

# NIGERIAN HEADS OF STATE & PRESIDENTS SINCE INDEPENDENCE



- Queen Elizabeth II (Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor (April 21, 1926 - ))
- Represented by the governor general, Sir James Robertson (1899-1983)
- In office from October 1, 1960 - October 1, 1963.



- Chief Benjamin Nnamdi Azikiwe – (November 16, 1904 – May 11, 1996)
- In Office from November 16, 1960 - October 1, 1963 & from Oct 1 Jan 16, 1966.
- Overthrown in a coup d'etat by Major Chukwuma Kaduna Nzeogwu.
- The Prime Minister was Sir Tafawa Balewa who was assassinated



- Major General Johnson Aguiyi-Ironsi (1924-1966)
- In office from January 16, 1966 - 29 July, 1966.
- Assassinated in a coup d'état which brought in General Yakubu Gowon.



- General Yakubu Dan-yuma Gowon ( October 19, 1934 - ).
- In Office from August 1, 1966 - July 29, 1975.
- Deposed from Office in a bloodless coup which brought in General Murtala Mohammed



- General Murtala Rufai Ramat Muhammed (Nov 8, 1938-Feb 13, 1976)
- In office from July 29 till February 13, 1976.
- Assassinated in an abortive coup led by Lieutenant Colonel Buka Suka Dimka.



- General Olusegun Mathew Okikiola Aremu Obasanjo, GCFR, PHD.  
(March 5, 1937- )
- In Office from February 13, 1976 - October 1, 1979.
- Resigned and handed Power to the civilian government
- Marking the beginning of the Second Republic.



- Mallam Shehu Usman Aliyu Shagari, (Feb 25, 1925 – Dec 28, 2018)
- In Office from Oct 1, 1979 - Dec 31, 1983.
- Ran under the National Party of Nigeria.
- Relieved of Power in a Military coup on December 31, 1983 which brought in General Mohammadu Buhari.





- General Mohammadu Buhari, (Dec 17, 1942- )
- In Office from Dec 31, 1983 - Aug 27, 1985.
- Was in Power with a strong ally, by name late Major General Babatunde Abdulbaki Idiagbon.
- Was relinquished of Power on August 27 1985 in a bloodless coup led by General Babangida.



- General Ibrahim Babangida,( 1941 - )
- In Office from August 27,1985 till August 26, 1993.
- Resigned as a result of much pressure over the nullified June 12 Presidential election widely believed to have been won by **Chief Moshood Kashimawo Olawale Abiola**, a prominent Yoruba Chief and businessman, Publisher, Politician and an aristocrat of the Yoruba clan who was later honored as the Nigerian President-elect who was denied the Power to rule.
- Chief M.K.O Abiola was post –humously awarded the GCFR by President Muhammadu Buhari on June 6, 2018.
- June 12 was symbolically made as Nigeria’s democracy day.



- Chief Ernest Adegunle Oladeinde Shonekan, (May 9, 1936 - )
- In Office as an interim President from Aug 1993 - November 17, 1993 after General Babangida had “stepped aside”.
- Was forcefully relinquished of Power through a coup d’etat by General Sani Abacha.



- General Sani Abacha (1943 - 1998)
- In Office from Nov 17, 1993 - June 1998.

- His regime was marked with extreme dictatorship, human rights violations and abuse, listed as the fourth most corrupt leader in history.



- Gen Sani Abacha and his son Mohammed Abacha were said to have been involved in the Country's treasury looting,

- Almost 460 Billion US dollars were stolen and kept in off-shore accounts as revealed by the United States Department of Justice.



- General Abdulsalam Abubakar (born in 1942 - )
- Resigned in Office from June 8, 1998 – 1999.
- left Office on May 29, 1999 after handing Power over to a democratically elected head of State.



