

THE IMPACT OF LINGUISTIC DIFFERENCES, RELIGION AND FALSE INFORMATION ON THE 2015 ELECTION RESULTS IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

This work studies the extent to which people cling to bias, sentiments, personal relationship, and false information, letting go of logic and reasoning during elections, and how these affect their choice and mandate during the elections in a democratic society leading to the ascension of incapacitated individuals into political offices, whereas in a democratic society people should be evaluated or judged by who they are and what they are capable of accomplishing not by where they come from and other societal limitations. The data for the study were the 2015 election results collected from the Independent National Electoral Commission office, as a medium of assessing how language diversity, sectional differences and false information affected the presidential election. The results of the study proved that the Southerner who contested won in all the southern states in addition to three Northern states while the northerner won in all but three Northern States and none from the Southern States.

Introduction

In every democratic society, it is the human and constitutional right of every qualified citizen to contest for any position. The citizen signals this interest by registering with a political party, under which platform he solicits for vote. Nigeria has passed several periods of hardship both during and after the various military and civilian rules, which should make the citizens wiser when it comes to issues of national power, rather linguistic differences, religious inclinations, sectionalism/ tribalism, and lack of credible information has been a clog in the wheel of progress in

elections which is why electoral policies and practices has never been rightly practiced in Nigeria. Citizens often blame lack of good governance on electoral malpractices, corruption and a failed system of Government, but they tend to forget the basic things that have become inhibitions to a favorable democracy. Therefore, the study would verify this issue by assessing how linguistic differences, religion and false information have hampered the Nigerian electoral process and ascertain to what extent they affected or influenced the 2015 presidential election in Nigeria. However, using the 2015 presidential election results in Nigeria, the judgment will be based on an assessment of the total number of votes realized in each state and geo-political zones for the two major opposing parties.

The concept of democracy in Nigeria

Democracy according to the Cambridge dictionary, is " a system of Government by the whole population, or all the eligible members of a state, typically though elected representatives in a free and fair election".

Merriam Webster's dictionary defined democracy as a government in which the supreme power is vested on the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections.

In the phrase of Abraham Lincoln, democracy is "a government of the people, by the people, and for the people". Freedom and democracy are often used interchangeably, but the two are not synonymous. Democracy is indeed a set of ideas and principles about freedom, but it also consists of a set of practices and procedures that have been molded through a long, often tortuous history. In short, democracy is the institutionalization of freedom. For this reason, it is possible to identify the time-tested fundamentals of constitutional government, human rights, and equality before the law that any society must possess to be properly called democratic.

According to Musa (2014) "Democracy is built on the equality of citizens; the freedom of these citizens to associate with one another for the realization of their ideals and the defense and promotion of their interests; and the freedom of these citizens to choose between the

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different political platforms of various political parties and candidates, and see to the actualization of the platforms they have voted for, if their choices win. But in Nigeria, people have effectively been disenfranchised by their own circumstances on the one hand, and their leaders' perfidy on the other". As a result, Nigeria is approaching a situation where democracy is being practiced without democrats and elections are being conducted with scant regard for the electorate. The ballot is not respected by the government and the price of protecting it is too high for the people to pay; but the bullet, once universally feared, is now generally out of fashion. In the light of the above, Musa argues that looking at the year 2011 and beyond in the Nigerian political parlance, there are several vigorous challenges which must be met decisively and effectively if the polity is to endure. The questions of national identity, national integration, the issues of the legitimacy of authority and the transformation of Nigerian society into a true political community have still not been properly and definitively addressed and a lot will depend on when and how quickly they are asked and answered.

