

Nigeria: Supreme Court dismisses challenge to Presidential Election

October 26, 2023

October 26, 2023: Abuja, Nigeria: The Supreme Court of Nigeria rendered a momentous decision on **Thursday**, rejecting the appeals by two opposition candidates who had challenged the election of **Bola Ahmed Tinubu** as the President of Nigeria. This ruling effectively brought an end to a protracted eight-month dispute that had engulfed the presidential election held on 25th February 2023.



President Bola Tinubu

Atiku Abubakar

Peter Obi

A distinguished panel of seven judges meticulously scrutinized the appeals lodged by **Atiku Abubakar**, the runner-up, and **Peter Obi** and upheld the previous judgment of an Appeals Court, which had affirmed Tinubu as the duly elected President of Nigeria.

The apex court affirmed that other six panel members agreed with the lead judgment delivered by **Justice John Inyang Okoro**, dismissing Atiku Abubakar's appeal and challenging the judgment of the presidential petition tribunal.

The other six justices on the panel are **Uwani Musa Abba Aji, Mohammed Lawal Garba, Ibrahim Mohammed Musa Saulawa, Adamu Jauro, Tijjani Abubakar, and Emmanuel A. Agim.**

Nigeria has witnessed a history of elections marred by allegations of fraud and subsequent legal challenges. However, this marks the first instance since the country's transition to democracy in 1999 that the Supreme Court has reviewed the outcome of a presidential election.

Bola Tinubu, a former governor of Lagos and the candidate of the ruling **All Progressives Congress** (APC) party, emerged victorious in the presidential election of 25th February 2023, with 37 percent of the vote. He faced competition from **Atiku Abubakar** of the **People's Democratic Party** (PDP), who secured 29 percent of the vote, and **Peter Obi** of the **Labour Party** (LP), who garnered 25 percent. Notably, nearly 25 million Nigerians participated in the election, which, despite some challenges such as delays in vote counting and issues with electronic result transmission, transpired relatively peacefully.

It is important to acknowledge that the election was conducted fairly and freely. Since assuming office on 29th May 2023, President Tinubu has swiftly initiated reforms aimed at **fostering economic growth, attracting foreign investment**, and addressing various **security challenges** afflicting the nation. These challenges encompass **a jihadist insurgency in the northeast, criminal groups involved in mass kidnappings in the northwest and center**, as well as **a deep-seated separatist sentiment** with the people of the southeast.

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, in a Statement after the verdict by the SC, said that it was **time for us to build Nigeria together**. He promised, " **Our Renewed Hope agenda** for a greater and prosperous Nigeria has further gained momentum and I will continue **to work from morning to night, every single day**, to build a country that meets our collective yearnings and aspirations." **By-Abel in Burundi**

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