

# TRENDS IN NIGERIA POLITICAL STRUCTURE: ITS EFFECTS IN NIGERIA AS A DEVELOPING NATION

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## **Abstract**

When Nigeria gained her independence in 1960, after the struggles of their nationalists, hopes were high that with educated human resources, work force, raw materials and mineral resources Nigeria would become Africa's first superpower in the world and the giant of Africa in delivering the principles of democratic dividends for the common good of the populace. However these lofty dreams and hopes were soon dashed with military interference, and the country clumped and glided from crisis to crisis even till today. Military coups and military rule which began as an emergency aberration became a seemingly permanent feature in Nigerian politics. From military rule comes in horrible trends found in the Nigerian politics which are plunging the nation into bottomless pit of destruction. The prevailing political trends in Nigeria are so complex and impenetrable that they cannot be controlled easily.

**Keywords:** Politics, Nigeria, National Development

## **Introduction**

Since the enthronement of democracy in Nigeria, till the present moment, Nigeria has undergone stages of development in its political life. Whatever happens, or however it is been judged, allusion is always made to the pioneer government or the British colonizers that handed power to Nigerian politicians after the independence. One will always think that they handed over bad political system that is not really democratic or that there were irregularities in the process of handing over power to Nigerian people. Again considering the rot in the political system, one will think that they are still ruling the country from the back door judging from external influences that is being witnessed in the political life of the Nigerian nation. The trends we are going to see in the political structure of Nigerian polity tend to show that the problem of leadership as Achebe (1983) portrayed years back seems to be the foundation or bed rock of bad political structure in Nigeria which has metamorphosed into all kinds of venoms, hardships, insecurity, and so in the life of the people. These ugly situations defeated the aim of governance which is the common good of the people.

From the above situation, there are many things wrong with the system of governance in the Nigerian political structure. Many scholars or people being governed point to the fact of bad leadership as the basic problem found in the Nigeria system of governance. This grew into different kinds of trends emanating

in the life structure of political system in Nigeria. Again, some believed that the Nigerian problem started right from their independence in 1960 when the British government secretly and fraudly handed power over to the Northern part of the elites without election process that is free and fair. This manipulation resulted to coups to counter coups found in the democratic process in Nigeria and class struggle or consciousness found almost in all parts of Africa. This according to Nkrumah (1980) introduced a fierce class struggle found in Africa today. A class struggle between the oppressed and the oppressor, the rich and the poor, the political elites and the common people. This is still raging in Nigeria today. Hence many people question seriously the type of democracy operating or being practiced in Nigeria. For if democracy really means a rule by the people, and that government should be elected by the majority vote then it becomes obvious that Nigeria has never practiced democracy (Arua,2009). Odey (2002) remarked that democracy in Nigeria is the type that:

The government is not by the people. A home-made democracy is an organized robbery consortium where the organizers convert leadership into what another great American president Franklin Roosevelt had in mind when he talks about a democracy that breeds unemployment, insecurity, hunger, and hopelessness. Home-made democracy is a government of the political jobbers.... It is a government of the looters by the looters, and for the looters. (pp.14-15).

It is true that the ideals of democracy have not been achieved perfectly by any nation in the world, but most people are trying to be there. Most Nigerians believe that we are not near the principles of democracy as depicted by many theorists of democracy. Rather what we have in Nigeria political history after the independence have been a circle of authoritarian military rulers with episodic interregnum of civilian government (Arua,2009).

Nigeria having adopted democracy as a system of government which is believed to have surpassed other systems of government, Nigeria political struggles has passed through stages in the practice of ideals of democracy. In the course of these years of trying to practice the ideals of democracy, we take a look to see what took place within the process, what went wrong through the process, and what have been achieved and yet to be achieved in reaching the ideals of the democracy. This is what we call in this write-up the trends in the political structure of Nigerian polity. This of course will give us a good ground for assessment of Nigerian democracy since independence when the mantle of leadership was taking by the people themselves.

