

Youth, Election and Sustainable Democracy in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Nigeria is one of the developing nations currently practicing a democratic system of government. The success and process of democratic transition in Nigeria is been determined by the activities of the youths during election. Youths are always at the forefront of every Nigeria election. They can be used as security agents monitoring election process and activities at every pooling centers. They are always used by political parties and heavy weight politicians as thugs, party agents, body guards and political informants during elections. Sometimes, they can be paid to burn INEC offices by some political parties and politicians. They can as well be used to kidnap opposition parties. The sustainability of Nigerian democracy depends on the activities of the youths in the country. Therefore the paper tends to evaluates some negative influences of the activities of the youths during elections and reasons for such activities and its effects on democratic sustainability in Nigeria. The election, its processes and government's role to address the excesses of the youths during and after the election in order to maintain peace and good democratic atmosphere for good governance. Finally, the paper itemized measures to be used by the government to control the activities of the youths for a sustainable democracy in the nation.

Keywords: Youth, Election, Reasons for Electoral Violence and Sustainable Democracy.

INTRODUCTION

An evenly distribution of the country's resources can be used to determine the extent of good governance for democratic sustainability in Nigeria. Youths are the major group of people that play vital role during election which is the only process that moves the nation into democratic setting. The success or failure of Nigeria's election is determined by the activities of the youth, even before, during and after election. Nigeria is a nation that has passed through different process and hardship after independence. Nigeria has been ruled for many years by military and its intervention and if not because of the intervention of Europe and America for their campaign on democratization of the entire nation, Nigeria could still be under the control of military for their governance. It is very clear that in the history of Nigeria and indeed the entire Africa, that throughout, the period of imperialism and colonization in Africa, what different African countries suffer today is poor economy and leadership

challenges which was not found during imperialism. It is equally clear that the level of corruption, social and moral decadency experienced today in most African countries were at its minimal bases during the period of colonialism, most especially the issue of food insecurity, poverty, malnutrition, educational decadency and increase in immortality. The comportment of Nigerian youths is an integral factor for free, fair and credible election that can sustain democracy in the nation.

The three variables in this study are interdependent and interwoven to each other. What Nigerians suffer in post elections period is a battery of ethno-religious and political crises taking the shape of bomb blasts sponsored by the Boko Haram religious sects were the activities of the youths sponsored by the political heavy weight politicians in Nigeria. The terrorism issue, kidnappings and counter kidnapping and even violence cases during elections are activities of Nigerian youths which makes nonsense of democracy and social

security. As a matter of fact, if the activities of the youths are not well checked, then, it is very clear that Nigeria is matching towards a failed democratic state.

The major challenge which the democratic system of Nigeria is facing is as a result of weak leadership which includes high level of insecurity in the nation. In the east, the activities of the hausa-fulani herdsmen include destruction of the Igbo farmland and constant rape of the women farmers, in the west, they kill the farmers and destroy their agricultural produce are equally of the activities of the youths. Sometimes in the northern region, they bomb mosque, churches and market places and kidnap innocent students and children in schools and at homes in the name of Boko-haram activity. In addition to the above, there is also unprecedented high level of social insecurity, inter and intra communal and ethnic clashes, ethno-religious conflict, assassination, unnecessary murder cases and interruption or maltreatment of those on transit in northern region. Gender based violence, assassination, armed robbery and unwarranted constant bomb explosion in business areas and public places are as a result of poor leadership and weak democratic settings as earlier stated in this work.

It has been noticed or observed in Nigeria that there is a strong relationship between the activities of the youths in election period and democratic sustainability. Most often, the negative aspect of youths' activities usually lead to human rights abuses, loss of lives and properties, stealing people's mandate, destruction of election materials, killing of security officials, kidnapping of innocent souls and key political office holders in the society. Sometimes as I earlier stated, it leads to burning of INEC buildings, electoral materials and election results. Youths, sometimes are used by political opponents of different political parties for character assassination, false accusations, blackmail and mis-interpretation or misrepresentations of facts and issues to political ambition and carriers, Pate (2003) and Akinfeleye (2004).

