



ELECTION MANIPULATION IN NIGERIA AND ITS CONSEQUENCES ON INTERNAL SECURITY OPERATIONS

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ABSTRACT

Electoral manipulation and rigging have become a tradition in Nigerian democratic system that was ushered in since 29th May, 1999. To those benefiting from the rigging, it is a normal process that should proceed unabated. There are however indications that the bad system is characterized by greater abnormalities that are capable of leading the country on a narrow path to a failed state. Electoral rigging anywhere in the World ushers into the political sphere desperate politicians, with no leadership and administrative skills this category of leaders have little or no interest on the growth and sustainable development of the state and citizens they are to govern. Because they are bad, they mobilize followers who are criminals to help deliver their ambitions of becoming either president of the country, governors, House of assembly members at state and federal level as well as local government chairmen. These followers who are mainly cultist of different groups and organization will automatically assume the role of private and secret security guard when their masters maneuver themselves into various political offices. This particular point is the beginning of insecurity and security challenges post on general security network of the country. The supporters of our political leaders commit heinous crimes and when in police or Department of State Services (DSS) net, calls are received from their political masters negotiating their immediate release. Therefore, the founders of Boko Haram, Islamic States of West African Province (ISWAP), Banditry, Kidnappers, armed robbery and Secessionist Movement are boys loyal to some of the political leaders. The paper examines the reasons of security collapse in the country since the advent of democracy in 1999, and the consequences of electoral manipulation on internal security operation. The paper depended solely on secondary source of data collection; text books journals, internet sources as well as newspapers were consulting. The Elite theory was adopted to help explain the topic under investigation. The recommendation made were, total overhauled of our electoral system, full funding of security network to provide relevant equipment to tackle crime and creation of employment.

(Keywords: Election manipulation, rigging, maneuverability and security operations)

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Introduction

Nigeria is in shambles and gradually on its way to a failed state as projected and predicted some years back by the United States (U.S.) Federal Bureau of Intelligent (F.B.I). Democratic system of government is considered the best when the people are allowed in a free and fair election to determine who emerges as their leader in all layers of government, the same system becomes criminal and frustrating when a collected few adopts all available strategies to maneuver electioneering process and force themselves as leaders of the people. If the process of election manipulation continues in a large scale, the result will be gross apathy by the citizens on election matters and if it gets to this particular stage, the country will be hijacked by unpatriotic kleptomaniacs. In a fair election only good people who have shown interest and evidence of community development effort are elected by their people. The people know long history of their community members and they are ready to sacrifices and vote them to represent them in governmental Offices.

The people are always disappointed and frustrated when credible candidates are rigged out by unscrupulous politicians who force themselves to represent the people at all cost. If one is good, the electorate willingly votes such person to represent them as long as he or she remains discipline.

Statement of the Problem

A child that was born in the early 1990s and began observing the Nigeria electoral system will definitely conclude that our electioneering system which is characterized by violence, manipulations and outright rigging is a cultural heritage that shouldn't be jettison. The common problem with election manipulation is that unwanted persons or simply put unpopular candidates maneuver themselves into power. Since they are interested to grasp power at all cost, they mobilize gangsters, cultist and "area boys" who are mainly unemployed youths, armed them with weapons to distort elections and rig in their favors. These supporters will after elections become nuisance to the society. With their weapons, they are inclined to engage in armed robbery, kidnapping, banditry, secessionist movement and of course terrorism. The upsurge of criminal activities perpetrated by this category of individuals has posed serious security challenges across the country mounting more pressure on police and DSS with limited quantity of materials and equipment to counter the security threat.

Nigeria inspector general of police (I.G.P) recently lamented the shortage of patrol vans in the 1,537 divisional police headquarters in the country. That the challenge faced by the Nigeria Police is poor funding and manpower shortage. While the United Nation ratio of one hundred Policemen to Four Hundred civilian, because of the gross inadequacy of personnel. The ratio in Nigeria is one police man to one thousand civilians. The IGP Kayode Egbetokun reported that the 1, 537 police divisional headquarters are in the 774 local government areas.

