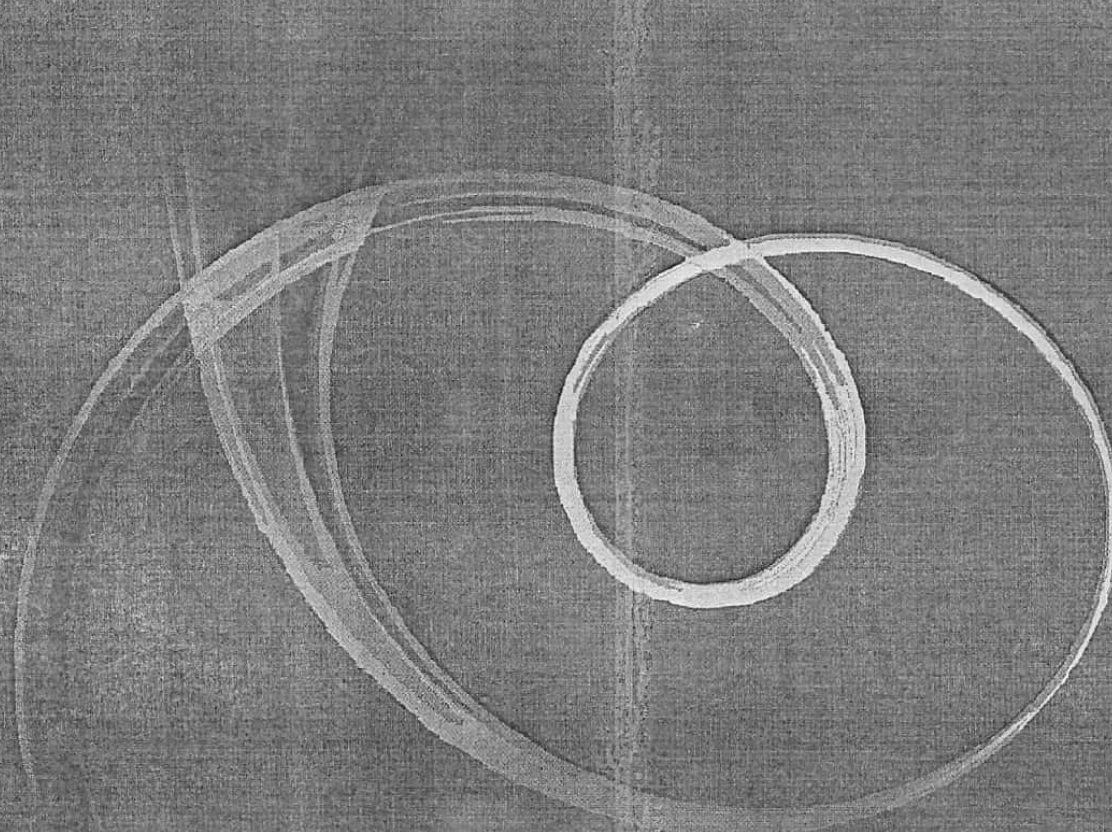


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## **Electioneering Process in Africa: Issues and Challenges for Sustainable Development on the Continent**

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### **Abstract**

*The last decade of the 19th century witnessed the enthronement of civil rule and democratic governance across the African continent after many years of military regimes. The defunct military era promoted dictatorship and autocratic governance that prevented the involvement of the people in the administration of the states across African continent. With waving growth of democratic governance in the last leg of the century, electioneering process became controversial and susceptible to violence which can be traceable to selfishness of political actors and sits tight syndrome of leaders across party lines which has birth hiccups in electioneering process. This has greatly impacted negatively on the enthronement of sustainable democratic governance in Africa. Relying on secondary data with empirical analysis, the paper averred that the alien nature of democracy to the continent make both the electorates, political parties officials and African leaders to form the fulcrum of electioneering process and lacks good electoral behaviors that become an impediment to successful electioneering process in the continent. The paper recommends among others that both the electorates and party actors should change their socio-political attitudes and imbibe good electioneering spirit towards having democratic sustainability across African states.*

**Keywords:** Electioneering Process, Free and Fair Election, Democracy, Challenges

### **Introduction**

Across the continent of Africa and most importantly in post independent Africa era, virtually all the countries have experienced challenges in electioneering and democratization process. The continent of Africa is currently faced with serious crisis in the entrenchment of democracy and democratic practices. According to Okoli (2008), the post-independence democratic states in Africa are characterized by varying issues such as a single party state, military rule, authoritarian regime and dictatorship government while democratization processes was fraught with many political predicaments. From West Africa to the North of the continent, to the Central Africa to Southern part, almost all the member nations have gone through one political turmoil or the other with invaluable loss of human lives and material resources.