The Youths and Nigerian Election

Youths constitute a good percentage of Nigerian population that play some roles during election. These youths are full of life and energy and are always available to act and react for issues and actions. They can exhibit both positive and negative attributes in the society. It is very clear that due to some challenges facing most of the

Nigerian youths, they can easily be converted and used by some wealthy politicians or over desperate politicians to turn the nation upside down. Those challenges which induces the youths to display ugly character during election include: over trust of political godfather, corruption, hunger, poverty, lack, bad inherited behaviour in-born in them, drunkenness, drug abuse and addict or use of arms and ammunition provided to them by their political supporters, quest for power and disrespect to law of the land. Sometimes, they are into diabolic act of business, stealing of ballot paper, boxes or fighting the electorates that refuse to obey their command. They beat, kill and kidnap the collation officers and INEC staff in order to harass the electorates, rape and kill returning officers and corpsers whose services were used during elections. Very wealthy politicians always use the youths to rig elections, manipulate the scores and turn justice upside down during elections.

Youths have been identified in every society as leaders of tomorrow. The activities of youths during elections most especially in Nigeria may determine the extent of the success or failure of election which affect democracy in one way or the other. Youths are always found at the forefront of every election, occupying strategic positions in the conduct of Nigerian election, starting from security agents, body guides of heavy weight politicians, political parties and political office holders. They are equally found at every voting center and election constituencies, interacting and directing the electorates on what to do and how to vote effectively. They maintain peace at the voting centres. They are the people to direct the electorates on how to vote or make use of card reader at voting centers. In order words, they can equally misdirect the electorate and make nonsense of voting and election. The conducts of the youths and exhibition character during election determines totally the process, success and the extent of free, fair and credibility of the election that can sustain democracy in the country. It is very clear that the election observers both nationally and internationally may not be able to understand the backyard business in election fraud which youths may do if they really want to carry out such order, Okpara (2020) p.43. In other words, the youths might resort to 'the more you look that less you see activity.' Sometimes, while elections are still on, they have prepared the wrong result in favour of any candidate's or political party they

want to favour. This is just to say that credibility, free and fair election that can sustain the democracy of the nation during elections in Nigeria is in the hand of the youths. Election varies from one nation to other. It always involves heavy security output occupied by youths and cost heavily to the nation. In Nigeria, the major characteristics of post election action is political violence organized or usually carried out by youth and election petitions by those parties and politicians who lost, Iyayi, (2005).

Youth as a concept is made up of every energetic, powerful, sensible young man and woman within the ages of 18-35 years. It was observed that youths could be the able men and women within the ages of (18-35), and is a period in individual lives that comprises of adolescence and formative, and is characterized of proneness on innovations, risk aversion, fast actions and reaction. They also have great physical strength, ability to progress fast with social propensity as always observed, Mohammed (2015). It is clear that because youths are full of life and energy, they are always ready to act or work either positively or negatively or make them to waste and become over destructive whenever such potentials are not timely or adequately harnessed or property exploited

Most often in Nigeria, there must be cases of electoral violence no matter how free the election is conducted, there must be winners and losers. Politics is a game, both losers and winners supposed to take the outcome in good faith, but in Nigeria, it is a different issue. Sometimes, electoral violence must occur even before litigation. Electoral violence is any form of aggression, blood shedding, cruel act, violent behavior against political opponents or act of hostility which are meant to harm, threaten innocent lives. During such act, they can vandalize private and public property, infringe on the civil rights or abuse human rights. Election violence is the fastest way loser express their feeling on election result, it is generally seen as means of dissatisfaction with either the conduct of or declaration of election results, Ezeibe, (2019) p.28.

Before, during and after election, youths are always the major instruments for chaos or peace in the nation. Looking from the negative/positive aspect of their character which determines democracy and its dividends, youth displays various attitudes as a result of different factors starting from family background,

circumstances surrounding their birth, either bastards or people from useless or nonsense homes, trained and untrained children, educated, semi-educated or illiterate ones. Some youths also came from broken homes while some have social misfit character/psychologically or emotionally disturbed background. Some equally take hard drugs in order to act as mad person to enable them carry out their dubious behavior. Other things affecting them include either empty financial promises which the corrupt politicians always promise them or heavy financial gain which they get from do or die politicians who use them as instruments for election rigging. In addition to that they serve as party thugs just for fun of politics, lack and abject poverty in the country is also a contributory factor, Okpara (2020).

