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Polls: Atiku Raises Alarm Over INEC's Delay In Result Upload

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By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Presidential Candidate of the People's Democratic Party, Atiku Abubakar, has asked the National Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof Mahmood Yakubu to instruct the collation officers for Saturday's election to upload the results from the polling units to the commission's server immediately.

Atiku said that this has

become necessary to checkmate some governors who are trying to compromise the results at the local government collation level.

Media Adviser to Atiku, Paul Ibe in a statement, quoted his Principal saying "it will be a disservice to Nigerians and a negation to democracy for anyone to subvert the will of the people as freely expressed in their votes of yesterday".

He called on Nigerians to be calm but vigilant to

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2023 Elections: CNPP Urges INEC To Cancel Results Where BVAS Bypassed, Mass Thumb-printing Occurred

*Says violence, vote-buying persisted

*Says uploading results online not Page 3

INEC Declares Tinubu Winner In 14 Oyo LGAs so far, 19 Awaited

Polls: 3 Kogi LGAs Ravaged By Thugs

**Security operatives gun down popular thug*

By Adama John, Lokoja

Three local government areas of Kogi State were attacked by thugs leading to death of some especially in the eastern flank of the state on Saturday.

This include Abocho and Anyigba where voting materials were attempted to be snatched and had the thug in Anyigba, Aka Ihiaba, gunned down by

the security operatives.

While it was reported that about six thugs were gunned down by security agents in Kogi east particularly Anyigba in Dekina local government area, others were scattered within Omala local government.

The only local government area across the River Niger that recorded thuggery is Mopa Muro where thugs

in their numbers, disrupted and wounded some voters even during the counting of votes.

In all, seven polling units in the eastern flank of the state between Dekina and Omala local government areas were cancelled by the electoral umpire due to the activities of the thugs that invaded the polling units.

Generally, the turn out of the electorate was

impressive as compared to the past governorship election that witnessed voting apathy.

Governor Yahaya Bello of the state, after casting his vote at his polling Unit 001 at Okene Eba in A h a c h i W a r d , commended the security operatives, INEC officials and the entire electorate for the conduct of the election.



Distinguished Senator, Arc. Kabiru I. Gaya casting his vote at his unit in Alkalah Juma'a Mosques Gaya polling unit during the 2023 Presidential/Senate general election. Photo: BASHIR BELLO

Election in Southern Kaduna Peaceful

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The presidential and National Assembly elections in Southern Kaduna, Kaduna State was conducted peacefully, with massive turn out of eligible voters to elect candidates for their choice.

In an interview on phone with many people from the area, party members expressed delight that though some local government areas could not start their voting on time due to non arrival of voting materials, the situation has remained peaceful as voters are casting their votes to

candidates of their choice. A source who spoke from Samaru Kataf in Zangon Kataf Local Government Area, said, "Voting here is going on peacefully as every eligible voter is casting his or her vote to the candidate of their choice. The turnout of eligible voters is really encouraging as people are doing so with high expectations that a new leadership will emerge to turn things for good for all Nigerians."

The Southern Kaduna Peoples Union (SOKAPU) in collaboration with Southern Kaduna Leadership Council

(SKLC), had in a press conference said, "We, as leaders of Southern Kaduna are advising our people to vote the party that has inclination, desire and potential to concretely address our cares and concerns."

Another resident of the area, Mr Edward Auta, told New Nigerian that the contest in the area mostly is between PDP and Labour Party, saying that most eligible voters are strong members of the two parties.

He stated that the atmosphere is general peaceful as there is no intimidation but said that people are going about

lining up in the various polling units to cast their votes.

A PDP stalwart, Mathew Hassan explained to New Nigerian that following the way the election is being conducted, he expressed confidence that the exercise would be done in a peacefully with winners emerging without any problem in the area.

He explained, "The Southern part of Kaduna is always peaceful especially when it comes to election. We are always conscious of what we want by electing candidates of our choices to represent us at levels of governance in the country."

Rising Antimicrobial Resistance To Kill 10m People By 2050, UNEP Predicts

**Calls for cut down in pollution*

By; MATTHEW UKACHUNWA, Lagos

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has predicted that by year 2050, up to 10 million people could die annually due to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

UNEP therefore, advised countries to cut down pollution in order to reduce AMR.

The UN agency made the announcement in a statement titled, "Chemicals and Pollution Action" it issued this month.

"Antimicrobial resistance or AMR is considered one of the top global public health problems. It also poses an urgent and critical threat to animal and plant health, food security and economic development," UNEP declared.

Shedding light on "Bracing for Superbugs," the agency said, "strengthening environmental action in the One Health response to antimicrobial resistance, a new report from the

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), provides evidence that the environment plays a key role in the development, transmission and spread of AMR."

UNEP stated that Antimicrobials – such as antibiotics, antifungals and disinfectants – are important in treating infections and diseases, and emphasized that their increased use and pollution, coupled with extreme weather patterns and higher temperatures, leads to the spread of superbugs, microorganisms that are resistant to every known antibiotic.

"By 2050, up to 10 million people could die annually due to antimicrobial resistance, while global GDP could drop by US\$3.4 trillion by 2030.

"Reducing pollution created by the pharmaceuticals, agricultural and health-care sectors is essential to reducing the emergence, transmission and spread of superbugs," UNEP said.

Buhari, Wife Vote In Daura

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

President Muhammad Buhari and his Wife, Hajiya A'isha have cast their votes at Kofar Baru three (3) Polling unit, in Sarkin Yara A ward in Daura metropolis.

President Buhari and Hajiya A'isha arrived at the Polling unit at exactly 9.58am.

President Buhari completed his cast, after undergoing necessary procedures, including physical capturing.

Speaking shortly after casting his vote, President Muhammadu Buhari expressed confidence that all his candidates from

Daura to Lagos would emerge victorious.

However, Emir of Daura, Alhaji Umar Farouk Umar. cast his vote at his Palace.

In a related development, hundreds of people came out to cast their votes in Daura and Sandamu Local Government areas.

Reports shows that, women came out enmasse in different polling units.

In Sandamu, the council's Chairman, Alhaji Usman Nalado Matawalle expressed satisfaction with the way and manner the election was going on, despite the late arrival of the election materials. In Daura Zone, elections conducted peacefully.

2023 Election: Late Arrival Of Materials, Slow Accreditation Process Characterizes Exercise In Makera, Kakuri

By; **IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna**

Presidential and National Assembly elections have kicked off in Makera, Kakuri and Nasarawa, Kaduna industrial suburbs with late arrival of election officials and materials in virtually all polling stations within the area.

Our correspondent who toured round the settlements, reported that presiding officers were yet to report for duty as late as 11am in some polling units despite the huge turnouts of voters as early as eight in the morning awaiting to exercise their franchises.

At polling station 031 located along Old Market Road for example, officials and materials could not arrive until 11:22am, arousing suspicion among voters if there was a plan to disenfranchise the area.

The story was almost similar with what played out at Makera Unit 051 where the first voter to have been verified by the BVAS machine and cleared was able to vote at exactly 10am.

Some meters away from Unit 051 was Unit 020 and 017, located within Makera ward where voting commenced at 10:33 and 10:45 am respectively.

It was a cheering news however at Queen Amina polling station located along Kachia Express Road in Kaduna South which recorded arrival of election officials and materials at about 9:03am. Aside the later takeoff of exercise in majority of places visited, voters decried slow pace of the voting process.

A voter who simply identified himself as Joshua Nuhu stated that it took him seven minutes to go through verification

and screening process after queuing for over three hours awaiting arrival of officials.

Another resident of Makera who revealed to our correspondent that she had spent over an hour going from one place to another looking for the appropriate station to vote.

"The process is cumbersome with our stations scattered, not properly arranged for easy identification and location by voters.

"You will spend hours looking for where to vote, hours again trying to queue up and wasting precious time trying to get accredited before casting your votes," she lamented. Yusuf Mamman was another voter who expressed his disappointment over the slow process of accreditation by the BVAS machine which he noted was taking an average of 5

minutes to verify and clear an individual for voting.

An agent to one of the political parties taking part in the election however lauded the process, saying it was a welcome development.

"I must commend INEC for this imaginative which I strongly believe will checkmate over voting and voting by proxies despite the long time it takes for accreditation and casting of ballot.

"It is worth the wait and stress if we can have a credible fair and peaceful elections after all.

"After the accreditation process which takes an average of three minutes, a voter is issued with three ballot papers, each for the respective positions taking place.

"The red box is for presidential election while the black and green boxes are for senate and house of reps respectively which I believe is impeccable and self-explanatory enough,"



Yobe Head of Service, Bilal

Election Turn Out In Yobe Communities Impressive - Garba Bilal

By; **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

The Head of Yobe State Civil Service, Garba Bilal has described the turnout during the 2023 Presidential and the National Assembly Elections across the state as an impressive one. Bilal who disclosed this immediately after he cast his vote at Tajuwa Community in Jakusko Local Government Area of the state, explained the large turnout was not unconnected to the call made by the executive Governor Mai Mala Buni for voters to actively participate in the elections.

"The turnout is very impressive, its very okay and people are still coming to cast their votes and even before now the executive Governor Mai Mala Buni had called on all Yobeans to come out en masse and vote for their leaders, as you can see for

yourselves, the turnout is okay and many are still coming to vote"

On the use of the new technology BVAs, the Head of Service revealed, although there was delay in the process but was optimistic the operators will pick up during the next election.

"With the introduction of this technology (BVAs) you will realize there is delay in the process because it's a new innovation and the officials are trying to learn the technology but they are still picking up, next election would be better off he said.

He therefore, charged the voters to conduct themselves peacefully throughout the exercise, the character the Yobe citizens are known for.

So far as at time of filling-in this report, the elections were conducted peacefully across the state without any hitch.



2023 Elections: CNPP Urges INEC To Cancel Results Where BVAS Bypassed, Mass Thumb-printing Occurred

By; **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

Conference Of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) has called on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to immediately cancel election results in parts of the country where the newly introduced Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) machines were bypassed during accreditation.

The CNPP in a statement signed by its Secretary General, Chief Willy Ezugwu, recalled that "the BVAS is an electronic device designed to authenticate voters during accreditation based on the 2023 electoral guidelines.

"The legal framework for conducting the 2023 elections consists of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as amended; the Electoral Act, 2022; and the Independent National Electoral

Commission (INEC) Election Regulations and Guidelines for the conduct of the elections.

"When the commission introduced the BVAS machines into the Nigerian electoral system, the compact device was intended to serve as the only means of verification of the genuineness of the PVCs through the fingerprint or facial authentication of voters during accreditation. All verifications outside the BVAS are invalid.

"On the other hand, uploading the polling unit results to the INEC Result Viewing Portal (IREV) was intended to be in real-time on election day, which was substantially not the case.

"So, we are afraid that the election results from polling units to the INEC Result Viewing Portal (IREV) were suspiciously delayed because even results from different

major cities across the country with good internet connections were not uploaded real-time to the INEC results portal.

"In the same vein, INEC officials were also being accused of bypassing the use of BVAS machines for accreditation in some parts of the country, especially in the North East and North West, leading to allegations of massive thumb-printing and stuffing of ballot boxes.

"Another very noticeable anomaly is on viral videos where clearly under-aged voters in some states were seen thumb-printing ballot papers in parts of the North.

"The use of violence to scare voters as well as vote-buying persisted in parts of the country throughout the presidential and national assembly elections on Saturday.

"We, therefore, call on the electoral body to exercise its powers under the law to cancel results of polling units where violence, vote

buying or mass Thumb-printing of ballot papers took place.

"Polling unit officials deployed by the Commission were accused of bypassing the BVAS machines, which is the only means of accreditation of voters. This is not in compliance with the electoral guidelines for the 2023 general elections as released by INEC and any election result from such polling unit must be canceled and rerun ordered.

"We also call on the international community to note these observations and pressure INEC to do the needful by ensuring compliance to its own guidelines.

"The current delay in announcing the results of the presidential election is even raising more suspicion that INEC has an ulterior motive or is acting a script to produce a particular candidate other than the one voted for by Nigerians", the CNPP stated.

Nigeria Decides: Atiku Wins Polling Unit First Time Since 2007

*Scores 282, Tinubu gets 57, Obi gets 5

By TINA PHINEAS, Yola

As votes are being counted, PDP presidential candidate Atiku Abubakar has won his Ajiya Ward polling unit for the first time since he started contesting for Nigeria's presidency in 2007.

