ISSUES IN ANAMBRA 2025 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR 2027 GENERAL ELECTIONS IN NIGERIA

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Abstract
This paper examines the 2025 Anambra State Gubernatorial elections with a view to identifying issues and its implications for 2027 general elections in Nigeria.the article largely relies on secondary data sources from published reports by Independent National Electoral Commission. (INEC), newspapers, electoral observers' reports and electronic media reports.Independent reports from the above credible sources revealed that,the Anambra gubernatorial elections were marred by massive vote buying, poor voter turnout,underage voters and logistical concerns.The results of the elections based on political party performance also revealed that,there was no tough contest,with All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) with Prof. Charles C. Soludo as the flag bearer overwhelmingly won the elections.From these revelations, Structural Functionalism Theory was used to analyze why the situation during the Anambra elections turned that way. Further analysis suggests that,the outcomes of the Anambra 2025 gubernatorial elections further weaken democratic consolidation and sustainability in Nigerian politics.Thus,the paper recommends that there is a need to strengthen democratic institutions to perform their duties in line with global best practices,government should work hard towards building the trust and confidence of voters in the electoral process through conducting free,fair,credible and transparent elections,establishing laws against electoral malpractices such as vote buying,underage voting, and other related offenses and strengthening the security forces such as the Police, and Economic and Financial Crimes Commission. (EFCC) to prevent and arrest culprits before and during elections to serve as a deterrent to potential elections violators.

Key words: *Anambra, Election, Democracy, Politics and Gubernatorial*

Introduction

Elections in democracies play a significant role in representing the popular will of the citizens in choosing their leaders. Politics itself, which according to Harold Lasswell, is the authoritative allocation of resource, stands on the foundation of credible election. If this definition of politics is anything to go by, it implies that, elections which is a critical platform through which citizens elect those who will take care of their common wealth is essential to the growth and development of any given society. Aside from the

opportunity created for the citizens to choose how best to be govern and represented, elections lend legitimacy to the political system. Basically, in liberal democratic dispensations,elections are the indispensable mechanisms for constituting government and governance,because it is through elections that citizens elect and legitimize leadership in the executive, legislative,and,in some cases,even judicial branches of government (Jega, 2015) Consequently, there is a global consensus and realization that free and fair elections constitute a major breakthrough in democracy, democratization, good governance. This connotes that the more transparent, participatory, engaging and accountable an election is, the better the quality of service delivery and representation the citizens would enjoy. Therefore, for Nigerian citizens to enjoy the dividends of democracy in terms of security of life and property which is the core mandate of any legitimate government in the world, there is need to address critical challenges confronting the seamless election process in Nigeria's democratization and leverage its potentials towards democratic consolidation and sustainability.

Essentially, as Nigeria approaches the 2027 general elections, deliberate attention must be given to the integrity, fairness, and credibility of its electoral process. This call is against the backdrop that the 2023 general elections were marred by troubling realities: massive vote manipulation, voter suppression, failed technology, and numerous post-election litigation among others. To avoid a repeat of the 2023 electoral challenges, proactive measures to confront issues surrounding security of voters, adequate use of technology, mechanism to ensure independence of INEC, comprehensive electoral reforms to enforce incluciviy and most importantly, to have constitutional backing to the use of BVAS and IReV, among others.

It is against this backdrop that the paper critically examines the challenges that beset the past electoral process, foresees the challenges ahead of the 2027 general elections and leverages the immense potentials of Nigeria to conduct exemplary elections that would serve as a model to emerging democracies in the world and Africa in particular. It is on this basis that lessons would be drawn through a thorough examination of November 8, 2025, gubernatorial elections in Anambra State with a view to drawing valuable lessons to strengthen future elections.

Statement of the Problem

The background of previous elections with particular reference to 2023 general elections hardly reflected the expectations and hopes of the masses who were assured of free, fair, credible and peaceful elections through the deployment of technology to curb human interference of the election results. This did not materialize as the election was marred by With voter suppression voter apathy failure of technology to transmit

results in real-time, logistical delays, violence allegations, result manipulation, among others. These experiences significantly cast doubts, dashed hopes and diluted the integrity of the entire electoral process, thus posing a serious challenge to the forthcoming election in 2027.