Some of the Activities of Nigerian Youths during and After Elections

- Manipulation of election results.
- Killing and destruction of lives and property.
- Kidnapping of political opponents and collation officers.
- Exhibiting violence practices at election centers.
- Sharing money to confuse people at the election centers.
- Causing unnecessary confusion and threat to the electorates, collation officers and INEC staff and sometimes burning INEC building.
- Fighting and shooting both security agents, party representatives and INEC officials.
- Exhibition of various human rights abuses.
- Lack of respect to the law of the land
- Intimidation of collation officers
- Shooting of party opponents and terrorizing people during elections.
- Stopping free movement of people and causing chaos in the nation Onu and Joshua (2012).

Reasons for the Various Manifestation of Youth Character during Elections in Nigeria

There are numerous reasons for the youth character manifestation during elections in Nigeria. They include:

- The level of education (illiteracy).
- Family background
- Psychological and philosophical reasons
- Religious and cultural affiliation
- Ethnic consciousness
- Poverty

- Lack of moral values
- Political god fatherism
- Party affiliations
- Quest for fast money making (wealth acquisition).
- Lack of moral values
- Lack of proper maintenance of rule of law.
- Cultural and social background
- Activities of political parties, Okalu (2019) and Joseph (1986).

In another development, some of the factors itemized below can as well cause electoral violence:

- Poverty and unemployment
- Deliberate and calculated acts of selfish politicians
- Failure to conduct free, fair and credible election.
- Poor or absence of social mobilization of awareness
- Withholding/improper dissemination of information.
- Continuous moral decadence and disintegration of social and family values in the society.
- Drug addict among youths.
- God fatherism, (National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), (2014), Igbononu (2013) p 32.

The above mentioned factors have affected the Nigerian youths from supporting the government in achieving free, fair and credible elections which should be their statutory function for democratic sustainability. Meanwhile the various stakeholder in the country should take some necessary steps in addressing the societal challenge of youths violence in election period in the country to address these current issues.

Consequences of the Youths Electoral Violence during or After Election

Democracy is a serious government business which when properly managed takes a country to a greater level of development. It is the best form of government that takes economic, political and social development to the grass root. The process of election and electing people into various key positions of power and authority should be seriously well handled and not mal-handled in any form or shape. This is because anytime election is mishandled, it backfires on the electorates and the entire society. Democracy should be well guided in

developing countries because of the consequences it may pose when mismanaged. The consequences of carelessness in election process include: electing some wrong candidates into various positions that can cause underdevelopment, poverty, social and infrastructural delay. Social insecurity and moral decadency, massive unemployment, lack of industrial base and delay in investment projects. Increase in infant mortality and disease outbreak. Other ones include:

- Increased rate of crime activities in the society
- Loss of lives and properties.
- Living in fear, distrust and mutual suspicions.
- Displacement of people from their various homes.
- Displacement of educational and political policies
- Increased level of poverty in the land
- Distortion of government budget plan and socio-economic development plan, Mohammeds (2015:4).

ELECTION

There is a very strong relationship that the sustainability of Nigerian democracy is depended on free and credible election. Election as a concept is an organized method of voting by the electorate for the purpose of selecting their leader in a democratic setting. Election can as well be seen as a mechanism and a process with consent of the electorate through regular conduct of election in democracy which is done periodically, (Igbonaonu, 2018:26-27). It is a process or manner through which the electorates elect their leaders in a democratic system of government, Okpara (2020:51). Election is also described as a process through which the electorates in different countries according to their law, elect their representatives in their various constituencies for the purpose of piloting the affairs of government. People select their choice of representatives through voting in their constituency. It has been the usual mechanism by which modern representation in democracy has operated since 17th century in electing their representatives. Universally speaking, election remains not only the heart of representative democracy but a virile instrument which constitutionally confers legitimacy on political leadership and a legitimizing institution for the sustenance of democracy, (Clearn, 2011:30). Election can tend to be sacrosanct when it is observed to be free, fair and credible.

Elections and election conducts are supposed to be a game of peaceful atmosphere and harmless exercise through which the electorates choose to elect those who will represent them in government offices. However, in Nigeria, the quest for power, pressure for position, influences or wealth acquisition and insatiable nature of African politicians turned everything outside down. The incessant election irregularities and the concomitant violence which in many cases characterize elections in many fledgling democracies have further reiterated the need for genuine, purposeful and worthwhile election security. It was long established world, most especially in stable democratic societies, that one crucial way of consolidating democracy and to out-right discourage democratic reversal is successful conduct of elections within established legal and infrastructural framework. It is very clear that elections give electorates opportunity to exercise their civic right of choosing their intending leaders in democratic setting and on the other hands, to use their vote remove leaders they don't want to rule them.