However, with the end of military rule across the Africa continent around the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the birth of democratic practices and had become an emerging phenomenon across the continent while vast majority of the defunct military regimes were averse to the enthronement of democracy in their various states thus the continent continued to wax in poverty and underdevelopment. Omotola (2006) suggests that democratization has been a major challenge to the continent after the military rule that reigned for some decades and this has resulted into complex political violence, intra ethnic conflicts, military coups, political tension and instability. In the process, majority of African countries have made attempt to democratize their governance though in reluctant manner, while others have decided to pretend to democratize in order to associate with current global demand.

In the recent time, nations across the continent of Africa have demonstrated the capability and readiness to be reckoned with in the comity of democratized continent of the world especially as seen in most first world countries of Europe where there is relative guarantee of fundamental human rights of citizens, freedom of expression and guarantee of basic human needs such as shelter and food. According to George (2016) Ghana, Benin Republic, Bostwana and Cape Verde have conducted free, fair and credible elections in recent years which were devoid of major violence. In Nigeria, the decision of Former President Goodluck Jonathan to congratulate his major opponent in the 2015 presidential election signaled positive electioneering process in the continent. With this development, it can be therefore suggested that Africa can still go far on this note of positive democratic and electioneering processes. However, the success of those countries cannot serve as determinant to how successful Africa continent in its democratization efforts because majority of the member states of the continent are yet to come to term with sustainable and acceptable electioneering process in the course of conduct of election in their respective states (George, 2016).

To Jinadu (1997), the problem of electioneering process and its administration in Africa can be traced to the fragile and stunted character of the electoral machinery inherited at independence. Much of it was rudimentary and ad hoc, based on a narrow and restrictive franchise in order to ensure succession favourable to the colonial regimes, although this objective was not always achieved. The inherited electoral administration was in effect easy prey to manipulation and, in many cases, to outright control by the successor regimes to colonial rule, who, in their bid to retain power by all means and to monopolize the political market-place, saw no reason to develop strong, independent electoral administrations that would only serve to undermine or subvert their hegemonic drive and in this way, electioneering processes and their administration was politicized.

In countries where the military took over power, electoral bodies were simply manipulated or dissolved and electoral administration thrown overboard. There is the need to conduct research on the problems and challenges confronting African democratization process. The problem of electoral administration in Africa, against this background of the departure from competitive liberal democratic politics, is therefore imperative to focus on the conditions under which electioneering process



can and be what it should be, in order to ensure that elections promote democratic sustainability in Africa.

It is in the light of this background that this article examines those associated issues hindering sustainable democratization and electioneering process in Africa and how it affects the manifestation of peoples' interest while electing their leaders to public offices by x-raying how African democratization trajectory brings out issues and challenges encountered in the course of conducting credible elections in the continent. The article also aims to situate the issues undermining democratization project across the continent of Africa and how these challenges could be overcome in order to achieve sustainable electioneering process in the continent.

### **Conceptualization of Election and Electioneering Process**

In some literature, an election is a formal group decision-making process by which a population chooses an individual to hold public office for specific period of time. Therefore, an election is a process of filling vacancies that exist in public offices in the legislature, and to the executive arm of government at the central, regional, and local levels.

In a democratic state, Anifowoshe (2007) has rightly observed that the right to vote is the main way citizens influence decisions about how their country is being governed. Citizens get their chance when the government decides to hold an election. To win an election, politicians have to persuade people to support them. Each political party needs to develop a manifesto (plan of action), explaining what they would do if they were elected. Citizens make their choice in secret by marking a ballot paper and putting this into a ballot box that is not opened until after polling (casting of votes) has ended. Voters have to decide whether they agree with the manifestos and promises and whether the politicians can be trusted to keep them if they get into power (Anifowoshe, 2007).

