

DEMOCRATIC KAKISTOCRACY IN NIGERIAN POLITY

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Abstract

Nigeria, which was imperially colonized between 1884-1960, regally birthed in 1914 and sovereignly republicanized in 1963 remains an annexed (rather than an amalgamated) country of many fragmented and disengaging nations that have been drowned in socio-economic quagmire through tribalized-ethnicism cum politicized democratic kakistocracy leaving her polity with an endemic bad leadership, enthronement of corruption and mediocrity. The researchers while writing this paper find out that democracy-with its multifaceted problems and Kakistocracy-with its glaring flaccidity, have left Nigerian governance stinkingly odious and malodorous corrupt.

Keywords: Democracy, kakistocracy, Nigerian polity, governance.

Introduction

There are variants of democracies in the world. I doubt if democracy in a developed world is the same as that of a developing world. I strongly disagree that democracy in the Global North is the same as the one in the Global South. Even if there is semblance, the Nigerian version of democracy I believe is quite at variance with others as long as the birth and formation of Nigeria remains cloudy. The existent comma or pitfall in our current governance is the form of deluded democracy better known as a democratic kakistocracy. Democratic kakistocracy is simply the government of the people by the worst. Amid good candidates, the people are meant to select the worst to govern that in the name of democracy.

Many issues, of course, have given credence to this wrong choice. The choice of the wrong person thru a democratic process is disheartening. It seems that the idea of an *anonymous we mentality* has continued to play a dangerous role and remains a great problem with choice-making or rather, the populace might be coarsed into making a very fundamental problem of wrong choice. It seems, therefore, that the political institution is now bad that it offers nothing but the worst. And such is becoming the version of Nigerian democracy. The sections below try to xray these issues of selecting or electing the worst in the midst of the best in this political and national dispensation.

Naija as Nigeria

Socio-economic Politico cum Geographically Nigerian is a naturally hallowed country. Nigeria is blessed with rich natural resources and abundant human resources. Accordingly, *Nations Encyclopaedia (2023)* opts that Nigeria is located between latitude 40N and 140N of the equator and between longitude 30E and 150E of the Greenwich meridian. Therefore, the latitudinal extent of Nigeria is about 100 (140N-40N) while the longitudinal extent is 120 (150E-30E). Nigeria is in West Africa and centrally located in Africa. Apart from the Atlantic Ocean in the south, she is surrounded by francophone (French-speaking) countries. She is bounded in the west by Benin Republic, in the north by Niger Republic, in the east by Cameroun Republic, in the northeast by Chad Republic and in the south by the Atlantic Ocean. Nigeria is the fourth largest country in West Africa in terms of land area after Niger, Mali and Mauritania. An on-line source with regard to geography of Nigerian shows that the total land area of Nigeria is approximately 923,768 square kilometres. The greatest distance from east to west is approximately 1,300km while from north to south is about 1,100km(*Nations Encyclopaedia, 2023*).

In terms of population, Nigeria is the most populous single country in Africa and the seventh largest country in the world with a population of about 220 million persons based on the United nation recent estimate(*Nations Encyclopaedia, 2023*). The country, Nigeria, came into existence in 1914 as a result of the acclaimed amalgamation of the Northern and Southern protectorates. She became independent in 1960. As at independence, the country had three regions namely, North, East and West. The Northern region had its headquarters in Kaduna, East in Enugu and West in Ibadan. In 1963, Nigeria became a republic and the fourth region known as Mid-West was created from the then Western region with its headquarters in Benin City. The political divisions remained four until 1967 when the country was further divided into

twelve states. In 1976, the country was further divided into 19 states. On September 23rd 1987, two more states were created, making the total number to be 21. Nigeria presently has thirty-six states and a Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja which is the federal capital of Nigeria. Nigeria as a member of the African Union has been regarded as the giant of Africa. Studies show that Nigeria has over 500 indigenous languages are spoken in Nigeria and more than 250 ethnic groups. Lagos is Nigeria's largest city as well as its former capital.

