

Strengthening Electoral Accountability Through AI-Powered Civic Technology Tools: A Case Study of ÀDÉHÙN in Nigeria.

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Abstract

Electoral accountability remains a major challenge in Nigeria and across West Africa, with persistent gaps between campaign promises and governance outcomes, weakening citizens' trust in democratic processes. This paper examines how AI-powered civic technology can strengthen electoral accountability using the ÀDÉHÙN Electoral Accountability Tool as a case study. The study highlights how ÀDÉHÙN applies defined indicators, such as clarity, feasibility, inclusivity, coverage, and policy alignment, to evaluate candidate promises and support comparative assessment. It also shows how natural language processing enables the extraction and analysis of manifesto content for more evidence-based electoral information. The paper adopts a qualitative approach relying on secondary data from platform outputs, reports, stakeholder engagements, and existing literature on civic technology and AI in governance across West Africa and beyond. Findings suggest that AI-enabled civic tools can improve the quality of voter information, encourage policy-based voting, and extend accountability beyond elections. However, challenges such as limited access to data on candidates' policy priorities, the absence of costed manifestos, and low levels of institutional cooperation continue to undermine effectiveness. The paper concludes that while AI-powered civic technology offers strong potential to improve electoral accountability in West Africa, its impact depends on greater data openness and stronger institutional support systems.

Keywords: Civic technology, electoral accountability, artificial intelligence, Nigeria, ÀDÉHÙN

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1. Introduction

In Nigeria's democratic practice, the most tangible expression of citizen sovereignty is exercised at the polls, where the electorate exercises its constitutional right to elect representatives of their choice. Prior to this, candidates from a broad spectrum of political parties engage the public through campaigns, during which they present their manifestos to the citizenry, serving as a social covenant between the candidate and the electorate (Paradigm Leadership Support Initiative [PLSI], 2025). Twenty-seven years since the return to civil rule, Nigeria has had 5 democratically elected presidents, each campaigning with promises spanning critical areas such as health, Education, and security (Obasun, 2025). However, a persistent gap remains between campaign promises and governance outcomes, raising concerns about the effectiveness of democratic accountability mechanisms. Electoral accountability is the process by which elected officials are held responsible for their actions, policy choices, and performance in office by citizens, primarily through elections and other democratic oversight mechanisms (Malcom, 2023). In representative democracies, electoral accountability enables voters to reward leaders who fulfil their promises and sanction those who fail to meet public expectations (Lindberg *et al.*, 2017). In the Nigerian context, electoral accountability is predominantly retrospective, whereby citizens assess incumbents' past performance during subsequent elections. However, the effectiveness of this process is often constrained by weak access to reliable information on campaign commitments, limited monitoring of policy implementation, identity-based voting patterns, and inadequate mechanisms for systematically evaluating government performance against electoral promises (Ndukwe & Ezuka, 2018). Consequently, elections become contests driven by political mobilisation and patronage rather than evidence-based assessments of policy delivery. The limitations of existing accountability mechanisms have contributed to declining public trust in political institutions, growing voter apathy, and increasing perceptions that electoral processes do not necessarily translate into responsive governance. According to the Afrobarometer (2024), confidence in political institutions across several African democracies, including Nigeria, remains fragile, partly due to citizens' concerns about government responsiveness and performance. This challenge is not unique to Nigeria but reflects broader governance concerns across West Africa, where democratic consolidation continues to be undermined by weak accountability systems and limited citizen access to actionable political information (Olukoshi, 2011). Strengthening electoral accountability, therefore, requires innovative approaches that improve transparency, enable informed voter decision-making, and sustain citizen oversight beyond election cycles.

