A NIGERIAN PERSPECTIVE ON THE 2007 PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

RESULTS FROM PRE- AND POST- ELECTION SURVEYS
Pre-Election Survey  
February 13 and 25  
2,410 Nigerians

Post-Election Survey  
May 3 and 10, 2007  
(except in Osun state where interviewing was delayed until May 18th to May 20th)  
2,417 Nigerians

• Survey written and overseen by IFES  
• Fieldwork carried out by Practical Sampling International  
• Interviews conducted in all 36 Nigerian states and the federal capital territory and are representative of the Nigerian adult population.  
• The survey was paid for by the Department for International Development (DfID) under IFES’ “Nigerian Election Support 2007” program.
Medium to high interest in the elections

How would you describe your interest in the recent presidential and parliamentary elections?

May 2007

- High
- Medium
- Low
Voting gives people like you a chance to influence decision-making?

Post-election increase in the power of voting

February 2007

May 2007

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
Elections are the most effective way to select leaders in Nigeria?

February 2007

May 2007
In between elections there is no way for an ordinary person to have his voice heard?

May 2007

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree
Just under half think Nigeria is a democracy

Is Nigeria primarily a democracy today, or that it is not primarily a democracy today?

February 2007

July 2007

May 2007

- Democracy
- Both equally
- Not a democracy
Equally split in belief in fairness of 2007 elections

How free and fair were the 2007 presidential and parliamentary elections?

May 2007

- Completely free and fair
- Somewhat
- Not too
- Not at all free and fair
Some disappointment in pre-election expectations of fairness

How free and fair do you EXPECT the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections will be?

February 2007

How free and fair WERE the 2007 presidential and parliamentary elections?

- Completely free and fair
- Somewhat
- Not too
- Not at all free and fair
Almost half think 2007 elections less free and fair than those in 2003

Compared to the 2003 elections, were these elections...

- May 2007

2007 more free and fair than 2003  Both equally fair  2007 less free and fair than 2003
Assessment of elections becoming more divided over time

How free and fair were these elections?

- 2007
- 2003
- 1999

- Completely free and fair
- Somewhat
- Not too
- Not at all free and fair
Most think elections necessary, but concerns over their conduct

Which word better describes the elections?

- Necessary vs. Useless
- Peaceful vs. Violent
- Orderly vs. Chaotic
- Clean vs. Rigged
Basic satisfaction with the election process...

How satisfied or dissatisfied you were with the following aspects of the 2007 Presidential and Parliamentary elections:

- Voter registration process
- Information on where and when to vote
- Information on voting procedures and how to mark the ballots
- Performance of the police and security officials
- Adequacy of facilities and equipment at the polling station

[Bar chart showing satisfaction levels for each aspect]
But less so with tabulation and announcement of results

How satisfied or dissatisfied you were with the following aspects of the 2007 Presidential and Parliamentary elections?

- Competency of the polling station staff
- Impartiality of polling station staff
- Impartiality in the counting, tabulation, and announcement of results

![Graph showing satisfaction levels]
Evaluations of INEC fall

How much confidence do you have in INEC?

February 2007

May 2007

How effective is INEC in carrying out its duties?

February 2007

May 2007

- Great deal
- Fair amount
- Not too much
- Not confidence at all
- Very effective
- Somewhat
- Not too
- Not at all effective
Half doubt INEC’s neutrality

With which do you agree more:

• INEC performs its duty as a neutral body guided in its work only by the law OR

• INEC makes decisions which favor particular people or interests?

May 2007

Guided in its work only by the law  Makes decisions which favor people or interests
Carrot and stick tactics used to influence vote

On or before the elections, did anyone try to...

pressure you to vote for a certain candidate?

offer you a reward or gift to vote a certain way?

- No
- Yes
Majority have doubts about confidentiality of the vote

Even though the vote is secret, do you believe that someone can find out how a person in your neighborhood voted?

May 2007

- Blue: No
- Grey: Don’t know
- Dark Grey: Maybe (volunteered)
- Black: Yes
Election violence has a far reach

Is election-related violence a major problem, a minor problem, or not a problem at all?

Did you personally see or hear of any violence related to these Presidential and Parliamentary elections in your area?

- Not at all a problem
- Minor problem
- Major problem
- Did not see or hear of violence in area
- Heard of violence in area
- Personally saw violence
We would like to know about YOUR experiences at your polling station on the DAY of the PRESIDENTIAL election.

Was it very easy, somewhat easy or somewhat hard for you to...

- Locate your polling place
- Understand and follow the procedures at the polling place

(Based on those who say they voted in the 2007 Presidential elections)
Did these take place or did not take place when you voted at your things polling station for the PRESIDENTIAL election

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>No (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candidate representatives DIRECTLY outside the polling station</td>
<td>84.2</td>
<td>15.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter’s card checked</td>
<td>84.2</td>
<td>15.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checked if thumb already inked</td>
<td>84.2</td>
<td>15.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marked thumb with ink</td>
<td>84.2</td>
<td>15.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter’s card marked/punched</td>
<td>84.2</td>
<td>15.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Based on those who say they voted in the 2007 Presidential elections)
Most basic procedures followed at the polls

Did these things take place or did not take place when you voted at your polling station for the PRESIDENTIAL election?

- Received your own copy of each of the ballots
- Able to vote with privacy so that no one else could see how you were voting
- Ballot box sealed so no one could open it

(Based on those who say they voted in the 2007 Presidential elections)
Yet not all registered voters could vote

(Based on those who say they registered but did not vote in the 2007 Presidential elections)
Do you think NIGERIAN NGOs should play a role in providing oversight and information on the election process in Nigeria? OR Should the government be able to administer elections without input from other groups in Nigeria?

(Nigerian NGOs should play a role) (Government should run elections without input)

(Based on those who know what an NGO is)
And their participation makes the elections better

Did the involvement of Nigerian NGOs make these recent elections...?

May 2007

- A lot more free and fair
- Somewhat more
- Make no difference
- Somewhat less
- A lot less free and fair

(Based on those who know what an NGO is)
International NGOs also viewed positively

Does the assistance by INTERNATIONAL NGOs and governments in these elections benefit the Nigerian people?

Do you think INTERNATIONAL NGOs’ and governments’ involvement in the elections was a positive thing?

- Benefits the Nigerian people
- Have no effect
- Damaging to the Nigerian people
- Very positive
- Somewhat positive
- Somewhat negative
- Very negative

(Based on those who know what an NGO is)
How likely are the following leaders to make improvements or progress on the biggest issues facing Nigeria:

- Newly elected president
- Newly elected vice president
- Newly elected senator from your area
- Newly elected representative from your area
- Your local government councilor

[Bar charts showing responses]
And institutions

How much confidence do you have in....

The courts

The Nigerian military

February 2007

May 2007

Great deal  Fair amount  Not too much  Not confidence at all