However, the purpose of elections as a tool for selecting political leaders and electing representatives in modern representative democracies which is in contrast with the traditional system of government in place during pre-colonial Africa. According to Gabrielle and Gardon (2012), election is a concept that involves the process of retaining, changing and transferring leadership position in a democratic society. The concept is however alien to the African continent that recently embraced democratic governance after long year of military rule. Most member state of this continent were traditionally undemocratic and have been reinforced on this belief by the cold war era between United States of America (USA) and defunct United Socialist Soviet Republic (USSR) which has promoted authoritarian, autocratic and dictatorship regimes in the continent.

Electioneering is not synonymous with election only. To Diamond (2007), election is an aspect of electioneering process that entails process of party formation, party politics, establishment and constitution of independent electoral body that should conduct of free, fair and credible election and institutionalization of unbiased electoral tribunal. Electioneering covers pre-election, election and post-election period of governance and democracy. It is the hall mark of democracy which if not

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constructively managed can lead to political tension and creating chaotic, conflictual and violence condition that can be instrumental to a destructive democracy. It can also become threat to social order, economy development and regional integration as reflected in the African democracy.

In another development, Lamamra (2010), avers that the centrality of electioneering process is the survival of democracy in Africa and its negative consequences are the means and mechanisms by which people make choices about who should represent and lead them in governance. Elections are the instruments that can facilitate changes in leadership from one party to another in a way that is structured, competitive, transparent, and within a legal framework. In such a process, tension is inevitable and perhaps desirable to the extent that it can bring out the best of the contending parties or individuals; but it can also bring out the worst. Elections can fuel violence in situations where contestants do not follow the rules or accept the election outcome as the legitimate expression of the will of the citizenry.

In modern democracy, election is the only major and all-embracing means to express people or public choice on the emergence of candidates that will occupy public offices. It is a great marker on the milestone of democratic sustainability. In Africa, electioneering has been conducted with mixed records of success and near-failure because of the actions and inactions of desperate politician who wants to emerge against the wish of the electorate Mansfield (2004), because the process that supposed to build and enhance established democratic tenets has remained abated as a result of over ambition of politician and the desires of African leaders to remain in power and its resistance by the opposition which always resulted to violence. Despite series of reforms initiated globally to improve the conduct and process of election, such as appointment of international observers and fairly Independent electoral bodies, African continent still witnessed pockets of anti-democratic actions that has reduced the development of elections.

### **Electioneering and Democratic Process in some African Countries: Appraisal**

The third wave of democratization that hit different parts of the world at different times and most importantly its influence on the emergence of democracy in Africa in the early 1990s that lead to the dismantling of military rule and other practices that negate the participation of the people in the affairs of their respective states (starting with Benin Republic in 1991) and subsequently other states across the continent and specifically 1999 in Nigeria. This period saw the re-introduction of election in the continent as a major pointer to the restoration of civil rule after years of military and authoritarian dictatorship.

Military rule have been successful fought and defeated by the people through internal struggles by civil societies and in some other instances through collaboration with the international community and it has been settled that never again will martial rule be accepted across the continent. Accordingly, the democratic waves blowing globally have made African people to embrace democracy as form of government as against the dictatorial governance under military regime. With democratic enthronement in Africa, all democratic mandates and legitimacy for leadership have



been given to individuals and political parties through the ballot box. All of these were driven in part by the conviction of the African civil society that a plural democratic society can greatly contribute to the promotion and attainment of good governance (Tsav, 2016).

But decades after, this renewed hope of instituting democratic practices have been dashed, given series of developments from different countries on account of elections and its outcomes have combined to continue to dash these hopes. Furthermore, experiences from Somalia, Zimbabwe, Kenya and now Cote d'Ivoire show that developments from electoral conducts and outcomes are posing strong and real threats to democracy, peace and stability within the countries in particular and Africa in general. George (2016) alluded to the fact that democracy is both expression and expansion of man's freedom and has over time become synonymous with man's progress. In most African countries, recent political development suggests that elections appear to be only an expedient political exercise for ruling regimes.

Characteristically, election in Africa has been accompanied with irregularities such as lack of internal party democracy, transparency, insufficient financial backing and sponsorship by god-fathers, poor-voters education, improper and lack of adequate training of electoral officers. To Makinwa (2015), all these, combined together have resulted into violence before and after election and this has grave consequences on the nascent and fledgling democracy of some countries in the continent.

