

ISSUES IN THE 2023 NIGERIA PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIETAL ADVANCEMENT

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Abstract

This study examined issues in the Nigeria 2023 presidential election: implications for socioeconomic advancement. Two research questions guided the study; descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study was 23000 academic staff of the public universities in South-East Nigeria. The sample comprised 400 academic staff of the universities. The sample was composed using the simple random method. Data collected were analyzed using the mean. Findings of the study showed that 2023 presidential election in Nigeria was marred by such issues as poor voter turnout, rigging, electoral violence, non-compliance to BVAS, IREV, bastardization of the legal system, poor voter turnout, non-compliance to extant laws/acts, unqualified candidates, ethnic sentiments, religious divisions, and poor election management system; to ameliorate the issues, it was found that voter education, punishment of electoral offenders, implementing electoral laws, independence of the judiciary, properly managed electoral system, transparent law enforcement system, implementation of full scale BVAS and IREV use, Adopting Justice Uwais report (2007) on electoral reforms are ways to ameliorate issues in Nigeria 2023 elections. The study therefore recommends that the full-scale use of technology in the Nigerian electoral system will help eliminate over 70% of the issues that greeted the 2023 presidential elections in the country, and at such a time, it is recommended that the Legislator revisit the 2022 electoral act and close the gap in the act by implementing the full-scale use of BVAS and IREV for result collation.

INTRODUCTION

Education is a very important aspect of human existentiality and plays a very significant role in human development; it is also regarded as a force that drives development, improved standard of living, health, peace,

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progress, and political growth of any nation (Offor, Offiah & Onunkwo, 2023). Education has also been argued to mean the slow and skillful extraction of potentialities to be taught to people (Ahikuzzam, 2017). In a more layman understanding, education is a timeless concept that embodies the basic pursuit of knowledge and enlightenment; at the basics, it is pertinent to understand education as the intricate tapestry of ideas, experience, and values (Adrew, 2020). In the same vein, Adelomos, Abosode, and Sotonade (2022) argue that from the hallowed halls of academia to the humble classrooms in every corner of the world, education serves as a transformative force, equipping learners with the skills, wisdom, and perspectives necessary to navigate the complexities of life. Education further encompasses formal instruction, self-directed exploration, and the invaluable lessons gleaned from interactions with others; in all its forms, it inspires minds to soar, fosters critical thinking, cultivates empathy, and imparts the tools to effect positive change (Millson, 2017). As a gateway to personal growth and societal progress, education continues to be an enduring beacon of hope and a testament to the boundless potential of the human intellect.

While the importance of education is firmly established, the role of political education in human destiny can never be overemphasized, given the role of politics and civic cum democratic governance in human existence and relationships. At its core, political education is viewed as both a formal and an informal form of education gained to gain civic knowledge and competencies; however, scholars have conceptualized political education through different prisms. Onuigbo, Eme, and Asadu (2018) defined political education as efforts for enhanced political skills, knowledge, and participation in democracy; it is a program that significantly relates to political participation as it mobilizes the cognitive capacity and efficacy of individuals to process complex political events or information and engage actively in political activities. For Owen (2023), it is an intentional transfer of knowledge, values, attitudes, and skills needed for participation in the political process. It also refers to manifest programs and activities within the framework of a special subject, while its latent or non-direct facts of activities aimed at imparting political skills and attitudes are called “political socialization”. Political education teaches people about governmental structures and systems, which allows them to be more informed and engaged in their political environment. Political education helps people become aware of their civil rights on an individual level, as well as how they can effectively impact change in their communities by voting and engaging in other forms of civic participation (Shriver, 2023). The country with the biggest and most prominent tradition of political education is the United States, followed by the Federal Republic of Germany, France, the United Kingdom, and other countries (Owen, 2023). In educational context, the main purpose of political education is participation in political life in one way or the other. However, Oligo, Eme, and Asadu (2018) argue that political education is not INEC’s responsibility alone; political parties, civil societies, religious and traditional institutions, and the National Orientation Agency should also collaborate with the electoral body in this regard. The government should be willing to fund such organizations in the voter education campaign, from the grassroots level upwards. However, Nigeria’s return to a democratic government and participation has been identified by periodic national elections across different political offices in the country, with presidential elections mostly drawing the attention of the citizenry due to their significance in the democratic system. According to Odiz (2020), periodic elections is a fundamental contribution to democratic governance. Direct democracy is a form of government in which political decisions are made directly by the entire body of qualified citizens to participate in an election. In democracy, democratic elections also afford voters the opportunity to select leaders and to hold them accountable for their performance in office. Tiakula (2017) defined a democratic system as that in which the right of the citizenry is protected by laws and constitution without unnecessary abuse and infringements on the citizen’s right without a legal process. Most importantly, Democracy thrives on openness and accountability from leaders and the

