

AN EXPLORATION OF THE 2019 GENERAL ELECTIONS IN NIGERIA: A REVIEW OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

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ABSTRACT: *Elections in Nigeria, particularly from 1999 after the armed forces hand over to a democratically elected government, the political authority have continued to be the foremost system of accomplishing justifiable ruling. Nigerian electoral system has been modeled after American democratic system. However, whether this electoral replica has improved democratic system in Nigeria and Africa as a whole is controversial. It must be clearly stated that ballot snatching, vote buying, distribution of food items for the purposes of winning elections always occur and the 2019 general elections is not an exception. Hence, the main focus of this article is to analyze the synopsis of elections in Nigeria and review the legal framework. From this point of view, a resonance electoral progression is intended to accomplish four essential objectives which are accountable and responsible leadership, openness, communal fairness and a passionately partaking electorate. The western world from where Nigeria copied its electoral system has significantly perfected the procedures desirable for their own environment to accomplish the aforementioned objectives while Nigeria is still battling to achieve the aforementioned goals as evidenced from numerous election Petitions that trails every election. The methodology adopted is doctrinal and the secondary research method involving the use of published scholarly books, journals, internet materials, daily newspapers, magazines and encyclopedia. At this juncture, the research recommended among other things that the electoral sanity can be accomplished through developing fundamental apparatus such as the tenet of law, parliamentary sovereignty and headship that reverence public views.*

KEYWORDS: *elections, electoral law, reformation, snatch, ballot boxes, life*

INTRODUCTION

Across the world, voting is looked upon as the empathy of democratic system. A convincing election not simply bestows authenticity on political headship, it is as well critical to the nourishment of self-governing arrangement. Election makes a nation with the autonomy to decide their leaders and to make a decision on municipal course of action. Beneath whichever self-governing structure, populace who are lawfully knowledgeable to implement authorization are makes available with opening to decide political substitutes and to put together resolutions that put across their predilections. In a multi-party state, this option is prepared out of the quite a lot of parties and contestants challenging the electoral procedure. In the recent definition, election is seen as a “legitimizing organization, accomplishment to present voted privileged the resources to

preside over.” (Schlozman and Verba, 1987). Diamond et al (1989) illustrate that democratic system as supremacy replica to facilitate and convenes three essential circumstances: rivalry in the midst of persons and political assembly; comprehensive structure of management employment; and subsistence of a government of civil-political privileges. These circumstances give emphasis to the significance of election in cooperation as a command authenticator and as an underwriter of resident contribution in communal domination.

Voting symbolizes the livelihood of contemporary democratic structure with the regularity, equality and frankness of the particular voting is critical to the government steadiness of the state. The measure to which voting proceed self-governing array depends in huge division on the on hand electoral structure, its character and its reception through the participants in the electioneering progression. Electioneering structure comprises of a “composite of regulations and set of laws that preside over the compilation of officeholders” (Nnoli, 2003) in a self-governing circumstance. The option of a meticulous electioneering structure does not merely contain a thoughtful consequence on the parliamentary being of a nation; it as well allocates expenses and reimbursement to parliamentary players. Scheming a probable and comprehensive electoral administration is an indispensable venture in every democratic system whether intermediary or strengthens. Whilst in support of the previous, the dispute is to devise an electioneering administration which ensembles their societal and chronological circumstances, for the final, it is to re-create their electoral structures to take action to novel parliamentary authenticities and tests. The subsistence of a practicable electioneering structure is critical to the continued existence of every democratic system. But prior to the 2019 general election, INEC has before now conquered a number of the legal and managerial disputes such as the disagreement concerning the ordering of elections following anticipated modifications to the 2010 Electoral Act by the National Assembly which the president in power declined to consent as well as financial support as a consequence of the delayed passage of its budget. This paper thus analyses the electoral laws and the conduct of elections in Nigeria.

METHODOLOGY

The doctrinal approach was used to analyse the Legal framework on election in Nigeria. The qualitative technique was also adopted by relying on information from secondary sources. A number of these sources are: published books, journal articles, newspaper materials, internet publications, encyclopedia e.t.c.,. These sources of information are utilized to investigate the electoral laws and the conduct of elections and to determine the way forward in Nigeria.

Elections and Electoral Commissions in Nigeria

Voting is fundamental to politics of the contemporary epoch particularly beneath the “third gesture” of democratic system (Jega, 2015, 2013; Ojo, 2002; Huntington, 1991; Momah, 2016; Haynes, 2012; Obianyo, 2008). Through the intermediary episode “elections will not just be an establishment rock nevertheless a solution producer in due course of additional self-governing transformations” (Carothers, 2002:8). A number of spectators have squabbled that customary voting and the connected social freedoms and political privileges being practiced in novel democratic system such as Nigeria are a sign of self-governing development and hopefulness (Lynch and Crawford, 2011; Agbu, 2016; Uddhammar et al, 2011; Bratton, 2004; Posner and

Young, 2007). In Nigeria just like in many African countries, electoral rivalry is becoming further widespread (Weghorst and Lindberg, 2011). Customary carrying out of ballot voting is not merely “fundamental to democratization”, however in addition “put in to the maturation of promising self-governing traditions” (Bratton, 2004:155). Just as Lindberg declares, “a never-ending succession of aggressive elections instills the public with convinced self-governing character- that is contribution, rivalry and authenticity” (Lindberg, 2006b:139). Regrettably, “in Nigeria, nevertheless, election is one of the major tribulations of the self-governing progression” (Omotola, 2010:535). Carrying out open and reasonable elections has for all time been a difficulty that intimidate the awfully continued existence of the nation and question the significance of democratic system (Agbu, 2016). Without a doubt, the troubles connected with voting have unswerving routine of self-governing organizations (Wapmuk, 2016). The administrations in Nigeria recognize that, the disagreements over exceedingly manipulated elections have been the forebear to political aggression and unsteadiness in Nigeria (FGN, 2014b).

Substantiating the beyond, the past Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission {INEC} in Nigeria declares:

“A sequence of poorly carried out elections might generate continuous political unsteadiness and with no trouble turn around the grows of democratization... it could be squabbled that the penalty of poorly carried out elections and inadequately administered electoral progressions are most important causative reasons to armed forces interregnum in Nigeria’s political times past” (Jega, 2015:2). This is frequent principally in emergent nations where inadequately carried out elections have turn out to be a foremost reason of the confusion that has overwhelmed a lot of countries in modern period (Jega, 2013). Without a doubt, the disintegration of Nigeria preceding democracies (1st, 2nd and 3rd) is in a number of traditions not independent to the tribulations of voting conduct.

