



Electoral Violence, Youth Participation, and the Nigerian General Election: Lessons for the Future

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Abstract

The article interrogates the factors *influencing youth involvement in electoral violence* in Nigeria's general election. The active participation of the youth in politics can strengthen the democratic credentials of the country just as violence breathes doubt into the democracy of any nation. The paper relied on data from secondary sources and with the use of descriptive analysis. The paper revealed that youths in Nigeria are prone to electoral violence because of some limitations such as ethnic factors, financial challenges, and exclusion in the policy-making processes, which have great consequences for the young population during the electioneering process. The paper found that poverty, which is multidimensional in nature, discrimination, unemployment, barriers to education, and limited opportunities that constitute are prominent factors influencing youth involvement in electoral violence in the country. These invariably influence the youth's political participation in electoral violence. The paper concludes that the youth have a significant role to play in Nigerian politics beyond their participation in electoral violence. The active involvement of the youth in the country's politics can positively create an atmosphere of good governance and social inclusion in Nigeria. One of the important recommendations the paper presented was political sensitization as a medium for avoiding youth participation in electoral violence. It further stresses that the government, non-governmental organizations, local and international organizations, and concerned stakeholders should be involved in the political sensitization of the youth against engaging in electoral violence before, during, and after each electoral cycle in the country.

Keywords: Electoral Violence; Democracy; Political participation; Voting; Youth.

Introduction

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization states that youth make up the largest number of people in the world, and half of this young population is under the age of 40 (UNESCO, 2013). This helps to draw the significance of youth in politics and other spheres of life. In Nigeria for example the population of youth is put at 52.2 million using the National Bureau of Statistics, 2018 record (i.e. circa 28% of total population) with 52.8:48.2 female to male

ratio, age 18-35 years (NBS, 2018). Youth interest and general perception of their country's political beliefs and opinions are crucial to democratic governance. The impact of youth in Nigerian politics comes with a greater consequence for growing democracies such as Nigeria. This is because youth political participation can guarantee and nourish Nigeria's democratic practice and promote/strengthen the credentials of popular hence, the call for youth to rule the country. The place of the youth in Nigerian politics has been strengthened by their

presence in social media. Social media has not only strengthened youth participation in politics, but it contributed significantly to connective and collective actions all over the world such as the End SAR Movement in Nigeria 2020, the 2012 Occupy Nigeria protest, the 15M in Spain, the 2011 Arab Spring amongst others through the assistance of digital media platforms, provided the needed avenue for mobilization based on the available information at their disposal (Amadi, 2003). There is a popular saying that youths are the “leaders of tomorrow”, this ideally ought not to generate contradiction, in Nigeria’s political environment, especially in the contemplation of reality as governed by the natural laws of succession, where certain generation plays out their role in the political space and leave the stage for another generation to step in, this is a way of advancing the course of the human existence (Bamidele, 2021). The important role of the youth in the whole political and developmental thrives of nations cannot be over-emphasized. The Department of Political Science and Social Affairs of the United Nations, in their examination of the challenges and contributions of the youth towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (Youth and Millennium Development 2005:6) stated thus:

Youth are making a difference as activist, as leaders in community development and political aspiration, and by their record level of volunteerism. In many parts of the world, they may be perceived as apathetic or disengaged, but this is largely inaccurate. World -wide, youth are by-passing traditional form of political participation (e.g.voting) through their activism and volunteering.

It is pertinent to note that despite the existence of literature on electoral violence and its implication on democratic governance and political participation, this literature and related research tend to be concerned about the Western democracies, and the Asia continent (Bennett & Segerberg, 2013; Bimber, 2001). Other studies emphasize the relationship between social media use and political participation in emerging democratic in Africa. Also, others were concerned about the interrelationship between

political participation and social movements in Africa and Asia (Gerbaudo, 2012). Youth participation in democratic practices and especially the electoral process is crucial to any democratic governance. The non-participation of the youth in any democracy such as Nigeria has its consequences, which include the non-inclusion of the youth in democratic governance. This is because youth political participation and active engagement in the politics of the nation guarantee the continuous nourishing of democracies. The active participation of the youth in politics can strengthen the democratic credentials of the country just as violence breathes doubt into the democracy of any nation. The Nigeria-based Centre for Democracy & Development (CDD) has monitored the impact and dynamics of political violence in Nigeria since the beginning of the electoral campaign. This report finds that political violence has increased close to the election date in the run-up to elections, largely in line with levels seen before in recent times. However, rising violence focusing on party allies and discretionary authorities, as well as action by local and criminal gatherings, highlight potential weaknesses for election. Hence, this attempt to expand the knowledge on the influence of youth participation in electoral violence in Nigeria’s general election.

