

**COALITION OF INDEPENDENT ASSESSORS
OF OSSIEC ELECTORAL PROCESS**

**REPORT ON ASSESSMENT,
VERIFICATION AND EVALUATION OF
OSUN STATE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL
COMMISSION (OSSIEC) ELECTORAL
PROCESS.**

17th February, 2025.

COALITION OF INDEPENDENT ASSESSORS OF OSSIEC ELECTORAL PROCESS

REPORT ON ASSESSMENT, VERIFICATION AND EVALUATION OF OSUN STATE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION (OSSIEC) ELECTORAL PROCESS.

1.0 PREAMBLE

The State Independent Electoral Commission was established for each State of the Federation by section 197 subsection 1(b) of the 1999 constitution (as amended) of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Whereas OSSIEC was set up to oversee the conduct of Local Government Chairmanship and Councillorship Elections for all the Local Government Councils in Osun State. However, two of such elections that were held in the past, in the year 2007 and 2022, owing to observed flaws relating to not keeping to constitutional provisions were subsequently nullified by competent Courts of Jurisdiction. By implications, much of public resources committed to the exercises went down the drain. Consequently, the Board of the Commission considered it expedient to avert such negative outcomes in future elections. Hence, the Commission sought the services of the under listed Academics to help carry out the itemized objectives:

2.0 MEMBERSHIP

1. Amos O. Popoola (PhD) - Professor of Mathematics & Director of Quality Assurance, Osun State University. - Team Leader
2. Elijah B. A. Agbaje (PhD) - Professor of Political Science, Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences, Osun State University, Okuku Campus
3. Taiwo A. Ojuringbe (PhD)- Professor of Statistics and Director of Career Services, Osun State University Osogbo Campus
4. Olufunmiso O. Ajala (PhD)- Associate Professor of Science Education, University of Ilesa, Ilesa.
5. Folasade M. Adeyemi (PhD)- Osun State University, Osogbo Campus.
6. Michael A. Ilesanmi (PhD)- Federal University of Health Sciences, Ila Orangun.
7. Olufemi E. Akinrinade (PhD).- Osun State University, Ejigbo Campus

3.0 OBJECTIVES

- a) To review the operations of the Commission over the years,
- b) To assess the level and adequacy of the preparation for the forthcoming elections of 22nd February, 2025.

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- c) To point out areas where gaps may still exist that could affect the successful outcome the proposed election, and
- d) To make necessary recommendations.

4.0 REPORT FOCUS

To carry out needed verification, assessment and evaluation of the OSSIEC operations, the Team Interacted with members of the Management Board of the Commission and perused available relevant documents.

1. Electoral Law and Compliance

a. Nigerian Constitution

Section 7 of The Nigerian Constitution guarantees a "system of local government by democratically elected Local Government Councils". The same Constitution equally compelled the Government of every State to, subject to section 8 of the same Constitution, ensure their existence under a Law which provides for the establishment, structure, composition, finance and functions of such Councils. (Annexure 1)

- The first schedule, section 3 of the same Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria listed that there shall be 30 Local Government Council Areas in Osun State, Nigeria. (Annexure 1)
- Part II, Sections 3 and 4 of the First Schedule of the Constitution equally provides for the establishment of State Independent Electoral Commission to superintend the conduct of elections of Chairmen and Councilors into Local Government Councils. (Annexure 1)

b. OSSIEC Constitution

The Osun State Independent Electoral Commission (OSSIEC) Law of 2005 and 2022 as amended established the OSSIEC, stating among others its powers, structures, functions as well as the processes through which the elections are to be held. (Annexure 2)

c. Electoral Guidelines

The OSSIEC towards the proposed Local Government Council election holding on the 22nd February, 2025 issued a Guideline - *Voter Education and Electoral Guidelines: 2025 Local Government Elections* - for the conduct of the election. The Guideline, among others, made provision for the following critical components of election:

1. Nature of Osun State 2025 Local Government Council elections
2. Notice of elections
3. Eligibility for voting

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4. Voter's Card
5. Qualification/Disqualification of candidates
6. Procedures for nominations
7. Voting procedures
8. Collation of results
9. Electoral officers
10. Campaigns
11. Electoral offences, and
12. Election petitions.

In addition, the Commission in preparation for the February 22, 2025 elections also provided OSSIEC Election Manual for Officials and Political Parties, (Annexure 3)

2. Election Preparation and Operation

The electoral activities of the Commission can be streamed into three main parts,

- a) Pre-election
- b) Election and
- c) Post-election

3. Administration

a. The Commission

The Commission is govern by the Chairman and the Commissioners. It has six (6) Directorates:

1. Legal Services
2. Information and Public Relations
3. Operations and Logistics
4. Finance and Account
5. Administration and Supplies
6. Information and Communication Technology

The OSSIEC law provided for the establishment of Local Government Area Offices of the Commission in all the thirty (30) Local Government Areas, (Annexure 2)

b. The Committees

The Directorates and the Committees were established to oversee and discharge the Commission's duties.

c. The Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary is statutorily recognized as the Accounting Officer of the Commission, and custodian of all statutory records.

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d. The Chairman

The Chairman is a tenured apex authority of the Commission providing direction for all the electoral and other non-electoral but related activities of the Commission.

The work of the Independent Assessors was guided by the above constitutional, administrative and operational framework. During the data collection, the Team interacted with documents, staff of the Commission and the Commission's website. The details of the assessment are therefore so guided.

A. Comparative Analysis of Pre-Election Operations of Osun State Independent Electoral Commission (OSSIEC) since 2007

S/N	Indicators	2007 Election	2022 Elections	2025 Elections
1	Funding	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	High level of Independence of the Commission	No Record	No	Yes
3	Production of Electoral Guidelines	No Record	No Record	Yes
4	Adherence to the Guidelines	No	No	Yes
5	Election time table	Yes	Yes	Yes
6	Notice of election	Yes	Yes	Yes
7	Compliance with Constitutional Provision on notice of election	No	No	Yes
8	Compliance with same day election	Yes	Yes	Yes
9	Security Arrangement	Yes	Yes	Yes
10	Mode of Publicity of Election <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newspapers Mass Media (Radio and TV) Website Social Media 	Yes Yes No No	Yes Yes No No	Yes Yes Yes Yes
11	Consultation with political parties	No Record	No Record	Yes
12	High Level of Participation of Political Parties	No Record	No	Yes
13	Adequate Number of OSSIEC Staff	No	No	Yes
14	Recruitment of Ad-hoc Staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequacy of staff Openness of recruitment 	No No	No No	Yes Yes

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S/N	Indicators	2007 Election	2022 Elections	2025 Elections
	• Training	Yes	Yes	Yes
15	Gender Configuration of Electoral officers	No	No	Yes
16	Deployment of Technology	No	No	Yes
17	Establishment and operationality of the OSSIEC Area offices	No	No	Yes
18	Verification, Assessment and Evaluation of OSSIEC operations	No Record	No Record	Yes
19	Observers' Participation	Yes	Yes	Yes
20	Observation of Parties' primary election by the OSSIEC	No Record	No Record	Yes
21	Adherence to the criteria for nomination of candidates	Yes	Yes	Yes
22	Functionalities of the Committees of Commission	No Record	No Record	Yes
23	Frequency of the OSSIEC Committee meetings	No Record	No Record	Yes
24	Establishment of Local Government and Area Council Election Appeal Tribunal	No Record	No Record	Yes
25	Setting up Election Review Evaluators	No Record	No	Yes
26	Compliance with statutory format of ballot paper	Yes	Yes	Yes
27	Readiness for Contingencies e.g. Inconclusive / supplementary election(s)	No	No	Yes
28	Record Keeping	No	No	Yes
29	Commission's infrastructural enhancement	No	No	Yes
30	Improvement in electoral personnel remunerations	No	No	Yes

A comparative analysis was carried out on the above data and the the following results were obtained;

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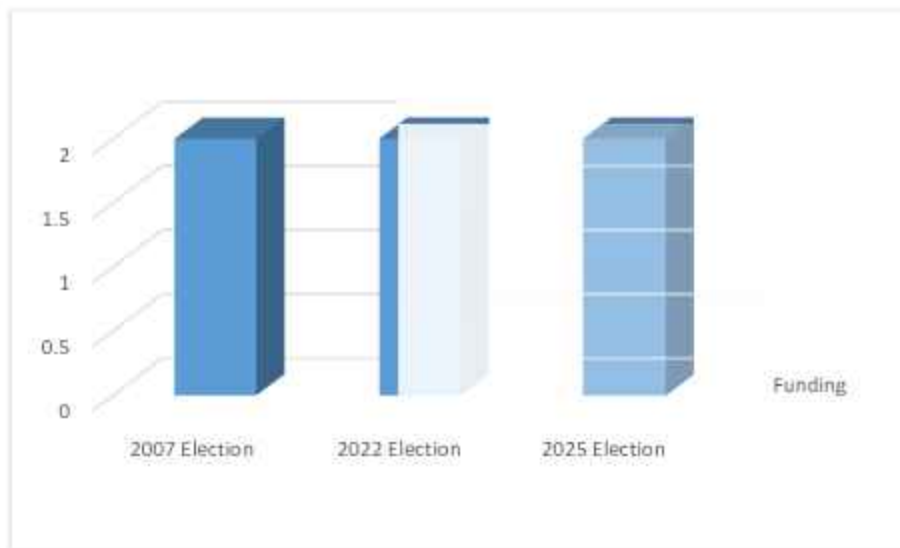


Figure 1: Allocation of Funds for Local Government Elections.

