



Political Behaviour And Electoral Malpractices In Nigeria (A Case Study Of 1999 To 2003 General Election)

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ABSTRACT:- This research evaluated the political behavior and electoral malpractices in Nigeria. The data include survey of political, behavioral and electoral malpractices in Nigeria politics, historical study of election in Nigeria from 1999 to date. However, the study of political behaviors is embedded in the outcome of a lot of political activities, triggered by the decisions, interactions and the actions of men, thereby bringing about the effective and efficient process of man in a political milieu. The sources of data used in this research include the primary and secondary sources of data. Its methodology follows the qualitative approach of research and the evaluation is based on texts books, Journals, Newspapers and magazines. A number of descriptive statistics and techniques were used to summarize the information, variable and pattern of data.

Keywords: Political behavior, electoral malpractices, election and Nigeria.

I. INTRODUCTION

The concept of political behaviour was first echoed in early 1900's. Studies to investigate voting behaviour, party identification and attitude and opinions were also under taken. The political behavioural approach became prominent in the 1999's. All these were been triggered by the study of politics stem from the confluence of many converging tendency that are isolated here only for the sake of identification. It is probably impossible to trace any particular approach to a single intellectual source. This section, therefore, though organized more or less chronologically and historically reconstruction [1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6].

Political behaviour is an overriding builder of the society, it is very essential in Nations Building, whereas its action and activities expose the government to what they needed to do, because the state cannot function in the absence of people. It is impossible for a state to function in vacuum. On electoral malpractice the central figure of focus is the political parties, they are the main goals of analysis why this research would progress, in other for these decisions of electoral malpractices to be properly exposed [7, 8, 9, 10 and 11].

Election before independence and after had suffered this same fate about electoral malpractices. The history of Nigeria has not told us about a country that its elections were smoothly successive and electoral processes have been carried out the way they are expected, but a country interlocked from it onset with electoral malpractices. The stand out issue in an election is the high level of the use of force and threat in gaining political power, this contradiction and crisis surrounding politics of succession and the credibility of electoral processes. Electoral malpractices is a negative phenomenon in Nigeria, this phenomenon has developed like a deadly cancer in Nigeria political system, hardly in anywhere in Nigeria can any election be conducted without the allegation of rigging by one political party or the one, be it in the ward, state or federal level. Hence, political behaviour of Nigerians remained implacable and irreplaceable as a result of the seeming unending political transition, whereby the psychological aspect of individuals are affected in which many don't go to the poll during general elections [20, 21, 22, 23, and 24].

Purpose of the study

Aims of the study

- To analyse the reason for increase in electoral malpractices.
- To examine factors that are responsible for electoral malpractices that determines political behaviour in Nigeria.
- To find out the constant features of political behaviours and electoral malpractices in Nigeria.
- To know the obstacles that affects political behaviour and how to put an end to it.
- To attest to what extent the political behaviour of Nigerians had affected the entire political process and electoral malpractices, vice versa.
- To discuss some prerequisite that enhances electoral malpractices and political behaviour in Nigeria.

Significance of the Study

It is essential that we see reason why Nigeria is expected to follow up with the public opinion or referendum, while the country is being governed to make sure that this track is followed, another to bring about good governance in Nigeria, just as was defined by Abraham Lincoln ‘‘the government of the people by the people and for the people’’. It is expected that at the end of this research work, any reader would be able to understand the reason why democratic principle had not been effective and functional in Nigeria. The essence of this study is to take away the diversity of belief, ideals and most importantly ethnicity towards actualizing a common goal of a successful Nigeria in the future which to some large extent believed that they are, the limiting factors that had been an obstacle. It would go a long way in solving the existing practical problem in Nigeria; selflessness, lack of accountability and transparency, insincerity among political leaders, corruption and electoral malpractices. Hereby give us a long lasting democracy with people of sincere followership, selfless dedicated, patriotic leaders and nationalist at its apogee.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Methodology

It follows the qualitative approach of research and the evaluation is based on texts books, Journals, Newspapers and magazines. It involves critical analysis cum normative judgment guided by the personal experience of some researchers in the political system of Nigeria. This is in other to find out the said political behaviour to the political process and how it relates to electoral principle and malpractices. The method of data analysis is historical in nature for a quantitative evaluation.