In consequence, the eminence of voting has been the apprehension of intellectuals, policy-makers and practitioners. This initiative is to establish or differentiate among legitimate, open and reasonable or trustworthy balloting and a voting which is conflicting (Bland et al, 2013). This can be unavoidably connected in traditions than solitary to the capability and potential of the Electoral Administration Institution, that settle on significantly not merely the trustworthiness of the electioneering progression nevertheless as well the sustainability of democratic system on the lengthy lope (Omotola, 2010, 2011; and Jinadu, 1997).

According to Momah (2016), it is pragmatic with the aim of the majority of Nigerians deem that electoral commissions are fundamental to the tribulations connected with the carrying out of elections in Nigeria. Also the past Head of State Jonathan (2013) decides to substantiate the view expressed above that, the potency and staying authority of our democratic system is reliant on how greatly we... put together a political tradition of open and fair electoral competitions. In the same way, the Electoral Reform Committee (ERC) observe Nigeria’s electioneering agenda and progression with the aim to humanizing the superiority and principles of electioneering squabbles that: *open and just voting are the foundation of all democratic system and the most important instrument for practicing the rule of autonomy of the citizens. In the course of such elections, populace contribute in the ascendancy of their nation... through their selections, the populace bestow authenticity and influence on those who administer... Open and plausible elections are consequently a vital obligation for superior supremacy in every democratic system* (ERC, 2008:1).

What is pertinent is that, voting and the organization that accomplish the electioneering progressions are not merely significant to the whole self-governing structure nevertheless also draw noteworthy notice for the reason that they make possible the progression of legitimizing management. This they perform in the course of voting progressions and make possible the methodical achievement and convey of political authority (Oche, 2016:123). On the other hand, the electoral progression in Nigeria is overwhelmed in the midst of a dispute that not merely encroaches essentially on the capability of the electoral body to carry out plausible elections nevertheless in addition weaken democratic system in the nation (Jega, 2015:1).

Electoral Process in Nigeria

As emphasized by Elekwa (2008:30), the election progression transmits to the complete series varying from the stipulation of electorate tutoring to the termination of the National Congress. In addition, INEC (2006), as stated in the study by Elekwa (2008), ousts that the dissimilar segments of the electioneering progression comprise the subsequent: Boundary of electioneering limitations, Listing of electorate, Giving date of elections, Recommendation of contestant, Election rallies, Voting, pronouncement of outcome and conclusion of court sessions, partaking of further institutions, declaration of electoral clashes ensuing from the involvement of other organizations, citizens, groups, and so on.

The electioneering progression is consequently a multifaceted procedure which covers the excellent purposes as well as detrimental results of election organization, predominantly in up-and-coming democratic system where wide-ranging elections are frequently flawed by racially tinged electoral misconduct. In the case of Nigeria, the reality vestiges that the electioneering progression is enormously differentiated through traditions of electioneering misconducts. Ezeani (2004) define electioneering misconducts as the irregularities entrusted via regime officers accountable for the carrying out of balloting, political groups, assemblages or persons in the midst of threatening purpose to manipulate a ballot vote in supports of a contestant or contestants. Extreme electoral misconducts frequently result to electoral aggressions which in all polity have to be measured detrimental.

Obliquely, voting is a progression and not an occurrence. It engages in cooperation regulations and organizations. Lending credibility to the aforementioned, Jinadu give details that through election progression: *Is destined the regulations measures and actions connecting to amongst a number of few, the institution of electoral organizations, the selections of their associates, listing of electorate, recommendation of nominees, voting, counting of the votes, announcement of outcome, collection and education of electioneering officer, electorate boundary, elector schooling and in a number of instances, listing of political groups and administration of political group recommendation assemblies* (Jinadu, 1997:2). Correspondingly, Momah (2016) remarks that voting as a progression go beyond actions which are conducted on the election date. To him, assessment and elucidation of voting ought to be comprehensive to comprise lawful and legitimate structural design and actions which acquire position prior to, during and subsequent to voting date. In his expressions, voting as a progression: *engrosses the contribution made by populace through work of choosing by ballot their rulers and the contribution they make in authority. Voting is not essentially regarding voting date actions, even though it outlines an significant constituent. It*

covers actions previous to, during and subsequent to elections. It comprises the lawful and legitimate construction of ballot votes; listing of political groups; political crusades; actions of safety organizations and regime in authority. It comprises genuineness and legitimacy of electorate inventory. It comprises the self-government or be deficient in the electoral organizations and subdivisions. It comprises the emancipation or else of political progressions in the nation and sovereignty associated with arbitration groups in ballot vote (Momah, 2016:40).

Since the categorization above, electioneering progression is a succession of proceedings which bring into being impressive or that show the way to a scrupulous consequence or conclusion. It is more often than not a multifaceted and unwieldy progression in particular in emergent countries similar to Nigeria with elementary improvement of political arrangements and organizations as well as stumpy political customs.

Learning from the understanding of previous elections carried out in Nigeria, it was understandable to all and sundry that INEC deal with a number of the logistics dispute it bump into in the preceding polls in the 2019 general election, when supplies for the election were conveyed to every States and the FCT and movement to the Local Government Areas were without problem as every supplies and significant workforce arrived at the Registration Area Centres (RACs) that made the majority of the polling centre to open by 8.00 am (Leadership Newspaper, 2019). In addition to elections into 1,558 positions countrywide, the Commission carries out complementary elections in 14 States of the Federation covering 7 Senatorial Districts and 24 Federal Constituencies. Elections in the pretentious areas were interrupted primarily by proceeds of brutality concerning ballot box grabbing, kidnapping of INEC officers, over voting and the disappointment to stick on to set of laws and guiding principle (Leadership Newspaper, 2019). The figure of registered electorate in the polling centre concerned in every constituency was additional than the votes acknowledged by the contender with the utmost number of votes.

Political Participation and Electorate Turn-out in Nigeria

Political involvement is a participation of the general public in political and particularly, electioneering progressions, that is an elementary prerequisite for all-encompassing democratic system. Powell (1982) view electioneering involvement as one out of the three most important pointers of self-governing presentation. Regrettably, there has been an inclination of moribund electoral attendance and via and great, a stumpy altitude of political involvement of the preponderance democratic system, including Nigeria. Quite a number of Nigerians are unsympathetic in political and predominantly, electoral subjects. This enlightenment as described through Dahl and Stinebrickner, (2005), possibly will result that, citizens are no longer through character civic-minded individuals. A lot of a good number authoritative wishes and the foundation of a lot of our tougher indulgences could be drawn to prehistoric and unrelenting natural and mental forces. Remarking regarding the intensity of ideological indifference demonstrated through Nigerian populace in the elections carried out in 2011, the Chairman of INEC, Prof. Jega bewailed: "That there subsists electorate "indifference in Nigeria is no longer controversial. Electorate attendance in the general elections had made available a methodical and experimental confirmation of electorate" lack of concern and fair-mindedness of segments of the voters in voting..." (Odebode, 2011).