Announcing the result of the election the presiding officer Nalaho Phillip announced that the PDP presidential candidate Atiku Abubakar scores

282 votes to defeat APC candidate Bola Tinubu who scored 57 votes.

According to him, Labour party candidate Peter Obi scored 6 votes and NNPP candidate Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso who scored 1 vote.

New Nigerian reports that Atiku shares the same polling unit with Minister of Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Mohammed Bello who lost his polling unit to Atiku.



Minister of Power

Power Minister Commends Peaceful Conduct Of Polls

By JACOB ONJEWU DICKDON

The Honourable Minister of Power Engr. Abubakar D. Aliyu has commended the peaceful conduct and the timely start of voting and the large turnout for the presidential and National Assembly elections ongoing across the country.

The minister stated this on Saturday immediately after casting his vote at his Bare Bari Ba Wuya Lai Lai Ward of Potiskum LGA, Yobe State.

He said the large turnout and smooth conduct of the elections are signs of people's confidence built

by President Muhammadu Buhari's commitment to free and fair elections.

"I thank President Muhammadu Buhari for making sure that Nigerians have a conducive atmosphere to exercise their franchise. The smooth conduct of the election is another sign of the president keeping to his words to ensure free, fair and credible elections," the minister added.

Engr. Abubakar D. Aliyu also called on Nigerians to continue supporting the government by conducting themselves peacefully to strengthen democracy.

C'River: Large Turnout Greeted General Election

By VITALIS UGOH, Calabar

From Calabar, our correspondent, Vitalis Ugo reports that the elections were free, fair in all the 18 local government areas of Cross River State.

The exercise started as early as 8.30 am in some polling booths in Ward 12 in Ekpo Abasi area, while others arrived at 9.15 am to commence the process of voting.

The INEC staff had earlier addressed crowd on what they were supposed to do and directed them to form two or three lines for the voting proper.

One of the significance of the whole exercise was the honour and respect accord elderly men and women, including the handicapped in some polling booths.

They voters queued one after the other in observance of how the BVAs machine is working. It was also observed that in some areas, the network was fast, while in some, it recorded slowly and later captured them to cast their

votes.

In Calabar South and Calabar Municipality, the exercise went smoothly with the presence of security personnel all over the polling booths.

As at 2.30 pm, down one of the local government areas, Yala, in Ukelle, voting was still ongoing as at the time of filing this report.

However, reports from Mkpani in Yakurr local government area said "security personnel picked up a young man alleged to have been parading with a gun in one of the polling booths."

The two flash points where violence are likely to erupt are Obudu and Akpabuyo local government areas but as at the time of filing this report, no major incidence was heard.

Meanwhile, vehicular movement other except INEC officials, Election Observers and the Media remains effective.

People were seen trekking towards the location of their polling booths during the exercise.

The turnout was

encouraging and peaceful as compared to the 2015 general elections. Ayade votes, laments late arrival of materials

In a related development, Cross River State governor, Senator Ben Ayade, had expressed sadness over the late arrival of voting materials for Saturday's Presidential and National Assembly elections.

Ayade who voted at exactly 14.08 pm, at Polling Unit 033, Ipong Ward lamented that his people were at the prospect of being disenfranchised owing to delay in arrival of materials.

"Well I am surprised that the time is already gone past two O'clock and I have just cast my vote at about 2:08 pm. We didn't have materials until 1:pm and when the materials did arrive, there were no INEC staff available to attend to voters."

Ayade said: "worryingly, according to INEC, its Rack Technology System (Rack Tech) is switches off at a certain time in Abuja, what is the

possibility that my people will not be disenfranchised. This is a heavily populated area and some people are already getting tired and itching to leave out of frustration."

He further disclosed that "as a governor and one who is also running for the Senate, if could not vote until it was eight minutes past two, it's also a big worry for me. Beyond that, I have equally received calls from other Polling units expressing concern about late arrival and non-availability of INEC staff."

"What this seems to suggest is that there's a deliberate manipulation to ensure that the votes from Obudu are lowered, occasioned by the machines either not working or are being shut down. This indeed, is disturbing, to say the least."

To ensure that no one is disenfranchised, the governor appealed: "I hope INEC will allow every single person who has come here to vote to do so without being institutionally disenfranchised."

Polls: Atiku Raises Alarm Over INEC's Delay In Result Upload

*Alleges some govs trying to manipulate the process

*Optimistic of victory

*Urges Nigerians to remain calm

ensure that anti-democratic elements who are masquerading as progressives do not steal their mandate.

"And in what is already turning out to be a nail-biting race in the 2023 Nigerian presidential elections, early results from polling units and exit polls indicate that Atiku Abubakar is projected to become the first candidate

to meet the mandatory 25% requirement of votes cast in at least 24 states.

"According to the latest projections, Atiku is also set to exceed expectations in at least 10 states, where he is projected to garner over 40% of the votes cast", he said.

Meanwhile, the PDP presidential candidate has expressed gratitude to the Nigerian people for their

support so far and pledged to continue to work hard to earn their trust and confidence.

"We are humbled and honoured by the early projections, which indicate that the Nigerian people have seen in Atiku Abubakar the kind of leader that they want to lead them into a brighter future", he added.

"While it is still too early

to predict the outcome of the elections, Atiku Abubakar's early success has certainly put him in a strong position as the race enters its final stages.

"From the current available figures, Atiku is winning in many states in the 6 geo-political zones. We urge our members and party agents to remain steadfast and watchful", he urged.

el-Rufai Votes In Kaduna North, Laments Low Voter Turn Out

*Spends 5 hours on queue before voting

By; FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

Governor Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai of Kaduna State on Saturday alongside his wife, Architect Hadiza at about 10.20am, arrived his polling unit 024, Unguwar Sarki in Kaduna North LGA of the state to cast their votes, amid low turnout of voters.

In an interview with newsmen at the polling unit, Governor Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai while expressing satisfaction with the election process, also expressed concerns over the low turnout of the electorate, especially women.

He said from the reports he received so far, the election is going smoothly with minor challenges in Southern Kaduna where two ballot boxes were snatched, but this is no incident at all, saying technology has gone beyond that.

"The election witnessed low voter turnout and challenges in some polling units as the wrong machines were deployed," he said.

el-Rufai said, "What worries me is that I noticed that people didn't turn out much." He commended INEC for the improvement.

"So far, it is peaceful across the state

based on the report we got, my only concern is that people are not coming out to vote," he stressed.

He urged the people to come out and vote. "You have four years opportunity to choose your leaders, and you should take it seriously because the leaders that you will elect today will run the affairs of your state as your for the next four years," he added.

Governor el-Rufai said, "please don't stay at home, come out and vote, but people should remember that any time you don't come out to vote, you are giving the opposition or both the other party you

don't like because your votes will reduce the gap by one," he pointed out.

Observing, he said, "The queue of the women is shorter than queue of the men, therefore, I appeal to all our women to finish cooking on time and come out and vote because my wife has already voted," he said

It was observed that Governor el-Rufai stood on the queue for close to five hours, waiting to cast his vote at the presidential election.

"We are happy the elections conducted by the INEC is peaceful, and we pray that Bola Ahmed Tinubu will emerge as the President of Nigeria," he said.



Emir Of Lafia Bags Defender Of Democracy Award, Hosts NCISGBS



Emir of Lafia

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The Emir of Lafia and Chairman Nasarawa State Traditional Council, HRH Justice Sidi Bage Muhammad 1 (rtd) has received a recognition honour as 'Defender of Democracy' while hosing the leadership of the National Coalition of Independent Support Groups for BAT and Shettima (NCISGBS) in his palace on Wednesday. The national executives of NCISGBS led by its President General, Hon. Abubakar Abdullahi and the Secretary General, Hon Wale Fasade in their bid to round off the group's Independent Campaign programmes for the 2023 presidential election visited the palace of the respected traditional ruler in Lafia, Nasarawa State to receive Royal blessings on behalf of their principals, Senators Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Kashim Shettima. The visitation however, witnessed the presentation of 'Defender of

Democracy Award' and a letter of appointment as a Patron to Royal Father who was formerly the Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria by the President General of NCISGBS. In his response, His Royal Highness, Hon. Justice Sidi Bage Muhammad 1 couldn't hide his happiness and acceptance of the whole gestures as he promised to stand by the group in all her activities henceforth, assuring them of his unflinching support. "I accept this Award of Defender of Democracy because we truly worked with other Justices to enthrone this present democratic order in Nigeria by not supporting the Military to remain in power", said the Emir of Lafia. The first-class traditional ruler who gave his royal blessings to the aspirations of the Senators Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Kashim Shettima also said he's open to all candidates as a father to all, while expressing his delight to host the energetic team of NCISGBS in his palace.

Presidential Polls: Complains Of Late Arrival Of Election Materials Recorded In Ebony



By ; M K P U M A ENYINNA, Abakaliki

The people of Abakaliki, the capital of Ebonyi State complained bitterly over the late arrival of election materials in different parts of state, saying that the least expected experience from INEC as Nigerians went to the polls on Saturday. In a visit to so many wards and polling units such as: Ndiagu Ward 11, Azumnini Azugwu Ward

4, amongst others, had the same complaint. In an interview with some of the voters like Mrs. Madu Uchenna, Mrs Ikechukwu Maria, Mr Godson Elecharanya, Jonas Chibuike, among others, who narrated their experience, stated that the INEC officials arrived around 11:00am which delayed the normal voting. They further stated that voting process was not fast as expected, since they didn't come on time.

They further encouraged other voters to remain steadfast and ensure that they vote before leaving the venue. Meanwhile, security agencies ranging from Police, Army, Immigration, Civil Defence, etc were on patrol to ensure security of lives and property across the state. It would be recalled that Governor David Umahi on Friday, after meeting with security agencies in the

state, called for peaceful election and therefore, ordered security operatives to arrest anybody that will cause violence during the election. Governor Umahi further instructed that no security officer should be seen accompanying politicians nor seen close to the polling unit. He also warned that fake observers won't be allowed to operate in the state.



February 25 Polls: Makinde, Folarin Hail INEC

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Governor Seyi Makinde on Saturday, said the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has improved on electoral processes in the country.

The governor said this while speaking after casting his vote at Ward 11, Unit 01, Abayomi Iwo-Road in Ibadan North East Local Government Area, describing the process as smooth while he voted.

Governor Makinde stressed that the voting process was "speedy and efficient," and that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has improved on the process.

According to the governor who arrived at the voting point at 10:08 am, and cast his vote at about 10:15 am, the accreditation process for the election was okay, and the people conducted themselves very well.

"I appreciate the people of Oyo State for exercising their rights. The process is going fine so far, so good. The accreditation process is okay, and the people are conducting themselves very well. So, I think democracy has come to stay in Nigeria", he said.

The governor added, " But

I want to urge those who still want to cast their votes to be patient as the process is ongoing and seamless. They should exercise the civic responsibilities"

In his comments, the Oyo State Coordinator for Tinubu-Shettima Campaign Council and governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Senator Teslim Folarin lauded INEC for improving Nigeria's electoral process lauded security agencies for maintaining peace and order so far.

Senator Folarin who voted at his polling unit, Ward 5 in Ona-Ara LGA, commended called on electorates in the state to remain peaceful throughout the exercise.

In most parts of Ibadan, the state capital, voting started as early as 8.30 in the morning while there were reports of late arrival of elections materials in other parts of the state.

The voting process was delayed in most polling units due to the malfunctioning of BVAS at the polling centres.

However, the Presidential and National Assembly elections witnessed impressive turnout of voters in Ibadan and other major towns in Oyo State.



Governor Makinde casting his vote

INEC Declares Tinubu Winner In 14 Oyo LGAs so far, 19 Awaited

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential candidate, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu has won all the 14 local government areas so far announced by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Oyo State.

The Acting Vice Chancellor, Federal University of Agriculture (FUNAAB), Abeokuta, Professor Babatunde Olushola announced the results at the Oyo state INEC headquarters in Ibadan on Sunday.