Additionally, the aforementioned underlying challenges in Nigeria's electoral process could as well be linked with the significant voter apathy recorded in the previous elections. It is in light of the above worrying development that, this study intends to focus on the November 8, 2025 Anambra Gubernatorial election with a view to extracting practical lessons towards improving the forthcoming general elections in 2027. Hence, the study seeks to address the following research questions.

Objectives

1. To identify and analyze the major administrative, logistical and security challenges encountered during the 2025 Anambra gubernatorial election and evaluate their implications for the 2027 general election in Nigeria.
2. To examine the rate of voter turnout and public confidence during the election.
3. To explore valuable lessons from the 2025 Anambra elections that can boost credibility, public trust and efficiency of the 2027 general elections in Nigeria

Research Questions

a. What are the administrative, logistical, and security challenges encountered during the November 8, 2025 Gubernatorial election in Anambra State, and how could these affect the conduct of 2027 general elections in Nigeria?
b. What is the rate of voter turnout and public confidence during the 2025 Anambra Gubernatorial election?
c. What lessons can be drawn from the 2025 Anambra Gubernatorial election to improve the Administration, credibility and inclusiveness of the 2027 general elections in Nigeria.

Literature Review

The Concept of Election

In a decent democratic society, credible elections remain the major source of leadership recruitment. This is the most popular pathway to power. This is the demonstrative of the people's will and confidence in one's capabilities to lead towards achieving the yearnings and aspirations of the people in the society. This suggests that credible, transparent, free and fair elections are the desire of any democratic society.Jega (2015) defined election as one of the mechanisms by which a democratic government can be realized and entrenched, particularly in the modern nation-state. According to Johari (2010), elections are the process of recruitment of representatives by the choice of voters. In most established democracies, they are genuinely competitive, free, fair and credible. Such elections are central to competitive politics and sustaining liberal democracy. Anifowose (2006) asserted that voters must be allowed to freely go to the polling booths and cast their votes unmolested. Free choice therefore is the touchstone of competitive elections and in conditions where the governing party uses the machinery of government to provide itself with funds in order to win support and where it hustles its opponents, full freedom does not exist.

An election worthy of recognition is, therefore an embodiment of a chain process where the people are the driving force and determinant of political representation or the outcome of the electoral process For those entitled to vote must be free to vote for candidate of their choice, free to support or to oppose government and able to form opinions independently. Therefore, an election can reflect the will of the people, when rules, regulations, and laws governing The electoral process are followed and ultimately, credible candidates are freely and fairly selected to represent the electorate. This stems from the need to ensure that, political liberty and political equality of the citizens are not subverted by cheating, fraud, finance, intimidation or fear (Banjoko, 2004).

What would therefore serve as a working definition of this article is, election fundamentally, an election is a democratic process through which the will of the people in choosing their representatives is demonstrated through the ballot box in such a way or manner that the process is open, sound, free, fair, credible, peaceful within the confines of extant laws governing the electoral bodies and other relevant stakeholders in the electoral exercise. It is therefore the position of this paper that a credible election is the highest demonstration of commitment to democratic sustainability and sustainable development through ensuring peaceful transfer of power,guaranteeing the legitimacy of government, giving voice to the voiceless, promoting accountability of the representatives to citizens and the electorate in particular.

Methodology

This study adopts analytical research design. The study leverages literature published from verifiable and credible sources. Document analysis from INEC reports, observers reports, media publications, eyewitness reports were scientifically harnessed for the purpose of eliciting genuine information on the conduct of the 2025 gubernatorial elections in Anambra State. The study used Thematic Content Analysis (TCA) techniques to interpret the contents of information gathered. This carefully took note of recurring themes, by highlighting key words and quotations from documented or published materials.

Theoretical Underpinning

Structural Functionalism Theory

Structural Functionalism Theory is a sociological theory that sees society as a complex system whose parts work optimally through cooperation to promote sustainable stability and security. This theory emerged in the 1930s, mainly propounded by Talcott Parsons, who drew his knowledge and inspiration on this theory from the works of Max Weber and Émile Durkheim (an economist and social historian in Germany) and social theorist in France) respectively. Structural functionalism theory posits that in every social structure or system – be it government, politics, family, organizations – each component of the system has a vital and specific function in keeping the system in good balance to allow for its continuance and optimum functionality.