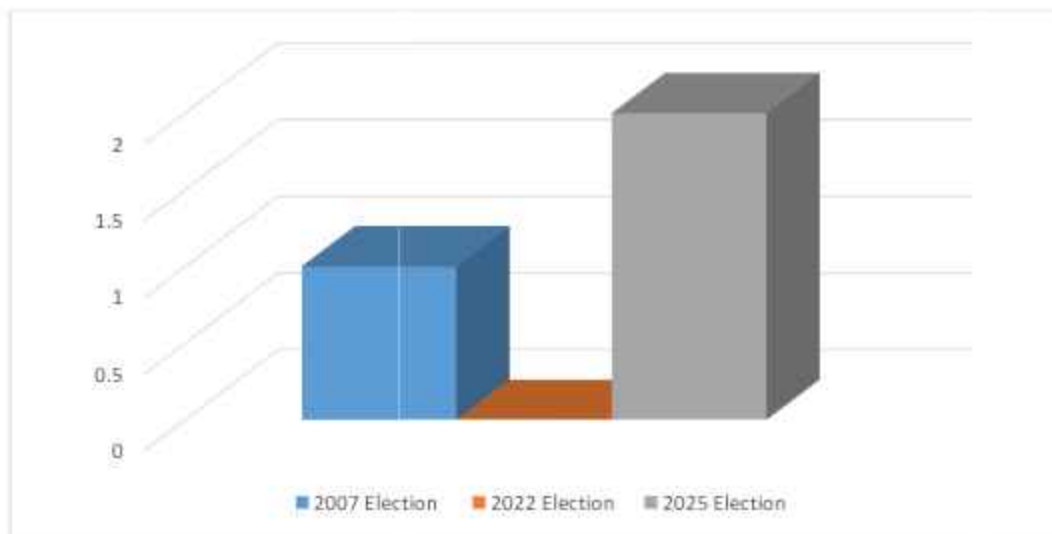


Figure 2: Level of Independence of the Commission

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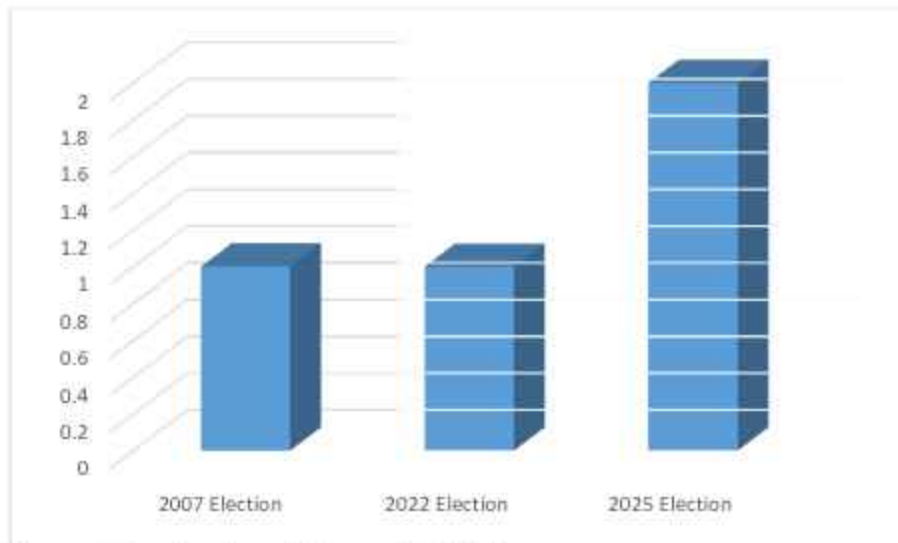


Figure 3: Production of Electoral Guideline

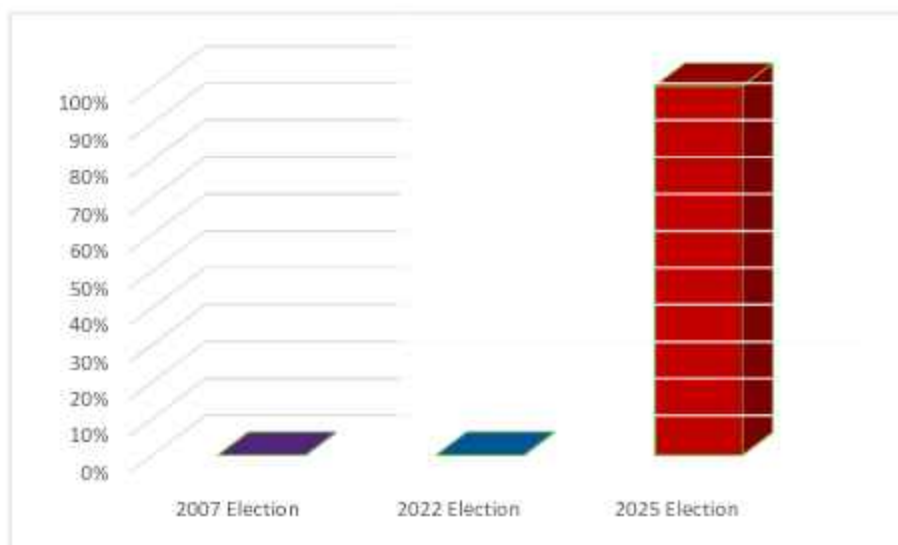


Figure 4: Adherence to Guideline

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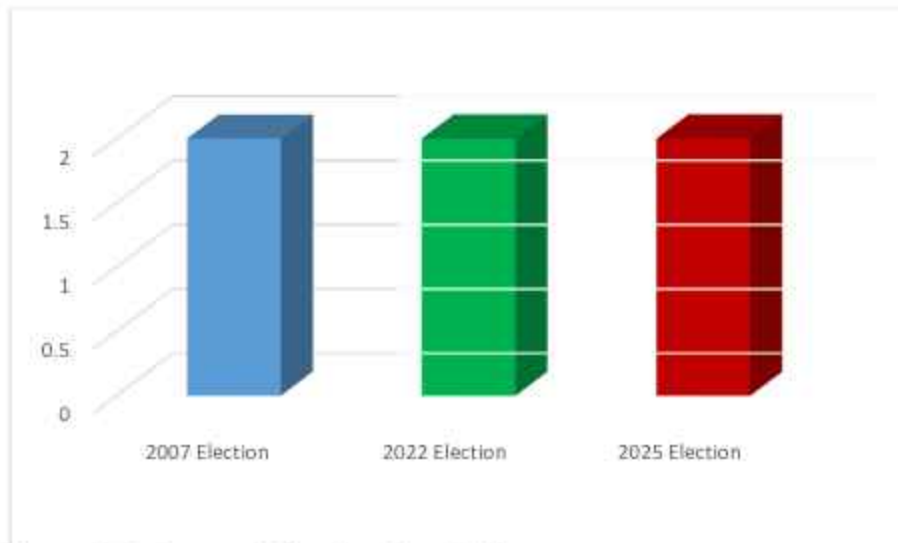


