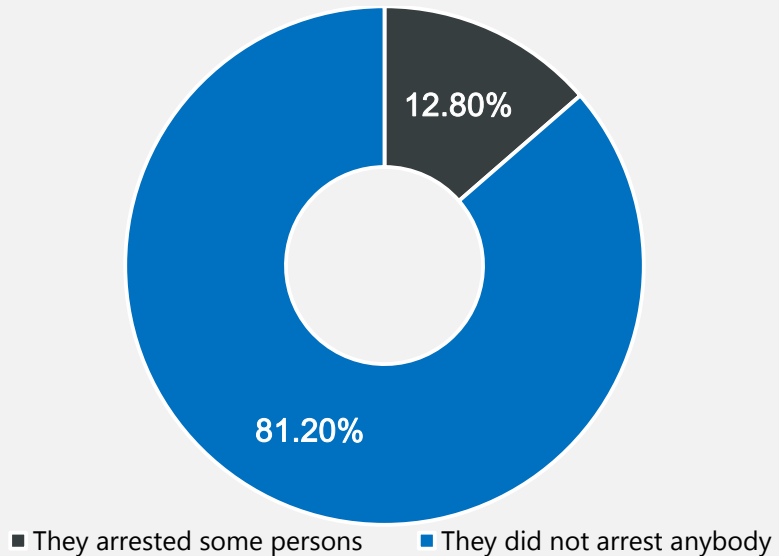
How many Security Personnel were armed?



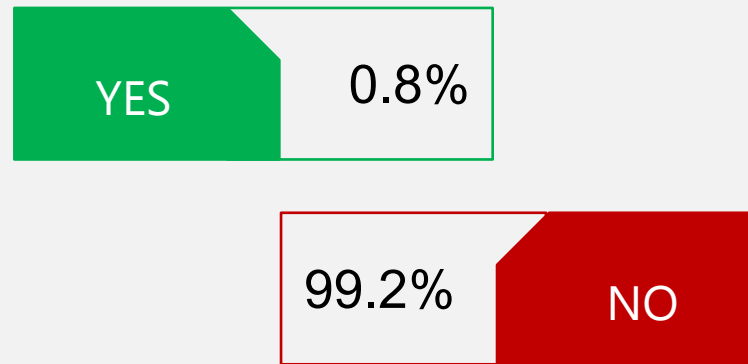
How many were the security agents at the polling unit?



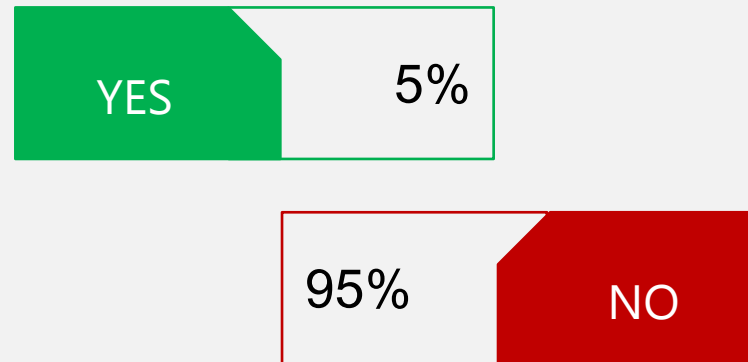
What did they do concerning the unlawful acts or thing done at the polling unit?



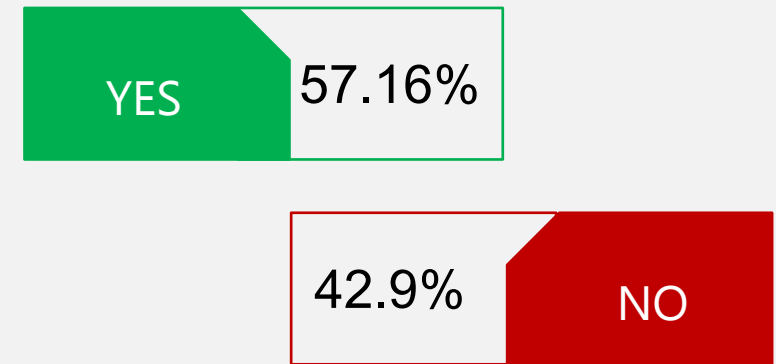
Was any voter suspected of being under age or impersonation?



