

Vulnerability of Nigeria's Electoral System to Abuse: A Review

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Abstract

The vulnerability of Nigeria's electoral system to abuse has been a persistent challenge since the Fourth Republic (1999-present), undermining the credibility of elections and the integrity of democratic governance. Despite efforts to improve the system, issues such as electoral violence, vote-rigging, and logistical failures continue to plague Nigeria's electoral process (Akinyetun, 2021; Okpuvwie, 2022). This study examines the key factors contributing to these vulnerabilities, focusing on institutional weaknesses and logistical challenges within electoral bodies such as the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and security agencies (Dauda, 2019). Additionally, the research explores the impact of electoral violence on voter participation and the broader consequences for Nigeria's democracy (Centre for Democracy and Development, 2020). By analyzing secondary data and using institutional theory, the study highlights the persistent issues that undermine the electoral process and offers recommendations for strengthening Nigeria's electoral system. Key recommendations include improving logistical frameworks, enhancing security measures, and promoting transparency in electoral operations. This research aims to contribute to the ongoing conversation on electoral reform and democratic consolidation in Nigeria.

Keywords: Electoral System, Abuse, Fourth Republic, Nigeria, Corruption

Introduction

The history of elections in Nigeria dates back to colonial times when the first election was held in Lagos in 1923 under British colonial rule (Muritala, 2023). Since then, several elections have been conducted at different levels of government with varying degrees of success. Nigeria has been practicing uninterrupted democracy since 1999, and it is an important aspect of the country's political system. Election in Nigeria is a significant occasion that provides a chance for citizens to choose leaders who will represent their interests. The most recent presidential election held in Nigeria was conducted on February 25th, 2023, which saw President Bola Ahmed Tinubu elected for a term of four-years. However, since democracy was restored in 1999, Nigerians have been concerned about the vulnerability of the electoral process to abuse (Okpuvwie, 2022). However, despite efforts made by successive governments since the beginning of the fourth republic to improve the electoral process, there have been concerns about the vulnerability of Nigeria's electoral system to abuse. Since the return to civilian/democratic rule in 1999, seven (7) general elections have been held in the country. One peculiar variable in all the general elections held is the vulnerability of the electoral system to constant abuse. These abuses does not only undermine the credibility and integrity of the electoral process or pose a threat to democratic governance, they dented a negative image on the Nigerian state in global politics.

Problem Statement

The vulnerability of Nigeria's electoral system to abuse is a longstanding problem that threatens the country's democratic progress (Centre for Democracy and Development, 2020). Despite the transition to democratic rule in 1999, Nigeria's elections continue to be plagued by widespread electoral malpractices such as vote rigging, violence, voter intimidation, and ballot stuffing (Akinyetun, 2021; Dauda, 2019). These abuses not only erode public confidence in the electoral process but also hinder the development of democratic institutions and the consolidation of good governance. As observed by Okpuvwie (2022), electoral violence, fraud, and the manipulation of results have remained persistent features of Nigerian elections, even as reforms and efforts to enhance transparency and accountability have been introduced. The lack of strong institutional frameworks and enforcement mechanisms has made it difficult to ensure the credibility of elections, further exacerbating the challenges to democratic consolidation in the country (Ottuh & Onimhawo, 2023). This study seeks to address

the gap in understanding how institutional weaknesses continue to foster electoral abuse, despite the existence of laws designed to prevent such misconduct.

Objective of Research

This research paper aims to achieve these dual objectives:

1. To examine logistical challenges that contribute to electoral abuse in Nigeria since the Fourth Republic.
2. To explore how electoral violence impacts voter turnout and damages the democratic process.

Methodology

This research paper adopted a qualitative approach that involves the use of secondary data sources such as academic journals, government reports, and media reports. The choice of secondary data is because it allows for an in-depth analysis of the electoral process over time. These sources provide valuable insights into trends, historical events, and expert perspectives without the need for primary data collection. To begin, the researcher identifies credible and relevant sources aligned with their study objectives. Media reports offer up-to-date accounts of events, while academic journals provide peer-reviewed studies with rigorous analysis. Also, government reports supply authoritative data on policies, statistics, and institutional actions. The researcher critically evaluated the quality, reliability, and biases of these sources to ensure their findings are robust. Similarly, the researcher systematically organized the data, using thematic approach and synthesize the information to draw meaningful conclusions.

