

CHAPTER III

THE 2015 NIGERIAN ELECTION

This chapter will explain about the 2015 Nigerian election and the winning of Muhammadu Buhari.

A. The 2015 Nigerian Election

The 2015 Nigerian election was originally scheduled on 14 and 28 February, but it turns out there was a postponement from the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) for about six weeks related to the issue of security inside the country. The INEC stated that the Nigerian security forces who responsible to secure Nigerian election weren't confident to protect civilians at the polling place. The other factor is the implementation of Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs), a chip-based and will be swiped upon voting to ensure the identity verification took more time to distribute around Nigeria. For instance, a week before the election, only 45 million of 68 million had been distributed to the voters.¹

The 2015 election was held on March 28 which includes presidential and national assembly elections, while on April 11 for the governorship and state assembly election.² The election applied new voter card system in order to avoid any disturbance and fraud. Independent National Electoral Commission has handed out the Permanent Voter Cards

¹Welsh, T. (2015, March 28). *Nigeria Holds Elections Amid Threats of Violence*. Retrieved April 22, 2015, from U.S. News & World Report: <http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2015/03/28/nigeria-holds-elections-amid-threats-of-violence-between-factions-boko-haram>

²Payne, J. (2015, February 8). *Nigeria postpones Feb. 14 presidential election to March 28: INEC*. Retrieved April 26, 2015, from REUTERS: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/08/us-nigeria-election-idUSKBN0LB0TL20150208>

(PVCs) to about 70 million eligible voters. These PVCs contain a biometric data including photograph and fingerprints. About 82 percent of PVCs had been distributed on March 17 after struggling to deal with attacks of Boko Haram militants. Later these PVCs were expected to be able to help serve a free, fair and peaceful election which would be much better than the previous elections.

In this election, a candidate must get more than 50 percent of the votes or at least 25 percent of the vote in two-thirds of 36 Nigerian states in order to win the election. If not, then Nigeria needs to re-elect a week later.³ In 2015 Nigeria election, there were 14 presidential candidates on the ballot which are:

Table 3.1

The Names of Presidential Candidate of Nigerian Election and the Parties

No	Name of Candidate	Party
1	Jci. Sen. Tunde Anifowose-Kelani	Accord Alliance
2	Rafiu Salau	Alliance for Democracy
3	Alh. Ganiyu O. Galadima	Allied Congress Party of Nigeria
4	Dr. Mani Ibrahim Ahmad	African Democratic Congress
5	Ayeni Musa Adebayo	African Peoples Alliance
6	Muhammadu Buhari	All Progressive Congress
7	Chief Sam Eke	Citizens Popular Party
8	High Chief A.N. Albert Owuru	Hope
9	Comfort Oluremi Sonaiya	Kowa
10	Chief Martin Onovo	National Conscience Party
11	Goodluck Ebele Jonathan	People Democratic Party
12	Allagoa Kelvin Chinedu	Peoples Party of Nigeria

³Winsor, M. (2015, March 27). *Nigeria Election 2015: Guide To Presidential Candidates, Key Issues, Voting Process, Voter Security And When To Expect Results*. Retrieved April 26, 2015, from International Business Time: <http://www.ibtimes.com/nigeria-election-2015-guide-presidential-candidates-key-issues-voting-process-voter-1860692>

13	Gobson M. Ohaenyem Okoye	United Democratic Party
14	Chief (DR.) Chekwas Okorie	United Progressive Party

Source: Independent National Electoral Commission. (2015). *Final List of Presidential and National Assembly Candidates for 2015 General Elections*. Retrieved April 6, 2015, from INEC: <http://inecnigeria.org/?inecnews=final-list-of-presidential-and-national-assembly-candidates-for-2015-general-elections>

From those 14 candidates above, the national polls had shown the race would come down to two candidates which are the incumbent President Goodluck Jonathan and the primary challenger General Muhammadu Buhari. It also drew a new rivalry between two parties. One was the ruling party since 1999, People Democratic Party (PDP) and the new born party formed by four opposition parties named as All Progressive Congress (APC).

