

July 2014



Bellicose Language

## Background Information

The Nigeria's general election scheduled to hold in February 2015 has been described as a landmark event in the political history of the country that can make or mar its continued existence as a nation. This is against the backdrop of tensions and violence that often surrounds the conduct of elections in the country. Since the return of democracy to Nigeria in 1999, each subsequent general election has been fuelled by violent struggle from interest groups in their bid to either destabilise the election process or discredit it once their political aspirations are not achieved. Most of these crises begins with incitements and negative statements made by political actors which reinforces violent emotions and actions. This was exemplified in the 2011 post presidential elections violence across the northern region of Nigeria and heightened by bellicose statements made by aspirants and supporters alike. The violence led to the destructions of livelihood and deaths. Based on these experiences as well as the current actions of politicians that fuels ethno religious sentiments and divides, various predictions have emerged that suggests that Nigeria's survival as a nation is dependent on how political actors and stakeholders conduct themselves before, during and after

### Bellicose Quotes:

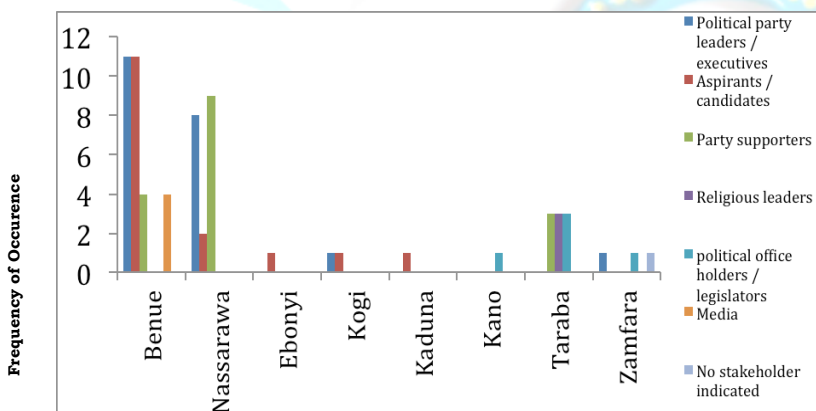
*"APC in Kogi State at the moment has gone back to a crippled stage because some members of the PDP who came through the backdoor using the connection of Abubakar Audu who himself is half PDP and APC are using their ill-gotten wealth to destroy the APC in Kogi State ahead of the 2015 general election...we the pioneer members of the APC have positioned the party to be the best alternative to the ruling PDP in the state, we have the blueprint to develop the state and rescue it from the lack of good governance and mis-rule of the PDP, but some people who claim to be our members but in the night are in government house romancing with the PDP, are hell bent on making sure that the APC loses the 2015 general election in Kogi State..."*

The chieftain of All Progressive Congress (APC) in Kogi State, Mr. Salisu Sani made a statement that some members of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) who parade themselves as members of the party have hijacked the party structure. (ThisDay Newspaper. 11/07/14)

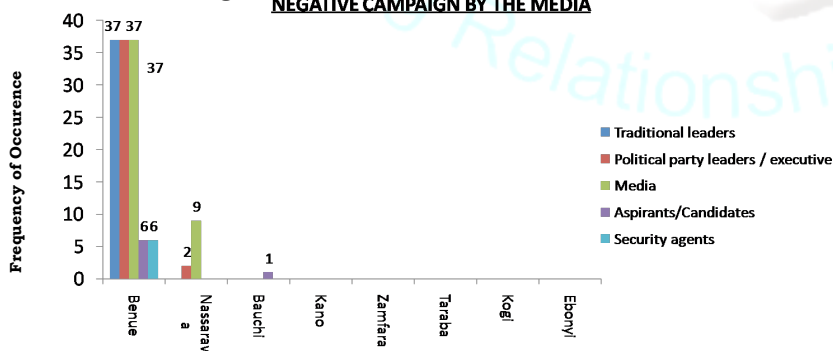
the general elections of 2015. Juxtaposed to this fear is the widespread insecurity from violent extremism in the north, kidnappings in the south and threats from loyalists groups of political leaders if their leaders are not elected. This concern has raised multi level engagements between various relevant government agencies, civil society organisations and international non-governmental organisations on actions that will prevent or mitigate this threat to the polity. The online analysis report titled, "Election Situation Brief" is part of WANEP-Nigeria's commitment to support preventive actions against violence in next years elections in Nigeria.