According to a Nigerian American journalist Balogun (2015) " The people of Borno, whose children were stolen and murdered in Chibok, whose markets have been bombed, whose homes ransacked, whose women raped, who have borne the brunt of Boko Haram's carnage, stood undaunted. Hundreds of thousands of people rejected extremism and exercised the most fundamental of human rights". Images of perseverance and people-power pervaded social networking sites. Great-grandparents voted, those who couldn't walk to the polling sites were aided by nurses, the enterprising set up shop and fed the masses and the young passed the time by dancing and when they couldn't vote on Saturday, many made the journey back to their polling site and stood in lines for hours the next day when voting was extended. Could we now say by this outlook and view that Democracy has come to stay in Nigeria, no apathy was shown, even the aged trooped in mass, but in the south, it was not the same, because they were unsure what the northerner holds for them if he eventually wins. In logic, it is argued that bias is a part of human life as individuals hardly make decisions that would not be favourable to their kit and kin, as they tend to even cast their votes for their incapable kins than capable outsiders.

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Balogun (2015) insisted that we must recognize the bravery and heroism of the Nigerian voter "In Borno, the Northeastern Nigerian state devastated by the murderous rampage of Boko Haram, the terrorist organization threatened before the election to shoot those who voted and to bomb polling sites, yet, in Borno's state capital of Maiduguri, internally displaced people reportedly walked for miles to vote. A polling site set up for those internally displaced reportedly became an emotional reunion for those reunited with loved ones they thought massacred by Boko Haram".

If Nigerians who faced this kind of tortuous situation still came out to vote, it was a serious clamor for change, as they journeyed all the way from their hiding place to make sure the present party would be ousted from power since they did nothing to come to their aid, even when they are unsure if the change would eventually bring peace to their lives and solution to their problems.

Linguistic differences as a constraint

Linguistic differences go hand in hand with ethnicity as each ethnic group possess its own language and each language group is automatically an ethnic group having its own distinct culture. Language differences exist when people do not share the same language, and in such a multilingual nation, ethnicity is often the order of the day. Ethnicity is a noun that refers to an affiliation resulting from racial or cultural ties. It is a socially defined category of people who relate to each other based on common ancestral, social, cultural or national experience. There has been constant debate over the classification of ethnic groups. Membership of an ethnic group tends to be associated with shared cultural heritage, ancestry, history, homeland, language or dialect, the term culture specifically including aspects such as religion, mythology and ritual, cuisine, dressing style, etc. By the nature of the concept, ethnic groups tend to be divided into ethnic subgroups, which may themselves be or not be identified as independent ethnic groups depending on the source consulted. However, these are usually people sharing a common and distinctive culture, religion, language, or the like. Connor (2012) explains that, in Belgium which has three major language groups; The Dutch-speaking Flanders, the French speaking Wallonia

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and the German speaking municipalities, conflict of interest always abound as none of the parties are ready to align with each other no matter how promising the candidate for any general election is. They only align with themselves as it is well known that the nation is divided along linguistic lines elections.

According to schmitz in Panichi (2012) “when a stalemate between Flemish and Walloon politicians left the country with no government for a record 18 months, few considered Belgium's eastern cluster of German-speaking municipalities, The people here understand the Flemish attitude, I would say we are in the third position, if you want. So, we don't say we are with the Flemish and we don't say we are with the Walloons and there interest is not ours”. The last quote here represents the thinking of the German speaking communities and with this kind of mindset, how can political interests align and national stability achieved. Linguistic and cultural splits run deep despite changing demographics in Belgian communities. The rise of nationalist parties is also playing into the lead-up to Sunday's municipal elections in Belgium.

According to Panichi (2012) “In Antwerp, outspoken Flemish nationalist Bart de Wever is using his tilt at the mayorship to kick-start a campaign that could end in the dissolution of Belgium. Meanwhile in the outer suburbs of Brussels, a more subtle Belgian drama is being played out. A look at one town shows that in these municipalities, the language people speak and the context in which they speak it is front and center of the political campaign”. Linguistic divisions remain deeply etched in the voting patterns of residents in communities such as Kraainem, and according to Jean-Benoit Pilet, a lecturer in political science at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, the only way out of the predicament is for one of the parties to back down which appears unlikely. Pilet painted a black-and-white choice: "The only solution is that either the majority of French speakers accept they are in Flanders and it's not a bilingual region, or the Flemish government accepts that these municipalities are bilingual so they should be part of Brussels, because the Brussels region is bilingual," he told Deutsche Welle.