governed alike (Tshishonga, 2022). To achieve effective democracy, one cannot over emphasize the place of education in the democratic process. Bawa (2018) argues that in a democratic process, education is given primacy, and education fosters democratic temper in the mind of people. In supporting this argument, it is pertinent to underscore those democratic principles such as liberty, equality, fraternity justice, dignity of individual, co-operation, and sharing of responsibility etc. are applied to education to make it more effective, meaningful, relevant, and useful (Ayse,2012). There are dimensions to the relationship between education and democracy; elaborating on this, Ayse (2012) further concur that the relationship between democracy and education has two dimensions. The first dimension is about the adoption of the knowledge and awareness about democracy and human rights by all citizens. This dimension stresses the importance of transferring the required information and raising awareness, necessitating the macro-level examination of both the relationship between the state and educational institutions and the relationship between the government, which exercises political power on behalf of the state, and educational institutions. The second dimension concerns the reflection of the acquired knowledge and awareness onto real life and behaviors. This relationship is observed at the micro level and it involves questions regarding the relations between students and teachers, as well as democratic climate conditions and the characteristics of the environment.

In a democratic setting, elections are its hallmark, and they have been defined as a periodic activity in which people who seek to be elected into political offices and positions present themselves to the electorates to be elected through the secret ballot electoral system by the county's citizens who enjoy fundamental human rights (South African Democratic Community Development Report, 2020). In another dimension, European Center for Populism Studies (2023) describes electoral democracy as a government that thrives on the election of one individual from a pool of people who submit themselves for election by the citizens; in this process, the citizens cast their votes through a system known as secret ballot, and for such to be qualified as an election, it must be free and fair (European Center for Populism Studies, 2023). In other climes around the world, presidential elections have different dimensions. In the United States of America, the presidential election is held every four years, with major political parties nominating their candidates, who are in turn listed on the ballot paper. In the presidential general election, citizens who are registered can: vote even if they did not vote in their state's primary elections, vote for any presidential candidate, regardless of the party they are registered with or who they voted for in the past (USA.GOV,2023). Also, most people vote on Election Day, which is the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November; depending on where you live, the voting period may be extended to include absentee ballots, mail-in ballots, and early voting (USA.GOV, 2023). However, in other U.S. elections, candidates are elected directly by popular vote. However, the president and vice president are not elected directly by citizens. Instead, they are chosen through the Electoral College process (USA.GOV,2023). In this process, each state receives as many electors as it has members of Congress (House and Senate). Including Washington, D.C.'s three electors, there are currently 538 electors in all; thus, after you cast your ballot for president, your vote goes to a statewide tally. In 48 states and Washington, D.C., the winner receives all the electoral votes for that state. Maine and Nebraska assign their electors using a proportional system, and a candidate needs the vote of at least 270 electors, more than half of all electors, to win the presidential election.

In Nigeria, the system is not different as the country have thrived on the election of its Presidents through a presidential election that holds much significance, and this process have gone on through the years 1999, 2003, 2007, 2011, 2015, 2019, and 2023 indication a four-year election gap and period (Odi,2023). The 2023 presidential elections is argued to have had a whole lot peculiarity from the buildup of the election to the election proper. Sulaimon (2023) underscores that the 2023 presidential election is the most peculiar of every other

presidential election in the country for a couple of reasons: first is the return of power to the Southern part of the country, which has left the southeast part of the south staking for their turn to lead the nation given that they have never ruled the country since the return of the 4th republic; religion is also another peculiar issue in the Nigeria presidential election given the divided religious sentiment in the country, and for the first time in the annals of Nigeria elections, a Muslim-Muslim ticket is going to contest the election with propaganda already flying around that the agenda is to Islamize the nation; the emergence of a third force as a result of the manner the major opposition party denied the southeast an opportunity to flag the party flag, instead ceding the ticket to the north left a frontline Presidential candidate to leave the party with his supporters to unknown labor party which gathered enough momentum pre and post elections; Obi's supporters popularly called the 'Obidient' Movement chiefly constituted by the youths believe that the Labor Party candidate will bring about great change to the country's political space. More so, Obi's candidacy has been endorsed by Ohanaeze Idigbo and some influential non-Igbo groups and individuals, including former president Olusegun Obasanjo; and lastly is the issue of cash crunch has been cited as a factor in who emerged as the winner in the presidential election in Nigeria (Sulaimon, 2023).