Professor Olushola, gave details of the results as: 1 Ibadan North West Accord APC 13,078

LP 4,830
PDP 6,011
NNPP 70
2. Kajola Accord 733
APC 11,917
LP 503
PDP 9,358
SDP 311
3. ATISBO Accord 1,575
APC 7,928
LP 1,178
PDP 4,031
NNPP 39
SDP 877
4. Lagelu Accord 875
APC 16,011
LP 4,066
PDP 5,112
NNPP 55
SDP 32
5. Itesiwaju Accord 1,234
APC 6,180
LP 387

PDP 4,948
NNPP 43
SDP 789
6. AFIJIO Accord 1,408
APC 8,876
LP 1,925
PDP 4,112
NNPP 95
SDP 79
7. Atiba Accord 1,575
APC 15,046
LP 1,234
PDP 6,180
NNPP 101
SDP 44
8. Oyo East Accord 543
APC 13,430
LP 1,900
PDP 5,091
NNPP 67
SDP 47
9. Oyo West Accord 869
APC 14,076

LP 1,724
PDP 4,544
10. Iseyin Accord 4,846
APC 19,731
LP 1,371
PDP 6,588
SDP 506
11. Ibarapa East Accord 1,323
APC 10,575
LP 779
PDP 4,800
NNPP 8
12. Saki East Accord 722
APC 6,414
LP 1,144
PDP 3,634
SDP 793
13. Ibarapa North Accord 2,511
APC 8,193
LP 344
PDP 4,024
NNPP 313
SDP 48

14. Ibarapa Central Accord 96
APC 1,0291
LP 726
PDP 5,169
NNPP 27

The results of the remaining 19 local governments are been awaited as at time of filing this report.

Polls: Kaduna Govt Warns Against Protests

**Insists announcement of results the preserve of INEC*

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

As the collation of election results progresses, the Kaduna State Government has reminded citizens that protests of any sort remain strictly prohibited across the state.

A statement signed by the Commissioner, Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Kaduna State, Samuel Aruwan, made available yesterday, said that the state government has noted with satisfaction the largely peaceful conduct of elections across the state, and commends residents for exercising their franchise in an orderly manner.

"Citizens must therefore, avoid street protests over election results - or of any other kind - in order to preserve the atmosphere of calm so far experienced. Actions which may

disrupt public peace will be handled decisively by security agencies.

"It must be stressed that the announcement of election results is the exclusive duty of the Independent National Electoral Commission. Individuals and groups involved in unofficial publication of results should be aware that they constitute serious threats to public peace and order," it said.

The statement advised individuals or groups who may have queries over officially announced results to utilize the legal instruments provided by the Electoral Act.

"Governor Nasir el-Rufai continues to monitor closely the security situation in relation to the conduct of the elections, alongside security agencies in the state," it said.



Prof Babatunde Olusola announcing the Oyo results on Sunday

Kwara Gov Satisfied With Voter Turnout, Peaceful Ballot, Hopeful Of APC Victory

By; BILIQIS OLAJUMOKE
ONAOLAPO, Ilorin

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq has expressed satisfaction with voters' turnout for the presidential and parliamentary elections, but called on the electoral umpire to quickly work on reports of the BVAS machines malfunctioning in some locations in the state.

The Governor balloted at exactly 1:28p.m. at his Idigba Polling Unit 004 of Adewole Area of Ilorin West, telling reporters he is upbeat about the ruling All Progressives Congress emerging victorious at the elections.

AbdulRazaq expressed satisfaction over the peaceful conduct of the election, a feat for which he commended the security agencies which he said have been up and doing so far.

"It is a good turnout despite the late arrival of INEC materials and malfunctioning of Biomodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) machines in some areas. Electorate are ready to wait to exercise their franchise," AbdulRazaq told reporters shortly after casting his ballot alongside his wife, Ambassador Olufolake AbdulRazaq, and members of his immediate family.

"I call on those who are yet to vote to

come out and vote. APC will succeed eventually, and Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu will be the next president of Nigeria.

"Security situation is good. Security agencies are doing their best. Things are calm, just like the last elections (2019). But the late arrival of INEC materials may affect voting, and I hope they stay long enough for everyone to vote."



Mysterious Fire Razes Maiduguri Famous Market

**No casualty recorded, millions of Naira worth property destroyed*

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Residents of Maiduguri city early yesterday, were shocked over a fire outbreak that engulfed the famous Maiduguri International Market, located at Ahmadu Bello Way at the Central Business District of the state capital, Maiduguri.

However, there was no life lost or casually recorded, but property worth hundreds of millions it Naira were lost to the mysterious fire outbreak as the actual cause of the fire outbreak in the market was still unknown as at the time of filing this report. This happened in the early hours of the day, as Nigerians were anxiously awaiting the outcome

of Saturday's presidential election, held simultaneously with the National Assembly election across the country.

But a CJTF leader, Kakami Bakura told Our Maiduguri correspondent at the scene of the inferno on Sunday morning, that, "in fact it is quite unfortunate that this kind of eventuality usual occurs in most of the major markets of Maiduguri city.

"And whoever this fire befalls in the markets, nobody can claim to know the root causes of the fire. This is how it happens at the Gamboru Customs Area famous market. Same thing with the Monday International Market and even the Bags Road's Fish International Market, all within

the metropolis.

"Oga journalist, can you also remember that up till now, nobody is found or caught responsible, except in some instances, they link the inferno to electricity wire spark or windstorm if it is harmattan period or during raining season.

"Because nobody has ever been seen or caught or arrested, no one has been said to be responsible for these huge losses and destruction of public and innocent people's investments.

"Worst of it all, nobody is usually left inside the market, as all the gates are usually locked whenever the market closes everyday by the security and officials of the Monday Market. And the market gates will not be

opened again up till the next morning around 9 to 10am for business of the day and close or lock again 6-6.30 pm or so," Bakura said.

Another CJTF, Baana Kolomi said, "one surprising thing is that this market is surrounded by CJTF 24 hours daily, day and night. Apart from the usual patrol team, vehicles of the CTJF and other security agents JTF on surveillance, so, there is no how someone can enter the market without being seen or caught.

"But from the past fire incidents, and in other markets, the problem of electricity wiring has always been identified to be the root cause of most of the fire

outbreaks, either from a shop or office or pole inside the market, without anyone inside to help put off the fire at the beginning of the outbreak before it spreads to other shops and stores.

"Yes sir. No fire service office inside the market. Nobody is allowed inside just like that. Nobody even sleeps inside the market. Once it is locked, it is locked, till the next morning and this fire outbreak occurs overnight, when there is no one in the market," Kolomi said.

Efforts to get officials of the Monday Market Management Agency to speak failed as at the time of going to press, while police authority was yet to issue out a statement on the inferno.



Elections: Governor Inuwa Commends Peaceful Conduct, Large Turn Out Of Voters

*Tasks INEC on further innovations, full digitization of voting process

*Hails security agencies, media

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya has expressed satisfaction with the peaceful conduct of the Presidential and National Assembly elections in the state.

According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available on Saturday, the Governor, who spoke to journalists after casting his ballots at his polling unit (Yahaya Umaru 101) Jekadafari ward, Gombe, alongside his 2 wives and other family members, also praised the large turnout of voters and their orderly conduct.

He praised the electorate for being patient even under the heat of the scorching sun. "It is a little price to pay for democracy", he said on a lighter note.

He encouraged the citizens to maintain the orderliness which has characterized the elections in Gombe State so far. "I implore our people to continue to be law abiding till the end. From the information I have received across the eleven local government areas, so far so very good. I have not heard any negative incident concerning the election today", he remarked.

"It is natural as humans to have a few issues here and there which is nothing to worry about. As a peace loving state, a proper foundation for good and coordinated security arrangement has been laid. Our people have been orderly and law abiding". Concerning the conduct of the elections by the Independent National Electoral Commission,

INEC, the Governor said that the process is getting better but there's still room for further improvements. Specifically, the Governor commented on the newly introduced Bi-modal Voter Accreditation System, BVAS.

"The BVAS is a good initiative. Many people have cast their ballots smoothly, just as I have also done. I advise INEC to continue to be more innovative until we have a fully digitalized electoral process and things will be easier for everyone", he said.

Governor Inuwa noted that "If we continue with this digital voting pattern, things will be better for our democracy".

He prayed for the overall success of the elections and peaceful coexistence of Nigerians.

"Like I said in my statewide address yesterday, if all of us stay within the boundaries of the law, we will have a good ending to this electoral process and whoever emerge successful; we will all celebrate together".

He praised the security agencies who were at the center and have also been moving around all the polling units in the state as well as the media for enlightening the public and keeping them abreast of developments of the process.



PDP In Early Lead In Kaduna, Labour Shows Strength

By; USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna

From the results announced so far for the Presidential elections held in Kaduna State, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) Candidate, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar is in early lead. This follows announcement of four local government areas out of the 23.

According to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) official results, PDP has won two local government areas, with Peter Obi's Labour Party claiming two.

Cumulatively however, Labour Party is in a distant third position, while Bola Ahmed Tinubu's All Progressives Congress (APC) is second.

See the results below:

KADUNA STATE
KAURALGA
APC=1,847
PDP=7,844
NNPP=320
LP=25,744
KADUNA STATE
GIWALGA
APC=19,922
PDP=22,302
NNPP=3,114
LP=565
KADUNA STATE

KAJURULGA

APC=3,940
PDP=9,253
NNPP=1,221
LP=14,875
KADUNA STATE
PRESIDENTIAL
RESULT
SOBALGA
APC=18,965
PDP=23,364
NNPP=3,722
LP=354

Asiwaju Group Blasts Obidients For Linking Tinubu's Chatham House Speech With Ballot Snatching

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The news making the rounds about the "headless mob called the Obidients" on social media on a viral video alleging that Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu's statement recently at the Chatham House, London is responsible for the chaos that rocked some Polling Units in a handful of states in the ongoing Presidential and National Assembly elections have been described as ruses and should not be entertained by Nigerians.

According to The Asiwaju Group (TAG), who described the purveyor as headless, said the Obidient group which are largely on social media have permeated cyberspace with name-calling of the leading contender and the presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, describing his statement after the popular Chatham House in which progressives stated that "political office is not served à la carte and that young progressives must prepare to dissipate their energy to take charge" and prescribing that to ballot box snatching that were either carted away or destroyed in a handful of Polling Units in Lagos State in particular.

Speaking on the latest issue, the Convener, The Asiwaju Group (TAG), Dr. Mustapha Abdullâhi who also doubles as the Deputy Chairman, All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Campaign Council, United Kingdom has described the latest outburst of the headless movement who are more of a scalar quantity with no direction as a fallacy. In his words, Dr. Abdullâhi asked Nigerians to discountenance their ranting, describing the same as the rant of a drowning mob who had latched on to their phantom popularity and acceptance to win the election.

"I attended the event in London where Asiwaju

Bola Ahmed Tinubu, our candidate met with Nigerians in the Diaspora in an interactive session to intimate diaspora Nigerians of his action plan for the country, her people and those domiciled outside the country. Contrary to the narrative currently being spin by the Obidient clowns, Asiwaju did not at any point asked APC members to snatch ballot boxes. What he said was an agnus dei, an allegory for young members of the Progressives to play participatory politics so that their interest is not subverted. Asiwaju encouraged the youths to participate fully in politics as no one would give them power on a platter of gold without active participation. He told them to stand up for what rightfully belongs to them as party faithful and youngsters, take over leadership positions as the older generation would not willingly relinquish power to them." The APC stalwart submitted.

"We are not in any way flabbergasted by the antics of these agents of mischief and propaganda, neither are we oblivious of their desperation to stick their mob narrative. It is their idiosyncrasy. Contrary to the narrative out there by these losers, the viral video was cut to suite their warped and jaundiced narrative to hoodwink the public playing on the gullibility of the non-discerning to run to town with such a narrative. The Asiwaju Group (TAG) Convener, Dr. Mustapha Abdullâhi who was live at the Chatham House event and recorded it has therefore decided to release the full version of the video for public scrutiny".

"We want to use this medium to plead with the drowning opposition to seize from this deceit and fake narrative and advise the general public to discard the antics of these jokers who are mere distractions. They fear the defeat that stirs them glaringly in the face and will want to clutch on anything, even straw to stay afloat".



Umahi

Umahi Declared Winner Of Ebonyi South Senatorial Election

*Scores 28,378 to defeat others

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), has officially declared Governor David Nweze Umahi winner of the contest to represent Ebonyi South Senatorial

zone in the Nigerian senate next legislative tenure.