Theoretical Framework

The thematic exposition of the Elite theorizing is that power is concentrated, believing that the elites are strongly unified that the non elite who are diverse in composition and powerless. With the assumptions that power is institutional position, they are unified due to common interest, background as well as positions.

The main premise of elite theory is found on the believe that societies are not governed by majority of the people but societies are rather governed by minority, that even democratic societies are ruled by a minority. The propounder of the theory vilfredo Pareto opines that societies are divided in two categorical groups of Elites Ruling minority and of course the Ruled who are the Non Elites. Accordingly, the elitist groups will always strive at all cost and possible means to clinched political powers and remain relevant.

The Elite theory was propounded by vilfredo Pareto (1848-1923) Gaetano mosca (1858-1941) and Robert Michaels (1876-1936).

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Conceptual Clarifications.

Election Manipulation

Election manipulation involves deliberate procedural effort to influence election in such a way that the outcome will not represent the people mandate. This could be achieved through the adoption of multifarious strategies such as late opening of polling stations and closing early, multiple thumb printing by few individuals in order to influence the outcome of the election, failure to publicize election venue before the election day, intimidation of voters, disruption of peaceful election, hijacking of ballot boxes, vandalization and mutilation of electioneering materials and announcement of result and figures blatantly different from results of polling booths (Ezeani 2005).

Internal Security Operation

Internal security operations refer to security operations and network within the borders of Nigeria. Aniobi S. C, Ewuim N. C & Zayum S. S. (2021) stated that Nigeria is no doubt faced with different kinds of security threats such as armed robbery, kidnapping, political thuggery, ethno-religious conflicts, organized violent groups, economic based violence, gender-based violence, sexual abuse, menace of Boko Haram and most recently arms-bearing-herdsmen attacks including election fueled threats. The security operational terrains are sometimes peaceful and flexible in operation and other times relatively difficult depending on the factors influencing the intelligent community at that particular moment.

A Comparative Discourse of a Free and Fair Election and Its Beauty

In November, 2022 in the state of Pennsylvania, United State of America, Anthony Deluca who had represented the state in the House Representative for 39 years was re-elected posthumously after his death in October, 2022 a month before the elections. He died at the age of 85. Pennsylvania electoral laws stipulate that candidate replacements are not allowed after printing of ballots have begun. A special election was later conducted to fill the gap. He was a Democrat. Again in the state of Nevada, brothel owner Dennis Hof was also voted posthumously but here the Nevada law allows the party to appoint a representative to serve for the number of years.

Dennis Hof was a republican he won a Democrat. He contested to represent 36 districts in Nevada state assembly in November 2018, again his death came too late after printing the ballot. Because they are good their death didn't prevent them from winning but however prevented them from serving. In another development, Mel Carnahan was a governor of Missouri from 1993 to October, 2000 when he died in a plane crash. He was a candidate for U.S. Senate for November elections of that year. He contested against John Ashcroft and Missouri law wouldn't allow his name to be taken out of the ballot as there were already printed. He won posthumously and his wife was selected by the campaign organization to serve in the U.S. senate. Dennis Hof died 16 October the same date as Mel Carnahan 18 years later.

Again, on 13th April, 2010. Carl Robin Geary Sr. emerged victorious as the mayor of Tracy city, Tennessee. Carl Robin died a month earlier of heart attack. He defeated his opponent Barbara Brock by 268 votes to 85. The wife of the dead Carl Robin told the press that when the husband died people who call her for condolences said they were still going to vote for him even as he died. Moreso, House majority Leader Hale Boggs of Louisiana and Rep. Nick Begich of Alaska were on a campaign tour in Alaska in October, 1972 when their plane disappeared after a thorough search for 39 days without success, they were considered dead but the two Democrats were re-elected posthumously their seats were later filled after a special election was conducted. In a free and credible electoral process, the electorates are prepared to vote a good candidate as many times as he desires to serve. The electorates are determined to vote a good candidate posthumously as reward for serving them better. In 1959, Clement Miller representing California's 5th District started his political career but died on October 7, 1962, in a plane crash near the

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California City Eureka. He was however re-elected posthumously to the house the following month (<https://www.cnn.com/2018/11/09/how-dennis-hof-and-others-still-won-elections-after-death.html>).