Within this framework, social members are seen as institutions of the state, such as the police, INEC, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission.s (EFCC), the judiciary, media, civil society organizations, political parties, etc., fulfilling fulfilling their roles towards maintaining the integrity of election necessary for the survival of the entire system. Deeping this understanding to the November 8th Gubernatorial elections in Anambra State, this theory explains how different political and social institutions contribute to the orderly or otherwise of the conduct, outcomes and legitimacy of the electoral process. This also implies that, an election is successful and it can be said to be acceptable when each relevant institution performs its roles effectively within their constitutional mandates. Thus, system functionality is achieved when there structures (e.g., media, judiciary, civil society organizations, EFCC, political parties, Security Departments, Financial Institutions), work properly.

Reflecting forward, records available to this study shows that Anambra elections was riddled with massive commercialization of votes in such a way that some voters were willing to sell their votes, and some political parties were actively buying votes to induce votes in their favor), pockets of violence, voter apathy among other dysfunction

recorded during the election. The observed electoral fraud implies system dysfunction due to failure of some components of the whole system to perform their duties optimally. Thus, the November 8th Gubernatorial election 2025, serves as a case study of how a democratic system depends on functional institutions to maintain democratic order.

In specific order, they Anambra election of 8th November 2025, faced system dysfunction in;

a. Vote – buying overwhelmed the fairness of the contest.
b. Low voter turnout relative to registered voters suggest distrust or disengagement that further weakens the cooperative function of political parties, government and the electoral system.
c. Overwhelming dominance of a single party/candidate (APGA and Charles Soludo) in all the local government, structural Functionalism sees this as less ideals for a healthy political system.
d. Evidence of underage voters also undermines the efficacy and expectations of functional system.

Relevance and Applicability of the theory to the study

Structural functionalism theory views systems and structures in this case,electoral system as interconnected where institution work together to maintain stability.In this regard,institution such as the Nigeria Police Force (NPF),Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC),Civil Society Organizations (CSOs),Accredited Election Observers and other related stakeholders are expected to cooperate to ensure smooth running of the democratic electoral process that as characterized by vote buying and selling in Anambra 2026 gubernatorial election.This significantly highlights how breakdown and in some cases because of lack of proper coordination in all the system which has negativity impacted the entire political order.

Anambra Election Experience

The Anambra State election has come and gone with some elements of success in terms of security and election integrity. This experience has brought much relief and hope to electorate and further boosted the confidence of the electoral stakeholders in the

country. According to the statement jointly signed by Asmau Maikudi, chairperson of the 2025 Anambra Election Mission, and Samson Itodo (2025),the executive director of Yiaga Africa,the findings shows that,"the official results for the 2025 Anambra governorship election reflect the ballots cast at polling units."

This is a cheering development that should be sustained and replicated in other forthcoming elections.

Table 1 Anambra State 2025 Gubernatorial Election Results

S/No	Candidate / Category	Party	Votes Polled	Percentage (%)
1	John Nwosu	ADC	8,208	1.41
2	Nicholas Ukachukwu	APC	99,445	17.03
3	**Charles Soludo (Winner)**	**APGA**	**422,664**	**72.37**
4	Paul Chukwuma	YPP	37,753	6.46
5	George Moghalu	LP	10,576	1.81
—	**All Other Parties (11 combined)**	—	**5,408**	**0.93**
	TOTAL VALID VOTES		**584,054**	**100.00**

Source: INEC, 2025

Moving forward on the development recorded, it was noted that "One of the most remarkable aspects of the election was the significant improvement in the conduct of the Independent National Electoral Commission. (INEC). Unlike in previous elections marred by late commencement, logistical lapses, and voter frustration, this time around, voting started as scheduled in most polling units. INEC officials arrived early at the various election venues, which contributed to the smooth and orderly conduct of the process" (Obi, 2025, November, 11). This, however, does not imply that the election has met the expected thresholds in all critical areas as issues bordering low voter turnout, commercialization of votes, underage voters, under-representation of agents by some political parties, and heavy security presence, among others, overwhelmed the success recorded in terms of INEC effective and impressive performance.

Issues in Anambra Gubernatorial Elections

Lower Voter Turnout

"The most troubling takeaway from the election is the persistently low voter turnout. Out of the total of 2,788,864 registered voters in Anambra State, only 595,298 people, representing 21.35 percent, participated in the election. This implies that 78.65 percent of registered voters did not vote.

