

THE CHALLENGES AND PROSPECT OF FREE, FAIR AND CREDIBLE ELECTION IN NIGERIA. A THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

The study was to assess the challenges and prospect of free, fair and credible election in Nigerian context, last time the country conducted an election for contestants into various elective posts in 2015. The 2011 general elections characterize with violence before, during and after the election. The violence that took place especially after the presidential election was unique in the history of the Nigerian politics. The paper aims to consider the challenges of elections and identified the past mistakes of the electoral body in the previous elections and proffered solutions to avoid the future occurrence. The INEC as the electoral body has major functions to perform so also the party stakeholders as the major political actors in the electoral procedure have important roles to play in assuring violence free elections in Nigeria. The researcher used secondary source of data collection that is using documentaries and INEC annual reports. The study found out that in all the elections organized and conducted in Nigeria it was only 1993 and 2015 presidential election that was a free, fair, credible and acceptable election to some extent in the history of Nigerian politics. The presidential election of 2015 was a race between two powerful political parties themega opposition party, All Progressive Congress (APC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP). To explain this study, the researcher used system theory and structural functionalism theory. To overcome the occurrence of future elections violence in Nigeria, the government and party stakeholders must focus on these issues: such as ethnicity, religious attitudes regionalization of the political parties, political thugs and power incumbency that are an obstacle to free, fair and credible election in the Nigerian that are used in heating up the political institution and jeopardize free, fair and credible elections. To resolve these problems, the study suggested that the INEC should have full autonomy to discharge their duties without fear or favor. The paper concluded that if the recommended measures in the study are taken into consideration and implemented effectively, Nigeria can have free, fair and credible in subsequent elections.

Keywords: Free, Fair, Credible, Election, and Challenges.

1. INTRODUCTION

Election can simply be defined as the process people follow to elect or choose their representative in both federal, state and local government. However, the first election was

organized and conducted in Nigeria in 1922 by the British colonial government in response to the pressures by the nationalists who were agitating for better involvement in the colonial administration and leadership positions (Odo,2015).

Later Nigerian had series of elections, which include those organize by the British people, military and the civilian administration. After the series of elections by the colonial administration, Nigerians were offered the first opportunity to occupy certain political offices. Though the right for franchise was limited and representation was inadequate, it was nonetheless an achievement for the nationalists who struggled for the enthronement of democratic order as a pre-requisite for greater membership in the process of governance. In 1922, several elections were conducted in different parts of the country at both national, regional and local government levels, but none was recognized as free fair and credible in the Nigerian context.

In the work of Odo(2015), election in Nigeria can generally be classified into three viz: elections prepared by the colonial government, those prearranged by the military regimes and the ones prepared by civilian administration respectively. Among these three classes, it is understood that the elections organized by the civilian regimes were neither peaceful nor free and fair compared to the other two organized and conducted by the colonial government and the military administration except 2015 election which was organized by the civilian administration,

However, it was the 1959 General Elections that paved way for the emergence of Nigeria as an independent State. Since then, various elections have been held either in a transition from one civilian government to another or in the transition from military regimes to the civilian administration yet, Nigeria was unable to hold a free and fair election, because of some underpinning factors which includes; corruption, religion differences, ethnicity, regionalism and power incumbency. Though, International Observers Reported that 2015general election was considered as free and fair and credible election in the country to some extent compared to the previous election, like that was the presidential election that took place in 1993 and won by MKO Abiola. But the election result was nullified in June 1993 by the military government. Ekundayo (2015), rightly pointed out and acknowledged that, election is the heart of democracy in any given state and the democratization process. Many scholars share a similar consensus that election is the for a democratic political system, and the key to national development.

Moreover, (Diamond 2002and Luqman 2009). Opined that, election is very important in democratization process this is because it is only through election that people can choose those to represent them at all level. However, one important thing with election is that elections can hold without democracy, but democracy cannot operate without elections, with this it is clearly understood election is the heart of any democracy. Election process is very significant in democratic government because it is the procedure for choosing representatives, and the means of expressing people's views in democratic settings, it is one of the device for changing the government, election help people to decide who should rule them at all level (W. J. Ekundayo, 2015).