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According to Akdag(2015) "The number one factor behind the erosion of support for the Justice and Development Party (AKP) in Turkey's June election was the rallying of ethnic Kurdish voters behind the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP). Kurdish-origin voters had previously been split between the AKP and ethnic Kurdish parties, but in June an overwhelming number of Kurds, who make up around 15 percent of the population, consolidated behind the HDP. This deprived the AKP of its parliamentary majority, ultimately leading to the depressing prospect of yet another election on 1st November after a coalition could not be formed".

Much of the analysis of why this shift happened focused on ideological and emotional causes. The last few years have seen a rousing of pan-Kurdish nationalism, particularly spurred by the war across the border and clashes between the Kurds of northern Syria and Islamic State. The bump in the HDP's votes was largely down to support conservative Kurds amid a renewed sense of ethnic identification, rather than left-wing Turks flocking to it. But the ideological dimension is only one part of the story in Turkish elections.

Beyoglu Correspondent (2015) expresses that "One tactic was to target Kurds based on contacting them through co-ethnics, appointing local Kurdish-origin activists in majority Kurdish neighborhoods. To overcome sometimes violent local hostility and gain the sympathy of voters, activists deliberately indicated their origin through expressing their hometown or speaking in Kurdish. Once this bond was formed, neighborhood organizations were able to broaden their local activities and deepen clientelistic relations". The AKP was thus able to reach Kurdish voters to a far greater degree than other non-ethnic Kurdish parties. As an AKP neighborhood branch head in Beyoğlu told Akdağ: "They all change when you provide them assistance. I think social assistance is very effective, since they know that they should support the party if they want the benefits to continue."

Apart from this tactics invented used to confuse this voters, one need not argue, that they might not know the capabilities of the contestant they voted for, but based their judgment on the ethnic-relations which was far more like assisting a kin win a race irrespective of his ability to deliver. Taking a look at what engulfed between the gubernatorial contestants in

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Abia state , Nigeria, one would realize, that the area called Ngwa, having struggled for this position for many years were finally given the mandate to produce a Governor. It would have been expected they would have been happy to do so, but instead the major contestants Dr. Alex Otti , and Dr.Okezie Ikpeazu who hailed from different sections of Ngwa went into a tussle, as people from the area were no longer concerned about who has the capacity to deliver but saw it as a local government election in which each local government must of necessity support its son to win. Nigeria is expected to have gone beyond this by borrowing a leaf from the more developed United States of America, in which a black man, President Barrack Obama won in a highly free and fair election , having more white voters than Blacks.

Even the opposition Between President Muhammadu Buhari and former president Goodluck Jonathan was a very tense one as no one knew what the outcome will be, as northerners highly supported their man, as they solidly stood beside him, despite the former still got a good number of votes from them. In the south, it was a different case, as the southerners risked the opportunity of voting for a leader that might marginalize them on linguistic and ethnic grounds and voting for their son who has disappointed them once and there only existed slim chances he would do well this time around. It was a dicey issue in the south as results of the presidential elections had the final say.

Akinyemi (2014) opines that “In the 1960s, the United Nations and the world were opposing ethnic sectionalism but by the 1990s the United Nations and the International Community had become more flexible to ethnic realities. This interpretation led to the opening of more realities for Africa leading to the breakdown of Sudan and Ethiopia. A two-party system, in my view, is a possible answer to the common problem of ethnic politics in Africa.”

He said that ethnicity was not only an African problem, but a universal phenomenon, noting that the Balkans’ war was fought based on ethnicity. Citing many examples of multi-ethnicity, “Very few countries in the world are uni-ethnic, the United Kingdom has had 73 Prime Ministers, 63 of which have been from Britain, 7 from Scotland, 1 from Wales and 1 from Ireland. Germany comprises 81 percent Germans

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while the remaining 19 per cent have been various ethnicities,” the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) quotes Akinyemi as saying.

