

*Learning from the Mistakes of Pakistan and Myanmar:*

## **NIGERIA: New Possibilities: Strengthening Democracy**

April 11, 2023

On 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023, Bola Ahmed Adekunle Tinubu, 71, is scheduled to succeed Muhammadu Buhari as President. The incumbent President has governed Nigeria as President for the constitutionally allowed maximum two terms of four years each.

Tinubu's qualities as a nation-builder and his achievements as the Governor of Lagos State (1999-2007) are well-known.

He is also an astute politician. He co-founded and financed the Alliance for Democracy on 9 September 1998, which later became the Action Congress of Nigeria, and then the **All Progressives Congress** (APC). Tinubu helped bring together APC factions, pushing Buhari to victory in 2015 and ending 16 years in power for the rival People's Democratic Party (PDP).

(Please see the Background Note in the Appendix on page 4.)

[www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) expects that with Tinubu at the helm, Nigeria will be able to move fast towards welding itself into a nation. We hope that members of different tribes and both Muslims and Christians will start thinking of themselves as **Nigerians first**.



*Presidential Villa, Abuja, Nigeria*

*Nigeria has both material and intellectual resources to be able to solve the lingering problems, which have afflicted the nation since independence in 1960.*

[www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) wants Nigeria to take its rightful place in the comity of nations.

Learning from the PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS of 25<sup>th</sup> February: INEC used better modern technology for conduct of the elections than at any earlier elections. The external observers have said that the elections were on the whole fair.

[www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) appreciates the fact that the elections were fought keenly as the following data shows:

Region	Candidate, who won	Candidate, who was placed second
North-West	Tinubu	Atiku
North- Central	Tinubu	Obi
North-East	Atiku	Tinubu
South-West	Tinubu	Atiku
South-South	Obi	Tinubu
South-East	Obi	Tinubu

The States of Anambara, Enugu, Abia, Ebonyi and Imo, located in South-East region have supported Obi overwhelmingly.

Establish MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY in South-East region also: [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) calls on INEC, the Federal Government, APC, PDP and all organs of society to look into the situation in these States so that **multi-party democracy**, where voting is NOT based on ethnic considerations alone, **can be effectively established in these States also**.

Mr Tinubu also won at least one state in each of the regions except South-East. He gained 25 per cent of votes in 29 states. Overall, Mr Tinubu scored 37 per cent of votes in the elections. His main challenger, Atiku got 29 per cent of the votes while Mr Obi scored 25 per cent.

LEARNING from both the SUCCESSES and FAILURES of others: During the nation-building process, it may be worthwhile for the Youth, the Intellectuals and the Leaders of Nigeria to learn from the experience of other nations.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, United Kingdom's colonies included Nigeria and a vast landmass of South Asia, including Burma (called Myanmar today).

On 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947, when the British granted independence to India, after carving out of it a new country, named Pakistan consisting of areas, where Muslims were in a majority.

At that time many highly educated Indians used to go to Nigeria, since salaries in Nigeria were higher. Pakistan used to be the granary of pre-partition united India and till about 1960, Pakistan had a per capita GDP higher than that of India. Many Indians used to go to Myanmar also in search of a more lucrative business. Today not many Indians go to Nigeria or Myanmar.

One of the important causes of this relative change of way of living is that India has continued to have a democratic government for the last 75 years, whereas in Nigeria, Pakistan and Myanmar, coups by army disrupted development of democratic traditions. **Democracy does deliver good governance, though in a non-linear way.**

Since 1999, Nigeria has got its democracy back. **The citizens of Nigeria should remember that democracy will empower them, if the people continue to have faith in themselves.**

Please read "Democracy Delivers: Autocracies don't empower people" of April 2, 2023 at <https://diginews360.com/democracy-delivers-autocracies-dont-empower-people/>.

**Note:** 1. Please read "China's Policy of a String of Pearls around India" of April 11, 2023 at <https://diginews360.com/chinas-policy-of-a-string-of-pearls-around-india/>.

2. Please read "A Call to the Young of Nigeria: Making Nigeria a Great Country to Live and Work" of January 1, 2023 at <https://diginews360.com/making-nigeria-a-great-country-to-live-work/>.

APPENDIX:

-----BACKGROUND of APC, the Political Party of the President-Elect-----

Chief **Abdulkareem Adebisi Bamidele Akande** was elected as the governor of Osun State in 1999, as a member of the Alliance for Democracy (AD) party, at the start of the Nigerian Fourth Republic. **Mojisoluwa O Akinfenwa** was elected Senator for the Osun East constituency of Osun State, running on the AD platform. He took office on 29 May 1999.

In December 2003 Alhaji Ahmed Abdulkadir, outgoing national chairman of Alliance for Democracy party wrote to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) naming Akinfenwa as the new national chairman. Alliance for Democracy was embroiled in a leadership tussle between Mojisola Akinfenwa and Adebisi Akande, which lingered for about three years. In September 2006, the 'Bisi Akande faction merged with Justice Party, the Advance Congress of Democrats, and several other minor political parties to form a new political party called **Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN)**, to form a larger political opposition to the federally dominant centrist People's Democratic Party and the Northern-based All Nigeria Peoples Party.

In February 2013 ACN merged with the Congress for Progressive Change, the All Nigeria Peoples Party, and the All Progressives Grand Alliance to form the **All Progressives Congress**.

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