Moreover, the 2019 general elections draw some comparatively advanced amount of political involvement than the previous elections held in Nigeria right from independence in 1960. This is as a result of a number of reasons, prominent amid which is the increase in the usage of social media that has been observed to have undeviating connotations for political involvement and socialization. It is consequently anticipated that the 2019 elections observe a most favorable height of political involvement as was the case through the 2015 elections notwithstanding the February 16 rescheduling. Quite a number of Nigerians, who previously articulated concern over the Commission's deed, flocked to their polling centers in numbers to put into effect their franchise on the novel dates for the elections that were fixed as February 23 for presidential and national assembly elections and March 9 for governorship and state assemblies' elections. The presidential elections witnessed great attendance of electorate in every part of the country. At the end, serving President Muhammadu Buhari emerged frontrunner, polling 15,191,847 despite the fact that the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate Alhaji Atiku Abubakar polling 11,262,978 to emerged second (Punch Newspaper, 2019).

Generally, Amdi, (2014), Vergne, (2009), and Falade, (2014) have acknowledged a number of reasons which manipulate political involvement and elector attendance. According to Vergne, (2009) the predictable benefit of ballot vote depends on a number of criteria'. Exceptionally outstandingly is that, based on the guiding principle correspondence that the people entitled to vote desire to be engaged and the political groups or rulers they desire to put in authority. This entails that, without doubt there ought to be at slightest a political group contributing the category of contestants and guiding principles which the electorate like better, or else they will not gain from the voting and nonparticipation will be coherent to them. Without a doubt, whilst there is no guiding principle put together or person in charge that petition to the populace, they merely presently stay missing on Election Day.

Considerably, Amdi (2014) recognizes the organizational understanding of the Nigerian nation been a foremost reason for stumpy elector attendance. He continues that, the autonomous progression and political involvement in Nigeria is a knowledge lone and this is thus for the reason that, the autonomous configurations and organizations are extremely flimsy and attached with stumpy intensity of self-governing customs of the populace ensuing from extensive years of armed forces totalitarianism. These breakable self-governing configurations have affected the political progressions in this manner, dropping the gauge of self-assurance in the political progression through the populace. This has to a great degree affected the level to which they can partake in a political structure. In his own opinion, Falade (2011) declares that in Nigeria politics is predisposed via wealth, tribal and spiritual features. In view of the fact that in 1960 Nigeria became self-government he sustains, spiritual and racial political beliefs differentiate electioneering progression and it is for the reason it accomplished amid resentment, detestation and acrimony. The resultant consequence is the unconcerned and unreceptive sensation of the populace foremost to stumpy elector attendance.

Once more Falade (2008) states that deceitfulness and discontented guarantees by political privileged furthermore disheartened an integral of Nigerians population from partaking in electioneering progressions. He squabbles that, political office holders craft pledges all through voting crusades. A good number of these pledges are over and over again not satisfied after they

have been voted in to authority and as a consequence a lot of electorate mislay concentration in elections and by and large turn out to be unsympathetic.

Use of Technology in the Conduct of Election in Nigeria

The significance of Information Technology in human civilization can by no means be demoted. The uses of information technologies in current period have turn out to be foreseeable and elementary to functions and actions of institutes and the world. Information technology is a subject of endeavor and learning that comprises computers, nonessentials, software, and links to wireless network principally for information dispensation and connections purposes. This conception directs to the reality that Information and Communication Technology entails the bringing into play of computer software and hardware to development data for either confidential or communal utilization (Kroeker, 2010). Investigation made by Ejikemejombo (2015) reveal that the use of Information and Communication Technology in voting has eradicates the occurrence of manifold listing that had become one of the most important political apparatus for manipulating voting via unprincipled and terrible politicians. Even though, according to Esan and Ayeni (2017) it can be described that Nigeria before now was not able to meet up with global customary for the stipulation of practicable, triumphant and by and large established electoral arrangement of democratic system owing to deficient in complete realization of the mandatory electronic balloting arrangement in the region that necessitates joining electronic electorate record and smart card readers amid voting outcome gadgets which halt to be self-probing and completely outfitted amid actual moment amenities. It is whispered that the complete execution of the essential electronic balloting arrangement in Nigeria will advance election administration in the nation by this means gathering up with global standard. The techniques employed in listing of electorate and carrying out voting in Nigeria from 1999 to 2017 varies.

In 1999 listing of electorate was carried out by hand. Registrant information were drafted by pen on a form makes available via INEC. The completed forms were put together and in due course utilized for the 1999 election. There was no record of electorate or whichever technologies set up to lessen dual listings; consequently the 1999 election registers' reliability was debatable and was extremely distant from actuality. Whilst the Manual Register of electorate utilized in the 1988 and 1999 elections provides its rationale, it has turn out to be obsolete as time passed (The Carter Center National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, 1999). The 2003 voting experiences a technical rise amid the opening of Optical Magnetic Recognition (OMR) forms. Whilst at a halt keep hold of the manual loom as back up, INEC integrated automation, with the Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) technology. This engrosses the assemblage on the form EC.1A of the forenames and information of every potential electorate who bring themselves in the flesh for listing at the registration units. The information consequently get hold of is then moved and dappled on computer decipherable Optical Mark Recognition Forms, afterward, scanned into record on conclusion of field procedure, and development to bring into being the Register of electorate. Every Optical Mark Recognition Form has a only one of its kind digit, which is allocated to the listed electorate who is after that given a fresh Temporary Voters Card (TVC) containing similar digit and his/her essentials together with his/her thumbprint (The Carter Center National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, 1999). The restrictions of Optical Mark Recognition technology comprise the nonexistence of photograph of electorate; nonexistence of vigorous record of electorate and incapability to build up an electronic register.

