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POLITICAL PARTIES AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

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Abstract

Political parties and democracy all over the globe play a vital role in the development of society. This is because they create room for people participating and representing their followers in the modern day democracy. It is also view that political parties recruits and present political leaders during elections in order to represent their interest. However, political parties and democracy in Nigeria are weak severally in discharging their functions and responsibilities toward national development. Perhaps this is not unconnected with prolong military rule and frequent disengagement of political parties and democracy in Nigeria. These political parties and democracy instead of strengthening the core values of national development rather a bottleneck to growth and development in Nigeria. The paper examine the functions and evolution of political parties and democracy in Nigeria as well as major problems confronting them. The paper will adopts the structural functional theory to explain how political parties and democracy failed in performing their functions and responsibilities. Primary/secondary data will be adopted for this study. Adopted for these study the findings also revealed that there is poor economic stability, corruption, lack of good governance, insecurity, inflation, lack of accountability, and transparency among others social vices. The paper will also asses the performances of political parties in Nigeria and it's attendants problems. The paper recommends in order to achieve development in Nigeria.

Keywords: Political Parties, Democracy, Insecurity, National Development and unemployment.

Introduction

The principal instrument for the survival of democracy is political parties. Without political parties democracy would not take place because political parties screened and featured qualified candidates to contest for any elective positions with sound political manifestoes. Political parties in the global community play a dominant role in the actualization of any democratic government. It is also pertinent to say therefore, that political parties ensure the regular existence of government through prompt harvest of political leaders, in line with diverse view of the empires (electorates) and structural formation of government in any environment.

In Nigeria the issues of effective leadership and political stability have become a hot-button issue. Since emerging as an independent nation state in 1960, Nigeria has struggled to fashion out a political system that would grantee an orderly society as well as clearly defined method for settle conflicts and for sharing whatever collectively belongs to the people, it has been a struggle to establish a system that would handle unemployment protect the basic rights of citizen, then promote their culture and unity, provide basic infrastructure and services, electricity, water supply, health care and many others which are set elusive establish aspiration and how those aspiration would be pursued (Usua, 2010).

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Prof. S. T. Addo [GHANA]

To promote political stability that could engender development of Nigeria, there must be an effective, efficient and strong leadership. In contemporary Nigeria today, effective leadership is prime value, the most valuable public goods but yet the most elusive. In an increasingly changing and globalized world of today, leadership is the most visible aspect of management with its potential of transforming the winning team with the appropriate synergy to actualise collectively determined corperate objectives. It is pertinent therefore, to note that we cannot function without leaders and that lower quality of life depending on the quality of leaders and the stability of the political administration furthermore, quality leadership is a key to a prosperious and peacefully life and nation. It is obvious that Nigeria is painfully in need of quality leaders/political parties.
It is quite true that this generation lives in a swirling tides of events. Dreams, promise, threat and changing ideals about the present and future, politically speaking, this century is the bloodiest, and the most unpredictable of any century in history. This confluence of strange conditions presses this generation to desire effective leadership and political stability as well as adequate security.
Added to this bleak environment are the painful realized that over the past few decades, there seem to have been a dramatic leadership vacuum in Nigeria. In every sphere of Nigeria society, there is an absence of quality, stable, efficient and effective leadership. In the political, civil, economic, social and spiritual arenas, recent events indicate that the previous generation how produce a poor quality of characters that fade in the presence true leadership and leave the present generation in the same leadership vacuum.
The recent fall of government in several third world countries, the explosive of corruption and unethical activities among political leaders and the cover conspiracies of government betraying their own people is evidence that, this lack of quality leadership is effecting every sphere of lives in the developing nations especially Africa countries.
It is in this regard however, that this present age most face the challenges of identifying, developing, training and raising a generation of leaders who would ensure political stability and adequate security in the emerging nations of the world.
Extra-polating from this, the paper seeks to outline how the political parties/leaders promotes or suppress democracy in Nigeria. The paper is further structured with introduction which is ongoing, statement of problems, justification of the study, objectives of the study, Research methodology, conceptual clarifications and theoretical foundation, a critical analysis of evolution of political parties in Nigeria, roles, as well as the problems confronting political parties in Nigeria democracy. Conclusion and recommendations will be proffer in order to ameliorate the problems facing democracy in Nigeria politics.