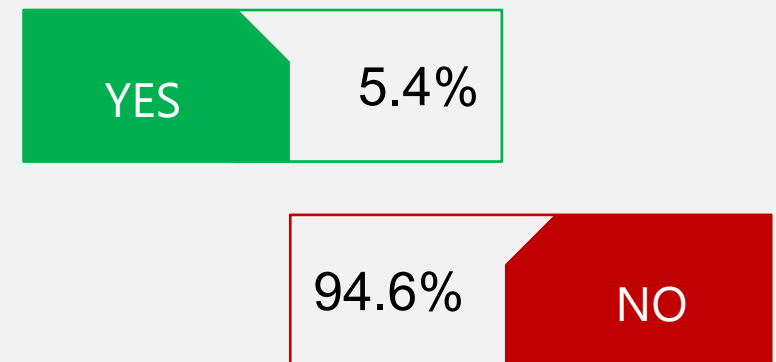
After the Presiding officer had declared the poll closed, was any other person(s) allowed to join the queue for voting?



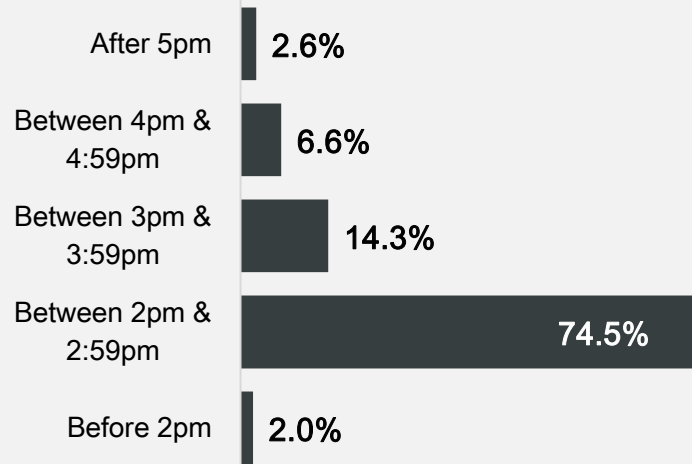
Did the Presiding Officer at any time declare the poll closed?



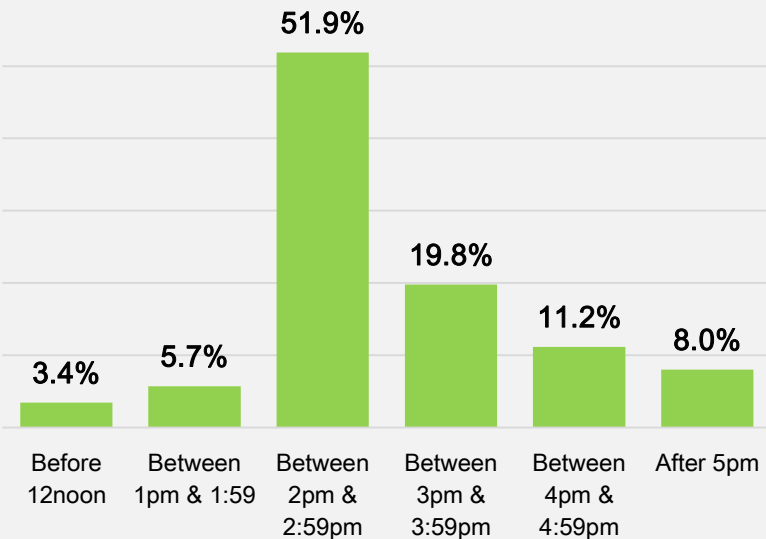
Did the Presiding Officer have any cause to order that a person(s) be removed from the polling unit?



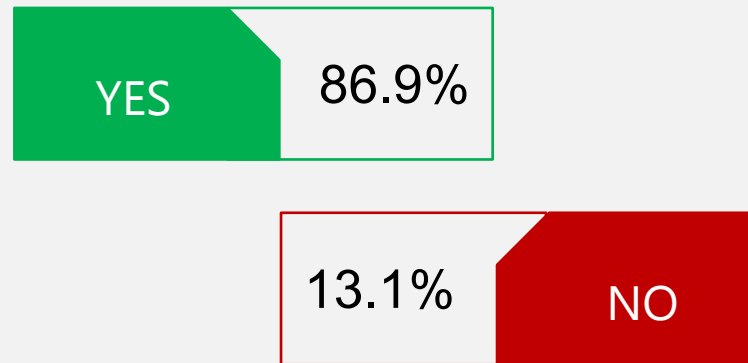
At what time did the Presiding officer declare the poll closed?



