Elections in Nigeria are a critical part of her budding democratic process, however, just like most aspects of Nigeria’s democracy, the electioneering process are still being blurred by specs of debris from several years of colonial rules followed by the military influence spanning about three decades and a dose of an aggressive political elite unwilling to relinquish her hold to what has become a lucrative business for most.

The history of elections in Nigerian state has been characterized by threats to statehood based on the manipulation of ethnicity as a divisive mechanism for the acquisition of political power by political actors, the fragile nature of political cum democratic institutions is acquainted with poor democratic culture among Nigerian citizen.

Every four years, the elections serve as an unusual common ground for the elite and the over 87.8 million Nigerians living in extreme poverty and that is the common ground for both ends. There seems to be a painstaking effort by both ends of the divide to maintain the status quo, efforts by the political elite to keep the average Nigerian disinterested in the issues of governance, election inclusive.

Elections in Nigeria from 1999 to date have continued to recycle in vicious violence and unimaginable manipulation especially from the political elites; this has attracted the attention of the local and international community. The violence coupled with the glaring disorganized manual election process has discouraged a sizeable number of
citizens from participating in the electoral process.

Many citizens’ faith in the integrity of the electoral process has also waned over the previous years due to the incessant stories of rigging. The number of registered votes is always significantly more than the actual votes cast and these numbers have significantly dwindled in the past years. Experts suggest most electorates are unwilling to participate in the elections primarily because of the conventional practice that requires voters to stand in queues for long hours as witnessed by less than 50% voter turnout in the last 2015 presidential election in Nigeria.

INEC has bemoaned the insufficient representation of women in political positions in spite of the good percentage of women in the voting population of Nigeria. Women occupy about 5.8% of the political offices in Nigeria while men occupy about 94.2% of the political offices. “Global statistics for gender parity indicates that in 2015, out of 188 countries, Nigeria was 152nd in the Human Development Index in Gender Inequality and 118th out of 192 countries in 2017”. It is worthy to note that in Nigerian women are still being marginalized due to the style of leadership inherent in the country. Despite the challenges women are facing, it was discovered that women activism and advocacy, education of women, positivity on the part of successive governments towards women empowerment and interest of women to participate in politics is getting a lot of positive energy.

Many citizens’ faith in the integrity of the electoral process has also waned over the previous years due to the incessant stories of rigging.

Women occupy about 5.8% of the political offices in Nigeria while men occupy about 94.2% of the political offices.

Most electorates are unwilling to participate in the elections primarily because of the conventional practice that requires voters to stand in queues for long hours as witnessed by less than 50% voter turnout in the last 2015 presidential election in Nigeria.
The total number of registered voters for the 2019 election is 84,004,084, an increase of 15.3m from the total number of voters registered in 2015.

Voter Registration by Gender:

- Female: 47% (39.6m)
- Male: 53% (44.4m)

Source: INEC
Voter Demographics

Voter Registration by Age Group

81% of registered voters are younger than 50 years

Voters Registration by Occupation

Source: INEC
Voter Demographics

Voters Registration by Geo-Political Zone
(As at January 9, 2019)

- North-West: 20.2m
- North-East: 11.3m
- North-Central: 13.4m
- South-West: 16.3m
- South-East: 10.1m
- South-South: 12.8m

