

YOUTHS, MALES LEAD IN CVR

It may still be morning in the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) which resumed on June 28th June 2021 on the online platform, but there are indications that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) may be on the verge of a landmark.

For a very long time, statistics, both of registered voters and actual voters during elections have shown the youths to lack interest in the process that throw up those who decide their present and future. The future leaders often post dismal figures in effective participation in every aspect of the electoral process. As it seemed, the youth had conceded the political space and decision-making in the political process to their elders.

That pattern seems to be on its way out if early statistics of the ongoing CVR holds out. For the first time in as long as can be seen in INEC records, the figure posted by youths as prospective voters is not only encouraging, but is indeed outpacing the registration figure of the age brackets above them. As of Monday 8th August 2021, the total number of fresh online pre-registrants stand at 1,609,981 while 195,591 citizens have completed their physical registration. On both scores in terms of online registration and physical registration, the response by eligible persons has remained impressive. 75,116 persons applied



■ Capturing a Registrant in Akure, Ondo State.



■ Canvassing to women to register at Remo North LGA, Ogun State.

through the online registration route for the week in review while 120,475 went through physical registration.

From the figures, the youths are leading in total online registration with 1,289,050 registration

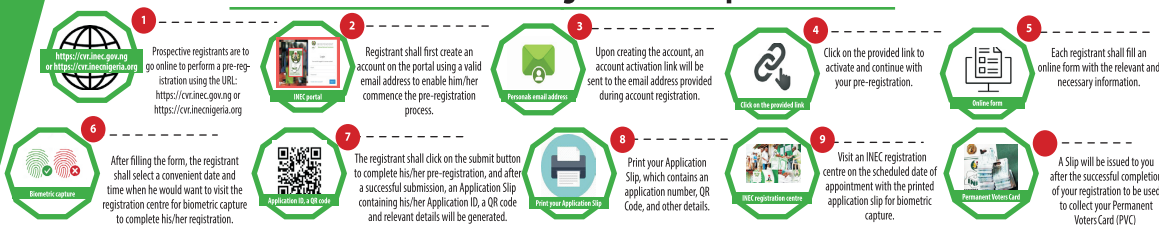
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Online Voter Registration Steps



INDEPENDENT NATIONAL
ELECTORAL COMMISSION
(INEC)

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requests received. They also constitute 70% of the completed registrations so far.

Barrister Festus Okoye, National Commissioner and Chairman of the Information and Voter Education Committee had in an earlier summary that remains valid noted that “young Nigerians between the ages of 18 and 34 are still leading in both online registration (1,289,050) and completed registration (139,002). In terms of occupation, students are leading in both pre-registration (639,348) and completed registration (80,334).

A look at the age distribution of the registrants shows that 1,289,050 of the online applications fall between the ages of 18-34, followed closely by the middle aged between 35-49 years with 478,649 applications. The third category in registration ranking are Nigerians between the ages of 50-69 with 190,466 applications. Interestingly, 26,552 senior citizens aged 70 and above have taken advantage of the online registration.

The prevailing statistics also show that there are more male online applicants than female, with 1,119,675 being male and 865,036 females for online pre-registration, while the figures for completed registration are 113,041 for male and 82,550 for female.

“
*22,941 persons who have
registered have indicated
one form of disability
or the other*
”

The statistics also indicate that of the total number of those who have registered, 22,941, persons have indicated one form of disability or



■ Registering a voter in Damaturu, Yobe State.

the other, while 2,084 of the number have completed their registration as at the 8th of August 2021.

Based on the available records, students lead in terms of occupation as indicated in their online application with a total of 639, 348 applications, closely followed by the Business class with 389,157 applicants and others not specified coming third with 339,290 applications.

Chairman of INEC, Professor Mahmood Yakubu, in several of his outings, has projected that the existing register of voters which has 84,004,084 Nigerians, may rise to 100 million at the end of the ongoing CVR exercise which is expected to last for more than one year before it will be suspended for cleaning of the register in preparation for the 2023 general election.

