

A Call to the Young of Nigeria:

GRAB the Opportunity of a Restart

Making Nigeria a Great Country to Live and Work

January 1, 2023

On February 25, 2023, nearly 100 million Nigerians, most of them under 25, are supposed to vote for a new President.

Today on the 1st January of 2023, DiGiNews360 will compare two large democracies, both of which had been colonies of Great Britain. There are three similarities, as follows:

- Both the countries are blessed with young intelligent citizens. They have proved themselves in the highly competitive world of the west, where many of them are living as immigrants.
- Both the countries are having large arable land.
- Both Nigeria and India started off as democracies in 1960 and 1947 respectively. India got its freedom in 1947. By 1950, India was able to create its constitution and India has continued to work, till today, under the constitution. Narendra Modi is the 15th elected Prime Minister, each of whom has served the nation in his/ her own way. Its Election Commission has conducted open and fair elections since 1952 and every time, the newly elected person has taken over as the new PM from the previous PM.

Nigeria won its freedom on 1st October 1960. It was able to create its constitution by 1963 and Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa took over as the first Prime Minister according to the new constitution of the First Republic on 1st October 1963.

But the democratic development was interrupted by a military coup. There have been small intervals of civilian rule, called the Second and the Third Republic, interrupted by military coups.

Nigeria was able to adopt the constitution of the Fourth Republic on 29 May 1999.

The elections of 25th February 2023 are being held under the constitution of the 4th Republic..

Though there are more than ten parties, registered with the Independent Election Commission of Nigeria, two dominant parties are: All Progressives Congress (APC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP).

PRESIDENTS during the FOURTH REPUBLIC

President	Term	Ruling Party
Olusegun Obasanjo	29 May 1999 – 29 May 2007	PDP
Umaru Yar'Adua	29 May 2007 – 5 May 2010	PDP
Goodluck Jonathan	5 May 2010 – 29 May 2015	PDP
Muhammadu Buhari	29 May 2015 – present	APC

In Nigeria, military rule has not permitted the democracy to take roots. The people have become disillusioned and the politicians do not today have ambitions to make Nigeria a great democracy, a modern nation with no poverty and with an environment to permit every citizen to develop her full potential.

But it can be done, if the young have faith in democracy and they vote with the sole objective of making Nigeria as the best country to live.

Note: Please also read “Nigerian Democracy -To the Young” at <https://diginews360.com/to-young-nigerians-it-is-your-democracy/>