



The Catholic bishops reportedly told President Tinubu that Nigeria is bleeding. While the language may appear dramatic; it reflects realities confronting millions of Nigerians. Inflation remains elevated despite signs of moderation. Food prices continue to strain household incomes, while businesses grapple with energy costs, exchange-rate volatility, weak demand, and rising operating expenses. Insecurity continues to disrupt agricultural production and supply chains, while unemployment and underemployment fuel frustration and weaken confidence in the future. These realities shape how citizens assess government performance. To be fair, the Tinubu administration inherited a fragile economic structure marked by fiscal pressures, mounting debt obligations, foreign exchange distortions, fuel subsidy burdens, declining oil production, and a deteriorating investment climate. Few serious analysts would dispute that significant economic restructuring was necessary. Fuel subsidy removal and foreign exchange liberalization addressed distortions that had become fiscally unsustainable. State revenues have increased substantially, foreign reserves have improved, and international financial institutions have broadly supported aspects of the reform programme. The administration has consistently argued that many of Nigeria current challenges predate President Tinubu's tenure. Responding to concerns about hardship and hunger, the President recently noted that hunger existed before he was born and that population growth was beyond his control. At one level, the statement reflects reality. Nigeria poverty and development challenges are the product of decades of policy failures, weak institutions, insecurity, and missed opportunities. It would therefore be unfair to assess the administration as though it inherited a healthy economy and a well-functioning state.

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Consequently, the Osun election should not merely be viewed through the narrow prism of which political party won or lost. It should be viewed as another chapter in Nigeria's continuing democratic journey—a journey that requires all political actors to place the stability and credibility of our democratic institutions above temporary partisan interests. To the victors, victory should inspire humility, responsibility and a renewed commitment to service. To those who did not prevail, defeat should be regarded not as the end of the political journey but as an opportunity for reflection, reconstruction and renewed engagement with the people.

Most importantly, all sides must recognize that democracy is bigger than any individual, candidate or political party. I therefore congratulate Governor Ademola Adeleke on his victory and commend the people of Osun State for exercising their constitutional right to determine their political leadership. I equally commend all the candidates, political parties, electoral officials, security agencies, observers and citizens who participated in the democratic process.

Let this election serve as a reminder that democracy is not defined only by the ability to win elections; it is equally defined by the ability to respect the will of the people when the result does not favour us. The ballot has spoken. The people have spoken. And in a democracy, the voice of the people must remain the ultimate voice of authority.