- General Olusegun Mathew Okikiola Aremu Obasanjo, GCFR, PH.D. (March 5, 1937 - )
- A former Military head of State
- Returned as a democratically elected President on May 29, 2007
- Served two terms in Office
- Finished duties as President on May 29, 2007.
- Served under the ticket of the People's Democratic Party.

- In his tenure as President, the Nigerian Economy improved significantly.
- He paid serious attention to the issue of the Nigerian Debt relief.
- Paid off the amount owed to the Paris Club in 2006.
- Reconsolidated the Banking sector which in turn impacted positively on the economy.
- The then Minister of Finance, Dr Mrs Okonjo Iweala was instrumental in the Obasanjo administration Finance and Economic policy and success.



- Umaru Musa Yar'adua ( 1951 – 2010).
- Was in Office from May 28,2007 - May 5, 2010.
- Flown out to Saudi Arabia for medical attention.
- Returned back to Nigeria, where he passed away on May 5,2010.
- Served under the ticket of The People's Democratic Party.





- Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan (1957 - )
- Assumed Office on May 5, 2010, after Late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.
- Previously, the former vice President Vice President to Umar Musa Yar'adua.
- Previously the governor of Bayelsa state from 2005 - 2007.
- Was in office till May 29, 2015.

- Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan's presidency was marred with serious corruption.
- Especially among some of his Ministers and Associates.
- Extreme huge sums were stolen from the Country's treasury.
- Grotesque unaccounted-for amounts were missing and were hidden in accounts off-shore.

- This uncontrolled and unchecked corruption was so much that it tainted and brought a negative image to the Jonathan administration.
- He was seen as not been able to clamp down on those involved in corruption under his watch.
- The issue of corruption and security matters among others infuriated many Nigerian voters.
- It led to his loss in the election that took place in 2015. He was in Office from May 5, 2010 till May 29, 2015.
- He ran under the ticket of the People's Democratic Party.
- He lost to General Muhammadu Buhari in the 2015 election.



- General Muhammadu Buhari GCFR, (Dec 17, 1942 - ), former Military Head of state.

- Came into Office on May 29, 2015 after several attempts

- attempted at Presidency from 2003, 2007 and 2011

- Won in the 2015 election under the ticket of the All Progressive Congress Party
- Defeating Former President Goodluck Jonathan of Peoples' Democratic Party, whose administration was seen as not been able to clamp down on corruption.
- This gave a strong advantage to the All Progressive Congress Party under whose flag Buhari was running
- He had 'Change' as his Campaign tag.
- He had three main objectives to work on as his promised goals
- namely: Security, Economy and Unemployment

- President Buhari's tenure has had him with serious health challenges, which needed medical attention.
- It made the President to spend over 100 days abroad to seek medical recovery.
- While away on medical leave, his duties were taken on by the Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo.
- The Buhari Administration is currently working on the issue of anti-corruption and economy.

- Significant sums have been retrieved from off-shore accounts which were stolen among others by Late General Abacha's treasury looting.
- The Former Finance Minister and former Chairman of the Board of African Export-Import Bank, Ms Kemi Adeosun, a University of East London & University of London graduate, who by Profession is a qualified Chartered Accountant was significant in the finance and economic Policy of the Buhari Administration.
- The Administration has not yet brought all the treasury Looters to book.(by Sept 2018).
- The role of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission is also significant in the quest of getting the Country's treasury looters to book and get the economy back on track.

- The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission is answerable to the President.
- It is a Nigerian Law Enforcement agency which is responsible for financial crimes.
- It investigates all forms of financial irregularities .
- It has investigated Bank executives and top Politicians.
- It has its headquarters in Abuja, Nigeria.
- The Buhari Administration is working on this matter.



- However, improved legislations & Education on financial crimes prevention is seriously needed.

- The Use of Technology to Prevent crimes as well as heightening financial accountability is highly recommended.

- Financial cyber crimes compulsory courses and qualification is another aspect that could be worked on much ahead to prevent possible future financial crimes with the use of Technology.

## Reference:

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Thank you!!!

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