

# FROM THE PUBLISHER

## 2023 Presidential Election; A sour taste in the mouth

**T**he 2023 Presidential/National Assembly Elections which took place in Nigeria on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February has come and gone and the final collated results was released by INEC four days later on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February. However, the outcome of the polls left a sour taste in the mouth. Majority of the International Observers and political stakeholders from across the world passed a damning verdict that the entire process lacked transparency and was far below expectation. Many Nigerians too believed that the entire process was a sham as it was characterized by violence, ballot snatching, manipulation of election results, falsification of figures mostly in favour of the ruling party to the detriment of other political parties and the Nigerian electorates. There were visual evidences and video clips of brazen and open collusion between INEC officials and politicians in the area of thumbprinting of ballot papers in favour of the ruling party. This coupled with outright disenfranchisement of a lot of citizen who could not vote for one reason or the other even when they came out en-mass undermined the integrity of the polls. The most absurd of them all was the failure of INEC to upload the results through the BVAS and transmit to the IREV for display in the INEC Portal for citizens to access the results real time as promised by the management of INEC and enshrined in the new electoral law. This gap obviously orchestrated by INEC created opportunity for politicians to collude with INEC officials to manipulate and alter the figures recorded at the polling units. There were even speculations that most of the election results were pre-allocated as most of the result that were eventually uploaded at the portal were dated 20<sup>th</sup> of February far even before the elections were conducted on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February. It was really an exercise with full manipulations and discrepancies in the final results.

Whatever it is the elections have been concluded and Bola Tinubu of the All Progressive Congress have been declared winner by the Returning officer, Prof. Mahmoud Yakubu the Chairman of INEC. It therefore behooves on other candidates who believed that the elections were rigged in favour of the ruling Party to take their matter to the Supreme Court to challenge the INEC declaration. Our cover story is on the preliminary report of some of the international Observer who aptly captured the outcome and mood of what transpired during the election process as it were. However, one thing is sure, no matter the manipulation of the process by man it is God that has the final and ultimate say as Nigerians still hope for the best. Your regulars are still here for your reading pleasure. Please stay safe and allow peace to reign. The times are not funny but God will see us through as a nation. Nigeria is God's own project and all will be well. Take time to digest this edition. It was specially package for your reading pleasure. God bless you really good.



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