

Nigerian Presidential Election Update

February 19, 2023

Thanks to **Akinwale Falodun** for the Update, given below: *The Final Lap*:

Editor's Comments: www.DiGiNews360.com feels cash-swap policy of the Federal Government can only be called a grand failure, at least the way it has been executed. All credit to the people of Nigeria, who are participating enthusiastically in the 4-yearly Presidential campaigns. The three major parties and their candidates are working hard. We call upon all the citizens to vote in large numbers on 25th February to strengthen the largest democracy of Africa.

On 25th February, Nigerians will go to the polls, to elect a President and the National Assembly members, who will pilot the affairs of the nation, at the Federal level, for the next 4 years. Nigeria has witnessed 23 years of uninterrupted Civilian Government, a record by all standards in the history of 62 years of Nigeria as an independent nation. The Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has declared that the elections will surely be held, despite civil unrest in several parts of Nigeria.

The world is looking up to Nigeria and her democratic institutions to lead, by example, all the other African nations. All hands must be on deck for a peaceful free and fair elections come February 25, 2023.

ISSUE of CURRENCY: The recently introduced cash-swap policy of the Federal Government, a few weeks before the elections, expired on the 10th of Feb, 2023 and has remained a major threat to the free and fair conduct of the elections of 25th February, 2023.



Many Nigerians were unable to swap their old currency notes for the new denominations. Several Banks and Government institutions were vandalized during the week by angry Nigerians, who could not access their deposits in Banks or who could not swap their old currency notes to meet their daily needs. President Muhammodu Buhari addresses the Nation on Friday, 17th February, 2023 and insisted that the old denomination of 500 and 1000 Nigeria Currency notes had become invalid while allowing the 200 denominations a grace period of 60 days from February 10,2023 as a legal tender.

Campaign Trains:

Labour Party: Peter Obi of the labour party continued his consultations for the Feb 25, Presidential election. On Monday 20th February, 2023 Peter Obi and his team visited Gani Adams, the Aare Ona Kakanfo of Yoruba land at his Lagos abode. Peter Obi and his team were well received. The Yoruba traditionalist emphasised on Obi's integrity and wished him well in his campaign. Mid-week Peter Obi was in Anambra State again, this time He was at the Nnewi market, a very popular trading and manufacturing hub in South Eastern Nigeria. He promised to open the borders with neighbouring countries and encourage free trade. He will improve on energy and encourage manufacturing. Obi took His campaign back to Lagos on Sat February 18; 2023.He was at the International Trade Fair complex, Lagos –Badagry Expressway, Lagos. The Trade Fair complex has over the years become a thriving trading complex in the West Africa sub region.



Obi at International Trade Fair complex, Lagos

The Labour Party chieftain said that he had studied how to improve power generation during his visits to other countries over the years. He promised to

deliver Nigeria from darkness and to improve power supply to every part of Nigeria. He promised an agricultural revolution that will engage the youths and take them out of crime.

PDP: Atiku Abubakar of PDP was in 4 State capitals in the week. On Monday, 13 February, his campaign train birthed in Calabar, the capital of Cross River State. He promised to continue to be loyal to the party and enjoined the surging crowd to do the same. He promised to expand the Calabar Sea Port and to turn it to a destination hub for sea freighting in South South Nigeria.

The Campaign party moved to Michael Okpara stadium in Enugu, South East Nigeria on Tuesday 14 February, 2023. He promised to be a stepping stone for an Igbo presidency in future political struggles. He encouraged the people of South Eastern Nigeria to continue in the mainstream politics of Nigeria. He said that Ndigbo (the Socio-Cultural organization of Igbos) should continue the massive support for a PDP government at the Federal level and he assured the crowd that he would never let them down.

Wednesday 15 February, 2023 was the turn of the people of Dutse, Jigawa State, North West Nigeria. Jigawa is known for farming. Atiku Abubakar said that in his Presidency, the people will be adequately protected from bandits and that the farmers would be supported in mechanised farming and assisted with funding. He also reaffirmed his desire to open Nigerian borders to neighbouring countries for trade and commerce.