In the intervening time, the period to the 2007 election manifest the commencement of a novel period in the narration of Nigeria electioneering arrangement. The purchases of the Direct Data Capture Machines (DDCM) for the listing of potential electorate bring in a number of trustworthiness to the arrangement. DDCM was initiated to get rid of dual registration, dual balloting and other electoral misconducts. The DDCM mechanism comprise: a central processing unit for gathering and stocking up electorate information, camera for enchanting pictures; scanner for captivating fingerprints of registrants; extra batteries to prevent power breakdown, exterior hard disk drive designed for information backing and copier for printing Temporary Voters Card (TVC). It was documented that 13,000 incorporated information detain arrangement were set up by INEC in favor of the 2006 electorate listing effort, 22,000 Direct Data Capturing (DDC) equipment, and 18,000 equipments for reconfirmation of electorate inventory designed for voters in that way giving an adequate amount of opportunity on behalf of the listing of more 61million electorate with 40,000 DDCs on the sum total at the conclusion of the work. Investigation exposed that the implementation of DDC equipment amid physical back-up for the reconfirmation of electorate's inventory made the work further visible, prompt and fewer burdensome (Ejikemajombo, 2015). Listing of electorate was carried out for 81days owing to inadequate delivery of DDCMs to the states. Furthermore, it is understood that the growth of an electronic electorate inventory was an enormous step in getting rid of dual listing and dual balloting in the narration of Nigeria electioneering arrangement. Very Small Aperture Terminal (V-SAT) was put in place in every of the 774 INEC local government administrative centers and state headquarter centers to facilitate the even communication of voting outcome from different local government areas. Even though, these widgets were not utilized efficiently owing to deficient in appropriate education and the problems of non-accountability that accompanied 2007 election.

Furthermore, the carrying out of the 2011 elections was locally and globally celebrated to be plausible and an enormous rise onward from the preceding occurrences given that the 4th Republic (Jega, 2012). The investigate illumination of INEC underneath the guidance of Jega in 2010 was paying attention on the listing of electorate as it afterward was in operations, which was revealed to have dropped distant below the echelon of trustworthiness essential for the carrying out of open and fair ballot voting. The novel Commission take the vision that an exclusively novel inventory of electorate was the unwavering lowest for open, reasonable and plausible election (Jega, 2012). INEC was capable to get hold of and install more than 132,000 direct data capture machines (DDCMs)-one for each 119,973 polling units (PUs) and every of the 8,809 registration areas (RAs), amid a stipulation designed for a number of unforeseen events. The listing exercise was carried out for 21days. A further successful AFIS was used to purge the inventory of manifold registrants at the same time as an EVR was produced which was utilized and designed for the 2011 election. No equipment was utilized for counting of outcome. Electronic correspondence was utilized to broadcast outcome from state offices to national headquarter in Abuja.

The 2015 as well as the 2019 election manifest a novel period in the employment of classy Information technologies in the narration of Nigeria election in accumulation to on hand equipments. Enhanced Automated Fingerprints Identification System (AFIS) was launched to recognize comparable fingerprints on the inventory utilized for 2011 general voting. Commerce regulation was in totaling utilized in accumulation to additional weed off the inventory. The

commerce regulation obligatory that at slightest 2 fingers must be confined for a person on the electoral roll to be incorporated in the list. In support of the foremost point in occasion, INEC implemented machinery for certification of electorate by means of the support of INEC Voters Identification System (IVAS) traditionally labeled the Smart Card Reader (SCR). The PVC substituted the Temporary Voter Card (TVC). As revealed by INEC, value, safety; resilience and price efficiency were fundamental reasons in the creation of the Permanent Voter Cards by INEC. Through the SCRs, authorization progression was conked out into three:

Recognition, Corroboration and Confirmation. Recognition bodily evaluation of the facade of the card possessor with the picture put on view on the SCR at the time the PVC is read; Corroboration-being capable to comprehend the data on the flake of the PVC offered; Confirmation-evaluation of the fingerprint stock up on the card amid what was bodily offered and scanned through the reader. Once PVC has been examine and certified by the SCR, the Voter Identification Number (VIN) is stocked up in the reader and it does not permit the certification of that VIN on that scrupulous reader whichever anymore (Nwafor, 2016). INEC also introduce a central server where results from every INEC local government area and state offices are directly received at the national headquarter in Abuja, but INEC has repeatedly claimed that they never made used of such server and is presently a subject of litigation by the People's Democratic Party candidate in the 2019 presidential election.

The Legal Framework

This section reviews the Electoral laws in order to comprehend the peculiarity of elections in Nigeria;

The 1999 Constitution of Federal Republic Nigeria

INEC was recognized by the stipulation of section 153(1f) of Nigeria Constitution (1999), and its authority as electoral referee is comprehensive in the 2010 Electoral Act and the constitution. In the latter, sections 76(1) and 116(1) of Nigeria Constitution (1999) offer INEC the authority to pick time for elections to the positions of the members of National Assembly and State Houses of Assembly. Prearranged that the episode of position of the president and the governor is precise in sections 132(2) and 180(2) of the constitution (1999) as 4years and not further than 2 terms in sections 137(1b) and 182(1b) of Nigeria Constitution (1999) correspondingly, elections to these positions are carried out in every 4years by INEC.

In the 1999 constitution, elections are carried out to occupy lawmaking and executive offices in the entire of the 36 states and 774 local government locales of the confederation.¹² The frontrunner electoral structure is used in Nigeria intended for every voted positions. Nevertheless, in the occasion that no one materialized the champion in governorship or presidential elections, a two-round arrangement is employed. To come into view the champion of an election, a contestant participating in a presidential election have got to attain an unconditional preponderance ballot, and at slightest not fewer above one-quarter of every ballots transmit in the election in every one of at slightest two-thirds of every of the states in the confederation and the Federal Capital Territory (section 134(2) of the 1999 constitution). In the same way, a aspirant taking part in a governorship election have to get hold of an unconditional preponderance ballot, and at slightest not fewer above one-quarter of the entire ballots transmit in the election in every of at slightest two-thirds of local

government areas in the states (See section 179(2) of the 1999 constitution). Must this verge not be arrived at, a supplementary election is carried out before 7days in the lead to the declaration of the election outcome by INEC.

There are constitutional requirements for a summon up progression to confiscate members of the House of Representatives or Senate, and members of the House of Assembly from positions (Sections 69 and 110 of the 1999 constitution). In addition, governor or deputy governor, and the president or vice president could be detached from position through prosecution (Sections 143 and 188 of the 1999 Nigerian).

The Electoral Act 2010

The '2010 Electoral Act (as modified)' is a creation of subdivision 153 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as modified), and it is as well the customary electoral decree that directs and standardizes the electoral progressions, dealings and structure in Nigeria.

It has been emphasized through numerous scholars and an intellectual that the majority of electoral structures athwart the globe are not bereft of electoral regulations other than the nitty-gritty of the subject has been the unproductive execution of such regulations.

Branching on or after these rising apprehensions, it is important to scrutinize a number of the necessities of the Nigeria 2010 Electoral Act amid relatives to its understandable infringements through the political players and organizations in the nation on or after 1999 to 2015.