It is, therefore, surprising that the democratic process in Africa in general and the developing countries like Nigeria continued to derail and collapsed elections and the electoral process. This is because of numerous underpinning problem such corruption, religions factors, ethnicity, regionalization of the political parties and power of incumbency and the politics of God fatherism that has eaten deeply in to the Nigerian political structures and the inability of electoral bodies to conduct free, fair and credible elections (W. J. Ekundayo, 2015).

It has been observed by Ekundayo (2015), that right from military regime to the current administration, Nigerian's quests for real democratic governance which was challenged with many problems. The power of the electoral body is a main factor underpinning Nigerian democracy. After the 2011 general elections INEC was persistently worked to conduct free, fair, credible and acceptable elections in the subsequent elections, it may be said that at this moment the INEC has impressively prepared some essential devices for a successful and fruitful election. But with all the efforts of the INEC which is specially burdened with the job of organizing and conducting a credible election in Nigeria, still it is faced with numerous challenges which if care is not taken the work of the electoral organization to bring a satisfactory election results for the nation will not be truthful. Abubakar (2012), revealed that, the appointment of Professor Mohammed Attahiru Jegawas a sign of a new beginning for organizing a free, and credible election compared to previous elections. Likewise, adoption of the Direct Data Capture machines (DDCM) was destined to be used for the Voters Register, and update of all the qualified voters across the country. Despite all the pressures from the ruling party (PDP). INEC had conducted free and fair election in 2015 general election. After the successful tenure of Professor Mohammed Attahiru Jega, then, President Mohammad Buhari appointed Mahmood Yakubu as the new INEC Chairman in 2015, his appointment was a sign of positive changed to the next coming election in 2019.

Nigeria which is the Federal Republic encompassing 36 States and Federal Capital in Abuja. Nigeria is one of the African nations and shared a border with the of Benin Republic from the western part, Cameroon and Chad in the eastern axis, then Niger in the northern axis. Atlantic Ocean from the southern axis. However, Nigeria has a total area of 923,768km² with inhabitants of 174,507,539 National Population Commission NPC Report(2013). Nigeria falls between latitude 40 and 140 N and longitude 20 and 150 E Okechukwu, (2016).Nigeria is heterogeneous in nature with diverse ethnic groups and political motives extending from a separate viewpoint. Nigeria is one of the most populated country in Africa and the world's eighth-biggest oil producer, but its achievement has been destabilized in recent periods by cultural and spiritual battle, political uncertainty, corruption, widespread certified exploitation, and a fairly economy (Falola & Heaton, 2008).

2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

There have been criticisms from within and outside the country on how the INEC has been conducting general elections in Nigeria. The criticisms came from individuals, organizations and international community about the conduct of a free, fair and credible election in any nation. Nigeria is faced with many challenges before, during and after the election. The justification forNigeria and INEC. Is that looking at the economic position of Nigeria in African setting as the giant of Africa, its educational background, its population, the size of

the country, and how the nation is blessed with both human and materials resources. Yet it cannot organize and conduct free fair and credible election in the country. It is on this note that the study tried to identify and examine the factors or the challenges undermining free, fair and credible election in Nigeria.

3. METHODOLOGY

The methodology described the method used in the research work, such as rationale for adopting qualitative research, a description of the study area, type of data used, in this research, data was collected from past documents that contained findings which are related to Nigerian politics, elections, and democratic consolidation. For this research, the researcher used solely secondary sources of data collection. which include textbooks, INEC handbook, professionals' journals, newspapers/magazines, internet source, and articles etc. the researcher adopted content analysis, using thematic method(John W. Creswell, 2014).

4. CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION OF ELECTION

In talking about elections, the recent version of Encyclopedia of Social Science Vol. 5, defined the election as the process of combining preferences of a kind. In the modern world, elections have become the most suitable way of choosing leaders in any political system. Election in all democratic societies are usually organized and conducted by an approved institution that is guided by law, and central to the accomplishment of any democratic culture is a free, fair and credible election.

The election can also be defined as the process of choosing representatives in any political settings to hold positions of authority. The electorates can decide and choose among the available programs of participators. More so, played an important role in any given societies, for instance, Elections help in promoting public accountability and transparency(Omodia, 2009).