Sat 18 February, 2023 was the grand finale of the PDP campaign rally. Ribadu Square, Yola, Adamawa State, North Eastern Nigeria was the venue.



Atiku Abubakar in Adamawa State



Surging Crowd at PDP rally at Adamawa

It is no coincidence that Yola is the home state of Atiku Abubakar, the Presidential flag bearer of PDP. It was the final lap and home coming with the campaign ground

filled to its maximum capacity with ecstatic party faithful. The party leaders were on hand to give one promise or the other and assured the crowd that PDP would bring prosperity to Nigeria.

APC: The week was a busy one for Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and his APC chieftains. The party crisscrossed the nation seeking the mandate of the people for the Feb 25, 2023 National elections. Gombe State, North West Nigeria was the first point of call on Monday February 13, 2023. Asiwaju Bola Tinubu was at the Emirs Palace, Gombe. The revered Emir referred to **Asiwaju as a colossus of the Nigerian politics**. The Emir wished Tinubu success at the polls and he conveyed his Best Wishes to every member of the APC campaign train.

The party moved to Gombe Stadium where the APC chieftain reeled out his plan on the endowed natural resources in Gombe State. He promised to continue the exploration at Kolmar oil exploration expedition in Gombe, a project that will improve the revenue base of the state. He also touched on the issue of development of solid minerals, that abound in the state.

Tuesday 14 February was another day at Dan Anyanwu Stadium Owerri, Imo State, South East Nigeria. It turned out to be a presidential visit by the APC Federal government. President Mohammed Buhari was among the APC leaders, that came to solicit for votes from the people of South Eastern Nigeria. The stadium witnessed an unprecedented crowd and the APC leaders used the opportunity to reel out the achievements of the APC- led government in Eastern Nigeria in the last seven and a half years, especially the completion of the 2nd Niger Bridge. According to the APC leadership, several governments in the past failed the Ndigbo nation until the APC government of Mohammed Buhari started and completed the 1.6 Kilometre Niger Bridge linking the two states of Anambra, South East and Delta state, South South Nigeria. The party promised to build more infrastructure and provide more job opportunities to the people.

Wednesday, 15th February, 2023, Governor Wike of Rivers State, South South Nigeria, received Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the other party leaders in the Government House, Port Harcourt. Governor Wike, despite being in an opposition party, exalted the qualities of Asiwaju Tinubu, the APC flag bearer. He reaffirmed his held views that Asiwaju represents democracy and rule of law in Nigeria. He appreciated His struggles that birthed the return to democracy after several years of military rule in 1999. He equally emphasised that every Nigerian must have access to the No 1 position in governance and wished Asiwaju and his campaign

team well at the polls. The campaign train moved to Yakubu Gowon Stadium in the city where a mammoth crowd was awaiting the party leaders. Asiwaju appealed to the youths to eschews violence and to avoid pipeline-vandalization. He singled out Asari Dokubo, a repentant militant and appreciated his friendship and efforts to bring peace to Ijaw Nations. He promised to lead Nigeria to prosperity and the birth of a new Nigeria, that every citizen shall be proud of.

Maiduguri, Borno State, North Eastern Nigeria was the final lap for the week on Saturday, 18th February, 2023. Incidentally, Borno State is the home state of Alhaji Shetima, APC Vice-Presidential candidate. Several of the party leaders, including the party chairman Alhaji Abdulahi Adamu, were on hand in Maiduguri.



*Asiwaju Bola
Ahmed
Tinubu at
Maiduguri,
Borno State,
NE Nigeria*

The first point of call was the palace of El-Kanemi, Shehu (traditional ruler) of Borno, Abubakar Ibn Umar Garba. He praised Asiwaju's relentlessness and prayed for His success at the polls. El- Kanemi Stadium in Maiduguri was the campaign venue. It was almost a festival as the whole state capital was in frenzy. The venue was filled beyond capacity and the enthusiasm was physically displayed. **The State governor Professor Zulum has remained a reference point for governance in Nigeria.** Despite the insurgency in Borno State, the governor has remained one of the best performing governors in Nigeria. His infrastructural achievements can be matched by only a few state governments in Nigeria.