Statement of the Problem

It has been noticed that political parties in Nigeria has failed severally in discharging their function and responsibilities to their people through their various leadership. The study intends to investigate problems and weakness of political parties and their leadership in Nigeria with the view to reduce its to the bearable minimum since inception of political movement in Nigeria.
The problems of corruption, unemployment, prospects purity misplacement lack of transparency and accountability, absence of good governance rule of law, fragile economic base, debt peonage, legislative thuggery, incessant killings by political leaders and insecurity among others formed the major problems of this research work because these had serious implications for cooperate existence of institution, people and the needed national development.

Justification of the Study

The finds that will be obtain from this empirical research work will help the country, groups, society and individuals within and outside Nigeria for better services delivery.
It is also the believe of the researcher that the outcome of these study will go long way in contributing to the existence knowledge in the challenges of leadership and political parties in this country.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Prof. S. T. Addo [GHANA]

Objectives of the Study

1. To provide a corrective major in order to reduce the leadership problems in the state.
2. To investigate the major factors responsible for the leadership failure in the state.
3. To examine the socio-economic and political implication in the state
4. To examine the major achievement/ weaknesses of each leaders in the state since it inception 1996.
5. To draw the attention of the present administration in taking the advantages of this research in order to fill the gap created

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

Political Parties

Political parties are group of people with same interest and ideologies/manifestoes with the view to recruit and present candidates for election in any given society. There is no universal acceptable definition of political parties Agbaje (1999) defines political parties as a group of people bounded in policy and opinion in support of a general cause which essentially is the pursuit, capture and retention for as long as democratically feasible government and its agencies" while Osumah (2009) argued that political parties are voluntary association organized by persons bounded by common interests or aims which seeks to acquire or retain power through the election of its candidates into public office.

Political parties are key variables of democracy because the cardinal principle of modern democracy revolves around political parties. Political parties are key factors to smooth running of a modern government and therefore, cannot be undermine because without featuring of political candidates democracy cannot strive. It is in the light of this that,

Oyideran and Abgaje (1999) opined that political parties are "central to the longevity and vitality of democracy and their ability to aggregate freely, articulate, represent and organize within set limits is what in public life… (Abbaje, 1999).

In the light of the foregoing, political parties play two key functions in political activities: they served as opposition when they lost elections and also form government when they win elections. Ball (1971) quoting Schumpeter concurs, "the first and foremost aim of each political party is to prevail over others in order to get into power or stay in it." But not all political parties end up winning elections; others play the role of opposition. The latter check the excesses of the party in government. However, for beauty of democracy to stand, there must be sound minded opposition with constructive criticism.

National Development

According to Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, sees development as the process of gradually becoming bigger, stronger, better or more advanced. This simply means the advancement of socio-economic, cultural and political activities a country could cater for its citizens. However, national development can be duly referred to as a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of every persons in any given nation.

Ekpo (1990) also agrees that development is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of the nation especially those who are poor. He further opines that the most often than not, the term development is used in an exclusive economic sense, the justification being that the type of economy is itself an index of other social features. In his contribution to the meaning of development, Dudley (1969) argues that, the questions to ask about a country's development are: what has been happening to poverty, unemployment and inequality? If all these have declined from high levels beyond all doubt then, this has been a period of development for the country concerned. If one or two of these central problems have been going worse especially if all there have, it would be strange to call the result development even if per capital income doubled. This definition is centered on the improvement of the living condition of the citizens, and it means that an economy called growth without development.

Rodney (1972), again argued that development in human society is many sided process. At the level of individual, it implies increased in skills and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and materials well-being… At the level of the society groups, it implies an increasing capacity to regulate both internal and external relations … in the past, development has always meant the increase ability to guard the independence of social group, for real development to emerged the following were advocated: i. Free compulsory and universal education; ii. Improvement of educational and training for the working population;

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Prof. S. T. Addo [GHANA]

iii. Raising the standard of living of the people; iv. Improvement in the health of the people, by all round provision of health facilities; and v. Ensure that the level of consumption of materials, social and spiritual goods and services are raised.