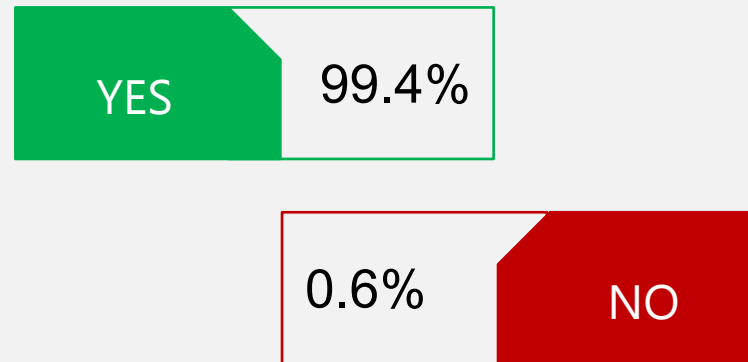
What time did voting end?



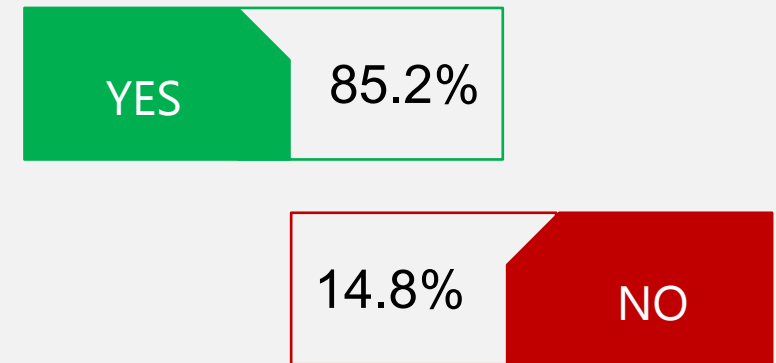
Were unused ballot papers counted and the quantity and serial numbers recorded and put in an envelop?



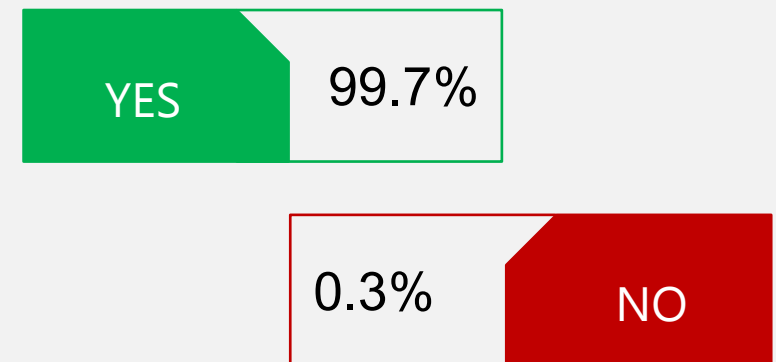
Were polling agents/candidates, observers, and voters permitted to freely witness the counting and tabulation of result?



Were counterfoils of used ballot papers counted and recorded?



Were results of each political party counted loudly and announced?



Freedom of expression and information (S.39 1999 Constitution; FOI Act 2011)

The right of journalists to cover the elections was guaranteed, as 85.1% of observers said the media could cover the electoral process. This is in line with the INEC Guidelines Elections 2015.

In accordance with the provisions of the Manual for Election Officials 2015, 98.8% of the observers reported that election observers were permitted into the collation centers. With respect to obtaining information from the results tabulated at the collation center, 89.2% of the observers reported that it was possible.

Observation

1. It was observed that the rate of human rights infractions in the elections was on the low, both for security officials and the electorate.
2. There was an increase in vote buying which induced the voters into voting for one party or another.
3. It was observed that the electoral process started on time in many polling units and INEC official were very diligent in carrying out their duties.
4. The electoral process was orderly with relative peace in all polling units due to the civil nature of the Nigeria Police Force

Were the ballot papers sorted into separate pile for each party?

