

# Vote Buying and Electoral Process In Nigeria: Implication for Good Governance (2019-2023)

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## **Abstract**

*In Nigeria, the act of vote-buying have taken center stage since the inception of the Fourth Republic. This is obviously hindering the democratization process in Nigeria. Political parties and candidates see elections as a do-or-die affair and therefore, a must-win situation. Thus, they resort to all manner of electoral misconduct such as vote-buying, election rigging, voter suppression, ballot tampering, intimidation and coercion, which has gradually crippled the electoral process. This paper, therefore examines the factors and consequences of vote buying on the electoral process and its implication on good governance in Nigeria. It argues that such factors as ideological deficiency, poor political structure and inadequate institutionalization of political parties amongst others contribute to entrenching bad governance, and insufficient service delivery to the citizenry. It further argues that the poor standard of living of the populace has made them very vulnerable to the temptation of selling their votes to the highest bidder, thereby losing their freedom to make right and informed choices, which would not represent their true wishes. The study employs the theory of prebendalism and the theory of the two publics in explaining how the political system has experienced the monetization and materialization of electioneering and consequent partisan relations in Nigeria. The exchange of gifts, money, food items, and so on, for votes as seen in the act of vote buying and selling, is a necessary consequence of prebendal and the two public nature of politics. Political parties engage in different strategies such as pre-paid and post-paid method of buying votes, in order to secure victory. This situation, therefore, portends danger towards the democratization process of electing credible leaders which in turn have implication on good governance. However, to minimize the act of vote buying and selling in Nigeria's political system, several recommendations were made such as improving the living standard of the populace by providing employment and other forms of socio-economic empowerment by the government, instituting electoral offences commission, and ensure there is full enforcement of the law upon any individual who is found violating the prescribed law so as to serve as a deterrent to others in the future.*

**Keywords: Democracy, Election, Vote Buying, Governance, Leadership.**

## **Introduction**

Conducting a free, fair and credible election in Nigeria is a fundamental issue which her electoral bodies have been grappling with since Nigeria attained independence in 1960 and suffice to say, has been slowing down the process of democratization in the country. Virtually all elections

which have been conducted in the history of Nigeria have been characterized by one form of electoral misconduct or another ranging from politically motivated violence, voters' disenfranchisement, rigging, religious extremism, ethnic chauvinism, election rigging, ballot tampering and the predominance of vote buying/selling (Onapajo, Francis, & Okeke-Uzodike, 2015; Adigun, 2019; Amao, 2020). The 2007 General Election manifested some of these misconduct to the extent that a former president of Nigeria, the Late Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, had to admit immediately after he was elected president in 2007, that the election that brought him into power was greatly flawed.

These problems, which the electoral body is faced with also led the past chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Attahiru Jega, to once lament about the disappointing state of elections in the country when he stated that in Nigeria, political parties set aside a particular sum of money to bribe security and INEC officials (Umoru 2012) This poses a very serious threat to our democracy. This statement credited to the former INEC Chairman corroborates the many narratives of fraud and misconduct in previous and subsequent elections held in Nigeria since her return to democratic rule in 1999. In a democratic election, it is expected that an election should be free, fair and credible. This is to say that, for a political system to be seen as being democratic, it must follow through to a reasonable extent, the major tenets of democracy such as a free, fair and credible election, fundamental freedom, accountability, transparency, equality, control over abuse of power, human rights, and the rule of law (Jonathan, 2022). Elections do not only serve the aim of handing over power peacefully, it also enhances and confers political legitimacy on the government.

Thus, an important aspect of the problem which Nigeria's electoral system faces particularly in line with Jega's statement has been the predominance of money in politics which could lead to vote-buying/selling, election rigging, bribery and corruption. This political menace is indeed pervasive in many developed democracies. It goes beyond the African continent to the rest of the world. For instance, vote buying/selling being used as a strategy to induce voters is very common in countries such as Phillipines, India, Pakistan, Britain, United States of America, Nicaragua, Argentina, Taiwan, Lebanon and some other countries in Europe. In Africa, vote buying is prevalent in Kenya, Ghana, Sao Tome Principe, Rwanda, Burundi, and Sierra Leone (Ovwasa, 2013; Baidoo, Dankwa, & Eshun, 2018; Onuoha & Ojo, 2018).