One important response to these challenges has been the emergence of civic technology. Civic technology entails the use of digital tools, platforms, and technological innovations to enhance citizen participation, improve government transparency, strengthen accountability, and facilitate collaborative problem-solving in public governance (Gilman, 2017). Across Africa, civic technology has evolved into a significant component of democratic engagement, providing citizens with new channels to access information, monitor public institutions, report governance failures, and participate in policy processes. The Civic Tech Innovation Network (CTIN) documents more than 144 civic technology initiatives operating across 36 African countries, indicating the growing role of technology in governance and democratic accountability (CTIN, n.d.). In Nigeria, initiatives such as BudgIT, Tracka, and Follow the Money have demonstrated how digital platforms can enhance transparency in public finance, monitor government projects, and strengthen citizen-led oversight where conventional accountability institutions face operational constraints (Zisengwe, 2024).

The growing adoption of civic technology has coincided with the fast pace of artificial intelligence (AI), creating new opportunities for more sophisticated forms of democratic engagement and public accountability. Artificial intelligence refers to computational systems capable of performing tasks that

typically require human intelligence, including learning, reasoning, prediction, pattern recognition, and natural language processing (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD], 2024). AI has increasingly been applied in governance through large-scale data analysis, public service delivery, policy monitoring, citizen engagement, and decision support systems (United Nations, 2024). Recent studies suggest that AI technologies can help governments and civic actors process vast amounts of information more efficiently, identify patterns that may be difficult for humans to detect, and generate insights that support evidence-based policymaking and accountability (Mehr, 2017; Sun & Medaglia, 2019). Rather than relying solely on manual assessments, AI-powered civic technologies can automate parts of the monitoring process, scale up analysis, and generate more accessible information for voters and civil society organisations. (Zuiderwijk *et al.*, 2021).

Against this backdrop, the ÀDÉHÙN Electoral Accountability Tool represents an example of AI-powered civic technology designed specifically to strengthen electoral accountability in Nigeria. By converting complex political documents into structured, comparable information, ÀDÉHÙN seeks to provide citizens with evidence-based insights to support more informed electoral decision-making. As electoral accountability increasingly depends on the availability of credible, accessible, and verifiable information, understanding the potential of AI-powered civic technologies such as ÀDÉHÙN becomes critical for strengthening democratic governance in Nigeria and across West Africa.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Political thinkers such as Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau propounded the social contract theory, which posits that political legitimacy and obligation derive from the consent of the governed (Seabright *et al.*, 2021). They theorised a "state of nature" in which individuals are free but lack the security and stability of an organised society; Thomas Hobbes described it as short, nasty, brutish, poor and solitary. To escape this precarious state, individuals voluntarily enter a "social contract", surrendering some of their natural freedoms in exchange for the benefits of a civil society, such as protection of rights, law, and order. (Ritchie, 1891). However, this social contract can be breached post-election, typically manifesting as a widening gap between promises and policy. The 15th Head of State, President Buhari (2015-2023), made extensive promises across various sectors, often summarised by the "SEA" agenda: Security, Economy, and Anti-corruption. However, his tenure saw some of the most difficult times for tertiary institutions, including the most prolonged disruption in academic activities due to strikes. During his eight years in office, the country faced several difficulties, including a higher unemployment rate and inflation than when he took office (Premium Times, 2023). Similarly, the administration deprioritised education, allowing its budget share to plummet from 10.7% to 5.3% by 2023 (Nairametrics, 2022; Nairametrics, 2025). By consistently underfunding the sector relative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) benchmark of 26% of the national budget and 6% of gross domestic product (GDP), his administration failed to prioritise the very human capital it pledged to develop. Despite growing scholarship on civic technology and digital activism in Africa (Mutsaers, 2016) and the expanding literature on artificial intelligence applications in public governance (Wirtz *et al.*, 2019), limited research exists on the specific role AI-powered civic technology plays in strengthening electoral accountability through systematic promise tracking. The study aims to address this research gap guided by the core research question: To what extent can ÀDÉHÙN – Electoral Accountability Tool (EAT) shift the culture of electoral engagement from personality-based voting to policy-based accountability in Nigeria?

1.3 Aim & Objectives

This study aims to assess the potential of ÀDÉHÙN as a tool to promote electoral accountability for development-oriented and sustainable democracy in Nigeria.

The objectives of the study are to:

- Examine the state and limitations of existing civic tech tools for electoral accountability in West Africa.
- Analyse the functionalities of ÀDÉHÙN as an AI-powered civic technology tool.

