

## Nigerian Presidential Election Update

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Thanks to **Akinwale Falodun** for an Update, given below:

With less than 19 days to the Nigeria's Presidential elections, the major political parties intensified efforts and ramped up campaigns across the country.

**TWO ISSUES:** The dominant issues outside political campaigns in the last 2 weeks have been the **scarcity of fuel (gas)** needed for vehicular movement and the newly introduced **currency swap** by the Central Bank of Nigeria. Nigerians are not finding it easy to either fuel their cars at gas stations, or have access to cash in Banks and retail outlets for daily expenditures. Many people believe the timing of the currency swap was wrong, the election campaign is on and a large number of people need to move from one location to the other. Many believe it could be a plot to truncate the election, or to possibly sabotage it by the fifth columnist to discredit the government in power. The chairman of Nigeria Central Bank and the Presidency insisted it was a good policy that will strengthen the Naira, and reduce the abuse of vote buying on Election Day, an excuse many disagree with.

One fact remains, this is not the best time for living in Nigeria due to fuel scarcity and inability to access cash either in the bank or through the dispensing channels of ATM machines. The Federal government gave assurances that all the inconveniences would be sorted out before 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023, final date for swap of the old note for the new notes.

**RAMPING UP CAMPAIGNS:**

**APC:** Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, APC's Presidential candidate and his team in the last one week, continued to traverse the length and breadth of the country, soliciting for votes and dishing out campaign promises. On Tuesday January 31, 2023, the APC was in Calabar, Cross River State South South Nigeria. He promised to develop the Bakassi Deep Seaport and open up a super Highway across the North east boundary from Calabar up to Yobe Maiduguri in North East Nigeria. He gave a similar assurance to the people of Akwa Ibom, a neighbouring state to develop the IBOM Deep Sea port. He believed Nigeria should have several deep-sea ports across the riverine Nigerian States for effective commercial activities and will boost international trade with countries in the West African sub region.

In the week, He was also in Awka, Anambra State where he pledged to solve the perennial erosion problem in the state and to invest heavily on infrastructures.



February 4, 2023: The APC train was in Nasarawa State, North Central Nigeria. The campaign was unique because the President, Mohammed Buhari was on hand to campaign for his party candidate. President Buhari assured the crowd that the APC candidate Asiwaju Ahmed Tinubu is a committed democrat and will sustain the infrastructural momentum, for which his administration had given priority in the last 7 years. He said that Tinubu will place emphasis on mechanised agriculture, train the youths and assist them in all the areas of farming.



*APC Campaign: President Mohammed Buhari*

On 3<sup>rd</sup> February, the APC campaign train had been in Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State. It was a mammoth crowd that thronged the Ekitiparapo pavilion, venue of the campaign, despite the lingering fuel and cash crunch in the State. On the band stand was

Wasiu Ayinde. He was blaring his melodies to the enjoyment of the surging crowd. Asiwaju thanked the crowd and said, with their support, the country will be liberated from economic saboteurs. Other party faithful spoke at the rally about the programs, lined up for the state, when the party secured another term at the presidency. Earlier the APC campaign train was at Osogbo Osun State South West Nigeria where a colourful campaign took place. The Party chieftains met with Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, the Ooni of Ife and sought royal blessing. The party slogans remained: Education as priority, security and provision of infrastructures across the country.

### **PDP:**

Alhaji Atiku Abubakar and the PDP train were in Sokoto State, North West Nigeria on Tuesday January 31, 2023. The party chieftains were received by the Sultan of Sokoto, Sir Muhammadu Sa'adu Abubakar III. The revered royal father urged the politicians to play politics without bitterness and to campaign based on programs, they have for the people. The party train moved to the campaign venue, Ramat Square, where the State Governor promised a stable country under a PDP federal government. The PDP flag bearer, Atiku Abubakar promised to develop infrastructures in the state and to provide adequate security for all. He promised to provide jobs to the young and to unite the country.



The PDP train was also in Mubi, Adamawa state, educating the electorate about why PDP should be a party of choice. The party promised increased security and more development to improve agriculture and get the youths engaged.

## Labour Party:

Peter Obi of Labour Party continued his campaign despite a rumoured alliance with Atiku Abubakar of PDP. He denied the alliance and told Nigerians: he was the front runner in the February 25 presidential race.



Labour Party Presidential candidate: Peter Obi

The labour party has been very busy across the country. Shehu Kangiwa square, Sokoto State North West Nigeria was the point of call on Wednesday February 1, 2023. Peter Obi promised to serve the country and put the youths out of poverty. On Friday Feb 3, 2023, Peter Obi train was at the eastern axis of the country. He addressed the party faithful in Aba, Abia State, South East Nigeria.

He was in Owerri, another south eastern Nigeria capital city, where he claimed to be the best man for the job. He promised to create a formidable Nigeria that all would be proud of and where businesses would be able to thrive.

On Sat February 4, 2023, Peter Obi campaign train was at Ake ground, Abeokuta, Ogun State, South West Nigeria. Nigeria. Peter Obi promised to transform the socio-economic activities in the country, to put an end to the perennial university lecturers' strike so that the students could avoid spending more than the required number of years in institutions of higher learning.

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