Oshewolo and Azeez (2023) note that there was great optimism among Nigerians and many international observers that this presidential election cycle would be a major improvement on the previous ones with the signing into law of the amended Electoral Act in 2022 to provide the legal framework for the elections and help address many problems confronting the administration of elections in Nigeria.

More so, the major provisions etched in the amended Act include the early release of funds to INEC, early release of the election timetable, use of electronic devices for accreditation and result transmission purposes, and enhanced power of the electoral body to review results, particularly in areas where electoral guidelines are not followed. INEC introduced technological innovations that would promote the transparency of the electoral process and boost citizens' trust. These included the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) for the accreditation and electronic transmission of results and the INEC Result Viewing (IREV) portal to serve as a repository of results from polling units (Nigeria Electoral Act, 2023).

Despite these indicators before the 2023 presidential elections, facts emerging from the election proper do not portend good for Nigeria's growing democracy and participatory governance. Nwangwu (2023) in his study identified five takeaway issues in the 2023 elections, which he identified as the issue of electoral violence, which have not gone away and seem to have become more emboldened with the security agents now supporting the perpetrators of this crime due to pecuniary gains from the powers that be. Voter suppression was the key tool used by the ruling party to disenfranchise their opponents in some areas and strongholds. Ethnic politics was on the increase as politicians themselves chosen this route as a tool to win over people of their regions and whip up ethnic sentiments to win the presidential elections. Poor voter turnout due to the one-week postponement of the election and perceived fear of election violence from the electorates and in the ability of technology to solve the issue of electoral malpractices despite the amount of money and funds dispensed to use technology to stop the issue of electoral fraud.

Odimegwu (2023) concurs that non-compliance with BVAS was a serious issue in the 2023 presidential election in the country; according to Odimegwu (2023), the kind of human-based election cheating that has plagued Nigeria's electoral processes in the past, INEC repeatedly assured Nigerians that the result transmission would and must be done using the BVAS (Bimodal Voter Accreditation System). These assurances boosted residents' hopes to an unrealistic level and rekindled their faith in the possibility of a free and fair election. This is despite the assurances given to the electorates that the deployment of BVAS machines across the polling units both for accreditation and use of the IREV system will sanitize the system and remove fraud and rigging from the system.

Again, the failure of the INEC Result Viewing Portal (IREV) on election day was a betrayal that many Nigerians did not predict or should have expected. It was a massive disappointment for excited citizens who felt that the country would witness a transparent electoral process for the first time in a long time. Apart from the late arrival of election materials and the no-show performance by INEC ad hoc staff as experienced by voters in some areas, Nigerians' hope was further dashed when reality set in that the IREV could not make a difference (Oshewolo & Azeez, 2023). In many cases, the IREV portal did not work. In other instances, the INEC ad-hoc staff refused to upload the election sheets. Where is the lie? In addition, INEC's manual tally of votes has been roundly criticized for being riddled with errors. As some election officers were reportedly corrupted during the process, it is not surprising that many Nigerians are questioning the integrity and authenticity of INEC's operations.

According to Odili (2023), the 2023 presidential election was one of the worst in terms of voter turn since the 2007 presidential elections; the report contends that "voter turnout has steadily declined since the 2007 elections (57 percent). The 2019 elections had a voter turnout of 35%, and with all indications from the present predicament, the 2023 elections were the time when the tide would turn, and for many good reasons. In presidential elections, the incumbent has served the maximum tenure, and one has to expect this to drive more people to the polls. Not forgetting the economic hardship that Nigerians have had to endure in recent months. Thus, according to the number released by INEC, 24 million people out of the registered 93 million voters voted. This puts the figure at 27% and indicates a decline in voter turnout.

The import of this is that specifically, during this election, it was observed that voters were technically disenfranchised due to the inadequacies of the electoral commission. People reported being unable to vote because the electoral officials got to their polling unit very late, with some reporting as late as 3 pm, and this has an implication on voter turnout.