- Assess the contribution of the tool in enhancing electoral accountability and citizen engagement in Nigeria.

2. Literature Review

Scholarly interest in electoral accountability has increasingly shifted from elections as isolated democratic events to the broader question of whether elected officials govern in accordance with the commitments made during campaigns. Early studies on democratic representation focused largely on electoral competition and voter choice – whether elections alone would provide sufficient incentives for politicians to remain responsive to citizens (Achen, 2016). However, subsequent research challenged this assumption by demonstrating that accountability depends not only on the existence of elections but also on citizens' ability to access, interpret, and evaluate information about government performance. Thomson *et al.* (2017), in a comparative study of election pledges across several democracies, found that campaign promises remain one of the most reliable indicators for assessing governmental responsiveness. The institutionalisation of promise tracking as a democratic accountability practice can be traced to the emergence of what scholars now term Campaign Pledge Evaluation Tools (CPETs). The concept gained global visibility when the Pulitzer Prize-winning fact-checking organisation PolitiFact launched the Obameter in 2009, widely regarded as the world's first election promise-tracking platform, in response to Barack Obama's assumption of the presidency of the United States. The platform provided audiences with a systematically curated database of 533 campaign promises, which a dedicated team of fact-checkers spent eight years assessing and communicating to the public (Waller, 2025). Since then, election promise trackers have grown substantially in number and institutional diversity across liberal democracies, operated by actors ranging from non-governmental organisations concerned with good governance to political scientists and journalism outlets (Tremblay-Antoine *et al.*, 2020). Scholars have defined CPETs as platforms that allow for the systematic tracking, assessment, and communication of political pledges and evaluations of their fulfilment by governing parties (Tremblay-Antoine *et al.*, 2020), distinguishing them from simple news aggregators or landing pages on the basis that they must contain both lists of election promises and judgements of their fulfilment (Tremblay-Antoine *et al.*, 2020). These tools vary in their visual and analytical complexity, ranging from simple bar graphs plotting promise fulfilment rates to sophisticated data visualisations providing real-time updates accompanied by evidentiary narratives (Donald & Graves, 2024). Building on this perspective, a growing body of scholarship has examined the role of political manifestos as instruments for evaluating policy intentions and governance priorities. Manifestos have been widely used by researchers to analyse ideological positioning, policy consistency, and responsiveness to public needs (Budge *et al.*, 2001). The Comparative Manifesto Project (CMP), one of the most influential initiatives in this field, demonstrated how systematic coding of manifesto content can reveal patterns in party behaviour and policy commitments across different political systems (Volkens *et al.*, 2020). Similarly, Klingemann *et al.* (2006) found that manifesto analysis provides valuable insights into the extent to which governments subsequently pursue their stated priorities. Furthermore, studies have shown that the quality of campaign promises influences public perceptions of credibility and competence. According to Moury (2011), specific and measurable commitments are more likely to be implemented and monitored than broad rhetorical statements. Consequently, scholars increasingly recognize manifesto evaluation as an important mechanism for strengthening democratic accountability and promoting evidence-based electoral choices.

The expansion of digital technologies has transformed how electoral information is produced, disseminated, and consumed. Research on civic technology suggests that digital platforms can reduce information asymmetries between political actors and citizens by making governance information more accessible and understandable (Peixoto & Fox, 2016). Also, recent advances in artificial intelligence (AI) have expanded the capacity to analyse political information at scale. According to Grimmer and Stewart (2013), computational text analysis enables the systematic examination of large volumes of political texts, while

Benoit *et al.* (2019) demonstrate its effectiveness in identifying policy priorities and thematic patterns. Similarly, AI applications have been deployed to support policy evaluation, transparency initiatives, and public service delivery (Wirtz *et al.*, 2019). Correspondingly, Valle-Cruz *et al.* (2020) argue that AI can strengthen accountability by converting complex political information into actionable knowledge for citizens.