Declaring the result in Afikpo, headquarters of the zone, Prof. Augustine Ogugua Egwu of Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu Alike Ikwo, the returning

officer, announced that Umahi polled 28,378 votes to win his closest rivalry, Hon. Linus Abah Okorie who scored 25,496.

Egwu noted that Umahi having satisfied all the requirements of the law is declared winner of the

Ebonyi South Senatorial seat and her Senator-Elect.

Savouring his well-deserved victory, Governor Umahi dedicated his victory to God and pledged to be a senator of all Ebonyians.

Kaduna: PDP Wins Soba Federal Constituency

**Wins Presidential,
Senatorial polls in LGA*

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

Engr. Suleiman Yahaya Richifa of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has been declared the winner of the Soba Federal Constituency election into the House of Representatives with 21,516 Votes.

Declaring the results, the returning officer of the election. Dr. Laminu Shatima Kuburi said, "having satisfied with the results and the requirement of the law, the PDP candidate scored 21,516 Votes, APC 19,432 votes, PRP 4,978 Votes,

NNPP 1115 votes, LP 163 votes, AD 69 votes and SDP 21 votes.

The winner Engr. Suleiman Yahaya Richifa is the sitting Local Government Council Chairman of Soba.

Dr. Laminu Shattima Kuburi said, the PDP candidate having scored the highest votes and meet the requirements of the law, is hereby declared the winner and returned elected.

PDP also won the Presidential and Senatorial elections in the local government.

Group Lauds Oyo SDP Guber Candidate On Debate

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Central Alliance of Oyo State Progressives (CAOYP) on Friday, lauded the Social Democratic Party, (SDP), governorship candidate Barrister Michael Folorunso Lana, for distinguishing himself during a gubernatorial debate

CAOYP in a statement on Friday by its Coordinator, Bola Popoola Popoola maintained that the debate was a worthy notable patriotic corporate social responsibility by the organizer of the debate.

The group stressed that it followed the debate with rapt attention with feedback showing that people now realise more than before the difference between opportunist and the visionary, between deceitful propaganda and research informed well thought out genuine ideas. Mr Popoola pointed out that the SDP gubernatorial candidate during the debate distinguished himself as the most worthy candidate in terms

of experience, character, courage, competence, capacity and most importantly fear of God as well as respect for the good people of the pace setter state.

According to Popoola, Barrister Lana and his peaceful supporters were not involved in any rancour exhibited by some of the political parties which almost truncated successful completion of the public debate.

The CAOYP Coordinator tasked the people of the state to come out en-masse to exercise their franchise by voting the candidates of truly progressive party, SDP during the elections. "We are certain that together we can change the narrative of misplaced priorities, maladministration, lack of transparency and hooliganism in Oyo State, we are hopeful that after this election, entrenchment of social justice and good governance by SDP shall usher in progress, growth and development for Oyo State in all facets."

Monday Market Disaster: Zulum Announces N1bn For Emergency Relief

**Consoles victims; sets up assessment committee*

**Calls for calm*

**To meet Buhari*



By: SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Following an outbreak of a major fire incident which has largely raised down the Maiduguri Monday Market, Borno State Governor, Professor Babagana Umara Zulum has in a quick statewide broadcast, announced an emergency relief of one billion Naira to provide urgent support to victims, pending assessment of the incident.

The Governor's spokesman, Malam Isa Gusau, in a statement, said Zulum made a broadcast soon after he had visited the scene of the incident and had mobilized armed forces to secure the area to prevent breakdown of law and order.

Below are Zulum's words which he made in Kanuri and Hausa languages:

"My fellow people of

Borno State, "We woke up today with a very sad and unfortunate fire disaster at the Maiduguri Monday market. This is very unfortunate but we believe that this is decreed by Allah. Inna lillahi Wa inna ilayhi raajiu.

"I feel deeply pained by this incident and I know how painful it is for anyone to work hard over years to build his or her business but end up losing that investment in seconds. I really feel the pains of everyone affected by this incident.

"I commiserate with all of you. I kindly and most respectfully urge you to be calm and patient. I know how bad you feel and insha'Allah, the Borno State Government is already taking the following measures to ameliorate the situation:

"I have approved the release of one billion naira as emergency relief for us

to quickly support victims of the disaster because we know that some of them may even have difficulty of surviving the next few days. Many rely on daily businesses in order to cater for themselves.

"We are setting up an assessment committee that will comprise respectable individuals from our society including representatives of the victims, for us to speedily assess damages, and take comprehensive list of those affected and their loses. I will also be holding meeting with leadership of the market and representatives of victims.

"I am going to see Mr President and seek for presidential intervention on how to get support for victims.

"We will also reach out to other humanitarian establishments to seek help.

"Insha 'Allah, we will be taking firm measures towards preventing reoccurrence of this fire disaster that has occurred in previous years.

"I will like to respectfully appeal to everyone for calmness. I know how you feel. I feel your pain and we will support you through whatever means we can, insha'Allah.

"In the meantime, I urge us not to politicize this unfortunate incident. I recognize that the incident is happening at a political time, but we all know the Monday market has unfortunately faced fire disaster in previous times and this is sad.

"We have to find ways of ensuring this unfortunate fire disaster does not happen again and we will work together to ensure this, bi iznillah," the statement added.

MNJTF Presents Grants To Next Of Kin Of Fallen Heroes, Wounded In Action Soldiers, CJTF

By: SADIQABUBAKAR, Maiduguri
The Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), Njamena has presented N23 million Naira cash to next of kin of 21 fallen heroes among others, to deceased and wounded in action soldiers and five CJTF members during Operation SHARAN FAGE and Operation LAKE SANITY I as compensation grants.

The beneficiaries were those who were deployed to the MNJTF Command Headquarters, Njamena and lost their lives or got wounded in action during military joint operations in Lake Chad Basin region of Niger, Cameroon and Chad republics.

During the symbolic presentation of the cheques to the next of kin of the deceased families at the headquarters Theater Command North East JTF Operation Hadin Kai, Maimalari Cantonment, Maiduguri Theatre Command Conference Hall, on Thursday, the Force Commander MNJTF, Major General Abdul Ibrahim Khallifah said,

"I am pleased to be here at the presentation of compensation grants to our fallen heroes and CJTF who paid supreme price under operation Sharan Fage and Operation Make Sanity."

He also said that, "MNJTF really sympathizes with the deceased who paid the supreme price for the Nigeria to live in peace and their families for their sacrifices.

"As you are all aware the MNJTF has engaged in Operation Sharan Fage and Lake Sanity where some troops paid the supreme price. This event is the last phrase, as we have already presented similar compensation grants to deceased and wounded soldiers in Chad, Niger and Cameroon republics," Abdul added.

The Force Commander further called on the remaining Boko Haram insurgents in the bush to come out and surrenders, as according to him, time for war is over.

While the Theater Commander, Headquarters Northeast JTF Operation Hadin Kai, Major General Ibrahim Ali said, "I am indeed in mixed feeling of joy

and happiness, as well as emotions that today we are presenting grants to the next of kin of deceased officers, soldiers and CJTF who paid supreme price in major operations under Operation Sharan Fage and Operation Lake Sanity.

"This event is paramount for two reasons, first it show the next of kin of our fallen heroes that the Nigerian Army is still with them, secondary, it will also serve as moral booster to our troops in the front mine"

In his remarks, the Commander Sector 3 of Headquarters JTF North East Operation Hadin Kai and sector 3 NNJTF, Major General Abdulsalam Abubakar said, "a total of 19 , officers , soldiers and CJTF paid supreme , while 98 soldiers and CJTF were wounded in-Action both under Operations Sharan Fage and Lake Sanity I.

"Today we are here to honour our fallen heroes and also show their next of kin those who laid their lives for peace to reign in the region.

"This exercise is to honour those who paid

supreme price in restoring peace to Borno and the Northeast. I want to size this opportunity to appreciate those fallen heroes and appreciate their families and also to tell them that there is no amount that will compensate their lives but thus token will assist the families of the deceased colleagues", Abubakar said.

General Abubakar assured that they would not rest on their oars until peace is complete restored in the Lake Chad region and north east and Nigeria in general.

He added that actually, the deceased Officers, Soldiers and Civilian Joint Task Force paid their supreme sacrifices while in active service to their fatherland during OPERATION SHARAN FAGE and OPERATION LAKE SANITY I encounters at the Lake Chad region while paying tribute to the fallen heroes.

Highpoint of the event included presentation of cheques to the families of the deceased and wounded in action next of kin and group photographs.



MNJTf Presents Grants To Next Of Kin Of Fallen Heroes, Wounded In Action Soldiers, CJTF



Presidential Election: Atiku Sweeps 19 LGAs In Akwa Ibom

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Presidential Candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), in Saturday February 25 Presidential and National Assembly elections, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar has won 19 out of the 23 local government areas' results released by Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Uyo, Akwa Ibom state. Alhaji Abubakar led with wide a margin ahead of his opponents in All Progressives Congress (APC), Alhaji Ahmed Tinubu and Labour Party (LP), Dr. Peter Obi who scored three and respectively during the

results read at INEC headquarters in Uyo yesterday.

As at 10 pm yesterday when the results from the remaining eight local government areas of the state were still being collated, Atiku lost out to the Presidential Candidate of Labour Party, Dr Peter Obi in Ibiono Ibom Local government of the state.

The State Governor, Mr Udom Emmanuel was the chairman of the presidential campaign council of PDP.

The results as announced by the collation officers of each LGA includes:

Results released so far are as follows:

Eastern Obollo LGA APC. 1674

LP. 1345
PDP. 2345
ONNALGA
APC. 1396
LP. 4745
PDP. 8741
OKOBOLGA
APC. 3168
LP. 2490
PDP. 5273
ITULGA
APC. 4134
LP. 6001
PDP. 7276
ESITEKETLGA
APC. 3819
LP. 2555
PDP. 4484
IBENOLGA
APC. 878
LP. 2403
PDP. 3246
ETIMEKPOLGA
APC. 5182

LP. 1711
PDP. 4733
UDONGUKOLGA
APC. 1555
LP. 1068
PDP. 2701
IKALGA
APC. 5511
LP. 1054
PDP. 3750
IKONO. LGA
APC. 6620
LP. 5198
PDP. 6731
URUAN. LGA
APC. 5287
LP. 3024
PDP. 9327
YPP. 1621
OBOTAKARALGA
APC. 4477
LP. 2542
PDP. 8029
URUEFONG ORUKO

LGA
APC. 3697
LP. 2010
PDP. 3419
IBIONOIBOM. LGA
APC. 3407
LP. 7752
PDP. 5274
YPP. 4622
IBESIKPO ASUTAN
LGA
APC. 6480
LP. 3698
PDP. 9326
MBO. LGA
APC. 3204
LP. 1456
PDP. 3922
NSITIBOM LGA
APC. 5975
LP. 2215
PDP. 8176
INI LGA
APC. 3943

LP. 2894
PDP. 7740
YPP. 1467
NSITATAILGA
APC. 2853
LP. 1067
PDP. 8371
ORON. LGA
APC. 2443
LP. 3033
PDP. 3295
ETINAN. LGA
APC. 4505
LP. 4180
PDP. 10,455
YPP. 1485
NSITUBIUM LGA
APC. 2792
LP. 2329
PDP. 11,308
MKPATENIN LGA
APC. 2152
LP. 4105
PDP. 9441

APC Presidential Candidate Leads In Borno From 3 LGAs

**Atiku follows, Obi trails with 02 votes*

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The Presidential Candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu is leading with 13,404 valid votes cast from three LGAs of Borno State, while Presidential Candidate for People's Democratic Party (PDP) follows with 8,134 votes and the Presidential Candidate for New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), got 227 votes, the Labour Party (LP) Presidential Candidate scored 02 votes.

The Borno State INEC 2023 Presidential and National Assembly Election Returning Officer.

Prof. Jude Tsammani Rabo who is the Vice Chancellor, Federal

University, Wukari, Taraba State announced this Sunday at the Borno State INEC Collation Center located at Kashim Ibrahim College of Education Maiduguri this evening.