YES

96.5%

3.5%

NO

Was a copy of the result pasted at the polling unit?

YES

86.3%

13.7%

NO

Did any party agent disagree with the result that was announced?

YES

2.9%

97.1%

NO

Were duplicate copies of the result giving to Polling Agents, Police, or other Security Agents present?

YES

91.8%

8.2%

NO

Was any Polling Official/Polling Agent threatened or harmed during the election processes?

YES

1.7%

98.3%

NO

Were accredited journalists allowed to cover the voting and counting processes?

YES

85.1%

14.9%

NO

Recommendation

1. *INEC, CSOs and Parties* should conduct adequate voter education including information on electoral offences particularly in relation to vote buying and different forms of inducements and the relative penalties for such offences.
2. PWAN commends the *Nigerian electorates* in Ekiti for shunning violence and ensuring the election was peaceful. We also call on all *electorates* to ensure credibility and integrity in their participation in the electoral process, as a process filled with influence is unlikely to produce a credible result.
3. Further education on electoral offences should be conducted for the *Nigeria Police Force and all security officials* on the need to be proactive and carryout arrests on those committing electoral offences.
4. The office of the *Attorney General of the Federation* should also be proactive by prosecuting electoral offenders to forestall future offences and impunity by politicians, electorates and all involved in the electoral process.
5. *INEC* is duly commended for ensuring timely arrival of electoral materials, personal and assistance to persons with disabilities such as the blind, deaf and cripple. However, there is still need for improvement in terms of provision of access for wheel chairs, brails and visible signs for the deaf. etc.
6. PWAN calls on *federal, state and local governments* to deliver the proceeds of democracy, i.e adequate and good governance to ensure social services are available to electorates and therein avoid "cash for votes."
7. Based on the above, PWAN calls on the *National Assembly* to pass of the Disability Bill before the National Assembly and the assent by *President Muhammadu Buhari* to ensure no one is left behind in carrying out their fundamental responsibilities.

Votes Statistics

What was the total number of votes cast? 121,263

What was the number of valid votes? 88,325

What was the number of rejected votes? 5,794

What was the number of spoilt ballot papers? 13,757

Were the voting materials and result forms secured and taken immediately to the Ward Collation Centre accompanied by the Presiding Officer, Party Agents, and Security Agents?

YES 99.1%

0.9% NO

Were result forms and materials handed over to the Collation officer?

YES 98.8%

1.2% NO

Was there intimidating presence or excessive use of force by Security Agents at the Collation Centres?

YES 1.4%

98.6% NO

Were observers permitted into Collation Centres?

YES 93.2%

6.8% NO

Was there any incidence of violence between party supporters or other groups?

YES 3.6%

96.4% NO

Conclusion

The Ekiti governorship elections have come and gone, but the mark it has stamped is “Cash for Votes”. Lessons have been learnt and put into practice by INEC which is evident in the transparency of the electoral process from the beginning of the elections to the end.

Although more needs to be done to improve on access to polling units for persons with disabilities, arrest of electoral offenders by security officials and prosecution thereafter, some level of progress has been made by INEC and the security agencies due to their civil conduct during the elections and payment of allowances to officials ahead of the elections. PWAN calls on all electoral actors to collectively and collaboratively improve on the process to avoid Human Rights infractions in the Nigerian electoral process that is transparent and accountable to the people.

PWAN calls CSOs and observers to continue to serve as the watchdogs in monitoring the process and which would in turn improve the credibility of the Nigerian Election system.

Were any unauthorized person present in the Collation Centre?

YES

12.8%

87.2%

NO

Were official tabulated result forms signed and dated, and copies made available to Police Officers and Party Agents at the Collation Centre?

YES

93.8%

6.2%

NO

Could observers obtain information on the result tabulated at the Ward Collation Centres?

YES

89.2%

10.8%

NO

Did you observe and report any irregularities to the Election Officials at the polling unit?

YES

18.4%

81.6%

NO

Analysis by:

StatiSense

Data Management | Analytics | Research |
Monitoring & Evaluation | Reporting | Training

@StatiSense