Conceptualization

In this section of the paper, the researcher reviews political-related literature by first evaluating the scholarly position on the concept of youth and political participation. The concept of youth is often seen within differing sociological perspectives and in most cases within cultural contexts. In African cultures for example “...one would remain a youth until one is married and/or has a paid job to meet personal and extended family responsibilities or can move out of the family house...” (YIAGA Africa, 2019b). The concept of youth is seen or viewed differently in the literature, for example, instance, the United Nations sees youth as anyone between the age brackets of 15-24, while the World Bank categorizes the youth as individuals aged 12-24. For Galstyan (2019) and Hilker & Fraser (2009) youthful period is a time of transition from dependency to independence, this involves a transformation from childhood to adulthood,

rather than an age-based construct. The scholars further attributed political, sociocultural, and economic realities in Africa, making the age brackets just too narrow, and not surprising therefore Nigeria's 2009 National Youth Policy sees the youth as persons within the age bracket 18 to 35 years. In Africa, youth make up a sizable number of the population. In Nigeria for example the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Act, Cap. 84, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (2004), Section 2(2) states that "a person shall not be eligible to serve in the [Nigerian Youth] Service Corp if . . . he is over the age of thirty". The NYSC Act has defined age 30 as a youth. There is no universally acceptable definition of the youth population, but traditionally youth is viewed as a period of transition from childhood to adulthood (Adeline & Eme, 2015). "youths" are people that fall between 15 and 39 years of age, most African countries for example, Ghana, Tanzania, and South Africa see the youth population as those between 15 and 35 years of age, while in Nigeria and Swaziland, those between 12 and 30 years are falls into this group, while in Botswana and Mauritius those between 14 and 25 years are considered as youth (Adeline & Eme, 2015).

Youth political participation is the active involvement of young people in the political process, electoral process, active citizenship, and policy-making process (Sida, 2010). The active involvement of the youth could take the form of inclusion voting and being a voter in an election. According to Ibezim (2019), youth participation in politics is challenged because of the lack of understanding of the potential benefit that youth political participation holds in Nigeria. The capacity of the youth to adequately participate in politics is often dependent on the environment these youth find themselves. Also, Mengistu (2017) opined that due to low youth political participation in the continent of Africa, and Nigeria in particular, most young people are too vulnerable to violence. According to Farthing (2012), youth political participation often takes the forms of "participation as a rights-based practice; as a mechanism of empowerment of young people; as a guarantee of efficiency in policy, practice, and services; and as an instrument of young people's development.

According to Zohdy (2017), youth participation includes working with those in governance, and the citizens, to bridge the gap of eroding trust. The participation of the youth involves giving them a voice in governance and decision-making that would be beneficial to them and help them attain their goals, avoid taking to violence, and contribute to the development of the country. According to Zohdy (2017:9), youth participation is more effective when the value can be seen in the opportunities they get, as the scholar thus:

This principle can/should also be applied to inform youth political participation efforts. Young people and their adult counterparts will generally be more likely to participate and to see value in their participation if it is structured around meaningful opportunities to change material conditions, decisions/policies, or other concrete outcomes, than general participation efforts not linked directly to solving actual problems in people's lives.

Similarly, Galsyan (2019) youth political participation goes beyond voting, campaigning, membership of a political party, and performing voluntary work, to taking up civic responsibility, demonstrations, and participation in community and electoral p participation. According to Pleyers & Karbach (2014), youth political participation includes online campaigning through social networks; ensuring access to internet services; expressing an agreement to participate in political activities; crowdsourcing and crowdfunding; and ensuring a collective decision by granting each democratic chance of voting and choosing their representative. Political participation is the process of sharing and gathering political information, interacting with politicians, participating in political campaigns, or taking part in voting exercises (Dalton, 2008). Conventional and unconventional political participation is what some scholars consider they be. Conventional participation is the attitude of a responsible citizen by attending to her civic responsibilities and participating in a regular electoral process including election exercises while unconventional participation is genuine or

legal activities that propel action which include signing petitions, organizing, and supporting boycotts and staging demonstrations or protests in public places (Dimitrova, Shehata, Stromback, & Nord, 2011). Political participation is those actions of individual citizens who seek to influence policy or to support the government (Eneji & Ikeorji, 2018). Political participation includes voting, associating, freedom to speak out, assemble, conduct public affairs, and the opportunity to be involved in the electioneering process (Eneji & Ikeorji, 2018).