Nigeria had tried to provide balancing in the issue of ethnicity in political appointments through the concept of federal character as provided for in Section 13 of the 1999 Constitution, noting that the provision had been abused.

Earlier, Senator Ike Nwachukwu, a former Minister of Foreign Affairs, said that " ethnicity remained the bane of democratic practices in African countries, and for Africa to grow, African people have to grow beyond the resentment of one another".

For instance, a survey conducted from 2005-2008 on trust showed that 68% of Scandinavians trust each other while only 18-25% of Sub-Saharan Africans trust each other.

Religion as a constraint

A religion is an organized collection of beliefs, cultural systems, and world views that relate humanity to an order of existence. The anthropologist Geertz, defined religion as a "system of symbols which acts to establish powerful, pervasive, and long-lasting moods and motivations in men by formulating conceptions of a general order of existence and clothing these conceptions with such an aura of factuality that the moods and motivations seem uniquely realistic."

Most decisions people take in life today are determined by religion, religious inclinations have formed the basis of attitudes and activities partaken of by citizens in the countries of the world. The thing yet to be understood is that religious stooges go beyond the different types of religions to the sects under them. As the Sunni and Shiite Muslims have their different and similar beliefs, so the different Christian sects/denomination have their own different beliefs. It is not surprising that some Christian denominations do not take medicines, some do not believe in the coming of Christ, some do not believe in attachment of unnatural / material things to body parts, some do not believe a woman should stand at the pulpit lest to preach, some believe a woman is not to be heard but seen, some do not eat dead or strangled meat, others do not allow blood transfer no matter how their health is failing, some do not

allow abortions even if it could save the patient's life, likewise some do not believe in voting or electoral processes, as they believe that God being the supreme being chooses our leaders, therefore not in our hands to make such divine choices, and such Christians should not partake in earthly governance, all these are religious inhibitions that restrict a citizen's participation in what goes on around him. But these are beliefs that cannot be easily changed or erased from the psyche of the observer, whether those beliefs are right or wrong. This was the main reason Rev. Chris Okotie failed when he contested for presidency in 2007. People argued and murmured while a man of God who has a mansion prepared for him above, should condescend to tussle for earthly powers. Little did they think of the Bible where the kingdoms were ruled by God fearing Kings. Religious beliefs and inclination cut across the lives of citizens in so much as that Christians, Muslims, Pagans, etc. alike have principles and ideals that are religiously attached to their personal lives when it comes to societal norms and expectations. when it comes to the elections;

-Religious inclination can prevent a Muslim female, no matter how well she would have performed in a political office from showing interest, this is also the case with an ardent Christian woman. Most religions believe that women in politics are wayward people who are not submissive to their husbands and therefore cannot stay under a man but would prefer to rub shoulders with him all in the name of power tussle. However, from time antiquity, the role of women in society whether in the political, religious, economy and social circles can never be underestimated. The influence the feminine folk have brought to bear on great matters that excite the mind and affect society were, are and will always be evergreen, unfortunately, these activities of women in the past are often unreported, downplayed, or waved off by male chauvinists. Most notable were the activities of the Aba women riot in 1929, which was the first insurrection/protest against the white men. Therefore putting the activities of the women in the map for the first time in Nigerian history, these women are still doing more today and should be encouraged not deterred.

-Most religious background create idealistic principles which their followers live with, which prevents the best of leaders to contest. In this

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stance you see men who are qualified to take up certain positions not interested because they have already concluded that politics is for the vile and evil among us, for people who have acquired enormous spiritual and sorcery powers and therefore risky for them to contend with. Whether this view is right or not, it becomes imperative for people not suited for the positions to occupy, instead most of this well meaning citizens come out to vote but will never contest.

