AIC 2018: GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT IN HUMANITIES, EDUCATION AND CIVILIZATION

The Fears, Anxieties, Speculations and Hope Amidst Uncertainties: Nigerian 2019 General Election in Periscope

Babayo Sule
Department of Political Science, Faculty of Humanities Management and Social Sciences, Federal University of Kashere Gombe, Nigeria

*Corresponding author’s Email: babayosule@gmail.com

Peer-review under responsibility of 4th Asia International Conference 2018 editorial board (http://www.utm.my/asia/our-team/)

© 2018 Published by Readers Insight Publisher,
lat 306 Savoy Residencia, Block 3 F11/1,44000 Islamabad, Pakistan,
info@readersinsight.net

This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).
Research Highlights

The research is a descriptive analytical paper which predicted the political rigmaroles and imbroglios that are expected to herald the 2019 General Election in Nigeria. It is a timely work which sends warnings, challenges, prospects and policy document for all stakeholders involved in the electoral process to sit up and improve the process for an improved credibility and fairness in the conduct. The work is a contribution of a patriotic citizen towards ensuring a sound and acceptable election which is a major tenet of democracy. It is anticipated that this little work will give an additional direction to the policymakers particularly the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to identify the predicted challenges that will affect the success of the election and approach it tactically promptly.

Graphical Abstract

General elections in Nigeria are often controversial and are perceived as elections with challenges and issues of legitimacy because of irregularities and malpractices that bedevilled the process of the elections’ conduct. The 2019 General Election is anticipated to be an election of greater interest and challenges accruing to the permutation of many factors that are manifesting currently within the political arena of Nigerian politics. This paper is a succinct examination of the predictive analysis of the prospects and the challenges that the 2019 General Election might produce. The problem is that despite the significant improvement recorded in the 2015 General Election, there are still challenges that are yet to be addressed in the electoral process. The paper is a descriptive and analytical work which relies on the use of secondary data such as books, journals and internet sources for data collection. The data collected was analysed using thematic analytical interpretations. The paper discovered that the 2019 General Election would be less challenging than the immediately previous one due to a weak opposition but some of the hitches that were encountered before might likely reoccur particularly the efficiency of the card readers and the violation of electoral regulations in addition to money politics. The paper recommends that the electoral body should re-strategised in making the smart card readers effective and the body needs to be vigilant in monitoring parties’ and candidates’ financial activities right from now in order to ensure compliance, transparency and a fair election.
Research Objectives

The major objective of this work is to identify clearly the red areas of challenges, issues and anticipated problems that the 2019 General Election might encounter if they are not address properly. It is a presentation of the issues as they are and the suggestions to improve the conduct of the election. Indeed, the objective of the work is to ensure that an acceptable election that is fair and credible is conducted in 2019 General Election by studying the problems and proffering practical solutions to them ahead of the election.

Methodology

The paper used a qualitative method of data collection and analysis in which secondary sources were used such as books, journals, newspaper sources and internet sources. The data obtained were presented using thematic analytical interpretations where the existing data were discussed using the current findings and the theoretical application of the adopted theories in the work.

Results

In this section, some important issues concerning the anticipated prospects or factors that will make the 2019 General Election successful are discussed thematically as well as the expected challenges that the election might face in the process. However, these predictions can be subject to surprising alteration most especially if the electoral body and the policymakers will cooperate in improving the optimistic aspects and tackling the challenges seriously. This will make the election a greater improvement comparably than that of the 2015 General Election and the previous elections in Nigeria’s Fourth Republic.
Findings

There are many factors that may lead to the success of the 2019 General Election. Some of them were in existence since the inception of the Fourth Republic but were not as functional as now. The other factors emerged recently in the 2015 General Election and they would be more effective in the 2019 electoral process conduct. This does not mean that it will be successful and hitch free. Other factors were identified that will hinder its success unless they are handled promptly which include corruption, vote buying, excessive party financing, insecurity and the politics of decamping.

Acknowledgment

This research is fully funded by the Tertiary Education Trustfund (TETFund) by the Federal Government of Nigeria through the institution of Federal University of Kashere Gombe, Gombe State Nigeria.

References


Sule, B. Azizuddin, M. Sani, M. Mat, B. Opposition Political Parties and Democratic Consolidation in Nigeria: Examining All Progressives Congress (APC) in the