Literature Review

Concept of Electoral System

An electoral system refers to the set of rules and procedures that are used to conduct elections in a given jurisdiction (Essex & Goodman, 2020). The purpose of an electoral system is to translate voters' preferences into the composition of the government, legislative bodies, or any other public office being contested. Electoral systems are essential in ensuring that the democratic process is fair, transparent, and accessible to all eligible citizens. The most common type of electoral system is the plurality or "winner-takes-all" system. In this system, the candidate with the most votes wins the election, even if they do not have a majority of votes. This system is widely used in countries like the United States and Canada for electing presidents or prime ministers.

Another widely used electoral system is proportional representation (PR), which is designed to ensure that each political party gets a share of seats in proportion to their share of votes cast (Bochsler, 2023). PR systems vary depending on how seats are allocated, but they generally rely on a party list where voters select a political party instead of individual candidates. In addition to plurality and proportional representation systems, there are hybrid systems that combine elements of both. For example, mixed-member proportional (MMP) systems use both single-member districts and proportional representation lists to allocate seats. The choice of an electoral system can have significant implications for representative democracy and governance outcomes. Proponents argue that proportional representation offers greater fairness and inclusivity than winner-takes-all systems because it allows smaller parties and minority groups greater representation in government. On the other hand, supporters of winner-takes-all systems argue that they provide more stable government by creating clear majorities that can pass legislation quickly.

Moreover, it is important to note that electoral systems also affect voter behavior – for instance, some types may encourage tactical voting or discourage voter turnout more than others (Kao, 2022). Therefore, when choosing an electoral system, policymakers should consider issues beyond just apportionment – including transparency and accountability mechanisms – as well as how any proposed system will impact the political culture and traditions of a country. Thus, electoral systems are an essential component of democratic governance. The choice of an electoral system is vital because it affects representation, stability, accountability, and participation in government. Policymakers must choose the most appropriate electoral system for their jurisdiction based on its unique

circumstances, values, and principles.

Historical Background of Nigeria's Electoral System

Nigeria's electoral system has undergone significant changes since Nigeria gained independence from British colonial rule in 1960 (Saliu, 2023). The country's first democratic elections were held in 1959, which led to the formation of a government with three regional premiers and a prime minister. However, shortly after the country gained independence, it was plunged into a series of military coups that saw political power shift from democratically elected governments to military regimes. Nigeria's first republic lasted only six years, but during this period, there were two general elections - one in 1964 and another in 1965 (Ojukwu, 2019). The 1964 election was hotly contested, with allegations of vote rigging and irregularities by both major parties - the Northern People's Congress (NPC) and the National Council for Nigeria and Cameroon (NCNC) (Ojukwu, 2019). The NPC emerged victorious in the end, but it was not without controversy.

In 1965, Nigeria held its second general election, which was fraught with even more tension than the first. There were widespread allegations of fraud during the election process, which led to riots across the country. In response to these allegations, the federal government set up a commission of inquiry to investigate electoral fraud and make recommendations on how to prevent future occurrences (Prochaska, 2023). The aftermath of these two general elections laid bare several fundamental flaws within Nigeria's electoral system. The lack of an independent electoral commission responsible for conducting free and fair elections made it easy for politicians to manipulate election results. Additionally, there was a lack of adequate legal frameworks that could enforce electoral laws and punish those who violated them.

Following successive military coups that disrupted democratic governance in Nigeria between 1966 and 1979, the country reverted to democratic rule once again in October 1979. This period saw significant changes in Nigeria's electoral system that aimed at improving transparency and accountability during election processes. One such change was the establishment of an independent national electoral commission - The Federal Electoral Commission (FEDECO) which was responsible for conducting elections at the federal level. Additionally, the 1979 constitution created a provision that ensured that candidates who vied for elective positions were of good character and integrity (Ayodele, 2022). However, FEDECO's first outing in 1979 was marred by allegations of fraud. The opposition parties accused the ruling National Party of Nigeria (NPN) of rigging the election in its favour. This led to protests across the country and calls for electoral reforms.