Figure 5: Existence of Election Time Table

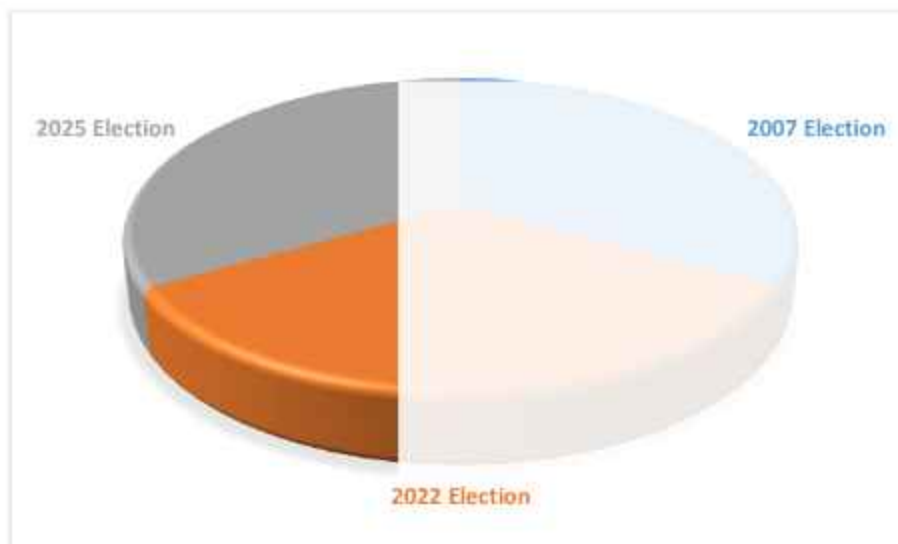


Figure 6: Release of Notice of Election

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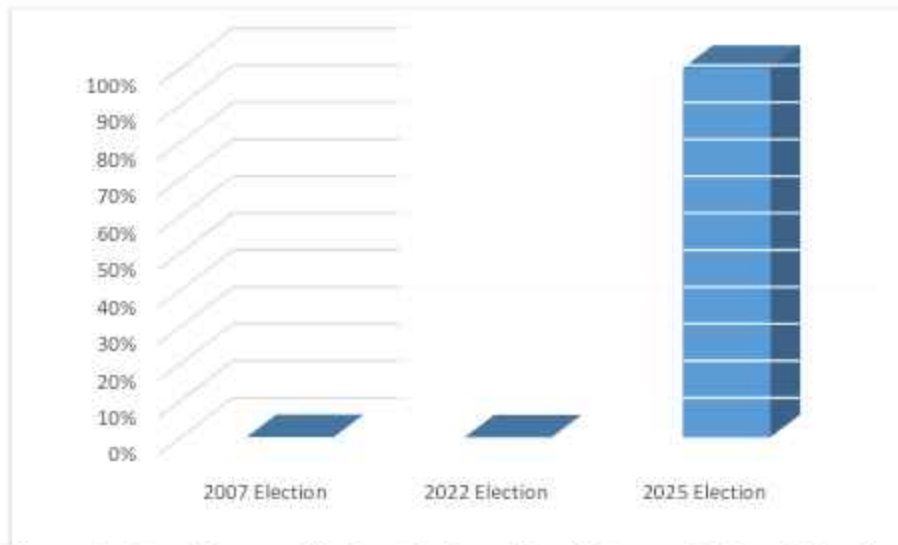


Figure 7: Compliance with Constitutional Provision on Notice of Election

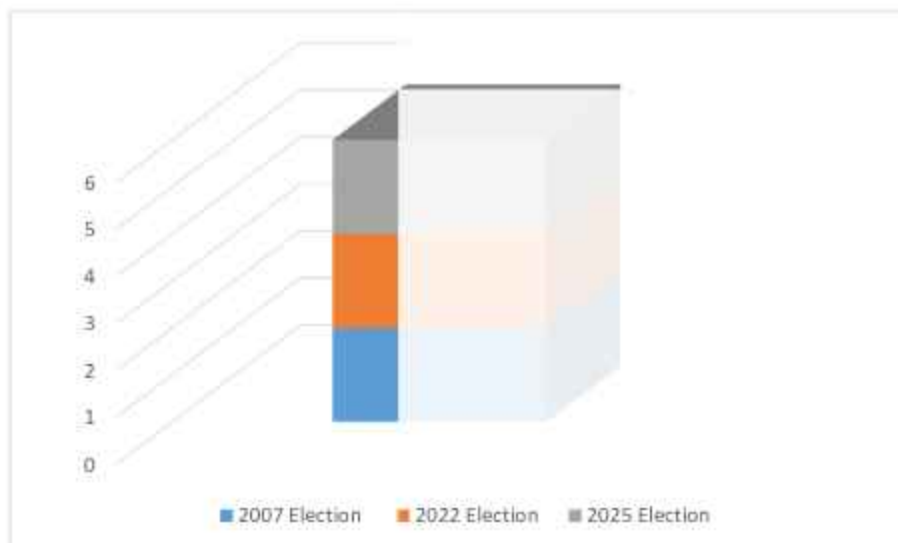


Figure 8: Compliance with Same day Election

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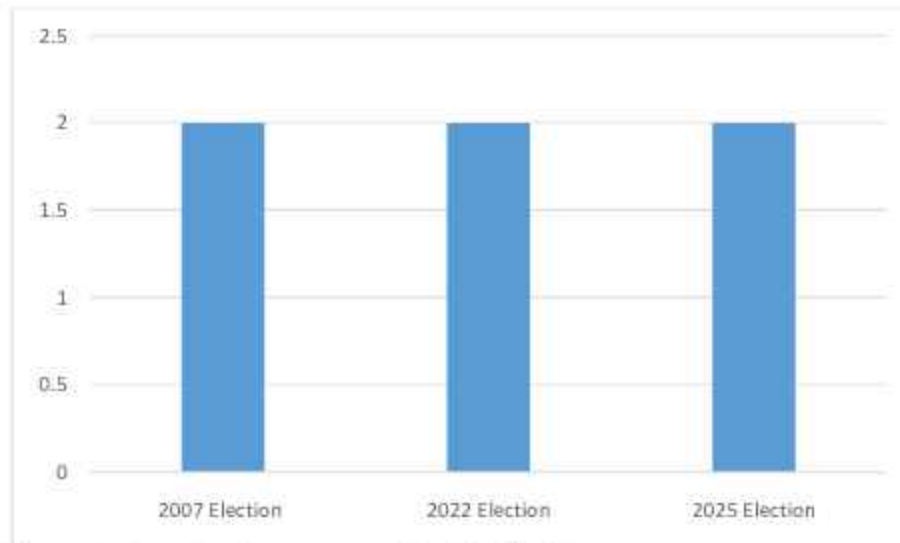


Figure 9: Security Arrangement for the Election

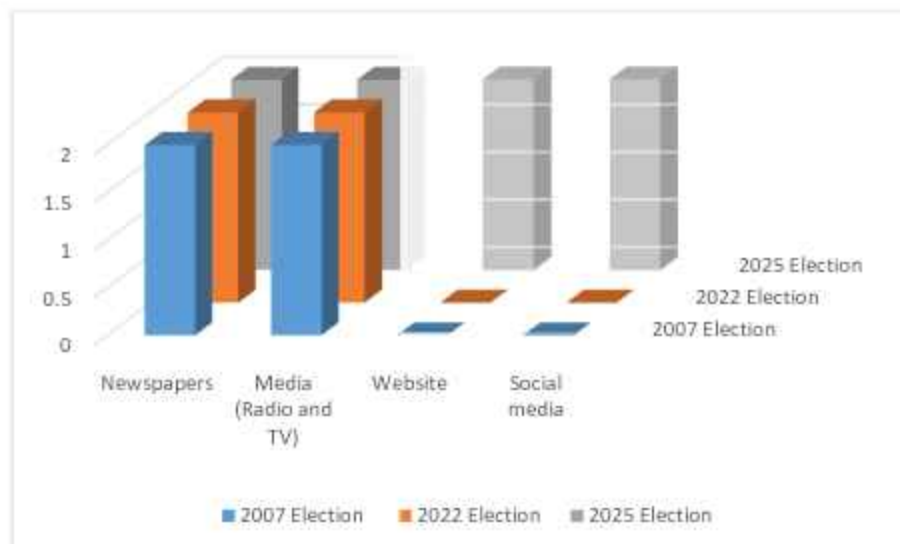


Figure 10: Comparison of Mode of Publicity

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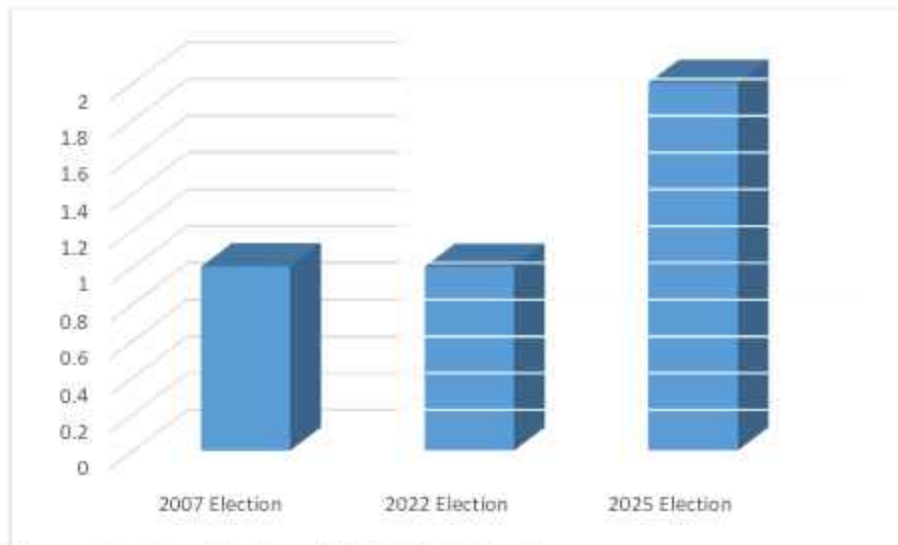