Section 23 of the 2010 Electoral Act makes available that:

Every individual who:

1. Is in illegitimate custody of in the least voter's tag whether given in the forename of in the least elector or not, or
2. Put up for sale or endeavors to put up for sale or presents to trades whichever voter's card whether given in the forename of whichever voter or not, or
3. Purchase or presents to purchase whichever voter's card whether on his own behalf or on behalf of whichever additional individual...obligates a crime and is legally responsible, on pronouncement, to a levy not more than N500,000 or incarceration not more than 2years or in cooperation.

It is communal awareness that the beyond requirements of the electoral decree have been continuously desecrated in every elections that have been carried out in Nigeria from 1999. The mass media organizations and eyewitnesses are drenched amid narratives of how countless electorate in point of fact purchase electorate cards off others subsequently as to build up additional ballots for their aspirants. In a good number of cases, it is yet the aspirants themselves who take part in these reprehensible behaviors in arrange to have unwarranted lead more than their political contestants.

The development has turn out to be an electoral standard in Nigeria at the present as all election, varying on or after the councillorship to the presidential elections observe this proceed of electoral infringement. Regrettably, it has on the other hand not been documented that any person has yet been convicted for the infringement of this scrupulous decree which is one of the main desecrated subdivisions of the Electoral Act, yet whilst the breaker of such law are trapped in operation.

Section 28 of the electoral act makes available that:

1. The entire employees selected via the Commission partaking in the carrying out of an election will establish or pledge at the High Court a vow of impartiality as in the subsequent agenda to this Act.
2. The entire Electoral officials, Presiding officials, Returning officials and every workers selected via the Commission partaking in the carrying out of an election will establish or pledge to an vow of allegiance and impartiality representing that they would not collect kickback or indulgence from whichever individual, and shall carry out their jobs and responsibilities neutrally and in the benefit of the Federal Republic of Nigeria devoid of apprehension or goodwill.

It is appealing to observe that the requirements of the beyond subdivision of the electoral decree have not been pursued over and over again to the epistle via the electoral officials selected by INEC for the carrying out of elections in Nigeria right from 1999. Section 30 makes available that:

2. The notice will be in print in every constituency in deference of which a voting is to be taken place,

3. In the case of supplementary, the commission will, not shortly than 14 days ahead of the rendezvous selected for the election, make public a publication stating the time of the voting.

Yet again, this subdivision has in recent times been desecrated by INEC in setting up the planned re-run National and State Assembly elections in Rivers on February 6, 2016, a week to the supposed time.

Subsection 8 of section 87 reveals that:

No Political officers at whichever echelon shall be a ballot vote entrust at the gathering or assembly of every political group for the rationale of recommendation of contestants for whichever ballot vote.

It is bothersome to survey that this subdivision of the Electoral Act has been in steady infringement via practically the entire political parties in Nigeria as political officers with such classifications as “mechanical or fabulous entrusts” continue to be registered for the assembly and get-together of their individual political parties. Section 94 makes available that:

1. For the reason of the appropriate and nonviolent carrying out of political assembly and demonstrations, the Commissioner of Police in every state of the confederation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, will make available sufficient protection for demonstration at political assembly in the states and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

2. An individual who, whilst in attendance at a political assembly or demonstration or polling unit, has through him whichever unpleasant weapon or rocket or else than in execution of a legitimate role is culpable of a crime and answerable on conviction to a utmost levy of N2,000,000 or incarceration for a period of 2 years or in cooperation.

This subdivision of the Act has been continually desecrated by the Nigeria Police Force and affiliates of the majority of the political parties in Nigeria, particularly the ruling party. A case in summit is what ensued in Rivers State preceding to the 2015 elections where the at that time Commissioner of Police in the State, Mr. Joseph Mbu, was indicted by the APC of more often than not giving security fortification to the at that time ruling political party in its electioneering which is in disparity to the requirements of the above Act.

Section 96 of the 2010 Electoral Act makes available that:

1. No contestant, individual or collection of personnel shall unswervingly or circuitously intimidate whichever individual with the employ of power or aggression throughout whichever

political crusade in array to coerce that individual or whichever other personality to hold up or abstain from sustaining a political group or contestant.

2. Whichever individual or political group which flouts the requirements of this Section obligates a crime and is answerable on pronouncement

a. in the situation of a person, to a utmost levy of N1,000,000 or incarceration for a period of 12 months; and

b. in the situation of a political group, to a levy of N2,000,000 in the foremost illustration and N500,000 for whichever successive crime.

It is significant to examine that right from 1999, no political player or political party has increasingly been accused or prosecuted for the infringement of this subdivision. The crusade upsurge to the 2015 elections eye witnessed the furthestmost degree of detestation communications and provocative proclamations made by officers and affiliates, in entirety infringement of the requirements of this act.

From the abovementioned, it is very comprehensible that the different subdivisions of the electoral regulation in Nigeria have continuously desecrated and the offenders not gravely disciplined owing to their political connections with the authorities that be in the nation. Unquestionably, this growth has fashioned a aggressive atmosphere for the consolidation of democratic system in Nigeria.

The Challenges of Nigerian Electoral System

Voting in Nigeria even beneath the current autonomous special consideration which began in 1999 are distinguish by unproductive government at every levels in the electioneering process, ensuing in disastrously disgraceful results (Omotola, 2010). There are innumerable of disputes of carrying out plausible election by the electoral body. A small number of will suffice at this point. One is the character of our politics as well as political groups. Political groups participation noteworthy responsibilities in determining electoral politics. They are the trademark of ready for action democratic system (INEC, 2012; Walle, 2003). It can be described that contemporary representative democratic system connotes party egalitarianism (Lindberg, 2007). The responsibilities of political groups in a democratic system comprise to: combined and communicative options in the municipal freedom; school the populace to political accountability; make over populace by incorporating them into assemblages through a progression of socialization; put into effect power over administrative division of government particularly the government in authority, restraining it to steer clear of the meditation and cruelty of authority; characterize the linkage between the regime and the municipal; recommend nominees for civic offices and make available electoral prop up to them for the period of elections (Omoruyi, 2001; Alapiki, 2004; Ojo, 2002).

The recommendation of nominees for election is the most important and purposeful responsibility of political groups. INEC elucidates that political groups purpose characteristically to put forward to the voters with an option of nominees and programmes from which to decide and, by this means, lend a hand occasionally in the fortitude of which parties or combination of parties will oversee (INEC, 2012). Through regulation, the electoral body standardizes the actions of political parties particularly for the period of the electioneering progression. This comprises the observing of political parties to support domestic democratic system particularly for the period of party primaries. This is where the confront resides. The Electoral Reform Committee (2008)

acknowledges and correctly thus that “the configuration of the political parties is such that domestic democratic system is practically not present. At the bottom of this, a US-based institute the National Democratic Institute (NDI) examines that a good number of party primaries were carried out under difficult circumstances and quite a lot of party privileged single handedly select a lot of the contestants (NDI, 2011).