This stems from the fact that money is indispensable in the electioneering activities of any given country. The use of money by politicians in electioneering cannot be overemphasized. Of course, money is needed for sundry expenses and logistics such as political campaign mobilization, political rallies, printing of manifestoes and posters, producing emblems for the political party, radio, television and newspaper advertisements of candidates by the political parties. However, it is the negative impact of money on the electoral process that has remained a major challenge. Money has perhaps taken the most important position in politics to the extent that the word 'money politics' is now the language of politics in Nigeria. Davies (2006) observed that it is a paradox that money has now become a dominant factor in the political process of most countries and in particular, Nigeria. Money has taken the most important position and it is dangerously playing a critical role in determining the outcome of elections as a result of its illegal use which occurs during vote buying/selling.

The Electoral Act, 2022 of the Federal Republic of Nigeria prohibits the act of vote buying/selling in Section 127 stating that a person who corruptly by his or herself or by any person at any time after the date of an election has been announced, directly or indirectly gives or provides or pays money to or for any person for the purpose of corruptly influencing that person or any other person to vote or refrain from voting at such election, or on account of such person or any other person having voted or refrained from voting at such election engages in vote buying. By this, it is a serious offence in Nigeria's electoral system. The electoral process could be compromised when political office holders see it as a medium to perpetuate themselves in office which could make elections not to be free, fair and credible (Ovwasa, 2013). It is only through elections that are free and fair, that citizens can choose their leaders and hold them accountable. The citizens therefore expect to see dividends that come from democracy such as constant supply of electricity, pipe-borne water, job creation, good roads, quality educational

system, and so on. This is however, not the case as democracy which is regarded to be the best form of government is constantly being abused in Nigeria due to the menace of vote buying/selling.

Various scholars such as Schaffer (2005), Schedler (2005), Davies (2006), Ojo (2006), Walecki (2006), Ovwasa (2013) have written on money politics and vote buying in Nigerian politics as a result of its negative effect in the electoral process. Candidates who vie for political offices seems to rely so much on the use of money during electioneering which could result in the negative use of it. Candidates could then use the money to induce voters' who initially have made a decision on whom to cast their vote for but changes their earlier decision as a result of the money which has changed hands (Ovwasa, 2013). Invariably, this is called vote buying. Vote buying in its literal sense, is a simple economic exchange, wherein voters sell their votes to the candidates, sometimes, to the highest bidder, in an election (Schaffer, 2005). Vote buying/distribution of cash and other items before and during elections is most common in modern democracies in Africa and Nigeria in particular.

It may appear that the issue of vote buying by politicians is not been taking seriously by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) so as to nip this problem in the bud. Such factors that elicit vote buying/selling are incompetence and unacceptability of unpopular aspirants by voters, high level of poverty among voters, illiteracy, joblessness and absence of old peoples home where the vulnerable persons (pensioners, aged persons, the physically challenged, and so on) in the society can be cared for (Nwagwu, Uwaechia, Udegbonam & Nnamani, 2022). According to studies conducted by some scholars over the years such as Schaffer and Felongo, the act of vote buying/selling have huge consequences on such society by weakening accountability on governance, inefficiency in government institutions, worsened living standard of the masses, poor public service delivery, and corruption (Schaffer, 2007; Felongco, 2019). Similar studies also show that vote selling is prevalent among the poor voters in Argentina, Egypt and Nigeria (Stokes, 2005). The prevalence of vote buying/selling in Nigeria, is gradually crippling the electoral processes by creating an atmosphere of mistrust in the mindset of the electorates who seldom care about holding government and politician accountable as regard their campaign manifestoes and promises, but rather due to harsh economic conditions and failed campaign promises by political parties, prefer the short-term socio-economic benefits. Perpetrators of vote buying distort the fundamental principles of democracy and the rules of the electoral practices with its attendant consequence on governance, quality of leadership and service delivery.

Although, several works have been written on vote buying by scholars, however, little studies have been carried out on the consequences of vote buying/selling in Nigeria especially with the just concluded 2023 general elections. It is therefore imperative to interrogate the factors associated with this phenomenon that militates against the freeness, fairness, and credibility of Nigeria's electoral system and good governance in the 2023 general election.