Figure 11: Consultation with Political Parties

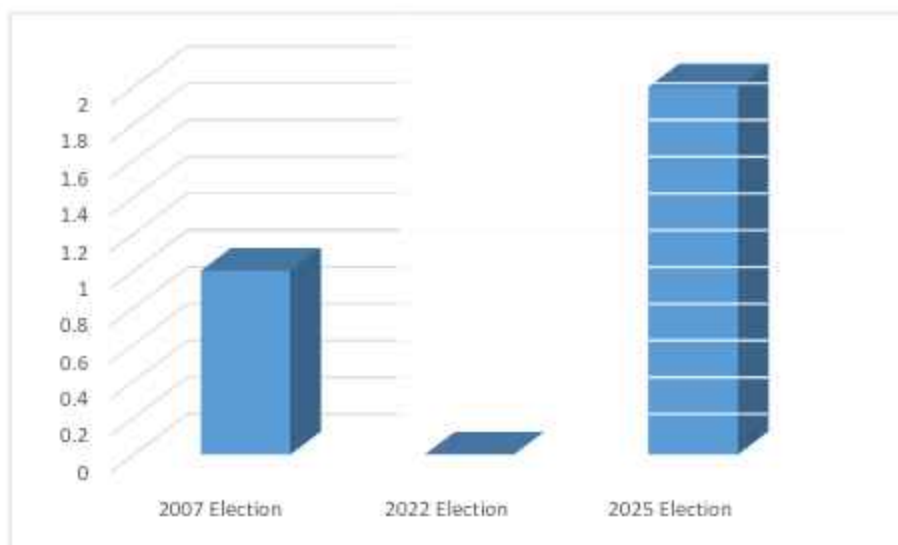


Figure 12: High Level of Participation of Political Parties

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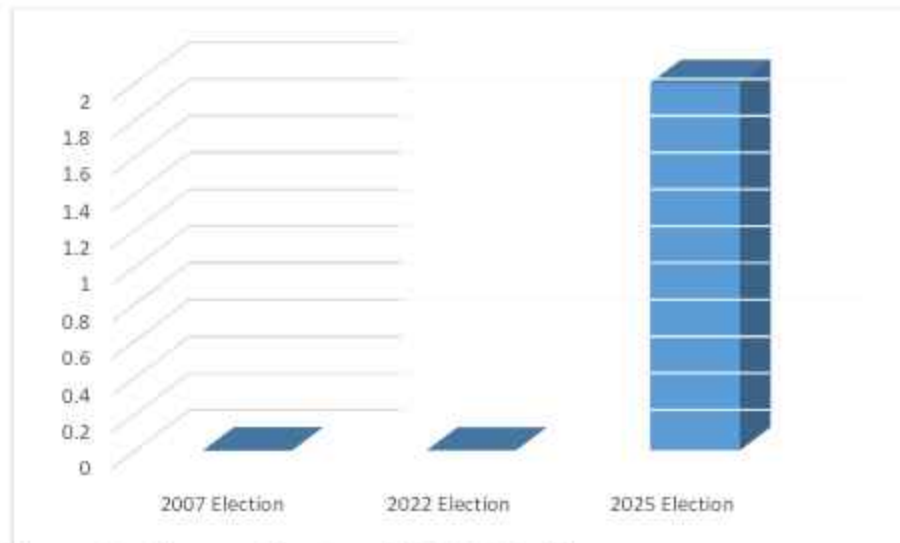


Figure 13: Adequate Number of OSSIEC Staff

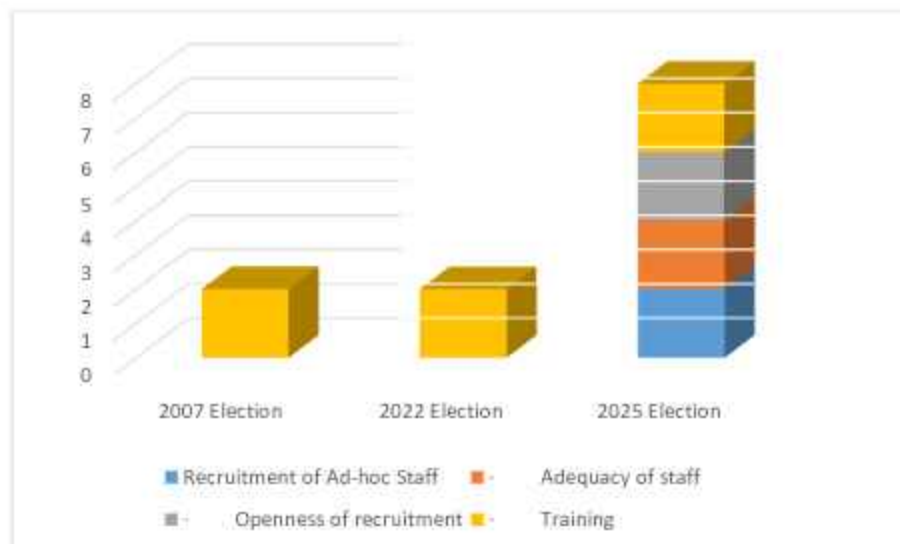


Figure 14: Ad-hoc Staff Recruitment Process

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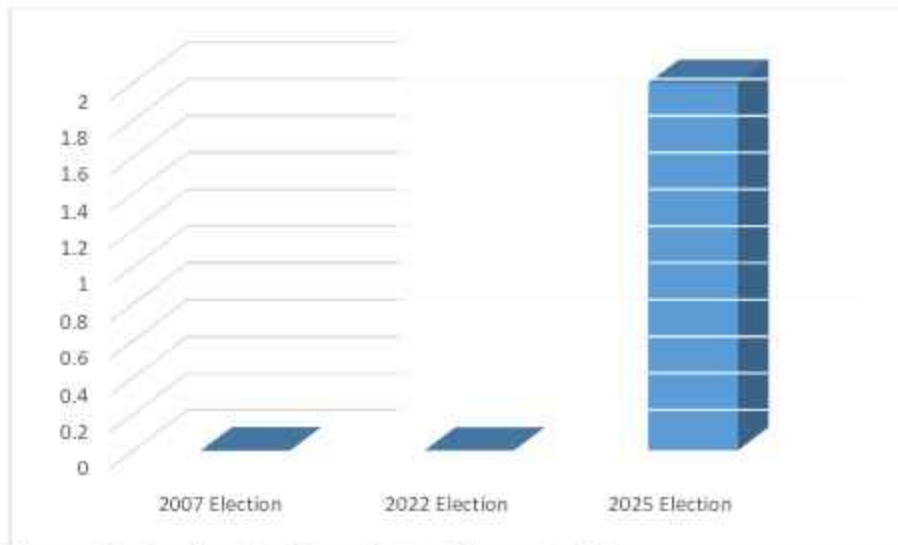