In Nigeria today, there are different forms of election like:

- Primary election
- General election
- Local election or non-partisan

In primary election, voters who registered in a particular party conduct their primary election to select the candidate that will represent their part in the overall local, state or nation's general election. The general election is the one that is held on the whole state and not limited to parties in a particular party or a specific locality.

Local/Non Partisan

Election is an office for which candidates name appears on a ballot without party's designation, Echegarú (2019:10). Other forms of elections notable in most of the developing and developed world include; direct and indirect elections, open and secret elections; partisan and non-partisan elections, voluntary and compulsory elections, election by proxy; multiple member and single member constituency elections and proportional representation (PR) elections.

They are discussed below as follows:

- In the issue of direct and indirect elections, a country is divided into different constituencies or electoral districts. Every

constituency elects a representative and establishes distinct administrative machinery to handle districting or delimitation, voter registration, the conduct of elections, counting of votes and release of results. Such electoral machineries use existing field administrative agencies of federal or state government for such duties.

- Direct elections eliminate undue influence of powerful primordial groups and secondary groups which are secret rather than open.
- Indirect group, elections operate at two or more levels. The lower and middle levels do not undertake the final choice of representatives, policies and programmes. They select those who constitute the electors or voters of Electoral College to make the last choice.

Open and Secret Elections

Open elections are conducted in the full view all. Candidates that should be voted into power may be mandated to stand while those voting for them stand directly behind them. In secret election system voters identify their choice either by the party symbol or the candidate's picture for their voting.

Partisan/ Non-Partisan Election

partisan elections are fought or conducted along political party lines. Candidates are sponsored by their political parties, and they carry political parties labels. In non-partisan elections, the assumption that political parties engage in higher degrees of party activities for the elections is absent. The ballot boxes do not carry party labels.

Voluntary and Compulsory Elections

Electoral systems which are voluntary permit citizens to choose whether to vote or not. Anybody who qualified by the law of the state who wants to vote or to be voted in is free to do so. Compulsory electoral systems are different, they create legal obligations on the part of the citizens to exercise their franchise and can punish anybody by law who refuses to exercise that franchise.

Election by Proxy

This waives the requirement for the voter to be present, and permit security agents, diplomats and sometimes responsible citizen to cast their vote by mailing it or submitting to designated officials of the states or military mission abroad.

Multi-Member/Single Member Constituency Election

In constituency elections, the political community is divided into electoral constituencies, district or wards of equal size or population. This is a situation where people elect more than one representations in each constituency is known to be multi-member. At large election; this is mainly the type of election that can be found in advanced countries. This is a situation where the whole, state or country come out on mass to vote for a particular candidate. Plurality or winner-takes it all; this involves single member constituency and recognizes the candidates with the highest or largest number of votes as the winner (Nwosu and Ofoegbu, 1986).

Functions of Elections

- Elections in every country make a fundamental contribution to democratic governance
- It enables voters to select leaders and to hold them accountable for the performance in office.
- It provides political education for citizen and ensure the responsiveness of democratic governments to the will of people and finally, elections serve to legitimize the acts of those who wield power or to some extent even by elections that are non-competitive.

Democracy from a conceptual clarification is explained as a form or system of government under which people exercise the governing power, either directly or through the representatives that they elect periodically. Thus in practice, members of legislature and other public officers are elected at regular intervals. It is a political system in which the people are the source of authority and in which the institutions enable the majority to dictate major policy outcomes or decisions. Abraham Lincoln usually see democracy as the government of the people, by the people and for the people, this is not enough for the success story of democracy (European Forum for Democracy), Knodt (2007).

A state is said to be democratic if it provides institutions for the expression of last analysis, the supremacy of the popular “will” in basic questions of social direction and policy.

The popular “will” is what people want the government to do for them. In the above issue, democracy is much more than a system of government through elected representatives. It

also refers to an attitude of a set of people yearning for freedom through equal treatment and equal recognition. This equality include; equal opportunity in an open competition, creating room for equal recognition in governance and equal participation in everything including policy making and execution. Thus the principle of justice and fairness is assured, Nwabueze (1993). Democracy is the best form of government that can provide the needs and wants of the nation. It is best form of government that provides the growth of the developing nations, socio-economic and political development. Obasanjo & Mobagunje (1992) and Joseph (1986) p.41. Democracy entails equal opportunities for men and women to get involved and determine the control of power of a society, Oru and Joshua (2012). It is geared towards freedom, justice and equal treatment of all citizens both men and women.