### Key Flashpoints:

**Fig.1: Negative and Inciting Statement by Political**



**Fig 2: BROADCAST OF HATE MESSAGES/JINGLES AND NEGATIVE CAMPAIGN BY THE MEDIA**



the highest frequency of negative and inciting statements by the political leaders, aspirants and party supporters. These statements are broadcasted in the mass media

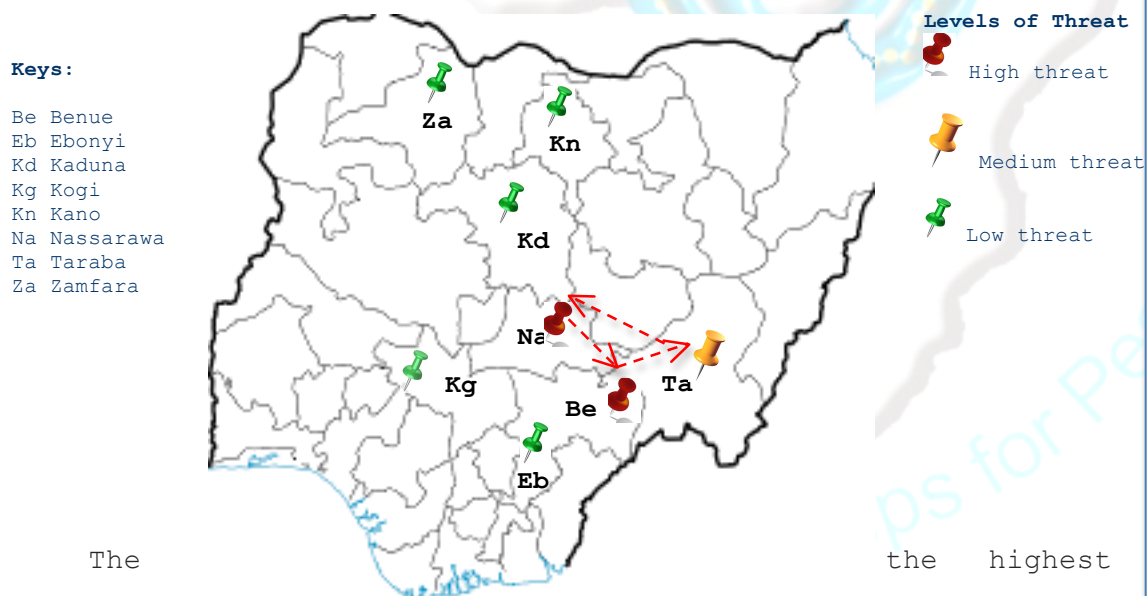
### About the Election Situation Brief (ESB):

The Election Situation Brief is a monthly publication of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) Nigeria that presents a brief graphic and descriptive analysis and proximate risk factors emerging from it's monitoring of the electioneering process leading to the 2015 General Elections.

Data for the analysis is derived from developed indicators that capture trends and patterns of threat with violent implications before, during and after general elections in Nigeria. Generation of the data is from monitors and reporters at the state level as well as from media tracking.

In July 2014, data analysis showed Benue and Nassarawa state as states with

especially from the State owned broadcast media. Also social media such as 'facebook' has become a veritable platform for the dissemination of these statements by loyalist. It highlights an increase and threat to the political structure and social order in these states. The complex mix of these actors is indicative of a threat pattern that could have violent impact when electioneering campaigns commence in November of 2014 (ref. to INEC Election Time Table). In Ebonyi, Kogi, and Kaduna states, there were few reported cases of inciting statements within the month under review. In terms of frequency and pattern, the political aspirants were identified as those that make negative statements with the likelihood for violence. Taraba State had a multiple actor involvement, especially party supporters, religious leaders and political office holders. It points to possible partisanship of religious groups with possibility of violence along religious lines as the electioneering activities increase in frequency from the last quarter of 2014.



The frequency of inciting statements in July are located within the North Central geo political zone. They also share geographical boundaries and faced with peculiar conflict arising from agro-pastoralist conflict. An escalation of political violence arising from tensions and threats has further implication for widespread insecurity within the region as it prepares for elections.

This publication derives inspiration from the WANEP-Nigeria National Early Warning System (NEWS), which supports the ECOWAS EW system-ECOWARN through a Memorandum of Understanding between ECOWAS and WANEP under the Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peace-Keeping and Security in West Africa.