Table 2 Statistics of Votes Cast or Election Overview

S/No.	Total Votes	Statistics
1.	Total Registered Voters	2,802,750
2.	Total accredited voters	698,229
3.	Total valid votes	584,054
4.	Total rejected votes	11,244
5.	Total votes cast	595,298

Source: The Nation, 2025

Analyzing the above table in comparison with the 2021 election,it is observed that,the November 2025 Anambra elections witnessed an improvement in voter turnout, logistics and security compared to the 2021 governorship poll.In 2021, there was 2,466,638 registered voters, 2,117,323 PVCs collected, and 253,388 accredited voters. Out of 249,631 total votes cast, 241,523 were valid and 8,106 were rejected. By way of contrast, the 2025 election recorded 2,788,864 registered voters, 595,228 accredited voters, 595,298 total votes cast, 587,054 valid votes, and 11,244 rejected votes. Further analysis revealed that voter turnout rose from 10.1 percent in 2021 to 21% in 2025, signifying that 78.65% of the registered voters did not vote.

From a wider analysis of voter turnout in the South East, INEC (2016) posits that voter turnout in the South East,voter the South East has consistently been among the lowest in Nigeria.For instance, in the 2015 general elections,Enugu State recorded a turnout of approximately 40%, significantly below the national average. The 2019 elections saw further decline, with the South East averaging 30% turnout, driven by factors such as insecurity, distrust in the electoral umpire, and separatist agitation (INEC, 2020). The 2023 general elections despite the introduction of the Electoral Act 2022 and innovation like the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS), election turnout in the South East zone at all levels remains consistently and abysmally low.

This outcome does not only undermines democratic representation, but also leads to wastage of taxpayers' funds as humongous amount of money was budgeted in relation to the total registered voters in the state.

Table 3: Anambra State Voter Turnout Position Table 1999 – 2025

S/No.	Year	Registered Voters	Total Votes cast	Percentage
1.	1999	2,221,384	1,029,815	46.35
2.	2003	1,859,795	878,212	47.22
3.	2007	1,844,819	1,162,635	63.02%
4.	2010	1,855,815	301,232	16.33
5.	2013	1,776,167	680,820	26.32
6.	2017	2,074,534	448,477	21.7
7.	2021	2,466,638	253,388	10.27
8.	2025	2,802,790	595,298	21.40

Source: IYAGA Africa, 2025

Reflecting from the above statistical analysis of Anambra gubernatorial voting behaviour with specific interest on voter turnout from 1999-2025 reveals that, the state has maintained a consistent culture of high voter apathy with only 22.40% voter turnout recorded in 2025 governorship election with a record low turn out of 10.27per cent in 2021. However, the decimal turnout has several attributing factors as clearly established in the literature review segment of this article.

These include but not limited to; "Hopelessness or lack of trust of eligible voters in the electoral system to bring about poor-poor leaders, over-securitization of the election day activities which may have created artificial fears in votings, Indigneous People of Biafra (IPOB) factors, among others" (CDD, 2025).

Vote Buying

One of the disturbing revelations from the election as noted by filed observers and documented literature from credible sources was the massive buying and selling of votes during the voting process.One of the major albatrosses to democratic sustainability in Nigeria elections is vote buying, which has over time continued to threaten the credibility of the electoral system in Nigeria. Testimonies of election observers are carefully synthesized hereunder:

The 2025 Anambra election observation hub Comprising YIAGA-Africa, the Kukah Centre, Centre for Democracy and Development, summarily accepted the fact that the election was heavily monetized even though the election was generally stable, peaceful and transparent. The vote buying however undermines the electoral integrity and equal participation. Similarly, the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) (2025) described the vote buying trend as "a dangerous trend that continues to undermine Nigeria's democracy". It encouraged INEC to prosecute those involved – especially party agents and the candidates who fund such practices should be disqualified.

Under Aged Voters

"According to Moghalu, the LP contestant, 'Children who are not supposed to possess voter cards were openly seen with them and allowed to vote.' Similarly, the Nwosu, the ADC contestant alleged massive vote buying across several polling units, claiming that voters were induced with sums ranging from N3,000 to N20,000." maintained visible but non-intrusive presence.

Security Issues

According to Awka, Elekwa, Jimoh and Omokhunu (2025). The security agencies – Police, Military and other law enforcement units – played their part effectively. Their presence ensured a peaceful election, with only isolated incidents reported despite earlier fears of violence.