In addition, one of the biggest issues in the 2023 presidential election season has been reports of rigging across different states of the federation by agents of interested political parties. Thus, this issue is why INEC's failure to leverage technology is even more problematic (Okiro, 2023). In this present dispensation, and with the advancement of technology, it is expected that people's voices and votes should be counted by leveraging on the distinct characteristics of technology. No wonder, during the elections, there were reports that people recorded the results from their polling units before they were uploaded, and what was uploaded was different or doctored (Carboni, 2023). At the collation center in Lagos, the Labor Party agent reported that the party representative for Badagry LGA was compelled at gunpoint to sign the result sheet.

More so, footage of thugs threatening voters to vote for a specific party surfaced online. In other footage, we see videos of the electoral process being disrupted by thugs and the burning of election materials. Violence and tuggery lead to the loss of lives and properties and disenfranchise people from exercising their rights. This has been one of the reasons for low voter turnout in previous elections.

After the elections, it is a well-known fact that the constitution of Nigeria allows the candidates in National elections and other elections to seek redress in the court of law. This is why the two major candidates that lost the elections approached the election petition tribunal post the election to seek redress and deepen the legal institutions in the country. Mefor (2023) described the judgment of the judges at the court of appeal as superfluous, political, and an ambush on democracy and legal process; citing section 64(4) of the constitution of Nigeria, the author argues that the tribunal negates its earlier rulings (See Uzodimma Vs Ihedioha, 2020) in order to favor the incumbent president of the country. Majeed (2023) concurs on the irregularity of the judgments in delivering their rulings and cites the 2022 electoral act as "The Electoral Act 2022 provided safeguards indicating the need for INEC to be innovative in developing procedures that will help eliminate the human element regarding the conduct

of elections. Hence, it seems to us that these innovative reforms may now face challenges as the Tribunal has opened the implementation of these reforms to INEC's human discretionary powers, and the import of this judgment holds a plethora of negative consequences for the country's democracy and legal system.

However, the country must find means to improve its electoral system to salvage its already battered image in the international community due to electoral irregularities. Okeke (2023) contends that this could be achieved by first adopting the Justice Uwais Report, which recommended a gradual introduction of electronic voting. The report was submitted in 2008. Fifteen years later, Nigeria is ready for electronic voting. The Electoral Act 2022 does not provide for electronic voting and collation. Rather, Section 50 (2) of the Electoral Act 2022 gives the INEC discretion to determine the procedure for voting and transmission of results. It was on the basis of Section 50(2) of the Electoral Act 2022 that INEC introduced the BVAS and IREV. In another report, Uchegbu (2023) suggested that the means to improve these issues could be through voter education, punishment of electoral offenders, implementing electoral laws, independence of the judiciary, properly managed electoral system, transparent law enforcement system, implementation of full-scale BVAS and IREV use, and the Adopting Justice Uwais report (2007) on electoral reforms.

While these issues of the Nigeria 2023 presidential election have become a drawback to the country's growing democracy and participatory governance, one is even more concerned about the wider implications it holds for the country's socio-economic and political capital, even as it has the potency of realizing its Social development goals and its relationship with other countries, the comity of nations, and international organizations. Thus, it is on the heels of these palpable implications of such national elections marred by irregularities that the present study became pertinent.

Research Questions

This research is guided by the following research questions:

1. What are the issues in the Nigeria 2023 presidential elections?
2. What are the ways to reduce the issues in the Nigeria 2023 presidential elections?

Method

A descriptive survey design was adopted in the study. The study population comprised 23000 academic staff in 10 public universities in southeast Nigeria. A simple random sampling technique was used to obtain data from eight of the 10 public universities in the region. Purposive sampling was then used to obtain five faculties from each university. Then, a simple random sampling technique was used to obtain two departments from each faculty to generate 80 departments. Finally, simple random sampling was used to obtain five teaching staff in each of the 80 sampled departments to produce 400 academic staff in the universities.