- Religious inhibitions also abound in religious sects where members are not interested in what happens politically in the nation. Voters registration, voting on the election day as an electorate, or taking part in the process as an electoral official is not their problem as they have better things to do, not to talk of running for the elections. They argue why men should do God's work, man is too small to know what goes on in the mind of a fellow man, so why play God. This group believe man should leave the choice of a leader to God who is all knowing, forgetting that in the bible, people still came out in mass, and lots were casted, but rather God played the role of INEC. This leads to political apathy, a situation where people lose interest and not participate in political elections, this was what we saw in the last election, though most of it not religiously related, there was no good turnout for voting, especially in the south. We see cases of a local government with 500,000 people but only 250,00 votes were counted altogether as was shared among the parties, if a particular party wins by getting a larger count of this number, would it be right to say the election was free and fair, if the remaining half had voted, would the winner still have been the choice of the majority, political apathy whether religiously based or not creates a lot of issues, especially as the winner that emerges ends up not being the choice of the majority even though he had the highest number of votes. Most Christians were not in support of the incumbent president, not because they felt he was incapable but because they belonged to different religions and therefore felt it could be a clog in the wheel of Christianity progress.

False Information as a constraint

Communication is a means by which beings pass information among themselves. It is not just an act, it is a process. According to Hasan

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(2014) " Communication is a process of sharing or exchange of ideas, information, knowledge, attitude or feeling among two or more persons through certain signs and symbols". It is the mechanism through which human relations exist and develop. The basic tool of communication is language. language is intricately a very part of our lives, that we rarely notice it at all, it is a means by which human beings perform the most mundane tasks, only when communication breaks down do we actually understand the role of language. When it comes to politics and elections, a good number of people are not participants themselves, only few people really are.

According to Hasan (2014) "Quality of life will be poor without information, The more informed we are, the more powerful we become and the better decisions we make". Communication provides information about our surroundings. Information regarding wars, danger, crisis, famine, etc. are important for the safety and well being of our lives. Even in periods of elections, when we are not opportune or privileged to get first-hand information on a given politician or political party, we tend to make do with the information from the privileged which might be framed and therefore misleading.

In Nigeria today, when you ascertain the number of newspapers sold daily as compared to the population of Nigeria, you realize that not much people read newspapers in Nigeria, and a lot that do, read when they come in contact with papers bought by others, How many citizens still watch the national news? People are so glued to the Satellite Television that they have no concern with what is going on in Nigeria. From the period of the campaigns till the end of the elections, it was really during and after the elections, when the results were out, that everybody wanted to know the winners and losers, meanwhile the damage has been done. In Nigeria, people depend a whole lot on third party information. They depend more especially on the media, who they trust to be credible, whereas they are the chief instrument of propaganda, whether healthy or not. The media gives information to favor their sources of funding as most media houses are naturally and financially affiliated to some political parties, and these make them good in framing up electoral activities to suit their cohorts. Even people who do not get the first hand information from the media, do so from friends, neighbors,

and relatives. This adulterated information from their folks form their political views. Even when they don't know the credibility of the story, they believe it is real and carry the information to their ignorant likes. Therefore framing which leads to the spread of untrue information influence the electorates as they cast their votes to people who are less castigated based on their sources of information who would always claim to be at the scene of the event. When the issue of President Buhari not having a certificate came up, at first he neglected it, but later it dawned on him that Nigerians would not want an illiterate president if the rumor was actually true, he had to put forward the certificate in order to clarify himself which would have caused him a great deal.

The 2015 presidential election results

The six Geo-Political Zones in Nigeria are as listed below with their component states. An analysis and calculation of the number of votes obtained in the various Geo-political zones will help prove the point and ascertain the extent to which the candidates got votes from their own zone and from other Geo-political zones.