The paper thus, seeks to examine the phenomenon of vote buying/selling in Nigeria and assess its implication for good governance in order to nip the menace in the bud as it is threatening the sustainability and durability of Nigeria's democratic process.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The paper adopts the theory of prebendalism and the theory of the two publics as its theoretical framework. The concept of prebendalism was first used in the works of Max Weber in his decentralized patrimonial system and later theorized by an American scholar, Richard Joseph (1987). He used the theory of prebendalism to explain the patterns of politics wherein state power is sought for the sole purpose of personal enrichment (Okoli & Orinya, 2014). The State in this context, has usurped the role of the economy as a major creator of wealth, guarantor of socio-economic security and employer of labour (Okoli, 2009; Okoli & Otegwu, 2010; okoli & Orinya, 2014). He further stated that the political office holder appropriates the office and seemingly converts it into his/her own piece of the State. Joseph describes the essence of prebendalism as 'authority stealing' (Abada & Onyia, 2020). The main aim of the office holder is to gain political power which enables him/her to have personal access to state resources wherein he/she can subvert the rule of law for personal enrichment (Abada & Onyia, 2020).

The prebendal behaviour as argued by Ekeh (1983) may have arisen as a result of colonialism and the subsequent social structure that emerged such as transforming a pre-colonial indigenous institution to an emergent/new social structure. The emergence of a new form of social structure intruded into what was already in existence such as ethnic groups and religious affiliations, thus created what Ekeh referred to as the “two publics”. According to Ekeh (1975), the two publics are the ‘civic’ and the ‘primordial’ publics. The primordial was tied to communal political order based on kinship (ethnic nationalities) relationship while the civic public was tied to the colonial system which is the public service that is in operation in Nigeria.

In applying the theory to the study, it is important to state that Nigeria is a peripheral capitalist state with such characteristics as the primitive accumulation of wealth using state power. It therefore means that once power is captured, there is guaranteed access to state resources. The struggle for power therefore necessitates the use of various means in order to attain and remain in public office. As a result of the attachment and relationship the office holders have with their ethnic and religious groups, they essentially extract resources from the civic public (government) to invest in the primordial/communal public. Thus, prebendalism and the two public theory has led to the monetization and materialization of electioneering and partisan relations in Nigerian politics.

## CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS

### Democracy

Democracy, like most concepts in political science defy a singular definition. In contemporary usage, democracy is a system of government where by the populace exercise their civic rights directly by electing representative among themselves in order to form a governing body, such as a parliament. The concept can also be referred to as “rule of the majority” (Diamond 2004).

According to Ikelegbe, (2007) democracy is a system of government and is a process of government as well as a culture of government. By exercising their franchise, the system provides an opportunity for citizens to have interest and participate in the actions of government.

### Election

Generally, election refers to the method by which persons are selected or chosen for specific position (Ojo, 2008). Elections in the political system refer to a conceived formal expression of preferences given by the electorates, transformed collectively into a political action in the determination of who should occupy a political office. Election also refers to a conceived formal expression of preferences given by the electorates, transformed collectively into a political action in the determination of who should occupy a political office (Jinadu, 1997, Ojo, 2008).

### Governance

Generally, governance is the process of decision making and the process by which decisions are implemented.

Good governance describes the process by which public institutions conduct public affairs and manage public resources in prescribed and agreed way.

### Vote-Buying

Vote buying as defined by Bello (2017) is the act of enticing electorates with cash or other monetary benefits in exchange for their votes. Vote buying, according to Schaffer & Schedler (2005), is a simple economic exchange, where candidates “buy” votes and electorate “sell” their votes as people buy and sell their wares in the market whereby the exchange is not backed by law. Voters sell their votes to candidates, sometimes to the highest bidder, in an election.

It therefore means that, in the electoral arena candidates or political parties ‘purchase’ votes from the electorates just as people buy items in the market while the electorates ‘sell’ their wares which is their votes, just as people sell their wares in the market. Hence, the political parties and candidates are the buyers while the electorates are the sellers.

