

Nigerian Presidential Elections, 2023:

Nigeria: Atiku Challenges Tinubu's Victory & the Festus' Case

On Tuesday, 21st March 2023, at 8 PM, The presidential candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Atiku Abubakar filed his petition against declaration of Bola Tinubu as President-Elect at the *Presidential Election Petition Court in Abuja*.

Earlier on 1st March 2023, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) had declared Bola Tinubu as President-Elect and Kashim Shettima as Vice-President-Elect).



Bola Tinubu

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Atiku Abubakar asked the court to either declare him as the President-Elect of Nigeria or to cancel the election and to order a fresh election.

Obi has also filed a similar case in the same court. Please refer to “**Obi files Petition against INEC’s decision of Tinubu as President-Elect**” at <https://diginews360.com/nigeria-obi-files-petition-against-tinubu-as-president-elect/>

A CASE AGAINST ATIKU: On **April 18, 2023** is the hearing for a case filed by **Festus Keyamo**, a spokesperson of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Campaign Council (PCC), against Atiku Abubakar, relating to the information, released by Michael Achimugu in an audio tape.



Atiku Abubakar

January 8, 2023: **Michael Achimugu**, a former aide to Atiku Abubakar had recorded a conversation between the President and the Vice-President (from 1999-2007) about defalcation of public funds of Nigeria for their personal use. In the audio, the former vice-president was alleged to have explained how shell organizations were set up to divert public funds. **Atiku Abubakar** served as the vice president of Nigeria from 1999 to 2007 during the presidency of Olusegun Obasanjo.

Festus Keyamo had instituted a suit against Abubakar over these allegations on money laundering. The Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB), the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) are the other defendants in the suit.

BACKGROUND: It may be noted that the votes obtained by the four major candidates at the election were as follows:

Name of Candidate	Party	No of Votes Polled by the candidate
Bola Tinubu	APC	8,794,726
Atiku Abubakar	PDP	6,984,520
Peter Obi	Labour	6,101,533
Rabiu Kwankwaso	NNPP	1,496,687

Earlier on 23rd February 2023, the Presidential Election Petition Court (PEPC) registry had opened in Abuja. It is a statutory responsibility of the Court of Appeal, which coordinates post-election litigations, to set up the tribunals and open them for business ahead of elections. The PEPC is subject to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Adamu Mohammed is the interim Secretary of PEPC.