In response to these demands, several amendments were made to Nigeria's electoral laws, including changes to voter registration processes and campaign financing rules. The second republic also saw an increase in civic education campaigns aimed at sensitizing Nigerians on their rights and responsibilities during election periods (Ayodele, 2022). Unfortunately, Nigeria's second republic was short-lived as it was truncated by another military coup in December 1983. It was not until 1992 that Nigeria held its next democratic elections. During this period, there was a significant evolution in the electoral process with increased transparency and accountability measures put in place. One such measure was the introduction of electronic voting machines - an innovation that aimed at reducing instances of ballot stuffing and other forms of electoral malpractice. However, this technology was not without its flaws as there were reports of machines malfunctioning or being tampered with during polling exercises. With each successive democratic dispensation since then has come incremental progress towards improving election transparency through institutional reforms and technological advancements such as biometric verification for voters.

Although INEC was established in 1998, the most recent major reform happened in 2010 with the passing of the Electoral Act Bill which provides the legal framework that strengthened INEC's independence and capacity to conduct free and fair elections based on international best practices guided by modern technology-based innovations (Obiano, 2015). Voters in Nigeria are required to present their Permanent Voter Card (PVC) before

being allowed to vote during an election. The PVC contains biometric information such as fingerprints and photographs which help prevent multiple voting by individuals. Similarly, Nigeria's electoral system also allows for independent candidates to contest elective positions unlike some countries where only those sponsored by political parties can run for office. Elections in Nigeria are conducted using a two-round system; this means if no candidate gets more than 50% of votes cast during an election (first round), then a second round is held between the top two candidates with the highest number of votes until one candidate emerges with over 50% votes cast (second round) (Bormann, 2013). Despite these efforts, challenges still remain within Nigeria's electoral system today. There are still incidents of vote buying, intimidation of voters, ballot stuffing among others which require additional reforms and solutions but the country has come a long way from the initial challenges of transparency and accountability that plagued Nigeria's electoral system since its independence.

Nigeria's Electoral System and Vulnerability to Abuse since the Fourth Republic

Since Nigeria's return to democratic rule in 1999, the country has experienced a number of elections that have been marred by violence, corruption, and other abuses (Ottuh, 2023). These abuses have had far-reaching consequences, leaving many Nigerians disillusioned with the democratic process and eroding trust in government institutions. One of the most notable instances of electoral abuse occurred during the 2007 presidential election, which was widely criticised as being rigged in favor of incumbent President Olusegun Obasanjo's chosen successor. Opposition candidate Muhammadu Buhari alleged widespread fraud and human rights abuses, including violence against his supporters (Ottuh, 2023). The result of the election was not annulled by Nigeria's courts; however, the election was marred with abuses while the populace suffered the fatalities. Similar allegations were made during subsequent elections, including the 2011 and 2015 presidential contests. In both cases, opposition candidates accused the ruling party of using state resources to tilt the playing field in their favor and prevent free and fair competition.

Violence has also been a persistent problem during Nigerian elections. During the 2019 presidential election, at least 39 people were killed across several states as a result of political violence. This followed similar incidents during previous elections; in 2015, over 800 people were killed in post-election violence sparked by claims of vote rigging (Akinyetun, 2021). The situation is particularly dire for women running for office or working as election officials. Female politicians have reported widespread harassment and intimidation by male opponents and security personnel. Women also face significant barriers to participation due to cultural norms that limit their mobility and restrict their political activities (Akinyetun, 2021). Moreover, journalists covering elections have been subjected to threats and attacks by both state actors and political thugs who seek to suppress news coverage critical of their activities. In some cases, media outlets have been censored or shut down entirely in an attempt to control information dissemination around major events like national elections.

Similarly, there are also widespread concerns around the use of hate speech and misinformation to stoke tensions during election periods. This has contributed to a climate of fear and mistrust, with rival political factions often resorting to inflammatory rhetoric in an attempt to sway public opinion. Taking into consideration of different scholarly works on the vulnerability of the Nigerian electoral system to abuse, Omotola (2013) examined the systemic weaknesses of Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in safeguarding the integrity of elections. The study highlighted lapses such as inadequate voter education, poor logistical arrangements, and susceptibility to political influence. Omotola's analysis revealed that these factors create loopholes that are often exploited by political actors to manipulate election outcomes. The empirical data presented showed a correlation between INEC's operational inefficiencies and the prevalence of election malpractice, including ballot box snatching and vote buying.