### **The Leaderships so far in the Nigeria Political Struggle**

Here we are taking a glance at nationalists who have taken the mantle of leadership since the Nigerian independence. One established fact is that Nigeria broke out

from the rulings or leadership of British colonizers after a series of agitations and sufferings of Nigerian nationalists, who sought for independence. This took long years of negotiations which brought the first president to reins of leadership. Nigeria became a federal republic under the constitution of 1963 and the monarch and Governor-General were replaced by a ceremonial President. After the 1979 Constitution, the coming presidents gained executive powers, becoming head of both state and government. According to Wikipedia (2021), it is well known fact that since 1994, under the 1993 constitution and the current 1999 constitution, the head of state and government is called the President. Before this the governor-general was the representative of the Monarch in Nigeria and exercised most of the powers of the Monarch. The governor-general served the interest and pleasure of the Monarch. With the Independence Act of 1960, Nigeria was promoted to independence by the Statute of Westminster 1931. The Governor-general was appointed solely on the advice of the Nigerian cabinet without the involvement of the British government, with the sole exception of James Robertson, the former colonial governor, who served as Governor-General temporarily until he was replaced by Nnamdi Azikiwe (Wikipedia,2021).

Nnamdi Azikiwe took office from 16<sup>th</sup> November 1960 – 1<sup>st</sup> October 1963 and Abubakar Tafawa Balewa as the first Prime Minister. In the first republic (1963-1966) under the 1963 constitution Nigeria ran the parliamentary system of government with a Prime Minister and the President replacing the Monarch as ceremonial head of state. The Prime Minister was formed by the leader of the party that won the election. The first federal election was won by Abubakar Tafawa Balewa which of course was won by intrigues with the support of British government. This without knowing planted the seed of electoral malpractices being witnessed in Nigeria today. It was done primarily to protect the interest of the colonizers who still rules through the back door till today. The selection or election of each president went through election process which were either marred or cancelled. And it is known that any manipulated election can only produce weak and irresponsible government. This of course was the first bad influence the colonizers bequeathed to the Nigerian political structure which up till today has not being corrected.

In 1966, the first coup took place in the Nigerian polity which was bloody, led by Major Chukwuma Kaduna Nzeogwu, and overthrew the first Nigerian Republic. This saw the end of Ahmadu Bello and Abubakar tafawa Balewa administration. In 16<sup>th</sup> January 1966 Major General Aguiyi-Ironsi took power through military coup again. He was assassinated on 29 July 1966 by General Yakubu Gowon military coup. He was deposed by another military regime on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1975 by General Murtala Mohammed. However on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1976 he was assassinated by yet another military coup headed by Major General Olusegun Obasanjo. And he resigned in October 1, 1979 and ushered in the second republic in 1979.

Alhaji Shehu Shagari took up the office of the presidency in 1979, under the 1979 constitution. In December 31<sup>st</sup> 1983 the elected President was deposed by another

military regime headed by Major General Muhammadu Buhari. Then yet another coup by General Ibrahim Babangida on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1985 and he lasted more than seven years before the annulment of 1993 Nigerian Presidential election which terminates the transition into the third Nigerian republic. He signed a decree establishing the interim national government led by Chief Ernest Shonekan. He could not do much in the office as president because in 17<sup>th</sup> November 1993 General Sani Abacha overthrew the interim government which was meant to usher in an elected president in the Nigerian democratic system of government. As fate would have it, Sani Abacha died in the office on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1998. A Provisional Ruling Council was formed headed by General Abdulsalami Abubakar. This ushered in the fourth republic after the general election won by an ex-military officer in the person of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo in 29<sup>th</sup> May 1999. He came straight from the Prison to be the elected president of Nigeria, how this came to play out cannot be explained by so many Nigerians. Many Nigerian kept asking why the choice of an ex-military man, when there were so many qualified and able civilians in the country. However, many were at least happy that Nigeria was able to return to democracy.

Chief Obasanjo stayed or ruled as president for two tenures comprising 8 years under Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). He tried to go for third tenure but was stopped by the National Assembly, though he nearly succeeded in this bid. In 29<sup>th</sup> August 2007 Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua came in as another elected President under the platform of PDP. As fate would have it again, he died on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2010 after much intrigues to conceal his death from Nigerians. The then Vice President in the person of Dr. Goodluck Jonathan on 9<sup>th</sup> February took over as the acting President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria under the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) till 5<sup>th</sup> May 2010. He was elected again in 2011 as the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Muhammadu Buhari won the next general election in 2015 defeating the incumbent President under the All Progressive Congress (APC) as his political party. Till date, Muhammadu Buhari is the President of Nigeria after winning the election for the second tenure in office under (APC) as his political party.

According to Ademola (2018), in Nigeria political history or struggles, there were about nine military coups, some bloody and others non bloody including the alleged Vatsa coup of December 1985 where hundreds of military officers were arrested, some tried, convicted and eventually executed for conspiring to overthrow the Babangida regime. From the above years of struggle to democracy and its practice in Nigeria, military coup has been a feature in her political struggle. The army or the military has held power in Nigeria without interruption between 1966 and 1999 apart from a short-lived return to democracy between 1979 to 1983. Siollun (2009) also remarked that military coups or regimes which began as an emergence aberration became a seemingly permanent feature of Nigerian politics. And these were a succession of increasingly authoritarian and corrupt governments all full of false promises of democracy and new starts. These affected the polity of Nigeria progress till today. Onwumechili (1998) enumerated

the causes of military coup in Nigeria as thus: ethnic rivalries, intra-military quarrels, personal jealousies, ambitions and personal fears.

The effects of military rule spans through all the sectors of Nigerian political, economic, social spheres. For the fact that military ruled through decree, nothing was managed as it supposed to be. This military regime is abhorred by world powers. Economically, military rule plunged Nigerian economy into the series of recession we are having today. Siollun (2009) cried out that the military regime abandoned the traditional agricultural based economy and they became extremely dependent on exports of oil which due to frequent fluctuations in oil prices led to an unstable economy. Ihonbere (1996) echoed the same thing that the military regimes were characterized by gross incompetence and unbridled waste, mismanagement of oil sector and misplaced priorities. The military economic policies of 1980s were the causes of little growth in our economy and instability we have today in the political institutions. Olusegun (2005) describing the military and its effects on the political scene of Nigeria remarked that:

After the exit of British colonialism, a new set of local imperialist in military uniform ... assumed power and have consistently proven worse than those they succeeded. These new vetoists are not driven by any love of country, but the love of the self, and the preservation of the narrow interests of the power- class that they represent. They do not see leadership as an opportunity to serve but as an avenue to loot the public treasury; they do not see politics as a platform for development, but as something to be captured by any means possible.(p.viii).

In fact, according to Ejeziem (2006) the military introduced the Machiavellian political system in Nigeria. This has been the case in Nigeria till date. Nothing has been the same in Nigeria right from the first general election in 1959, which witnessed irregularities and this again marked the beginning of political machinations in Nigeria. We have seen that military has ruled our country more than the civilians, even up till date they are still ruling as the president with civilian garb, this is why Nigeria is still sinking politically today. Agbese (2012) again remarked that according to Babangida, Gowon was convinced that the source of instability in the country was within the military itself. This affected the country because the military through military coup came into power to rule the nation. This has continued to destabilize the nation in different ways.

### **The Trends in the Nigerian Political History**

As we know, Nigerian nation has been riding on the political system of democracy just like other countries of the world. Since its inception with the first republic, it has been undergoing different struggles trying to uphold the principles of democracy. The causes of these trends may be traced to so many factors ranging

from the way the first republic was formed to the interference of the military rule in the political life of the Nigerian nation. These and some other factors sowed the seed of corruption that is controlling the affairs of the nation. Ejeziem (2006) affirmed the above view that the amalgamation and the political system the colonizers left for us were the remote causes of these trends and Machiavellian principles evident in our political system today. Azikiwe (1976) summed the situation as thus:

After our forebears had scored a historic victory to redeem us from the bondage of foreign rule we inherited a legacy of social and economic disabilities which assumed various forms; poverty, disease, ignorance, intolerance, indiscipline and corruption. These made life one of the constant conflict to survive and the struggle for existence...(p.15).

One of the trends that manifest its ugly face in the Nigeria political struggle is the issue of corruption. It is now a known fact that Nigeria is among the most corrupt countries of the world. Some believed that corruption in Nigeria is as old as country's political independence. To the extent that some believed that Nigeria corrupt situation cannot be solved again, considering the fact that the anti-corruption crusades that have been mounted in the past by the different administrations yielded nothing. In 2019, the transparency international which is the global civil society organization leading the fight against corruption ranked Nigeria 146 out of 180 in the corruption index (Wikipedia,2020).

Nigerian stolen funds by past leaders cannot be accounted for and no one cares to ask questions. According to Ibenta (2011) in 1991, the World Bank compiled a list of Nigerians depositors in four Western countries and submitted the list to President Olusegun Obasanjo. Most of them were military that have found themselves in the corridors of power. Nothing was done and said about it. Lack of strong political institutions in Nigeria have been found to be the basic cause of corruption in Nigeria and this trend is found in different administrations.

Next in the decline of true democratic system of government is the trend of electoral malpractices in Nigeria. No election has been judged to free and fair in the struggle to true democracy in Nigeria. The nearly alleged free and fair election in Nigeria was 12<sup>th</sup> June election which was annulled by Babangida's administration. The famous 1993 June 12 election was won by M.K.O Abiola though unofficial, because the result was not declared by National Electoral Commission .Odey (2003) described the Nigerian election as madness because it was full of malpractices from the government in power to the officials conducting the election. According to Odey,

The elections were not transparent. They were not free. They were not fair. Above all, people were not allowed to make their choice. Where they insisted on making their choice and

so made it, their wishes were not respected as the INEC officials announced other persons for whom the people did not vote as winners. Ultimately, the president should not deceive himself into thinking that he is truly the people's choice.(pp.46-47).

This is in a nut shell the scenario of elections that takes place in Nigeria even till today. After each election, it will end up in court or Supreme Court as if going to court is part of voting process in election. A lot of politicians will start spending money in election litigations. Huge amount of money is wasted in this process by the government in power, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and the politicians involved. Most times judgments from the court are not enforced or are being delayed especially when it does not favour the ruling government. Apart from that, buying of votes is still reigning in any election being conducted in Nigeria. This inducement with money before and during the election mars the election process. With this, no credible candidate or result can be achieved in any election. No need at this point to relate about international interference in most of elections in Nigeria and snatching of ballot boxes in different polling units. All these form the road blocks to true democracy and dividends of democracy in Nigeria.

Next in the trends of political struggle in Nigeria is God-Father in the political party. This trend holds the Nigerian democracy from being a true democracy where a good leader can emerge on its own without being pushed up by powerful individuals or group of individuals. Here a powerful individual or group of cabals or an individual on their/his own, will impose their or his candidate on the state or nation for their/his own personal interests and aggrandizement. Most of the resources of the state will be going to the cabals or the individual concerned. Their work is to sponsor the election and orders their/his candidate what to do and whom to appoint in the key positions in the administrative process. Most times the individual in question is asked to take an oath of allegiance before a shrine or a written agreement is done and sealed before a notorious and dreaded deity or even sealed by blood covenants. The alleged celebrated oath taking between Chris Ngige and Chris Uba at Okija shrine in 2003 was a case in point here. According to Alozieuwa (2009):

The idea of taking Ngige to the shrine actually emanated from Chuma, whose country home is just some stone throw to Okija town where the *Ogwugwu Akpu* goddess resided, said Odunze. According to him, he (Odunze), had just come in from Umunya when Ngige informed him that Eselu had said that Chuma asked him that they took him (Ngige) to Okija shrine, and that Eselu had already consented to it. (p. 112).

Whether the above scenario took place or not, one notices that when there is imposition of candidate on people there can never be true democracy. The outgoing governors always favour or put their choice candidates while exiting from the office, instead of allowing the political party concerned to conduct credible primary election to elect a credible candidate to bear the party's flag on the main election. This imposition always results in fracas in the state polity or some politicians move away from their main party and join another political party where their voice will be heard or key positions will be given to them. The godfather politics does not favour the democratic system in Nigeria or anywhere because there is always crisis along the line and it orchestrates ethnic, sectional and political clashes which could threaten the law and development of the nation or the state involved. When there was crisis between Chris Ngige and Chris Uba in Anambra state, there was destruction of properties, even Federal government was not able to interfere. It is well known that Mr. Peter Obi after his tenure hoisted Chief Obiano as the governor, along the line there was problem and crisis both separated from each other. There was also a dirty clash between godfather Ali Modu Sherrif and his godson Mallam Kachallah whom he made the governor of Borno state in 1999. Their conflict and crisis led to situation where Sherrif became the governor in the next election in 2003.

There was also a similar conflict between Governor Chimaroke Nnamani and Senator Jim Nwobodo in Enugu state, between Lamidi Adebudu and Governor Rashidi Ladoja in Oyo state. There was also a clash between two godfathers in the persons of Governor James Ibori and chief Edwin Clark in Delta state which brought the state to a halt. Recently the celebrated case between Oshemole (the former APC party leader) and the present Governor of Edo state (Godwin Obaseki) ended with each parting ways with each other after much crisis and holding the state to ransom. God-fatherism has never favoured democratic process in Nigeria rather it has continued to drag development of the state and nation backward economically, structurally, politically and otherwise.

The clamour to amend the 1999 constitution of Federal republic of Nigeria at some point became an issue in the political life of Nigerian people. This trend still lingers on even till today. Some regarded the 1999 Constitution as military Constitution because it was written in the time of military regime. Others regarded it as Forced Constitution because it was written initially by foreigners than Nigerian people, and then forced on the Nigerian people to abide by it. Just like amalgamation was done for Nigeria by the British people without involving Nigerian people. Many politicians complained bitterly about the inadequacy of our constitution and the need to amend and update certain issues which were not covered in the constitution. This led to amendment of constitution in the floor of the National Assembly and National Conference held during the reign of Dr. Goodluck Jonathan as president of Nigeria. However two amendments were done in 2011 during the time of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo. For some years constitutional amendment became the national issue in the Nigeria political struggle especially issues pertaining to election and creation of more states and other relevant issues.



All these are targeted towards independency of individual and having strong institutions in Nigeria.

With the clamour for constitutional amendment follows the issue of restructuring the country. This trend started recently and the front bearers are mostly Southern parts of Nigeria who are feeling being cheated and marginalized. This is also for more developments and for positive competitions among the states in Nigeria. But the Northern part of the country does not feel the need for the restructuring. Hence this is why there have been more agitations from the Southern part of the country clamouring for restructuring as the solution to the most problems engulfing the nation while the Northern part felt the status is better. Although Osaghae (1995) has different view concerning restructuring:

The perennial clamour for political restructuring cannot be substantially divorced from elite politics and has gradually become a common feature of Nigeria's politics. The use of the rhetoric of restructuring has seemingly proven successful to ethnic leaders in their competitions. To be sure, it has led to power rotations, allocation of resources, state creation and increased federal appointments for the leaders of ethnic groups who appear more vocal in the claims of marginalization and agitations for restructuring.(p.376).

Again Babalola and Onapajo (2019) have equally different view concerning restructuring and political conferences being organized, for them it is a strategy for winning election by different government in power. They argued that:

Indeed, the purpose of conference, as later observed, was largely promoting a 'third term agenda' for President Obasanjo through constitutional amendment. The conference ultimately failed following a conflict between Niger Delta delegates and their northern counterparts over resource control and demands for a twenty-five percent derivation on oil revenue, for which the former staged a walkout. In 2014, the Jonathan administration organized a similar conference. Considering its timing and the selection of delegates to the conference, this was a probably a strategy to mobilize support for President Jonathan's re-election bid in 2015....Thus the opposition All Progressive Congress (APC) boycotted the conference, refusing to allow the members to participate.(p.47).

Among other hidden factors many people do not see restructuring as realistic venture in Nigeria but a way of manipulation by ethnic elites or politicians or the government in power at a particular time. However, it is believed that restructuring is needed and good if it is done well but only restructuring cannot solve the problem of Nigeria as a nation because a way of building up sufficient economic resources is still needed.

Next in the decline of democratic system or trend in Nigeria is defections and counter defections among the political elites in the parties. Nigeria at different times in their political struggles practiced two party systems and at another times practiced multi-party system. For now Nigeria is practicing multi-party system. This has led to many politicians defecting to different party which he/she thinks will favour them. Even some go to extent of creating or registering a new party in order to vie one post or another. Some believe it is their constitutional right to defect since no law is against defection.

Sequel to the above defections, many politicians that migrated or moved to another party whose ideologies are different from his/her previous party, may not perform well if he/she finally wins the election. Again this is why most parties do not follow their party manifestoes or ideologies because he/she is new into the party. Ideologically they are baseless, even when they have ideologies, they are not based on the problems of the nation. Ideologically based party does well in moving the nation forward. But defection has become a constant thing among the politicians in Nigeria. Nnamdi and Ogan (2019) stressed the need for political ideology in a party as thus:

Political ideology is therefore very essential for political campaigns in communicating the uniqueness of each contending political party; its understanding of the state national issues; and its intentions on how best to solve such issues so as to enable the electorate access each contending party against others with a view ascertaining the party with most authentic programmes of action for national progress and development.(p.49).

Again National Democratic Institute (NDI) (2013) highlights the pivotal significance of ideology to a political party by maintaining that:

Ideology helps political parties to: attract, unite, and mobilize support; withstand significant changes in the internal organization and external operating environment and identify likeminded groups in other countries. More specifically, ideologies provide political parties with frame works for analyzing societal needs, assessing and prioritizing any problems, establishing a vision for the future, and identifying the policy actions required to achieve that vision.  
(p. 1).

Major political parties in the world are differentiated based on what they stand for in economic policies, health policies, political policies, social issues and welfare issues. But in Nigeria, parties are defined based on the personalities in the party and not on any defined ideology to national issues like insecurity, poverty, unemployment and so on.

There are series of carpet-crossing by party members to another since democratic process. According to Akpambang and Oniyinde (2020) prominent among them was the defection of Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, then a Vice President of Nigeria, who defected to Action Congress after he had won the ticket on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). The 2019 general elections also recorded renewed cases of defections in this pattern. The former Senate President, Bukola Saraki, and a number of other Senators decamped from their respective parties to new ones. Dino Melaye defected from the All Progressive Congress (APC) to the Democratic Party (PDP), Senator Godswil Akpabio, a minority leader in the Senate decamped from PDP to APC. Also in Akwa Ibom state, about 20,000 former party members of APC were reported to have defected to the ruling party in the state (PDP) in anticipation of the 2019 elections. It is known that Mr. Peter Obi defected to PDP from All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA) after leaving the office as the governor of Anambra state. Senator Uche Ekwunife moved from PDP to APGA, from APGA to APC and then back to PDP. Recently Obaseki the current governor of Edo state (2020 to date) defected from APC to PDP in the last gubernatorial election in which he later won. There were other minor defections among the politicians in Nigeria especially before and after elections in the federal republic of Nigeria. As of today, defections are still going on with other politicians and as such defection is a trend in political train of the Nigerian nation. This does not help to stabilize the multi-party system being practiced in Nigeria.

### **The Consequences of the Political Trends Found in the Nigerian Democracy**

As Achebe (1983) has pointed out that lack of the good leadership role and honesty are the main problems of Nigeria since its independence, these above trends and others we just enumerated are sinking the nation into different ugly situations that if not checked or urgent solution not found may cause harm more than the present corona virus disease (Covid-19) pandemic. Of course, the oil rich country and most populous black nation according to some politicians has defiled all economic and political solutions applied to her for revival and progress. Rather, what is seen is opposite of what is being expected or targeted. For many times Nigeria was seen and “hailed” as the poorest country in the world, not just in economy, but almost in all sectors of her living.

In the area of insecurity, all the heads of the state that ruled Nigeria have tried all their possible best to secure and protect the lives of the citizens but no progress. Rather loss of lives and blood bath continue to be ordinary affair and daily occurrence in the country. Many conflicts and ethnic clashes take place in different form every day. Insecurity in Nigeria metamorphosed into political crisis, religious cum ethnic crisis, wars, Boko Haram, cybercrime, kidnapping, banditry, herdsmen, and clashes among the citizens. These according to Okafor (1997) characterize the history of Nigeria since her independence from Britain in 1960. The recently protest by Nigerian youths to end police brutality (END SARS) among other things portray the level of insecurity in Nigeria. Kidnapping in Nigeria has turned

into a way of negotiating with the federal government in the highest level because innocent school children are being kidnapped every day. Yet it is believed that Boko Haram has been technically defeated.

On 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021, gunmen enter into girls' secondary school in Jangebe town in Zamfara state and kidnapped 317 girls without any hindrance from any security operatives in Nigeria. This is coming after the kidnapping of staff and students of Government Science College in Kangara, Niger state on 17th February 2021. In 2014, about 276 Chibok girls were abducted and in 2018 Dapchi students numbering about 113 were also abducted. This is a worrying development or situation towards security architecture in Nigeria. Without proper security of lives and properties there will be no progress in the country and no foreign investors can come in any country rather they will be leaving the shores of the country. Some foreign investors are leaving the country on account of insecurity.

