



# Citizens' Engagement with Presidential Candidates

As Nigerians prepare for the 2023 general elections, different organised groups have hosted some of the 18 presidential candidates to discuss their plans and policies to develop the country. However, citizens are increasingly expressing concern that **some of the leading candidates have declined to participate** in debates that will put their ideas under scrutiny by their colleagues.

Giving voters the opportunity to hear candidates speak and explain their ideas about critical issues of livelihood and prosperity before elections is, without a doubt, a critical aspect of a functioning democracy.

Under EiE's **#RSVP Campaign** - Register | Select credible candidates | Vote not fight | Protect your vote, we advocate for debates as a critical tool to **selecting credible candidates**. In addition to protecting our votes on election day, citizens must also hold elected officials accountable.

S/N	NAME & FORMAT	CANDIDATES AND PARTIES	P	LEAD ORGANISATION	PARTNERS	MEDIA	FEATURES
1	<b>Presidential Town Hall Series</b>  Engagement with four candidates at a time. Questions from the audience.  Host: <b>Arise TV Anchors</b>	<b>Series 1</b> Atiku Abubakar (PDP) Peter Obi (LP) Kola Abiola (PRP) Rabiu kwankwaso (NNPP) <b>Series 2</b> Omoyele Sowore (AAC) Yabagi Sanni (ADP) Peter Umeadi (APGA) Adewole Adebayo (SDP) <b>Series 3</b> Atiku Abubakar (PDP) Bola Tinubu (APC) Peter Obi (LP) Rabiu Kwankwaso (NNPP)	No* Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes No Yes Yes	<b>ARISE NEWS</b>		<b>Times LEADERSHIP</b> <b>TheGuardian</b> <b>New Telegraph</b> <b>Vanguard</b> <b>PUNCH</b> <b>Sun</b> <b>TheCable</b> <b>Daily Trust</b>	    EN Only English
2	<b>The People's TownHall</b>  Engagement with candidates and running mates. Questions from the audience.  Host: <b>Seun Okinbaloye</b>	<b>1st Session</b> Rabiu Kwankwaso & Bishop Idahosa (NNPP) <b>2nd Session</b> Atiku Abubakar & Ifeanyi Okowa (PDP)	Yes Yes		  <b>Perl</b> 	N/A	    EN Only English
3	<b>The Candidate</b>  Engagement with candidates & running mates. Questions from the audience.  Host: <b>Kadaria Ahmed</b>	<b>1st Session</b> Adewole Adebayo (SDP) <b>2nd Session</b> Omoyele Sowore (AAC) <b>3rd Session</b> Rabiu Kwankwaso (NNPP) <b>4th Session</b> Peter Obi (LP) <b>5th Session</b> Atiku Abubakar (PDP) <b>6th Session</b> Bola Tinubu (APC)	Yes Yes Yes Yes No No		    <b>Trust</b> 	   	    EN Only English

\* Represented by the VP candidate - Ifeanyi Okowa