Logistics Concern

INEC was commended for general improvement in technology application, logistical accuracy and voter management compared to previous elections in the state. According to Ezeobi (2025) cited in This day (2025). For a state supposedly marked by insecurity, the just-held November 2025 Anambra governorship elections offered a masterclass in the orchestration of a largely peaceful and credible electoral process. Although it was not without cases of vote buying, however, from pre-election peace accords and intensive security planning by the Nigeria Police Force to meticulous preparation by the INEC … from early morning voters trickled into polling centers in Awka, Nnewi, Onitsha, and rural areas. INEC officials arrived promptly, accreditation began on time, and BVAS functioned smoothly in most locations. Pregnant women, the elderly and physically challenged voters were given priority… The atmosphere was calm, and police officials

INEC Transparency

YIAGA Africa has affirmed that the official results of the just concluded Anambra State governorship election, as announced by the INEC, align with findings from the process and Results verification for Transparency (PRVT) exercise.

Major findings

The major discovery of the study is that, as much as the Anambra election for the year 2025 was a success on the basis that the ballots tallied and the election was largely peaceful, notwithstanding that some individuals lost their lives, the election lacked

some elements of integrity. If the definition of election with integrity by Kofi Annan is anything to go by, "any election that is based on the democratic principles of universal suffrage and political equality as reflected in the international standards and agreements,and is professional,impartial,and transparent in its preparation and administration throughout the electoral cycle (2012).In addition to this,in the context of the Anambra election, elections with integrity are contextualized here to mean the absence of malpractices and dubious activities in the scheming or politicking to win the election contest. Here, the Anambra 2025 gubernatorial election fell short of the qualities of election with integrity as the election were marred by high commercialization of votes and underage voters. Corroborating this these findings, the General Secretary of Allegiance for Credible Election in Nigeria (ACEN), Mma Odi on Arise TV (2025) expressed that,vote buying and selling, and underage voters were an eyesore during the election,as children that were not supposed to have voter cards were openly seen casting ballots during the election. Equally, Henry N. Mbachu, a Labour Party (LP) member of House of Assembly in Anambra

Described the election on Arise News (2025), saying vote buying was reckless, massive, and alarming, as about N400 million per local government was mobilized by some political parties to buy votes. According to Sam Itodo, the Program Director of YIAGA Africa, on Arise News (2025), vote buying significantly influenced voting choices as in some polling units, Point of Sale (POS) machines were used to buy votes openly without resistance from the security operatives.

This ushered us to the second discovery that the Financial Intelligence Unit, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission. (EFCC), and the Police failed in their duties to enforce the arrest of buyers and sellers of votes contrary to the electoral law on vote buying and inducement. Specifically, , the Electoral Act, 2022, states that it is illegal for any candidate, political party, or their agents to make monetary or material offers to voters in exchange for support, whether before, during, or after an election. Section 127 of the Electoral Act (2022) states that it is also an offence to use threats,promises,or any form of inducement to influence a voter's choice or behavior, which attracts, on conviction, a maximum fine of N500,000 or 12 months imprisonment or both.

This implies that if a candidate says or publicly declares that they will give money or personal rewards to potential voters once elected, it can be interpreted as an attempt to induce or maliciously influence the electorate and it violates the Electoral Act which, on conviction, attracts a maximum fine of N500, 000 or imprisonment for 12 months or both. In light of this study, the enforcement of the above extant laws was not enforced to strengthen the election integrity in the interest of free, fair and credible election.

Implications for 2027 Elections

Insights from the November 8th gubernatorial elections in Anambra State serves as road map to approaching the 2027 elections. This can better be achieved by identifying the pitfalls and strengths witnessed in the elections in Anambra, 2025.

Thus:

a. Clear sanctions against vote trading must be entrenched in the Electoral Act and seen to be effective against violators. This is very important and healthy for sustainable democracy. If politicians are allowed to induce voters during elections, it would further undermine good governance and further embolden political office holders to weaponize poverty and hunger to remain in power perpetually. Corroborating this thought with emphasis from the works of Jega (2015) says,only electoral integrity,through which elections are prepared and conducted professionally, efficiently, and transparently, and in which citizens are fully mobilized to choose candidates with their conscience, eschewing fraud, without irregularities and material inducements, ensures that the true and legitimate choices of the citizens are truly reflected in electoral outcomes.

