

**CRITIQUING THE NEXUS AMONG DEMOCRACY, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND  
CONFLICT RESOLUTION WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF PARTY SYSTEM IN  
NIGERIA: 1999 - 2021**

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**ABSTRACT**

The fundamentals of true democracy include good governance, fair and legitimate elections, equity, justice, transparency, accountability, political education of the common people, respect for the rule of law and cooperation among different branches of government. It is pertinent to note that the Nigerian media and general speeches of the state often focus on the assertion that Nigeria is “consolidating its democracy”. Hence there is a need to examine nexus between the two major political parties – All Progressives Congress (APC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Nigeria from 1999 to 2021. An elite theory was used to analyze the situation that led to good governance considering the two versions applicability of the theory. The earlier versions of the theory emphasized personal attributes of leaders, which aided their hold or dominance in power positions. Later versions dwelt more on the institutional framework of society. It is observed that APC did not present any strong ideological manifesto that is patently different from what PDP had to offer. Both parties promised the good life not on any sound economic or political framework. The study concluded that, the undemocratic posture of the party primaries in Nigeria goes a long way in creating and recreating itself endlessly not only in the security politics but in the insecurities politics which no doubt culminated in challenges to good governance in the country.

**KEYWORDS:** Democracy, Good Governance, Conflict Resolution, Party System

## **INTRODUCTION**

Democracy is no doubt the most suitable system of government in the modern-day political system and development world over. Political parties, election and conflict management skills on internal conflicts are vital tools necessary for the achievement and advancement of good governance in Nigeria and world at large. The paper, therefore, seeks to examine the impact of good governance and democracy on effective conflict resolution, using Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and All Progressives Congress (APC) as focus of analysis. The history of the country's governance, conflict resolution and democratic experience shows that elections and electoral process have generated so much tensions in the country. Take for instance the just concluded Anambra State gubernatorial election held on the 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 where so many losses of lives and property were recorded especially before and after the election. These and more electoral violence have in some cases threatened the corporate existence of the country. By implication, this will help in consolidating good governance in the country.

### **Conceptual Clarification**

#### **Democracy**

Democracy alongside political parties with vibrant ideologies and manifestoes are very important tenets that ensure good governance world over and Nigeria in particular. They remain pillars of democracy, and channel through which effective services, and good governance could be delivered to the people. As observed by Pwanagba (2015), without ideologically-based, strong and independent political parties, good governance is likely not be deepened. This is because, political parties should not be an avenue only for capturing political power but should provide a platform for delivering good governance by ensuring good living conditions to the people by instituting viable policies that will improve on the quality of life of the populace. The word democracy is derived from two Greek words "demo" which means "people" and "cracy" which means "rule". That is, rule by the people or government by the people, however, all attempt by extant literature in defining the term is centered on the people (majority) in the governance of the state (Obi 2018). According to Ademola (2011), for

democracy to consolidate, it involves a process of alteration from totalitarian system to a democratic system, which is vital for a lasting democracy and stable institutions to be established. This author implies that; democratic consolidation is a change from authoritarian system of government to a democratic system of government. However, this view appears shallow, because majority of nations in the world have adopted democracy as a system of government, but can we say that their democracies are consolidated if citizens cannot enjoy the dividends of democracy.

### **Good Governance**

Governance involves the entire processes and methods adopted by a government in managing the resources of a society in order to address socio-economic and political challenges in the interest of national integration and political stability. According to Kaufmann (2005), governance embodies “the traditions and institutions by which authority in a country is exercised for the common good”.

The concept of ‘governance’ came into use with the inception of globalisation, “reflecting the fragmentation of political authority among public and private actors on multiple levels of governance – national, sub-national and international – which accompanies globalisation” (Hänggi, 2003). Thus, governance being more encompassing than government; aids in understanding the complex reality of the contemporary world in which governments remain the central actors in both domestic and international relations though they are more often seen to share authority with non-state actors on multiple levels of interaction. The term ‘governance’ became popular in debate on the development crisis in Africa with the World Bank’s description of the African problem as “a crisis of governance” (Aiyede, 2001). According to Johnson (1991) good governance involves investing in projects that has the general interest of the people, and operating a system that punishes corruption but guarantee fundamental human right and accountability of public office holders. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation - UNESCO (2010) identified eight (8) major characteristics of good governance, to include: participation, rule of law, transparency and

responsiveness. Others are consensus oriented, equity and inclusiveness, effectiveness and efficiency, as well as accountability. Governance as a concept has gained popularity as nations and international institutions seek better approaches to enhance the role of government by making it more transparent, accountable, responsive and responsible to the constituencies. Rhodes (1996: 652) posits that “*Governance* signifies a *change* in the meaning of government, referring to new processes of governing; or changed conditions of ordered rule; or new methods by which society is governed”. Thus, the term *governance* emanated as a result of the desire to bring about change in the society and a departure from the antiquated methods and in turn bring about positive transformation of human lives.