According to Balogun (2003), electoral violence is that form of violence (physical, psychological, administrative, legal, and structural) that occurs at different stages of engagement by political actors or participants, their supporters, and

sympathizers which may include security and election management body staff during the electoral process. Electoral violence is the breakdown of consensual norms during the electoral process, emanating frustrating circumstances from political alienation and the cohesiveness of a ruling group (Azeez, 2005). According to Anifowose (1982), electoral violence includes the use of threat of physical act carried out by a group or individual within a political system against another individual or individuals, and/or property, to cause damage or destruction to property, injury, or death to persons and choice of targets or victims, and to modify the behaviour of others. Similarly, Nwolise (2007) captures the whole process of electoral violence in three (3) dimensions and components as presented in the table below:

Table 1: Some components of the dimensions of electoral violence

Dimension	Components
PHYSICAL	Physical assault on individuals during campaign, elections and when election results are released.
	Assassination of political opponents or people perceived as a threat to one's political ambition
	Burning down of public or opponents houses or cars
	Shooting, shoot-outs
	Killing of individuals
	Partisan harassment by security agents arrest, forceful dispersal of rallies, or shooting, wounding, or killing of people.
	Kidnapping and hostage-taking
	Bombing of infrastructure.
	Forceful disruption by thugs of political and campaign rallies
	Destruction of ballot boxes and ballot papers by thugs or partisan security agents.
	Armed raid on voting and collection centres, and snatching of ballot boxes and papers from polling agents
	Free –for-all fights.
PSYCHOLOGICAL	Threats against and harassment by security agents of opponents of the ruling regime or party, which create political apathy.
	Shoot-on-sight orders that breed fear in voters.
	Terror inflicted by political assassinations, which makes people scared to participate in politics or elections.
	Publication or broadcast of abusive insulting, or intimidating material or advertorials
	Threats to life through phone calls, text messages, etc
	Threats to life through phone calls, text messages, etc.
STRUCTURAL	Coercion of citizens by government to register or vote
	Exclusionary acts and policies
	Unequal opportunities for political parties and candidates

	Deliberate changes in dates, venues, or times of events to the disadvantage of others
	Partisan delimitation of electoral constituencies and location of pooling boots.
	Excessive fees for collecting party nomination forms
	Unfree campaign
	Reliance on money and brute force instead of moral integrity and competence
	Restraints imposed on voters
	Use of the incumbency factor to give undue advantage to some candidates
	Announcement of false or fraudulent results
	Lengthy delays in announcing election results
	Absence of (adequate) voting materials and election result forms
	Delays in voting
	Absence of electoral officers from pooling booths
	Partisan behaviour of police and other security agents.
	Discriminatory acts and policies.

Source: Nwolise, 2007:160-161

The components of the dimensions of electoral violence in the above table show that electoral violence in three (3) dimensions which include the Physical, Psychological, And Structural dimensions. The physical dimension of electoral violence according to the table includes the killing of individuals, Bombing of infrastructure, and Destruction of ballot boxes and ballot papers by thugs or partisan security agents, amongst others. The Psychological dimension of electoral violence includes threats against and harassment by security agents of opponents of the ruling regime or party, which create political apathy, Shoot-on-sight orders that breed fear in voters, etc. The Structural dimensions of electoral violence, include the absence of electoral officers from pooling booths, and the partisan behaviour of police and other security agents amongst others.

Theoretical Underpin

Conflict theory started with the work of Karl Marx in the mid-1800s. Marx comprehended human society as far as a struggle between social classes, strikingly the contention in capitalist social orders between the owned means of economic production and the labourers. conflict theory has described different versions; conflict theory sees human behavior in social contexts which often results in conflicts between competing groups. Although conflict theory has been criticized for its focus on change and neglecting social stability, the theory remains