In writing on the challenges and prospects of free, fair and credible election, it is imperative to state that, the electoral process constitutes a vital organ in a liberal democracy and so it has the capacity to mark and make democracy to a large extent, elections and electoral observers help in sharpening the destiny of the contemporary states. In addition to this elections provide the means in which many interest groups within the recent nation state can take and determine their rights to power through diplomatic means Diamond (2002).

5. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

As there are many theories related to election matters, the researcher uses structural functionalism theory and system theory in explaining and discussing the subject matter of this research work. System theory as suggested by Adams Easton, system theory is an input – output method(Brian. C.; Bothamley, 2008). According to these theorist, it is the value of input invested in the society or organization that controls what the organization would realize. it is the argument of this theory that bad input will affect the electoral output negatively, so also, good input will affect the electorate output positively, to have effective election exercise in Nigeria. The electoral body should not politicized recruitment of permanent and the ad-hoc staff, etc. make sure the electoral body and some of the security agencies are not likely to

corruption which, will later affect the output of the election, the government should provide the electoral body with all the necessary election materials on time (Idowu, 2013).

The contention of the work that the government, should provide all the necessary election material to the INEC to enable the electoral body distributes the necessary Materials to the various polling units. Security agent should also be provided in large number in order to discharge their duty without fair or favor and to ensure free fair and credible election in Nigeria, is related to theoretical postulation of structural functionalism (Idowu, 2010).

The theoretical expectations of this study are link to the theory of structural functionalism. As a construct, this theory has two important concerns. On one side, it is concerned with the group in the society in terms of the association amongst different parts that make up the whole society Remigios (2010). On the other part, it is also concerned with how the electoral body function to ensures the welfare of the citizens and survival of democracy in any given society (Idowu, 2010).

6. THE CHALLENGES OF FREE, FAIR AND CREDIBLE ELECTION IN NIGERIA

Nigerian is faced with a lot of problems and challenges when it comes to election and electoral process. What wronged with Nigeria electoral procedure is the will to get influence by all means not thinking of the of the interest of the general populous, all the ruling party want to hold power for life because of personal interest, to achieve this, they plan out their approaches that will allow them manipulate the election results by hook or crook, this is most of the politicians considered politics as do or die affairs, and it is peculiar with the developing nations in general and Nigeria in particular this is because some elected leaders comes out amenably to declared their positions to contest and win at all cost.

In 2007 campaign the former president Chief Olusegun Obasanjo openly stated that “PDP will surely produce the next President no matter how” so, also in the states many governor said same because of power incumbency (Samuel and Godwyns 2013). In 2015 president Good Luck Ebele Jonathan said same, with these, one will quickly deduced that election process and the INEC were been politicized by the ruling party. Samuel and Godwyns (2013), observed that, the electoral body is also contributing to lack of credible and fair election in the country, this is because the INEC was dancing to the tone of the ruling party. However, any candidate been nominated by the ruling party into any position either he is qualified or not the electoral body will just declare him as the winner of the election, in this respect the role of electoral body is to bring and favored aspirant of the ruling partyas the winner of the election. But it has been disclosed by the international observers that the 2015 general election which was organized and conducted by the civilian administration is characterized as one of the free fair and credible election to some extent.

According to (Samuel, Felix, and Godwyns, 2013), election and political ferocity in Nigeria started in 1959 elections which was planned by the colonial government to ease the change from British administration to liberation, that was the foundation of the Nigerian electoral problems and the trials of free, fair and credible election.

The challenges of election in Nigerian strengthened with the 1964 elections. The electoral process was so flagrantly abused that the results were rejected by the opposition party, in the

western part of the nation, this led to violence, the conditions gave escalated to killings of innocent lives, looting, burning of public asset, huge demolition of belongings and interruption of law and order past the power of the central government. At the end state of emergency was accordingly forced in the western region which the Prime Minister, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, declared the region as “wild-wild-west” (Odo, 2015).

The strength of the electoral ferocity subsequently in 1964 general elections underpinned the legality of the new civilian government, a situation which culminated in the military incursion into Nigerian politics in January 1966 in a coup d'état. From then on, the military held on to power for over three decades barring some intermittent civilian rules. Military rule was a monumental disaster for Nigerian politics. Despite the country's huge people and material power, yet, Nigeria under military rule had all the characteristics of unsuccessful state.