b. Low voter turnout questions the legitimacy of an elected government. A government elected by a negligible population cannot be said to represent the will of the people because the mandate to effect greater changes may likely face resistance or even lack the mandate to effect positive change. Thus, the upcoming 2027 elections must be seen to reflect greater voter participation to add credibility and a mandate to the winner.

c. Voting below the legal age has multifaceted implications for the integrity of elections (18 years in most countries, including Nigeria. Permitting illegal voters gives undue advantage to the beneficiary and further compromises the legitimacy of the process and integrity of the polls which the results could be challenged. This is what must be avoided in the 2027 elections considering that elections are

traditionally, historically, and constitutionally designed to reflect the choices of the eligible voters. To this extent, election authorities must work hard to tackle the tendency of utilizing unqualified voters to avoid eroding public trust and potentially inviting legal challenges in the 2027 polls.

d. The low voter turnout in Anambra amounts to a humongous waste of public funds which was initially budgeted for the election. INEC's budget for elections is based on the total number of registered voters; this implies that when turnout is low, public resources go to waste.

Conclusion

The 2025 Anambra governorship election was conducted in a relatively peacefully atmosphere, as violence was not widespread. The election witnessed all time voter apathy reflecting the deep-seated culture of low voter turnout in Anambra State elections. Equally, the election was characterized by widespread fiscal transactions, as both voters and political parties were engaged in selling and buying votes unhindered. Comparing this revelation with a previous report by CDD, (2017) reveals that low voter turnout, vote buying insecurity, and logistical challenges are some of the inherent electoral challenges confronting the election integrity and democratic consolidation in Nigeria. CDD reported that increasing phenomena of vote buying/selling, de-democratization of political parties, low voter turnout, and electoral violence affect democratic sustainability in Anambra State,

To this extent, Nigeria's democratic future is dependent upon its ability to learn from historical election cycles with a view to identifying and addressing emerging obstacles to smooth electoral conduct for acceptable leadership recruitment process. The forthcoming 2027 elections must be a reflection of lessons learned, rooted in innovative reforms, and a collective determination to uphold Nigeria's constitutional and democratic ethos. Only then can Nigeria's electoral system be strengthened and trusted by the masses who, before now, developed a high dislike and no interest in full participation in democratic process that directly affects them.

It is therefore the position of this paper that,the electoral process that produce Prof.Charles Soludo as Governor of Anambra State for the second tenure was enmeshed with excessive vote buying,low voter turnout,under aged voters and minimal logistical issues.This implies that,the outcome of the election was influenced by external variables which eventually undermined the ethos of democratic electoral standard with implications on sustainable democratization in Nigeria.

Policy Recommendations

a. Aside from motivating government to develop the courage and political will to prosecute offenders of vote trading, government at all levels must be more determined and proactive enough to showcase good governance to buy in the interest of the people to their civic responsibilities. This can better be achieved through deepening good governance with transparent electoral system that is rooted in the use of technology to conduct elections, tightened security to protect voters long before election days, and records to prove that, the will of the people prevailed over manipulation of election results in favor of state actors.
b. Evidence-based leadership rooted in genuine development that addresses the primary needs of the people have the potential to attract the interest of the people not only to join politics, but to see it a duty to perform their civic rights during election.Government must be deliberate to attract the attention of the masses to add value to democratic process through addressing their needs, leading the people with fairness, and creating enabling environment for all to thrive inclusive governance, etc. These confidence-boosting strategies have the energy and capability of inducing people to have trust in government and increase their quest for political participation.
c. Nigeria's legal framework must begin to view underage voting as child abuse. To this end, legal reforms should be fastened, with clear sanctions against the child-voter and those promoting it. This is on the basis that those who cannot take informed decision on issues that affects their well-being should not be seen to be cajoled or used as political capital to take sensitive decisions in the interest of desperate politicians.
d. The gubernatorial result clearly shows that there was no competitiveness in the contest. The landslide victory by APGA party is not healthy for Nigeria's democracy. This experience of one political party's overwhelming dominance must be avoided by creating equal chances for all political parties to thrive. Government should encourage its democratic institutions to encourage opposition political parties to give people a voice and alternative platforms to choose their leaders.
e. The Nigerian government should consider adopting full electronic voting. This can be achieved where eligible voters vote using their National Identification Number (NIN) as their voting password. This is to minimize costs associated with printing ballot papers and other associated materials. This would further deepen participation, transparency and strengthen public trust in the democratic process.

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