The Northwest region has the highest number of registered voters with

20,158,100

Voters registered

Source: INEC
Voters Registration by States in 2015 and 2019
(Data captured as at December, 2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABIA</td>
<td>1.39m</td>
<td>1.93m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADAMAWA</td>
<td>1.56m</td>
<td>1.97m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AKWA IBOM</td>
<td>1.68m</td>
<td>2.11m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANAMBRA</td>
<td>1.96m</td>
<td>2.45m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAUCHI</td>
<td>2.05m</td>
<td>2.46m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAYELSA</td>
<td>0.61m</td>
<td>0.92m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BENUE</td>
<td>2.02m</td>
<td>2.48m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BORNO</td>
<td>1.93m</td>
<td>2.32m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROSS RIVER</td>
<td>1.18m</td>
<td>1.53m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DELTA</td>
<td>2.28m</td>
<td>2.85m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EBONYI</td>
<td>1.07m</td>
<td>2.11m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDO</td>
<td>1.78m</td>
<td>1.46m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EKITI</td>
<td>0.73m</td>
<td>0.91m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENUGU</td>
<td>1.43m</td>
<td>1.94m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOMBE</td>
<td>1.12m</td>
<td>1.39m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMO</td>
<td>1.80m</td>
<td>2.27m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JIGAWA</td>
<td>1.83m</td>
<td>2.11m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KADUNA</td>
<td>3.41m</td>
<td>3.93m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KANO</td>
<td>4.98m</td>
<td>5.46m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KATSINA</td>
<td>2.83m</td>
<td>3.23m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEBBI</td>
<td>1.47m</td>
<td>1.81m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOGI</td>
<td>1.35m</td>
<td>1.65m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KWARA</td>
<td>1.14m</td>
<td>1.41m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAGOS</td>
<td>5.82m</td>
<td>6.57m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NASARAWA</td>
<td>1.24m</td>
<td>1.62m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIGER</td>
<td>2.01m</td>
<td>2.39m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGUN</td>
<td>1.83m</td>
<td>2.38m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONDO</td>
<td>1.52m</td>
<td>1.82m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSUN</td>
<td>1.41m</td>
<td>1.68m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OYO</td>
<td>2.41m</td>
<td>2.93m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLATEAU</td>
<td>2.00m</td>
<td>2.48m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIVERS</td>
<td>2.54m</td>
<td>3.22m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOKOTO</td>
<td>1.61m</td>
<td>1.90m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TARABA</td>
<td>1.34m</td>
<td>1.78m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YOBE</td>
<td>1.09m</td>
<td>1.37m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZAMFARA</td>
<td>1.49m</td>
<td>1.72m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCT</td>
<td>0.88m</td>
<td>1.34m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total voters registered in 2019: 84.0m
Total voters registered in 2015: 68.8m

Source: INEC
Top 10 states that gained more registered voters compared to 2015

FCT: 52.57%
BAYELSA: 51.25%
ABIA: 38.44%
ENUGU: 36.02%
EBONYI: 35.90%
TARABA: 32.56%
NASARAWA: 30.19%
CROSS RIVER: 29.91%
OGUN: 29.81%
RIVERS: 26.71%

Top 10 states with the highest voters registration in 2019

LAGOS: 6.57m
KANO: 5.48m
KADUNA: 3.93m
KATSINA: 3.23m
RIVERS: 3.22m
OYO: 2.93m
DELTA: 2.85m
PLATEAU: 2.48m
BENUE: 2.48m
BAUCHI: 2.46m

Source: INEC

Source: International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)
2015 Presidential Election Summary

Population: 181.56m
Voting age population: 91.67m
Total Votes: 29.43m
Voters turnout: 43.65%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Central</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>43.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North East</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>45.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North West</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>55.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>40.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South South</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>57.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>40.26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2015 Election results by regions

North
- APC: 796,588
- PDP: 7,115,199

Central
- APC: 1,339,709
- PDP: 2,848,678

North East
- APC: 1,715,818
- PDP: 2,411,013

South West
- APC: 1,821,416
- PDP: 2,433,193

South East
- APC: 418,590
- PDP: 4,714,725

South
- APC: 198,248
- PDP: 2,464,906

Muhammadu Buhari was declared winner with a total of 15.4m votes which is about 54% of the total votes counted.

The total number of candidates contesting for the office of the President is 73.

More than half of the presidential candidates are 50+.

Gender:
- Female: 67 (8%)
- Male: 6 (92%)

Age:
- 18-35: 2
- 36-50: 32
- 51-70: 37
- 70+: 2

Highest Academic Qualification:
- SSCE: 17
- Bachelors Degree: 29
- Masters/PHD: 27

Source: INEC
Vice President

Candidates by Age

- 18-35: 5 candidates
- 36-50: 25 candidates
- 51-70: 41 candidates
- 70+: 2 candidates

Candidates by Gender

- Female: 22 candidates (31%)
- Male: 51 candidates (69%)

Candidates by Highest Academic Qualification

- SSCE: 14
- Bsc: 43
- Masters/PHd: 16

Source: INEC

JOHNSON OMEDE of the New Nigeria People’s Party is the youngest vice presidential candidate at 30 years.

Nwankwo Arthur Agwuncha of People’s Trust is the oldest vice presidential candidate at 76.
The Senate

109 Senatorial seats
1903 Senatorial Contestants

234
Female contestants
1669
Male contestants

Candidates by Gender

Candidates by Age

Highest Academic qualification

Age, Gender and Academic Qualification in the Key Political Parties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>APC</th>
<th>PDP</th>
<th>SDP</th>
<th>Others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(18-35)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(36-50)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-70</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-100</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSCE</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelors degree</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters degree /PHd</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>714</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FINDINGS: While the minimum requirement to contest for the Senate is SSC, there are 56 candidates who presented First School leaving certificates.

