

Battleground States in 2019 Elections.



BULLETIN ELEVEN | 15th February, 2019

KATSINA STATE

Katsina is Buhari`s home state, which gave him about 1.3million votes in 2015. Except in 2007 when another “homeboy,” Umaru `Yar`Adua, was on the ballot, Buhari has always taken Katsina - and very convincingly, too. The trend will likely continue in this election.

Atiku and PDP can, however, get something substantial. Former governor, Ibrahim Shehu Shema, is leading the PDP charge. Others in tow include Senator Ibrahim Tsauri and Garba Yakubu Lado Danmarke, National Secretary and gubernatorial candidate respectively. Activities of armed bandits, cattle rustlers and kidnappers in at least seven local government areas in the state have become a veritable source of fear, and the opposition have been latching on it to make a huge propaganda mileage. There have equally been loud murmurings of disapproval around the Karadua Zone of the state (the Funtua/Malumfashi axis) with the way and manner federal appointments were distributed – largely at their own expense – in spite of their support for the president. In addition, the age-old rivalry between the Katsina and Daura emirates has every now and again threatened to work against the president.

But then, Buhari is ably supported by Governor Aminu Bello Masari, Minister Hadi Sirika, gladiators such as Senators Abu Ibrahim and Ahmad Babba Kaita, former Senator Ibrahim Ida and a whole compliment of federal, state and local governments elected officials and appointees. Also, since 2015, the PDP in the state has been depleted with the exit of key leaders like Umar Tata Tsauri, former speaker Gojo-gojo and Muttaka Rabe Darma.

The real significance of Katsina State in the overall scheme of things lies in the huge – over three million votes – it can boast of - enough to tilt the pendulum one way or the other.



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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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