

BAUCHI STATE

Bauchi State has an estimated 2.5 million voters in this election. Voters have become increasingly active and always insistent on waiting to defend their votes. They also seem to enjoy inflicting defeat on heavy weight politicians, including two sitting governors (Ahmadu Mu`azu and Isa Yuguda, who at different times lost senatorial bids).

The state was under the control of the PDP between 1999 and 2007. The defunct ANPP swept the state in 2007, but the major beneficiary, Yuguda, returned to the PDP later. In 2015, the APC took over. It is also significant to note that since 2003, Buhari has always won in Bauchi with at least a million votes, except in 2015 when he triumphed with over 900,000 but representing 92% of the votes cast.

The realities on the ground favour an APC victory in the presidential election. At least four major factors support this forecast:

1. The citizens of the state have been very happy with the Buhari government`s handling of the Boko Haram insurgency as pertained to the state. Since the ascension of the president there has been no single Boko Haram attack in the state. Normalcy has returned, people have virtually forgotten the whole sad Boko Haram issue.
2. President Buhari has appointed many indigenes of the state into choice positions, including Group Managing Director of NNPC, Controller General of the Nigerian Custom Service, Chief of Air Staff, Acting Chief Justice of Nigeria, Minister of Education, etc. Indeed, the state has never had it so good. The people of the state are likely to see 16 February 2019 presidential election as a payback time.
3. The opposition PDP has been seriously depleted. A number of key, influential leaders have switched camp to the APC, including the Deputy National Chairman (Babayo Gamawa), former National Chairman (Ahmadu Mu`azu), Isa Yuguda, Kaulaha Aliyu, etc.
4. Notwithstanding being a fellow North-Easterner, Atiku is seen as not a popular, or even likable, figure in Bauchi. The ordinary people are more likely to discuss him in terms of

his weaknesses and perceived failure to influence any major project in the region while he held sway as Vice President.

A fair assessment, based on the political history of Bauchi state, voting pattern since 1999, and perception of the leading candidates among the electorate, favours the incumbent, barring any, unexpected twist.



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The Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) was established in the United Kingdom in 1997 as an independent, not-for-profit, research training, advocacy and capacity building organization

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