

ANN

PHYS-SEC AGORA - NIGERIA
VIRTUAL AGORA

"2023 Elections: Ensuring Security Protocol and
Situational Awareness."

February 15th 2023



AGORA NEXUS

— VA —
VIRTUAL AGORA

PHYS-SEC AGORA NIGERIA



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Under Chatham House Rule, the unrecorded session incorporated 50 Security leaders who are part of the Agora Nexus Security Leader/Stakeholder network.



We started the discussion with an open forum debate whilst incorporating a series of fully anonymized polls:



Opening Poll 1:

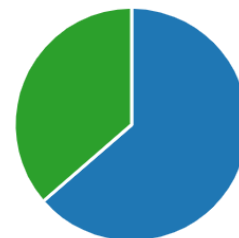
Can this election hold from a Security Angle (Will this election be safe for Nigerians?)



1. Can this election hold from a Security angle? (Will this election be safe for Nigerians?)

[More Details](#)

● Yes	14
● No	0
● Maybe	8



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM DISCUSSION /TOPICS COVERED



Observations/Debated areas:

Cash Availability Crisis



- The growing feeling and allegation that the CBN policy is being politicized
- Fear of the 'so called' unbanked population – The silent faces and voices under the mask of the protestors i.e. The petty trader who is not able to patronise volume of trade without cash



- The insufficient availability and circulation of currency and the effects on everyday Nigerians sufferings, resulting in anger
- A scenario where an ATM with 1m NGN was emptied within 1 hour



- Has the poor implementation of policy been linked to poor data?



- The issue that banks are not holding or hoarding money
- The regional comparison between the North and more densely populated regions such as Lagos
- How mis-information is exacerbating the tension and resulting in the public blame being passed onto private banks



- Has the information been correctly articulated to manage public expectations?

➤ i.e. 100 Days only for currency exchange

- Money hoarding amongst some population due to panic
- How do staff get to work or get paid – The ripple effect is multi-layered



- Cash is a broader economic problem – How is this going to overshadow and impact polling activity?

➤ It has been reported in 30 states that INEC do not have cash availability to pay and manage logistics



➤ This coupled with fuel scarcity amplifies the potential challenge



Protests

- How does this feed into the upcoming election?
- At present the protests are regionalised without a unified approach – Will there be a trigger that creates unification such as End Sars and what will it be?
- Businesses are directly looking at security to solve the problem



FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM DISCUSSION /TOPICS COVERED

Poll 2:



What is your biggest concern from a security perspective?



1	anonymous	Cash shortage
2	anonymous	Cash and fuel shortage
3	anonymous	Electoral violence which may result as a result of rigging by politicians
4	anonymous	Election-related violence, cash shortage and fuel scarcity
5	anonymous	violence
6	anonymous	The general election because INEC not looking at postponement.
7	anonymous	Anarchy.
8	anonymous	Electoral violence
9	anonymous	Cash scarcity and associated violence
10	anonymous	Unauthorized entry into corporate organizations for vandalism and theft
11	anonymous	Immediate Concern - Cash - Prolonged Election Run Off
12	anonymous	Anarchy and electoral violence
13	anonymous	cancellation of elections
14	anonymous	vandalism and theft
15	anonymous	INEC capacity and capability to use the BVA system simultaneously in about 30 states, in such a way that their lapses will not cause more violence. How best the security agencies could manage fall out.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM DISCUSSION /TOPICS COVERED

Poll 3:



What are we doing differently/what observations do we have from previous election scenarios?



1	anonymous	Movement Restriction
2	anonymous	BIVAS is new and will be used in this election
3	anonymous	Triggered Approach
4	anonymous	BIVAS
5	anonymous	disenfranchisement of the electorate who are yet to receive their PVCs
6	anonymous	Untested Technology
7	anonymous	Movement restriction
8	anonymous	Mistrust
9	anonymous	Disenfranchisement of voters in some cases
10	anonymous	Mistrust
11	anonymous	Uncertainty just before elections.
12	anonymous	Voter Apathy
13	anonymous	BVAS is new
14	anonymous	Incident/Crisis Management team already activated, Review security and journey management, and travel restriction.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM DISCUSSION /TOPICS COVERED

Observations/Debated areas:



Factors for consideration and preparation



- Next week (w/c 20th Feb) will be difficult - We must think differently as it will most definitely be 'Business as UNUSUAL'
- A reactive approach will not help in the current situation due to lack of resources



- All scenarios are realistic
- Review trigger and preparation plan to adjust to new landscape
- This election is different to previous as so many moving factors and components adding to tension



- Frustration is causing a reaction:

- Cash scarcity
- Boko Haram
- Election Tension
- Fuel scarcity



- Unfolding risk of INEC preparation:



Factor in:



- ✓ Biometric system has only been tested in limited states
- ✓ Are the population educated on the process
- ✓ Has the testing been done robustly?
- ✓ What is the back up plan?
- ✓ If any system issues on February 25th this opens the opportunity for election to be contested



Election Outcome Scenarios:



1. Plan for the outcome if election enters 'run off' status
2. Clear Winner - Likely will result in violence, but may be short lived
3. Election is cancelled and interim Govt. in place