**20 PERSONS WITH NO QUALIFICATION, and 56 presented FSLC Cert**

**22 AGE ERROR**
The Representatives

360 HOrEps seats

4703 House of Representatives Contestants

Candidates by Gender

511 Female contestants

4192 Male contestants

Candidates by Age

Candidates by Gender

Academic qualification

2499 SSCE

1732 Bachelors degree

334 Masters degree /PhD

Age, Gender and Academic Qualification in the Key Political Parties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>(18-35)</th>
<th>(36-50)</th>
<th>51-70</th>
<th>70+</th>
<th>APC</th>
<th>PDP</th>
<th>SDP</th>
<th>Others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>141</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSCE</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>334</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelors degree</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>240</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters degree /PhD</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>3296</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>2343</td>
<td>1299</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* FINDINGS: 239 PERSONS NO AGE STATED, 167 presented FSLC Cert, and 256 persons with qualification error
1 APC candidate with age error and 16 Qualification error
2 PDP Candidate with age error and 32 qualification error
15 SDP candidate with age error, with 37 qualification ERROR

Source: INEC
### Gubernatorial Aspirants

- **Total Gubernatorial Aspirants:** 1064
- **Male contestants:** 984
- **Female contestants:** 80

#### Gubernatorial Candidates by Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-35</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36-50</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-70</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70+</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Gender and Academic Qualification in the Key Political Parties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>SSCE</th>
<th>Bsc</th>
<th>Masters/PhD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APC</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDP</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDP</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>565</td>
<td>312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>1064</td>
<td>581</td>
<td>366</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*FINDINGS: 2 without gender, 5 with age errors, 24 qualifications error

Source: INEC
Gender Distribution of National Assembly Candidates For 2019 Election Per State (Senate)

South
West
- EKITI: 24 Male, 3 Female
- LAGOS: 34 Male, 20 Female
- OGUN: 54 Male, 7 Female
- ONDO: 37 Male, 4 Female
- OSUN: 54 Male, 14 Female
- OYO: 53 Male, 7 Female

South
South
- AKWA IBOM: 26 Male, 8 Female
- BAYELSA: 40 Male, 4 Female
- CROSS RIVER: 35 Male, 3 Female
- DELTA: 56 Male, 12 Female
- EDO: 30 Male, 3 Female
- RIVERS: 46 Male, 13 Female

South
East
- ABIA: 38 Male, 6 Female
- ANAMBRA: 61 Male, 14 Female
- EBONYI: 34 Male, 3 Female
- ENUGU: 38 Male, 13 Female
- IMO: 91 Male, 13 Female

Source: INEC
Gender Distribution of National Assembly Candidates For 2019 Election Per State (Senate)

North Central

- BENUE: Male 39, Female 8
- FCT: Male 22, Female 10
- KOGI: Male 66, Female 7
- KWARA: Male 50, Female 7
- NASARARA: Male 41, Female 4
- NIGER: Male 35, Female 5
- PLATEAU: Male 36, Female 4

North East

- ADAMAWA: Male 34, Female 9
- BAUCHI: Male 43, Female 1
- BORNO: Male 38, Female 1
- GOMBE: Male 38, Female 7
- TARABA: Male 46, Female 3
- YOBE: Male 16, Female 1

North West

- JIGAWA: Male 31, Female 1
- KADUNA: Male 51, Female 5
- KANO: Male 83, Female 3
- KATSINA: Male 32, Female 1
- KEBBI: Male 46, Female 5
- SOKOTO: Male 97, Female 5
- ZAMFARA: Male 74

Source: INEC
### Gender Distribution of National Assembly Candidates

**For 2019 Election Per State (House of Reps)**

#### South West

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EKITI</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAGOS</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGUN</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONDO</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSUN</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OYO</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### South South

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AKWA IBOM</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAYELSA</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROSS RIVER</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DELTA</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDO</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIVERS</td>
<td>129*</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*APC has no candidates due to court judgement

#### South East

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABIA</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANAMBRA</td>
<td>154*</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>EBONYI</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENUGU</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMO</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*PDP have no candidate in Njikoka/Dunukofia/Anaoha due to court judgement