- North Central (Nigeria): loosely known as Middle Belt; includes Benue State, Kogi State, Kwara State, Nasarawa State, Niger State, Federal Capital Territory and Plateau State
- North East (Nigeria): Adamawa State, Bauchi State, Borno State, Gombe State, Taraba State and Yobe State
- North West (Nigeria): Jigawa State, Kaduna State, Kano State, Katsina State, Kebbi State, Sokoto State and Zamfara State
- South East (Nigeria): loosely known as former East-Central State of Abia State, Anambra State, Ebonyi State, Enugu State and Imo State
- South South (Nigeria):loosely known as former South-Eastern State of Akwa-Ibom State and Cross-River State; former Rivers State of Bayelsa State and Rivers State; and former Mid-Western Region, Nigeria of Delta State and Edo State
- South West (Nigeria): includes Ekiti State, Lagos State, Ogun State, Ondo State, Osun State, and Oyo State

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Geo-Political Zones	APC Results	PDP Results
North-Central	2,411,013	1,715,819
North-West	7,115,199	1,339,709
North-East	2,848,678	796,588
South-East	198,248	2,048,625
South-South	418,580	4,714,725
South-West	2,433,193	1,881,416
Total	15,424,921	12,853,162

Total Number of Registered Voters = 67,422,005
 Total Number of Accredited Voters = 31,746,490
 Total Number of Rejected votes = 844,519
 Total Number of Valid votes = 28,567,584
 Total Number of votes cast = 29,432,083
 PDP Votes = 12,853,162
 APC votes = 15,424,921
 Other Parties = Total No. of valid votes - (Total No. Of APC Votes + PDP Votes)
 = 28,567,564 - 28,278,083
 = 289,481

Below is a diagrammatic representation of which party won in which states of Nigeria during the presidential election.

STATE	PDP	APC
Abia	•	
Adamawa		•
Akwa Ibom	•	
Anambra	•	
Bauchi		•
Bayelsa	•	
Benue		•

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Borno		•
Cross River	•	
Delta	•	
Ebonyi	•	
Edo	•	
Ekiti	•	
Enugu	•	
Gombe		•
Imo	•	
Jigawa		•
Kaduna		•
Kano		•
Katsina		•
Kebbi		•
Kogi		•
Kwara		•
Lagos		•
Nasarawa	•	
Niger		•
Ogun		•
Ondo		•
Osun		•
Oyo		•
Plateau	•	
Rivers	•	
Sokoto		•
Taraba	•	
Yobe		•
Zamfara		•
FCT	•	

From the analysis of the 2015 election results, it was noted that the APC candidate won over PDP magnificently in the north, as seen in the votes counted in the north west, north central and north east. He won over the PDP candidate in the south western region. It was only in the south south and south east that the PDP candidate had ethnicity advantage, even though a good number of southerners voted for APC in those areas, but based on the highly populated nature of the north, having won in the north automatically pronounced him winner. Most importantly to be noted is that the APC candidate did not win in any single state in the south south and south east though he got reasonable number of votes while the PDP candidate though did not win any geopolitical zone in the north but when it comes to individual states, won in FCT, Nassarawa and Plateau state in the north central, no state in the north east, Taraba state in the north west and in only Ekiti in the south-west.

Conclusion/Summary of Findings

From the study of the effect of linguistic differences, religion, ethnicity, and false information, It was proven that President Buhari did not win any single state in the south East(Igbo-speaking state) and South South but won in all the south Western states except Ekiti. Former President Jonathan however won in 3 states in the North Central,1 state in the North East and none in the North West. People tend to be guided by their religious inclinations, they cannot say no to their person even when they are so sure that the person has no leadership trait. For APC not to majorly win any particular state in the whole of South south where the PDP candidate hails from and for PDP not to win any particular state in the North west where the APC candidate is coming from is a big indication of ethnicity as a plaque in politics. Also of note is the fact that APC did not conquer any south eastern state. On the contrary for the Northerner to win all states in the south west except Ekiti, and for PDP to even win up to 3 states in the North Central and 1 in the North East shows that there is hope for an integrative Nigeria one day. This is because for PDP to gain larger number of votes in some states in the north is an indication of a general turn around in the dubious nature of Nigerian politics.

