



---

Being the Text of the Special State Broadcast  
by  
His Excellency,  
**Mr. Biodun Oyebanji**  
Governor  
of  
Ekiti State, Nigeria  
**ON THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTION**  
**Government House | Ado-Ekiti | Wednesday, February 23, 2023**

---

1. Ekiti Kete, it is my delight to address you today as we prepare to elect the President and members of the National Assembly on Saturday, February 25, 2023.
2. This address has become even more imperative because of the twin challenges of fuel scarcity and cash crunch nationwide. Even though the fuel scarcity situation is improving, the problem of cash scarcity painfully persists as a result of the Central Bank of Nigeria's naira policy that has left many frustrated and distressed.
3. While the strategic suppositions and objectives behind the CBN policy are themselves commendable, there is no doubt that the implementation strategies have brought woes and agonies for our people. Unfortunately, all efforts to make the Bank change tact and offer relief to the suffering of our people, even while we keep an eye on the ball, have been unsuccessful.
4. But we cannot be powerless and helpless in the face of this excruciating suffering. We cannot just look at you suffer endlessly for your hard-earned



---

money. For, I see as you queue endlessly at ATM pay points without getting paid; I see pregnant women stressfully standing for hours on queues and never get paid. I see as sick people are unable to get cash to settle hospital bills even as electronic payment system frequently gets overwhelmed and failed.

5. Many go to ATM pay points with mats and blankets to keep vigil in the hope that the elusive cash may get loaded at night.
6. I sincerely feel your pains as you spend hours and days at the filling stations to get fuel, struggle to get cash but get none. While it is relieving that the fuel scarcity crisis is getting better, the price at which is dispensed is still a thing of concern to me personally.
7. As a concerned Government, we have joined other equally concerned States of the federation mainly APC-controlled States to institute a case, urging the Supreme Court to halt the policy. We are also urging the court to mandate the CBN to allow more time for exchange of old notes as permitted by the relevant laws.
8. We will do everything to ensure you do not lose your money and that the current policy that hoards cash and makes it inaccessible does not hurt you further.
9. I therefore want to appeal to you all to avoid any provocation or incitement to violence. We have it on good authority that some fifth columnists want to cash in on this widespread depressive moment to cause chaos in fulfilment of a grand plan to force the postponement of the election.



- 
10. We should do everything possible to maintain the peace even as we explore every legal and peaceful way to end the current agony. I urge you to remain calm and go about your business without any fear.
  11. Ekiti Kete, as we go to the poll on Saturday, February 25, 2023, it is imperative that I appeal to you to come out enmasse. We should not allow the current situation to discourage us from coming out to vote. Participation in the democratic process is a major citizenship obligation and I urge you to exercise your franchise judiciously. It was through a process like this that you elected me in June last and I was inaugurated in October.
  12. Since then, you can all attest to our government's unwavering commitment to our electoral promises. I am proud to let you know that the mandate you gave has translated into massive outcomes in road construction, restoration of power supply to some communities and human capital development.
  13. Similarly, we are lightning up all the major streets in Ado-Ekiti, just as we have reconnected many communities which were hitherto without electricity for some years.
  14. While many people have commended us for our modest achievements since we came on board, for us, whatever we have done is just a tip of the iceberg. We are just starting and I am sure with your support we will take Ekiti to an enviable position.
  15. One of the ways you can support us to do more is to empower us further. A major way to empower us is by voting massively for the presidential candidate of our party, the APC. He knows our situation, he understands our unique development challenges and shares our aspirations for increased revenue and economic prosperity. A vote for Asiwaju Bola



---

Ahmed Tinubu and all our National Assembly candidates is an arsenal of empowerment for our government and a shared prosperity for our people.

16. There is no doubt that a vote for Asiwaju Tinubu and all our candidates for the National Assembly election will serve our short and long term strategic development goals as a State. So, as you make your choice on Saturday, kindly consider the overriding Ekiti interest. This election should not be an emotional gamble game, it should be a calculated political investment plan for us as a people. It should be a fraternal solidarity vote for our geopolitical zone.
17. Finally, I appeal to the political class to pursue their political interest peacefully. We must all get committed to the peace of Ekiti State. I also appeal to the election management body, the security agencies and the stakeholders to ensure fair play, transparency and professionalism throughout.
18. I also call on our traditional rulers, religious, political and opinion leaders to use their influence to impress it on the youths especially, to avoid any activities that are capable of negatively impacting the process.
19. Thank you for listening. God bless

Long live Ekiti State.

Long live Federal Republic of Nigeria

**Biodun Oyebanji**

Governor, Ekiti State, Nigeria

Wednesday, February 23, 2023 | Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria