



ELECTORAL VIOLENCE IN NIGERIA'S DEMOCRATIC EXPEDITIONS: ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD

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Abstract

Elections are the key pillars of nation's democracy and once anything abnormal happens to the process, then violent is inevitable. Elections in Nigeria since 1960 have been marred by violence; ranging from killings, rioting, and ballot box snatching to propaganda, rigging, gun battles, etc. This paper analyzed the challenges of electoral violence in Nigerian's democratic expeditions. It relied on materials from secondary source. The paper identified inadequate voter education, failure of the justice system, unemployment, corruption, and lack of internal democracy in political parties, among others as the main causes of violence in the electoral processes in the country. The paper posited that electoral violence could be prevented in future elections and suggested the measures that must be put in place to avoid any hitches before, during and after elections as the 2019 general elections draw nearer. These measures include increase funding of elections, voters education, security personnel orientation, etc.

Keywords: Political crisis, political parties, legitimacy, poverty, unemployment

Introduction

Nigeria's democratic experiment since 1999 has not only been bedeviled by poor electoral process and legitimacy crisis but also its failure to rectify the leadership problem that has traumatized the country from independence (Bamitale, 2009). Elections in the country have been marred by violence; ranging from killings, rioting, and ballot box snatching to propaganda, rigging, gun battles, etc. It has been noted that any democratization process that is characterized by political violence may be fraught with three cardinal weaknesses, which include, but not limited to poorly designed rules, poverty of political leadership, and weak judicial administration (Dare and Tolu, 2009). Therefore, weaker electoral rules and poor electoral ethics lead to political violence in any country. Politicians take over the proceedings and rigged elections to their own interests. Most times the citizens react to this and its leads to violence. These conflicts orchestrated by political elites and their allies have been for selfish actualization of primitive accumulation anchored on regional sentimentalism, ethnic chauvinism, religious bigotry, economic materialism, political domination of the State (Anthony and Callistus, 2017). To achieve their inordinate interest, these politicians manipulate the youths and accept them as the cornerstone for their survival in the State.

They armed the youths with dangerous weapons to prosecute the elections in their favour. Some of them already in government used the men of the Nigeria Police to chase their opponents and protect them and used the youths to unleash mayhem against their perceived enemies (Anthony and Callistus, 2017). These youths are hardly arrested nor detained for the havoc they may have caused. The youths therefore, are at the heart of most violent conflicts in the country. Thus, a recent study suggests that the youths are prosecutors of 90-95% of violent conflicts in Nigeria (Anthony and Callistus, 2017). The critical question that comes to mind at this juncture is what role has the State played in either averting or encouraging the high incidence of electoral violence within the past fifteen years in Nigeria? Through a critical examination

of the theoretical underpinnings of electoral violence in democratic contexts and from empirical analysis of pre, during and post electoral violence in Nigeria Fourth Republic (1999, 2003, 2007, 2011 and 2015), this research would provide answers to this question. In Nigeria, the democratic process had been severally challenged as a result of political topsy-turvy arising from poor electoral process, among others. Although, the factors that negatively impacted on the Nigerian electoral process are multifaceted, that ranged from ethnicity to lack of independence in the operation of the judiciary and the electoral body, poor political culture, among others (Ibaba, 2007).

Conceptual Clarifications and Theoretical Framework

Violence

The World Health Organization (WHO, 2013) defines violence as the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person or against a group or community that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development or deprivation, although the group acknowledges that the inclusion of “the use of the outcome it produces”. The definition is all encompassing; it covers a wide range of acts, going beyond physical acts to include threats and intimidation. Besides death and injury, the definition also includes the myriad and often less obvious consequences of violent behaviours, such as psychological harm, deprivation and mal-development that compromise the well-being of individuals, families and communities. The definition particularly covers electoral violence, which is part and parcel of political conflict or political violence.

Electoral Violence

Electoral violence can be seen as any random or organized act that seeks to determine, delay or otherwise influence an electoral process through threat, verbal intimidation, hate speech, disinformation, and physical assault, and blackmail, destruction of property or assassination (Project Championz.ng, 2017). The victims of electoral violence can be people, places, things or data. The acts associated with electoral violence include physical harm, threats, intimidation, destruction of property and forced displacement. The objective of electoral violence is to influence the electoral process and its outcome by gaining an unfair political advantage by one individual or group of individuals over another. It is geared towards winning political competition or power through violence or subverting the ends of the electoral and democratic process through intimidation and disempowerment of political opponents.

Electoral violence might occur at different stages of the electoral process, either before, during or after the election in the form of thuggery, use of force to disrupt political meetings or voting at polling stations, or the use of dangerous weapons to intimidate voters and other electoral processes or to cause bodily harm or injury to any person connected with electoral processes. Political violence usually includes snatching of ballot boxes, stuffing of ballot boxes, elimination of political opponents, riots and thuggery, forceful declaration of fake results even where no election is held, refusal to swear in winner of election or refusal to vacate office after losing election (Igbuzor, 2010). There is no agreeable ‘definition of electoral violence. This is because of the contentious issue of “violence begets violence” developed by Frantz(1930s-1940) in the era of anti-colonial struggles. The Frantz (1930) argument is predicated on the fact that ‘violence provokes violence’. So those who retaliate to the first violence of political opponent do not agree that they are perpetrating violence. They simply argue that they are countering violence.

From the array of definitions available, one can glean an operational definition. Operationally, electoral violence connotes all forms of violence (physical, psychological, administrative, legal and structural) at different stages engaged in by participants, their supporters and sympathizers (including security and election management body staff) in the electoral process (Thom-Otuya,2017). Thom-Otuya (2017) asserts that these forms of violence take place before elections, during elections and after or post-elections, and could also be intra- or inter-party.

Democracy

The most popular definition of democracy is that of former United States President Abraham Lincoln as “government of the people by the people and for the people”. Democracy is a system of government in which every citizen in the country can vote to elect its government officials. Karl Marx view ideal democracy as that society where constitution, law and state are determined only by the people without coercion, restriction and marginalization (Victor, 2006). In democratic states

citizens are not mere subjects of the state but instruments used by government to control the state and its affairs legitimately (Olurode, 2006).

According to the Stanford Institute for Humanistic Studies (2004), democracy consists of four basic elements which includes the following; political system for choosing and replacing the government through free and fair elections, the active participation of the people as citizens in politics and civic life, protection of the human rights of all citizens, a rule of law in which the laws and procedures apply equally to all citizens. However, it is worthy to note here that government is based on the consent of the governed - the people who are sovereign on the one hand and wield the highest form of political authority on the other. According to Collier and Levitsky (1996), over 500 adjectives have been employed to qualify democratic regimes. Baron (2008), forexample, adopts the view that existing democracies can be described as capitalist democracy and democratic capitalism, while submitting that democracy is a form of organization of social power that is inseparable from the economic and social structure on which power rests.

Election

In a very formalistic sense, election offers the basis through which mandate is given to elected officials who exercise sovereignty on behalf of the people (Egwu, 2007). Election is simply the process of choosing a leader, Member of Parliament, councilors, or other representatives by popular vote. When people vote to choose someone for an official position, that process of voting him is election. Election in Africa and Nigeria overtime have been full of violence, instability, inconsistency and lacks acceptable democratic tenets and the violence enterprises bring setbacks to the growth of democracy and subsequently, many of these African states that allowed elections to be held in them made a mockery of their transition programmes.

Theoretical framework is critical tool in every social science study. Therefore, the paper adopts the conflict theory as a framework for analysis because issues of violence works hand in hand with conflict. Again, in this research, adopting the conflict theory as the theoretical framework of analysis in the context of the contemporary capitalist state, where the political class has created weak institutions in order to continue to control the resources of the State. To begin with the explanations in the theoretical writings of Russian political figure, Karl Marx (1818-1883), this theory clearly justifies the desperation for power by the political class and the role played by godfatherism and godmotherism in the politics of the nation. Conflict obstructs the smooth running or conduct of elections in the states and regions.

Cases of Violence in Past Elections in Nigeria: Issues and Realities

Electoral violence since 1960 has been a major feature of elections in Nigeria. After the returned to democratic governance in 1999, hardly has there been any election, possibly except the 2015 that was crisis free. Many lives have been lost, and properties worth millions lost to violence. The 2007 general elections between the PDP and ANPP or late president Umaru YarAdua and now President Buhari is a clear example of election that was adjudged as most fraudulent. Again, the 2008 electoral violence in Plateau State is another key example. The 1999, 2003 and 2007 general elections that brought President Olusegun Obasanjo and later late President Umaru Yar' Adua to power were marred by unprecedented violence and fraud. For example, the United States based Jimmy Carter Centre for Democracy which monitored the 1999 election as an international observer concluded its report on the outcome of the presidential election like the others before it thus: "it is not possible for us to make an accurate judgment about the outcome of the presidential election". In the same vein, the 2003 elections were more pervasively and openly rigged than the flawed 1999 polls, and far more bloody. These events set the stage for the 2007 elections which both domestic and foreign observers succinctly described as the worst in Nigeria's history ranking among the worst conducted anywhere in the world in recent times. For instance, the United States based National Democratic Institute (NDI) stated in its post-election statement that the electoral process "failed the Nigerian people".

The Human Rights Watch (2008) which monitored the election in its report said the Nigeria's failed April 2007 polls cast a harsh and very public light on patterns of violence, corruption and outright criminality that have come to characterize Nigeria's political system and on the extent to which officials and institutions at all levels of government accept, encourage and participate in those abuses. The 2007 and 2011 general elections had come and gone with some cases still in courts, Nigerians are afraid of future elections, especially the 2019 elections draw nearer. Generally, election period in Nigeria has been described as period of uncertainties, when friends turn enemies and when killings and kidnapping, etc. are high. Widespread of political assassination, especially in the 2007 election, the essence of power was abused due to power tussle.

It has been noted that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) lacks the capacity to manage, harness, harmonize and successfully conduct a sound violence free because of their compromise of security details. Violence in Nigerian elections occurred since 1961, 1963, 1979, 1983, 1999, 2003, 2007 and 2011.

These series of endless violence has made the quest for free and fair elections in Nigeria since 1999 a mirage. The revealing of this major treats to our democracy shall help the nation to have a most positive election in 2019. Political violence as a form of illegalities, manipulations and killings in order to secure power by politician shall be or must be curtailed to its barest minimum to help foster peace in the nation's democratic excursion and expedition. As the challenge to improve on what had been the practice in order to get needful for the stabilization and consolidation of democracy in the nearest future continues, there is need for a sense of responsibility to pursue this until it is achieved (Godwin, 2013).

Statistically, since the returned to democratic governance in 1999, over 15,700 people have been killed in electoral violence. In 2011, over 800 persons lost their lives in the post electoral violence that took place in the city of Kano and other northern states on 18th April, 2011 according to human right watch. The victims were killed in the three days rioting in the 12 core northern states of Nigeria. It all began with widespread of protest and later escalated into electoral violence. And perpetrators of the killings have not been brought to book up till date.

Causes of Electoral Violence in Nigeria and Prospects for Possible Solutions in 2019 General Elections

There are over fifteen main causes of violence in the electoral processes in the nation. Analysts over the years have blamed the amalgamation process of 1914 and the regional solidarity of the nation cum religious commitment of citizens to major causes of instability in our elections as a nation. These include:

Inadequate Voter Education

Most times, voters are not properly educated before the elections, this pause as a main problem during the casting of votes. The electoral umpire, in the case of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has a major task to carry out educating the voters on the dos and don'ts before, during and after elections. There must be a conscious effort to reach the voters physically to demonstrate and educate them on the need to carry out their franchise within the ambit of the law. Despite the fact that over the past eighteen years of democracy in the country, the electoral management body, INEC has engaged in a lot of training and orientation of voters, there is more work to be done to carry all prospective voters along in the rural and urban areas on new innovations introduced by them before elections. Even as they are planning a possible e-voting or electronic voting in 2019 elections, the voters must be trained on how to go about that if it is going to be visible to avoid violence.

Failure of the Justice System

In other climes the justice system is the last hope of aggrieved contestants and their supporters, but in the Nigerian case, the system has failed over time to give fair hearings to many in the opposition. Therefore, many have lost confidence in the justice system and results to violence as the only means to an end in getting justice, that's not the best and encourage able for lasting peace to rein. A situation where politicians who have been indicted for electoral violence in the past are still working freely till this day tend to promote impunity among the political class, who has developed the mindset that they can get away with violent acts during the electioneering period. There is a need to look into the justice system to fashion out ways to prosecute electoral offenders. The justice system must chart a way of prosecuting electoral offenders, in the 2011 electoral violence, many souls were lost and no have been prosecuted yet. This liberty to be violent without facing the law will also make them to act ignorantly or knowingly towards violence during and after even before elections as the case may be.

Unemployment

Recently, President Mohammadu Buhari visits the state of Kano during working days and many crowds were out to welcome, many writers like Ali Baba have criticize the huge turnout to lack of employment. That if they were gainfully employed as citizens, instead of been on the streets in solidarity to the party or personality of the president, they would have been busy in their works places adding value to themselves and the nation. This view may be new but critically, it made some huge sense. Majority of the mass number of youths who are unemployed are a readymade army in the hands of

unscrupulous politicians. The desperation of the political class to grab or retain power by all means is consistent with the desperation of some of the unemployed youths to survive at all cost.

Corruption

This is a hydra view of political violence; both the masses and the elites are guilty of this. So corruption cut across all facets of the society. The electoral management body and the adhoc staff are guilty too. So corruption issues are multidimensional. Corruption is a menace that has eaten deep in virtually all strata of the Nigerian society. Indeed, the electoral system is not free from this menace as monies constantly change hands during electioneering period to induce, silence or influence the process as the case may be. For the 2019 prospective elections to be free of violence corruption, political, economic, social and psychological must be checked. Everything and system that have to do with elections must be overhauled. This will give hope to citizens to participate in elections and believe that their votes shall count. If corruption issue is handled, it will end voter's apathy (Mandyen, 2016).

Lack of Internal Democracy in Political Parties

There can't be violence free election in the next election if the APC and PDP and other parties filling candidates treat internal party democracy with a kit glove. Most violence in our electoral violence starts from party primaries and buying or monetary inducement of delegates to denied them the right to choose their candidate independently as the case maybe. Nigerian political parties have failed in their primary duty to re-orientate politicians within their fold on the need to play by the rules. Worst still, electoral violence is consciously or unconsciously encouraged at the party level when candidates emerge for the main elections. This is due to the flawed processes instituted internally by the parties. The electoral management body must educate the politicians and the political parties about the need for internal party democracy. That is to say, if there is internal democracy without any rancor from the participants, the possibility of a violent free election is high.

Inadequate Security

Most times, the electoral management body and federal and state government concentrate the deployment of security personnel's to monitor or maintain peace in the polling units located in cities and ignore the rural areas. There is need for the urban and rural areas to have same security allocation. They politicians are wise and will go to the grassroots or local areas with their huge security details and cause violence in areas where they are sure of not winning. Security is very fundamental in this right. No facets or areas of the state or nation should be ignored respectively. The Nigerian security agencies are most times overwhelmed by the spate of political violence that has been witnessed in the society over time. Several media reports have detailed how security personnel were on ground when these acts were committed, but look the other way because of their limitations in terms of their numbers or tools they need to carry out their duties effectively. Security details posted to monitor elections must be given training and direct orders to act. Government should make special arrangement for them in terms of good transportations system to enable them carry out their duties without any hitches.

Misinterpretation of Politics

It is very possible to hold elections without violence; orientation is needed in this area. The voters must be educated on how violence free election is possible and should be avoided. Quite a lot of people in the Nigerian society believe that violence in politics is a norm. And they have unfortunately gotten accustomed to the violence that spring up during the electioneering period. In-fact, many youths who are recruited into the private armies of politicians, already have the mindset that their duty is to cause mayhem, foment trouble, intimidate voters and engage in a brawl with political opponents. This kind of mindset clearly shows that politics have been greatly misunderstood by the political class, the large section of the public and party followers. On several occasions, the republic of Ghana has conducted violence free elections in Africa, so it is worthy for the Nigerians voters to be informed about this and asked to borrow a leaf from other countries like the united states of America, who are good example of global pacesetters in violence free elections.

Poverty

In a nation where dependency rate is high and people hardly gets what to eat and what to do to survive is prompt to collecting money and carry out acts of violence. Poverty indeed is a contributing factor to electoral violence. The mass

poverty in Nigeria is capable of turning a decent man into a beast within a twinkle of an eye. The political classes in the country are aware of this fact, and they use it to their advantage, knowing that getting people on their side is not a big deal; so far they can flash the cash. It is also the norm to influence voters' decisions with cash and gifts in order to gain their support. Youths in Nigeria collect money from corrupt and violent ridden politicians to carryout violence during elections. This is most unfortunate and must be stopped.

Lack of Democratic Culture

Take root in Nigeria, but efforts must be made tirelessly to inculcate the acceptable democratic principles, tenets in the minds of the citizens. As a nation we must cultivate democratic standards in our democracy. Indeed democracy is yet to form in Nigeria politics due to decades of military rule which has affected the psyche of the average Nigerian and indeed Nigerian politicians. And many citizens are still struggling to come to terms with the reality that we are now practicing democracy. Lack of democratic culture is evident in all the stages of the electioneering period from internal party wrangling, to campaign rallies, to political debates and to the interactions between politicians and the public. Efforts need to be made by civil society groups to instill democratic culture in the Nigerian populace (Mandyen, 2016).

Lack of Integrity from Electoral Umpires

The electoral management body must be independent; they must not be emotionally or financially attached to any political body or politician. There is maxim that states thus; 'if gold rust what will iron do? Good funding would help them to carry out their constitutional duties without compromising the standard. A situation where the electoral umpires clearly show bias for one group over another is a recipe for political violence. Over time, those whose duties are to conduct a free and fair have been at the fore front of electoral malpractices, which in turn results to civil disturbances by political parties that have been cheated. The onus is on electoral umpires to ensure the electoral process is credible in order to eliminate the constant cases of violence that is now associated with elections.

Emotional to Attachment to a Politician

In Nigeria since 1999 to be emphatic, most electoral violence has been as a result of too much attachment emotionally to a particular contestant. The supporters will do anything possible to make sure their candidate is declared winner. This desperation from them often leads to massive electoral violence. Politically, they should be educated on the need to be free of emotion on matters of election. People all over the six geo-political zones of the country are guilty of this sentiment. This can also be seen as hero worship. This is also the remotes cause of the 2011 electoral violence in Nigeria as discussed above.

Religion and Ethnicity Factors

These two factors work hand in causing violence in Nigeria. Act of violence is carrying out mostly because of people's religion and ethnic affiliations. Tribal and ethnic solidarity are critical issues in the power play that leads to violence. Religion is a major factor indeed; some people take advantage of people's commitment to their religion to make them cause violence in the quest for the person of their faith to win election. Religion voting pattern has been a main problem in elections in Nigeria. Politicians use preachers to preach hates in the places of worships and these preaching's motivates the faithful followers to carry out act of violence in other to support their brother or sister in the faith to come out victorious in the contest.

Godfatherism and Godmotherlism

Godfatherism is a visible cause of electoral violence. They used touts and area boys to carry out this act. The godfathers control the parks and transportations systems most times in Nigeria. Politician's hands over the institution of transport for them to manage and recruit boys and girls that are always loyal to them. They use them as political thugs to carry out their evil and most egregious act. The godfathers' in turn fight their erstwhile political loyalists he rebelled against them. This complicated reality is the cause of violence. The battle line between the godfather and godson versus opposition and between the godfather and his former godson leads to violence. Most likely, it's a mere test of popularity, influence and might between them that leads to conflicts during elections. The government must use the security forces to put an end to thuggery in Nigeria.

Ignorance of Voters and Supporters

Illiteracy and ignorance play major role in electoral violence in Nigeria. Most of the voters and supporters are not learned and they accept any information given to hook line and sinker by the politicians. This information given is always negative and full of hatred. The politicians are smart and they take the voters by their ignorance. They lie to them about their opponent and with that ignorant mindset and negative solidarity; they carry out acts of violence. This is not good at all for our democracy.

Bribery

This is simply the act of collecting money from prospective politicians by voters. This money collected is an inducement to cause violence by the voters. The politician bribes them in a particular axis to make sure they deliver their polling unit. The desperation to deliver makes them to carry out violence. Bribery is a major hindrance to free fair and credible elections in Africa and Nigeria in particular. The electoral management agency must educate the people about the implication of bribery to the nation's democratic expedition.

Way Forwards towards Violence Free Elections in Nigeria

The crux of this paper is to proffer possible solutions to the next general election in the nation. There is a maxim that states thus; whoever fails to learn from history will forever live in repeat of its mistakes. The historical reality here is the issue of violence in Nigeria's elections since its democratic journey in 1999 up till date. The nation scales through violence in the 2015 general election because the incumbent president Dr Goodluck Jonathan conceded defeat even before the final results were announced by the electoral umpire. The nation must not relax because of the incident come 2019. It is therefore expected that all mechanisms be put in place to prevent violence in Nigeria. That of 2011 was very unprecedented and it went wild within hours. This must not be allowed to repeat again. The under listed are ways of preventing electoral violence as the 2019 elections draw nearer:

Youth bulge

Africa is said to have one of the largest population of youths; out of total population of 1.2 billion, 551 million, about 45% are under 18 years. Also, 458 million that is about 38.2% are youths aged between 18-45 years. Undoubtedly, Nigeria has a very high population of youths from the static presentation or summation. There is need for their potential to be fully harnessed. They must be engaged by government. If this huge population is characterized by unemployment or underemployment respectively, they shall fall prey to be used by politicians to carry out violence as the norm has been in the past years. Youth participation in enhancing electoral integrity is very necessary. Youth in Africa and especially Nigeria must take the issue of youth engagement seriously. Without electoral integrity of youth in Nigeria, votes cast by electorate wouldn't count, mandate be bought or stolen. The youth as pillars of the nation must be equipped ahead of next general elections (Jega, 2017).

The electoral management bodies (EMBs) roles

In the case of Nigeria, the independent electoral commission has a crucial role to play. Apart from training and retraining of the citizens. Permanent voters cards (PVCs) and temporary voters cards (TVCs) should be given to all eligible voters early enough. They must start sensitization of voters early enough especially on new inventions or ideas introduced in the electoral system. Every arrangement the need must be made on time. Sensitive and non-sensitive materials must be ready before the next electioneering season. Delay of electoral materials and inadequate supplies of electoral materials are some of the causes of violence in certain areas that are crisis prone or volatile in nature. To prevent this worrisome problem from occurring, INEC must prepare and re-prepare if possible to cover every lapse ahead of next.

Security personnel's orientation

Crucial training must be done to the security persons that will be posted to work during elections. Most violence erupts when security officials are found supporting a particular political party or candidate. Some of them overlook fraud and

rigging at the polling units they are been post to oversee and secure, this action angers the voters and they results into violence. For the nation to have a peaceful election in 2019, the security attachments must be trained and equipped to do the right thing during elections. They must be informed to remain neutral and defend the people while the cast and secure their votes (Jerrywright, 2015).

Funding of election

The federal government as a matter of urgency must release the needed funds on time and in time to INEC so that preparation should start immediately without any hitches or hindrances. Elections are been postponed most times like in 2015 because of inadequate preparations by the electoral management bodies. This often set the pace to violence during elections because, they electorate's feels cheated and interpret the act as rigging in process.

Voters education

The election management bodies are expected to go to the internal displaced persons camps a crossed the nation to sensitize the people. They should visit schools and teach the people, they should use the social and electronic Medias, print media also to orient the people on what is expected of them during next election. There used to be slight changes in elections, these changes must be made public well enough for the populace to follow and understand the process involved accurately.

Card readers and other class 'A' materials must be in good shape

During the 2015 general elections, the then president Jonathan spent over 25 minutes before the card reader could capture his finger print and identify him. This incident if INEC allowed repeating itself may not be taken in good faith by many rugged followers of certain politicians. To avoid this, the battery and other materials must be original and well presentable to avoid any delays whatsoever.

Conclusion

The hope for peaceful election is very high; many citizens are looking forward to the elections. Measures must be put in place as suggested by this work to avoid any hitches before, during and after the elections. The election management bodies must be fully prepared to make the nation proud. According to the British government, Nigeria after succeeding in the 2015 election that put to an end the issue of secession or division, the 2019 election is the determine factor of the nation's democracy in the next century or 100 years. If Nigeria gets it right in 2019, it shall be among world most developed country in the next century. This election is far beyond the quest for power between the APC and PDP because it shall outlived them both. The world is watching and many observers and opinion leaders are also paying keen interest in the next general election.

If we can get it right and succeed again in conducting free fair and credible elections that is violence free, we shall be rated high among the committee of nations and our respect scale shall be extremely huge among the nations. It has been said that, corrupt, bribery, lack of sensitive and sensitive materials, illiteracy and ignorance are the remote causes of electoral violence. The election management bodies INEC has been advised on what to do in other to avoid violence in our electoral system.

Unemployment and underemployment are other main causes of electoral violence. The government has been advised to look into the issues critically and sought ways of amending the quagmire. Having a violent free election is very possible, if the steps identified are followed, there shall be very smooth elections come 2019. The army of bulge youths must be in engaged into relevant activities and the justice and religious systems must be directed to have a rethink and review their activities forward for peaceful elections soon in the nation.

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