### **Conflict resolution**

Conflict resolution is conceptualized as the methods and processes involved in facilitating the peaceful ending of conflict and retribution. Dimensions of resolution typically parallel the dimensions of conflict in the way the conflict is processed. Cognitive resolution is the way disputants understand and view the conflict, with beliefs, perspectives, understandings and attitudes. Emotional resolution is in the way disputants feel about a conflict, the emotional energy. Behavioral resolution is reflective of how the disputants act, their behavior. Ultimately, a wide range of methods and procedures for addressing conflict exist, including negotiation, mediation, mediation-arbitration, diplomacy, and creative peacebuilding. The term conflict resolution may also be used interchangeably with dispute resolution, where arbitration and litigation processes are critically involved. The concept of conflict resolution can be thought to encompass the use of nonviolent resistance measures by conflicted parties in an attempt to promote effective resolution. In the recent times, issues like Boko-haram, Kidnapping and Fulani herdsmen have been on the front burner of Nigeria's political history and it is due to inability to manage internal conflicts.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The Elite theory has various versions and has been popularized by different scholars ranging from Gaetano Mosca and Vilfredo Pareto to Wright Mills, Raymond Aron, Roberto Michels

and Floyd Hunter. These different versions are however; combined in a bid to serve as framework of analysis. Two Italian sociologists first developed this theory, namely: Vilfredo Pareto and Gaetano Mosca. The earlier versions of the theory emphasized personal attributes of leaders, which aided their hold or dominance in power positions. Later versions dwelt more on the institutional framework of society (Haralambos and Heald, 1999: 107). According to Pareto, elite means the small number of individuals who, in each sphere of activity, have succeeded and have arrived at a higher stratum in the professional hierarchy. He further divides the elite class into two: a governing elite and non-governing elite.

Pareto's focus of inquiry was on the ruling elite, which, he believed, rules by a mixture of force and cunningness (Varma, 2006). This position exposes the characteristics of some Nigerian leaders, particularly the retired military generals and top government officials who have joined the political scene. This typifies Roberto Michels "Iron Rule of Oligarchy." Using their Party as well as the role of a 'General' to bully others, these persons were on top of their careers from all possible signs but always cling very closely to the country's rulership. The argument here is that political parties are no longer working as planned, precisely because the few makes decisions and distribute resources. This has also hindered the development of the country's democratic process. According to Roberto Michels (cited in Varma 2006), every institution, whatever its original intentions, is inevitably reduced to 'oligarchy,' that is, the law of the few chosen. Michels maintained that most human beings are apathetic, indolent, and slavish. Therefore, they have to rely on their members to achieve their social goals. The platforms for this representation are labour unions, political parties and other organizations. According to the elite theorists, these oppressive strategies of the bourgeoisie by the democratic elites exist as the elites are more organized and have class-consciousness.

Furthermore, as a movement or party grows in size, more and more roles tend to be assigned to an inner circle of leaders and, over time, the organization's members are made less capable of guiding and managing them, as a result of which the officers achieve greater freedom of action and develop interest in their roles. They desperately cling to their current

powers and privileges, and become nearly irremovable. “If laws are passed to control the dominion of leaders, it is the laws that weaken slowly, not the leaders” (Obah-Akpowoghaha, 2013).