Despite the growing body of literature on campaign pledge tracking, manifesto analysis, civic technology, and artificial intelligence in governance, these strands of scholarship have largely evolved in isolation. Notably, limited attention has been given to how AI-powered civic technology can integrate manifesto evaluation, promise tracking, and citizen engagement into a single accountability framework, especially within the West African context. Consequently, empirical evidence on the effectiveness of such tools in promoting policy-based electoral participation and post-election accountability remains scarce. This study addresses this gap by examining ÀDÉHÙN as an AI-driven electoral accountability tool and assessing its potential contribution to strengthening democratic accountability and citizen engagement in Nigeria.

3. Materials and Methodology

This study adopted a qualitative case study research design to examine the contribution of ÀDÉHÙN, an AI-powered civic technology platform, to electoral accountability in Nigeria. The study was situated within Nigeria's electoral context, where issues of transparency, citizen participation, misinformation, and accountability remain central to democratic processes. ÀDÉHÙN was selected as the case study for its use of artificial intelligence to compare candidates' profiles, analyse manifestos, facilitate civic engagement, and track election promises. The study draws on secondary data obtained from ÀDÉHÙN platform reports, electoral governance documents, policy publications, publicly available reports, and relevant scholarly literature. These sources were analysed using content analysis, which enabled a systematic examination and interpretation of the platform's features, functionalities, and operational framework to assess its contribution to strengthening electoral accountability.

4. Existing Civic Tech for Electoral Accountability in West Africa

Over the years, civic technology has emerged as a transformative force in deepening democratic participation and strengthening electoral accountability across the globe. Defined as the use of digital tools and platforms to enhance the relationship between citizens and government, civic technology has gained traction as a mechanism for promoting transparency, civic engagement, and responsive governance (Gilman, 2017). In West Africa, where democratic institutions continue to grapple with challenges such as electoral malpractice, weak post-election accountability, and limited citizen participation, civic tech tools have become critical instruments for bridging the gap between elected officials and the electorate (Bailard & Livingston, 2014). From SMS-based election reporting during the 2011 Nigerian general elections to AI-driven platforms tracking governance performance today, sub-Saharan Africa has witnessed a steady evolution of digital civic innovations aimed at promoting inclusive governance (Bahago, 2023). Modern civic tech tools on electoral accountability have since branched into specialised functional categories: voter Education and mobilisation, real-time election observation, and post-election accountability systems designed to track policy implementation. In Nigeria, organisations such as BudgIT and YIAGA Africa have pioneered the use of data visualisation and Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) to enhance electoral transparency and budget oversight (Folagbade *et al.*, 2026). Similarly, Ghana's Odekro and Senegal's SeneVote2012 (Odekro, n.d.; MobileActive, 2012) exemplify how civic tech platforms are increasingly used across West Africa to monitor election processes, track legislative performance, and assess government commitments, often through partnerships between local civil society organisations and international development partners like the National Democratic Institute (NDI).

To present an overview of civic technology tools that support electoral accountability in West Africa, Table 1 outlines selected platforms, along with their countries of origin, developers, core functions, and underlying technologies.

Table 1. Some Civic Technology Tools for Electoral Accountability in West Africa

Platform/Tool	Country of Origin	Developer /Organization	Primary Function	Technology Used
1. Promise Meter	Nigeria	AdvoKC	Tracking fulfillment of campaign promises by elected officials to promote transparency and accountability.	Web-based digital platform with data analytics.
2. Tipahya	Ghana	Penplusbytes	Real-time election monitoring and incident mapping.	Web/mobile platform with social media monitoring.
3.FollowThePromises	Nigeria	ReadyToLeadAfrica (RTLA)	Monitoring and tracking of campaign promises for governance accountability.	Web platform and mobile application with searchable databases and citizen feedback loops.
4. Tracka	Nigeria	BudgIT	Public project tracking and monitoring	Web platform with data visualization and project tracking tools
5. Ghana Decides	Ghana	Blogging Ghana	Voter Education, election information dissemination, and candidate profiling ahead of general elections.	Web platform with crowdsourced incident mapping, social media aggregation, and live broadcasting.
6. Uzabe	Nigeria	Connected Development (CODE)	Real-time election monitoring and	Web-based mapping platform, crowdsourced