Credible elections assist the society in the development of moral attitudes. Those seeking public offices must have good attitude and good history of people oriented policies, projects and programmes to enable the people give out their mandates. When voted into office the candidate is expected to remain good else he or she won't be voted in a re-election bid and by this, people are inclined to have passionate feelings to one another, people are also inclined to be discipline and also respect the norms of the society. With the support of other democratic institutions like the adjudication process there will be no space for criminal and fraudulent activities.

In Nigeria, election manipulations have only help to feature unpatriotic political leaders with the intention of embezzling and depleting the nation's treasury. They bring in thugs who rig election in their favour and when they are sworn-in, the thugs become a problem to the society as most of them armed with guns turn to armed robbers, bandits, kidnappers and other terrorist organizations. Election days in Nigeria are like war front as various cult groups hired by politicians equipped themselves with guns, charms, daggers, knives and machetes pursuing beating and injuring eligible voters, they hijack, mutilate and vandalize electioneering materials. Hence good parent will stop their children from going out to vote because of the violent activities perpetrated by political thugs. Electoral manipulation comes in different ways; it is a process of interfering with the people's mandate. This involves, using under age to vote for candidate of interest, mass thumb printing by voters who never registered, the use of thugs, and cultist to scare eligible voters snatching of ballot papers and boxes to be filled with votes of unregistered voters, improper counting, and publishing of wrong results and the declaration of a wrong candidate as the winner of the election.

Since the advent of new democracy from 1999 to 2023, apart from the 2011 general election that was a little bid credible, Nigerian electoral process had never been anything to write home about. Rather the improvement has been negative; from low rigging to higher rigging, from minimum violent to maximum violent from unsophisticated arms use by thugs for rigging to more sophisticated arms like the AK 47 rifles. There shouldn't be anytime grenades will be use for the same purpose. The Nigeria Youths are easily use by the politicians for thuggery and other electoral malpractice activities as a result of wide spread unemployment and abject poverty in the society caused by inefficient leadership. For any electoral process to be considered free, fair and credible it must be conducted in of course a free, fair and credible atmosphere devoid of all electoral negativities, accordingly, electoral results must reflect the people mandate. In a free and fair electoral process a good and credible candidate will be elected and re-elected as many times as he is still strong and willing to serve his people and if he dies when ballot have been printed and his name cannot be removed, he will be voted posthumously". That is the beauty of true democracy, the beauty of free and fair elections. Nigeria politicians should learn how not to force themselves on the people and allow the elections to be free and fair else they destroy the economy, destroy security operations and destroy the people whom they are supposed to protect.

Twenty four years of Nigeria's uninterrupted democratic government cannot in any measure, commensurate or juxtapose that of the U.S. two hundred years and the British three hundred years democracy. Nigeria democratic institutions, the rule of law, electoral, process and constitutionalism are still epileptic and problematic (ugwuala & kaletal, 2020). Electoral manipulations and malpractices breed violence and crisis which to a reasonable extent erodes democracy.

However, the historical origin of election manipulation in Nigeria is traced to 1965 western Regional election when Chief Samuel Akintola's Nigeria National Democratic party (N.N.D.P) blatantly out rigged Chief Awolowo's Action Group (A.G) party. This incident resulted to Western regional Crisis that contributed to military coup of January 25th 1966.

Cause of Electoral Manipulation

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Many Nigeria have continued to lament the blantant way in which elections are manipulated in the country. In any case, victory is suppose to be celebrated but a situation where a reasonable percentage of the population are calm, sad and mute and very few celebrate after the announcement of elections calls for questioning, review, and over hawled of the entire process. However, the reasons and cause of electioneering manipulation, rigging and fraud in Nigeria context would be reviewed under political economic and social-psychrolyeogical reason and circumstances.