The LGAs include Gubio, Magumeri and, Kaga.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION KAGALGABorno

APC 5361

PDP 2608

NNPP 166

LP 01

Magumeri, LGA Borno

Presidential election

APC 5424

PDP 3399

NNPP 32

LP 01

Gubio LGA Borno

Presidential Election

Result

APC- 3519

PDP- 2127

NNPP- 29

LP- 00

Zamfara PDP Guber Candidate Optimistic Of Party's Victory At Polls



By; MUSTAPHA IMRANA, Gusau

The People Democratic Party (PDP) Gubernatorial Candidate, Dr Dauda Lawal Dare has called on Zamfara State people and all Nigerians to cast their votes and make sure their votes count in the remains elections.

Dr Dauda Lawal Dare expressed this during an

interview with newsmen in Gusau after him and his family cast their votes at Ministry for Women and Children Affairs Sokoto Road Gusau, Zamfara State.

"It is what we are always telling people to cast and protect their votes, because it is the only option for all to get to the promised Land.

"A kasa A tsare A Jira, and

we are assured of winning this election", Dauda said. Dr Dauda lawal said for now the reports they are receiving things are going normal, people were casting their votes peacefully.

"Actually the process is very very smooth so far. "But I received some few calls regarding what is happening in some areas and we quickly notified security agencies and they

are doing their own job. "We are sure of winning this election that is why we are calling on people to vote for credible candidates and for me, I put my trust in God, as you can see now everything is moving smoothly, right now we don't have issues so with this, even if there is, we are going to report to the relevant agencies for necessary actions as well", Dr Dauda revealed.

Fire Disaster: Kashim Shettima Sympathizes With Borno People, Govt, Donates N100m To Monday Market Victims

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Running Mate, Senator Kashim Shettima has commiserated with the government and people of Borno State over the fire disaster that engulfed the Maiduguri famous market, popularly known as Monday Market International which is the oldest and largest, market in the state.

Addressing the people of Borno State on i Sunday on a statewide broadcast held at the Government House Maiduguri, Shettima, who is also the immediate past State Governor of Borno State while sympathizing with the victims, people and government of Borno over the inferno, announced a donation of N100 million as his personal assistance to the victims.

He further said that the APC Presidential Candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu received the news of the fire Disaster at the famous market with sadness and extends his sympathy while pledging to visit Maiduguri physically to sympathize with the people and government of Borno who he regards as brothers and sisters of his family.

According to him, the APC Presidential Candidate also promised to give out his own personal donation to the victims of the fire Disaster while disclosing that there are plans for Governor Zulum to lead Borno Stakeholders to meet with President Buhari on the fire Disaster with a view to seeking federal government support to rebuild the market and financial assistance for the victims of the fire disaster.

He called on the victims to bear the loss and consider such as an act of God and destiny while praying for Continuous peace and stability in the state as well as successful, peaceful and acceptable conclusion and outcome of the general election results.

Kashim had earlier yesterday after casting his vote at his Po;ling unit in Shehuri area of Maiduguri city said APC is willing to accept defeat without any rancour or cause of havoc If the outcome of the election may not be in their favour, but assured that the e;lection will be in their favour and definitely, they will win.

The APC Presidential Running Mate has since left Maiduguri for Abuja with his successor, Governor Zulum in their quest to meet with the president over Borno State matters, among others.

Meanwhile, on behalf of the people and members of Bama Emirate Council, His Royal Highness the Shehu of Bama, (Dr.) Umar Kyari Umar El-kanemi, a statement issued on Sunday by. Shettima Dima Umoru Bama and made available



Hapless Nigerians Caught in Party and Supreme Court Politics

By Owei Lakemfa

THE raging arguments today include whether or not President Muhammadu Buhari should have obeyed the Supreme Court ruling on the continued use of the old currencies.

One argument is that it was the federal government that was sued, not the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). But our forebears have a wise saying: the slave master owns the slave. It is illogical that the President who appoints the CBN Governor and gives the bank directives can be restrained by the Supreme Court but the appendage says it is not affected.

The Supreme Court has become a highly compromised institution where truth is hard to find and justice is as scarce as the new currency. It is a place that can declare a man, a woman, and make a ruling that henceforth, the woman, is a man, and then expect compliance.

It is simply a case of impunity, and anyone who has followed Buhari's trajectory knows that he does not feel constrained by any judicial pronouncement, law or constitution; he is the state. So, whatever Buhari says or does, what is expected of the populace is to raise their two hands in the air, stamp their right feet and shout: 'Tuale Baba!' in the street imitation of the military salute to power.

Those who sold Nigerians the dummy that the former military dictator had reformed to be a democrat are mainly those wailing today that they want to rescue the country from his stifling grip. It may be too late; if you want to shape the iroko tree, you start doing so from the nursery stage not when it has become a mighty tree. At that stage, it would have become wild.

In pacifying Buhari, they allowed him grow into a power superior to the party so much that at a time, he dissolved all party structures and deregistered all members. The charade continued with Buhari being registered as the first and only member of the party by people who, having been de-registered, were not members of the party.

The wailing leaders of the APC have in the past seven years been in this country when the Buhari government in the tradition of fascist regimes, at mid night, invaded the homes of judges, including Justices of the



Supreme Court, refused to obey court orders, including that on Ibrahim Zak-Zaky, which has persisted since 2015, and pointedly violated the Federal Character principles of the Constitution.

Some of the APC chieftains, including the governors who have dragged the Buhari government to court, only began to stir when he attempted to impose a presidential candidate on the party. They had not taken serious Buhari's inaugural declaration that he is for everybody and for nobody. Now they are awoken to the fact that Buhari has de-marketed their party and might actually be a liability in this week's general elections.

As it stands, it appears the two strongest forces holding the APC at both ends are Buhari and Bola Tinubu with one trying to upturn the cart and the other striving to stay it. The presidential election is just five days away; but in politics, that is a long distance to go during which anything can happen.

It appears that the biggest beneficiary in the unravelling of the APC is the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), which might be the reason it is backing Buhari in the currency change fiasco. Admittedly, the PDP in its fight with the G5 Governors had shot itself in the foot, but with crutches, it might now simply

limp to victory.

So, many of those arguing for or against Buhari obeying the Supreme Court ruling on the currency change are doing so for political expediency. They know that what is going on is not about the rule of law or sanctity of the Supreme Court, but mere politics. The chessboard is politics. The Supreme Court is a pawn and the players are the politicians across party lines. Either way, the poor whose monies are trapped in the banks, whose families are suffering, lose.

The Supreme Court has become a highly compromised institution where truth is hard to find and justice is as scarce as the new currency. It is a place that can declare a man, a woman, and make a ruling that henceforth, the woman, is a man, and then expect compliance.

Obviously, Dr Festus Akande, the Supreme Court Director of Press and Information, who issued this unfortunate statement, is not fit to hold such a high position. But is this obvious to the wise Justices of the Supreme Court of Nigeria?

The Court has climbed from its height in 2007 when it declared that its judgement will be based on the justice of a case not its technicalities, to the murky waters in which it is usurping the right of the electorate by selecting candidates and winners. At its lowest ebb, the

Court appointed Hope Uzodimma, the APC candidate who came fourth in the Imo State gubernatorial elections, as governor. This is why Uzodimma became known as the 'Supreme Court Governor' and why there is no immediate hope the state can return to peace.

In its latest gambits, the supreme of all the courts in Nigeria appointed Senators Godswill Akpabio and Ahmed Ibrahim Lawal as senatorial candidates of the APC. In the first place, both politicians were not eligible to run for the APC senatorial primaries because they were in the presidential primaries.

In the last one week, three things have further jolted me about the Supreme Court. First, is the revelation by former Cross River Governor, Donald Duke, last Wednesday, that some Justices of the Supreme Court were denied visas by the United States. The second, is the Court reacting to criticism of their judgements on the senatorial tickets by a Nigerian professor. Do the Justices not realise that they sit in public and that their decisions are subject to public scrutiny?

The third is that the statement from the Supreme Court was a disgraceful one in terms of construction, presentation, employment of bombastic sentences, civility and lack of decorum. It also reduced the

Supreme Court from its Olympian heights to the putrid gutters of personalised attacks on a Nigerian professor.

The statement described the professor as "flagrantly displaying ignorance and infantilism... In an ineptly scripted toxic article (displaying) an abysmal pit of irredeemable ignorance by venting convoluted anger on Supreme Court Justices to please his paymasters."

The tirade went on: "Even in a state of emotional disequilibrium, we should be reasonable enough to make a good choice of decent words, as every word employed by the pen-happy (Professor) only succeeded in portraying the kind of vacuum that sign-posts all that he has as academic accomplishment."

The Supreme Court statement further attacked the academic as a "character that has an odious reputation for being a serial verbal assailant ... inflicting upon himself a mood of bellicose jingoism which does not represent a mark of honour for any discerning mind or academic, the world over."

Obviously, Dr Festus Akande, the Supreme Court Director of Press and Information, who issued this unfortunate statement, is not fit to hold such a high position. But is this obvious to the wise Justices of the Supreme Court of Nigeria?

The court shall rise!

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SPACE	COLOUR			BLACK AND WHITE		
	RATE	VAT	TOTAL	RATE	VAT	TOTAL
FULL PAGE	395,176.32	29,638.22	424,814.54	323,433.00	24,257.48	347,690.48
HALF PAGE	248,970.00	18,672.75	267,642.75	203,175.00	15,238.13	218,413.13
QUARTER PAGE	164,670.00	12,350.25	177,020.25	94,724.44	7,104.33	101,828.77
10" x 6 Col	364,320.00	27,324.00	391,644.00	245,005.20	18,375.39	263,380.59
10" x 5 Col	333,960.00	25,047.00	359,007.00	224,588.11	16,844.11	241,432.22
10" x 4 Col	242,880.00	18,216.00	261,096.00	163,336.80	12,250.26	175,587.06
10" x 3 Col	182,160.00	13,662.00	195,822.00	122,502.60	9,187.70	131,690.30
9" x 6 Col	327,888.00	24,591.60	352,479.60	220,504.68	16,537.85	237,042.53
9" x 5 Col	273,240.00	20,493.00	293,733.00	183,753.90	13,781.54	197,535.44
9" x 4 Col	218,592.00	16,394.40	234,986.40	147,003.12	11,025.23	158,028.35
9" x 3 Col	163,944.00	12,295.80	176,239.80	110,252.34	8,268.93	118,521.27
8" x 6 Col	291,456.00	21,859.20	313,315.20	196,004.16	14,700.31	210,704.47
8" x 5 Col	242,880.00	18,216.00	261,096.00	163,336.80	12,250.26	175,587.06
8" x 4 Col	194,304.00	14,572.80	208,876.80	130,669.44	9,800.21	140,469.65
8" x 3 Col	145,728.00	10,929.60	156,657.60	98,002.08	7,350.16	105,352.24
7" x 6 Col	255,024.00	19,126.80	274,150.80	171,503.64	12,862.77	184,366.41
7" x 5 Col	212,520.00	15,939.00	228,459.00	142,919.70	10,718.98	153,638.68
7" x 4 Col	170,016.00	12,751.20	182,767.20	114,335.76	8,575.18	122,910.94
6" x 6 Col	218,592.00	16,394.40	234,986.40	147,003.12	11,025.23	158,028.35
6" x 5 Col	182,160.00	13,662.00	195,822.00	122,502.60	9,187.70	131,690.30
6" x 4 Col	145,728.00	10,929.60	156,657.60	98,002.08	7,350.16	105,352.24
6" x 3 Col	109,296.00	8,197.20	117,493.20	73,501.56	5,512.62	79,014.18
6" x 2 Col	72,864.00	5,464.80	78,328.80	49,001.04	3,675.08	52,676.12
5" x 5 Col	151,800.00	11,385.00	163,185.00	102,085.50	7,656.41	109,741.91
5" x 4 Col	121,440.00	9,108.00	130,548.00	81,668.40	6,125.13	87,793.53
5" x 3 Col	91,080.00	6,831.00	97,911.00	61,251.30	4,593.85	65,845.15
5" x 2 Col	60,720.00	4,554.00	65,274.00	40,834.20	3,062.57	43,896.77
4" x 6 Col	145,728.00	10,929.60	156,657.60	98,002.08	7,350.16	105,352.24
4" x 5 Col	121,440.00	9,108.00	130,548.00	81,668.40	6,125.13	87,793.53
4" x 4 Col	97,152.00	7,286.40	104,438.40	65,334.72	4,900.10	70,234.82
4" x 3 Col	72,864.00	5,464.80	78,328.80	49,001.04	3,675.08	52,676.12
4" x 2 Col	48,576.00	3,643.20	52,219.20	32,667.36	2,450.05	35,117.41
3" x 3 Col	54,648.00	4,098.60	58,746.60	36,750.78	2,756.31	39,507.09
3" x 2 Col	36,432.00	2,732.40	39,164.40	24,500.52	1,837.54	26,338.06
2" x 2 Col	24,288.00	1,821.60	26,109.60	16,333.68	1,225.03	17,558.71
1" x 1 Col	6,072.00	455.40	6,527.40	4,083.42	306.26	4,389.68