The increased interest by Nigerians, especially youths in getting registered is a clear affirmation of the step taken by the Commission to add online registration to the mix.

PORTAL FOR RECRUITMENT OF AD-HOC STAFF FOR ANAMBRA GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION OPENS

An online portal has been launched by the Commission for interested eligible citizens to apply as ad-hoc staff for the 6th November 6, 2021 Anambra governorship election.

The portal, pres.inecnigeria.org went live on Monday 9th August, 2021 and will be open to

applicants for a period of four weeks, until Tuesday 9th September, 2021 by 12:00 midnight.

The Commission welcomed applications for all categories of Ad-hoc staff EXCEPT Collation Officers.

Interested qualified persons are expected to log into the portal, fill and complete the application form online for consideration as Ad-hoc staff in the election.

The Commission says citizens can also access more information on the process on the INEC website, www.inecnigeria.org.



■ National Commissioners, Barrister May Agbamuche-Mbu (4th left) Dr. Adekunle Ogunmola (4th right) and Secretary of the Commission, Mrs. Rose Oriaran Anthony (3rd right) with executives of Nigerian Army Officers Wives (NAOWA) led by Mrs. Salamat Faruk (Centre) when the group visited INEC early this week.

NEW PUs NOT FOR LERE BY-ELECTION

Although it successfully broke a 25 year old jinx recently when it created new polling units throughout the country, the Independent National Electoral Commission has informed that the new polling units will not be used for the Lere Federal Constituency bye-election in Kaduna State on Saturday 14th August 2021, as they are still being finetuned. The existing PUs will suffice for the by election.

This clarification became necessary as preparations for the conduct of the bye-election intensified in the last week.

Five political parties will field candidates for the Lere Federal Constituency Bye-election.

Chairman of the Information and Voter

Education Committee (IVEC), Festus Okoye Esq., made the announcement in a statement on the by election.

According to the statement, the parties and their candidates contesting the election are: All Progressives Congress (APC) – Ahmed Mohammed Munir; Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) – Ibrahim Usman; Peoples Redemption Party (PRP) – Suleiman Danlami Lere and Young Progressives Party (YPP) – Malami Abdulkarim Salihu. The candidate of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) is subject to court pronouncement.

The Commission urged political parties to play by the rules and avoid campaigns that are capable of provoking violence. In the words of Commissioner Okoye, "political parties must conduct their

campaigns with civility and the best tradition of democratic ethos. Political campaigns or slogans shall not be tainted with abusive language directly or indirectly likely to injure religious, ethnic, tribal or section feelings. Abusive, intemperate, slanderous, or base language or insinuations or innuendoes designed or likely to provoke violent reaction or emotions shall not be employed or used in political campaigns".

While training of staff and personnel to be deployed for the August 14 bye-election has been concluded in the state, the IVEC Chairman reminds parties and their candidate on the need for strict adherence to COVID -19 safety protocols in the face of the resurgence of the virus due to the third wave of the pandemic.

He reminded political parties "that the last day for campaign is 12th August 2021. For the electioneering campaign and all other activities involving a large gathering of people, political parties and candidates are required to strictly adhere to the COVID-19 protocol contained in the statement released by the Presidential Steering Committee on COVID-19 on Friday 30th July 2021".

"The use of facemasks, observance of hand hygiene and the restriction of any enclosed venues to 50% of its installed capacity (while observing the two metre distance) are mandatory.

It will be recalled that over 26 bye-elections have been successfully conducted by the Commission after the 2019 general elections.