### Strategies for Vote buying in Nigeria

The strategies ranges from gift/favour rendering; to clientelism, to buying of permanent voters' card. These practices, which is sometimes called indirect vote – buying does not really translate to reciprocity by voters at the polling booth. The party agent distribute goods such as bags of rice, beans, clothing materials, services and money to the electorates who cast their votes for them in return (Wu & Huang, 2004). Services like drilling of boreholes in communities, grading of the roads leading to the communities, in anticipation for the vote of the people at the polling booth are also rendered. Clientelism is used by political parties to lure especially civil servants and the unemployed youth of getting employment, award of contracts, promotion, raising workers' salaries, and election dinners. This is usually a strategy employed by the political party in power. According to Collier and Vicente (2008), Vote buying as encompassing clientelism, solves enforcement problem in that 'payment' (such as contracts, public service jobs, promotions) will be granted only when the candidate has been re-elected into office. The strategy appears to have been employed by the former Edo State governor, Mr Godwin Obeseki even before the increased minimum wage was implemented as he increased the minimum wage of Edo State civil servants from #40,000 to #70,000 before the 2024 gubernatorial election. The Permanent Voters' Card (PVC) is used by political parties when they mobilise and pay citizens who are not yet registered, to register for permanent voter card in order to cast their vote for the party's candidate on Election Day. Individuals who are willing to register and vote, receive sums of money on Election Day. Post-Paid transaction is a more secured method of vote-buying in Nigeria which politicians have embraced because of its ability to prevent voters from defaulting. This provides a win-win situation for both politicians and electorates. It was introduced in the 2011 elections by politicians. In previous elections, using the 2007 election as a case in point, voters do collect money from politicians but in the end, tend to vote for their wish and conscience. In a survey conducted by Bratton (2008) about how voters do not comply with the agreement reached by them and the politicians in the 2007 General Elections in Nigeria, he discovered that 42 percent of voters who accepted money given to them by politicians, did not in return vote for the candidate, rather they voted for their conscience. This strategy of vote-buying came as a new method by politicians of checkmating the defection of voters. The political thugs are put at strategic places very close to the polling booth to see whether the voter has voted for his party before he or she can be paid.

### Why Vote Buying in Nigeria's Electoral process

**Ideological deficiency:** Political parties and their aspirants do not put in place an all-inclusive and understandable manifestoes for voters' scrutiny. Rather than a clear and understandable manifesto which could help voters to make informed decision; rabble rousing speeches, defamation of opponents' characters, propagandas, to mention but a few, are used to confuse the electorates. The inability of the political parties and aspirants in their quest to gain power, confuses the electorates rather than convince them. It is therefore appealing to the candidates or political parties with these inordinate ambition to engage in vote buying and other electoral fraud (Sarkariyau, Aliu, & Adamu, 2015).

**Poor Political culture:** Attitudes, values and beliefs which underpins the general operation of a society is being eroded in Nigeria's political system. Several campaign promises by political parties and politicians were seldom fulfilled, which have created in the minds of the populace a feeling of distrust that politicians only look out for their selfish interests, that politics is a dirty game and political officers are not to be trusted with public fund, and that the whole political process is a charade. Hence, the need for voters to key into the idea of vote buying.

**Inadequate Institutionalization of Political Party:** Aspirants to political positions tend to focus on themselves rather than on issues. Many political parties are guilty of allowing the interest of an aspirant to override the overall interest of the political party. This results in electorates focusing on the candidate and what he can offer thereby making the message of the political party to be of little importance to the electorates.

**Desperate Desire for Victory:** The desire by politicians to be victorious at all cost, even at the preliminary levels, make aspirants who are very desperate, to engage in different forms of malpractice which include offering material and financial inducement to electorates. As a result of the poor state of voters, politicians in Nigeria are fond of sharing food items and other material benefits to the electorates.

**Socio-economic Factors:** These factors which especially include poverty, illiteracy and unemployment is crucial in the proliferation of the market for votes in elections (Kitchelt, 2000; Schaffer, 2002; Bratton, 2008). A large percentage of the population in Nigeria have inadequate education and this has made it difficult for citizens to elect the right candidates during election (Denjibo & Oladeji, 2007). The electorates simply couldn't care less about who wins an elections since they don't really understand the programmes that the candidates are bringing to the table. Unemployment is another factor that increases the menace of vote buying. The youth are the most hit by this factor. Politicians capitalize on this by indulging the jobless youth as political thugs who they manipulate and induce with money and all kinds of material benefits to carry out their illegal businesses before and during elections. Furthermore, capitalizing on the poverty of the people, political parties and their candidates buy off the conscience/votes of the electorates by sharing money and food items such as bags of rice, beans, gallons of oil, to mention but a few, before and during elections. The masses who are not certain where their next meal is coming from, have no choice but to accept these offers.