Under the military, Nigeria was an exile nation in the international community. In view of the dirty record of military rule, there was a high expectation in the country that the new democratic government ushered in 1999 should work instantly to improve and provide all the necessary social services to the people. And this will help in achieving free, Fair and Credible Election in the nation, Nigerians expected that the end of the military authoritarian rule would lead to a drastic reduction in corruption, criminality and wanton violation of human rights (Agbese and Udogu 2005). Yet, corruption, criminality, and violation of a human right are always increasing in the civilian administration than the military rule. In addition to this people were expecting that public services such as schools, hospitals, water supply electricity, roads among others, which had been left in a state of utter disrepair by the military government, would be rehabilitated to its proper shape to provide needed social services to the public. Yet only a few was accomplished in the last civilian administration. In short, Nigerians were looking forward on how the public resources would be used for the benefit of the people and not for the illegitimate and primitive accumulation of wealth by those in power. However, the happiness of the civilian rule has turned into a huge anger and frustration. Nevertheless, after a long time of military administration that persisted for thirteen years, the military government agree to hand over the mantle of leadership to democratically elected government in 1979. The constitution 1979 was later drafted and the prohibition on partisan politics was elevated, which later gave room for the registration of five political parties namely: The Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN); Peoples Redemption Party (PRP); National Party of Nigeria (NPN); the Nigeria Peoples Party (NPP); and the Great Nigeria Peoples Party (GNPP). The Federal Electoral Commission (FEDECO) was recognized to organize and conduct elections at all levels of government. The major issue in the 1979 elections was the controversial question of what constitutes two-third (2 /3) of 19 states, which was fixed by the Supreme Court in favor Alhaji Shehu Aliyu Shagari of the NPN Presidential candidate, (Odo, 2015). In 1999 another set of political parties was set up to participate in the election.

Though, all the elections that took placed in the 1983 at all levels were a whole copy of the 1964 elections. Similarly, the political violence that engulfed the 2003, 2007 and 2011 general elections have posed serious challenges to democracy and good governance in

Nigeria. The political weather has been very aggressive, annoyingly uncertain and unbalanced. (Odo, 2015)

6.1 Bribery and Corruption as a Factor underpinning Free, Fair and Credible Election

Bribery is another factor underpinning the nascent democracy and it has entered into the electorate system, a lot of people are involve in corruption directly or indirectly by taking or given unlawful gratification from the politicians thereby marketing their political right as well as their votes, however, all this is as a results of the poor economic situation that is not favorable to the people, many people are dying of starvation in their communities this is because of the negative attitudes of the politicians which led to the high level of corruption that is currently affecting the general public in the nation. This problem of election violence and rigging was available in the previous election some individuals even are involved in illegal thumb printing on ballot papers over the night before the commencement of the election, in this form of election rigging the INEC official are mostly involve in the business by providing the contestants with voting materials in a secret place. Nevertheless, some resident electoral commissioners visit the contestant (Politician) in their zone of authority as a mark of faithfulness to clear road for the proper flow of their personal gain(Samuel et al., 2013).

Political Thugs: Political Thugs are on increase every day among the youths this is because of illiteracy, poverty and inadequate employment opportunities for the youth which was artificially created by the politicians. All the politicians have their political thugs that are hired to disrupt election by causing confusion during and after the election, in addition to that they still involve themselves in stealing the election materials. However, most of these political thugs are unemployed adolescences who want to earn a living by hook or crook, at the same time they are use in doing some negative political activities ranging from political assassination, stealing of ballot box or ballot papers political rallies and disobedient to the electorates and the INEC officials. The government is pleasing such youth to cease from such wicked act or inhuman behaviours that will jeopardize the success of the election in every part of the country. Most are time these political thugs will be dump after winning the election, they cannot remember them in enjoying the dividend of democracy until after four years when the election comes. It is high time for the youths to reason and protect their votes, right, democracy and the nation at large(Samuel et al., 2013).

