

OYO STATE

The key variables to note in assessment of Oyo state as a battleground state are:

Registered voters in 2015: 2,344,448

Turnout in 2015 elections: 39.61%

Registered voters today: 2,934,107

% of registered voters nationwide: 3.94%

Oyo state is definitely one of the true battlegrounds to watch in the coming elections as there has been a persistent trend for the state to swing from one party to the other at presidential elections since 1999 as follows:

1999 – AD

2003 – PDP

2007 – n/a

2011 – PDP

2015 – APC

Parties and candidates

At the gubernatorial level, at least five political parties and candidates have emerged as leading the pack of about 37 governorship aspirants. These are:

- 0 A former deputy governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Chief Bayo Adelabu (APC) (grandson of Adegoke Adelabu aka Penkelemesi; Governor Ajimobi supports him);
- 0 Senator Olufemi Lanlehin (ADC) (commissioner for special duties and special advisor to Bola Tinubu; his godfather is Ladoja who has now moved to ZLP);
- 0 Former governor of the state, Otunba Adebayo Alao-Akala (ADP) (his party chairman and over 10,000 supporters recently decamped to APC, leaving him without a party base);
- 0 Seyi Makinde (PDP) (supported by indigenes of Ibadan, who represent 55% of the votes at elections, according to media estimates);

0 Former secretary to the state government, Sharafadeen Alli, (ZLP) (also chief of staff to Ladoja now of ZLP; Ladoja wins Ibadan since 2007).

All the candidates are popular in their special constituencies, and the race between the two main presidential contenders may be really close. However, it is expected that the divisions among the gubernatorial candidates may not influence the presidential elections. Instead, voters are likely to select different parties at different elections.

Disaffection with APC

It is reported that there is considerable anti-Buhari sentiment in the state in some quarters. The Governor's performance has also been abysmal, his utterance and behaviour generally causing disaffection towards him. Loyalty is important here. Oyo state has always been divided against the APC/AG for long, especially the Ogbomosho people, since the Akintola days. There is currently a PDP senator serving for example, and it may be expected that voters may choose different parties at the state's different elections from gubernatorial to senatorial to presidential.

Loyalty to APC

Generally, indications from the field are that Oyo remains more of an APC state for the presidential elections than ever. The APC Governor still has the power of incumbency and patronage. Atiku is perceived as a worse devil than Buhari, and it is expected that Buhari/APC loyalists will still vote Buhari on Saturday.

Class issues: The votes during presidential election may be divided among the middle class and the salary earners and elites on the one hand, and on the other hand, the rural people who claim to be have benefitted from Buhari's programmes in agriculture, graduate empowerment, and so on.

Political Astuteness

This is also important in analysing Oyo State politics today. Oyo people are advanced in political participation and this affects the vote as the electorate are highly politically informed.



Centre for Democracy & Development
Centre pour la démocratie et le développement

The Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) was established in the United Kingdom in 1997 as an independent, not-for-profit, research training, advocacy and capacity building organization

Address

16, A7 Street Mount Pleasant Estate (CITEC), Jabi Airport Road, Abuja.

Phone No

+23492902304

Email

cddabv@cddwestafrica.org

Website

www.cddwestafrica.org