Political Motives

Ortage (2001) was of the view that politicians are engaged in election manipulations and rigging mainly on political motives. An average Nigeria politician is desperate to clinch politicalpower but reluctant to let it go. The reason why Ibeogu (2020), Iwuoha (2019) lamented that most Nigerian politicians that came up with emergence of Democracy in 29th May, 1999 have either participated in military politics or defunct democracy in the 1970s and 1980s, not as if most of them still have any reasonable thing to offer but simply the interest to grapple power and remain relevant. Again, one cannot say it's wrong for a politician to be in power as long as 40 years as the case may be, but it is good for elections to be free and fair so that the people could determine who represent them. If a candidate is good enough, the electorate may decided to vote him as many times as he may desire to serve them, and jettison the corrupt notion of "turn-by-turn" or it is my turn or the turn of north-west south-south, north-east west etc.

We've seen elsewhere in countries with developed democracy where good candidates who represented their constituencies at congress for more than 30 years died close to their re-election campaigns and voted post humously defeating the living candidate and in several occasion the living candidates conceded defeat and a special elections were later conducted to fill the space.

Again, in United states of America, a senator representing California, state, senator Oropeza Jenny was first elected in 2006 to represent California state died on October 20, 2010 of Liver cancer even as she was expected to win her re-election bit, since she died a month before November election, the ballots could not be reprinted by the state electoral body. The elections were conducted and she won post humously with 58 percent of the votes. In a similar incident Stone-Braker of Winfield Missouri, died after suffering from a severe heart attack a month before the April 2009 election. He was again voted post humously after scoring 90 percent of the vote cast (cnbc.com/2019/.) the foregoing instance is the beauty of democracy and beauty of free and fair elections.

Ochiagechi (2012) reported that multiple styles are involve election rigging and manipulations. The various ways Nigerian politicians blatantly rigged out good and dependable candidates include, vote buying on electionday with either local or foreign currencies, forceful announcement of a loose and thereafter advised the acclaimed winner to appeal knowing too well that the courts are theirs and the judges are bought over. They also ensure that polling units in their opponent's location are covered with aimed military personnel so as to instill fear in the minds of the eligible voters. This strategy which the electorate may consider a threat results to apathy that a reasonable number of voters end up not voting. Politicians also ensure late arrival of election materials in their rival's polling stations, when this is done, the desperate voters are weakened and some returned to their houses to engage in their domestic activities that will take the rest of their time. Many more is the threatening of electoral officials and often times forcing electoral officials to compromise and change the figures, snatching of ballot boxes and papers, and manipulation of results at voting centres

Because the People Democratic Party (PDP) stayed in power for 16 years from 1999 to 2015, the Advance Progressive Congress(APC) have a target to remain in power for 16 years or more, even when the country have witnessed the most abysmal, callous, and gross administrative ineptitude since the party took charge in 2015.

In a normal democratically electioneering system political parties don't determine how long they stay in power but the electorate do. If political parties must stay long, then they must field in reliable candidates

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who are ready to work relentlessly to deliver parties manifestos and decent enough to be corruption free. As bad as some political parties are. Its leadership wouldn't allow their parties to be voted out, they vote themselves in through election rigging and other malpractices.

Economic Reasons

Anderson (2000), is an exponent of the debate that economic interest plays a significant role in electoral manipulation. Anderson adopted the German electoral audits to expatiate how eastern juckers, owners of coal mines and coal factories policed their peasants and factory workers to ensure victorious in the elections. Moreover, German (1990), and Kousser (1974) also explained how land Lords manipulated elections to ensure that the representative elected from their district remain in control of power in Argentina.

In Nigeria, those that have been in government for more than a decade use their financial prowess to influence and manipulate elections to favour their candidature. This is achieved through the process of vote buying, buying of electoral official, security personnels and various cult groups including area boys to snatch ballot boxes and papers and also vandalize electoral materials where snatching may prove difficult. Some politician in Nigeria are striving to be richer than the state but it has always been difficult to attain that level because the country is blessed with enormous natural resources, it is in this desperation that they are unwilling to vacate power and ready to go to any length to return.