Although, in some African countries, democratization is being achieved and relative sustainable development is being noticed. It is in this direction that Gabrielle and Gadon (2012) succinctly captured election cycle in Africa when they observed that before 1989, only Botswana and Mauritius had regular multi-parties base elections, but towards the end 2000s almost all countries in the continent held elections with aims of perpetuating the ruling elites in power which was rejected by the opposition and consequently resulted in violence and political unrest in the polity (Bakare, Suru and Ibrahim, 2014).

In the past two decades, the general political trend in Africa has been toward greater accountability of political leaders, whose domestic legitimacy is largely linked to the means through which they attain and maintain power. Alike (2017) believed that still yet progress has been uneven while elections have facilitated the emergence of democratic governments in Benin, Cape Verde, Ghana, Mali, Senegal, and South Africa. Following autocratic regimes and protracted civil wars, more stable societies have emerged in Nigeria, Guinea, Liberia, Niger, and Sierra Leone. In some cases, however, elections have been manipulated to legitimate autocratic regimes or to ensure dynastic successions in Africa which have collectively led to deaths and displacement of the people in the continent.

### **Challenges of Electioneering Process in Africa: Empirical Studies of Selected Countries in the Continent Nigeria**

In Nigeria, the challenges in electioneering process witnessed since 2003 general elections portend danger to democratic governance in the country and African continent at large. This observation was noted based on several cases of politically



motivated killings and various degrees of electoral violence unleashed on Nigerians in many part of the country. In some parts of Benue state, (Tsav, 2016) opined that 2007 elections were the worst elections in terms of organization and the aftermath of violence. During the 2007 elections, the PDP-led government deployed the Armed forces and other para-military services to presumably rig the election with the purpose to win the election. The Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC, 2007) noted that the 2007 elections marked a watershed in Nigeria's political history as the first successful civilian to civilian transition to civil rule amidst its endless shortcoming which was echoed by the Late President, Musa Yar'Adua.

But notwithstanding the historical context, the 2007 polls was marred by electoral malpractices, including political assassinations, snatching of ballot boxes and falsification of results at collation center. The repercussions of this scenario resulted to wanton destruction of lives and property in the affected states across Nigeria. The elections were severely criticized by virtually all election observer groups both domestic and foreign groups who monitored and observed the general elections (Nnanta, 2008).

To consolidate on the failure of good electioneering process of 2007, the 2011 elections were also poorly organized and conducted by electoral umpire. Bamgbose (2012) observed that the parties' political manifestoes were neither based on ideology nor any lofty ideals. Very corrupt politicians forced their way through their party primaries and became flag-bearers of their parties, thereby creating wave of crisis throughout the country. In Ondo state for example, 3 people were shot dead in clashes between supporters of Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) Labour Party (LP). The declaration of presidential election results by Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in favour of the then sitting President, Goodluck Jonathan however ushered in Nigeria another epoch of post-election violence in Northern part of the country (Bamgbose, 2012).

It was reported that explosive devices were detonated in public offices, places of worships, government properties were vandalized with grave evidences of accompanying electioneering crisis with wanton loss of lives, government and private properties. However, 2015 general elections did not witness any violence to some extent Therefore, the spate of killings and destruction of property points to one of the de-democratizing tendencies in Nigeria.

## Kenya

The 2007 general election in Kenya can be regarded to have be accompanied by both political and economic crisis occasioned as a result of declaration of former President Mwai Kibaki as winner of the presidential election held on December 27, 2007. Supporters of Kibaki's main opponent, Raila Odinga of the Orange Democratic Movement, alleged electoral manipulation. This was widely confirmed by international observers as being perpetrated by both parties in the election.

According to Joseph (2007) the ethnic and geographic diversity of Kenyan politics made it impossible for anyone to narrate and explain the reaction of opposition supporters to the announcement of Kibaki's swearing-in, which was done



on December 30, 2007. Some citizens claimed the election was rigged in favour of President Mwai Kibaki in the 2007 presidential election led to violent protests and rampage killing by the opposition members led by Raila Odinga. Joseph (2007) maintained that Odinga encouraged his supporters to engage in mass protests which he announced on local television and radio stations, most noticeably in Mombasa, Eldoret, Kericho, Kiasumu, Nakuru and parts of Nairobi.