These trends breed again corruption that is now endemic in Nigeria today. As of today, corruption may be seen as a culture in the lives of most of the Nigerian people. Corruption is seen as hallmark of irresponsible governance. Corruption is a persistence phenomenon found in political, economic, educational and social activities. Corruption has thus become a way of life in Nigeria, one which each existing governments have tried to control but have failed considerably. According to Campbell (2020) the Transparency International (TI) has issued corruption perception index where they indicated that Nigeria is one of the most corrupt countries in Africa. Nigeria was ranked 146 out of 180 countries surveyed worldwide. Even, the high level of corruption in Nigeria has led to insecurity towards the banking system, brought cybercrime of different sort in Nigeria. Corruption has found its way in every institution in Nigeria and Nigeria loses billions of Dollars every year because of corruption as some analyst indicated.

Many institutions were designed for the eradication of corruption in Nigeria, yet the fight against corruption remains unshakeable. The institution and the framework for the eradication of corruption in Nigeria can be traced back to third republic with the creation of Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC) in 2000. According to Iwu (1997) the Economic Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) was also created by Obasanjo regime which was designed to eradicate corruption from the political system. Again before the creation of EFCC, there was the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB), which was created to collect details of physical properties and fiscal assets owned by public officials before assuming public office and afterwards. All these institutions were found out to be corrupted by the same politicians that created them.

With the trends going on in the Nigeria democratic system, the common good and welfare of the people are no more assured. Hence our level of poverty is alarming in a country that is well populated and rich in mineral and human resources since its discovery as a nation. The rate at which young people and talented youths leave the shores of Nigeria to study and work in another country is an indication that things are not moving well political and economically in Nigeria. This is seen by

most people as slavery in reverse gear back to Europe again. No meaning infrastructural development are seen, this retard economic, political, social, cultural growth in the country. Hence mounting the saddle of leadership becomes the only source of becoming rich in Nigeria. Nigeria has never done well in the International Community rather its citizens are being neglected and treated as no body. Nearly, the world would have rejected the winner of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in the person of Dr. Ngozi Okonjo Iwuala who is from Nigeria. With these trends going on in Nigeria, good governance will continue to elude the nation. Inter and intra political party crisis again is destabilizing the unity of the politicians or the ruling class in moving the nation forward. All points to the consequence of political trends found in Nigeria.

### **Conclusion**

Through the good leadership or governance these trends in Nigeria political system can be minimized or eradicated considerably. The problem is how one can go about getting a good leadership when the stumps of bad governance have been rooted solidly in the political system of the nation. Any solution to be given on the current political situation being driven by these trends must be a foundational and structural one. Foundational in the sense that the solution must consider or reflect the structure upon which Nigeria is founded politically. For any nation is driven by its political system. Structurally, in the sense that there must be an established pattern through which daily democratic processes are being carried out. There must be a change in the attitudinal value system of the political class. Since power rotates only within the rich politicians, it is true that power is not given but taken forcefully as case may be, a level playing ground must be created. This will ensure that the politicians without much wealth and connection to the ruling class will be elected into offices than only those known by god-fathers. Sharing of money before and during the election has been a trend as we observed above, this mars the integrity of our elections, this need to be stopped.

Attitudinal change also involve being honest in the governmental processes among the political elites. Most of our political leaders are very dishonest pecuniary and this, more than anything sets our country backwards. According to Ibenta (2011) it is estimated that by 1999 past Nigerian leaders have stolen or misuse \$407 billion or 225 billion pounds. This amounted to a sum equal to all Western aid to the continent of Africa. This is the level of waste and dishonesty found among the political elite or ruling class in Nigeria. Nigerian politicians both living and dead are known to have stashed money away in foreign banks of the world.

Again the principle of Igwebuiké may have to be applied towards the political impasse situation of Nigeria, where all the citizens both the led and leader, work together for the good of the nation. According to Kanu (2015) the principle of

Igwebuikwe recommends solidarity and complementarity among the people. This principle when applied fully can help in the area of insecurity and building up of economy. In a situation where all work together as a community for the progress and stability of the country, good governance can be achieved. Finally, political trends in any system are curbed when the political elites among them decides to work harmoniously despite the crisis that will be manifesting from time to time.

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