To establish the reliability of the instrument, a trial testing method was used on 50 undergraduates of Delta state University, Baraka, which was outside the study area. Reliability was calculated using Cronbach's alpha for each subsection. At the end of the analysis, the scores obtained were 0.83 for issues in the 2023 general elections and 0.81 for possible factors that could reduce the issues of the 2023 Nigeria elections. The results showed the high reliability of the instrument. The instrument has two parts: A and B. Part A sought information on the respondents. Part B sought the information required to answer the research questions. It has 1 and 2, and these were concerned with information regarding research questions 1 and 2. Part A contains 15 items, while part B contains 9 items, making a total of 24 items. The four-point response mode of strongly agree (SA = 4 points), Agree (A = 3 points), Disagree (D = 2 points), and strongly disagree (SD = 1 point) was adopted in the study. The questionnaire was administered to the respondents by the researchers with the help of 20 research assistants, who were paired for each of the 10 faculties. Administration of the questionnaire was done during the first semester of the 2022/2023

academic session. All copies of the questionnaire distributed were collected back because of the on-the-spot delivery method and collection technique applied. The mean was used to analyze the data. The four-point response mode used informed the use of a mean of 2.50 as the cut-off point for decision. The decision rule was that mean scores of items of 2.50 and above were positives, whereas mean scores below 2.50 were negative.

Results

What are the issues in the Nigeria 2023 presidential elections?

Table1

S/N	Items	- X	Dec
1	Poor voter turnout was an issue in the 2023 election	2.87	Agreed
2	Rigging was an issue in the 2023 election	2.90	Agreed
3	Electoral Violence was an issue in the 2023 election	3.0	Agreed
4	Non-Use of ICT/IREV/BVAS was an issue in the 2023 election	2.78	Agreed
5	Bastardization of the Legal System was an issue in the 2023 election	2.89	Agreed
6	Poor Voter turnout was an issue in the 2023 election	2.90	Agreed
7	Non-Compliance to extant Laws/Acts was an issue in the 2023 election	3.0	Agreed
8	Unqualified candidates was issues in 2023 election	2.77	Agreed
9	Ethnic Sentiments was an issue in the 2023 election	2.94	Agreed
10	Religious Divisions was issues in 2023 election	2.76	Agreed
11	Poor Election Management was an issue in the 2023 election	2.88	Agreed
Total Cluster		34.59/12 2.88	Agreed

Data in table 1 showed that respondents agreed to the items with a mean score above 2.5. Stated clearly, the cluster mean of 2.88 indicates that respondents agreed that the 2023 presidential election in Nigeria was marred by issues such as poor voter turnout, rigging, electoral violence, non-compliance with BVAS, IREV, bastardization of the legal system, poor voter turnout, non-compliance with extant laws/acts, unqualified candidates, ethnic sentiments, religious divisions, and poor election management system.

Research Question2: What are the ways to reduce the issues in the Nigeria 2023 presidential elections?

Table2

S/N	Items	- X	Dec
1	Voter education will reduce issues in the Nigerian elections	2.85	Agreed
2	Punishment for electoral offenders will reduce issues in the Nigerian elections	3.0	Agreed
3	Implementing electoral laws will reduce issues in Nigerian elections	2.87	Agreed
4	Independence of the Judiciary will reduce issues in Nigerian elections	2.94	Agreed
5	Properly managed electoral system will improve issues in Nigerian elections	2.90	Agreed
6	Entrenching a transparent law enforcement system will improve issues in Nigerian elections	2.78	Agreed
7	Implementing the use of BVAS and IREV will reduce issues in Nigeria elections	3.0	Agreed
8	Adopting the Uwais electoral report (2007) will ameliorate issues in Nigerian elections	2.88	Agreed
Total Cluster		23.22/ 2.90	Agreed

Data in table 2 showed that respondents agreed to the items with a mean score above 2.5. Stated clearly, the cluster mean of 2.90 indicates that respondents agreed to the fact that there are possible ways to mitigate the effects of Nigeria's 2023 presidential elections, including voter education, punishment of electoral offenders, implementation of electoral laws, independence of the judiciary, properly managed electoral system, transparent law enforcement system, implementation of full-scale BVAS and IREV use, and adoption of the Justice Uwais report (2007) on electoral reforms.