Diejomoh (1972) also views national development as a process of increasing the level of per capital income of a nation as well as the standard of living of the national population which is measured in terms of food and nutritional level, health, education, housing, recreation and security. Coombs and Ahmed (1974) see national development as a profound transformation of social and economic structures, institutions, relationship and processes in a national geographical area. Based on this and for the purpose of the subject matter, one could view development as borne out of genuine and identified needs to change beliefs, attitude, norms, values as well as old ways of achieving goals for more pragmatic, dynamic, effective and efficient social economic and political transformation of any given nation. This definition means that, development implies improving the quality of life and the well-being of the people. In other words, it implies provision of basic social infrastructures, increase food production, improved employment opportunities and increased income. In the light of the above, for national development to strive or succeed in any given nation and with particular reference to Nigeria being the focal point, there must be effective coordination, harmony, and sound socio-economic, political, cultural and technological advancement that will better the life and well-being of the masses and the nation at large. **Research Methodology**

The methodological approach to this research is primarily targeted at providing a coherent interpretation of all the sources and data that will likely to be use in this work. Many sources are implored in the reconstruction of any aspect of the past human activities if it is to be regarded and considered reliable and historically admissible. And this research work is therefore not an exception. The sources to be use in this particular aspect of the history of this magnitude are many, varied and are often classified into primary and secondary sources. Among the primary sources are oral interviews which have been and will be conducted with well-informed personalities from the past and present leaders in the state with the view to collaborate whether the information given are correct or not and this will be subjected to critical analyses and interpretation. Equally close examination will be extended to the use of secondary sources comprising mainly of books, journals, seminar and conference papers, unpublished Dissertations/Thesis and projects. Others includes: Government Pamphlets, gazettes among others.

Theoretical Framework

The concept of political leadership can be explained by the elite theory. This theory focuses attention on the behaviour and action of a relatively small number of political decisionmakers, rather than stressing the formal and institutional apparatus of government. The fundamental objectives of the elite theory are summarized by the assertion that all political systems are divided into two strata; those who rule and those who are ruled. The rulers are tagged as "political elite" and it is the most significant aspect of any political system Mosca (1939).

Bill (1973) opined that, the political elite are those groups of people that possesses most of political power and which makes most significant political decisions in a society. It is accepted that minority of individuals who are most active in political affairs in any given society. Elite theory therefore, helps to provide a common ground for comparative analysis of the behaviour of political class in a political system.

In the same vein Mosca (1939), all political systems have two structures; the political class and the non-political class. He sees a relationship connection between the elite and the state, is that, "the state is an instrument of oligarchies or organized minorities… in reality the state is just the concrete organization of a larger number of the elements that rule in a given state Pareto in Bill (1973) supports this view when he say that; "every people is governed by an elite, by a chosen element in the population. It is always an oligarchy that governs."

Another theoretical perspective of leadership can be found in Marx Weber theory of bureaucracy. To Marx (1946), bureaucracy came about due largely to quest for an organization to deal with the needs and the problems of the society. According to him, civilization involved from the primitive and mystical to the rational and complex, and this has necessitated the evolution of a bureaucratic organization. This perspective is based on the principle that people obey those who exercise power over them because they feel that such people have the right to do so in order to bring about dividends to the society. Webber therefore, describes three ideal types of authority or reasons why people throughout history have obeyed their rulers. These include:

1. **Charismatic Authority.** This is based on the personal qualities of the leaders. Most of these leaders are usually self-appointed and people believed in them because of their extra-ordinary qualities in exercising their authority.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Prof. S. T. Addo [GHANA]

2. **Legal Authority.** This is the foundation of modern societies in which the bureaucracy has grown and nurtured. This is authority based on the legitimacy of rules and rights of those chose to such position to exercise their power. They usually issued command and are obeyed because they derived their power through legal instrument of power. The legal rational authority has therefore, been the basis of Webber's conception of bureaucracy.
3. **The Traditional Authority.** This form of authority is the traditional type. This rests on the established sanctity of tradition. This means that tradition provides status and power to those who exercise authority.

The above theoretical postulation about leadership, authority, power and society is intended to throw more light on the role of political leadership in shaping the direction and speed of the development process in a given state i.e. Nasarawa State.