relevant in explaining the contemporary political phenomena which electoral violence and youth participation in elections. The paper adopted the Human Needs Conflict Theory. The basic assumption of the human needs theory is closely related to the Frustration-Aggression and Relative deprivation theory. The human needs theory opined that all humans have basic human needs they tend to seek to fulfil, which when denied or frustrated of these needs by individuals or groups could affect them, thus, leading to conflict (Rosati, Carroll, & Coate, 1990). 1990). The basic human needs as opined by the theory include psychological, social, physical, and spiritual needs, which also involve providing access to one (such as food) and denying or hindering access to another (freedom of religion) will add up to refusal and could make individuals depend on violence with an end goal to safeguard these needs (Eneji & Ikeorji, 2018). This theory helps to situate the challenges faced by the youth in Nigeria which include poverty, unemployment, corruption, power abuse, and unfulfilled promises, among others, and its implication on youth involvement in electoral violence. The theory aligns with the paper because it further shows that other factors may lead to electoral violence and youth involvement in electoral violence. Other identified factors include corruption, rigging, godfatherism, money politics, and buying (Gadau & Malami, 2022).

Youths in Nigeria Politics Beyond Electoral Violence: A Consideration of Some Limitations

The youths in Nigeria are discontent over so many issues hence their seemly lack of interest in the political activities of the country. One such discontent was openly expressed in the #EndSARS protests of 2020, the #NotTooYoungToRun campaign, these offer important and striking instances of the political determination of the Nigerian youths.

Financial Challenge: It is important to note that financial issues affect youth participation in Nigerian politics. Contrarily, scholars such as Galstyan (2019) believe that young people are generally not interested in politics because in most cases politics does not represent the immediate problems that happen to be important to them now. And most cases the youth lack the financial capacity to contest, hence, they rather prefer to remain political associates of the elite class as the Nigerian political system creates room for the older generation to assume political leadership in the country (Akinyetun, 2021). Youth participation in politics is essentially hindered by finance contrary to the views that the youth can just be violent during the electoral process. The youth that are supposed to be positive assets in any democratic governance, electoral process, political, and civil society have been taken for granted due to their financial constraint.

Ethnic Division: Apparently, the ethnic politics being played in Nigeria has gone a long way in affecting the young population. Due to ethnic politics and the absence of a clear-cut understanding of what politics entire, the youth in Nigeria have been perhaps misled on several issues including taking to violence during electioneering in the country.

For the membership drive and spread of various ethno-socio groups in Nigeria such as the Oodua Peoples' Congress (OPC), the Movement for the Actualization is dominated by the youth (Duruji, 2010). According to Offiong (2018), the youth in Nigeria's strive for political leadership is often an uphill task because of the general ethnic division and continuous inclination to ethnic groups. The ethnic division has not encouraged greater participation of the youth in the electoral process.

Government at all levels needs to arrest ethnic division in their respective states, as the states should be encouraged to carry ethnic groups along in their appointment and the general affairs of the state. Another important limitation to youth participation in Nigerian politics is the lack of exclusion from the policy-making process of the state which in some cases is a result of ethnic differences.

The policy-making process in Nigeria, creates limited or no space for youth involvement in the process, thus, making the voices of the youth difficult to be heard. The exclusion of the youth in the policy-making processes, on issues that concern them, and the entire society has a great consequence for the young population. Nigeria has unfortunately, possessed more ethnically variegated that the "involvement of the youth in the ethnic—along with religious—clashes has assumed renewed public concern since the return to civilian rule in May 1999" (Olaiya, 2014:2). The Scholars have attributed the youth dominated ethnoreligious/electoral violence in the last three decades in Nigeria to lack gainful engagement of over 70% youth populations across the geopolitical zone (Olaiya, 2014). Citing examples from another West African country like Cote d'Ivoire, for example, where the youth were prominent in the bloody civil war on 19th September 2002 has some ethnic coloration.

Poverty and Unemployment: The Nigerian youth are faced with a myriad of challenges that affect their participation in politics among them is poverty. Poverty is multidimensional discrimination, unemployment, barriers to education, and limited opportunities that constitute a bane to political participation and inclusion, thus leading to a lower percentage of youth that hold political and leadership positions. Most of the present political leaders became exposed to politics during their youthful years, such is not the case today due to poverty ravaging the youthful population. It is evident from the foregoing that young people in Nigeria are largely marginalized from governance and most of them feel helpless about their continued exclusion. It is upon this premise that most of the youth take to violence during general elections. Furthermore, the level of unemployment in the country makes the youth vulnerable to electoral violence. Meanwhile, the political class in the

country is yet to recognize the carnage the high level of unemployment can cause to the youth of the nation. Unemployment which comes with an economic crisis among the population deterred the youth from political participation. Poverty and unemployment weaken the competitiveness of the youth in politics. The level of poverty and unemployment among Nigerian youths often leads them to join violent groups. It is important to stress that groups such as armed robbers, thuggery, Boko Haram, armed herdsmen, and cultic groups easily harbor the youth because of unemployment.