To Mazrui (2008) the Kenyan police shot hundreds of violent demonstrators, including a few in front of TV news cameras, causing more violence. Targeted ethnic violence (as opposed to violent protests) escalated and at first was directed mainly against Kikuyu people the community of which Kibaki is a member. The violence started with the murder of over 50 unarmed Kikuyu women and children, some as young as a month old, by locking them in a church and burning them alive. This prompted the Kikuyu to start defending themselves which forced the Luos and Kalenjins to stop the killings of the Kikuyus.

The violence continued sporadically for several months, particularly in the Rift Valley which accounted for thousands of people displaced and killed in the electioneering crisis in the country. Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan arrived in the country about a month after the election and successfully brought the two sides to the negotiating table. On February 28, 2008, Kibaki and Odinga signed a power-sharing agreement called the National Accord and Reconciliation Act 2008, which established the office of the Prime Minister and created a coalition government (Mazrui, 2008).

### **The Gambia**

A constitutional crisis in the Gambia started after the presidential election on 1 December 2016, and ended with the former president Yaya Jammeh initially conceded the defeat and accepted the surprising victory of opposition candidate Adama Barrow, but later rejected the election results and called for annulment of the result which was declared free, fair and credible by international observers.

According to Ceesay (2017), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) delegates led by President Muhammad Buhari of Nigeria made series of appeal to Yaya Jammeh but failed to persuade him to step down. This made the ECOWAS leaders to opt for forceful removal of President Jammeh when he initially failed to surrender power to Adama Barrow. This act as averred by Ceesay (2017) led to series of violence from Barrow supporters and all public institutions and private properties were destroyed and many citizens migrated to neighboring West African countries for the fear of being attacked in the violence.

On the 1st and 2nd January, 2017, it was reported that three private radio stations, Taranga FM, Hilltop Radio, and Afri Radio, were shut down under the orders from the National Intelligence Agency (NIA). On the 3rd January 2017, it was reported that Alieu Momar Njai, the head of the electoral commission went to into hiding due to concerns about his safety and to prevent him from compromising his decision to announce the true winner of the presidential election (Ceesay, 2017).



Also, Alike (2017), corroborated Ceasay's view by, that the Gambian National Assembly instead of align with the masses, approved a state of emergency along with a resolution denouncing foreign interference and an extension of its own term, due to end in April 2017 by three months so that the Jammeh's regime can be illegally extended in order to re-strategy's for another term in office despite his defeat by the opposition leader, Adama Barrow. Eventually the compromised parliament then approved the extension and was later reversed shortly after Adama Barrow's inauguration (Alike, 2017).

### **Zimbabwe**

In Zimbabwe, prior to the run-off presidential election in June 2008, the security services and ZANU-PF militia unleashed a campaign of intimidation, torture and murder against opposition activists, journalists, polling agents, public servants, civic leaders and ordinary citizens suspected of voting for the opposition party, Movement for Democratic Change (MDC).

According to Gabrielle and Gardon (2012), the violence came to a climax when, after losing the March 2008 presidential election, President Mugabe carried out widespread state-sponsored violence and terror in the country against opposition. Human rights violations, including torture, beatings, mutilations, and rapes were perpetrated against leaders and supporters of the opposition but after Mugabe won the shameful June 2008 runoff election, routine arbitrary arrest, detentions and enforcement of discipline on the innocent opposition continued, as the ZANU-PF used "repression to back its dubious claim to power." Zimbabwe entered a state of violent political crisis in the aftermath of the presidential election held in two rounds on March 29 and June 27, 2008.

Gabrielle and Gardon (2012) averred further that President Robert Mugabe led a campaign of terror against the opposition party, Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) and its supporters in the lead up to the election. State-sponsored violence resulted in massive human rights violations, including rape, torture, and forced disappearance. Despite winning the June election, President Mugabe continued to implement brutal attacks against the political opposition. Responses and intervention by the United Nations and the African Union failed to address the crisis that almost led to the collapse of the country.

Civil society groups, such as Human Rights Watch and International Crisis Group, swiftly responded and condemned the repression and human rights abuses of the government. Despite the establishment of a Unity Government through the signing of the Global Political Agreement, the situation remained dangerous as political reforms were not implemented and Mugabe's party, the Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) continued to engage in political violence.