Evolution of Political Parties in Nigeria

The origin of political parties in Nigeria is rooted to the era of colonial regime. After the collapsed of first and second World War, many colonial territory including Nigerian began to challenge colonial government and racial prejudice. Many Nigerians fought and died in support of European wars. When the soldiers returned to Nigeria, they asked themselves "if the white man thinks we are good enough to fight, won and even die in a white man's war, why do they deny that we are good enough to rule our fatherland?"

It is in relation to these conditions that the Lagos branch of Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association was formed in 1920 by Rev/ N.B. Euba and Rev. S.M. Abiodun who views and shares the ideas of black America leaders Markus Garvey to fight discrimination against them. Another political party came up in 1920 i.e. National Congress of British West Africa (NCBWA) at Accra in Ghana by John Casesely Hayford and Dr. Akinwande Savage. They were inspired by the achievements recorded by Indian National Congress and the South-African National Congress as well as post World Wars developments. The aim of the congress was to request for the introduction of a legislative council for each of the British West Africa territories and also insist on the principles of elective representation.

In response to the establishment of elective principles approved under Clifford Constitution of 1922 that make provision for more seats in the legislative council, Herbert Macaulay founded the Nigeria National Democratic Party (NNDP) in 1923 which dominated the political scene in Lagos and its environs for over 15 years.

By 1936, Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM) was formed formerly referred to Lagos Youth Movement (LYM) and defeated (NNDP) for the whole three (3) seats approved for Lagos legislative council in 1938 following the reaction of Nigeria professionals and intellectual group as a result of frustration by the British government. 1940s the NYM failed or lost out due largely because of leadership problem.

The rising forces and the struggle against colonial domination led to the formation of yet another political party, the National Council of Nigeria and Cameroun (NCNC) in 1944 by Herbert Macaulay and later under the watched of Dr. Nnamdi Azikwe when he died in 1946. This was fundamentally formed to create a platform for the operation of nationalists against the colonial forces. Other political parties formed alongside ethnic nationalists and region were Northern People's Congress (NPC) in 1950 which represent (Jam'iyar Mutanen Arewa). A faction of the NPC consisting of radical youths emerged and formed Northern Element Progressive Union (NEPU) in 1951 and all of them dominated the political activities in the region toward independence. Others include United Middle Belt Congress (UMBC) led by J.S. Tarka, United Nigeria Independent Party (UNIP), the Bornu Youth Movement (BYM). The Egbe-Omo Oduwa, a Yoruba socio-cultural group metamorphosed into Action Group (AG) in 1950 led by Chief Obafemi Awolowo. Also to mention was Nigeria National Democratic Party (NNDP) under the supervision of Akintola, the Niger Delta Democratic Congress (NDC) among others all battled for power in first republic.

The military coup de tat on 15th January 1966 by Gen. Aguiyi Ironsi marked the end of the first republic and party politics. The country was under the military government for 13 years from Ironsi, Gowon, Murtala/Olusegun Obasanjo before he handed over power to civilian government of Alhaji Shehu Shagari. Five political parties emerged out of about 50 associations that applied for registration with Federal Electoral Commission (FEDCO) in

1978. These includes: Great Nigerian People's Party (GNPP), National Party of Nigeria (NPN), (they formed the government at the national among most of the states within the

Northern Region), Nigerian Advance Party (NAP), Nigerian People's Party (NPP) and People's Redemption Party (PRP). GNPP, NAP and PRP were registered in 1982.

In another development, 13 political associations applied for registration with National