The former Chairperson of INEC Prof. Jega challenges that the circumstances is aggravated via the reality that the Electoral Act 2010 (as modified) prohibits INEC, from taking away a contestant from election list, once he was put forward by the party, for no matter what rationale, and we finished up with parties sending us list of people who did not still go through autonomous primaries (Jega, 2012). Once more past President Jonathan belittled the circumstances in one more of his intercession on Nigeria’s democratic system whilst he affirms that: “As extreme as I discern, our political parties are hitherto to achieve soaring marks in putting forward contestants founds on standard autonomous philosophy” (Jonathan, 2013:24). It is conceivably this circumstances which direct Omoruyi (2001:2) to squabble that political groups in Nigeria “are mere political groups in forename... they are still in investigate of responsibility, as their responsibility is still watery”. Quite a number have recommended that political parties, additional habitually than not, function similar to “electoral apparatus”: possesses and financed via a small number of influential persons who act similar to business men or “political industrialists”, whose major motivating strength is to put together proceeds and harvest roll-over prize in the figure of deals and political engagements (Ojo, 2002; Adejumbi, 2007; Obi, 2011). In addition, Punch Newspaper (2019) argues that although, there are at present over 91 listed political parties in the country, the majority of which are a collection of populace who allocate the similar intensity of strength of mind to employ the party proposal to obtain supremacy. As such, it is more often than not complicated to recognize whichever party programmes or principles. As revealed by INEC, the deficit of domestic democratic system in the political groups has relentless insinuations on Nigeria’s democratic system as it: “...is a foremost basis of solemn splits in their status and folder. Opposition to obligation of contestants has normally met with yet extra prejudice and authoritarian by political group management, producing intra-party division, discriminating nervousness and violent behavior in the polity, including supposed eliminations” (INEC, 2012:107). The most important inducement promoting the catastrophe is the unwarranted pursuit for supremacy to be in command of resources. In an perceptive enlightenment that put in a nutshell the scenery of our politics, Ake declares nevertheless in a larger African circumstance which reverberates in Nigeria that:

Politics is principally concerning the management of state authority... a great deal of what is exceptionally unenthusiastic regarding politics in Africa take place from the temperament of the state, predominantly its deficient of self-government, the enormity of its authority, its susceptibility to cruelty, and the be deficient in of exemption against it. The personality of the state regulations out a politics of self-control and command a politics of free-for-all and fanaticism for the uncomplicated rationale that the scenery of the state creates the imprison of state authority charismatically good-looking... consequently, all and sundry look for authority by all ways, permissible or else and those who before now manage state authority attempt to maintain it by every ways... Our politics is not a legitimate opposition to choose those to supervise our widespread apprehension however a wrestle to incarcerate and privatize a mammoth state power (Ake, 1996:7-8). Undeniably, for the political group, the expedition for political authority is viewed as an agreement for unrestricted and unmanageable right of entry to the wealth of

government, that is suitable for individual exercise (Wapmuk, 2016). This has prearranged ascend to a associated dispute to the carrying out of plausible voting with deficient in admiration for the statute of regulation. Democratic system is a regulation vault progression and it is commonplace that all and sundry and all organization have to work and be controlled by the decree which is the constitution. Nevertheless, the occurrences since 1999 point out that the regulation is pragmatic further in the contravene. Moderately than the statute of law we at the present have the regulation of men. Some spectators have squabbles that this has buoyant tyrannical propensities evident in the occurrence of what is appropriately portrayed as godfathers (Okafor, 2008; Sklar et al, 2006; Albert, 2005; Campbell, 2010).

Jega deprecates the deficient in of self-control and what he illustrates as the “irresponsible state of mind of Nigerian politicians”, which leftovers a enormous obstruction to autonomous strengthening in the nation. He harangues: “a further main confront opposite the Nigerian electoral progression is a well-known nonexistence of self-control amongst politicians- disinclination of the political group to play by the regulations... The Commission remnants profoundly worried regarding mounting conflicts surrounded by parties and connecting contenders. The exploit of idiom in a good number cases inappropriate, heartening followers to pursue ensemble with additional immoderate lingo and in due course fuelling aggression” (Jega, 2013:12). The political division in Nigeria “by and large be inclined to consider that political authority in the course of elections has to be “incarcerated”, and this has to be prepared by clasp and by criminal, and through whichever way needed... winning elections is, accurately, a by all means situation” (Jega, 2015:17).

Presently the situation is not different in the run-up to the 2019 general election as the carrying out of party primaries in groundwork for the 2019 general elections has created relentless intra-party calamities than what was evidenced in the prior elections, and this growth in reality impacted on electoral results. The disappointment of a number of governors to put in favored nominees as their party flag-bearers is commendable of talk about. In Imo and Ogun States, the fortune of the ruling party was doomed, as the retiring governors of these states explicitly fashioned new configurations to comprehend their individual aspirations and that of their favored nominees (Sahara Reporter, 2019).

This a great deal is sustained by Momah after he squabbled that: “There have been occurrences whilst the voting committees put together to give a ruling on the carrying out of a number of elections had recognized that INEC was adherent, however the full power of the decree was by no means brought on those INEC officials. Deficient in chastisement of course leads to impunity. Elections are carried out by means of billions of naira, and through recurrent nullifications and lofty proceeds of outcome, billions of naira goes behind the exhaust and hitherto a further enormous sum of funds is planned for hitherto a further re-run which also occurred in the just concluded 2019 general elections as elections were cancelled in 14 States of the Federation covering 7 Senatorial Districts and 24 Federal Constituencies and re-run were carried out (Leadership Newspaper, 2019). Not a soul has been put on trial for such enormous squander of the country’s assets” (Momah, 2016:39). In the same way, on the detailed subject of financial support of the electoral body, Agbaje and Adejumobi proffer a short and snappy clarification: “The financial support of the electoral commission is the sanction of the executive, which decides the

amount it is made available for it on the national financial plan. Funding is a foremost way by which the sovereignty of the electoral commission is compromised.