Similarly, Adigun's (2017) research focused on the interplay between technology and election manipulation in Nigeria, particularly in the use of electronic voting systems. The study, which utilised data from the 2015 and 2019 elections, identified that while technological innovations such as biometric voter accreditation reduced

certain types of fraud, they also introduced new vulnerabilities. The findings revealed that inadequate cybersecurity measures and a lack of technical expertise within INEC made the systems susceptible to hacking and data breaches, undermining the credibility of the electoral process. Taken together, these abuses have had significant consequences for Nigerian society. They have undermined trust in democratic institutions and eroded support for the rule of law. They have also created an environment of fear and instability that makes it difficult for citizens to engage meaningfully in political life.

Theoretical Framework

The Institutional Theory

The study adopts the institutional theory to elucidate the vulnerability of Nigeria Electoral System to abuse. The institutional theory posits that institutions shape behaviour and outcomes by providing rules, norms, and values that guide individual actions. Institutions are understood as formal or informal constraints on behavior that are created by individuals or organizations (Hanlon, 2022). They provide a framework for individual action by defining what is acceptable and what is not. Institutional theorists argue that institutions can either facilitate or constrain individual behavior. Facilitating institutions provide clear guidelines on how individuals should behave in certain situations, while constraining institutions limit the range of possible behaviors. Institutions become entrenched over time and are difficult to change because they are widely accepted and reinforced by social norms.

Application of Institutional Theory to Electoral System Abuse

Electoral systems are an example of a political institution that shapes behaviour and outcomes. Electoral systems define the rules for how elections are conducted, such as who is eligible to vote, how votes are cast and counted, and how winners are determined. These rules create incentives for political actors to behave in certain ways. One way in which electoral systems can facilitate abuse is through gerrymandering. Gerrymandering refers to the process of drawing district lines in a way that benefits one political party over another (Marcuse, 2020). This practice is facilitated by electoral systems that allow politicians to draw their own district boundaries.

When politicians have the power to draw their own district boundaries, they have an incentive to manipulate those boundaries to maximize their chances of winning elections. By creating districts with favorable demographics for their party, politicians can ensure that they will win more seats than their opponents even if they receive fewer overall votes. Another way in which electoral systems can facilitate abuse is through voter suppression. Voter suppression refers to the practice of making it difficult or impossible for certain groups of people to vote. This can be achieved by implementing restrictive voter ID laws, reducing the number of polling places in minority neighborhoods, and purging voter rolls. When electoral systems facilitate voter suppression, politicians have an incentive to engage in these practices in order to win elections. By reducing turnout among groups that are less likely to support their party, politicians can increase their chances of winning elections.

The institutional theory is particularly relevant to understanding the vulnerabilities of Nigeria's electoral system because it provides insight into how the structures and norms of electoral institutions shape behavior and outcomes. Nigeria's electoral system, anchored by institutions like the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), defines the rules governing elections. However, weak institutional frameworks often fail to prevent malpractice such as voter suppression, gerrymandering, and electoral violence. These systemic weaknesses incentivize political actors to exploit the electoral process for personal or party gain, leading to widespread abuse.

For instance, gerrymandering allows politicians to manipulate district boundaries to create favorable demographics for their party, effectively undermining voter equity. Similarly, voter suppression tactics—such as restrictive voter ID laws or reducing polling stations in opposition strongholds—reflect institutional loopholes that discourage participation from certain groups, particularly minorities and marginalized communities. This not only skews electoral outcomes but also perpetuates distrust in the system.

Moreover, the institutional theory highlights the challenges of reform in entrenched systems. Institutions like INEC often face resistance to change due to internal inefficiencies, external political pressures, or vested interests. For example, efforts to introduce reforms such as transparent funding mechanisms or electronic voting technologies are often obstructed by powerful actors who benefit from the status quo. This resistance depicts the cyclical nature of electoral abuse, where weak institutions perpetuate a lack of accountability and democratic stagnation.

Findings

How Logistics Challenges Mitigate Electoral Abuse in Nigeria since the Fourth Republic