			situational reporting.	verification, and fact-checking integrations.
7. Talonmeter	Benin Republic		Presidential promise and governance tracking.	Open-source Web CMS with dynamic tracking and aggregated crowdsourcing.
8. PolicyTracker.ng	Nigeria	Paradigm Leadership Support Initiative (PLSI)	Policy monitoring and implementation tracking	Web platform with data analytics
9. UDEME	Nigeria	Centre for Journalism Innovation and Development (CJID)	Public fund and project tracking	Web platform with field reporting
10. Odekro	Ghana	Odekro PMO	Parliamentary monitoring	Web platform and Data Analytics
11. Ushahidi	Kenya	Ushahidi Inc.	Crowdsourced election monitoring and real-time geospatial incident reporting.	Open-source geospatial mapping integrated with SMS and web-based crowdsourcing.
12. Parallel Vote Tabulation	Nigeria	Transition Monitoring Group (TMG), YIAGA Africa Initiative	Independent statistical verification of election results to ensure accuracy and credibility.	Mobile-based data collection (e.g., ODK/custom apps) and statistical modeling/sampling frameworks.
13. Buharimeter	Nigeria	Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD)	Campaign promise tracking.	Web-based platform with data analytics.
14. Citizens Watch	Nigeria	Reformers of Africa	Tracking government promises	Web-based platform

5. Overview of ADEHUN – EAT Platform

An electoral accountability tool – ÀDÉHÙN (a Yoruba Word that primarily translates to "agreement" or "promise" in English and can also refer to a document, covenant, contract, or charter) is One civic technology tool that tries to model this unique value add in the post-election policy implementation monitoring ecosystem, which was developed by Paradigm Leadership Support Initiative in 2025 (PLSI, 2025) and hosted on policytracker.ng. ÀDÉHÙN provides a seamless and transparent interface that

enables citizens to monitor elected officials from the moment promises are made through their policy actions and governance performance (PLSI, 2025). By equipping citizens with an open-access platform for post-election monitoring and evaluation, ÀDÈHÙN empowers Nigerians to hold elected officials accountable beyond the polls and ensures that governance is driven not just by promises but by the implementation of data-informed policies, measurable delivery, and sustained development impact.

At the foundational stage, data is systematically curated, verified, and structured using publicly available records and Freedom of Information (FOI) requests to obtain data from credible sources such as the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), political party secretariats, and official campaign offices to ensure accuracy and equal representation of all candidates. The dataset comprises candidate metadata, including demographic information (age, gender, political affiliation), professional background, educational qualifications, manifesto documents, policy commitments, contact details, and verified digital footprints such as official websites and social media accounts (Policytracker, n.d.). Once collected, the data undergoes cleaning, normalisation, and classification before being integrated into the platform's backend database. Through the deployment of Artificial Intelligence (AI) functionalities, including Natural Language Processing (NLP), the platform extracts, tokenises, and semantically analyses manifesto texts and policy documents to identify key themes, development priorities, and measurable commitments. This intelligent processing layer powers the platform's comparative analytics engine, allowing users to conduct side-by-side evaluations of two or more candidates and generate reports based on thematic commitments and performance benchmarks (Fig 1).

