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INEC's Postponement of the February 16 2019 Presidential and National Assembly elections in Nigeria: Context, Controversies, and Consequences

BACKGROUND

- Nigeria has a current population of 198 million people (2018 estimated figure by the National Population Commission) and a total number of 88,004,084 registered voters.
- According to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), the 2019 general elections will be held in 116,973 polling units across the 36 States including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) in Nigeria with a total number of 116 domestic observer groups and 28 foreign observer groups accredited by INEC to monitor/observe the conduct of the elections.
- Postponement of scheduled elections in Nigeria has become a recurring practice since 2011. In 2011, the National Assembly election was postponed on the day of elections from April 2 to April 9th, due to late arrival of result sheets. Similarly, in 2015, the Presidential elections scheduled for

Less than six hours to the commencement of the February 16, 2019 Presidential election in Nigeria, the Independent National Electoral Commission's (INEC) Chairman, Professor Yakubu Mahmud issued a public statement on the postponement of the elections earlier scheduled for February 16 and March 2, 2019 for the National (Presidential and National Assembly) and the State elections (Governorship and State Assembly) respectively.

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