It is important to note that elitist classifications are not mutually exclusive in the sense that an individual elite can fall into more than one class. Such grouping also sometimes differs. For example, the military elite may also qualify as political elite during a military regime, particularly when he is involved in the authoritative allocation of state resources (Varma, 2006). The implication of the above is that because elitist classifications are not mutually exclusive, it means that the political elites may easily rely on other elitist class to elicit support for the gaining power. In Nigeria, this is evident in the context of traditional rulers manipulating support for political candidates or bureaucratic leaders controlling the electoral process in order to retain their jobs.” In addition, political elite aspiring to elective offices used money on many occasions to purchase votes and influence election results (Ayoade, 2008). “Partisan thugs and hooligans are often recruited to destroy and snatch ballot boxes to cause chaos during elections. Dudley (cited in Obah-Akpowoghaha, 2013) views instability in Nigeria as a consequence of the elite’s constitutional impropriety.”

### **The Electoral Reform**

Elections are very essential ingredient of democracy. They also reinforce the citizens’ democratic rights to choose their leaders and in turn contribute to the policy process. Elections over the years in Nigeria have been marred by violence and massive rigging in which the candidates contesting for political posts, their parties and the Election Management Bodies collaborate in this nefarious act. Nigerians at home and in Diaspora as well as foreign governments and international organizations have called on Nigeria to make stringent reforms on her electoral system in order to curb this ugly trend. Unfortunately, former President Obasanjo could not effect this reform. However, late President Umaru Musa Yar’Adua took the bull by the horns when he stated before Nigerians that the general election that brought him into the presidential seat in 2007 was marred with fraud. This declaration was followed

by his setting up of a panel headed by former Chief Justice of the Federation, Mohammed Lawal Uwais to advise the government on ways to strengthen the country's electoral processes. Yar'Adua could not implement the recommendations of the panel as a result of ill and his subsequent tragic death. However, the Goodluck Jonathan administration that succeeded Yar'Adua's government eventually continued the reform process and began implementing parts of the reform, which led to some improvements in the conduct of the 2011 general elections.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) was established by section 153 of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution. Its responsibility includes among others organizing referendums and elections for president, vice president, state governors and deputy governors, and the Nigerian Senate and House of Representatives. The reform of INEC and the electoral system in Nigeria kicked off in the run-up to the 2011 general elections under the leadership of Professor Attahiru Jega, who was also a member of the Uwais Panel. Part of the reform initiatives taken by INEC included the open and transparent review of the voter register and the formalization of the appointment of ad hoc staff through a memorandum of understanding with the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC). With this, the INEC revised its procedures for the recruitment, training, retraining and deployment of regular and ad hoc staff. For the elections, it adopted a remodified open secret ballot system and deployed a direct data capture machine in each polling station (INEC, 2012: v in IDEA, 2015: 62).

It also ensured the adoption of new security measures for protecting ballot papers and ballot boxes, such as colour-coding and serial numbering. New result collation and transition systems were also adopted, while it developed a revised framework for the collation and return of results (IDEA, 2015). This effort, of course had great positive impact on the 2011 general elections as the elections became more transparent and credible with less post electoral litigations. The reform however continued after the 2011 elections in preparation for the 2015 general elections. INEC first took stock of events that transpired during the 2011 elections. It went further to use that to plan for the 2015 elections ensuring that the mistakes of the 2011

elections are corrected. This was finally followed by the execution of the plan in 2015 elections.

First, INEC inaugurated in August 2011, a committee of experts on election issues, named the Registration and Election Review Committee (RERC) which came out with several guidelines and recommendations for proper conduct of future elections. The planning phase was conducted in the form of retreats, brainstorming sessions and workshops, and it took place horizontally and vertically within the institution, as well as among stakeholders in the electoral process. This process led to the articulation of a strategic plan (INEC, 2012 in IDEA, 2015). It embarked on the internal reorganization, rationalization and consolidation of its departments from twenty-six to nine (Punch, 2013a in IDEA, 2015). The commission recruited one thousand five hundred (1,500) new staff in 2012 (Vanguard, 2013) and embarked on aggressive training for its existing personnel, including BRIDGE training for its staff in collaboration with the EU, International IDEA and the UN Development Programme's (UNDP's), Democratic Governance for Development (DGD) Programme (IDEA, 2015).

The implementation phase included update of the voter's register, education of voters, developing biometric- chip-based permanent voter card, introduction of card readers for verification of the cards, capture of voters' fingerprint and photograph. Also, according to the Senior Special Adviser to the President on National Assembly Matters, Babajide Omowore, the National Assembly on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January, 2022 amended and passed electoral bill to allow parties adopt direct or indirect primaries or consensus as procedures for selecting candidates for elective offices and transmitted same to President Muhammadu Buhari for assent after Mr. President had withheld assent to the Electoral Bill 2021 transmitted to him on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2021. These measures were taken to prevent all sorts of malpractices that had taken place in past elections.



