CASTOR VALI
AFRICA RISK MANAGEMENT

Preparing for Nigeria's 2027 Elections

What organisations operating in-country need to know and do now

September 2026











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Why this matters now



Nigeria is entering a period of increased political activity and mobilisation ahead of the Presidential and National Assembly elections in January 2027, followed by Governorship and state Houses of Assembly elections in February.

Based on previous election cycles, political violence and election-related unrest are expected to increase closer to polling, with an uptick anticipated from November and December 2026.

For organisations with people, sites or operations in Nigeria, the coming months provide an opportunity to assess their exposure and review existing arrangements ahead of this higher-risk period.

This guide outlines the factors shaping the election environment, where risk is likely to concentrate and the practical steps organisations can take now to strengthen their preparedness and support the safety and continuity of their operations.

Why this election cycle is different

Several factors distinguish the 2027 election cycle from previous elections and could influence the operating environment.

Earlier timing: The Presidential and National Assembly polls fall roughly five weeks earlier than in 2023. Based on previous election cycles, the period of heightened risk is therefore expected to begin earlier.

Low levels of public trust: President Tinubu was elected in 2023 with 36.6% of the vote, while a 2026 Africa Polling Institute survey found that 28% of Nigerians trusted his government.

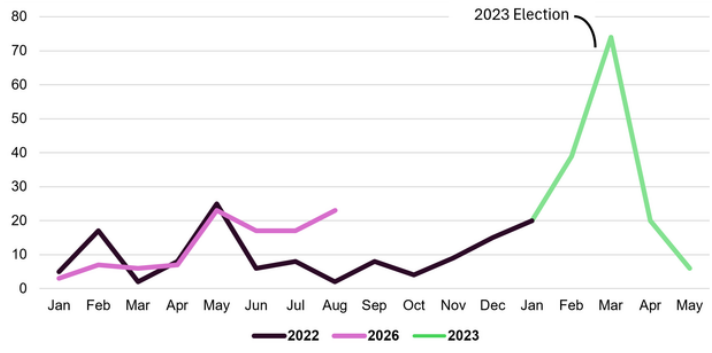
Economic pressure: Inflation has eased from its 2024 peak but remains elevated. An estimated additional eight million Nigerians fell into extreme poverty in 2025, with over half of the population now below the international poverty line.

A worsening security environment: Violent incidents linked to non-state armed groups rose by approximately 117% between 2022 and 2025, with associated fatalities increasing by 63%.

An evolving opposition: The emergence of a leading opposition platform has increased its visibility, although internal disputes continue to create uncertainty ahead of polling.

Weather-related disruption: A strengthening El Niño is expected to influence weather patterns through the 2027 election period. Severe weather could compound existing pressures by disrupting transport and infrastructure, affecting access to essential services and adding to economic pressures.

Taken together, these factors contribute to an elevated risk that political violence and post-election unrest could match or exceed levels recorded around the 2023 elections.



Election-related violence and unrest: January 2022–May 2023 compared with January–04 September 2026.

*Data: **ACLED***

How prepared is your organisation?

Most organisations already have crisis management or business continuity arrangements in place. The value of reviewing them now is to test existing plans against a realistic election-period scenario, considering your exposure, operational preparedness and situational awareness.

Our short Election Preparedness Questionnaire can help identify potential gaps and areas that may require further attention. It takes a few minutes to complete and provides an instant readiness score, with the option to arrange a free consultation with one of our team to discuss the results.

Take our election preparedness questionnaire

- A few minutes to complete.
- Instant readiness score.
- Optional consultation with our team.

Click Here

Pressure-test your plans

As a starting point, choose one state where your organisation has people, sites or operations and consider three scenarios:

- If roads closed unexpectedly, would you have an alternative plan for personnel movement?
- If unrest developed close to one of your locations, how quickly would your team know?
- Could you establish the location of travelling personnel if an incident occurred?

If you are uncertain about any of these answers, this may indicate an area that would benefit from further review before the higher-risk period.