However, there was a serious misconduct in Nigeria's past election in 1999, 2003,2007 and 2011 most of the politicians are in doubt on if Nigeria would achieve a free and fair election. In 2007 general elections, the election was extremely faulty (Human Rights Watch, 2007). The international observers have predicted this even Before the commencement of the election several influential people analyze their interests and change their sectarian positions

In some states in the country, ballot papers were distributed late to the polling units. In the southern Niger Delta zone and some part of the Northern states, political thugs stole the election materials and substituted it with thumbprint ballot papers and other ballot boxes to win the election at all cost. Despite assurances by the Inspector General of Police that all the necessary security measures will be taken to ensure free and fair election in the nation. Yet some candidates from the opposition party were stressed or detained by the political thugs,

voters were destabilized by the political gangs, and more than 300 people were killed (Bratton, 2008).

6.2 Problems Faced After 2011 General Elections

Most are times people do said history repeats itself but on the contrary, it is people and INEC that do not learned from the past mistakes. As the INEC conducted another round of elections to usher in a new government, through free, fair and credible election what assurances do we have for the Nigerians that the past mistakes that happen before and after 2011 will not repeat its self? What do we need to do to avoid the damage that was unleashed on the northern parts of the country and Akwa Ibom following the release of the results 2011 presidential election results? As Nigeria awaits to see the effort of the new INEC Chairman in the next coming general election in 2019, this is because several people were wounded because of the political conflict after the announcement of the election results (Odo, 2015).

Odo (2015), further disclosed that, hundreds of the lives lost in 2011 general election never be brought back and the wounds never fully healed. Thousands of businesses men lost their shops, only few could re-start the business. In addition to these hundred residential buildings destroyed by the political thugs are yet to be re-built. Most places of worship that were destroyed are yet to be rebuilt due to inadequate assistance from both the federal, state local governments and some other agencies to those affected.

The post-2011 election crisis in Nigeria, especially that of the president was among the worst in the nation political history. In response to the question on how the ugly incidences can be averted in the subsequent general elections, the study argued that all the major stakeholders in the electoral process must work according to the rules and regulations as stipulated in the electoral and Nigerian constitution. The politicians, for instance, must focus on issues and character and restraint from flogging up ethnic, religious and sectional opinions for separating the electorates along those divides (Odo, 2015)

To have free fair and credible election the incumbent candidates seeking re-elections should give a good account of their stewardship on these environmental variables while new entrants should have convincing agenda and programs of how they intend to tackle the problems on the ground. The incumbent must also relinquish his/her office at least six months to election to enable him/her to get prepare for re-election and to reduce the rate of election rigging and violence. The resources of the political parties and the candidates in terms of leadership quality, integrity and internal democracy of the parties are no less important as they determine to a large extent the capacity and ability of a party in power to address the problems of election malpractice in the country.

7. MAJOR FINDINGS

The study found out that 1993 and 2015 presidential election was the freest, fair, credible and acceptable election in the history of Nigerian politics to some extent. The presidential election of 2015 was a race between two powerful political parties the mega opposition party, All Progressive Congress (APC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP). The APC was established from a fusion of three strong political parties namely: - the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) the Congress for Progressive Change

(CPC), and a bloc of All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA). The strength of APC is not that it offered anything different or new from the PDP. There is no material difference between the two. The difference between the two is like the difference between one dozen and 12 dozen Adibe (2015). The distinctiveness of APC is that it is the first time in the history of Nigeria's politics that some powerful opposition parties fused together to build a strong political party to face the ruling party in the 2015 general election, which eventually succeeded in winning the election. According to Adibe (2015), the glue that hold the APC together could be either an coalition and wish to protect Nigerians from PDP "maladministration"; or hoping to "bring" power to the north or people are tight with President Jonathan administration. Given these similarities between the two political parties, the likely issues that will drive the campaigns of both parties might include the following: Region and Religious Division: The problem of ethnicity, religion and regional politics, has entered deeply in Nigerian politics. As Adibe (2015), rightly observed, almost every states in the nation has an established reminiscence of upset or moods of unfairness, which they need to be addressed if one of the opposition party win power at the center, particularly the presidential seat. Also, there is a universal anxiety that the winner of the presidential sit will use the power vested in him to promote his religion and favour his region or ethnic group, if not to intentionally sideline those that are from a different political region or party (Odo, 2015).

7.1 The Role of an Electoral Management Body:

For any nation to have free, fair and credible election, the electoral body should exercise the following functions (Ekundayo, 2015; Musa, 2001; Okoh, 2005).