Figure 15: Gender Configuration of Electoral officers

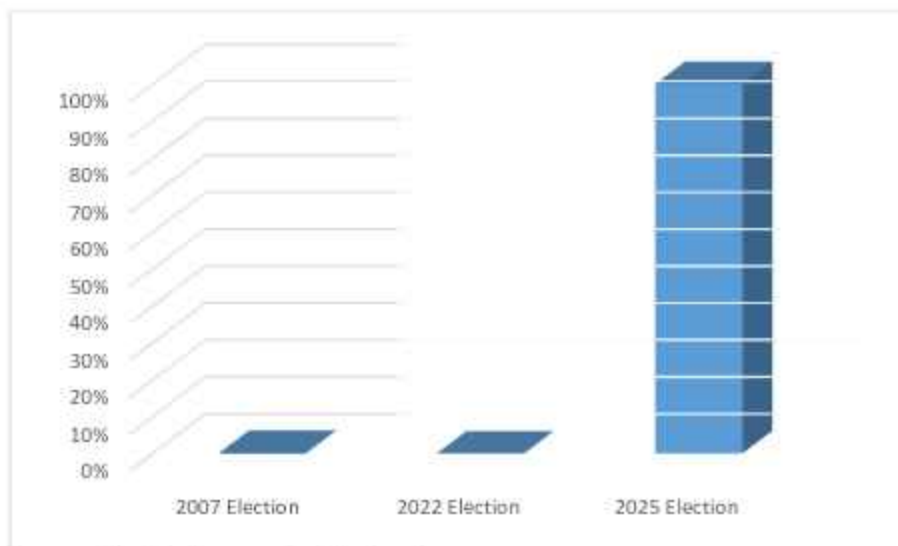


Figure 16: Deployment of Technology

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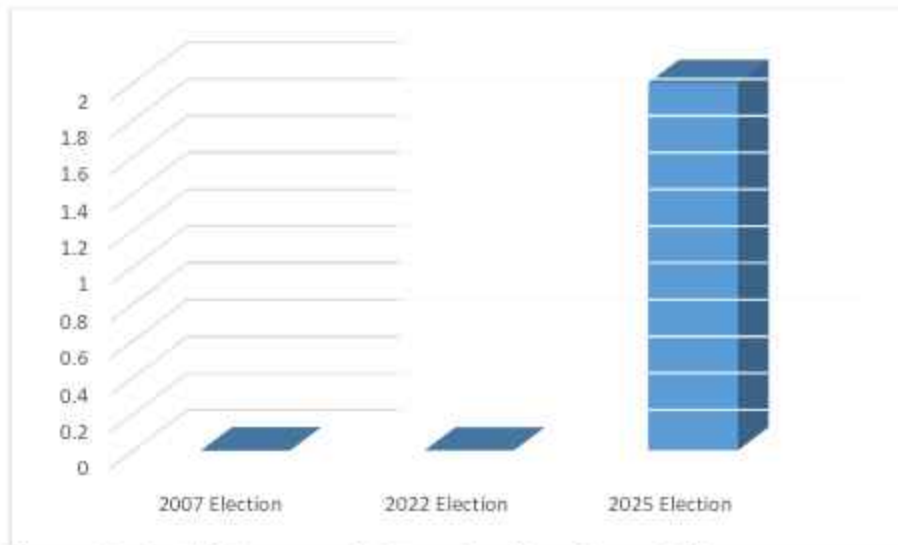


Figure 17: Establishment and Operationality of Area Offices

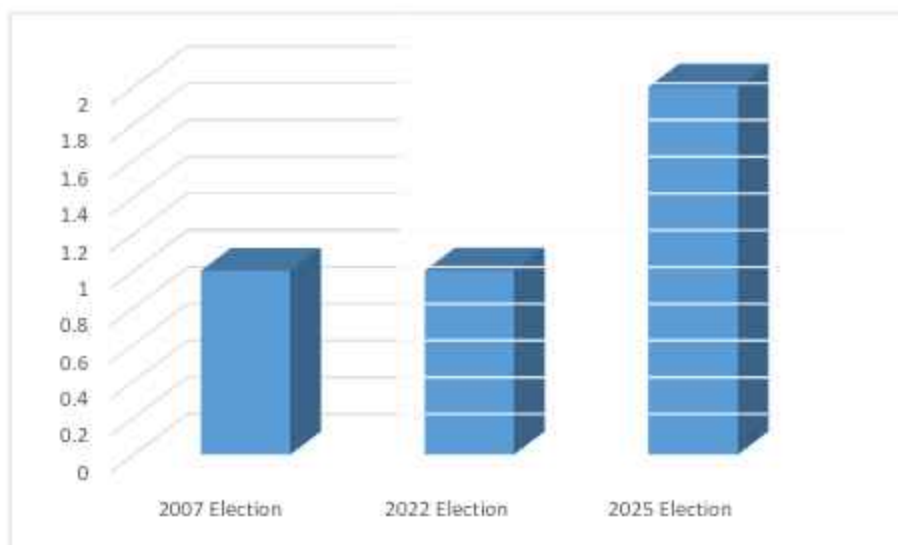


Figure 18: Verification, Assessment and Evaluation of OSSIEC operations

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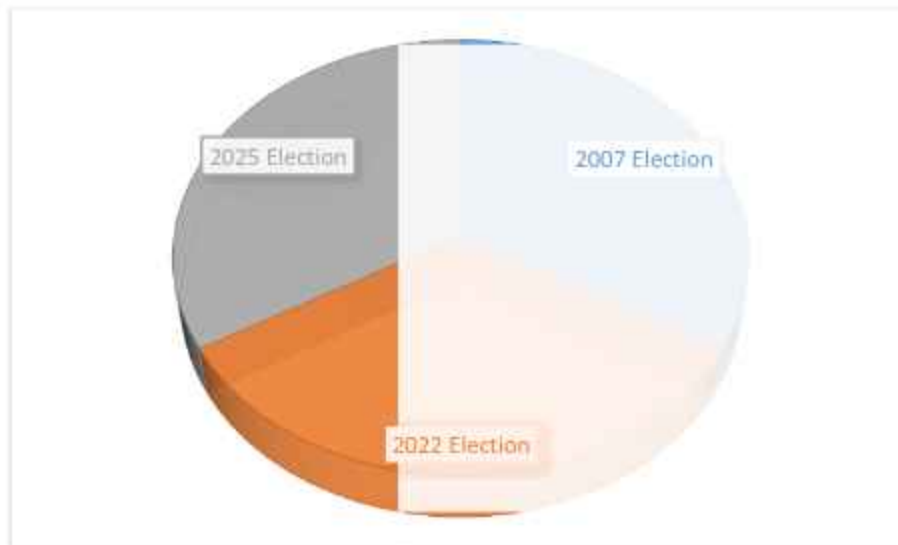


Figure 19: Observers Participations

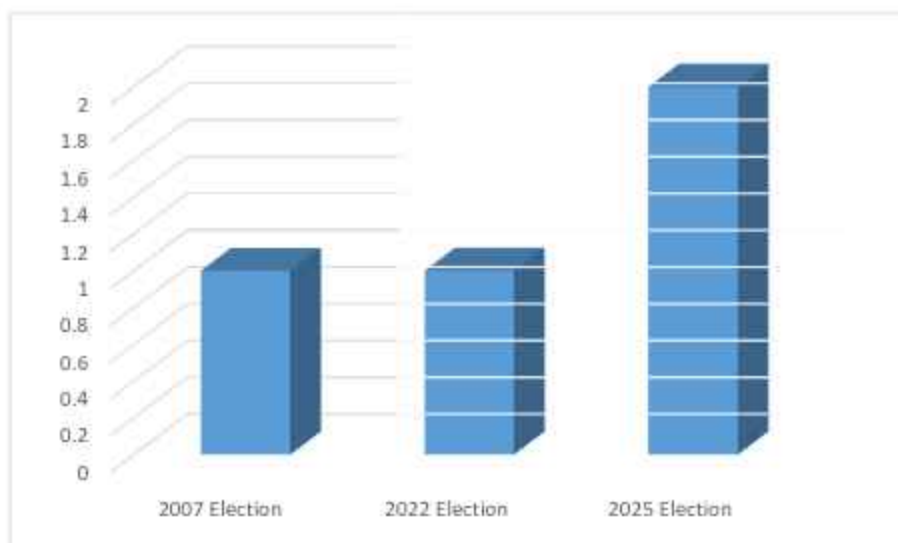


Figure 20: Observation of Parties Primaries Election by OSSIEC

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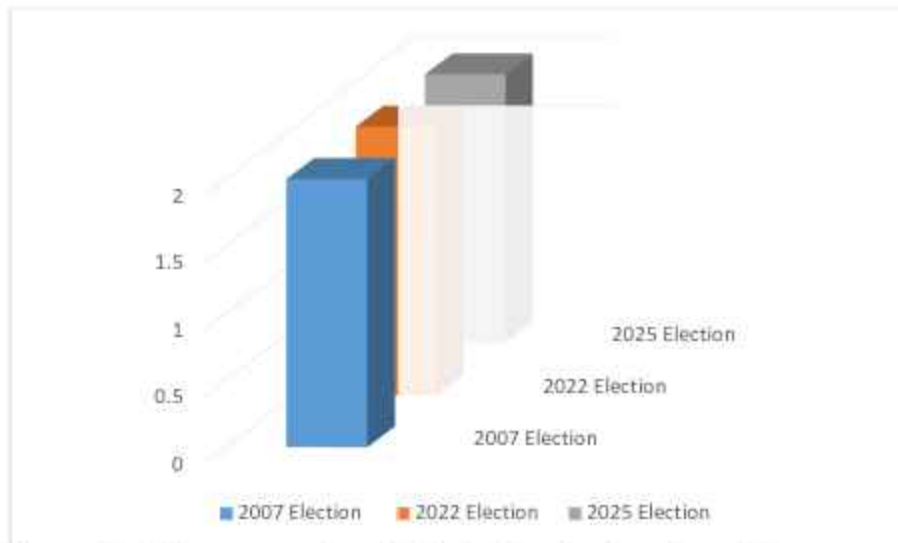