Method of data presentation

Method of data collection

The source of data used in this research work include both the primary and secondary sources of data obtained through interviews, observation and reference to previous and relevant publications and research works. The secondary data involves information, collected from various textbooks, newspapers, periodicals, seminars and as well as conference papers. While the primary data consists of original information obtained directly from different sources which includes, personal interviews, observations and discussion conducted with relevant person’s, professionals and questionnaires.

III. METHODS OF DATA ANALYSIS

There are a number of descriptive statistics and techniques which can be used to summarize information, variable and show pattern of data. It was used in the fasting of hypothesis. The descriptive statistical tools used are the frequency distribution tables, figures and percentages, the test of hypothesis was done with the use of Chi-square formula’’

Question 1: Were you up to voting age during the 1999/2003 general election?

Table 1

| Response | Number of respondent | % |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Yes | 67 | 70.5% |
| No | 25 | 29.5% |
| Total | 82 | 100% |

From the above table, analysis shows that only 67 or 70.5% of the respondents were eligible to vote during the 1999/2003 general elections. While the rest of 25 or 29.5% were not eligible at the period of time.

Question 2: Were you able to participate during the 1999/2003 general elections?

Table 2

| Response | Number of respondent | % |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Yes | 38 | 44% |
| No | 34 | 40% |
| No comment | 10 | 16% |
| Total | 82 | 100% |

From the analysis above, it showed that as many that were eligible but only 47% were those able to participate and 40% were not able, which those who were not eligible and 13% made no comment regarding whether they participated or not.

Question 3: Would you agree that the irregularity in 1999/2003 general election has been a normal routine in Nigeria elections.

Table 3

| Response | Number of respondent | % |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Agree | 24 | 29% |
| Disagree | 19 | 23% |
| Strongly agree | 22 | 24% |
| Strongly disagree | 15 | 19% |
| No ideas | 2 | 4% |
| Total | 82 | 100% |

From the table above, the information about the irregularities being a normal routine was agreed by 29%, strongly disagreed by 23%, strongly agreed by 24%, strongly disagreed by 19% and no idea by 4% due to the present phenomena many were still confused with agreeing and disagreeing with election irregularities.

Question 4: Do you agree that 2003 general election which was the first transition from civilian government to civilian government, has laid a positive foundation for the general elections in Nigeria.

Table 4

| Response | Number of respondent | % |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Agree | 4 | 7% |
| Disagree | 33 | 39% |
| Strongly agree | 3 | 6% |
| Strongly disagree | 1 | 48% |
| No ideas | 41 | 3% |
| Total | 82 | 100% |

The analysis of the figures in the above table has shown a low rate of positive foundation for the general election in Nigeria which the high rate of the respondent strongly disagreeing. This table shows that Nigeria had no positive foundation in electoral process.

Question 5: Do you agree that god-fatherism ethnicity and lack of political orientation is responsible for electoral malpractices?

Table 5:

| Response | Number of respondents | % |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Agree | 45 | 50% |
| Disagree | 11 | 14% |
| Strongly agree | 19 | 25% |
| Strongly disagree | 7 | 11% |
| No ideas | 0 | 0% |
| Total | 82 | 100% |

From the above table, it shows that god-fatherism, ethnicity and lack of political orientation is responsible for the electoral malpractices by 50% of the respondents. It would be said that the above research population believed that god-fatherism and ethnicity are responsible for electoral malpractices.

Question 6: Do you agree that without materialistic incentive the people would not cast their votes?

Table 6

| Response | Number of respondent | % |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Agree | 22 | 30% |
| Disagree | 25 | 38% |
| Strongly agree | 21 | 29% |
| Strongly disagree | 14 | 23% |
| No ideas | 0 | 0% |
| Total | 82 | 100% |

The table above, shows that there is almost a mutual believe between those respondents that agreed and strongly agreed with those respondents who disagreed and strongly disagreed, which is 30-23% to 38-23%.