To Makinwa (2015), Zimbabwe government committed many acts of violence against thousands of civilians, targeting primarily political opponents and aid workers. Human rights violations included imprisonment, enforced disappearance, murder, torture, and rape.



Makinwa (2015) believed that the land seizure policy transferred thriving farmland from competent farmers to Mugabe supporters, simultaneously displacing over one million civilians and allowing the farms to fail. This also resulted in a resource crisis, leaving much of the country without welfare, food, or the ability to afford healthcare. A widespread emigration of medical personnel from the country, failure of sanitation infrastructure, and near universal poverty fueled an increase in mortality and disease.

Civil society groups immediately and strongly condemned the violence, and some began discussing whether the crisis threatened the corporate existence of both parties in the country. On 21 April 2008, a coalition of 105 representatives from civil society, including human rights activists, faith-based groups, and students in Africa wrote a communiqué called for a concerned and effective response by the international community to guarantee effective aid delivery and livelihoods to the Zimbabwean people. Activists within Zimbabwe also denounced Mugabe's rule, at great personal risk, and disseminated information on how pronounced the crisis was.

#### Cote d'Ivoire

According to Almami (2014), the Cote d'Ivoire November 28, 2010, presidential runoff election in the country resulted to violence where many lives were lost and thousands of people displaced because of decision of the country Independent Electoral Commission which renounced its earlier announcement of Alassane Ouattara the winner of the election with 54.1 percent of the vote, over Laurent Gbagbo, the sitting president, who received 45.9 percent of the vote.

However, the Constitutional Council annulled results in 13 constituencies, alleging fraud, and proclaimed Gbagbo the winner, with 51.4 percent of the vote; Ouattara was given 48.5 percent. Both Ouattara and Gbagbo were sworn in as president by their supporters. Thus, Cote d'Ivoire with two Presidents later embroiled in a delicate political crisis. The quick intervention of regional block, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union (AU) and other International Organizations forced Gbagbo out of power and Ouattara was later recognized as president-elect and later inaugurated as Ivorian president (Almami, 2014).

#### Causes of Electioneering Violence and Crises in Africa

Various scholars have identified some major causes of electioneering violence in Africa. It includes:

- **General Attitude of Politicians and African Leaders to remain in Power:** The general attitude of politician and some African leaders to remain in power have traced to be the foundation of political crisis and violence in Africa. Election has increasingly become a do-or-die situation with politicians and African leaders using all means including unfair tactics to capture and remain in power. The electioneering languages are increasingly becoming inciting and violent with less restraints and consideration. There is the notion that election is war and only the winner is a good strategist. Those

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who lose are left to rue their losses and are treated as enemies of the government and the state. There is also the culture of not accepting defeat. Almost all elections contested on the continent have been disputed by the opposition and those who lost the votes. And rather than working together to move the country forward after elections, precious time and resources are wasted by candidates and parties undermining each other and further dividing their supporters and the general citizenry (Godwin, 2016).

- **Weak Electoral Institutions and Legislation:** This is another cause of crisis during electioneering process in African continent. For instance, electioneering issue in Cote d'Ivoire in 2010 alluded to this fact. The Ivoirian situation where the election rules were not explicitly spelt out and the electoral body not effectively empowered. For instance, the rules were ambiguous in terms of the roles of the electoral body, the constitutional court and even that of the UN observer body. Politicians are quick to catch in on these lapses, which they cannot be absolved of helping to create in the first place (Almami, 2014).
- **Electoral Petition Tribunal:** To Makinwa (2015), the cost of litigation and non independent electoral petition tribunal has been signaled as the causes of electioneering crisis in Africa. For example, the resort to the election petition tribunals and courts, in the Nigerian case has raised more questions than answers because of the high cost of litigation and bias nature of the tribunal to the opposition led to decision of the opposition to call for violent in order to retrieve their alleged stolen mandate in Nigeria and other African states.
- **Power Sharing Principle:** Also, Almami (2014) believed that attempt by the African opposition candidates to claim electoral fraud and irregularities in every presidential election in some African countries during post military regimes made the African Leaders to called for the principle of power sharing among contestants in Guinea, Togo, Sudan, Kenya, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Comoros, Tanzania, and Rwanda where there were electoral violent in 2010. Historically, in many cases of electoral fraud, the challenger urges demonstrations or refuses to recognize the results and this necessitated the call for mediator which resulted to power sharing policy aimed to stop the violence and address some of its underlying causes but experiences from power sharing arrangements in Zimbabwe and Kenya have left much to be desired.