Figure 21: Adherence to the criteria for Nomination of candidates

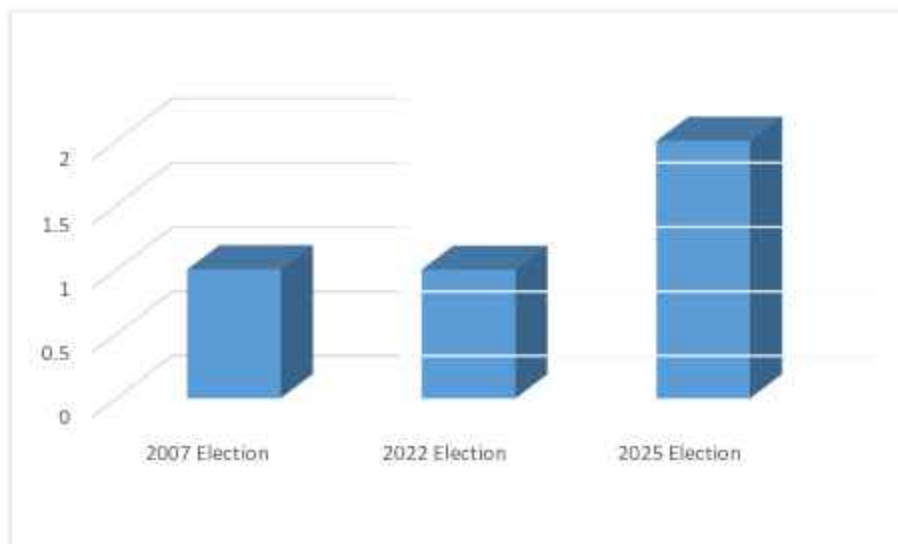


Figure 22: Functionalities of the Committees of the Commission

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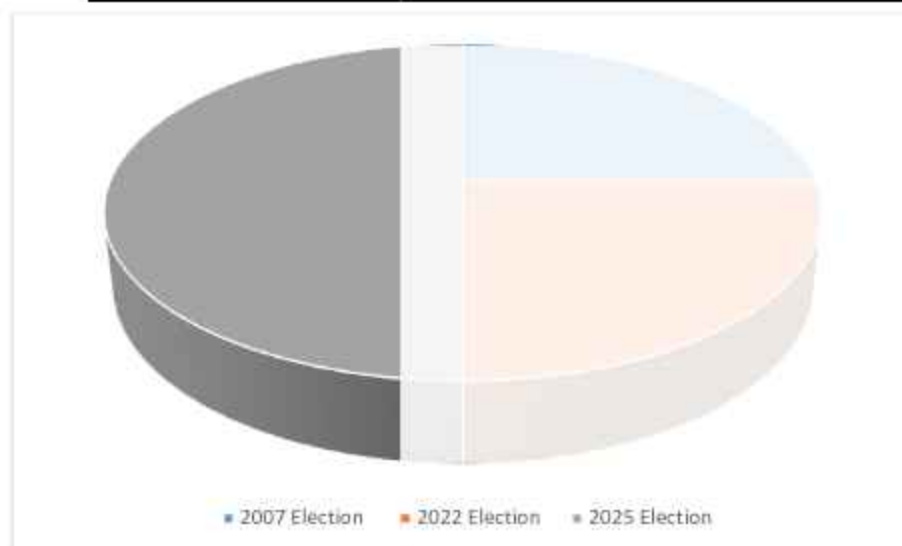


Figure 23: Frequency of the OSSIEC Committee meetings

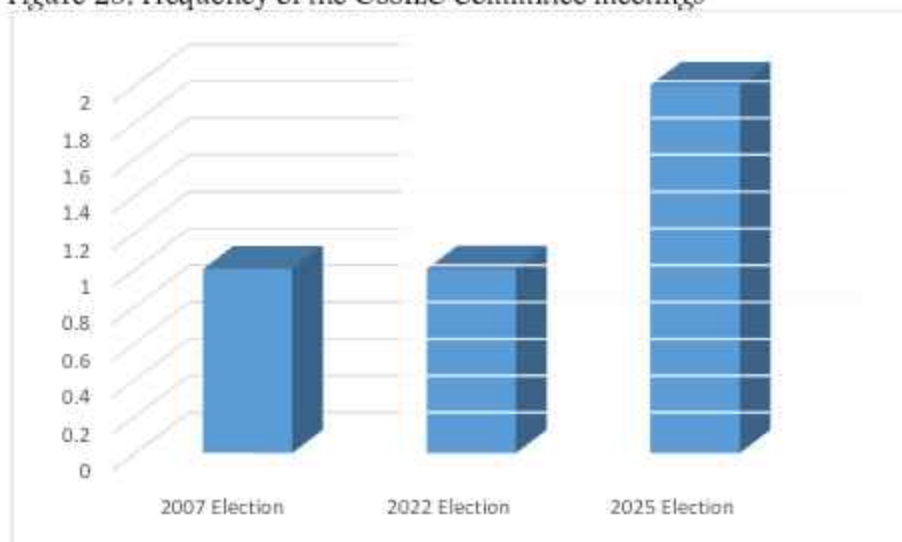


Figure 24: Establishment of Local Government and Area Council Election Appeal Tribunal

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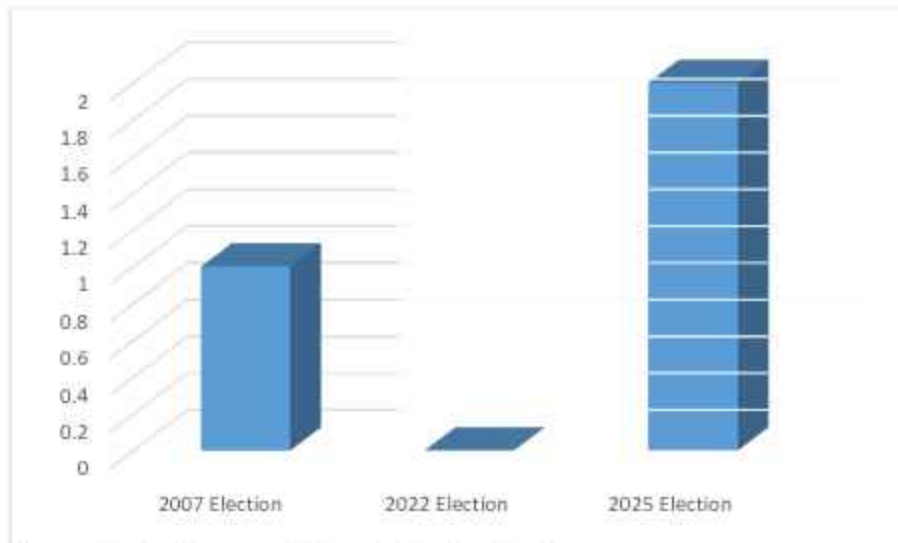


Figure 25: Setting up of Election Review Evaluators

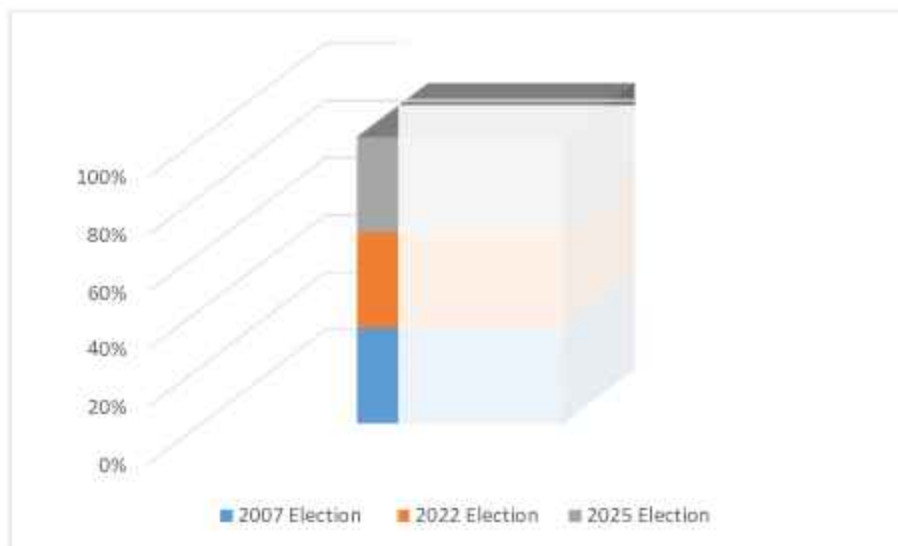


Figure 26: Compliance with Statutory Format of Ballot Paper

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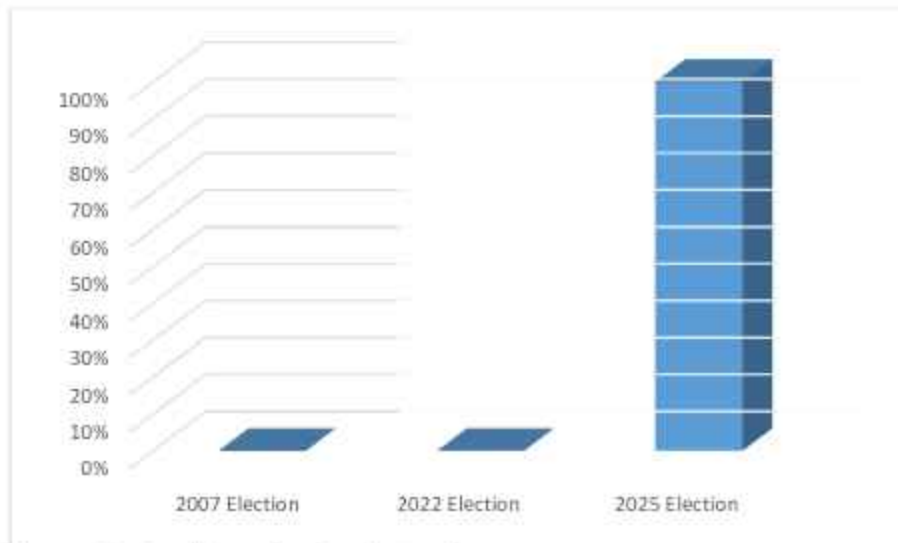