Question 7: Do you agree, that the only way to correct our political behaviour and electoral malpractices is by military take over

Table 7

| Response | Number of respondent | % |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Agree | 20 | 25% |
| Disagree | 13 | 20% |
| Strongly agree | 9 | 15% |
| Strongly disagree | 40 | 45% |
| No ideas | 0 | 0% |
| Total | 82 | 100% |

The above table shows high rate of disagreement that the military takeover will correct our political behavior.

Question 8: Do you agree that poor political socialization cannot affect your political participation

Table 8

| Response | Number of respondent | % |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Agree | 27 | 31% |
| Disagree | 17 | 21% |
| Strongly agree | 20 | 24% |
| Strongly disagree | 11 | 15% |
| No ideas | 7 | 9% |
| Total | 82 | 100% |

The analysis of this research work shows a high rate of the people strongly agreed and agreed. Majority of the respondents agreed that there is no need for political socialization.

Question 9: Political culture can influence our political behaviour towards politics negatively, do you agree?

Table 9

| Response | Number of respondent | % |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Agree | 42 | 48% |
| Disagree | 2 | 4% |
| Strongly agree | 3 | 6% |
| Strongly disagree | 27 | 30% |
| No ideas | 8 | 12% |
| Total | 82 | 100% |

Adequate from the respondents, the above table shows that 45% agreed and 6% strongly agreed, 4% disagreed and 30% strongly disagreed, while 12% have no idea about political culture, influence political participation.

Question 10: The increase in electoral malpractices would promote illegal practices in Nigeria, for example Robbery, corruption, Embezzlement etc. Do you agree?

Table 10

| Response | Number of respondent | % |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Agree | 13 | 20% |
| Disagree | 9 | 13% |
| Strongly agree | 60 | 67% |
| Strongly disagree | 0 | 0% |
| No ideas | 0 | 0% |
| Total | 82 | 100% |

The figure represented on the above table show table that 67% strongly agreed, 20% agreed while 15% disagreed with this above question. This shows that there is a high rate of promotion in illegal practices in the increase of electoral malpractices.

IV. DISCUSSION

The controversies that beneath electioneering process cannot be over emphasized. The transition of military to civilian, in 1999 and from civilian to civilian in 2003 government can be analyzed as a huge success of human right recognition and to democratic principles [20]. The celebration is a misplaced hand over from military government to civilian president successor through a flawed election which has been universally criticized as lacking credibility in more like a despotic successor, than step for democracy, real progress in that direction and the ruling party out of respect for democratic principle conduct a truly free and fair election and accept the people choice even if it proves unfavorable to them. While aggrieved parties must continue to respect

the rule of law and seek redress peacefully, concerted measures are required to heal the most evident wounds of election.

The administration in particular but also in their concerned must take extra ordinary steps urgently to address the electoral crisis and build government legitimacy, restore trust in institution and sustain Nigeria leadership in Africa. The president must be made to understand that no number of overtures will satisfy the opposition unless and until his administration engages seriously on the very broad agenda the needs to be faced, of the Nigeria state is to be pulled back from the brink of failure. The judiciary and security issues, Absence of Genuine and electronically Register, Economic Development, Election management and logistic problems, Materialism and Extravagant Ambition, low political Culture and lack of proper orientation ethnicity Religions inclinations and principle of godfatherism etc. Therefore all this had been too many implication and effect to the political behaviour of Nigeria. In which the 1999/2003 presidential election in Nigeria also gave rise to commercialization of political participation. In subsequent election in the study area federal house of representative, state house of Assembly government election and senate election in Nigeria were found to be instating on material compensation before casting their vote. In 1999/2003 presidential election have led to the loss of confidential on INEC officials. The people of Nigeria now looks upon any INEC officials as innately corrupt by the general public, is not good for the prospects of the presidents of the presidential democracy. Therefore rigging deprived the government of its legitimacy the government through possessing illegal authority tells it is declared illegal nevertheless, lacks the moral authority or legitimacy to command the respect of the people, of nothing happen to change require inter cope government because a mere charade [12]. Election illegitimatize the moral stand of society noble, if society youth in particular realize that the political leaders, role models, who speaks in documents and engage in multiple thumbs printing sustaining important societal values such as the truth honestly, the triumph of good over evil, because extremely hollow platitudes checking and dishonesty become accepted, just as a means of acculturating electoral malpractices as a normal nature of democracy in Nigeria, as it own peculiarities, where by election regaining through values money laundering and ballot boxes stuffing becomes the order of the day corrupt leaders [21]. Election malpractices, implicate the state in foreign investment and dent her image it introduced, absence of foreign investors no investor will bring his investment into an in table environment.