Electoral Commission (NEC) in preparation for election into the aborted third republic under Gen. Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida (IBB), military regime, but banned all of them and imposed on Nigerians two political parties namely: National Republican Convention (NRC) and Social Democratic Party (SDP). However, the election that took place between these political parties was annulled on the 12th June, 1993 by the Federal Government in Nigeria under the watched of IBB on reason(s) not clearly defined to Nigerians till date.
Similarly about five political parties were formed during Gen. Sani Abacha transition network inspired with the belief to promote late Gen. Abacha to take over as civilian president through two million March-in-March at Abuja in his favour. These political parties namely: Congress for National Consensus (CNC) Democratic Party of Nigeria (DPN), Grassroots Democratic Movement (GDM), National Centre Party of Nigeria (NCPN) and United Nigeria Congress Party (UNCP) were dissolved after the demise of Abacha in June,
1998. Under Gen. Abubakar Abdulsalam's regime, who has successfully handed over to the democratically elected government under president Olusegun Obasanjo of People's Democratic Party (PDP), among others were All People's Party who kneely contested presidential election and lost to PDP later transformed into All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP), Alliance for Democracy (AD) among others were registered by Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). In 2002 during Obasanjo regime, the number of registered political parties by INEC has rose to almost 30 parties. While over sixty political parties were featured during the 2011 elections but later reduced to 25 in 2012 by INEC because they have not met up with the national standard. In 2015 general elections about 28 political parties were featured by INEC. While about 70-80 political parties were registered and featured during the last elections that took place in 2019. These were All Progressive Congress (APC), who formed the national government now, People's Democratic Party (PDP), All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA), People Democratic Movement (PDM), Social Democratic Party (SDP) among others.

Political Parties and National Development in Nigeria

It is very obvious to say that the aim and objectives of any political party in any given society is to form government with capacity and ability to transform such society with sound modern social infrastructures such as provision of water, electricity, basic education, sound medical and healthcare facilities, road network, and provision of quality agricultural facilities to their people. Other include; rural and urban development, strong and viable currency to meet international standard, respect for rule of law, fundamental human rights, conduct free, fair and credible elections, provision of security to protect the lives and property of the people, transparency and accountability, provision of industries, employment, free access to information and more fundamentally the participation of the people in their nation's socioeconomic and political processes without discrimination based on ethno-religious and political affiliation. It is therefore, the functions of political parties in Nigeria to improve and promote the needed national development. In this regard, Enahoro (2005) lamented that when we achieved independence, we began the process of modernization, but so far, we have failed to achieve democracy. However, the failure of political parties and their leaders is attributed to the following factors.

Political Parties and Ethno-regional Politics in Nigeria

Ethno-regional politics is one of the cancers warm that has been eating deeply into Nigeria political system. The creation of three (3) regions under the Richard Constitution has already divided Nigeria long ethnic politics. The ethnic politics was first featured into Nigeria politics during the leadership tussle among Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM). The ethnoregional politics spread like wild fire with the formation of political parties under colonial regime. It could be recalled that all political parties in the first republic were ethnically formed. The NPC recruited its supporters from the north mainly the Hausa-Fulani among other minority tribes in the north while the AG was formed among the Yoruba ethnic nationalities in the western region. The NCNC on the other direction was dominated by the Igbo in the eastern region. This however, promoted the spirit of ethnic nationalism rather the national development in Nigeria. Worse still is the voting pattern casted along ethnic and regional ground. The resultant effect was that better candidates are always voted out, in another development hate speeches and statements by our leaders also helped in shining the stars of ethnocentrism in Nigeria those are "since the amalgamation of 1914, Nigeria has existed as one only in paper … it is still far from being united. Nigeria's unity is only but a
British intention for it (Balewa) "my recent troubles … stem from the fact that I am an Igbo"
(Azikwe) "the mistakes of 1914 has come to light" (Bello) and Nigeria is not a nation but a mere geographical expression (Awolowo). Royalties to ethno-regional is more than that of the nation therefore hampered the anticipated development.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Prof. S. T. Addo [GHANA]

Accordingly, the ethno-regional politics manifested in the fourth republic because the composition of ANPP as political parties largely dominated by the Hausa-Fulani from the core north and among other minority tribes in the North and massive Igbo in PDP with strong supporters from the North. While Yoruba from the west belong to the AD political party. In the light of this development, all the dominant political parties mentioned and operated along ethno-regional based are under the control and directives of their various cultural associations namely: the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) for the Hausa-Fulani in the North,, Oheneze-Indigbo for the South-East while Afenifere and Omo-Oduduwa for the South-West. The choice of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo in 1999 as PDP presidential flag bearer was done to cushion the effect on Yoruba race because of the annulment of June 12, 1993 election. The expiration of Obasanjo's eight years in office saw the emergence of Umar Musa Yar'adua from the Northern state (Katsina) but died in active service in 2010. The vice president Goodluck Ebele Jonathan then emerged as the president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
In 2015 general elections, the northerners insisted that, the north must produce the president of Nigeria because they felt that the North has been short-charged in the political system in
Nigeria owed to the death of Late Yar'adua. However, the spokesman of Northern Elders Forum (NEF), Prof. Abdullahi on behalf of the forum maintained that if PDP will not allow the presidential ticket for the north and if Northern candidate win election through one man one vote with their numerical strength since politics is a game of number, the north will never create chances for any zone. While the South-South where Goodluck came from were in support of him on the ground that "they" Niger-Delta has never produce president in the history of Nigeria and further added that, it is the Niger-Delta that is feeding Nigeria therefore, Nigerians should allow Goodluck for second term bid. Cold war and violence of ethno-regional politics manifested clearly during Goodluck second term bid. This has no doubt hindered national development.