The financial support of electoral commission presumes a recurrent matter in which in a moment prior to the election episode that the ruling party desires the commission, the regime apposite a great amount of funds for it, and whilst election is ended, the commission is de-prioritized” (Agbaje and Adejumobi, 2006:32). This dispute has to be looked into equally lawfully and as a subject of practicality if our democratic systems have to develop and have essence. But for the 2019 general election, with authorization, the sum of N242bn, N189bn of which went to INEC while the remaining N53bn was shared by the security agencies for the purpose of election security was made available by the Federal Government to fund the election making the elections the most expensive elections in the history of Nigeria but yet the provided fund did not reflect in the conduct of the election as the electioneering process still witness similar challenges experienced in previous elections (Punch Newspaper, 2019). Four and a consequence of the beyond, is the growing unenthusiastic state of mind or communal discernment of electoral body in scrupulous and politics in broad-spectrum. The Electoral Reform Committee, “establish that elections state of mind are one of the significant rudiments that decide the accomplishment of electoral practices and the election state of mind of Nigerians are not merely principally unenthusiastic, they are in addition principally unreasonable” (ERC, 2008:iii). This evident in appearance of aggression, monetization and rigging of politics. This unconstructive political tradition has resulted to a calamity of self-assurance in the country’s electoral progression (ERC, 2008:4). The majority Nigerians barely have self-assurance in the capability of electoral body to put in order and carry out plausible elections given the terrible and unsatisfactory occurrences of the nation in her efforts to institutionalize democratic system. To this conclusion, even as assessing its individual recital, INEC examines that, “at hand is extensive unconstructive observation of INEC and its capability to carry out elections” (INEC, 2011:2). In the same way, the RSIEC in its “Making the Votes Count”, establishes that, “a lot of Nigerians observe nearly everyone elections in the country as having been blemished by the devotion of the electoral body... the exploitation of votes... particularly by the political group” (RSIEC, 2008:viii). This is the foremost discernment beneath which we function and which we have to meet head-on. By and great, the approaches we assume and the habits we tackle this dispute will have solemn allegations on the trustworthiness of the election progression. The issue of the use of a central server by INEC is one of the main focal point that question the integrity of the electoral umpire in the 2019 presidential election as INEC at the onset announced that it will make use of a central server to collect results from all the state of the federation and even went ahead to train officials on how to upload the result from each local government to the central server at the INEC headquarter which they now revealed that they did not make use of such server again. Five, is the dispute of logistics and communication leading to holdup in moving election officers and materials to the balloting units (Jinadu, 1997). This difficulty is further prominent in coastal regions where the way of moving is comparatively more bothersome.

We have consequently had troubling cases of belatedly coming of electoral officers and materials to voting units, with electorate waiting approximately ceaselessly consequential to exhaustion and aggravation in the midst of electorate. One of the consequential effects of this is stumpy electorate attendance or political indifference. A lot of Nigerians are more and more retreating from partaking

in elections (INEC and FES, 2011). Six, is the exploit and preparation of makeshift personnel. Dependence on the exploit of makeshift staff that is more often than not concise or educated for little days regarding their responsibilities remains a dare to the electoral progression (INEC, 2012:11; Omotola, 2010:542). It is pragmatic that “inadequate moment for preparation did not permit for suitable evaluation of staff prior to employment to the field” (INEC, 2012:11). This dispute not merely strengthens the difficulty of elementary progress of our institutional capability however it as well opens the electoral body to every comportment of exterior authorities by power whose concerns in some circumstances are at discrepancy with that of the electoral body. In the general elections of 2011, INEC employed about 360,000 ballot officers and 20,000 college employees together with Vice-chancellors as collation and returning officials (Jega, 2013:5). Supervising these makeshift employees amount to a enormous dispute to the electoral body as a number of of them possibly will be license carrying affiliates of the opposing political parties and might excessively authority the election results in favoritism of the political parties they are allied to. Seven, is the dispute of protection. Elections in Nigeria as renowned former are “akin to war”. Frontrunners win the whole thing, still as losers lose the whole thing (Ake, 1996; Jega, 2013:9). This hoists extremely solemn protection apprehensions as well as amongst others; substantial assaults on INEC employees and amenities, assaults on security staff on election responsibility, mistreatment of security orderlies by politicians, assaults on political adversaries, terrorization of electorate and obliteration of voting materials by hired political hooligans (Jega, 2013:10). The Nigerian Police is constitutionally authorized to defend the lives and possessions of associates of the communal as well as uphold regulation and order. And it has turn out to be habitual to fit into place them for the duration of the electioneering progression as division of their municipal and lawful accountability. This is yet additional so given the unstable nature of Nigerian politics with every approach of aggressive and offbeat groups careworn for preeminence with associations to politicians. On the other hand, due to a number of the rationales talked about beyond, the safety machinery in a number of cases has played not as much of as splendid responsibility throughout elections, by this means, raising difficulties about their truthfulness, impartiality and professionalism. Information on elections in Nigeria point to that a number of security officials with the involvement of electoral body officers stage-manage elections by let loose formidable pressure on adversaries of their number one nominees, which position a contaminate on the trustworthiness of the progression (Ajayi, 2006:62). Perceptibly the disputes are never-ending. However for occasion and liberty I have inadequate in my opinion to these ones. The crisis that mare the 2019 general elections in Nigeria seems to be the highest experienced as there were crisis in every state of the federation and security agencies were held culpable as they either watch while hoodlums threaten electorates and cart away ballot boxes or carry out the abuse on electorate by themselves such as the case in River State where military officers disrupt voting in many polling units.

Uniqueness of 2019 General Elections in Nigeria

The 2019 general elections in Nigeria were the most planned for. Arrangements kick-started with the INEC Strategic Plan 2017 – 2021; afterward, there were Election Management System, Election Project Plan and Elections Operations Support Centre. Above and beyond, the elections are the costliest in Nigeria’s times past. Authoritatively, the Federal Government sponsored the elections with a massive N242bn, N189bn of that went to INEC whilst the outstanding N53bn was shared through the security agencies for the reason of election safety which is outside the millions

of dollars exhausted on the commission via the different international donor partners (Punch, 2019).

According to Punch (2019) an information sheet on the 2019 General Election exposed that there were 84 million registered electorate out of which 72 million electorate collected their Permanent Voter Cards; 91 registered political parties; 119,973 Polling Units; 120 Accredited Domestic Observers and 36 Accredited Foreign Observers and 23,000 candidates competing for 1,558 positions. Seven elections were also conducted over two Saturdays. They were Presidential, Senate and House of Representatives elections on February 23 and governorship, state Houses of Assembly, chairmanship and councillorship elections of the six Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory held on March 9, 2019.

Being the most contended for, 2019 elections has in addition engrossed a lot of disagreements. On or after October 7, 2018, when political groups completed carrying out their primaries, there have been in excess of 640 incite cases from distressed contenders. The electoral commission is connected as defendants in every of these pre-election issues. There was a constitution amendment, in the lead-up to the elections that at the moment hangs the instant boundary for pre-election issues. Up till now, there used to be no such fixation nevertheless on June 8, 2018, President Muhammadu Buhari signed into decree the Fourth Alteration No. 21 that at the moment requests every distressed contenders to file their issue in less than 14 days of the deed whilst magistrates are to pass verdicts on such issues in less than 180 days whilst petitions commencing such verdicts will in addition be predisposed off in less than 60 days (Punch Newspaper, 2019). Bring to mind that President Buhari had in addition unfasten the political freedom for the youth in Nigeria to the lead of the elections as soon as he, on May 31, 2018, penciled into law the Not too Young Bill which lessen the prerequisite age for presidential contenders from 40 to 35 years and that of contenders into the House of Representatives from 30 years to 25 years getting it at equivalence with the prerequisite age for councillorship positions.