It presupposed equal opportunity platform for political participation and decision-making process, Sadaro (2001) and Agbalajobi (2010). Political participation therefore is germane democracy and fundamental to the stability of democracy as noted by Nwabueze (1993). Some qualities of good leadership include;

Intelligence

Self-confidence

Sociability, enthusiasm

Initiatives, dominance

Cheerfulness, originality and must have power to control, Nwachukwu (1999) p.42. Also there may be some other leadership qualities which can be found in the following ways; A optimism which makes a leader believe that his leadership style must be differentiated from another person’s own and must have vision to make future bright and give hope to the hopeless in the society.

B. Decisiveness

This is found when an administrative leader is able to make a decision governing his environment or office peacefully and efficiently.

C. Charisma

This is a style that gives a leader the capacity to be colourful and heroic to stir the emotion of people and capture their interest, heart or minds, i.e, known to be a charismatic leader. In another development, a leader must have focus, foresight, skillful and competence. He must

have courage, knowledge, wisdom and must be committed to a set goal, aims, objectives and aspirations. He must be ready at any given point in time to give attention to people, have good listening techniques and always exercise patience or seek wise counsel, Ogunna (2004).

Furthermore, democracy can be defined as “a form of government in which people choose leaders by voting”, Uka (2019). All of the sustainable development goals speak about democracy and how to sustain it. Recently, the goal 16 of the 2030 call for inclusive and participatory society and institutions on all levels. In order to achieve peace, justice and strong institutions for all, states must work in close partnership with civil society to implement and monitor the goals. Every form of government must have a critical role in translating the sustainable development agenda into concrete action through passing legislation, making budget allocations and holding government accountable, Almond (1963). In an attempt to sustain democracy in any given environment, government must have a sustainable development, strengthen legitimacy of national electoral process and increase confidence in the protection of elections and human rights, Echehara (2019) p.18

Sustaining democracy means that most of the wants and needs of people or masses must be provided. People want essential things like, food, shelter, cloth, education, health facilities and economic opportunities. They also need social security and good governance all round. There must be enhancement of rights and material living condition with environmental friendliness, (European forum for democracy and solidarity). For a sustainable democracy to exist the democratic institution of a state must integrate and control societal systems, rapid increase of societal subsystem must be notably, the economy, science and media as well as individual life worlds and network beyond boundaries of states and national democratic politics must be found, Sandaro (2007). The acceleration of change and the flexibilization of social norms, reinforcing a fixation on the present be noted. In both private life and public policy, thinking beyond the crisis of the day and taking decisions for an entirely unpredictable future becomes increasingly difficult, Herdson (2006). Also the extension of the ecological footprint of modern consumer societies far beyond their national territory, invalidating the democratic principle of congruence between the authors of political decisions and those affected

by them must be settled Pateman (1970) p.49 and Igbomoum, (2018), p.30. For democracy to be sustained effectively and efficiently, election agents must be properly checkmated. Electoral security is a deliberate prevention of electoral governance from distortions, violations and manipulations in such a way that legitimacy of democratic elections and democratic political succession be guaranteed, Emeghara (2019) and Joseph (1986). For democracy to be sustained, the government must create a safe and secured environment or atmosphere which in turn will allow the electorates to participate in electoral process without undue pressure, intimidation or fear, before, during and after voting exercise, Olutola (2019) p.6. This electoral security include physical security of electoral materials, buildings, vehicles and gadgets. Personal security of people like representatives of parties and foreign nationals or observers, party agents and other responsible stake holders. Democracy cannot be perfectly sustained without the involvement of different stakeholders such as, the government, citizens, political parties, media and the press as well as responsible politicians and security agents which should have considerable constitutional roles to play for free fair and credible elections that would usher in good leaders who will provide democratic dividends, (Agbaje, 1993).

It is in democratic system of government that one will expect quality leadership style, Diamond et al 1987. Therefore, there is always a high expectation by the masses to enjoy things from a good leader. Democracy which is seen as the best form of government in the globe is expected to take good care of the leaders and their subjects by providing those things which should improve living standard in the society. Those things include;

Provision of good health system,

Maintenance of law and order,

Providing of good roads and improving communication network,

Provision of adequate food and social security, utility and constant power supply. Other ones include, building of industries agricultural sector and improvement in standard of education in developing world.