Political Parties and Religious Politics in Nigeria

Nigeria's is a highly religious nation, with expectation to see a high degree of social morality but reverse is the case. However, immorality is at the high side every day. One intractable challenge of religion confronting national development in Nigeria is the issue of religion crisis. The Boko Haram and Jos-Plateau crisis has some element of political undertones. Religion and religious practice has entered a new place in Nigeria political history. Christians and Muslims has been considerably negative in Nigerian society because both has become instrument of political manipulation. Politicians during campaign are accused for using religion to manipulate the ordinary citizens in fighting for their political status. This is one of the elements militating against social consciousness and development.
Whenever political conflict exist in the society, religion is been attached to it to gain sympathy from both the Christians and Muslims. The Holy Bible and Qur'an have become a playing ground for divide and rule strategy in Nigerian politics. Some political parties are rated as Christians and Muslims Parties. The just concluded election in 2019 witnessed this scenario PDP for Christian while APC for Muslims.
Similarly, some people are been denied positions of leadership because they belong to a particular sect of religion or there are certain ministries at states and federal government that are reserved for Christians/Muslims if the governors of such state/president are either Christian or Muslim.
Some are denied certificate of occupancy to build residential houses, churches or mosques because they belong to a particular religion or political party. There was also religion discrimination in area of political appointments/political employments. This is no doubt has serious implication for national development in Nigerian society.

Political Parties and Conflict in Nigeria

It has become reality that conflict has took the place of norms and values in Nigeria political development. It appears that conflict has become the order of the day among the different political parties in Nigeria. As Justice Sowemimo said during the trial of Awolowo treasonable agreed "… politics generally in Nigeria has been conducted with certain amount of bitterness… political parties are equivalent to warring camps, elections are conducted with thugs protecting campaigners" (Anifowose, 1982). It is also fundamental to say that conflict has become a recurring issue in Nigeria political scene.
Another political conflict that claimed so many lives and many injured in Nigeria was the motion moved by Anthony Enahoro in 1956 at Kano for self-government and again the 1959 general elections crisis/intimidation of opponents supervised by outgoing colonial government. Also to mention was the 1964/1965 elections conflict in Nigeria.
On this note, Edoh (2003) opined that, "those elections introduced for the first time the use of thugs to harass, intimidate and if necessary eliminate recalcitrant opposition candidates." Similarly, widespread crisis

emerged after 1983 general elections in Oyo and Ondo States when their incumbent governors Chief Bola Ige (Oyo State) and Michael Ajasin (Ondo State) lost out. The conflict erupted in the states between the supporters of the governors elect and the incumbents led to so many lives and property destroyed. This one among many reasons why the military took over the government on 31st December, 1983.

However, same killings continued under the military regime that claimed to come to protect the lives and well-being of its citizens. According to Rafiu et al., (2009), the murder of Pa Alfred Rewane, Alhaja Suliant Adedeji, General Musa Yar'adua, Arch. Layi Balogun and

Hajiya Kudirat Abiola during Abacha's government were politically motivated.

Similarly, the death of Moshur Abiola the acclaimed winner of 1993 general elections in prison and attempt made to eliminate Alex Ibru were all linked to politics. In the same vein, the killings become worse in the fourth republic where personalities such as Chief Funsho Williams and Daramola Ayo are gubernatorial aspirants in Lagos and Ekiti States killed. Also to mention was former minister, Chief Bola Ige, Dr. Henry Marshall, Dikibo Amunasoari, and Onyebuchi Ede among others. The Ebonyi State PDP crisis between Anyim and Egwu groups, the killing of Odemgwu Okonkwo, Bar. Igwe and his wife, and the attack on Ifeanyi Iheghu all of Anambra State (Newswatch, 2002). The killings of 121 persons and displacement of 5000 people following the post-election crisis in 2011 in Nigeria (Leadership Newspaper, 2011).