Socio-Psychological Perspectives

Leadership and power attracts followership, respect and loyalty. While in power, politicians are crowded by people who claim to be supporters and loyalist with different interest expecting favour from their political masters. Most politicians are so acclimatize and engrossed by this act such that if it were possible they could dwell in power for life, being that the respect and loyalty ends abruptly after the end of tenure in office. Many politicians have cried out after leaving office that their friends and followers avoided them immediately they left power. Based on the foregoing reasons politicians are prepared to do all absurdities before and during elections to return to power.

Government policies programmes and projects are meant for the entire public and citizens and not for negligible few and the privileged. Nigerian political leaders most often abandon party manifestos and pursue personal interest and biases. Whenever they start doing the right thing while in office no one will ever regret when leaving the office. Vanguard of May 11, 2015 reported that former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Goodluck Jonathan lamented that his friends deserted him after he suffered defeat in 2015 presidential election. That he wasn't surprised that his so-called friend will desert him for the hard decision he took not to interfere with the general elections, that after all when FW De Klerk took the decision to abolish minority rule in South Africa, the wife divorced him. Believing that in his case his wife didn't divorce him.

Reasons for Security Breakdown with the Emergence of Democracy In 1999

The Nigerian state has since 1999 been bedeviled by all sort of security challenges from kidnappings, banditry, political violence, religious conflict, armed robbery, terrorist operations by Boko Haram, Islamic State of West African Province (SWAP), Fulani Herders, cultism, secessionist movement by movement for the actualization of the sovereign state of Biafra (MASSOB), as well as the struggle for resource control in the Niger Delta. The reasons for the wide spread security break down in the country is not only the common and conversional causes of poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, bad governance etc but also the extensive usage and abandonment of cultist, 'area boys' hired assassins, and thugs by politicians during elections. The paper will now explain and analyze the foregoing reasons and causes of security collapse since the advent of democracy in 1999.

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The Use and Abandonment of Thugs and Cultist after Elections

Eya (2003) observed that the most common strategy the politicians adopt to manipulate elections in Nigeria is the use of cultist, thugs and sometimes hired assassin. The military regimes never gave room for agitation of any sought, Ken Sarowiwa was murdered by General Sani Abacha administration for his agitation against environmental degradation perpetrated by shell petroleum in Ogoni land in Rivers State. Again, during military regimes cultist activities were only limited to universities and other higher institutions. The advent of democracy saw the spread of secrete cult across urban and rural villages in the country. Oddih (2000) noted that cultist and other groups were used by desperate politicians to manipulate elections. Accordingly, Ezeani (2005) stated that those that were used by politicians to rig elections were often well armed to aid them carry out their nefarious activities.

Where they become a problem to the general society is often times after electioneering process. Their political masters often abandon them, but without retrieving the guns they provided. This point is the beginning of security nuisance as most of them retire to armed robbery, kidnappings and easily integrated in secessionist movement and terrorist organization. These developments have of cause serious security threat to the country and resulted to loss of lives of both civilians and security personnel.

Skewed government policies direction

This involves inaccurate and misleading government policies, programmes and projects that are sometimes initiated with good intention but with monumental big failure at implementation state either as a result of corruption or not well perceived at initiation level. Most of this policies end up bringing untold hardship to the people. The hasty redesigning of the naira note that resulted to cash crunch between January and May 2023 caused mass suffering and hardship across the country. Nigerians were unable to accessed the monies in their bank account except they buy same via Point of Sale (POS). The most painful of it was that Nigerians were deceived to return their monies in their banks for new naira note exchange and after all their cash were trapped in the bank without being able to withdraw. It was such a draconic policy that caused loss of lives and drove many of our youths to crime. During that period, my old mother called me from the village telling me that though they had raw food but no money to buy necessary condiments to prepare the food, no bathing soap, no detergent to wash clothes, tooth paste, body cream etc. yet she had money in the bank which she could not accessed as a result of central bank naira policy.