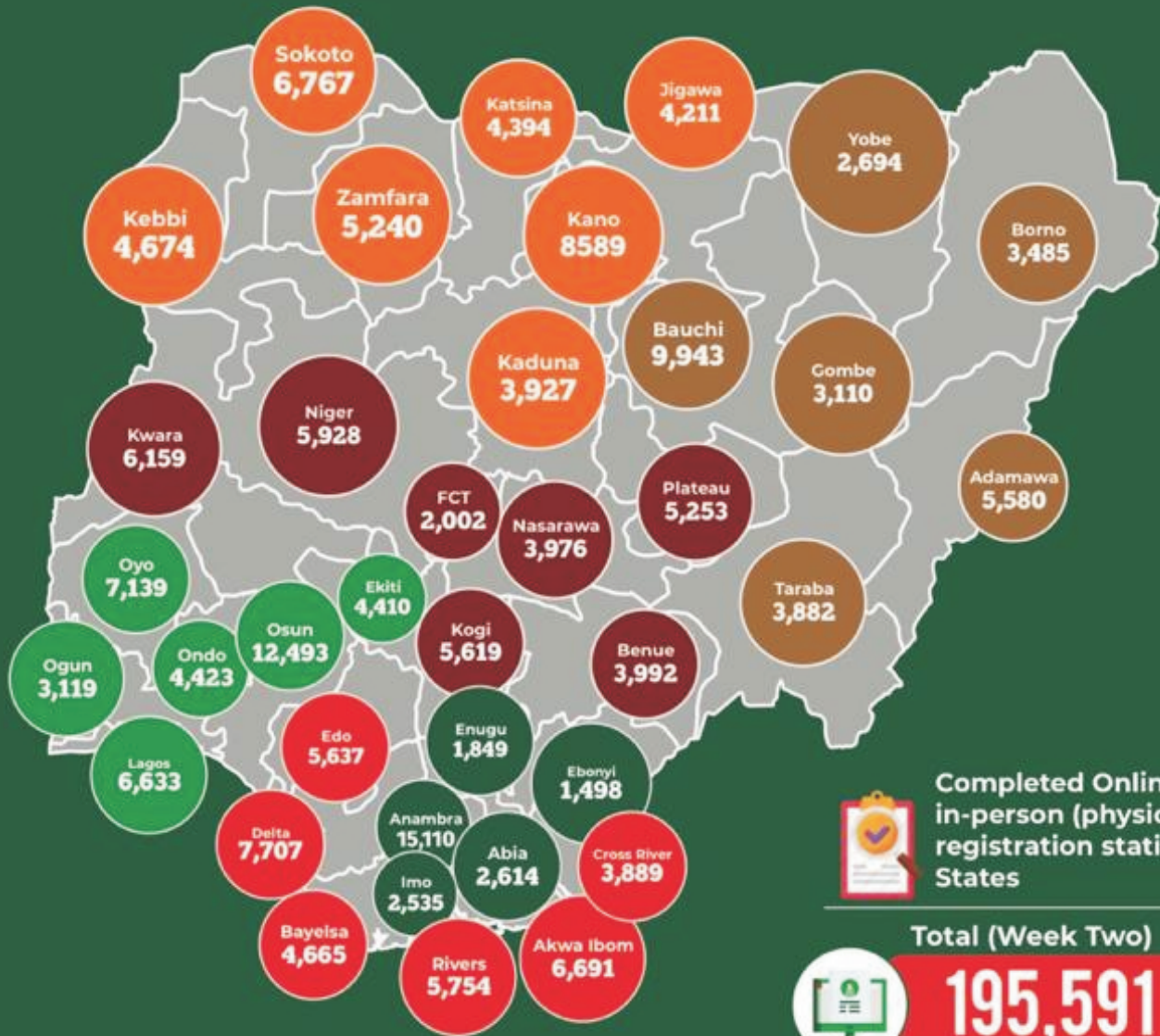


Weekly Update

No.2

Completed Registration

(As at 7am on Monday, 9th August 2021)



Completed Online and in-person (physical) registration statistics by States

Total (Week Two)



195,591

To register, visit:

INEC State or LGA offices nationwide
(Monday - Friday, 9.00am - 3.00pm)

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