### **Vote buying/Selling and the 2023 General Elections in Nigeria**

Vote buying in the 2023 general elections took a new dimension. The All Progressive Congress (APC) led Federal Government rolled out a massive arsenal of coercion and intimidating public resources to subdue major opposition parties of the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) and the Labour Party (LP) popularly known as the Obedient Movement. One of the major highlights proceeding the 2019 General Election regarding vote buying was the report carried by various dailies and televisions stations at the time, such as Channels TV, Vanguardngr, and others, about the then National Leader of the APC, Bola Ahmed Tinubu (now president) where two bullion-vans were found in his residence on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 from where cash were recklessly doled out in quantum to party agents for vote trading. Several other cases were reported as well as the election kicked off.

It is pertinent to state therefore, that it was as a result of the incessant act of vote trading that the outgoing administration of Muhammadu Buhari through the Central bank of Nigeria (CBN), embarked on the redesigning of the N200, N500 and N1000 banknotes in order to prevent vote buying and selling during the 2023 general elections. The former president admitted that much, when he said in his nationwide broadcast on February 16, 2023, that he was aware that the new monetary policy contributed to the reduction of the influence, money has in politics. The policy led to the scarcity of cash during the election.

Although, the Electoral Act of 2022 of the Federal Republic of Nigeria prohibits the act of vote buying and selling, the menace has been on the increase especially as the standard of living of the masses keeps diminishing. Research shows that one in every five Nigerians has received an offer to sell their votes (Bratton, 2008). Prior to the 2023 general elections conducted in February, 25<sup>th</sup> and March, 18<sup>th</sup> for some governorship elections, several cases of vote buying and selling were reported across the six geopolitical zones. According to the Executive Director of Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD, 2023), Idayatu Hassan, on its report on the 2023 elections, said that there were cases of vote buying in the six geo-political zones as reported by the 1,500 observers deployed across the country. There were increased reports of vote trading in the North-West especially by political party agents through the use of money and other materials like food items, wrappers and credit vouchers which are redeemed after the results are out; the North-East experienced the infiltration of political party agents in queues in Taraba State pretending to be voters while using the opportunity to offer cash for vote; in South-East, Labour Party (LP) and All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) party agents made use of materials, phones and other souvenirs to entice or induce voters in Anambra State; South-

South reported cases of voters being asked to show proof of voting before being paid, with party agents reported to have compiled a list of their voters in Esan Central Local Government Area of Edo State. Another Civil Society Organisation, Yiaga Africa (2023) also corroborated what the CDD reported. It recorded and confirmed fifteen (15) cases of vote buying across the country. Voters were wooed and cajoled to sell their votes to politicians and party agents in some states with wrapper, spaghetti packs and the sum of N2000. As reported by the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM 2023), there were high expenditure and use of state resources.

However, a critical evaluation of the 2023 General Election from the various election reports of Election Observers shows that, apart from monetary or cash gifts, voters were influenced by other gifts such as food items like rice, tin tomatoes, clothing materials, wrappers, and packets of noodles. The cash crunch was reported to have reduced the scope of vote buying but encouraged other forms of inducements such as food and other goods across the country including Kaduna, Katsina, Benue, Adamawa and Akwa Ibom State. According to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), there were arrest of some persons on alleged vote buying across the country. According to the agency, the major mode of operation of the suspects were cash gifting, transfer of money, coupons, and recharge cards gifts to eligible voters to induce them to vote for their candidates. It is hoped that the various arrest made by the anti-graft agencies will be duly prosecuted in order to serve as a deterrent to other potential vote buyers and sellers in subsequent elections.

### **Vote Buying/Selling In Nigeria: Implications for Good Governance**

Vote buying/selling have dire consequences for democratic good governance in Nigeria.