**APC and PDP: ‘Speed Boat’ versus ‘Gun Boat’ Approaches:**

**APC and the Speed Boat Mentality:**

The All Progressives Congress Party (APC) was formed in February 2013, as a result of an alliance by Nigeria's four biggest opposition parties - the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN), the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC), the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), and a faction of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) - merged to take on the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). The resolution was signed by Tom Ikimi, who represented the ACN (Action Congress of Nigeria); Senator Annie Okonkwo on behalf of the APGA (All Progressives Grand Alliance); former governor of Kano State, Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau, the Chairman of ANPP's Merger Committee; and Garba Sadi, the Chairman of CPC's (Congress for Progressive Change) Merger Committee. It must be stated, however, that the APC was formed in anticipation of the 2015 general elections in Nigeria. The aim of the founders was to form a formidable opposition party that will compete strongly with the PDP which was the ruling party and the only seemingly political party in the country even though the country operated a multi-party system.

The majority of the APC's base of political support is in south-western Nigeria and the Northern Nigeria, which are dominated by the country's largest ethnic groups, the Yoruba and the Hausa-Fulani, respectively. Following from its composition, the APC is generally considered to be a center-left political party that favours controlled market or regulated market economic policies, and a strong and active role for government regulation. A substantial number of its political leaders are followers of or politicians who subscribe to the social democratic political philosophy of Obafemi Awolowo and the socialist and anti-class views of Aminu Kano. Despite the party's domination by pro-devolution politicians like Atiku Abubakar, Bola Tinubu and Chief Akande, the party's presidential bearer and the CPC wing is less inclined to federalism and this basic tension is somewhat of ideological strange bed fellows accommodated in context of desire to win and combine forces in the 2015 election cycle.

On the Speedboat mentality of the APC, let us first explain what we mean by speedboat. The idea of the speedboat as used here is derived from the speedboat used by sea travelers and even pirates which runs at a very high speed when compared to a ship or canoe. The former President of the United States of America, Obama (2009) in a press conference capping his first one hundred days in office, remarked that the “‘ship of state’ is an ocean liner, not a speedboat,” and that even a small shift in direction could have far-reaching consequences even a decade or two later (Li and Lee, 2009). Again, speaking on the Hungarian economy, Viktor Orban, the Hungarian Prime Minister insisted that the Hungarian economy is a “speedboat” that is unlike one of the “sluggish European Union cruisers” (Policy Solutions, 2011). The picture painted here by Orban is a comparison between a fast-moving economy depicted by ‘speedboat’ and a slow-moving economy depicted by ‘Union cruisers’. The same analogy applies to the speech made by Barack Obama as stated above.

Applying the speedboat as a theoretical model, we intend to use this to portray the mentality and attitude of the APC as a political party and its members which contributed to their success in the 2015 general elections. Unlike the PDP that believed in the power of coercion, intimidation and disregard for the electorates, the APC went down the grassroots without leaving any stone unturned. They embarked on the political campaigns with full force of all the strategies and arsenal in their possession, singing the message of ‘change’ in the ears of the electorates in Nigeria without wavering. Thus, the electorates saw the determination in them to win the election and to bring about the desired change. Though the electorates were skeptical of the ability of the party to deliver the change based on the antecedents of the key actors in the party. The approach and determination of the party made the electorates vote massively for the party and thereby giving them the votes that swept the PDP off its feet in the 2015 general elections.

### **PDP: The Tragedy of Gunboat Mentality**

The use of the term ‘gunboat’ in the gunboat mentality model derives from ‘gunboat diplomacy’ which refers to the pursuit of foreign policy objectives with the aid of heavy

display of military power implying or constituting a direct threat of warfare if the terms of a negotiation become unacceptable to the superior force. Gunboat diplomacy derives from the period of colonial imperialism where the European powers used the display of their superior military power to intimidate other states in trade negotiations. A country negotiating with a European power would notice that a warship has appeared off its coast.