The notice of election was announced by the INEC on October 1, 2014. This was based on the Section 30 (1) of the Electoral ACT, 2010 to provide not later than 90 days before the election. It was then followed by the commencement of campaign by political parties scheduled on November 16 for the Presidential & National Assembly, and November 30 for the Governorship & State House of Assembly. It was based on Section 99(1) of the Electoral Act to provide 90 days before the polling day. However, the collection of forms for all elections by political parties at INEC Headquarters conduct on November 4-11, it was scheduled for party to issue to their candidates.⁴

In order to enable political parties democratically nominate the candidates for election as required by Section 87 of the Electoral Act, 2010 it was needed to conduct of Party Primaries including resolution of disputes arising from the Primaries. It was scheduled started on October 2, and ended on December 11. December 18 was the last day of submission of Forms CF001 and CF002 at the INEC Headquarters for Presidential and National Assembly,

⁴Ogakwu, A. C. (2015, February 12). *Amended Time Table and Schedule of Activities for General Elections, 2015*. Retrieved May 25, 2015, from Independent National Electoral Commission: <http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:uYWo7FvVtMUJ:www.inecnigeria.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/2015-General-Elections-Time-Table-.docx+&cd=2&hl=id&ct=clnk>

and December 25 was for Governorship and State House of Assembly. It was based on Section 31(1) of Electoral Act, 2010 as amended to provide for not later than 60 days before the election.⁵

The publication of Personal Particulars of candidates (CF001) is on December 25 for Presidential & National Assembly while for Governorship & State House of Assembly on January 1, 2015. It was based on Section 31(3) of Electoral Act, 2010 as the publication within 7 days of the receipt of the form CF001. The Presidential & National Assembly's due date for withdrawal by candidate or replacement of withdrawn by political parties is on December 30 and for Governorship & State House of Assembly is on January 20, 2015. This was based on Section 35 of the Electoral Act, 2010 to provide it not later than 45 days before election.⁶

Entering the year of 2015 meant that the election was getting closer. The January 6 became the last day for the Presidential & National Assembly for submission of Nomination forms by political parties, while for the Governorship & State House of Assembly is on January 20. This was based on Section 32, 37, 38, and 39 of the Electoral Act, 2010. It was followed by the publication of official register of voters for the election on January 13 for both elections that drawn in Section 20 of the Electoral Act, 2010 to provide not later than 30 days before the election.

January 13 became the day of publication of list of nominated candidates for Presidential & National Assembly election. While for the Governorship & State House of Assembly is on January 27. It was based on Section 34 of the Electoral Act, 2010 to conduct

⁵ Ibid.

⁶Ogakwu, A. C. (2015, February 12). *Amended Time Table and Schedule of Activities for General Elections, 2015*. Retrieved May 25, 2015, from Independent National Electoral Commission: <http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:uYWo7FvVtMUJ:www.inecnigeria.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/2015-General-Elections-Time-Table-.docx+&cd=2&hl=id&ct=clnk>

at least 30 days before the day of election. Then January 28 for both elections is the date of publication of notice of poll. It was based on Section 46 of the Electoral Act, 2010 to conduct not later than 14 days before the election. The submission of names of Party Agents for the Electoral Officer of the Local Government Areas or called Area Council was scheduled on January 29 for Presidential & National Assembly while for the Governorship & State House of Assembly on February 12. It was based on Section 45 of the Electoral Act, 2010 to provide not later than 7 days before the election.⁷

March 26 became the last day of campaign for Presidential & National Assembly candidates and April 9 for the Governorship & Senate House of Assembly. This was based on Section 99(1) of the Electoral Act, 2010 which prohibit advertisements or broadcasts of campaigns 24 hours prior to the day of election. Then the long-awaited day has come. March 28 become the day where President and member of National Assembly were chosen by people, while for the Governorship & the Senate House of Assembly chosen on April 11 based on the Section 25 of the Electoral Act 2010, to provide that commission to appoint date not earlier than 150 days but not later than 30 days before the expiration of the term of office of the last holder of that office.⁸

In the presidential election's day, an extra 30,027 polling stations have been added and made the total of 150,000 polling stations around Nigeria. It was opened at 08.00 at local time and all voters had to be present at 13.00 at local time to be allowed to cast their ballot and it was closed with the last person on the queue. The authorities said there were about 360,000 police officers deployed at strategic areas to secure the election. The other thing was,

⁷Ogakwu, A. C. (2015, February 12). *Amended Time Table and Schedule of Activities for General Elections, 2015*. Retrieved May 25, 2015, from Independent National Electoral Commission:

<http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:uYWo7FvVtMUJ:www.inecnigeria.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/2015-General-Elections-Time-Table-.docx+&cd=2&hl=id&ct=clnk>

⁸Ibid.

the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) also welcomed any international and local observers to monitor the election.⁹ Once the votes have been counted, the results from each polling unit will be uploaded to the electoral commission's website. INEC stated that the result will be released no more than 48 hours. So, before 48 hours, the result will not be accurate.