Democratically elected leader is presumed to be a legitimate one when it enjoys the support and trust of the people. However, when leaders are not elected freely and fairly by the electorates as a result of intimidation of voters through the use of cash and other material benefits, it cast doubt on the legality of the government. There is bound to be erosion of public trust where citizens lose faith in government and the democratic processes. Vote buying can trigger electoral corruption. The tendency for politically elected candidates to become corrupt will be high as a result of the fact that the politicians would like to recoup all the funds invested during electioneering especially when trying to obtain the party's ticket. This will then result to embezzling or looting of the state treasury which will consequently lead to the inability of politicians to deliver the dividends of democracy, thereby making good governance an almost impossible height to reach. Vote buying undermines democratic institutions such as the executives, the legislatives, the judiciary, political parties, security agencies and anti-graft agencies making credibility, integrity, and accountability more difficult achieve. The poor standard of living of the populace. As a result of the poor living standard of the people, voters' have imbibed the culture of vote selling rather than wait for the never ending promises of politician for a long term development. Poverty rate index in 2023 showed that 41.8 percent of Nigerians live in extreme poverty with an international poverty line of \$3.00 per person per day (National Bureau of Statistics, 2023). The implication of this is that politicians who were elected into positions through buying of votes do not in anyway, feel responsive to the electorates anymore.

### **Recommendations**

It is inspiring to know that most of the electorate see vote buying and other electoral malpractices as an illegal practice. The issue therefore is not in overemphasizing on voters' education, but rather, it is to put a system in place that will allow the masses to resist these misguided efforts by politicians to appropriate their votes.

One of such provisions is the need for government to create enabling environment such as providing citizens with employment opportunities, provide electricity for businesses to thrive, improved health care, adequate food security and environmental security for attainment of a measure of socioeconomic development that will reduce the existing inequalities between the political elites and the masses. When this done, the electorate would be able to make independent

electoral decisions devoid of threat and intimidation.

Secondly, elections in Nigeria are sometimes characterized by violence, which requires the lives of the voters to be protected, hence the heavy presence of military men and other security agencies during elections. Their presence instead intimidates voters to the extent that they are too afraid to object to any irregularities they might notice. The security agencies should be trained and educated on how to properly relate to voters who are civilians while doing their jobs.

Thirdly, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as an independent institution must be strengthened by ensuring that it carries out its duties as objective and honest as possible without further connivance with politicians to manipulate election results.

Fourthly, citizens should be ready to help strengthen the electoral process by ensuring that they assist the security agencies to report any fellow voter found engaging in electoral misconduct especially in this case, vote selling.

Fifthly, INEC should fully implement and enforce the existing electoral regulations on the amount that political parties and candidates are allowed to spend on electioneering by stating the exact spending limit; disclosing of funding sources of political parties; and imposing strict penalties on candidates and political parties that exceed spending limits or fail to disclose funding information.

Furthermore, agencies such as National Orientation Agency (NOA), Civil Society Organisation (CSO), the media, social organization like churches, mosque, and communities based organisations, and all stakeholders in the Nigeria Project intensify efforts to monitor campaigns spending and advocate for increase transparency and accountability in order to enhance the electoral system and bring about good governance and development in Nigeria.

Finally, government should establish Electoral Offences Commission that would be responsible for investigating cases arising from electoral misconduct and charging such offences, to court. In the event that a person is found guilty of the offence, strict penalty should be given to the offender. This would serve as a deterrent to others who want to engage in Electoral misconduct.

## Conclusion

This paper examined vote buying and the electoral process in Nigeria and its implication on good governance. It reveals that citizens' decisions to choose candidates freely are hindered by undue interferences from money bags politicians. The democratization processes entails that citizens' constitutional right of freely exercising their freedom of choice and equality should take centre stage. It is pertinent to say that both politicians and the electorate's attitude towards politics is not right. Politicians view it as a call to investment from which huge profit is expected and not as a call to service. The electorates on the other hand, see politics especially during election, as an opportunity to sell their votes to represent the dividends of democracy even if it is for a short term. The overwhelming poverty in the country is a strong factor to the situation. This is what prompts voters to accept paltry sums of money and sell their conscience instead of being honest with their votes, by voting the right candidates of their choice in order to get the overall benefits that democracy has to offer. INEC should truly show that they are the umpire in the electoral process and take full charge of the proceedings. If citizens continue to insist on and fight for a free and fair elections, and stop mortgaging their future and the future of their children yet unborn for mere peanuts for short term benefits, then we are definitely on a path to improving the electoral process and reaping the fruits that come from good governance.

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