The mere sight of such power usually had a considerable effect and it was rarely necessary for such boats to use other measures such as demonstrations of cannon fire. Cable (1971) spelt out the nature of gunboat diplomacy defining it as “the use or threat of limited naval force, otherwise than an act of war, in order to secure advantage or to avert loss, either in the furtherance of an international dispute or else against foreign nationals within the territory or the jurisdiction of their own state.” A character of gunboat diplomacy is its reliance on coercion.

### **An Overview: PDP and APC**

As earlier mentioned on the elements of democracy, it is therefore pertinent to observe that the Nigerian media and general speeches of the state often focus on the assertion that Nigeria is “consolidating its democracy”.

It is true that APC did not present any strong ideological manifesto that is patently different from what PDP had to offer; neither did the PDP ab initio but what is happening currently in the country under APC is pregnant and is nursing a baby at the same time! Both parties promised the good life not on any sound economic or political framework. The APC vowed to fight corruption to a standstill and exterminate the vermin, that is Boko Haram. For corruption had become an industry which fed on itself and which had become institutionalised. President Muhammadu Buhari made it clear that “If we do not kill corruption, corruption will kill Nigeria” ChannelsTv (2020).

After twenty-two years of uninterrupted thriving of democracy, governance and inability to manage conflict in Nigeria under the steer of the People’s Democratic Party (PDP) and (APC), in the Fourth Republic (1999-2021), Nigerians witnessed an unexpected but

desired change of political party at the centre of governance with the victory of the All Progressive Congress (APC) in the 2015 and 2019 general elections. The issues of democracy, conflict resolution and good governance in Nigeria have continued to attract the attention of scholars and researchers both local and international (Ogbeide, 2011; Nyewusira and Nweke, 2012). Scholars and analysts have been preoccupied with finding measures for achieving consolidated democracy in the Nigeria political space since 1999. One of the major factors in this search has been the ability to structure the electoral process to allow power to alternate between the ruling party and the opposition parties peacefully (Nwanegbo and Alumona, 2011). Thus, research works have appraised the democratization process in Nigeria since 1999 and focused on several issues like good governance like the way it was practiced in developed countries, conflict resolution skills to manage internal conflict and appraisal of Democratization Process in the Fourth Republic (Nyewusira and Nweke, 2012) and others.

Internal democracy within any political party has significant role to play as far as good governance and representation are concern. Internal party activities such as membership, recruitment, socialization, training, discipline and resources of the party have profound influence on good governance because political parties serve as an avenue through which political leaders emerge. When political parties are weak and ineffective, politics is reduced to unbridled opportunity and self-serving interest of individual politicians who may derail nation-building process and democratic project (Omilusi, 2016). That the main culprits of intra-party conflict are godfathers and “moneybags”. That these godfathers or “moneybags” have made it hard for any candidate who is not in their good book to emerge.

Both PDP and APC as political parties seem to have abandoned their traditional roles in a democracy, thereby constituting more of a clog in the wheel of this system. According to Momoh (2010), the lack of political education of citizens, lack of regular party congress even at the grass root, nonfulfillment of financial obligation consistently by members have led to the hijack of different political party by “moneybags” who do everything within their whims and caprices to produce their individual political outcome rather than the overall party

outcome. This behaviour manifests in almost all the political parties in Nigeria and has a negative consequence to good governance in the country.

Since the return of democratic rule in 1999, Nigeria has witnessed series of political challenges such as imposition of candidates on party members by their godfathers, no defined ideology which a party is known for and no clearly spelled out manifestoes, “moneybag” politics, anti-party activities by members, and so on (Abimbola and Adesole, 2012). The absence of internal democracy in both the PDP and APC, as the two major political parties in Nigeria constitutes threat to good governance in the country. Intra-party struggle/conflict diverts the energy and the attention of government from making policies and taking actions that will improve the living conditions of the people since they are busy trying to resolve the crisis generated within the party and finding ways to calm tempers of the aggrieved members. What really happens is that government will lose control and the confidence of the people of Nigeria. This situation has no doubt affected the delivery of good governance to Nigerians, and bad governance is reflected in all aspect of the Nigerian socio-economic and political sectors.

According to Bassey (2015), Nigeria has a problem of visionary leadership to harness the country’s human and material resources for the benefit of every Nigerian. By this, one can attribute the country’s bad governance to the manner in which our leaders emerged; they came to power through faulty processes; such as imposition, manipulation and rigging of election, money politics and so on. Good governance could only flourish where leaders emerged through democratic processes right at the party level (internal democracy) to the inter-party elections.