In May 29 2023, a new government was sworn in as if the cash crunch suffering wasn't enough, the administration initiated the policy of removal of fuel subsidies. The withdrawal of fuel subsidy led to a 150 percent to two 200 percent surge in fuel costs (₦500-₦700) across the country.

Ozili and Obiora (2023) noted that removal of fuel subsidy in short term will increase inflation, poverty, crime and loss of jobs in the informal sector.

Socio-Economic Marginalization

Socio-economic Marginalization occurs when people are not given the same opportunity and chances to make contributions and also benefit from the economy of a country. (Anderson 2000). In such circumstances, the people or citizens of such country may not have the opportunity to get good jobs with little or no opportunity to attend trade schools to equip themselves with relevant skills to sell in the labour market. Poverty contributes immensely to marginalization. The poor don't have the resources and time to advocate for their interest. If the poor, discovers that the government is insensitive to their plight they either take to crime or violence.

Unemployment

There exist a significant correlation between unemployment and crime. Skyrocketing unemployment in Nigeria before and after the advent of democracy in 1999 have proportionally triggered poverty in the country. The unemployed therefore engage in all sort of criminal activities in order to sustain a living.

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Nigeria, according to Global Peace Index (GPI) is among the countries in the world with the least peace. The non-peaceful index value of Nigeria is 2.7. It signifies that the more the value, the less the peace in the country. Nigeria unemployment rate as at (Quota 4, 2022 was 5.3 percent) and 4.1 percent in Q1 2023 (<https://blogs.worldbank.org/nigeria>). These unemployed youths were readily available for politicians who employed them as thugs.

Politics

Nair (2022) postulated that many people have engaged in criminal activities while dealing with political issues. Many politicians in developing countries have associated with violent crimes and murders. He further observed that many youths who are members of political parties are often times given weapons and instructed to handle matters violently during election. Any political disputes, however insignificant, often lead to violence by engagement of mob actions. This not only exposes youth to criminal activities but also puts the lives of various citizens at risk. So, an unstable political situation in a country leads to an exponential increase in the crimes that take place there (Athira Nair 2022)

Poverty

Poverty is among the major reasons why people are into crime. Countries with relatively low per capital income tend to experience high crime rates than developed countries. Politicians tend to use those in need and provide them with meager amount of money to cause violence on election days. Again, monies meant for economic, social, and infrastructural development is used to buy vote on election days. After impoverishing the people by not developing the economic sector, they return with bags of money on Election Day to buy votes and return to their political offices.

Consequences of electoral manipulations on security operations

Democratic system of government remains the best in the world if only its electoral system is not abused. It's a system that gives the citizens who are eligible to vote the mandate to determine who represent them in state and National Assembly as well as the president, governors and other political offices. However, if democratic elections are subjected to gross manipulation, good people in the society will not be given opportunity to represent the people and enhance socioeconomic and infrastructural development. It is believed that overzealous politicians who because of desperation manipulate elections and emerge victorious often don't have anything to offer after being sworn in to various political offices. The political arena will be filled with mediocre, inexperience, unfocused and self aggrandized fellows whose main aims are selfish and personal. Such administrations are characterized by mal administration, outright embezzlement of public fund, under development as a result of fail government policies, programmes and projects. Callous and poor implementation of government policies, poor monitoring of projects, failed economy, inflation, unemployment, poverty high crime rate, rebellion across the state as a results of frustration and hardship.

The security operatives are at this point faced with multiple criminal activities to settle and dislodged but the police, and other government security outfits are stranded with low personnel and equipment to arrest the compound security situation. The budgetary allocations for vital supplies of security equipments are often misappropriated and sometimes channeled into private account.

Electoral thugs turn criminals.