- ✓ Proper management of all the election activities as stipulated by the rule of law
- ✓ Registration of the accepted political parties based on constitutional provisions.
- ✓ Monitoring, supervising, and evaluating the activities of political parties including their finances issues.
- ✓ Arranging and ensuring accountability of all expenses encountered by the political parties through the publishing of the report on such expense to the general public.
- ✓ Provision, maintenance, and display of voters register for election under the laws of the country.
- ✓ Observing all political activities including campaigns and rallies as in the Nigerian constitution.
- ✓ Make sure that all the INEC staff and non-permanent staff should pledge to the oath of the electoral body as stipulated in constitution.

7.2 The Major Requirements For free fair and Credible Election:

One most important organ for credible elections; is the independent of the judges, a well-organized political party in the country. Whereas a well-organized system is the essential device for viable elections, and an independent judge is essential for the firmness and resolution of democratic conflict, INEC has the utmost power to organize and carryout the

election. This is because the quality and reliability of every election are based on the capability of the organizing body (Edigheji; Yaqub; W. J. Ekundayo, 2015).

7.3 The INEC Should be provided with Adequate Election Materials on time

This will save time in distributing the necessary election materials to the various polling units and commence the election exercise on time as stipulated in the INEC constitutions this can, however, reduce the rate of election rigging, violence and the manipulation of the election results etc.

7.4 The Role of the Media

However, media has an important role to perform in ensuring free, fair and credible in election. Most people hear about issues, personalities and events carried out by the media. The media has, therefore, the authority to enlighten the public on what is happening in the society because they are the most important source of information and knowledge. The media must display rightful information and they must avoid false or harmful reporting and adhere to right information (Odo, 2015).

7.5 Money and the Power of Tenure should be controlled by the government

Still, money and power tenure should be controlled by the government, this is because the utmost power of all the ruling parties is the “power of incumbency,” and the backing of some institutions. Such as the police, anti-corruption body like ICPC and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), army and the police are used to attack the opposition parties before and after the election. in order to have free and fair election the government should enact a law that all those incumbent should resign their position at least six months before the election if they really want to recon test for that position (Odo, 2015).

7.6 The Independent of the Electoral Body

The electoral body should be given full autonomy to discharge its duties without fear, to achieve this, money meant for the Commission should be kept in a consolidated account. In addition to this, electronic voting should be introduced and properly implemented to reduce the rate of election rigging. The electronic voting will, however, make counting and recording of the casted votes easy, transparent and scientifically proven. This process will, therefore, minimize the degree of manipulation of election result at all level. It will also create confidence, trust, and hope among Nigerians. Also, the introduction of the electronic voting system will no doubt reduce the election cost and increase the authenticity of the election results.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ To have a free, fair and credible election in Nigerian the electorate needs to have optimum use of their political power.
- ✓ Significantly, INEC should try as much as possible to maintain standard and work according to the guidelines of the game [Electoral Act 2010] by keeping the beat and closely nursing as well as guaranteeing that all devices are put in place and working towards an effective election that will yield free, fair and credible as well as acceptable election results to Nigerians and international society at large.

- ✓ There is a need for government to enlighten the public on the importance of education, this will enable the electorate to know their right and privileges.
- ✓ Government should establish Electoral Crime commission and give them the independent authority to arraign anybody involves in election misconduct.
- ✓ The electoral body should be provided with the election materials on time to avert the problem of late distribution, and late submission of the election results.
- ✓ The INEC should give ample time to the electorate to enable all the electorates to cast their votes.
- ✓ Government should provide tight security during and after the election in order not to encounter previous mistakes.
- ✓ The adoption of the Card Reader will help in overcoming the problem of election malpractice in Nigeria.

9. CONCLUSION

Election is one of the prominent determinants of the good elected government. Nigeria, face a lot of problems, challenges, abuses and gross violation of its rules and regulation. Though it has been understood that the security agencies and mass media play a vital role to the success of every election in Nigeria if they are given the power to do so. For any election to be credible it requires high level of impartiality, awareness, and assurance of security agents to control the situation, and to ensure safety of the electorates, election materials and aspirants. The Nigerian Police are not operative in discharging their responsibilities, for ensuring the security of all during and after the election. Some police even adopt the habit of lesser faire attitudes to the progress of the election. To have and fair election the nation the government should adhere to the above mention recommendations.

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