Finally, the failed elections widely regarded as reversal of its democratic progress have also weakened the country aspiration to play a greater international role for example Nigeria has been seen by many as a leading candidate for a permanent African seat in the event of the United Nations Security council is expanded, its case for that honour has now been seriously damaged. Over the past years, many yokes expressed great hope that given the historical experience of the past, the incumbent government would work to ensure that the elections would be conducted to such a way that would lead to a strengthening the prospect of representative democracy in Nigeria [11]. I want to emphasis that attaining the goals as I recommended them cannot be left to members of the political class. This because they constitute the greatest impediment to any charge that would save the Nigeria nation state from fulfilling the prophecy in the chronicle of a Death fore told “ like French ruling has learnt noting and forgetting in its one hundred odd years history. This history shows that the Nigeria ruling class of today cannot be only from if but also that this class needs to save itself. The history of election and electoral practices show conclusively that representative shows that this failure of election bodies with all its historical baggage, total ineptitude lunatic, greed, pridefull, rulling class doomedshamelessness and leprosy, treachery the current version of the Nigeria To attain the desired goals therefore, their has to be and foremost a realignment of the political force in the country [16]. All patriotic and progressive force must born together on a common platform a platform whose slogan should be “to defend and save Nigeria.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

In the president; to reach but to inform an inclusive government of national unity, in which all major parties are represented and only by co-operated individual but rather by election appeal petitions, the logistical and administrative assistance they need to function effectively and respect their judgment, including ultimate as may be those of the court of appeal and the supreme court. Establish in an independent inquiry to identify responsibility for fraudulent electoral practices and a judicial inquiring into political violence and other violations of human right committees during the election period. Dismiss the present leadership of INEC immediately, in order to clear the way for a proper prope of its activities and defuse public outrage over its performance, if toward unimportant. Restrain security service, in chiding the Nigeria police force, from using disproportionate measures, peacefully including street demonstrations. To the senate, to institute a judicial inquiry into INEC’s financial management to determine the extent to which mismanagement, corruption and other financial improprieties contributed to failure of the elections, and to identify those responsible. Initiate a process for fundament and comprehensive reform of the electoral frame work institutions and procedure, with clear bench marks are time frame for implementation. While renaming committed to the anticorruption campaign, set a three month moratorium on arrest by the economic and financial crime commission to allow

through review of its prosecution and an abuse oversight mechanism. To the independent National Electoral commission (INEC); make available without delay to parties and candidates seeking redress of abuses all document and their materials needed to support their petition to the electoral tribunals. Public the detailed state by state breakdown of vote caste for each candidate at the presidential election also published report on management of election funds, with special regard to compliance with due process and provident practice in letting contracts. To make a well organized election that will not allow all elections to hold in a day in the country with the large number of population of about 140 million, in order to being a of election management, which involves the human resources and material resource needed. Implementing voters and civic education intensively on a large scale to empower citizens to exercise their franchise, mother to encourage and develop a virile civil society. Furthermore, empowering the security agencies to curtail the threat and actual incident of violence in and annual the electoral process, this would be highly adhered if there is staggering election, in which election would not be conducted in one day but on different dates this would also improve the transparency of vote country process due to the high security alert. Hereby, bring an enabling process of election observation that helps to build confidence in the electoral process.

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