



JOURNAL OF POLITICAL INQUIRY

A Publication of:

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE,
NIGERIA POLICE ACADEMY WUDIL,
KANO NIGERIA

ISSN: 2449-1039

OGBE HENRY Ph.D



JOURNAL OF POLITICAL INQUIRY

Volume One
APRIL 2015

A Publication of:

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE,
NIGERIA POLICE ACADEMY WUDIL,
KANO NIGERIA

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1st Page Publishers
No. 9 Brightway Rukuba Road Jos, Plateau State.

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EDITORIAL

The chief Editor, on behalf of the Editorial board, has great pleasure in presenting the Volume one of journal of political inquiry to the academic community. The journal which aims to create a platform for people who seek to publish their work and those interested in latest findings and inquires in the areas of social, humanities and political science. It therefore, provides opportunities for the researchers, academicians, and professionals to publish their researches for knowledge sharing and cross-fertilization of ideas.

The quick review process, rich editorial boards, supports of strong international advisory board and quality publications might make this journal unique. The journal focuses on double-blind review process. It is published in both print and online forms.

Although numerous researches are being made by the scholars, academicians, and professionals, especially in developing countries, there are a lot of problems towards the publication of research findings due to high excessive author's fee, long time review process and complex terms and condition of the publishers. Journal of political inquiry provides unique opportunities to the researchers, academicians and professionals in this regard.

The chief Editor is very grateful to the Members of the editorial board for their kind response towards the establishment of such type of attempt. The contribution of international advisors cannot be expressed by words both in the case of developing the journal and successful journey of the journal.

We seek the blessing and support of all towards the journey of the journal.

Associate Prof. Madu Magnus Emeka

The chief editor

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LEADERSHIP RECRUITMENT AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA.

By

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Abstract

Leadership is an indispensable factor to good governance. A quest for true leadership is solely rested on the citizens through free and fair electoral contest in republican states. The take on of this paper is to look at the fundamental role of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for the provision of people-choice political leadership in Nigeria. In achieving this, effort was made via secondary data to cursorily look at the climatic political trend in which leadership emerged from 2003 till date in Nigeria and Nigerian leadership style. It recommends that the electoral umpires should be neutral, fair and transparent in all aspects of the electoral process

Introduction

True leadership is sine-qua-non and indispensable factor to good governance in a republic. A quest for true leadership is solely rested on the citizens through a credible conduct of an election by an electoral commission. In Nigeria, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is the catalyst to bring about the emergence of true, indisputable and legitimate political leadership through its just, free and fair, fair and credible elections. The described leadership will provide and sustain good governance in Nigeria.

Therefore this paper determines to examine secondary sourced data whether INEC obliging to its utilitarian value or contrary in conduct of elections in Nigeria and other related issues will be look at as well.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

THE FUNDAMENTAL ROLE OF INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC) IN LEADERSHIP RECRUITMENT AND DEMOCRACY IN NIGERIA.

The issue of true leadership of a state primarily rested on the people in selection of indisputable leadership through election which INEC is in-charge in Nigeria. INEC is to provide credible leadership that anchored on freedom, equity and justice for the provision of legitimate government. But most often, INEC is weak in this regard; there are also serious electoral irregularities.

Candidates and political parties often accused INEC of election irregularities; even sometimes INEC admits its weakness. In 2013 Anambra state gubernatorial election conducted evidently shown this accusation when INEC chairman, Prof. Jega admitted that some cases of irregularities in the said election were caused by the commission's staff posted (Jega, 2014:52-53). Also, Mr Emmanuel Obi accused Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and INEC for substituting his name in the 2007 Uyo federal constituency election with Mr Bassey Etim, the election tribunal sacked Mr Etim and asked INEC to issue certificate of return to Mr Obi (Olasupo, 2010:25). Similarly the victory of Comrade Adams Oshomhole at the Edo State Election Tribunal victory over the disputed governorship election held April 14th, 2007, was also evidence of INEC weakness (Adekunle, 2008:48).

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The partisanship of INEC officials in elections (that supposed to be impartial) before, during and after cum election violence have denied Nigerians to an extent choice of people, the electorates wished to have as their leaders. By implication, the electorates lost trust in their leaders, and the government is not responsive to the welfare of the electorates since the claimed electoral victory of the government under-mines the fundamental election requirement.

There is no doubt that the nature of ascension of leaders into leadership positions reflect in the actions and inactions of their government policies. Nothing is wrong with Nigeria but the problem of (bad) leadership (Achebe, 1983:1; Na'abba, 2014:48) and the process through which true leadership can emerge appears faulty. Election must be free and fair in order to have legitimate leaders in a republican state.

It seems that INEC in trying to correcting its weakness in the June 21, 2014 and August 9, 2014 gubernatorial elections conducted in Ekiti and Osun states. However, the militarisation of these States prior to the elections till the results were released becomes worrisome. This is because; the heavy presence of the military must have effect on psych of the people. The question is, can federal government continue to militarize any election henceforth, does it has the adequate personnel to monitor general election for the election to be free and fair? These are questions that cannot be certainly answered by anybody except the outcome of the elections.

The Climatic Political Trend of Emergence of Leadership in Nigeria Politics

A friendly political atmosphere is significant to the emergence of political leaders in representative democracy. It makes the leaders to feel the needs for the development of their constituents in general rather than their godfathers, thugs, friends and family members.

