



Achieving free, fair and credible elections in Nigeria remains challenging as every election is fraught with voter apathy, rigging, vote-buying, voter suppression, violence among others.

With the fragile state of our democracy, the role of the judiciary in resolving election disputes cannot be overemphasized.

In Kenya, the court has a timeline of only 21 days to receive, hear and give a verdict on any election petition. For instance, the Kenya Supreme Court decided on the August 9, 2022 presidential election petition before the inauguration of William Ruto on September 13, 2022. However, in Nigeria, this is not the case.

PROCESS OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION TRIBUNAL			
 NIGERIA		VS	 KENYA
1	The petition challenging the results should be filed within 21 days from the declaration of the results by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).		The petition challenging the results should be filed within 7 days from the declaration of the results by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC).
2	The Tribunal Court has 180 days to determine a verdict from the day the petition was filed.		A pre-trial conference will be held 8 days from the date of filing the Presidential election petition.
3	The verdict of the tribunal (Court of Appeal) can be appealed and determined at Supreme Court within 60 days after the tribunal judgement.		Immediately after the pre-trial conference, hearing of the petition will take place in the Supreme Court. The decision of the court should be pronounced 14 days from the day the petition was filed.
4	The total petition has the life cycle of 240 days after being filed.		The total petition should be determined 21 days from the day it was filed.

However, we hope more of our political leaders will emerge through the ballot box and not court orders. The 2023 presidential election is February 25th, if you spend 240 days on election petition, **it would mean that the election outcome will be determined 5 months after the President is sworn in on May 29th.**



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Source: EiE Research