---

**Source:** INEC
Gender Distribution of National Assembly Candidates For 2019 Election Per State (House of Reps)

**North Central**
- BENUE: 121 Male, 12 Female
- FCT: 44 Male, 13 Female
- KOGI: 130 Male, 23 Female
- KWARA: 73 Male, 10 Female
- NASARAWA: 57 Male, 3 Female
- NIGER: 118 Male, 11 Female
- PLATEAU: 68 Male, 6 Female

**North East**
- ADAMAWA: 91 Male, 11 Female
- BAUCHI: 77 Male, 2 Female
- BORNO: 68 Male, 5 Female
- GOMBE: 60 Male, 8 Female
- TARABA: 80 Male, 4 Female
- YOBE: 27 Male, 3 Female

**North West**
- JIGAWA: 84 Male, 1 Female
- KADUNA: 140 Male, 8 Female
- KANO: 465 Male, 16 Female
- KATSINA: 135 Male, 7 Female
- KEBBI: 74 Male, 5 Female
- SOKOTO: 230 Male, 16 Female
- ZAMFARA: 119 Male, 0 Female

Source: INEC
Atiku Abubakar is a Nigerian politician and businessman. Prior to his position as Vice President of Nigeria from 1999 to 2007 under the presidency of Olusegun Obasanjo, he served as an officer of the Nigerian Customs Service. Abubakar is the presidential candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the 2019 general elections.

**Education:**

Abubakar holds a WASSCE/GCE Certificate, a Health Diploma in Hygiene and a Diploma in Law respectively.

**Agenda Overview:**

Abubakar’s agenda spreads across eighteen (18) overarching policy focus notably economic revamp, job creation and entrepreneurship development, poverty alleviation, power, technology and petrochemical infrastructure. According to his policy document, Abubakar promises a private-driven economy bolstered by a business-enabling environment. Devolution of power plus economic restructuring, disposal of national assets (e.g. 90% of NNPC), elevation of democratic values vis-à-vis respect for the rule of law and reinforcement of national unity are also prominent amongst his campaign pledges.


**Education:**

Moghalu holds a master’s degree and a PhD in International Relations from Tuft University with a host of other international certificates – in macroeconomics and financial sector management, corporate governance, and global strategic leadership – under his belt.

**Agenda Overview:**

Promising a 21st-century leadership, Moghalu’s vision is encapsulated in three (3) rubrics: leadership and governance, nation-building, and economy. He proposes to unite Nigerians behind a common cause—stronger innovation-driven economy and a new philosophical worldview for the country—powered by robust education reform. Other plans include energy policy reform, diaspora engagement and return policy, 50:50 gender parity policy [in all political appointments], healthcare system reform and constitutional restructuring.
Muhammadu Buhari is a politician, former Head of State (between 1983 and 1985) and the incumbent President of Nigeria. He retired from the Nigerian Army as a Major General in 1985. Buhari presently seeks re-election under the platform of the All Progressive Congress (APC).

Education:

Buhari graduated from the Nigerian Military Training College, took Mechanical Transport Officer’s Course from the United Kingdom and earned a master’s degree in Strategic Studies from the US Army War College, took the Platoon Commanders’ Course

Agenda Overview:

Buhari’s re-election manifesto is built around 11 key policy proposals spanning power, road and rail infrastructure, job creation, industrialisation, health insurance, diversity and inclusion, and social investment. The Buhari regime also reasserts taking the war against corruption and insecurity notches higher. With the People Moni Bank and the Entrepreneur Bank, it promises to upgrade its social investment schemes, providing succour for petty traders, farmers and entrepreneurs. Among other promises, the Buhari manifesto also includes educational development, remodelling and equipping of 10,000 schools per year.

Omoyele Sowore is a seasoned activist, democracy advocate and media entrepreneur. Former student leader and prominent figure in the June 12 “Struggle,” Sowore started Sahara Reporters in 2006 to fight public corruption. In 2018, he founded the African Action Congress (AAC), vying for president.

Education:

Sowore had his first degree in Geography and Regional Planning from the University of Lagos and a master’s degree in Public Administration from Columbia University.

Agenda Overview:

What he calls “8 Point Plan for Nigeria,” Sowore’s presidential campaign is pivoted on eight policy frameworks including security, power, infrastructure, anti-corruption, economy, job creation and restructuring. Promising to collapse the “old order,” he vows to bring the mainstream political parties to book. Sowore plans to maximize technology to curb the trend of excess cash flow. His top campaign pledges also include police reform, massive employment via technology innovation industry, N100,000 minimum wage and equal payment to youth corp members, and expansion of power capacity to 24,000 megawatts from the current rate of 7,000.