The political atmosphere of emergence of leaders in 2003, 2007 and even 2011 in Nigeria devoid of healthy electoral contest among the political parties and contestants as they see the election as Zero-sum game. Hence, election contest is "do or die" affairs to ascend to political offices in Nigeria. The 2003 and 2007 general elections were marred with violence and election irregularities (Human Rights Watch, 2003; 2007 election violence). This equally applies to the 2011 elections with post-election violence (Channelstv, 2011).

This appears that the government supported violence that characterised 2003 election because its failure brings to justice those that perpetrated the crimes. Through its action the government has effectively sent out message that violence is acceptable component of conduct of elections in Nigeria. The wide international supports for president Obasanjo after 2003 general elections despite the pressure to ensure accountability for political violence, has favoured climate impurity in the country (Human Right Watch, Nigeria's 2003: Para. 3 and 4).

The current political fashion is now "do or die" and intimidation in Nigerian politics as manifested in Nigerian politicians' actions and rhetoric in the media. For example, In Ondo State during the bye election conducted to elect member representing Ileje/Ese Odo Federal House of representative, Muslim Obanikoro the Minister of State Defence was indicted of election violence by the State Electoral Commissioner Mr. Akin Orebiyi of using the military to intimidate voters as a result voting did not take place in 59 units, with 28,000 registered voters (INEC, 2014)

In the same vein, the Nigeria Vice President (VP) Namadi Sambo was indicted of exhibiting an attitude reflecting a "do or die" politics particularly in his utterances during the inauguration of two national campaign committees of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for Ekiti and Osun States governorship elections. In his words, "by inaugurating us today, we will go to war front and bring back our stolen mandate..." (Sambo, 2014). The utterance was evident in Ekiti when one Taiwo Akinola was killed in a clash between the supporters of the ruling All Pro

Progressive Congress (APC) and opposition PDP during electioneering campaign in the state (Akinrefon, 2014) and other similar cases in the political scene. Political violence, destruction of public and private property, intimidations, assassination of rivals and opponents now features of Nigerian politics.

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This ugly development in Nigeria in this regard succeeds in bringing the political atmosphere that is worrisome to even the political gladiators and balloons. With the present killings and bombing by the Islamic Boko Haram sect in the north and kidnapping in the southern parts of the country, one has the cause to be worried about the 2015 general elections.

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The Leadership Style in Nigeria Politics Today

Leadership is very significant in the life of organization/country because it determines and shapes the governance. By definition, leadership is to influence the behaviour of other individuals or groups toward attainment of common goal (Ezeali and Esiagu, 2009:36; Aghaulor, 2002:93-94). A leader is a person who sets priorities. Gardner(1978:132-135) articulates that leaders responsibility is to help the society "understand the problems that all must face, to work with other in finding paths to these goals chosen, maintaining public morale, and motivate and nurture a workable level of public unity".

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The present Nigeria leadership style is difficult to categorize into any of the commonly known leadership styles (autocratic, laissez-fair and democratic style) due to the modus-operandi in the political system. However, the present leadership style in Nigeria could be best described and situated in leadership style postulated by Eulau(1963:96) which he called "instrumental" leadership. Instrumental leadership uses power and influence of his office primarily in the pursuit of private goals. The main concern of the leader is how to use his leadership position to achieve personal objectives and hold on to power. The leader may be community/social committed but in practice, he gives more consideration to himself over the interest of the state for which he is in-charge. This leadership style exists and excels in a corrupt society.

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Eulau's instrumental leadership style evidence in Nigeria political leaders from the Fourth Republic in 2003 till date, use state power(s) and influence for personal, close family members and even for their ethnic enclaves, as the case may be. This scenario has earned Nigeria the fifth poorest nations in the world according to World Bank 2014 Report, which president Jonathan admitted at the 2014 National May Day rally in Abuja. He said ".....Nigeria is not poor, it only has the problem of unequal distribution of wealth" (Goodluck, 2014:16).

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President Jonathan claimed of unequal distribution of nation's wealth was evident in the case of the former Ogun State Governor Otunba Gbenga Daniel of allegation of corrupt practices levelled against him by Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) supported with 25 exhibits, including public properties converted to personal and family use(EFCC, 2014:11).

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The present Nigeria leadership style (instrumental leadership) is contrary to "societal leadership style postulated by Kófele-koale (1976:82). He notes that societal leader is a public servant, and private person as secondary. May resign when he was convinced that he cannot influence changes for the benefit of the public.This leadership style exists in a society where there is no noticeable corrupt practice.

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Conclusively, INEC failed in its utilitarian value in the conduct of free and fair general elections without violence and irregularities since year 2003 till date. The failure to bring to justice those responsible for tthe crimes has occasioned the unfriendly political atmosphere fuelling do or die and intimidation in the nation's political system. INEC inability to conduct credible elections to an extent has denied Nigerians their choice visionary and dynamic of leadership

(societal leadership style) and the outcome of it is lack of development and unequal distribution of the nation's wealth.

Recommendations

The following are recommended for improvement in the ways and manner elections are conducted for emergence of leadership in Nigeria.

- ❖ Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) should inculcate discipline in its staff as regards the conduct elections.
- ❖ The chairman of INEC should be appointed by neutral body and not the president, as no person would bite the fingers that fed him.
- ❖ Every ruling party and the incumbent political leadership should not see the position(s) as birth right, and stop breeding unfriendly political atmosphere of "do or die" syndrome in our polity.
- ❖ Nigeria should have attitudinal change- Nigeria first before oneself. That is the only way an individuals and leaders can sincerely contribute to the nation's transformations projects.
- ❖ Nigerians should observe electoral laws and its code of conduct.

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