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POLITICAL RATE

SPACE	RATE	VAT	TOTAL
FRONT PAGE MAST HEAD EAR PIECE	461,622.86	34,621.71	496,244.57
FRONT PAGE SOLUS	787,474.29	59,060.57	846,534.86
FRONT PAGE STRIP	787,474.29	59,060.57	846,534.86
BACK PAGE EAR PIECE	420,889.54	31,566.72	452,456.26
FULL PAGE (COLOUR)	465,967.54	34,947.57	500,915.11
FULL PAGE (BLACK AND WHITE)	364,037.14	27,302.79	391,339.93
HALF PAGE (COLOUR)	303,285.71	22,746.43	326,032.14
HALF PAGE (BLACK AND WHITE)	247,500.00	18,562.50	266,062.50
QUARTER PAGE (COLOUR)	203,877.14	15,290.79	219,167.93
QUARTER PAGE (BLACK AND WHITE)	111,692.74	8,376.96	120,069.70

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2	Per 1000 Copies (1 Page)	28,000.00	2,100.00	30,100.00
3	Per 1000 Copies (Magazine 2-8 Pages)	50,000.00	3,750.00	53,750.00
4	Per 1000 Copies (Magazine above 8 pages)	80,000.00	6,000.00	86,000.00

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S/NO	POSITION	SIZE	RATE	VAT	TOTAL
1	Registration of Trustees	3" x 2 Cols	6,857.14	514.29	7,371.43
2	Loss of Documents	2" x 2 Cols	4,400.00	330.00	4,730.00
3	Change of Name	Per Box	2,000.00	-	2,000.00

SPECIAL POSITION

SPACE	RATE	VAT	TOTAL
FULL WRAP AROUND	6,750,000.00	506,250.00	7,256,250.00
HALF WRAP AROUND	4,500,000.00	337,500.00	4,837,500.00
PAGE 2 OR 3	400,000.00	30,000.00	430,000.00
PAGE 4 OR 5	375,000.00	28,125.00	403,125.00
PAGE 6 OR 7	325,000.00	24,375.00	349,375.00
FRONT PAGE MAST HEAD EAR PIECE	225,000.00	16,875.00	241,875.00
FRONT PAGE SOLUS	312,500.00	23,437.50	335,937.50
FRONT PAGE STRIP	375,000.00	28,125.00	403,125.00
BACK PAGE EAR PIECE	200,000.00	15,000.00	215,000.00
BACK PAGE STRIP	250,000.00	18,750.00	268,750.00
CENTRE SPREAD (COLOUR)	837,500.00	62,812.50	900,312.50
DOUBLE SPREAD (COLOUR)	700,000.00	52,500.00	752,500.00
CENTRE SPREAD (BLACK & WHITE)	575,000.00	43,125.00	618,125.00
DOUBLE SPREAD (BLACK & WHITE)	550,000.00	41,250.00	591,250.00
FRONT PAGE (10" X 6)	3,250,000.00	243,750.00	3,493,750.00
ROP STRIP (COLOUR)	125,000.00	9,375.00	134,375.00
ROP STRIP (BLACK & WHITE)	85,000.00	6,375.00	91,375.00

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SPACE	COLOUR			BLACK AND WHITE		
	RATE	VAT	TOTAL	RATE	VAT	TOTAL
7 X 3	108,571.43	8,142.86	116,714.29	62,857.14	4,714.29	67,571.43
6 X 3	102,857.14	7,714.29	110,571.43	57,142.86	4,285.71	61,428.57
6 X 2	45,428.57	3,407.14	48,835.71	32,285.71	2,421.43	34,707.14
5 X 3	53,428.57	4,007.14	57,435.71	37,428.57	2,807.14	40,235.71
5 X 2	42,571.43	3,192.86	45,764.29	24,857.14	1,864.29	26,721.43
4 X 3	47,714.29	3,578.57	51,292.86	30,571.43	2,292.86	32,864.29
4 X 2	33,142.86	2,485.71	35,628.57	21,714.29	1,628.57	23,342.86
3 X 3	34,571.43	2,592.86	37,164.29	23,142.86	1,735.71	24,878.57
3 X 2	22,857.14	1,714.29	24,571.43	14,285.71	1,071.43	15,357.14
2 X 2	16,000.00	1,200.00	17,200.00	9,142.86	685.71	9,828.57
2 X 1	7,714.28	578.57	8,292.85	4,975.71	373.18	5,348.89

Let Us Accept God's Choice Through Us

By; HASSAN GIMBA

As you read this, the nation is awaiting the results of the presidential election held two days ago – some anxiously, some eagerly, and some with their hearts in their mouths, but all are hopeful for a new dawn because, depending on the results, hopes for a better nation can either be actualised or marred.

There are 18 presidential candidates, out of which we have the “big four”, among whom we expect the next president of Nigeria to emerge. They are Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Atiku Abubakar of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Peter Gregory Obi of the Labour Party (LP) and Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP).

Each of them has his support base and each of them is hopeful of victory. They have traversed the length and breadth of this country in their mobilisation efforts. They have engaged Nigerians in open rallies and town hall meetings, including holding media chats and debates where they told of their intentions when elected. Each of them has journeyed over the oceans and parlayed with the Americans and Europeans, those whom we copy our systems of governments from and look towards for approval.

Our prayer should be: may the best among them win, because all of them are good in their ways and each has a track record worth commending.

Tinubu of the APC has been acclaimed for improving Lagos and identifying outstanding talents for public office, among whom is Yemi Osinbajo.

Atiku Abubakar, too, has been credited with creating institutions and building men, notable among whom is Nasir el-Rufa'i.

Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso had developed Kano and educated as well as developed men, among whom is Abdullahi Umar Ganduje.

Peter Obi has shown prudence while he was the governor of Anambra State and God knows Nigeria needs a prudent leader.

Therefore, any who emerges among these four giants should be okay. Those who say a Fulani – even though they are ignorant of the fact that both Atiku and Kwankwaso are not Fulani – should not be president twice because Buhari has done it, refuse to acknowledge that Asiwaju and Olusegun Obasanjo are both Yorubas.

If we have refused to acknowledge that if the turn is the South's, then it should be the South East's turn, then we should not raise any dust whoever emerges as president.

There is nothing religious about any of the tickets or candidates. To begin with, any position that is Islamic will not be contested for by a Christian and vice versa. And this is why no Muslim president will begin minuting on a file with the name of Allah or a Christian in the name of Jesus. Each one of them will preside over Nigeria according to the dictates of the constitution, nothing more, nothing less.

The two leading Muslim contenders have all identified with Christians. For instance, Atiku Abubakar has praised the agenda for national development brought to him by the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) while Tinubu has assuaged their fears over the Muslim-Muslim ticket by telling Christians that his wife is a pastor and some of his children are Christians. His running mate, Kashim Shettima, had earlier told Muslims that their interests would be taken care of by the Sultan of Sokoto while saying he had rebuilt thousands of churches as well as taken thousands of Christians to Jerusalem.

Therefore, we should not allow ourselves to love or fight for any of them based on their ethnicity or religion because none of these defines any of them.

When our candidate wins, we should not jubilate to the extent of touching on the raw nerves of those whose candidates lost. And if our candidate loses, that should not infuriate us to the extent of taking it out on those celebrating.

In whatever we do, we should be mindful that the politicians — both losers and winners — have a way of making up, patching ruptured relationships and coming together for their good, or the nation's, whichever.

The average person who will fight his friends, neighbours and family will in the end be the one at the receiving end and he may even lose his life in the process. And the world wouldn't pause on its track or look back when that happened.

Therefore, what we must avoid are two things: fake news and those who may not accept the results based on their expectations that may not have conformed to reality.

And this is where the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) should help by promptly announcing



Hassan Gimba *Monday Column*

authentic results as they come in. It should give no room for doubt or controversies in any of its activities.

The media, too, has a responsibility to do all they can not to stoke the embers of discord and anarchy in the land. News reports need to be sieved to keep out all that can cause disaffection. They should not publish unauthenticated results for whatever reasons. Social media netizens should try as much as possible to be patriotic by being more responsible in the way they handle election results; everything should be about national interest.

But for our gallant security agencies, perhaps there would be no Nigeria by now. Now is also their time. They have been called to duty again, and they are required and expected, as always, to

protect and be there for us and our dear country.

What is incumbent upon us is to pray to our creator to give us peace and stability and anoint for us the best as He sees fit from among the contestants, and not necessarily as we feel. And we should accept His choice through the thumbprints of the majority.

However, if we close our eyes to the truth and, for some untenable sentiments, use our thumbs to elect the unfit, then I leave us with Abraham Lincoln's statement: “Elections belong to the people; it's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters.”

And they will, probably, for eight years. Hassan Gimba is the Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of Neptune Prime.

Revenue Collection As A Strategic, Effective Tool To Restructure Nigeria

By: MUSAILALLAH

Acronymed "FIRS", the Federal Inland Revenue Service has stood out since its rebirth in 2019 under the leadership of its Executive Chairman, Muhammad Mamman Nami as one more agency of government working hard for the benefit of all Nigerians. Indeed FIRS broke the jinx and did wonders for the country by raising the revenue collection bar every year since his coming on board.

In 2021, the FIRS Chairman told Nigerians that the service collected N6.405 trillion in tax revenue for the year 2021, surpassing its target by more than 100%. What a great, incredible success, that was.

Since its creation in 1947, the FIRS had never crossed the six-trillion mark till Muhammad Nami took over the reins of the Service.

In 2022, the FIRS did not rest on its 2021 achievement but in fact added over 3 trillion Naira to its total tax collection for the year.

The FIRS, in the year 2022 collected a total of N10.1 trillion comprising of both N4.09 trillion from oil and N5.96 trillion from non-oil sectors. This is notably a paradigm shift from the country's reliance on oil to the non-oil sector.

But for the various tax waivers FIRS granted under various respective laws amounting to N1.8 trillion, the revenue collection would have reached N12 trillion in 2022. Undoubtedly, the FIRS Performance Report for 2022 is unprecedented in the history of the country's revenue collection.

Providing perspective to this unprecedented tax collection, the FIRS noted in its 2022 Performance Update that the Muhammad Nami-led management on assumption of office adopted a four-point focus to aggressively and patriotically pursue tax collection as a "task that must be done".

They include administrative and operational restructuring; making the service customer-focused; creating a data-centric institution; and improving its stakeholder relations.

From the 2022 Performance Report, Companies Income Tax contributed N2.83 trillion; Value Added Tax, N2.51 trillion; Electronic Money Transfer Levy, N125.67 billion while Earmarked Taxes



contributed a total of N353.69 billion.

It is the first time that the FIRS will cross the 10-trillion Naira mark in tax revenue collection largely due to the foresight and determination of Mr. Muhammad Nami to make the difference in the country.

Some strategies the FIRS under Mr Nami's leadership had adopted include strategic administrative and operational reforms; implementation of new policies towards improving FIRS capacity towards the fulfilment of its mandate, and appropriate deployment of technology for tax administration.

A look at FIRS tax revenue collection showed that in 2019 it collected N5.32 trillion; in 2020, it was N4.9 trillion and in 2021 it was N6.405 trillion.

Speaking on the outlook for 2023, Mr. Nami had in confidence stated that the Service would build on the current reforms, achieve full automation and

continue to establish a resilient Service that would continue to provide sustainable tax revenue to fund the government.

"We intend to maintain, and even improve on the momentum in 2023," he stated. "Our goal is to identify more areas where we can improve upon in the delivery and efficiency of collection; plug loopholes, while deploying innovative reforms in data and artificial intelligence."

Also a critical evaluation of 2022's Company Income Tax records showed a significant hike in taxes paid by companies across the board.