Quite an amount of unparalleled stuffs that come about at some point in this electioneering phase included the unwrap anti-party actions of two All Progressives Congress governors. Governors Ibikunle Amosun of Ogun State and Rochas Okorocha of Imo State disobeyed the political party that conveyed them to authority through funding and sustaining opponent contestants in opposition to their own party contestants. Whilst Amosun preferred Abiodun Akinlade of the Allied People's Movement, Okorocha favored his son-in-law, Uche Nwosu of the Action Alliance, to take over from him. They persuaded them to move from the APC to another party but the two governors did not move with their accepted godsons nevertheless relatively stayed position in the APC, challenged and triumph in elections into the Senate. It was at some point in the 2019 elections that a court of law deprived of a ruling party at the centre the chance to challenge every election in a state. Owing to the persistent disagreement over the party assembly carried out in Rivers State in May 2018, the Supreme Court banned the APC from listing aspirants for every elective office in the state (Punch Newspaper, 2019).

An additional obsession that singled out the 2019 general election is the soaring number of cancelled votes owing to violence, over-voting and non-adherence to the use of Smart Card Readers. In the 2019 general elections over 30 people were reportedly killed in various violence (Leadership Newspaper, 2019). The Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) as reported

by Leadership Newspaper (2019) reports that armed thugs twisted their guns on people and differing political parties which led to the killings. Vote trade remains a momentous apprehension for Nigeria's election bearing in mind what happened during the governorship and state houses of assembly elections. Buying and selling of votes triumphed in spite of the admonition by INEC, security agencies and the anti-corruption agencies. Eyewitnesses reported seeing EFCC arresting people involved in vote buying in Benue, Kwara and other states but their numbers were of no consequence to completely take into custody the plague of vote trade in many parts of the country with electorate and politicians endeavored in the vote trading market during the last elections bargaining for a higher amount and sell their vote to the party with the capability to meet their demand (Leadership Newspaper, 2019). This results in the cancellation of results in many states. The cancelled votes which are in millions brought about five inconclusive governorship elections in Kano, Sokoto, Plateau, Adamawa and Benue State.

INEC at the outset joined Bauchi with the states prior to overturning itself following an appraisal of the analytical team it put together on the governorship election. There were in addition seven indecisive governorship elections, 24 indecisive House of Representatives election and three indecisive Area Council chairmanship elections in the FCT.

Complementary elections in the Polling Units where voting were revoked in the affected states held on Saturday, March 23, 2019. The big issue which has engrossed legal action is whether INEC as a commission can rule against its chosen Returning Officer in the light of provision of Section 68 of the Electoral Act 2010, as amended which states that: "The decision of the Returning Officer on any question arising from or relating to: (a) Unmarked ballot paper, (b) Rejected ballot paper, and (c) Declaration of scores of candidates and the return of a candidate shall be final subject to review by a tribunal or court in an election petition proceedings under this Act" (Electoral Act, 2010).

The 2019 elections have brought out quite a number of concerns no misgiving. One cogent matter the commission cannot seize with levity is the selection of trustworthy and truthful people as Collation and Returning Officers. Bring to mind that on March 11, 2019 INEC instructed the take into custody of the Electoral Officer for the LG, Chris Ogbuadu, as well as the Collation Officer for Ohaji/Egbema Local Government Area of Imo State, Kelechi Ezirim who were handed over to the police for obligating electoral deceit (Sahara Reporter, 2019). This recommendation ought to be taken sincerely in observation of the future elections to be carried out in the country.

CONCLUSION

The authenticity of the electoral progression and of the post-election administration is profoundly dependent on the evenhandedness and intelligibility of the alteration procedure. To defend the inviolability of the poll in the subsequently round of elections, there is a necessitate to put together a synergy amid vital actors in the electoral topography such as political parties, social society groups including the academic group of people and the media. Indisputable obligation to electoral reorganization vestiges the main feature to probable and long-term electoral structure in Nigeria. The intensity of obligation positioned to the reorganization hard work both by the administration and the citizens will establish the stage of legitimization that will be accorded the transformation progression. Nevertheless whilst Nigerians have for all time articulated a aspiration for a actually

autonomous polity put together on plausible electoral administration, the prevailing leaders has failed to make obvious the essential political will to accomplish this objective. It is in opposition to these conditions that novel attempt at electoral transformation ought to be kicked off by the civil society which will rivet the vigorous recruitment, involvement, commitment, and sustenance of all subdivision, cluster, and stakeholder in the Nigerian social order. In accumulation to civil society involvement, there is a necessitate for efficient electorate schooling intentionally premeditated to make available to the Nigerian electorate with the mandatory awareness and responsiveness proficient of making possible knowledgeable and coherent political contribution. This electorate schooling endeavor which ought to be on a uninterrupted basis must center on such subjects as voter commitments, electoral rights, fortification of ballots and significance of answerable governance.

Recommendations

This paper recommends that, the electronic balloting structure initiated through card reader must be strengthened to circumvent manipulation. It was pragmatic as accounted for by numerous newspapers that in a number of areas mainly particularly Niger- Delta and the Northern region card readers were redundant and this presented an opening for supposed enormous manipulation of the election and in addition the counting of the outcome was maneuvered in a number of areas in view of the fact that it was completed by hand. Permit the election and the collation to the last phase be completed automated by means of the electronic medium. This will restrain manipulation critically.

Also, there is necessity to revise, amend and sign into law the Electoral Act in order to block the loop holes in the existing laws and this will make INEC to turn out to be an autonomous and in reality a self-governing body

Thirdly, whichever political party that fall short to uphold a nationwide viewpoint in requisites of relationship ought to be crumbled and merely a nationalized party should be permitted to survive and challenge in nationwide elections which are capable to have a membership athwart every subdivision of the civilization in requisites of topography, cultural groups and religious associations.

Finally, opposition political parties ought to be strong and permitted to prosper in their lawful political actions that are within the frontier of the Constitution in order to dole out as a regulator in the procedure. In addition, Civil Society Organisations ought to strengthen their actions of political socialization and political consciousness which will advance the political conduct and voting prototype of the general municipal. This will assist an extensive approach in the strengthening of democratic system and autonomous authority in Nigeria and Africa in broad-spectrum.

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