As cited elsewhere, unpopular politician will always engage the services and patronage of thugs during electioneering process to aid them emerge victorious in the polls. It is interesting to note that the thugs are abandoned thereafter. As a result of joblessness and acute poverty, with the availability of arms already at

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their disposal provided by politicians during elections they quickly engage in crimes of various degree and classifications. The wave of criminal activities in country since 1999 include;

a. Kidnapping:

The wave of kidnapping in Nigeria became a major security challenge from 2016 till date. On 11 December 2020 more than 300 pupils of boy's secondary school kamkara in Katsina state were kidnapped while in their boarding house. Various reports also indicate that between 2006 and 2021 more than 200 foreigners were kidnapped across various part of the country. Many lecturers including University of Calabar lecturers were kidnapped within the same period. So pathetic that many hostages or kidnapped victims couldn't return to reunite with their families. In December 2012, Indian sailors numbering five were kidnapped aboard by the movement for the emancipation of the Niger Delta (ME.N.D) but they were however released on the 27th January 2013 after the payment of a ransom. Again on December 20 2012, 4 South Korean oil workers were equally kidnapped by MEND and were later released on December 23 of the same year. These and many other cases across the country have post serious security threat in the country leaving the ill-equipped security operatives with more cases than they can handle.

b. The Emergence of Boko Haram and Islamic State of west African province (ISWAP).

Boko Haram insurgency emerged in Borno state, north eastern Nigeria with the advent of democracy. They were mostly disgruntled elements who were frustrated as a result of used and dumped by the politicians between 1999 and 2007. They were mainly made up of the kanuri Ethnic group before the fulanies infiltrated, bifurcated the organization and created ISWAP. The group was responsible for the bombing of United Nation (U.N) building in 2011 that killed 21 and wounded 60 people. The leader of the sect, Mohammed Yusuf founded the organization in 2002 with the Motto: "Westernization is sacrilege". The Guardian News paper reported that between 29 May 2015 and October of the same year under Buhari's administration Nigeria recorded a death toll of 1, 260 as a result of Boko Haram Killings.

c. Bandit

Bandits are non-ideological groups but however the group is economically driven as it is an organized Criminal group involved in cattle rustling, armed robbery, kidnapping, sexual violence and extortion of different dimensions. The causes of banditry in Nigeria are poor political leadership, unemployment, proliferation of arms and non compliance with the rule of law. The bandits are now deadlier than the Boko Haram. The increase in the country is as a result of poor and efficient political leadership from federal, state and local government areas.

d. Escalation of militant by secessionist and emancipations groups in South-South and South-East.

The movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta is a militant organization with the intention of crippling oil production in the region as a result of deliberate negligence of sustainable use of the environment. The tactics adopted by MEND include; siphoning of crude oil, pipeline destruction, kidnapping, killing of security officers, staging armed attack on oil workers at production site and many other strategies. The leadership of this group is so strong that they have become friends to our prominent politicians. Asari Dokubo, a militant leader once boasted that Muhammadu Buhari's administration hired him to guard the Abuja-Kaduna route and the road was thought to be among the riskiest and most dangerous for travelers as a result of frequent kidnappings and killings. Implying that the militant leader has the sophistication to give security blanket where the Nigeria security could not.

The movement for the sovereign state of Biafra (MASSOB) is a group with secessionist agenda operating mostly in the five South-Eastern states of Nigeria. Founded in 1999, their activities has caused thousand to lost their lives and also dwindled the economic growth of South Eastern states.

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Suggested solutions to electoral manipulations:

The following measures will go a long way to check electoral manipulation in the Nigeria democratic system;

- Government or Constituent assembly should as a matter of policy make politics less attractive by placing politicians in the same salary structure as senior civil servants, by this, only the good people with genuine intention of developing the country will indicate interest in politics.
- The use of Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) should be encouraged and made consistent.
- Creation of employment for the teaming youths should be a priority to discourage the youths from thuggery and other vices.

Concluding Remarks

Nigeria will remain a sleeping giant in as much as concerted effort is not made to correct our democratic institution. The electoral system need adequate over hauling, the country need true separation of powers, supremacy of the law and equity. We've done well in academic and research, creativity, movies and entertainment industry, sports are innovations, but the political leadership is still far behind.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are hereby made:

- Total overhauled of the electoral system
- Full funding of security network to provide relevant equipment to tackle crime
- The Government should create employment for the teaming Youths.

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