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The Uplifting Africa Program

Nigeria Welcomes a New Era: President Bola Tinubu Takes Office



Bola Tinubu, Photo Credit: Punchng

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Nigeria's 2023 Presidential Election



From left to right: Peter Obi, Atiku Abubakar, and Bola Tinubu. Photo Credit: ABCNews

Nigeria's presidential election approached on February 25th, 2023, to elect the president and vice president. Incumbent President Muhammadu Buhari was ineligible for renomination, as he has already been elected twice to the president's office. Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) announced that over 93 million registered voters will have the opportunity to select from 18 candidates to be the next president.¹ The candidates were nominated during the party primaries from April 4th to June 9th, 2022.² The frontrunners were Peter Obi of Nigeria's Labour Party, former Nigerian Vice President Atiku Abubakar of the Peoples Democratic Party, and Bola Tinubu of Nigeria's All Progressives Congress party.³

¹<https://abcnews.go.com/International/nigeria-presidential-election-2023-main-candidates-key-issues/story?id=97411314>

²<https://inecnews.com/primaries-inec-grants-parties-six-day-window-timetable-remains-unchanged/>

³<https://abcnews.go.com/International/nigeria-presidential-election-2023-main-candidates-key-issues/story?id=97411314>

Presidential Results

Bola Tinubu, the candidate of Nigeria's ruling party, All Progressives Congress, was declared the winner of the presidential election by the INEC on March 1st, 2023. With 8,794,726 votes, Tinubu had the highest vote count among all the candidates, meeting the first constitutional requirement for being declared the winner. The chairman of INEC, Mahmood Yakubu, who announced the election results in Abuja that Wednesday morning, said Atiku Abubakar of the People's Democratic Party came in second place with 6,984,520 votes, and Peter Obi came in third place with 6,101,533 votes. The election results showed that Tinubu won in several states: Rivers, Borno, Jigawa, Zamfara, Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Niger, Osun, Ekiti, Ondo, Oyo, and Ogun. Atiku emerged victorious in Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Kaduna, Gombe, Yobe, Bauchi, Adamawa, Taraba, Osun, Akwa Ibom, and Bayelsa. Obi won in the Edo, Cross River, Delta, Lagos, FCT, Plateau, Imo, Ebonyi, Nasarawa, Anambra, Abia, and Enugu states.⁴

Challenging the results

After the presidential results were announced, Peter Obi and Atiku Abubakar refused to accept them. Peter Obi vowed to challenge the results in court. At a press conference, he stated, "we will explore all legal and peaceful options to reclaim our mandate. We won the election and we

⁴<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/585443-breaking-inec-declares-apcs-bola-tinubu-winner-of-nigerias-presidential-election.html>

will prove it to Nigerians. We were asked to go to court. Is that not what they said? So, let's go there."⁵

Meanwhile, Atiku Abubakar expressed his disappointment, labeling it the most poorly conducted election since Nigeria's return to democracy in 1999, calling the election neither free nor fair and needing to be challenged.⁶ Tinubu encouraged the acceptance of the outcome, saying, "I am asking you to work with me, I may be the president in the election, but I need you. More importantly, Nigeria needs you a lot more."⁷ However, on March 22nd, he and Atiku filed formal petitions challenging Tinubu's victory separately.⁸

⁵<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/585702-nigeriadeclides2023-obi-rejects-election-results-vows-to-challenge-process-in-court.html>

⁶<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/585794-nigeriadeclides2023-atiku-rejects-result-of-presidential-election-says-poll-must-be-challenged.html>

⁷<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-64760226>

⁸<https://thewhistler.ng/atiku-finally-files-case-against-tinubu-at-tribunal/>

Sworn into office



Nigeria's new President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (left) receives Nigeria flags from former Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, during the inauguration ceremony in Abuja. Photo Credit: NPR

Bola Tinubu was sworn in as Nigeria's president on May 29th, 2023. His inauguration occurred in Abuja, the capital city, where thousands of Nigerians and several heads of government attended. Tinubu is committed to continuing where former president Buhari left off in providing democratic benefits to the people of Nigeria. The country has been plagued by severe security crises, poverty, and hunger, leading to widespread frustration and anger. Despite opposition from other political parties taking his election to debate in court, Tinubu has promised to unite the country.⁹

⁹[https://www.africanews.com/2023/05/29/bola-ahmed-tinubu-sworn-in-as-nigerias-new-president//](https://www.africanews.com/2023/05/29/bola-ahmed-tinubu-sworn-in-as-nigerias-new-president/)