Similarly, Human Right Commission (HRC) reported through (Premium Times Newspaper, 2015); that about 58 Nigerians had been killed in preparation for 2015 general elections crisis. According to the (HRC) 22 persons were found death in Lagos, 9 persons died in Kaduna while 6 persons were reported to be killed in Rivers among other states of the federation.

Extra-polating from this scenario, political crisis in Nigeria rooted to lack of stable democracy in Nigeria given the military dominancy in the political scene of Nigeria if not in the recent time that the country returned back to democratic process in 1999. Other reasons for political crisis are lack of internal democracy among the various political parties we are having in the country. This happened largely as a result of forceful imposition of candidates on members of the party during primaries and after secondary elections. A good example of lack of internal democracy after the secondary elections in Nigeria was the imposition of Senate President Sen. Ahmed Lawal and Speaker House of Representatives Rt. Hon. Gbajamila by the APC led administration during the first and second tenure of President Muhammadu Buhari instead of allowing National Assemblies to choose their leaders. However, the imposition by the APC caucus failed and saw the emergence of former Senate President Dr. Bukola Saraki and former Speaker House of Representatives Rt. Hon. Yakubu Dogara. This scenario has generated a lot of political cold war between them and the APC caucus. But Dogara was able to manage and escape all plans to remove him when he finally accepted the present speaker of House of Representatives as House Leader. However, the former Senate President Saraki faces a lot of political problems with the APC caucus when an ambushed was laid when he was invited to appeared and reappeared in the accused box of Code of Conduct Tribunal (CCT) sitting in Abuja in respect of assets declaration but escaped narrowly when the (CCT) dismissed the allegations labeled against him. However, the former imposition that failed has finally came to passed when the APC National Chairman Mr. Adams Oshomole openly declared after the APC caucus meeting that APC leaders has endorsed Senator Ahmed Lawal as Senate President while Rt. Hon. Gbajimiala as Speaker House of Representatives which is contrary to the tenets and principle of democracy. Others includes: clashing between political parties during campaigns, rallies as well as struggle for political power in order to accumulate wealth instead of selfless service.

Political Parties and Politics of Opposition in Nigeria

The opposition parties in Nigerian political scene over the years suffered victimization which we refers to as psychological political trauma in the hands of the ruling parties even among the same political parties you belong to once you opposed any decision took that you fill is detrimental to the corporate existence of the nation. This development is rooted since inception of general elections that ushered in the political leaders in the first republic. Opposition political parties are seen as always as enemies by the ruling party even when constructive criticism are offered.

In the light of this, former Nigerian Prime Minister Balewa stated that, Nigeria is "not ripe for a system of government in which is full-fledged opposition" (Anifowose, 1982). Suffice to this, the ruling party always denied the opposition any appointment along the popular saying that "the winners take all while the loser loses all in addition to intimidation assault, threat against their lives. All this is against the practice and principle of democracy and the needed national development. To affirmed to this, (Gabriel and Edith, 2015) stated that, the Tiv riot of 1962 and later 1964 was the aftermath of the suppression of opposition. Edith

(2003) also pointed out that, in 1959 and to a large extent, 1961, 1964 and 1965 elections in Nigeria attempts were made by the winning parties or coalitions to hammer the nails into the opposition parties/coalitions' coffin.

Worse still, the ruling parties among states such as Nasarawa and Benue States for instance, denied the opposition (ANPP) in Nasarawa and Benue States the opportunity to have access to their radio house during campaign under the leadership of Alh. (Dr.) Abdullahi Adamu and Sen. Dr. George Akume to aired out their programs and policies.