#### **Electoral Process in Africa: Implications on Democratic Sustainability of African States**

The challenges associated with the process and conducts of elections in Africa have been one of the de-democratizing tendencies in the continent. According to (Okoli, 2008), the major part of electioneering process in this regard is the popular tendency among African politicians and their political leaders to trivialize the democratic process by reducing same to a power-grab context. The political leaders strongly pursue how to remain in power by all means through acquisition of



power at the expense of fashioning out the core values that democracy is instituted to enshrine. The electioneering crisis has immense and strategic implications for political stability and democratic consolidation. However, political violence witnessed in some part of Africa are a sign of a breakdown of democracy and its process in the continent.

The continent electoral politics signaled serious dangers for its democracy and partisan politics. The electioneering crises do not augur well for the practice and sustenance of democracy in Africa and such crises engender some systemic challenges that make consolidation of democracy at best problematic. The general implications of electioneering crises for democracy in the continent have underscored the incontrovertible and overall conclusion that can be drawn from the history of elections and electoral practices which have failed to promote the emergence of democratic culture even within the limited application that it has within the bourgeois social order.

Indeed, each set of elections seems to deepen the culture of violence, authoritarianism, abuse of human rights, corruption and crass materialism in the continent. To Iyayi (2012), each succeeding election seems to perfect in even more pervasive sense, the abuses that characterized the earlier ones. Thus with each successive election, the ruling elites are not only isolated from the people, they also relate with them increasingly through violence, contempt, repression and authoritarianism. This contradiction has variously manifested in developments that impede and negate national aspiration to democracy. Such developments to Okoli and Iortyer, (2015) include widespread electoral unrest and violence; inconclusive and controversial elections and finally failed programs of government leading to military takeover, etc.

Therefore, the implications of the foregoing for African stability can be easily conjectured. In this regard, it is to be pointed out that the stability of the continent in a democratic dispensation largely depends on how Africa is able to manage its transition from one regime to another in an abiding resolve to sustain the democratic order in the continent.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

This article has examined the nature of electioneering process in Africa and its general implication for sustainable development in the continent, the paper noted that electioneering in Africa is covered by untoward tendencies which tend to have impeded sustainable political stability and democratic governance across African states. These tendencies include electoral violence and unrest, controversial and inconclusive elections, as well as abortive transition programs especially when the incumbent foresee the possibility of its losing the election.

From this paper, it has been revealed that most of these African countries are alien to transition from their known system of autocratic dictatorship, one party rule to western democratic governance and the lack of necessary political culture to accommodate and advance democratic development in their respective countries. Kenya, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Liberia and many African



and manipulate vast majority of the populace who have been diseased with poverty to enjoy in electoral violence.

It is in the light of these challenges that this chapter recommend that the African Leaders should be discourage in using the state power to advance selfish and personal political goals aimed at subverting electioneering process in their respective states while the African leaders should work towards promotion of healthy competition among participating political parties in order to prevent unnecessary tension among the contestants so that the future elections in the continent can be dedicated to the service of public good.

Also, African countries need to look both inwardly and outwardly for solution to most of the challenges confronting elections and democratization in the continent. The politicians and indeed the electorates require political education to change their perception on electioneering process.

Therefore, all must be ready to imbibe the required political culture and violence must be avoided in any form. This political effort requires great synergy between and among all the stakeholders in election process and the electorate, the political class, government agencies, civil society organization, and internal agencies on democratic development. Political and civic education must be carried out judiciously and proactively in the continent from the youth and elderly most especially in remote areas where vast majority of Africans resides.

Outwardly, African needs to engage other democratic developed world and most especially induce in a proactive and yielding collaboration with South Africa, Nigeria and maybe few countries of the continent who have already embarked on this sojourn with holistic synergy and partnership in order to understand how India a single country with population exceeding the whole continent succeeded in becoming the most successful democratic nation of the world.

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