Key dates to plan around

Political mobilisation and election-related risk will change as the election cycle progresses. Key electoral milestones should therefore be considered alongside organisations' own operational calendars.

19 AUGUST 2026
Key milestone: Presidential and National Assembly campaigning begins **Why it matters:** Marks the start of increased national political mobilisation
9 SEPTEMBER 2026
Key milestone: Governorship and State House of Assembly campaigning begins **Why it matters:** Political activity becomes increasingly localised across states
LATE NOVEMBER TO DECEMBER 2026
Key milestone: Anticipated higher-risk period **Why it matters:** Based on previous election cycles, political violence and election-related unrest are expected to increase even further around six weeks before polling
16 JANUARY 2027
Key milestone: Presidential and National Assembly elections **Why it matters:** First major polling day
6 FEBRUARY 2027
Key milestone: Governorship and state Houses of Assembly elections **Why it matters:** Second major polling day, with risks varying considerably between states
FEBRUARY 2027 ONWARDS
Key milestone: Post-election period **Why it matters:** Continued monitoring will be important where results are disputed or unrest develops

Where risk is likely to concentrate

Election-related risk will vary considerably across Nigeria and is expected to change as different states move through local, off-cycle and national electoral activity.

States holding off-cycle governorship or local government elections can experience sharp, short-term increases in political violence around polling. Over the medium term, Castor Vali's analysis identifies areas of elevated election-related and political violence, with trends varying significantly between states.

The wider security environment also remains an important factor. Non-state armed group activity has increased and spread geographically in recent years, while farmer-herder clashes have intensified in some areas. These dynamics may further affect the election environment and voter participation, particularly in rural areas.

A national assessment alone cannot reflect the exposure faced by individual organisations. Location-specific intelligence provides a clearer understanding of risk across the states, cities and routes relevant to their operations.



How Castor Vali can support your election preparedness

Castor Vali supports organisations before, during and after the Nigerian elections through integrated risk intelligence, security and resilience support.

01

Risk Intelligence: Our Nigeria Election Monitoring Package provides timely intelligence and analysis throughout the election period, including real-time security, political and operational alerts, the delivery of a fortnightly election tracker newsletter, and analyst-led security briefings tailored to your operations.

02

Training and Operational Preparedness: Castor Vali supports organisations in preparing for potential election-related disruption through training, site security assessments and business continuity planning.

03

Digital Reputational Monitoring: Digital Pulse is Castor Vali's digital intelligence and risk monitoring capability. The platform uses AI to rapidly process and analyse vast volumes of online content across millions of online sources, helping clients identify emerging trends, changes in sentiment, key narratives and unusual spikes in conversation that may indicate a developing risk specific to your organisation.

04

Travel Risk Management: Election periods can disrupt the movement of personnel at short notice. Castor Vali supports organisations with journey planning and management, real-time traveller tracking, alternative routing and 24/7 travel assistance through our Lagos Operations Centre. This helps organisations maintain visibility of their people and adapt travel arrangements as conditions change, including the movement of personnel supporting onshore and offshore operations.

05

Crisis Support and Scenario Planning: Our Lagos Operations Centre provides 24/7 incident monitoring, emergency response coordination and traveller assistance, supported by Castor Vali's in-country security and risk management capability.



Preparing for the months ahead

The operating environment will continue to develop as political mobilisation increases and the elections approach. Reviewing existing arrangements now provides time to identify gaps, strengthen preparedness and establish appropriate intelligence and monitoring before the higher-risk period.

Talk to our team

To discuss your organisation's exposure or election preparedness, contact Castor Vali to arrange an initial consultation with our team.

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About Castor Vali Group

Castor Vali has supported organisations operating in Nigeria for over ten years. With our regional headquarters in Lagos and an experienced in-country team, we provide intelligence, security, risk management and operational support to organisations across the country.

This guide reflects Castor Vali analysis as of September 2026, for more up-to-date analysis and advice contact us on info@castorvali.com

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