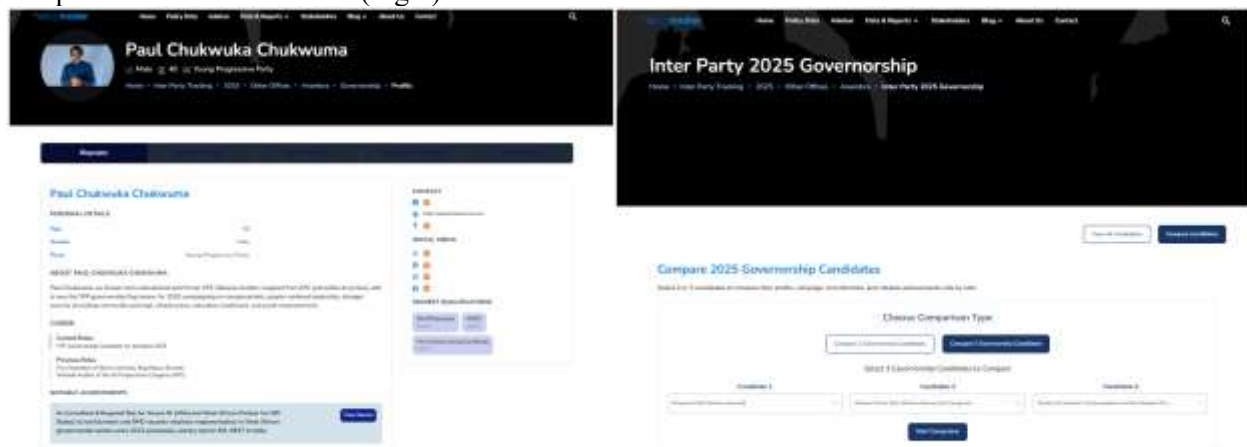


Fig. 1: Candidate Profile Interface and Comparison Section (Source: Adapted from ÀDÈHÙN Website)

Prior to elections, the processed dataset enables the project team to generate a pre-election accountability report based on a five-indicator assessment framework scored on a 0–5 scale. The report provides a systematic evaluation of candidate commitments, a comparative analysis of their alignment with state development priorities, and evidence-based recommendations for relevant stakeholders. Leveraging NLP-driven keyword extraction, sentiment analysis, and contextual clustering, the system effectively maps campaign promises, governance indicators, and development plans. Through this integration of AI-powered analytics, ÀDÈHÙN transforms raw political information into actionable civic intelligence, thereby promoting transparency and data-driven electoral decision-making.

The distinctiveness of ÀDÈHÙN as an AI-powered civic technology tool lies in its holistic design to strengthen electoral accountability across the entire democratic cycle, from aspirants and candidates to elected officials, while capturing both intra-party and inter-party dynamics at every level of government. Additionally, the platform integrates legislative and executive performance tracking across key governance dimensions, including representation, lawmaking, policy implementation, and budget delivery. Its credibility is further reinforced by validation through social and statutory audits and by alignment with

national and sub-national development plans. By embedding a citizen engagement loop for real-time feedback and generating accessible dashboards, scorecards, and media-ready outputs, ÀDÉHÙN bridges the gap between governance and the governed (PLSI, 2025).

6. Core features of ÀDÉHÙN

The Nigerian civic technology landscape has produced several platforms oriented toward electoral transparency and governmental accountability (Musa *et al.*, 2025). However, the majority of these tools rely on static databases populated through manual data entry, crowdsourced citizen reporting, or periodic journalistic updates, which, while valuable, are constrained by the speed of human input, the inconsistency of crowdsourced verification, and the absence of systematic analytical frameworks for evaluating the quality and deliverability of political commitments. The evaluation framework that underpins ADEHUN's analytical architecture is built around five indicators: clarity, feasibility, inclusivity, coverage, and policy alignment. Clarity assesses whether a stated commitment is specific and unambiguous enough to be tracked against verifiable outcomes. Feasibility evaluates whether the commitment is achievable within the fiscal and institutional constraints of the office being sought. Inclusivity examines whether the commitment addresses the needs of marginalised and underserved populations or is limited in its demographic reach. Coverage assesses whether commitments address key development sectors. Policy alignment determines whether the commitment is anchored in existing national development frameworks, such as Nigeria's National Development Plan, the Sustainable Development Goals, or sectoral policy blueprints or whether it constitutes an isolated electoral pledge disconnected from the broader governance architecture. Together, these five indicators operationalise accountability at the pre-election stage, providing citizens, civil society actors, journalists, and researchers with a structured basis for comparative candidate evaluation that goes beyond personality, party affiliation, or rhetorical appeal.

