

Nigeria: Presidential Election-Result Fall-Out

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Thanks to **Akinwale Falodun** for the following: *Any Hope for a Political Integration?*

Nigeria: Presidential and National Assembly elections, of February 25-26, continue to attract attention and reactions around the globe. The final results are being contested by 2 major parties, that were runners up, while the NNPP of Engr Rabiu Kwankwaso, that came fourth, has conceded defeat and congratulated the President Elect, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu of APC.

Some are asking the question- 'Have Nigerians really spoken through the ballot box, considering less than 30% of registered voters actually participated in the Presidential and National Assembly elections?'

The weeks preceding the elections were chaotic for Nigerians: The Government in power compounded the woes of average Nigerians through the Naira notes-swap project and the non availability of fuel (Gas) to support mobility and to power essential domestic needs. Cash became inaccessible and many Nigerians took the law into their hands, setting ablaze financial institutions and Government properties, especially infrastructures belonging to INEC, the institution responsible for the conduct of the elections. These may be some of the reasons for a poor turnout of voters.

Summary of Presidential Results - by Regions:

#	Party	Votes in the South region	Votes in the North region
1	APC	3,206,959	5,507,787
2	PDP	4,020,687	5,159,679
3	LP	1,751,047	1,798,671
4	NNPP	42,002	1,449,872

The results from **National assembly** results saw seven parties represented on the winners list so far: APC: 56 seats; PDP: 28; LP: 7; SDP: 2; NNPP: 2; APGA: 1; YPP: 1.

The results for about 10 more Senate seat are still awaited out of a total of 109 seats. The Federal House of Representative with 347 members follows a similar distribution of seats among parties.

Analysis: The 3 major parties had a very balanced spread, especially APC that could be seen in almost all sections of the country. The results have moved Nigeria from a 2-party system of APC and PDP, to a multi-party structure with newcomers in the Labour Party, which has tremendous support especially in the southern Nigeria and Christian dominated central region of Nigeria, comprising Nasarawa, Benue and Plateau states.

The Progressive Governors* under APC that insisted on a southern Presidential candidate must be commended for insisting the Presidency moved to the south. The Presidential election has temporarily removed Religion and ethnicity from Nigeria voting pattern. The parties were able to win elections in Muslim strongholds and Christian dominated regions.

The world leaders continue to send congratulatory messages to Nigeria leaders and the President elect Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, insisting on an all inclusive government. Hopefully better days ahead for Nigeria and Her people.

***Note:** Progressive Governors Forum has 20 members as of January 2020. It aims at promoting a uniform agenda in healthcare and education in all APC-ruled States. It also works to make the electioneering process more credible so that the results truly reflect the wishes of the people.

Members of the PGF meet monthly, with meetings sometimes rotated among states governed by APC Governors while a secretariat in charge of the Forum's day-to-day activities is run by a Director-General. This secretariat is saddled with the responsibility of implementing the decisions reached by the governors from member states and generating programmes, proposals and recommendations for consideration by the governors.

The Secretariat of PGF: consists of a Director-General of the PGF and three Departments: The Departments at the PGF include the Finance and Administrative department, the Programs Department – which is further broken into the Governance Program Unit and the Legislative Program Unit, and the Media & Communications Department.

Reference: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Progressive_Governors_Forum