Discussions

Based on the interpretation of the data and analysis, the following findings were made:

It was found that the 2023 presidential election in Nigeria was marred by such issues as poor voter turnout, rigging- studies such as that of Agbu (2016) found in a Nigeria study that election rigging has continuously contributed to the issues that have held Nigeria democracy back; other studies such as that of Michael, Ogunrotomi and Ekherebor (2023) found that rigging, forms of violence which consisted of murder, assassination, arson, sabotage, armed attack, intra and inter-party clashes, hostility, thuggery and rage through physical force directed against persons or property were the main issue in Nigeria elections. Electoral violence-

studies such as that of Nwolise (2010) found that electoral violence has become a bane to Nigeria election and affects the voter turnout, and the 2007 was the worst election with electoral violence in the country. Another study by Nife and Olabisi (2018) also found that electoral violence has contributed in derailing elections in Nigeria by discouraging voter turn-out in the country. Non-compliance to BVAS, IREV, bastardization of the legal system, poor voter turnout, and non-compliance to extant laws/acts. Fasua (2019) found that non-compliance to the BVAS contributed to the poor election conducted in the 2019 general elections and that other variables such as poor voter turnout and non-compliance to some aspects of electoral laws contributed to the issues of the 2019 general elections in Nigeria. Again, another study Berebon (2023) also found that elections in Nigeria have been particularly plagued by substantial violence, manipulation of ballots, vote buying, and loss of life—factors that have long hindered the country from conducting genuinely free and fair elections. Before the 2023 elections, the Independent National Electoral Commission reported attacks on at least 53 of its offices nationwide, with ongoing violence persisting. Unqualified candidates, ethnic sentiments, religious divisions, and poor election management system. siak, Adebisi, and Bakare (2015) also found that ethnic and religious sentiments were negative factors that affected the outcome of the 2015 general elections.

Also, it was found that the possible ways to mitigate the effects of Nigeria's 2023 presidential elections include voter education and punishment of electoral offenders. Nwolise (2010) found that the best possible way to address the issue of the Nigerian election is to avoid shielding electoral offenders and punish them with the full weight of the law, implementing electoral laws, independence of the judiciary, properly managed electoral system, transparent law enforcement system, implementation of full scale BVAS and IREV use, Adopting Justice Uwais report (2007) on electoral reforms Nwolise (2010) also found that the solution, therefore, lies in enthrone the rule of law, investigating and punishing tin gods, and mobilizing citizens to defend democracy, and insist that politicians, incumbent governments, and electoral administrators play by the rules. In another related study, Omoleke (2018) also found that transparency, capacity building, and commission independence are the major variables that could improve the integrity of elections in Nigeria.

Conclusion

The study concludes that while there are existing issues negating Nigeria's presidential elections, as was witnessed in the 2023 presidential elections that were marred by many intervening factors, the country's political class has capitalized on these issues to win and seek re-election in Nigeria's political class, and this has continued to be the bane of actualizing non-compromised elections. As such, Nigeria, as a growing democracy, is still very far from conducting a near free and fair election. Hence, these issues that have continued to hold Nigeria back from conducting free and fair elections could spell many implications for the country's growing democracy and socioeconomic relations in the comity of nations as a result.

Implications for the Study

If the negative reviews that the 2023 presidential elections generated across the world for Nigeria with newspaper headlines from Austria, Vienna, Poland, and other countries and International Observers reports painting the country black in the international world are not corrected, the country stands a risk of losing its social, political, and economic capital in its international affairs. This involves skepticism from the side of other nations in investing in Nigeria, foreign direct investments, and borrowing of funds. Moreover, international financial organizations might lose interest in funding some capital projects and human resources beneficial projects in the country due to the loss of its political capital. More so, looking inward, if these issues are not addressed, Nigeria's democracy will not be deepened, and this will

continue to be a drawback for the country's economic growth due to the bad image poorly managed elections hold for it.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. The National Orientation Agency takes it upon themselves to educate and create awareness on voter education and the need for the masses to churn election rigging and aid politicians in perpetuating electoral violence during elections, as this is the first means of sanitizing the system.
2. Again, the Judiciary must be made to stay alone and stay off politics for them to be able to deliver neutral judgments on fraudulent elections in the country and restore public confidence in them as they reserve the power to correct elections with anomalies.
3. In a technologically driven society, it is recommended that a full-scale use of technology in the Nigerian electoral system will help to eliminate over 70% of the issues that greeted the 2023 presidential elections in the country. At such a time, it is recommended that the Legislator revisit the 2022 electoral act and close the gap in the act by implementing full-scale use of BVAS and IREV for result collation.
4. More so, law enforcement agents who aid electoral fraud across polling units and collation centers must be made to be neutral and dispense their duties through stringent punishment for them and other electoral offenders in the country.

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