This intelligent architecture empowers citizens to engage in data-driven electoral decision-making in ways that conventional platforms do not facilitate. Through ADEHUN head-to-head candidate comparison functionality, users can evaluate competing aspirants and candidates across the same indicators, enabling a form of policy-based electoral reasoning that the broader literature identifies as a necessary condition for shifting Nigerian democratic culture away from clientelism and ethnic voting patterns toward programmatic political engagement.

The platform sustains democratic engagement across the full electoral cycle by equipping citizens to monitor and interrogate the performance of elected officials once in office. At executive and legislative levels of government, citizens can track if pre-election commitments have been translated into post-election governance actions, including policy pronouncements and programme implementation records. This continuous, cycle-spanning accountability function embeds democratic scrutiny as an ongoing civic practice rather than a periodic electoral event, directly addressing One of the most persistent structural weaknesses of Nigerian democratic governance: the accountability vacuum that opens between election cycles and closes only when the next campaign season begins.

Opportunities: The ÀDÉHÙN Electoral Accountability Tool (EAT), developed by the Paradigm Leadership Support Initiative (PLSI), was launched in 2025 as part of its Policy Accountability Lab. The platform debuted with a Pre-election Accountability Report on the Anambra Governorship Election, which was presented at the Nigeria Accountability Summit 2025 (NAS, 2025). As its first pilot on the platform, the Anambra election demonstrated how ÀDÉHÙN can support citizens in making data-informed voting decisions, shifting away from entrenched patterns shaped by party directives, ethnic considerations, emotional appeals, or religious bias. In doing so, it introduces a more structured and evidence-driven approach to electoral participation, addressing a gap that many existing civic technology tools have yet to fill.

The unique value proposition of AI functionality on ÀDÉHÙN is its ability to compare candidates' policy stances across political parties and generate structured comparison reports that meaningfully inform voting decisions.