Similarly, Doma and Suswan denied the CPC in Nasarawa and Benue on their run up to the 2011 general elections. This scenario also took place when Al-Makura and Ortom emerged as the governors during their first and second tenures where the opposition were denied access to radio houses as well as venue for campaign rally. Rivers State was also reported to have denied PDP access to the state's stadium for the presidential campaign when Ameachi decamped to APC and of course, the PDP rally was held amidst tights security in spite of the governor's refusal (Fabiyi and Akabike, 2015). Also to mention was the unguided statement made by President Buhari in Hausa when he contested for president under CPC in 2011 and I quote "Zayi Kare Jini-Biri Jini – which literally means "sheading of bloods" if he wins election and being denied. Others includes hunting of oppositions through EFCC and ICPC among others security agencies in Nigeria. Senator Dino Melaye among others are good example of this before and after decamping to PDP. The presence of any organized opposition makes sitting government to sit up in achieving the desires development.

Political Parties and Vote Buying/Elections Manipulation in Nigeria

Vote buying and elections manipulations in Nigerian political system is alarming in the recent times and to be precise the sub-elections that took place in Ekiti and Osun States and the just concluded 2019 elections in Nigeria where monies was used to influence the choice and decision of many electorates to vote for their party and candidates. As a result of this, democracy become threatened when political parties lack clear focused manifesto and sound ideologies to sell to the electorates in order to canvass for votes/support rather using position and money to maneuver elections for themselves or their respective candidates. Similarly, vote buying/elections manipulations by political parties are done through influencing the posting of Resident Independent Commission's State Commissioners, the commissioner of police among other security agencies in Nigeria so that they can be used as instrument for elections manipulation through intimidation, assault among others. Others include presiding officers, polling clerks, orderlies, wards, local governments, constituencies and state returning officers to change election results as against the real votes casted at the polling units at the detriment of those who stood under hot weather to cast their votes for candidates of their choices, the candidates and the political parties that has no money to bought them, ended in elections tribunal.

Regrettably among those influenced or brought off by politicians were the high placed people in the society. These are Professors, Ph.Ds. M.Sc./MA degrees holders and members of academic environment where people knew them for truth and nothing but the truth were involved in this act. The implication of this is that, the right candidates and the choice of majority are faced out which is against the tenets and principle of democracy, because democracy is all about majority votes. No wonder in the recent times electorates are praying for military taking over the government as a result of lack of sincerity in the political process in Nigeria. This has serious implication for national development.

Conclusion

The main argument of this study is that political parties in Nigeria has failed right from the history of democratization process and the development of political parties in Nigeria and more fundamentally the beginning of the fourth republic due largely to power politics. The development of political parties in Nigeria did not meet the yearnings, aspirations and expectations of an average Nigerians. The practice and encouragement of political conflict, religion politics, vote buying and manipulations of elections or electoral process by politicians, ethnicity and regional politics and the oppression of opposition among others form of electoral malpractices in Nigerian political system has serious implication for the survival of democracy as well as the socio-economic, political and cultural development of Nigerian nation as political parties and leadership in Nigeria appears to have no clear cautions, political will, wisdom and vision of political transformation that will ushered in national development and welfare of the masses. This negative attitude arises among Nigerian elites as a result of the belief of primitive accumulation of wealth that are made for the generality of the people in order to protect their personal interest and that of their immediate families and well-wishers.

Therefore, the author is advocating for new leaders with sound moral, intellectual capacity that will steer the engine of development in Nigeria.

Recommendations

i. The need for all political parties in Nigeria to provide sound, viable and credible manifestos and strong political ideology that can attract the electorates.
ii. The allowances and enumerations of all political leaders should be review downward to avoid politics of do or die affairs.
iii. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) should disqualified any political party's candidates buying votes during elections if notice.
iv. Political parties should deceased from manipulations of all electoral officers' ranging from polling clerks, orderlies, presiding officers, wards, constituencies, local and state government returning officers so that our votes can be counted.
v. Political parties should also cultivate the habit of tolerating oppositions parties in order to secure peace and the needed national development.
vi. The Electoral Commission should delist the name(s) of any unpopular party that operate only in poster and is not committed to competition and or could not win any offices in the elections conducted.
vii. The Electoral Commission should only registered political parties that have national outlook to avoid politics of ethnicity and regionalism.
viii. The INEC and security agencies should resist any attempt made by any political parties or the government in power to manipulate elections in their favour.

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