Impact of Youth in Nigeria Politics: Remedies for Avoidance Participation in Electoral Violence

Youth participation in electoral violence can be avoided. Youth participation in electoral violence in Nigeria can be avoided through several means such as the involvement of the youth in governance, provision of appointment to the youth in governance, and social inclusion in the electoral process and administration of the country, especially within the purview of the performance is made as a yardstick for retaining one's position in government.

Appointment of Youth into Political Offices: One core means of getting the youth out of electoral violence in Nigeria is engaging quite many of them in political offices, and administration and involving them in the process of election. Having a large youth population of responsible and responsive translates into a large and active workforce in the country, and importantly, aside from promoting the morale of the young population it also helps to reduce an upsurge in the crime rate, and widespread poverty. The active engagement of the youth in government to actively engage youth to create an atmosphere of inclusiveness and integrated society. According to Zohdy (2017), the social inclusion of the growing population of youth in governance is highly instrumental in reducing societal consequences that come with the exclusion of these youth. Such consequences to the scholar would be lower voter turnout rates, lack of interest in the nation's politics, lower percentages of GDP, high violence, increase in extremism,

crime, and political instability. The youth can be partners in the provision of a free and fair electoral process, rather than agents of electoral violence.

Social Inclusion: Youth inclusion in Nigerian politics can reduce youth participation in electoral violence when properly managed. Social inclusion is an integration of all sentiments of the society in the affairs of government. Youth who may have experienced marginalization and are under-represented in the broader political space can be incorporated into the running and operation of government. Edwards (2008:17), stresses the importance of social inclusion through enabling policies thus: "Social exclusion and youth participation are two opposing concepts, and it is emphasized that social inclusion policies cannot be successful unless they ensure youth participation. Social inclusion involves "the process of improving the terms of participation in society, particularly for people who are disadvantaged based on age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status, through enhanced opportunities, access to resources, voice and respect for rights" (United Nations, 2016:20). The social inclusion can be made a priority and enshrined in appointment of political office holders in the country for effective management of electoral violence before, during and after elections in Nigeria. It is imperative to note that social inclusion ensures "the process of improving the terms for individuals and groups to take part in society'...' the process of improving the ability, opportunity, and dignity of people, disadvantaged based on their identity, to take part in society" (World Bank, 2013: 3-4). Social inclusion of the youth in Nigerian politics encourages on-ward participation in the general political process of the country. Social inclusion can ensure the involvement of individuals and groups participating in the socio-economic life of the youth devoid of discriminating factors such as lack poverty and lack of education can be championed by the government (Ozer, 2011).

Good Governance: Good governance as a means of encouraging youth involvement in Nigerian politics has the potential to reduce youth participation in electoral violence. Scholars see

good governance from different perspectives for example Udeh (2017:149) views governance as “involves the dynamics of transforming societal needs into concrete programs...governance means the development of governing styles in which boundaries between public and private sectors have become blurred and the needs of a society increasingly met.” Good governance that can attract the participation of the youth in Nigeria requires acquiring political power through electoral means and in turn, directing the state’s economic potential towards development. Where their good governance the concern about prudent utilization of the state’s resources for the development of that state and attract the youth to politics is put to rest. Thus, good governance attracts youth to participate in the politics of their nation, and public resources judiciously managed more youth show interest in politics. According to the UNDP (2014), good governance includes maintaining accountability, transparency, and probity, and the rule of law is entrenched in the exercise of power by the state. Similarly, good governance promotes adequate and prompt service delivery, involves the electorate in the decision-making processing of the state, democracy, the rule of law, and independence of the judiciary are guaranteed, ensures the inclusion of the minority groups of the society in the political process, and gender equality ensured (Udeh, 2017).