Maintenance of peace and conflict resolution as well as protection of life, property and human rights, National Bureau for statistics (NBS, 2014) and the Nigerian Poverty Profile (2010), Abuja Pateman (1970). The above item if well

handled by good leaders that may emerge as a result free, fair and credible election may help to reduce development gap between developing and developed countries.

The manner and method elections are conducted in every given community, state or country determines the credibility of sustainable democracy in that society. Democracy tend to be the best form of government both in developing and developed world tend to embrace its good nature and being the only vehicle for faster developing in any given environment.

Democracy is a system of government that gives preference to and strengthens citizens' decision-making, and thereby, provides equal opportunities for participation of local citizens in securing and building their nation for the collective good of all, while upholding the principles of justice, peace and rule of law (Almond,1963). Citizens who are also members of the civil society need to be recognize as active participants in deliberating issues that affects their lives with government officials both in their communities, state and federal levels. Democracy also is adjudged as the most popular system of government in the world which is popularly seen as the government of the people, for the people and by the people. It can be seen as the philosophy of governance which sets a high premium on the basic freedom or fundamental of human right. In Sudan, they believe that democracy should be viewed or seen as self-corrective practice while Mahmood Mamdani sees it as a set of established institution that only need to be put in place alongside with the western liberal ideals which tend to equate democracy as free market economy, Sela (1993) p.14 and Mahmood (1993) p.4

Democratic Sustainability

For Nigerian's democratic system to be sustained, there must be some certain structures to be put in place, such structure include an effective and efficient security agents and gadgets which will make election environment manageable for free election. Worldwide, elections and election conducts are supposed to be a peaceful and harmless exercise through which the electorates in any democratic setting select their leaders.

Unfortunately in Africa most, the insatiable nature of man for quest for power, position, influence and wealth turned democratic system

into a different issue. Knodt & Junomana (2007, p.51). People to rule which is one of the meanings of democracy, for Nigeria, it is not just for the elected representatives to rule but needs good people who will have the mind of people who voted them into power. People who will feed, provide, protect and sustain the life of people who suffered under the rain or hard sun to vote them into power and authority, to have feeling over them and not to neglect their yearnings, aspiration or needs and wants in the society.

Factors that inhibits Nigerian youths from performing their statutory function in conducting free, fair, and credible election for democratic sustainability in the country. These factors include; Religious attachment and activities of god fatherism in politics.

Lack of education and electoral information and guide over election issues at voting environment.

Political parties activities

Attitudes of Nigerian politicians

Lack of adequate policy implementation and inadequate punishment to the law, offenders during and after election in the country, poverty and unemployment problems,

Lack of respect to human rights

Ethnic and cultural sentiments

Moral decadency and lack of ethics and values.

Lack of proper upbringing. Amfowose (2003, p.30)

Steps to Be Taken to Improve Youth's Future Performance during Election

For democracy to be fully sustained in Nigeria, human rights abuse must be well handled, economic emancipation/freedom, human, societal and food security must be assured. Infrastructural, industrial, health and educational enhancement and development must be improved. In democratic sustainability, some relevant developments must include the following: self-determination, self-fulfillment and individual freedom. There must functional differentiation of modern societies, implying that the democratic institutions of the state are less and less able to integrate and control societal subsystems, Uka (2019) p.31. The rapid increase of societal subsystems – most notably the economy, science and the media – as well as individual life words and network, beyond the

boundaries of the nation-state, hence increasingly eluding the control of national democratic politics.

The increasing abstraction and complexity of environmental issues i.e. climate change, energy security, the environmental footprints of specific products. The acceleration of change and the flexibilization of social norms, reinforcing a fixation on the present. In both private life and public policy, thinking beyond the crises of the day and taking decisions for an entirely unpredictable future becomes increasingly difficult.

The extent of the positive role Nigerian youths play during elections determine the democratic sustainability in the country.

Needs for Credible Election in Nigeria

Good managerial ability by the leaders who were elected through free and fair election.

Good governance will emerge through good leaders who were popularly elected. Economy of the country will be better harnessed. Human rights abuse will be reduced, infrastructural decay will be considered and economic diversification will be given urgent attention.