Nigeria is the largest democracy in Africa, with a population of over 200 million people (Okafor, 2022). Nigeria's electoral system has faced numerous challenges since its inception; one of the most pressing ones being logistics for security agencies such as the police during elections. Inadequate logistics for police and other agencies have had a detrimental effect on Nigeria's electoral system since the beginning of the fourth republic (Momodu, 2019). Inadequate logistics for the police significantly fueled electoral abuse during Nigeria's 2015 and 2019 general elections. Limited mobility, insufficient communication gadgets, and poor funding hampered the ability of security forces to prevent and respond to violence. For instance, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) reported over 870 incidents of electoral violence in 2019, exacerbated by delayed police deployment (Akuche & Akindoyin, 2024). Similarly, in 2015, Human Rights Watch noted that logistical challenges contributed to over 100 deaths during the elections. The lack of coordination and resources weakened law enforcement, allowing voter intimidation, ballot snatching, and other electoral malpractices to thrive, undermining the elections' credibility (Akuche & Akindoyin, 2024). The Nigerian Police is an essential agency responsible for maintaining law and order during elections. They are tasked with ensuring peace and security at polling stations, preventing violence or intimidation, and protecting election materials. However, poor logistics often hamper their ability to perform these functions effectively. For instance, lack of fuel for vehicles, inadequate communication equipment, and inadequate training all contribute to an ineffective police force during elections. Inadequate logistics lead to poor communication between police officers stationed at various polling stations across Nigeria (Momodu, 2019). Poor communication results in delayed responses to incidents of violence or misconduct at polling stations, which can escalate into full-blown chaos that can affect the integrity of the entire electoral process. Furthermore, inadequate logistics also impact transportation during elections as it becomes challenging to move around election materials from one location to another securely (Okafor, 2022). Movement of election materials is critical in ensuring that votes count; however, if they are not transported safely from one station to another, it can lead to delays and disputes that can affect the outcome of the election. Moreover, when security agencies lack adequate tools such as body cameras and other technology devices crucial in gathering evidence against perpetrators of violence or election frauds leading up to an election; it becomes nearly impossible for them to conduct investigations that may be required following an electoral process.

Additionally, inadequate funding impacts election security measures negatively as some police officers may resort to taking bribes from politicians who want them on their side throughout the voting process or engage in corruption activities that undermine public trust. Moreover, inadequate funding affects training programs for police officers geared towards sensitizing them on best practices regarding electoral processes' management. This lack of training may lead to poor judgment and decision-making during elections, resulting in violence or even the loss of lives. Thus, inadequate logistics for the police and other security agencies have a detrimental effect on Nigeria's electoral system, which should be addressed to ensure free and fair elections in Nigeria. The government must ensure that all necessary logistics are put in place before an election is conducted, including transportation, communication equipment, adequate funding for security measures, body cameras for evidence gathering purposes. Also, there should be proper training programs for police officers geared towards effective management of electoral processes to ensure that they can carry out their duties effectively during the elections while maintaining peace and order at polling stations across Nigeria.

How Violence during Elections Affects Voter Turnout and Undermines Democracy

Elections are supposed to be a peaceful and democratic process, where citizens are given the opportunity to choose their leaders in a free and fair manner (Dauda, 2019). However, violence during elections has become an unfortunate reality for Nigeria since the Fourth Republic. Election violence in the country takes many forms, such as intimidation, harassment, physical assault, destruction of property or even murder. The reasons for election-related violence in Nigeria are multifaceted, but some of the most common factors include political rivalries between parties or candidates, ethnic and religious tensions, poverty and unemployment (Dauda, 2019). Violence during elections have significant consequences on voter turnout and erode trust in democratic institutions, which ultimately undermine democracy.

Impact on Voter Turnout

One of the most immediate impacts of election-related violence is that it suppress voter turnout. When voters feel unsafe or intimidated to cast their ballots because of threats or actual acts of violence against them or their community members, they may choose not to participate in the electoral process at all. This is particularly true for vulnerable groups such as women and minority communities who may face additional risks from election-related violence due to systemic discrimination or marginalization. Low voter turnout can undermine the legitimacy of an election result because it means that the majority of the electorate did not participate. This can lead to questions about whether the results represent the will of the people (Momodu, 2019).

Undermining Democracy

Election-related violence also poses a wider threat to democracy by undermining public trust in democratic institutions. When citizens perceive that elections are conducted unfairly or without integrity due to violence or other irregularities such as ballot box stuffing or vote buying by politicians; they may lose faith in those institutions altogether. The perceived lack of legitimacy can lead to further political instability and increased violence, creating a vicious cycle that undermines democracy and stability (Dauda, 2019).