Figure 27: Readiness for Contingencies

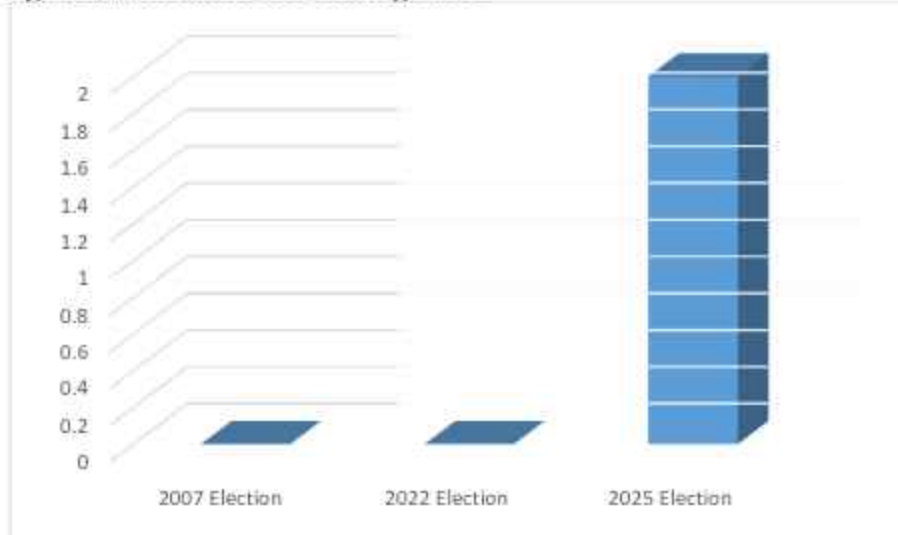


Figure 28: Record keeping by the Commission

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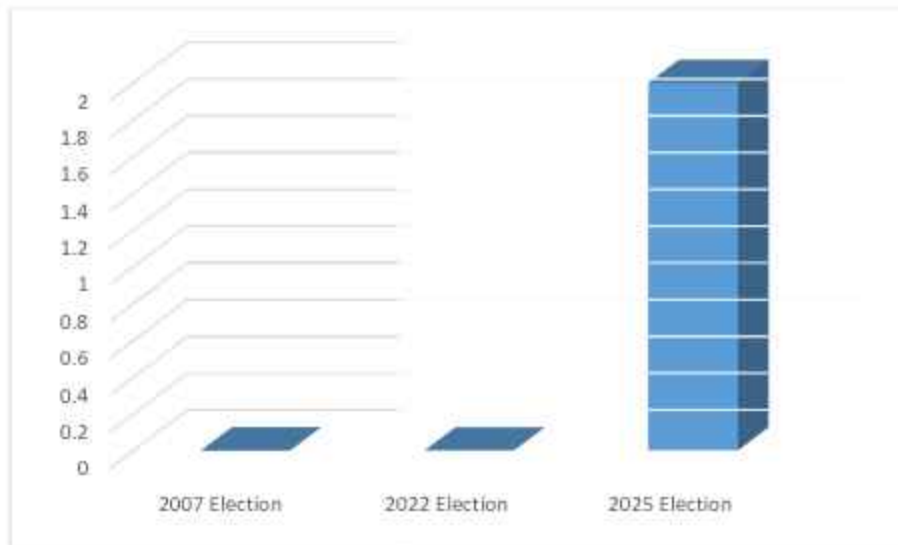


Figure 29: Infrastructural Enhancement of the Commission

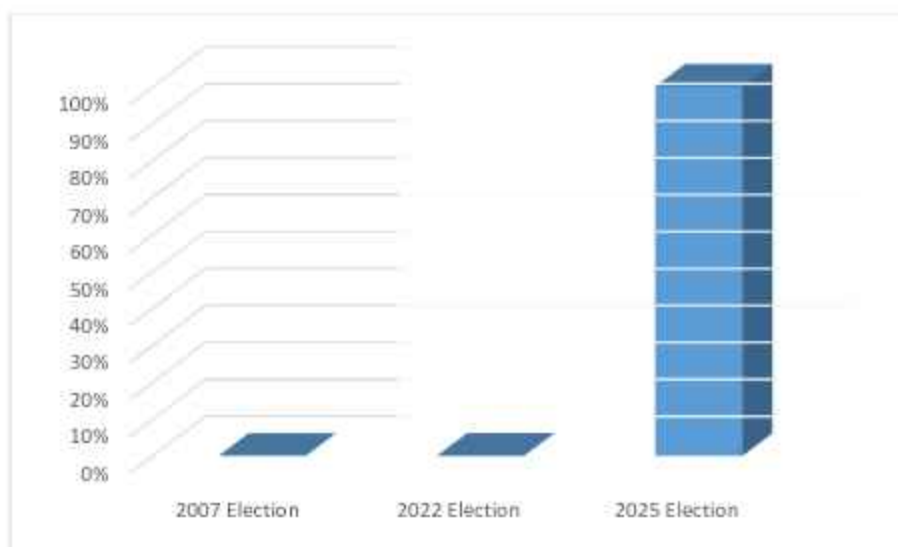
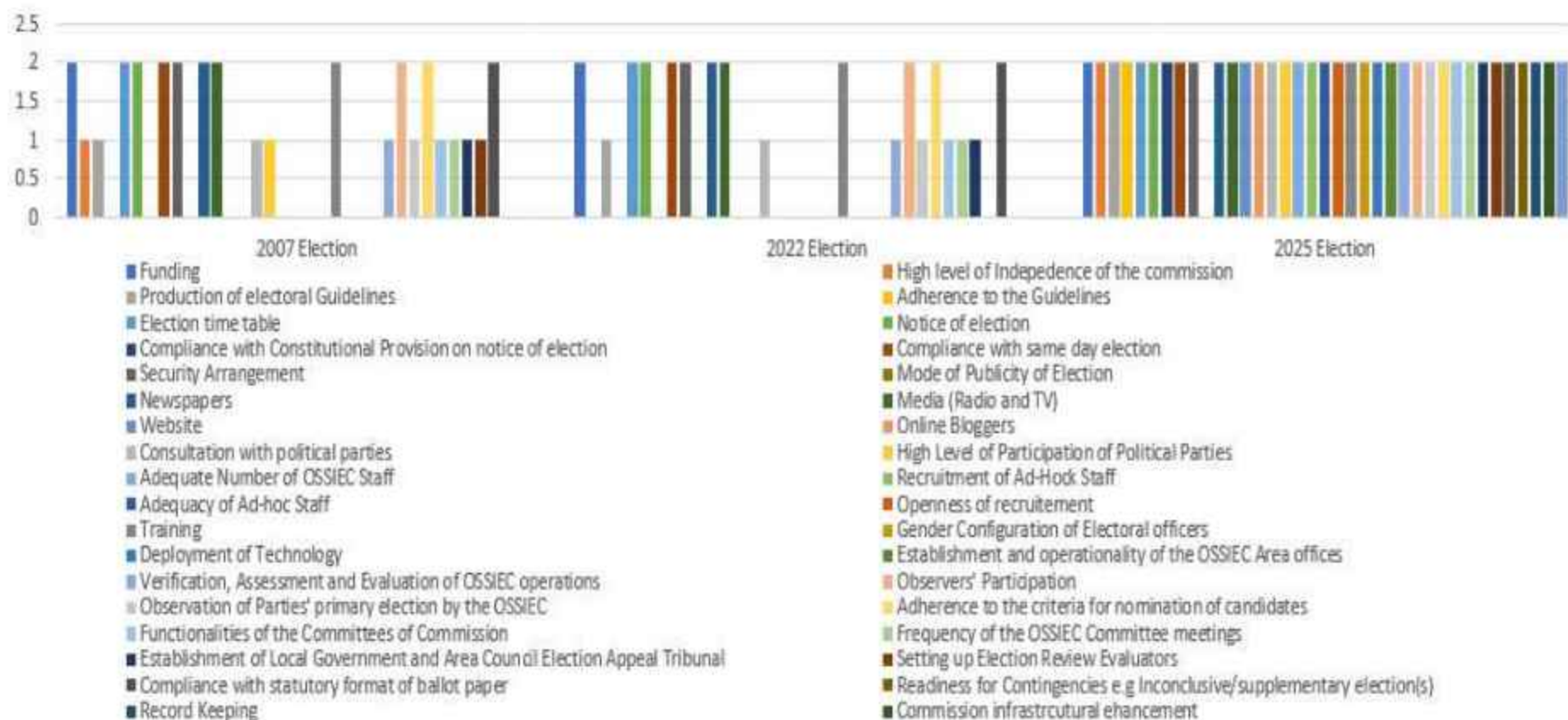