Youth Political Sensitization: One of the important mediums for avoiding youth participation in electoral violence is committed engagement in political sensitization. The government, non-governmental organizations, local and international organizations, and concerned stakeholders should be involved in the political sensitization of the youth against engaging in electoral violence before, during, and after each electoral cycle in the country. It is imperative to stress the importance of the media in youth political sensitization as it can serve as an instrument to raise awareness among youth about the implications of engaging in violence during general elections. The media can be an advocate of playing politics according to the rules for the youth and, at the same time serve as an instrument of encouragement for the youth to exercise their political rights by influencing the

decisions of governments. Youth political sensitization is a means to avoidance of youth engagement in electoral violence. The government and non-governmental organizations can advocate and engage the youth in civic associations where information that fosters free and fair elections and leadership skills are discussed. The role of the media in Nigerian politics cannot be overemphasized as it can transmit information that will be of great benefit to the youth in the areas of political participation, training, democratization, and good governance. The political participation of the youth can be awakening the online media platform. Online media can be used positively to bring about higher levels of political participation through the effective utilization of the platform for the participation of youth in politics. According to Uwalaka, Nwala, & Amadi (2020) internet and technologies, especially social media, have a critical role to play in general elections using the United States of America presidential elections as an example. The political participation of the youth has been effectively enhanced through internet access, and adequate exposure to genuine information about elections in countries such as the USA (Uwalaka, 2021). The scholar forward stated that the political participation of the youth in politics has increased using the internet and technologies. It is important to note that the internet and technologies, can radically transform the current or existing patterns of political participation, and at the same time facilitate and creation of new pathways for sensitization and engagement. The Internet user and the use of social media enhance online political expression the effects of offline have the potential to transform youth political participation (Uwalaka, 2021; Yamamoto, Kushin, & Dalisay, 2013; Onimisi. 2018).

Empowering the Youth: The role of empowerment in curbing youth participation in electoral violence cannot overemphasized. Empowerment can be both political and economic nature. The Nigerian youth are active and can grab information and training of any nature bestowed on them, thus, empowerment can be possibly used to engage the youth in meaningful productive ventures. Youth empowerments have the potential to inspire

political participation. It is important to remark youth empowerment would awaken youth participation in the electoral process and voting peacefully, as well as focusing on issues rather than individual participation. Empowering the youth awakens the activism in them and provides an opportunity for a wider forum where the youth can learn empowerment for self-coordination. Youth empowerment through knowledge can proper development of the youth in any nation. Knowledge-driving empowerment is predicated on the relationship between knowledge and development, through which the development of nations' citizens, communities, and individuals is ensured (Bello, 2019). Empowering the youth helps to ensure the essence of development which is about giving the people the power, knowledge, and capacity, to decide what is most appropriate for them including staying out of electoral violence (Bello, 2019; Onimisi. 2014). The Nigerian Youths should, therefore, be given the appropriate empowerment and opportunity to utilize their potential constructively and creatively for the overall interest of the country.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This paper expanded the knowledge gap on the impact of youth participation in electoral violence in Nigeria in general. Based on the data gathered, this study uncovered that unemployment, ethnic politics, and financial challenges amongst the youth population in Nigeria have increased electoral violence in Nigeria. The paper also shows that youth political participation can be negatively employed if the youth are not properly guided. The paper revealed that the youth have a significant role to play in Nigerian politics beyond their participation in electoral violence. The active involvement of the youth in the country's politics can positively create an atmosphere of good governance and social inclusion in Nigeria. The paper further revealed that the Nigerian youth have all it takes to provide good governance and transform the socio-economic fortune of the country if it has the necessary support from the Nigerian political elite. The involvement of youth in Nigerian politics can help to promote transparency, accountability, and development which the

country has been yielding for, as well as address the long call for equal opportunity for all. They recommend Nigerian and indeed, the political elite in the country should give the youth a chance in the political system of the nation. The Nigerian youth should stand wake up to it responsibly and fully participate in politics because the political elite will not just have overpowered them without their dedication to leadership responsibility. The government at all levels should as a matter of urgency create jobs for the youth in the country to reduce the economic hardship in the land. Employed youths who are engaged in meaningful employment would hardly ensure the position of errand boys for unscrupulous politicians. The various religious leaders and religious organizations should engage the youths in moral lessons through discussions, seminars, and conferences to shun electoral violence. The Nigerian youth needs to rekindle their interest in politics and governmental activities. The Nigerian youth need to increase their level of awareness and knowledge of the political and electoral process, and how the governance and political system operate in the country. It is imperative to note that Nigerian youth should seize the opportunity provided by social media to showcase and promote themselves. Finally, the government should ensure the implementation of the bill such as the "Not-to-Young to Run" policy and promote other policies and programs that will encourage youth involvement in politics in the country.

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