For example, tax from firms in the information and communication sector rose by 158.51% from N51.05 billion in the 3rd quarter of 2021 to N131.97 billion in the corresponding period in 2022.

In the same vein, manufacturers paid the

most taxes during the period in review, as the Federal Government increased the number of taxes collectable by the Federal Inland Revenue Services from 39 to 61 items.

It is my candid view that government can effectively use FIRS as a springboard for strategic and effective restructuring of the country's economy.

All said and done, FIRS has proved that given the right leadership, support and resources, government agencies can be relied upon to patriotically generate money for it to deliver on its mandate on service delivery.

Undoubtedly, FIRS has witnessed serious transformation under the leadership of Mr. Nami since his appointment as its Executive Chairman.

Musa Ilallah writes from Emeka Anyaoku Street, Abuja musahk123@yahoo.com

Watching the 2023 Elections

By Jibrin Ibrahim

TOMORROW is the big day when for the seventh election since the return to democracy, more than 93 million Nigerians are registered to vote. It is likely to be a closely contested race with four candidates – Ahmed Bola Tinubu of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Atiku Abubakar of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Peter Obi of the Labour Party and Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) being the front runners. “The insecurity challenges have the potential to impact on the quality of the forthcoming elections. It could even determine whether elections will hold all across the country given the threat they pose to the security of voters, electoral materials, and poll officials across the more than 176,000 polling units.”

I am observing the elections from the privileged standpoint of an analyst working with colleagues at the Centre for Democracy and Development – Election Analysis Centre (EAC). We have identified five key issues that are likely to shape the 2023 election. These 'five I's' are identity, insecurity, institutions, information disorder and inter and intra party squabbles.

Nigeria's political system, both at the federal and state levels, is characterised by prebendal patronage where political actors capture state power and use the same to advance the well-being of their ethnic or religious groups. A consequence of this is that state resources are unevenly distributed to the advantage of majority groups, thereby making political representation and access to power highly competitive in the country. In addressing these concerns, the political elite, across party lines, have adopted approaches such as power rotation and zoning to improve the inclusivity of minority groups.

The three leading presidential candidates, Ahmed Bola Tinubu of the APC, Atiku Abubakar of the PDP and Peter Obi of the Labour Party are from the Yoruba, Fulani and Igbo ethnic groups respectively. Candidates are expected to perform better than their opponents in their 'home' geopolitical zones, while opposition party members may face repression from state and non-state actors in these areas. Religion may also be a prominent determinant of the outcome of the 2023 elections. The APC's decision to run a Muslim-Muslim ticket has heightened religious tensions in the country. Conventionally leading parties have sought to balance their presidential tickets to ensure that both major faiths are represented and there are concerns about what impact a single ticket victory would have for faith relations in the country. Nigerians will go to the polls in 2023

amidst a host of security challenges. All six geopolitical zones of the country are confronted by insecurity, which has led to the deployment of the Nigerian military across the federation. Northern states are engulfed in long-standing violence with extremist jihadist groups, criminal bandit gangs, and other non-state armed groups who are engaged in deadly attacks against local communities.

In the south, civil unrest continues against the backdrop of ongoing violence between farmers and herders and secessionist agitators. Over half of the 36 states experienced an increase in the number of conflict events in 2022, as compared with 2021, according to data from the Nigeria Election Violence Tracker, a partnership between the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) and Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD). The situation is further complicated by fuel and currency scarcity which is increasing economic hardships on the more than 130 million Nigerians classified as multidimensionally poor.

The insecurity challenges have the potential to impact on the quality of the forthcoming elections. It could even determine whether elections will hold all across the country given the threat they pose to the security of voters, electoral materials, and poll officials across the more than 176,000 polling units. Targeted attacks on Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) offices and staff have been on the rise in the last one year.

“Ahead of the February 2023 elections, violence targeting political party supporters has trended upwards. In the last quarter of 2022, violence targeting political parties reached its highest point since the previous general election in early 2019. In total, there have been 60 attacks recorded on political rallies, resulting in nine fatalities since the start of campaigning on 28th September.”

The success of any electoral process is dependent on the credibility, transparency and efficiency of stakeholders that manage, regulate, and secure the process. Saddled with the responsibility of establishing the rules of play and conducting the 2023 elections, INEC is a central election stakeholder and has demonstrated a strong commitment to ensuring the holding of safe, credible and on-time elections. The introduction of the 2022 Electoral Act supports the use of technology such as the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS), a facial recognition system aiding voter accreditation, and the INEC result viewing portal have boosted confidence in the system.

Already faced with a gargantuan logistical operation, those charged with

managing the elections across the country are further challenged by the prevailing insecurity and the Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) efforts to push a cashless policy. INEC and its supporting agencies rely heavily on cash to deploy more than a million field staff and to ensure the safe delivery of election day materials. Local printing of materials and other sub-contracted services have already been affected by the cash shortages. INEC will also find it extremely difficult to effectively deploy logistics and staff to remote locations. It normally pays transporters and provide resources for more than a million ad-hoc staff in the 8,809 political wards in cash.

Whilst social media has opened avenues for citizens to engage more robustly with their prospective representatives, the volume of misinformation – the sharing of falsehoods without knowing they are false – and disinformation – which implies a deliberate intent to mislead – circulating online can also lead to citizen actions based on incorrect information. Tactics used by social media influencers, who are often paid to promote a particular political agenda, include hashtag manipulation, the use of automated or controlled networks, deliberate mistranslation, false impersonation, and manipulated audio and video material.

More than in previous polls, digital misinformation and disinformation on social media has shaped the coverage of the campaigns of mainstream media, with online influencers having an outsized role in setting the agenda. Information that begins as a rumour on WhatsApp or through Twitter can be picked up by media houses or shared by influential community figures creating a litany of indirect users alongside those with direct access. Pre-existing cleavages, identity politics and the insecure political and ethno-religious landscape of Nigeria's democratic system further engender the spread of disinformation with the risk that it can even impact on national cohesion.

Trust is a scarce commodity in Nigeria and this fact is only being exacerbated by the volume of misleading content online. Ahead of the forthcoming polls, renewed sophistication and organisation in the push of disinformation has been observed with efforts generally focused on glorifying or delegitimising political aspirants and undermining the credibility of INEC.

“To enhance Nigeria's elections, the government should ensure that key election stakeholders – in particular INEC and the security agencies – have the necessary resources at their disposal to roll out their comprehensive plans for election day operations that ensure polls take place in a safe, free and fair environment.”

Ahead of the February 2023 elections, violence targeting political party supporters has trended upwards. In the last quarter of 2022, violence targeting political parties reached its highest point since the previous general election in early 2019. In total, there have been 60 attacks recorded on political rallies, resulting in nine fatalities since the start of campaigning on 28th September.

Intra-party contestation has also been a feature of the 2023 campaign.

The APC initially experienced some internal division from Christians in the party, unhappy at the unwillingness of Tinubu to balance the presidential ticket. But more substantive divisions have emerged, and spilled into the public sphere, following the CBN's demonetisation policy. Prominent APC governors have openly accused senior officials in the presidency, and tacitly the president himself, of working against the interest of the party and in favour of Atiku, a fellow Fulani and northerner.

Atiku himself has endured a divided party throughout the campaigns, with the G5, refusing to support his candidacy in frustration at the PDP's failure to adhere to zoning principles in the selection of its flagbearer and party chairman. This could result in the PDP losing votes in the South-South geopolitical zone, historically a stronghold of the party.

To enhance Nigeria's elections, the government should ensure that key election stakeholders – in particular INEC and the security agencies – have the necessary resources at their disposal to roll out their comprehensive plans for election day operations that ensure polls take place in a safe, free and fair environment.

Political parties must ensure that their members and supporters adhere to the conditions laid out in the National Peace Accord through the voting process and after the announcement of results.

INEC continues to communicate regularly with Nigerians about the ongoing election process and is as transparent as possible during the collation and announcement of results.

The Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security must ensure that all security personnel on electoral duty adhere to the agreed code of conduct and rules of engagement.

Social media companies support the work of factchecking organisations by promptly taking down digital content that promotes political disinformation or hate speech that relates to the election.

Ibrahim is a professor of Political Science and development consultant/expert, and Senior Fellow of the Centre for Democracy and Development. He is also the Chair of the Editorial Board of Abuja-based online newspaper, PREMIUM TIMES.

Epitaph for the Living

By Owei Lakemfa

A NUMBER of European leaders harbour the quixotic thought that as the first year of the War in Ukraine rolls by today, February 24, 2023, the Ukrainians will militarily defeat Russia. They prefer a continuation of the war, and, their writing the epitaph of Russian and Ukrainian youths who will be killed, rather than allow a peaceful resolution. However, as they are fixated on a military conquest, related events suggest that the European and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) alliance may crack partly due to the terrorist attacks on the Nord Stream gas pipelines linking Russia with Germany. The United States (US) has been pointedly accused by one of the most famous journalists in the world, 85-year-old Seymour Hersh, of carrying out these terrorist attacks in the Baltic Sea. The US has, curiously, been virtually silent while the United Nations (UN) says it will not lead any investigation to unravel the culprits.

“Undoubtedly, one of the outcomes of the Ukrainian War is that it has made Europe far less reliant on Russian oil and gas. Ironically, Russia has ready markets for these commodities, especially in China and India. Another is the enormous sanctions the EU is capable of imposing on a country. The reverse side is that Russia has demonstrated that sanctions can also strengthen an economy. For instance, the ruble in 2022, rather than become weak under the weight of sanctions, actually gained strength, and became the most improved currency in the world in terms of value.”

French President, Emmanuel Macron, on February 18 made an ambiguous statement that he wants Russia defeated but not crushed. According to him: “I want Russia to be defeated in Ukraine, and I want Ukraine to be able to defend its position... I am convinced that, in the end, this will not conclude militarily.” He added that neither side could fully prevail and does not want the war to spread to Russian territory. Macron does not come out clear on who he wants to defeat Russia: NATO or Ukraine?

I am sure he knows that it would be militarily impossible for Ukraine to overrun Russia, so he might simply be priming that country for more unnecessary deaths rather than engage in negotiations to end the war. Perhaps Macron and his fellow European leaders simply want to wear out Russia and make it vulnerable. Also, they may hope that elongating the war can lead to a coup in

Russia. But they should realise that this can also happen in Ukraine.

Three days later, Italian Prime Minister, Giorgia Meloni, while not ruling out peace talks, declared that any peace that entails the surrender of Ukraine cannot be real. Italy, she said, is considering sending more air-defence systems to Ukraine, but ruled out the supply of military planes. In other words, Italy wants conditional discussions. The Foreign Ministers of seven countries: Germany, Canada, France, Japan, US, United Kingdom and Italy in a joint statement offered Ukraine more support and additional sanctions against Russia.

President Joe Biden, who visited Ukraine, announced a new military aid package worth \$500 million for Ukraine to continue the war. He vowed: “Ukraine will never be a victory for Russia.” Buoyed by such support, myopic Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky ruled out peace talks, declaring: “Dialogue is useless.” Rather, he told Biden: “Together, we are going to a common victory and we must ensure it this year.”

In reaction, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that his country is pulling out of nuclear talks with the US. However, while the focus is on military victory or defeat, the terrorist attacks on the Nord Stream pipeline that can transport 55 billion cubic meters of gas from Russia to Europe, may begin to redefine the NATO alliance as Germany, Sweden and Denmark who are investigating the incident are livid. They have established that the damage to the pipelines was caused by “powerful explosions due to sabotage”, and have taken their case to the UN.

They complain that the attacks caused “substantial and worrisome” effects in terms of greenhouse gas emissions. Russia, backed by China, has also demanded a UN probe and has approached the UN Security Council for an independent inquiry.

However, a February 15, 2023 investigative report by Hersh concluded that the terrorist attacks were carried out by the US Navy, the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Norwegian Navy. He reported that in June 2022, US Navy divers under the cover of a multi-nation war-games simulation known as BALTOPS 22, placed explosive C4 charges on the pipelines. The explosives he claims, were detonated remotely three months later by a signal from a sonar buoy.