Figure 30: Improvement in Electoral Personnel Remunerations

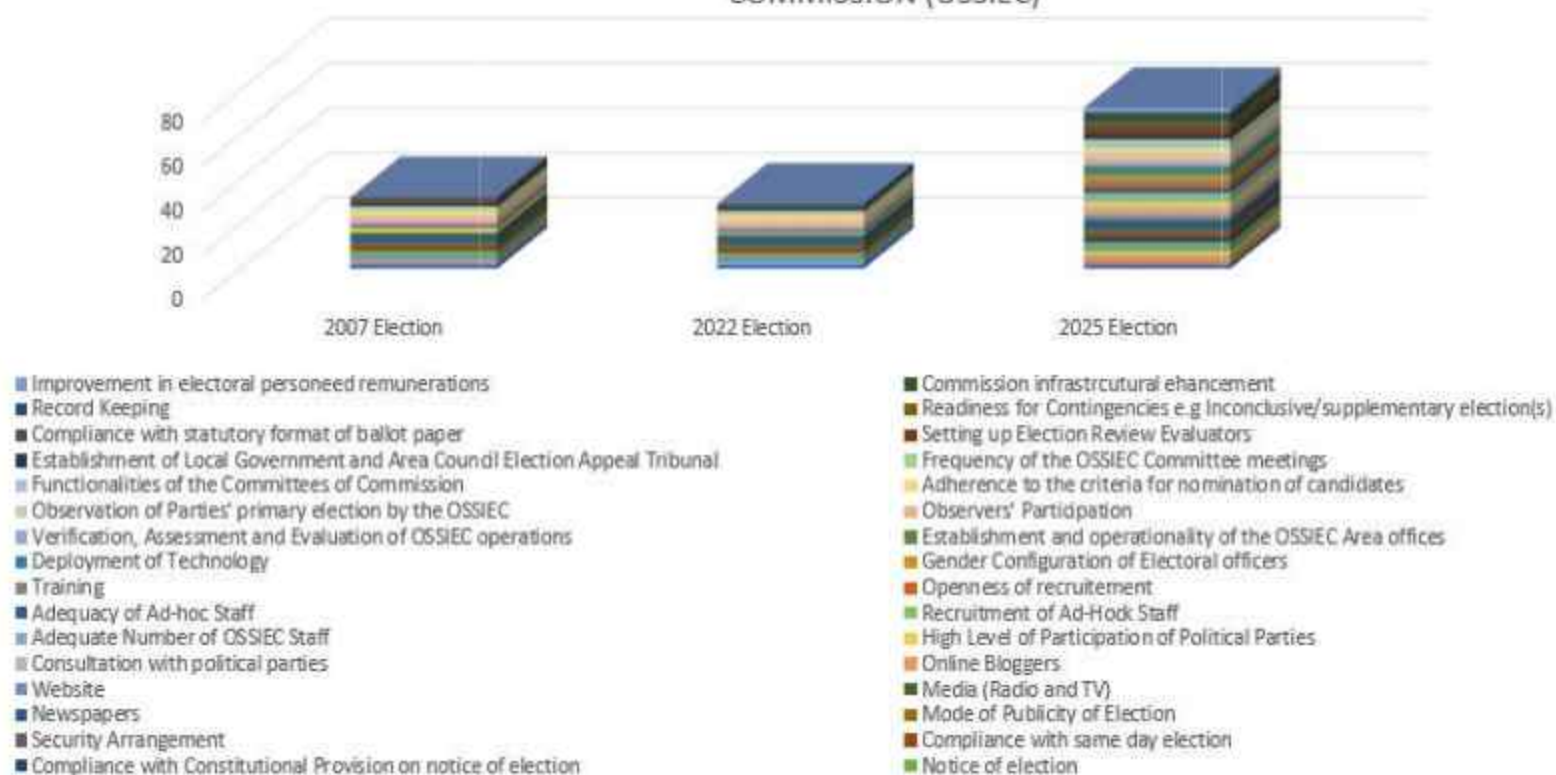
COALITION OF INDEPENDENT ASSESSORS OF OSSIEC ELECTORAL PROCESS

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PRE-ELECTION OPERATIONS OF THE OSUN STATE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION (OSSIEC)



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The Team also carried out SWOT analysis of the Commission's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. The result of the analysis is expected to assist the Commission in decision making and strategic planning.

B. SWOT Analysis of OSSIEC.

S/N	Strength	Weakness	Opportunity	Threat
1.	OSSIEC is now technologically driven. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website created and loaded with resources Online Recruitment Communicate easily with area Offices 	Non-Adoption of Technology for voting	Greater Collaboration among political parties, the Commission and the general public	Cyber attack on website
2.	The present leadership of the Commission is knowledgeable and innovative.		Attainment of set goals	Possibility of over confidence and egoism
3.	The operators of the Commission are transparent and open leading to vote of confidence by Inter-Party Advisory Committee(IPAC)		Trust, public confidence and goodwill	Ad-hoc staff misconduct, External Security threats from insurgents
4.	The Present Commission follows due process and is guided by the provisions of the electoral laws.		Avoidance of litigations and resource wastage	Red-tapism
5.	OSSIEC location, infrastructure and accessibility.	Erratic power and internet supply	It enhances staff regularity, punctuality and efficiency	Inability to maximize available resources due to erratic power supply.
6.	OSSIEC is funded but needs more Funding:	Lack of Financial autonomy to access approved budget	Prudence enhancement	Limitation in State resources
7.	The creation of Commission's Local Government area offices	Communication and Administrative control	Improved logistics and better access to the public	Lax in Supervision

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5.0 General Observations

The following observations were made during the exercise;

- a) There was no proper record keeping from inception. However, through innovative creation of Commission's website, there is an improvement in record keeping and public access to information.
- b) There is a general infrastructural face lift in the Commission.
- c) The Commission now deploys technology for operational efficiency.
- d) Establishment of Area Offices and appointment of Resident Electoral Personnel across all the 30 Local Government Area Councils.
- e) The team also observed an open door policy among all hierarchies of Staff.
- f) Collaborative spirit among the workers.
- g) The results of the comparative analysis above revealed the level of preparedness of the Commission for the conduct of 2002, 2022 and 2025 elections. By implication, the Commission, having followed due process now, is scientifically adjudged to be well prepared for the conduct of the February 22, 2025 elections.

6.0 Recommendations

The following recommendations are made

- a) The commission is advised to pay serious attention to archival retrieval and enhancement of record keeping. For an Institution of this nature, this should be seen as an indispensable task which should be treated with utmost importance and urgency.
- b) In particular, all laws, guidelines and documents relating to past, present and future elections should be securely archived and access to them made available as at when needed by the appropriate authorities.
- c) Notwithstanding, the necessity of constant staff mobility in institutions such as this, it is desirable that measures (such as effective handing over of offices and operations) be put in place to ensure administrative continuity for institutional memory.
- d) It is advised that the ongoing noticeable improvement in the Commission be sustained. The Commission is also advised to study the result of the SWOT analysis for the purposes of future decision making and strategic planning.
- e) It is recommended that there should be institutionalization of post-election audit and evaluation.
- f) It is also recommended that Verification Exercise such as this should be carried out from time to time for Quality Assurance purposes.

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7.0 Conclusion

The exercise provides a valuable insight into the operations of this key institution of democratic governance, the Osun State Independent Electoral Commission (OSSIEC). Major gaps were noticed in the operations of the Commission from inception. Happily however, the Commission is evidently in the upswing in the area of operational efficacy, adherence to law, technological adaptation and avoidance of public resource wastage. We recommend that this improved trajectory be sustained.

8.0 Acknowledgements

We acknowledge Professor O. C. Adebooye, the Vice-Chancellor of Osun State University, the Chairman and Members of the Commission for the opportunity to serve the State in this capacity.

9.0 Endorsement

Prof. Amos O. Popoola	Team Leader
Prof. Elijah B. A. Agbaje	Member
Prof. Taiwo A. Ojurongbe	Member
Dr. Olufunmiso O. Ajala	Member
Dr. Folasade M. Adeyemi	Member
Dr. Michael A. Ilesanmi	Member
Dr. Olufemi E. Akinrinade	Member