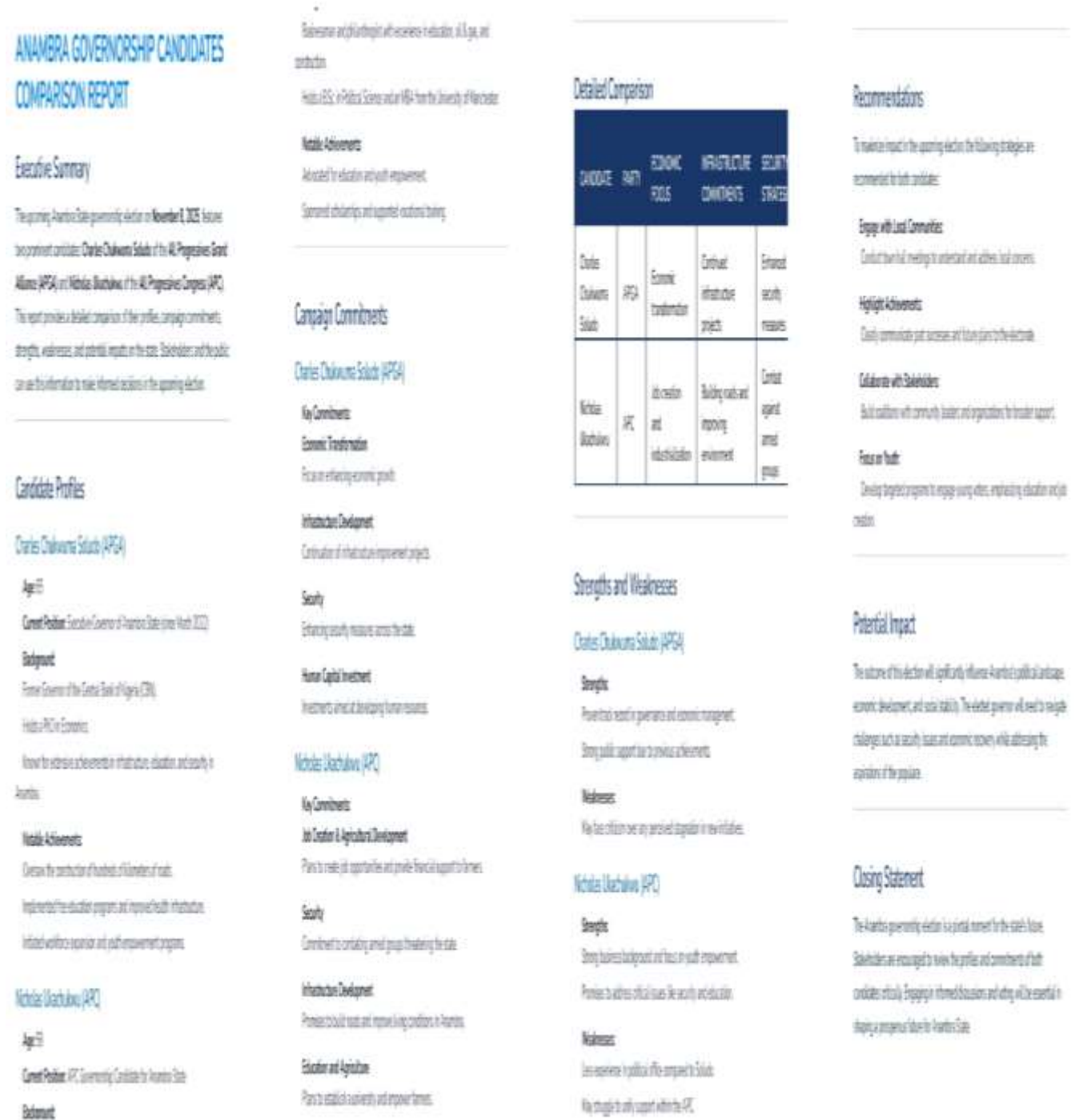


Fig 2. Snapshot of a Candidate's Comparison Report Generated on ÀDÈHÙN Platform (Source: Adapted from ÀDÈHÙN Website)

The platform also includes an Electoral Accountability Report, powered by its AI system, which scores candidates using a clear framework. This gives citizens a fuller view of each candidate, beyond the

platform's comparison reports. The report has been produced for both the Anambra and Ekiti governorship elections, and with the upcoming Osun election and the 2027 general elections, civic tech tools like ÀDÉHÙN are improving electoral accountability by keeping citizens informed and engaged through its open-access, AI-driven features.



Fig 3. Candidate Scorecard for Ekiti State 2026 Election (Source: Adapted from ÀDÉHÙN 2026 Report)

Challenges: While ÀDÉHÙN – the Electoral Accountability Tool marks a strong step forward for democratic governance in Nigeria through its AI-driven features, it still faces a few bottlenecks that may limit its reach and overall impact, as stated as follows:

- Limited or no publicly available information on some candidates, which made it difficult for the project team to gather and verify data for profiling.
- Absence of publicly available costed manifestos for most candidates. This issue was also raised during the Exclusive Breakfast Dialogue on the Pre-Election Accountability Report for the Ekiti State 2026 Governorship Election in Abuja, which brought together media executives and accountability actors to discuss the future of issue-based elections in Nigeria. Prior to this, Paradigm Leadership Support Initiative (PLSI) had also engaged stakeholders through the Costed Manifesto Challenge for Ekiti State to encourage structured policy commitments from candidates.
- Limited cooperation from campaign offices and party secretariats, even when formal information requests were made, including through Freedom of Information (FOI) requests.

At its core, ÀDÉHÙN represents the emergence of civic technology in electoral accountability, combining structured evaluation frameworks with AI-driven analysis to link candidate promises to measurable standards and provide citizens with clearer grounds for comparison and decision-making.

7. Conclusion

This study has examined the role of AI-powered civic technology in strengthening electoral accountability in Nigeria through the ÀDÉHÙN Electoral Accountability Tool. It finds that the platform improves electoral transparency by structuring campaign promises into measurable indicators and applying AI-driven

analysis to support clearer comparison of candidates before elections. The study concludes that while AI-enabled civic technology offers a practical pathway to improving electoral accountability and citizen engagement, its impact depends on greater data openness, improved political disclosure practices, and more responsive institutional support systems.

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