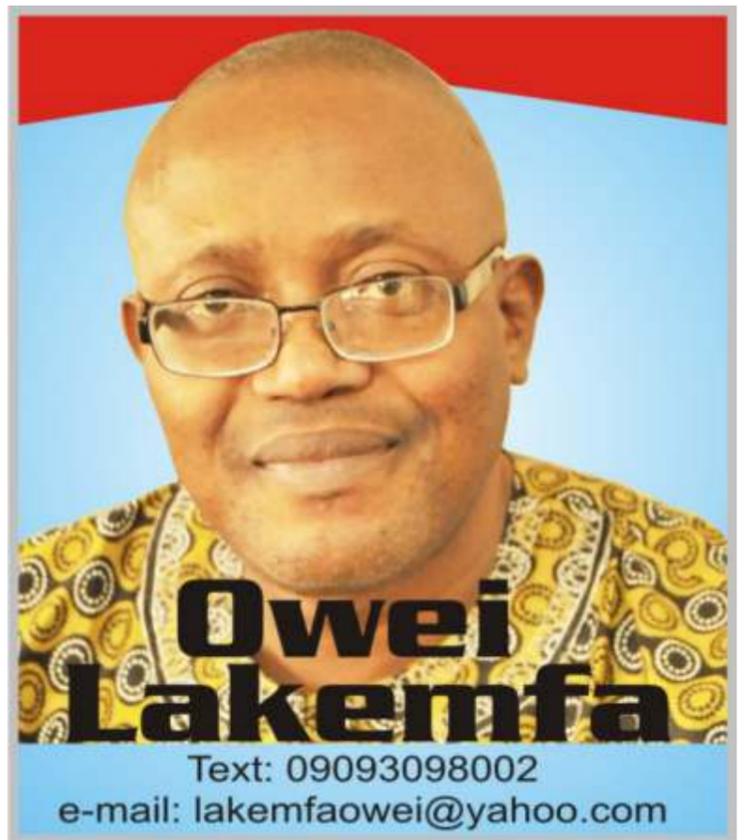
“Also, while the West thought it was

tightening the noose around Russia by using international finance systems, alternative systems were being promoted by the BRICS nations comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Interestingly, in the past year of sanctions against Russia, at least a dozen countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Bahrain, Algeria, Argentina, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia, have expressed interest in joining BRICS.”

Hersh said the attacks were desperate American moves, adding: “The fear of losing European support in the Ukraine conflict made the US to take out the only option Europe had should it want to restart buying fuel from Russia.” The US, he said, is afraid that Europe could have a rethink on the Ukrainian conflict, decide to make peace and resume its oil and gas trade with Russia. He said the attacks were to “cut into the notion that they (Europeans) can depend totally on America, even in a crisis”. The US, he wrote, has always wanted to stop Russia selling oil and gas to the rest of Europe.

The White House's reaction was to describe Hersh's report as “complete nonsense”. However, it has made no public efforts to debunk the facts contained in the report, including the military exercise or the claimed agencies and means used. A major headache for the US is that Hersh is one of the most famous journalists in the world and one of the most decorated in American history. He is a four-time winner: 1969, 1973, 1974, and 1981, of the George Polk Award. This prestigious award goes to “the intrepid, bold, and influential work of the reporters themselves, placing a premium on investigative work that is original, resourceful, and thought-provoking”.

In 1970, he won the Pulitzer Prize, a prize established in 1917 for America's best in



print journalism, literary achievement, and musical composition. He is also a two-time winner of the National Magazine Award, and the 2004 George Orwell Award.

Undoubtedly, one of the outcomes of the Ukrainian War is that it has made Europe far less reliant on Russian oil and gas. Ironically, Russia has ready markets for these commodities, especially in China and India. Another is the enormous sanctions the EU is capable of imposing on a country. The reverse side is that Russia has demonstrated that sanctions can also strengthen an economy. For instance, the ruble in 2022, rather than become weak under the weight of sanctions, actually gained strength, and became the most improved currency in the world in terms of value.

Also, while the West thought it was tightening the noose around Russia by using international finance systems, alternative systems were being promoted by the BRICS nations comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Interestingly, in the past year of sanctions against Russia, at least a dozen countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Bahrain, Algeria, Argentina, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia, have expressed interest in joining BRICS.

It is in the collective interests of humanity to end the war in Ukraine by peaceful means because a military solution will be too costly, harmful and unpredictable.

Elections 2023 Results: 'The Transfer Never Drop'

By **PRINCE CHARLES DICKSON Ph.D.**

We forget who we are sometimes—

But oh, the power when we remember /Topher Kearby

As you read this, millions of Nigerians would have cast their vote, like I said last week, a handful would have paid the ultimate price which is death because like I stated clearly that our elections are war in these parts. We have witnessed ballot snatching despite the best of efforts but I must also say that it has reduced and that is a big plus. As usual logistics has failed us

There is also the early excitement of the very big possibility of a slim victory by a third force but as it is often with those of us that see far, I have since this electoral cycle stated that I see no hope in the horizon with the three musketeers as I term them. This is not a popular opinion though...Kindly follow me, and I will tell you a story and again stick to my point. A quick caveat though is that I DO NOT INTEND TO CONVINC ANYONE OF US, RATHER TO AGITATE US ENOUGH TO PROVE ME WRONG.

There was an aged artist who lived in a small village. The man used to design beautiful artistic works to be sold at an attractive price.

One day, a poor man among the villagers challenged the old man saying: "You earn a lot of money from your handiwork but why don't you assist poor people in the village?"

Can't you see that the butcher is not as rich as you are, but he still shares free meat to the poor people in the village?

Also, look at the village baker. He is a poor man with a large family. Yet he gives the poor people free loaves of bread".

The artist did not respond angrily to the accusations. He only smiled.

The poor man was confused about the reaction of the artist so he left him and went out spreading rumors that the artist was so rich, but he was a selfish person who only accumulated



wealth and refused to help the poor.

The villagers hated the old artist and they all forsook him.

The old artist became sick and could not do anything for himself but nobody among the villagers cared to visit him or helped him so he died a lonely old man.

The days passed by and the villagers observed that the butcher stopped free distribution of meat and the baker could not give the poor people free loaves of bread any more.

When the butcher and the baker were asked why they stopped helping the villagers, they said that: "the old artist used to donate money every month to pay for the free meat and bread to the poor people in the village. Now that he was dead, there was nobody to pay for the free food anymore"

While we reflect on the story above let me add this—A man died in a drinking spot/dancehall. Another person died in the masjid.

If we are to judge them, we

would say that the first man died a sinner and the second man died a righteous man.

But the first man entered the drinking spot to preach against sin and the second man entered the masjid to steal.

By next week, there would be a clear picture of who has won the war to lead Nigerians, there will be protests, and again, a handful of Abobis would pay the price. Like in Abia, like in Kogi so far. Let me again say that whilst the search for leadership is pertinent.

Actually, many people may have wrong impressions and different opinions about leadership, Nigeria and yet are Nigerians. They destroy Nigeria with their personal influence, opinion and behaviours and still think it is the leaders that need to be the Messiah.

We pass judgment on anyone based on his physical appearance or what people say about him. There are things about his personal life you do not know because we are Nigerias. If you were privileged to know about them, our judgment isn't

any different because we are Nigerians.

In Nigeria we decide who goes to heaven or who goes to hell. We disdain God in our privacy and fear God in the open. We believe that everyone needs to change but us. And painfully again we move, we will get a leadership but we are still a people whose physical appearance is just a deception therefore, not willing to forgive and ignore our shortcomings at least or at best forge shared values and fronts so that we can build a nation.

By the next few months many would have forgotten all the drama of 1983, 1993, 2015 and so will 2023 be forgotten, just the way #endsars and soro soke, we often harp, if Nigeria gets it wrong, many of those that said it are dead and gone. Nigeria still remains. Whichever candidate wins, or loses not much will change if we do not change, votes in an area largely than a stronghold of a candidate is ready but it cannot be uploaded, sabotage will be alluded to, there will be 'orubebes'.

The excitement will come and go, because those that are happy are those that are taking 2k to give 5k, Nigerians will still arise against whoever wins, the problem is not just enormous, the problem is us. Our leaders eventually will behave like us, they will treat us like us. The redesigned Naira notes are already withering, and come May 29th the transfer will happen, we all will be debited, whether the transfer drops or we are credited or not, the journey of 2023 is still far, and only time will tell.

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Elections 2023
Results: 'The Transfer
Never Drop'

Story on Page 23

Stop Circulating Fake Elections Results On Social Media Police Warns

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Oyo State Police Command yesterday, warned against circulation of fake elections results on Social Media in the state to heat up the polity and possibly create post elections chaos

Oyo State Police Command handed down the warning in a statement made available to newsmen in Ibadan by the Command's Police Public Relations Officer, (PPRO), SP Adewale Osifeso.

The command in the statement, expressed displeasure at what it called " unpatriotic and mischievous attitude of some political sympathizers who

under the influence of the presumed result in circulation, attempted attacking polling units"

It then tasked "Parents, Guardians and leaders wielding different degrees of influence to prevail on their Children, wards and proteges against been used as canon fodders to disrupt the polity as commensurate sanctions would be meted out on defaulters".

Oyo state Police command in the statement assured residents in and across the state to go about their lawful businesses without fear of harassment or molestation as comprehensive security has been emplaced for the safety and security of the

great citizens of Oyo State.

The statement reads:

"The Oyo State Police Command wishes to appeal to residence against the Spread and Circulation of alleged/fake elections results on social media and other news platforms, which is contrary to the policy and guidelines of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

*Also, the Command through a thorough assessment of yesterday's voting exercise frowns at the unpatriotic and mischievous attitude of some Political sympathizers who under the influence of the presumed result in circulation, attempted attacking polling

units but for the timely intervention of law enforcement.

*The Command perceives this trend as a calculated attempt to heat up the polity and possibly create post elections chaos.

* To this end the Oyo State Police Command wishes to appeal to Parents, Guardians and leaders wielding different degrees of influence to prevail on their Children, wards and proteges against been used as canon fodders to disrupt the polity as commensurate sanctions would be meted out on defaulters.

*Finally, the Command assures residents to go about their lawful businesses without fear of

harassment or molestation as comprehensive security has been emplaced for the safety and security of the great citizens of Oyo State.

* In cases of emergencies, the Command can always be reached through these emergency control room numbers: 615 (toll free) (OYO STATE SECURITY TRUST FUND), and Oyo State Police Command emergency lines 0 7 0 5 5 4 9 5 4 1 3 and 08081768614. The NPF rescue me app is also available for free download on both Android and Apple IOS, for Android and I-phone users respectively.

Oyo APC, PDP, Accord Chieftains Laud INEC

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Director General of Accord Campaign Council in Oyo State, Olooye Adegboyega Adegoke has lauded the Saturday Presidential and National Assembly polls across the state.

Speaking with journalists in Ibadan shortly after casting his vote in Ibadan South West, Ward 10, Unit 10 at the premises of Oke Ado High School in Ibadan, Olooye Adegoke said the exercise was peaceful.

The Accord campaign DG stressed that there is still the need for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to improve in future elections to boost the nation's democracy.

"Things have been going on smoothly here. This is ward 10 collation centre, I have been here since 7 am. There are two polling units here. What INEC has done



which is also good is that they created more polling units", he said.

Olooye Adegoke added. " the only problem that I saw is that they don't have ink pard, people have to go home and look for ink pard and give them. But, it has been good and smooth.

The only thing is that they need to continue to improve on it".

All Progressives Congress (APC) Chieftain, Engineer Hakeem Oyedele Alao lauded INEC for the introduction of technology into the system.

Engr Alao who casted his vote at Unit 2, Ward 5 in Ibadan North local government emphasized that it is glaring that INEC has done well.

"INEC has done well. It has been peaceful and going on smoothly. INEC has done their best. There

is no report of violence or destruction of anything", he said.

Engr Alao added, " the electoral materials arrived on time. So far, so good no sight of vote buying and even if you want to buy votes, there is no money to buy it".

A chieftain of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Oyo state, Dr. Kazeem Abidikugu who voted at Unit 4, Ward 10, Ibadan South East described the new electoral act as the best so far for the country.

Dr Abidikugu shortly casting his vote, said, "my assessment of the election is that I think people are very much aware that they have acknowledged that fact that they need to exercise their civil right."

"The turnout was very impressive today. I have been voting in the past elections, we don't have much people the way we have it now in the past. People have recognised the importance of this election", he said.

Dr Abidikugu added, " it has been peaceful, we need to recognise the positive impact of the new electoral act has made in making people to realise the fact that no one can tamper with the result".