B. The Winning of Muhammadu Buhari in Nigerian Election 2015

On April 1, the chairman of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) declared General Muhammadu Buhari as the winner of the 2015 presidential election and having certified the requirements of the law and scored the highest number of votes in the election. The chairman said that both Muhammadu Buhari and Goodluck Jonathan already fulfilled the requirement of the law. Buhari scored about 25 percent in 27 states and the capital territory while the incumbent President Jonathan recorded about 25 percent of votes in 26 states of the federation.¹⁰

Table 3.2

Number of Vote between Muhammadu Buhari and Goodluck Jonathan in Nigerian Election 2015

State	Total	Buhari		Jonathan	
Abia	391045	13394	3.43%	368303	94.18%
Adamawa	636018	374701	58.91%	251664	39.57%
Akwa Ibom	1017064	58411	5.74%	953304	93.73%
Anambra	670676	17.926	0.00%	660762	98.52%

⁹BBC. (2015, March 27). *How Nigeria's presidential election works*. Retrieved April 26, 2015, from BBC News: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-31111572>

¹⁰Udo, B. (2015, April 1). *INEC declares Buhari President-elect*. Retrieved May 15, 2015, from Premium Times: <http://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/180422-inec-declares-buhari-president-elect.html>

Bauchi	1020338	931598	91.30%	86085	8.44%
Bayelsa	367067	5194	1.42%	361209	98.40%
Benue	683264	373961	54.73%	303737	44.45%
Borno	501920	473543	94.35%	25640	5.11%
Cross River	450514	28368	6.30%	414863	92.09%
Delta	1267773	48910	3.86%	1211405	95.55%
Ebonyi	363888	19518	5.36%	323653	88.94%
Edo	500451	208469	41.66%	286869	57.32%
Ekiti	300691	120331	40.02%	176466	58.69%
Enugu	573173	14157	2.47%	553003	96.48%
Gombe	460599	361245	78.43%	96873	21.03%
Imo	702964	133253	18.96%	559185	79.55%
Jigawa	1037564	885988	85.39%	142904	13.77%
Kaduna	1617482	1127760	69.72%	484085	29.93%
Kano	2128821	1903999	89.44%	215779	10.14%
Katsina	1449426	1345441	92.83%	98937	6.83%
Kebbi	677003	567883	83.88%	100972	14.91%
Kogi	421328	264851	62.86%	149987	35.60%
Kwara	440080	302146	68.66%	132602	30.13%
Lagos	1443686	792460	54.89%	632327	43.80%
Nassarawa	511547	236838	46.30%	273460	53.46%
Niger	813671	657678	80.83%	149222	18.34%
Ogun	533172	308290	57.82%	207950	39.00%
Ondo	561056	299889	53.45%	251368	44.80%
Osun	642615	383603	59.69%	249929	38.89%
Oyo	881352	528620	59.98%	303376	34.42%
Plateau	982388	429140	43.68%	549615	55.95%
Rivers	1565461	69238	4.42%	1487075	94.99%
Sokoto	834259	671926	80.54%	152199	18.24%
Taraba	579677	261326	45.08%	310800	53.62%
Yobe	473796	446265	94.19%	25526	5.39%
Zamfara	761022	612202	80.44%	144833	19.03%

FCT	306805	146399	47.72%	157195	51.24%
Total	28587564	15424921	53.96%	12853162	44.96%

Source: Kireev, A. (n.d.). *Nigeria. Presidential Election 2015*. Retrieved May 25, 2015, from Electoral Geography 2.0: <http://www.electoralgeography.com/new/en/countries/n/nigeria/nigeria-presidential-election-2015.html>

The result places Muhammadu Buhari in the winner position greeted by spontaneous celebration which sprang up across cities in Northern Nigeria where Buhari is almost revered. The statistic shows that Buhari did not only win in North Nigerian states but also several states in the south. Finally Buhari has the national acceptance he sorely lacked. With INEC officially announced the result, Buhari officially become Nigerian elected president.

Winning the Nigerian 2015 election became the answer for Muhammadu Buhari's long battle in Nigerian elections after he had to swallow bitter pills of lost in previous elections in 2003, 2007, and 2011. In this election, he won more than 15.3 million votes to Jonathan's 12.9 million. He won 19 states to Jonathan's 17 states and also the Federal Capital Territory. He also won the northeastern Borno, the birthplace of brutal group of Boko Haram and surprisingly won in several south area even Lagos state in southwest zone. Lagos is Nigeria's commercial hub with the largest number of voters. Furthermore, the winning also boasts of 12 serving governors, a sitting House of Representatives Speaker, about 40 Senators, and 170 House of Representatives member.¹¹

¹¹Bolashodun, O. (2015, January). *Details of Buhari's 2015 Campaign*. Retrieved May 31, 2015, from Naij: <http://www.naij.com/372732-details-of-buharis-2015-campaign.html>