

Webinar: Nigeria's Mid-year Political Outlook 2021

Background

The previous year 2020 was unusual. The Coronavirus pandemic was a major headwind, and its effect would linger in many developing countries like Nigeria. Governments are not certain to see significant improvement throughout the year 2021 despite the intervention programs. In Nigeria, the EndSARS campaign in the last quarter of 2020 caused a gaping fissure to the foundations of national politics. As a result, varying levels of tensions have been experienced through 2021. Open incidences of robbery, kidnapping, terrorism, political and ethnic suspicion are a few.

These events have exposed the inefficiencies and deficits in Nigeria's security framework. The weaknesses in the security framework permit anarchy upon agents of the society. The question of security is critical for national cohesion and development.

The voluminous cries for secession in different parts of Nigeria merely attest to the failure of the state to do what states do – to protect. Kidnappers are on rampage in the South, Boko Haram and ISWAP groups are pillaging the Northeast, fighting for territorial dominance. Marauders commonly called Fulani herdsmen traversing through forests from north to south have found a penchant for destroying farmlands, attacking travellers, and destroying lives. In the Southeast, secessionist drums are loudest: members of secessionist groups continue to insist on their marginalization in Nigeria, calling for separation. This sentiment is beginning to spread in the Southwest.

Politics affect economics. Over the last 15 years, the security crisis in the Southsouth and Northeast have thwarted growth and prosperity in Nigeria. As the polity quakes, businesses struggle. The declining output and rising unemployment combine to limit the alternatives available to households even as inflation erodes the value of their savings. The political economy is unstable. It is, therefore, important to analyse the outlook for the rest of the year and to examine the implications for businesses and investors looking to make decisions.

We will take the chance to introduce two socio-political indices that tracks people's perception of governance and corruption in Nigeria both in real-time and in historical context: **Governance Pessimism Index and Corruption Pessimism Index**. These two indices rely on Natural Language Processing and text mining to measure the public sentiments on corruption and government's popularity from the perspective of the masses. Both indices performed well in explaining reality and are therefore of relevance for political analysis.

Program of events.

Date: 07. 07. 2021

Time: 11:00 am – 12:00 noon (WAT)

s/n	Items	Persons	Time
<i>i</i>	Introduction	Uju Okonkwo, Ph.D <i>Leipzig University, Germany</i>	5 mins.
<i>ii</i>	Presentation of Outlook report & the Indices	Chukwuma Dim <i>Frankfurt School, Germany</i>	15 mins
<i>iii</i>	Panel discussion	Joel Nwokeoma --- <i>(tbc)</i> <i>Editorial Board, PUNCH, Nigeria</i> Chido Nwakanma--- <i>(tbc)</i> <i>Columnist, ThisDay Nigeria</i> Christopher Akor --- <i>confirmed</i> <i>Columnist, Businessday Nigeria</i> Bell Ihua, Ph.D --- <i>(tbc)</i> <i>Director, African Polling Institute Nigeria</i>	35 mins
<i>iv</i>	Q&A, Closing remarks		5 mins

Partnership

We are open to partnership with institutions and media houses towards the organising the webinar. As no financial support is required, partner is expected to share the invitation on their websites and social media platforms while having their logo on the flyers and other promotional materials. Partners may also support the panel discussion with a speaker/panelist.

About us

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