Impacts on Electoral Participation

Election-related violence have long-lasting effects on electoral participation beyond the immediate election cycle. When the citizens perceive that their votes do not matter or that they cannot vote safely without fear of reprisals, they may be reluctant to participate in future elections. This can be observed in Nigeria since the beginning of the fourth republic. As at the time of writing this research paper, Nigeria has a population of 220 million people however this population do not reflect in the number of electoral participation which is considerably low (Worldometer, 2023). For instance, the February 25, 2023 general elections, a little over 25 million people voted showing voting apathy within the populace and fear of the past history repeats itself making it difficult for democratic institutions to establish legitimacy and earn public trust.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the vulnerability of the electoral system to abuse in the Nigeria fourth republic has created a situation where the credibility of the elections are often questionable, transparent or free and fair. This credibility question undermines the democratic process, weakens institutions and erodes public confidence in government. The above ascension is thereby supported by the theoretical framework adopted for this research study. The institutional approach posit that in understanding electoral system abuse in Nigeria, it is based on the idea that the formal rules and structures of institutions, such as law enforcement agencies, political parties, and the electoral commission, play a significant role in shaping behavior. In Nigeria, electoral system abuse is a recurring issue that often involves rigging, voter intimidation, ballot box snatching, falsification of election results and other forms of malpractice.

One reason for this abuse is weak institutional capacity. For example, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has been accused of being ineffective in ensuring free and fair elections due to inadequate

funding and to a high extent, lack of autonomy. The police are also accused of being complicit in electoral violence and failing to prosecute offenders. Political parties themselves are often weak and fragmented with little ideological orientation or clear policy initiatives. Moreover, divisive ethno-religious politics also plays a role in creating an environment where electoral malpractices occur frequently. In 2015 for instance, the contest between Muhammadu Buhari of the All Progressives Congress (APC), predominantly supported in the Muslim-majority North, and Goodluck Jonathan of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), largely backed in the Christian-majority South, polarised the electorate. Campaign rhetoric often invoked religious and ethnic sentiments, leading to heightened tensions. Reports indicated that election-related violence claimed over 100 lives during this period, with allegations of ballot box snatching and voter intimidation prevalent in ethnically sensitive areas (Akindoyin, 2022a). Similarly, the 2019 elections saw similar patterns, with Buhari's re-election campaign emphasizing regional and religious allegiances to consolidate support in the North. At the same time, Atiku Abubakar, the PDP candidate, sought to appeal to Southern and Christian constituencies. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) reported 1,689 cases of electoral violence during this election cycle, much of it linked to ethno-religious rivalries. Additionally, voter suppression was evident in regions perceived as opposition strongholds, often delineated along ethnic and religious lines (Akindoyin, 2024b). Thus, this leads to a situation where politicians mobilise their ethnic and religious groups for political gains rather than appealing to voters on issues that matter.

Recommendations

This research paper thereby recommends the following so as to help curb the vulnerability of Nigeria's Electoral System to abuse:

1. Voter education: The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) should conduct voter education campaigns to educate voters on their rights and responsibilities.
2. Use of technology: INEC should leverage technology by introducing electronic voting machines to eradicate ballot box snatching, multiple voting and other forms of malpractices.
3. Adequate security: There should be adequate security personnel deployed at polling units, collation centers, and other strategic locations during elections.
4. Proper voter registration: It is essential that proper voter registration is carried out in advance to ensure only eligible voters participate in the election.
5. Transparency: The electoral process should be transparent by allowing observers and media access to the entire voting process from start to finish.
6. Strengthening of institutions: Nigeria needs a strong judiciary system that can handle election dispute cases promptly without bias or political interference.
7. Punishment for offenders: Those found guilty of electoral malpractice should face severe punishment as a deterrent to others who might be contemplating such actions.
8. Sensitization of stakeholders: Political parties, candidates, and their supporters must be sensitized on the need for peaceful elections devoid of violence and intimidation.
9. Financial accountability: Political parties should be held accountable for campaign financing, and there should be restrictions on donations from individuals or organizations that cannot justify their source of income.
10. Continuous improvement strategies: INEC should continuously evaluate its processes before, during, and after elections to identify areas that need improvement in subsequent processes.
11. Make political office less attractive: Making political offices less attractive is a strategy that can help improve the electoral system and governance in Nigeria by reducing corruption, promoting merit-based leadership, and discouraging political opportunism. This could be achieved through many ways, such as implementation of measures to reduce the salaries, allowances, and benefits of political office holders to bring them more in line with the civil servants income. This can help reduce the financial incentives for seeking political office solely for personal gain. Also, the public disclosure of assets and income for political office holders will promote transparency and accountability.

12. Scrapping of constituency projects for federal lawmakers.

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