Youth employment cases must be addressed along side with social insecurity and Armed robbery harassment. In another development, credible electoral administration. Effective oversight of electoral processes will be encouraged. There will be informed and active citizens, representative and competitive multi-party system in the society. Effective governance by elected leaders and bodies will be assured.

Inclusion of women and disadvantaged groups may be considered. Effective transfer of political power and consensus – building for democratic reform and sustainable local government engagement must be done. A credible electoral administration can be established in the democratic system of the country. There will be also an effective oversight of electoral processes and informed and active citizens. There will be a representative and competitive multi-party system in the nation.

Democratic Dividend

In democratic setting indeed, the masses expect a lot from their leaders as dividend of democracy. The great expectation of the masses include an improved economy, good human

relations, provision of food and social security, utility and provision of good transport and communication network. Also the provision trade, industries, good market system, an evenly distribution of the natural resources and equal opportunity to all ethnic groups in administrative and political positions or sharing of political powers, Lindberg (2003) and Echeghara (2019). Provisions of enabling environment, improved standard of education, protection of human rights, equal opportunity to men and women in political power sharing and in government appointment. Effective use of tax payers fund for the societal development and provision of good health services and system, Uka (2019,p.40).

SUMMARY

The democratic sustainability of the nation is determined by the success of the election procedure which is mainly handled by the youth. The various stakeholders in the society should play their vital roles to have free, fair and credible election in the country. Thus, the youths should comport themselves very well and try to avoid issues that can implicate them to mar the democracy of the land. The families or parent should try to guide their children well in order to display good behavior in public. The media should do thorough investigative work before they released information for public consumption to avoid the disintegration of the country. Security agents should as well do their job properly to avoid violence and electoral leakages. Finally, the government should provide reasonable job to the unemployed youths to enable them to overcome the temptation of collecting money from the heavy weight politicians that will use such thing to distract them or anything that will make them to sell their conscience during election. Different religious groups should also play their roles in order to sustain democracy in Nigeria, since democracy in Nigeria, is for everybody's consumption and welfare. The youths should stand to say no to any form of evil associated to elections in Nigeria irrespective of whom that sponsor them.

In every electoral violence uncountable large numbers of Nigerian citizens most especially the youth are always victims of such violence. A greater percentage of the electoral violence is associated to injustices, poverty, unemployment by youths, failure to conduct free, fair and credible elections, manipulations of politics for selfish purposes or gain by some politicians and

failure of a state to appropriately regulate the citizens behaviors, conducts or control certain situations at appropriate time, Mohammed (2015, p.4).

In other words, social justice to all Nigerian citizen irrespective of the ethno-religious background, cultural, political or social affiliation must be fully integrated among other things to achieve what Nigerian is pursuing for democratic sustainability otherwise they are pursuing shadows that may lead to the country's disintegration.

The various stakeholders in Nigeria should start on time to educate or enlighten the youth on the consequences of electoral malpractice in Nigeria. The parents should tell their children to be of good moral, have good behavioral conducts, respect their life, and defend the family they come from.

The government should as well inform the general public and the youth in particular their readiness to deal with anybody that misbehaves during election. Various religious groups should always teach their members to be of good behavior always and to avoid being instruments for war and destruction of live and property.

Different ethnic and cultural groups should as well display their best to protect Nigerian democracy during election period.

Other ways forward;

Adequate provision of gainful employment opportunities for the youths. Proper civic education teaching them the fundamental duties and obligations to their country, highlighting the meaning of election and democracy to them.

The leaders should imbibe on the culture of accountability to their subjects.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Nigeria democratic system and government strategies need to be monitored by Advanced world like, Europe and America for cautions and democratic sustenance.

The youths of Nigeria should be provided with employment opportunities in order to reduce their ugly activities during election.

Nigerian politicians should be punished for sharing money during election thereby putting confusion in the brain of poor electorates when voting. Nigeria youths should be well informed on the consequences of election rigging to the welfare of people.

Good orientation, moral ethics and values should be inculcated into the brain of the youth for good governance.

Politicians that corrupt the youth should be banned from electoral participation. Entrepreneurial development should be given to the youth to enable them to be over busy after election.

Youths that exhibited bad behavior should be given life jail to serve as warning to others.

Government should take care of the security agents used during election to enable them to conduct themselves well during and after election

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