

PRESS RELEASE

APPEAL COURT JUDGEMENT - A MOCKERY OF DEMOCRACY

The Foundation for Good Governance and Development in Nigeria (FGGN) followed with keen interest the judgement passed by the Court of Appeal on the April 21st, 2007 presidential election involving the ANPP presidential candidate Major General Muhammadu Buhari (rtd), and AC candidate Atiku Abubakar. Following the condemnation (by both local and international observers) of the way the election was conducted, the judgment can best be described as a mockery of democracy. It also plays up the stereotype that incompetence and electoral fraud is acceptable in Nigeria.

Even President Musa Yar'Adua who is the greatest beneficiary of the elections, had on several occasions openly acknowledged the flaws in the elections. Yet the Presidential Election Petition Tribunal glossed over all this to the utter consternation of the general public. The way the judgement was passed by siding with technicalities shows that the so-called independence of the judiciary is still under threat more than four decades after political independence. It is amazing that after the embarrassment suffered by the country as a result of the elections, the Court of Appeal has now given a pass mark to Independent National Election commission (INEC). Now that the case has been taken to the Supreme Court, it is our hope that justice will be done. If the irregularities that characterised the 2007 presidential elections are allowed to stand, it means that there will be no any meaningful elections in Nigeria in the future.

If justice is not done on the 2007 presidential election petitions, then the credibility of the previous judgements that voided the elections of various governors and senators might be seen as an effort to generate the sympathy of the public and have a favourable public opinion, while in reality those judgements were meant to pave the way for the ratification of the flawed presidential election. The time for the judiciary to write its name in our history is now and no one is better placed to do so than the Supreme Court justices who will decide whether Nigeria will be liberated from the forces of self service, corruption and ineptitude in governance. The world is watching.

Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!

Long Live the Foundation for Good Governance and Development in Nigeria!!

For and on behalf of *the Foundation*:

Dr. Arabo Bayo
General Secretary
DrArabo@fggn.org
(Tel: +44 7900 588 384)

Dr Ibrahim Hassan
Chairman, Media & Publicity Committee
Ibrahim.Hassan@fggn.org
(Tel: +44 7852 269 689)

FGGN Secretariat
6 Lineker Close
Castlefield, Stafford
Staffordshire, ST16 1AL, UK
Tel: +44 1785 244 636 E-mail: Secretary@fggn.org, info@fggn.org
Website: www.fggn.org