Bishop Mathew Kukah cited in Bassey (2015):

How do we explain the fact that after over 62 years, we are unable to generate and distribute electricity, supply water to our people, reverse the ugly and avoidably high infant mortality, set up and run an effective educational system, agree on rules of engagement for getting into power, reverse the circle of violence that attends our elections, contain corruption, instil national discipline and create more humane and caring society? Bassey (2015).

The process and quality of policy formulation and implementation are critical elements in determining the level of engagement of the population and measuring the quality of governance of the society (Natufe, 2006). The degree of citizens' participation in this process is determined by the level of their education and political consciousness, as well as on the access to political elites and effective communication. This goes a long way to portray the nature of democratic governance in that state. Irrespective of the impact of donor agencies on policies and their contributions to policy failures, the success of good governance in any country depends largely on the leadership skills of the elected leaders and their attitude towards democratic practice. Any lover of democracy who lives in Nigeria is aware of the nature of governance in the country since 1999.

Though Nigeria has often been acclaimed one of the fast-developing economies, but the effect of these have not been felt by Nigerians as the standard of living has continued to deteriorate since 1999. The unemployment rate has continued to skyrocket by the day; high crime rate, and corruption by those entrusted with governance has been the order of the day to the disenchantment of Nigerians. For instance, unemployment has risen from 11.9% in 2005 to 24.90% in 2012 (Alumona and Odigbo, 2015). Politics in Nigeria has been designated as a dirty game as a result of the activities of politicians in their quest for the capture and control of the state. Terrorism, kidnapping and other forms of violent crimes have continued to grace the front pages of the Nigerian newspapers and magazines and also formed news headlines.

Politically motivated assassinations have been very rampant over the years, inter-party war or words and fight between party supporters has been very disturbing to the average Nigerian. For example, former Governorship candidates in Lagos, Ekiti, and Plateau states were assassinated between June and September 2006. Between July and October, 2021, a quite number of killings and destructions of property been carried out in Anambra State because of perceived November, 6 2021 Gubernatorial election. According to Governor Willie Obiano (in Vanguard 2021), "Ten (10) people had been murdered by gunmen within a few days prior to this dastardly act. Coming at this onset of preparations for the annual homecoming of the

Igbo people who live all over the country and in the diaspora, the mounting insecurity in the South – East due to free – roaming gunmen must be halted and investigated”.

Governance development is evaluated by the extent to which there are improvements and sustainable development on issues such as security of life and property, poverty level, accountability, transparency and corruption, party and electoral systems, rule of law, leadership, human rights, gender, political participation and both APC and PDP government lacks governance development, to the extent that security of life and property has been placed on politics and that is why the issues of kidnapping, Banditry, Unknown Gunmen, Fulani herdsmen and Boko-Haram has become commonplace on news on daily basis. The combined effect of these issues, which in several ways affect human security and social justice in any society, also makes them the cardinal points of the United Nations’ adopted Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that commenced in 2015, 15 years after the pronouncement of the MDGs scheme

### **Conclusion**

The paper discussed the nature and character of democracy and conflict resolution as it affects good governance in Nigeria. In ability to manage conflict in the country is a great distress to good governance. Therefore, the undemocratic posture of the party primaries in Nigeria goes a long way in creating and recreating itself endlessly not only in the security politics but in the insecurities politics which no doubt culminated in challenges to good governance in the country.

An inclusive democratic process is urgently needed to foster good governance and sustainable development, the paper therefore recommended as follows:

- i. Transparent and credible party primaries should be encouraged and argued that when such is done it will be reflected at the national level, with this reflection, democratic culture will be developed among citizens and good governance will be in place. Political parties should be guided by a given ideological basis upon which any member that wants to join such political parties should be aware and guided. This will guide the

party from the hands of power-hungry elites that may use the political party for their own interest.

- ii. Members who are contesting as flag bearers of their different political parties should be allowed and given a democratic atmosphere to do so without intimidation by “money bag’ or “godfathers” in the party. There should not be any imposition of “favoured” candidates on the party members. When these are done, it will go a long way in enhancing good governance in Nigeria. Political parties should be guided by the constitution of the country, electoral act and the electoral body. Finally, political parties have structures and they should not allow the influence of the elites to contradict these structures as erring members should be properly disciplined.

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