



EXPEDITE THE RESOLUTION OF ELECTORAL DISPUTES

Despite the ongoing cases at the Presidential Election Tribunal, Buhari handed over to the Tinubu administration on Monday, May 29, 2023.

We examine the **historical timeline of presidential election petitions** in Nigeria and most Nigerians are advocating that Section 285 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) and the 2022 Electoral Act are amended.

The 180-day timeframe for the determination of election petitions by Election Tribunals should be changed such that all tribunals are concluded before the duly elected candidate is inaugurated, because **justice delayed is justice denied**.

Election Petition	Outcome	Time Length
1999 Olusegun Obasanjo Vs Olu Falae	Obasanjo was declared the winner, and Falae filed a suit at the Appeal Court, which threw out Falae's application on technicalities.	32 days
2003 Olusegun Obasanjo Vs Muhammadu Buhari	Obasanjo was declared the winner. Buhari (runner-up) and Ojukwu (third place) challenged Obasanjo's re-election at the Presidential Election Petition Tribunal (PEPT) and at the Supreme Court. The apex court validated the tribunal's ruling.	Over 2 years
2007 Umaru Musa Yar'Adua vs Muhammadu Buhari and Atiku Abubakar	Yar'Adua was declared the winner of the election, but Buhari and Atiku challenged the election at the Supreme Court, which upheld Yar'Adua's election*.	Over 1 year
2011 Goodluck Ebele Jonathan vs Muhammadu Buhari	Jonathan was declared the winner, but Buhari challenged Jonathan's victory. The Appeal and Supreme Court affirmed and upheld Jonathan's victory.	Over 7 Months
2015 Muhammadu Buhari & Goodluck Jonathan	Following Jonathan's famous congratulatory call to Buhari, 2015 became the historic year when election results were neither rejected nor challenged in court.	-
2019 Muhammadu Buhari vs Atiku Abubakar	Buhari was declared the winner but Atiku challenged the result of the election at the PEPT, which upheld Buhari's election.	Over 5 Months
2023 Bola Ahmed Tinubu vs Peter Obi and Atiku Abubakar	INEC's declaration of Tinubu as the president-elect has been contested by Atiku and Peter Obi. Both Obi and Atiku are seeking the cancellation of the election results.	Hearing commenced on May 30 Atiku and Obi are expected to close their evidence on June 6, 2023.

* Yar'adua famously acknowledged the shortcomings in the elections.

"We acknowledge that our elections had some shortcomings. Thankfully, we have well-established legal avenues of redress, and I urge anyone aggrieved to pursue them. I also believe that our experiences represent an opportunity to learn from our mistakes. Accordingly, I will set up a panel to examine the entire electoral process with a view to ensuring that we raise the quality and standard of our general elections, and thereby deepen our democracy."

- Inaugural Address of Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

He set up the Justice Uwais Panel to review our electoral process. Returning to the findings of the Panel would be a good first step to improving our electoral process.