The major reason why APC was even able to get some votes in the south was not only because of the clamor for change or people's belief in him but also because of the alleged corrupt nature of PDP in the south, which made most of their members and loyal supporters join APC, therefore most voted just for a change in the party in Government not because of the party's candidate as they opine that in Nigeria the winning party is in control not necessarily the candidate. In the last general elections, the emotions with which people trooped out in mass to vote in the north was awesome as compared to the east where it was a haphazard process. one would begin to wonder if because the easterners having been disappointed in their own son and having not known what the future and climate would be when they vote for the northerner were discouraged and exhibited apathy towards the elections while the northerners despite the issues of boko-haram came out in mass to vote. Could such a situation be described as patriotic and devoid of tribalism? Could it be they were so sure in their kin's ability and capability to rule Nigeria or they were so eager to make sure a northerner wins irrespective of his capacity.

Information is Power as people often make important decisions in life based on the information they have at hand, which is why politicians try as hard as possible to clarify false claims made against them which they know certainly would affect their political ambition. Politically we have not been able to achieve the stability our country needs, the quality of governance which Nigerians expect, and the delivery of services which they are entitled. Ethnicity, religious intolerance, incompetence, greed, insincerity and insensitivity have characterized our leadership. There is hardly an attempt to build the institutions of the polity such as the political parties, the legislatures and the judiciary which are the bedrock of a democratic system. The arrogance and the disregard for the needs of the people reflect the indiscipline, the extravagance and the dishonesty which have become the hallmark of the behavior of those in authority. This should spur us to clamor for a change in our political and electoral system.

Recommendation/ The way forward

From the study, the following recommendations were made:

- Citizens of every country should be made to understand that political participation is the best thing that can happen to one. It gives you control over the whole electoral process as your single vote can make or mar a contestant. Helping others mean much more than getting ahead, and politics provides the best platform on which one helps his generation. As a voter, it provides you the opportunity to know what is going on in your political unit, and gives you a right to make your choice, and as a political contestant, if you win, it gives you the opportunity to make right the wrongs others have done, try out your own ideology and contribute your quota in making the world a better and safer place for the future generations. According to Ezekwesili (2013), "one of the penalties of not delving into politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors, you would only then grow to the level that an underperforming Nigerian allows you to grow".

- People should ignore fanaticism and go for what is right, even in the Bible God made use of women in their prime to change ugly situations, as the enshrinement in the United Nations document have given women enormous right towards political participation, and women have 30% affirmation in Nigeria, they should come out in mass, Muslim and Christian alike to create a better nation, as women who have the gifts to contribute, when sidelined, die with such gifts. We have a long list of women who were outstanding and stage bearers to their generation in their time, heroines like, Queen Amina of Zaria, Princess Inkpi of Igala, and Princess Moremi of Ife. Nowadays, we have a lot of women today and presently in government and political offices and they are doing well, which should encourage men and women alike to encourage them more politically.

- Electioneering campaigns are supposed to be based on burning issues that have bearings on the lives of the people. Electorates are offered alternative choices and are able to identify and differentiate what each candidate has to offer and choose from these various alternatives freely without bias. Nigerian citizens are one, irrespective of race, tribe,

or creed, therefore these should not be considerations during elections, As patriotic citizens, the only interest should be on the candidate that has more to offer, and nothing more. One should avoid sentiments and bias which has been the cause of our failures over the years, which led most southerners to support and vote a northerner because the southerner failed the first time, they decided to give benefit of doubt to the northerner, this was also what some northerners bore in mind in the areas that the PDP candidate though being a southerner won. They could have as well not minded but voted their tribe's man if they were narrow minded. This broadmindedness is what this study recommends to make a better Nigeria.

- Also, in this digital age that ICT is a veritable tool in all sectors, politicians can be easily framed for offences they have not committed through photo shopping and at that, we should be logical before passing our judgments bearing in mind that most politicians see it as a do or die affair and can go to any length to tarnish another's image. During periods of election, opposition parties can try all sorts of tricks to dehumanize and discredit their opponents, which is the main reason Nigerians should reduce their criticism against the well meaning few that have decided to contest in order to win political positions and help the nation, as if all Nigerians decide to sit at home and criticize, who does the leading?

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