Nigeria is a federation of 36 states with the federal capital territory - Abuja. The Federal Capital Territory, also known as FCT, is the capital of Nigeria. The Abuja FCT is not a state but is administered by a Federal Minister appointed by the President as part of his cabinet. Each state in Nigeria is subdivided into Local Government Areas (LGAs). *Nigeria Galleria* (2022) shows that, there are a total of 774 local government areas in Nigeria. Wikipedia upholds that at independence on October 1, 1960, Nigeria has three (3) regions: Northern Region, Western Region and Eastern Region. In 1963, a new region, the Mid-Western Region, was created from the Western Region. Then four years later in 1967, the regions were replaced by 12 states by military decree by the then Head of State General Yakubu Gowon. In 1976, seven new states were created by military decree by the then Head of State General Murtala Mohammed bringing the total to 19 states, including the Federal Capital Territory Abuja (Abuja was carved from parts Kwara, Niger, Kaduna and Plateau States with the bulk of landmass carved out of Niger State). In 1987, the then military President General Ibrahim Babangida created two new states were created - Akwa Ibom State from Cross River State and Kastina State from Kaduna State, bringing the number to 21 States. Four years later (1991), General Babangida created an additional nine (9) states bringing the total to 30 States. Finally, in 1996, the then military Head of State General Ibrahim Abacha created six (six more states, bringing the total to 36 states, which remains to the present date) (Okafor, 2023).

Moltchanova (2007) in "Nationhood and Political Culture" appreciated nationhood as a complex phenomenon that includes aspects of personal and group identity, history, culture, and political preferences. All of these features are shared by several kinds of groups, not only by national groups. Nigeria is often called the "Giant of Africa." This name comes from the vastness of its land, the diversity of its peoples and languages, its huge population (the largest in Africa), and its oil and other natural resources.

Nation etymologically is from the Latin word *natus* meaning the root, made, produced by nature. In our context and usage, it has to do with people from the same root having the same language, habits of culture in their dressing, type of food and so on. An on-line Cambridge dictionary defines a nation as the fact of being a nation (a country with its government, language, traditions, etc.). Moltchanova (2007) in the paper "Nationhood and Political Culture, gave a new definition of nations thus: Nations are groups whose members share and identify with a particular kind of political culture or a set of beliefs and attitudes concerning politics. Basic to this political culture is the belief that membership in the group defines the bounds within which political authority can originate meaningfully for those it governs. This is why nations in this line of thought are seen as substantial entities; 'nation' is a category of practice, not (in the first instance) a category of analysis." The sense of a nation gives the idea of nationhood. Therefore, Nationhood is a result of a proper understanding of a nation. Nationhood is the status of being a nation. In the article "Nationhood and Political Culture", Moltchanova (2007) maintains that nationhood is a complex phenomenon that includes aspects of personal and group identity, history, culture, and political preferences.

Nation and nationhood are carefully expressed within the bounds of love for the fatherland. Hence, the idea of a nation as well as the concept of nationhood is linked as one entity in trying to identify a politically independent community with citizens from the same root in terms of origin. Nigeria in this regards with her multifaceted ethnic groups properly described as a nation. Nigeria has many nations with different languages and peculiar lifestyles with regard to eating habits, dressing and other aspects of cultural dispositions. Theo Nwalor, in his preface to Jude Uwalaka's book, *The Struggle for An Inclusive Nigeria: Igbos To Be or Not To Be? A Treatise To Nwaigbo*, however, refers to Nigeria as a three-legged structure. Hence, he reiterates that "this tripodal structure, Nigeria, is made up of Yoruba Nigerians, Hausa Nigerians and Nigerian Igbos. To be authentic Yoruba or authentic Hausa or authentic Igbo (or authentic Fulani) and authentic Nigeria, are not mutually exclusive". Recently we recognise Fulani Nigerians as Fulani Nation. The other minor nations are the minor tribes or ethnic groups that exist independently of other major ones. Nigeria as a country of many nations houses more than 250 ethnic groups with the major ones as treated above as Igbo, Hausa, Yoruba and recently Fulani is popular because of their socio-political influence in Nigeria. Wikipedia on the Profile of Nigeria maintains that Nigeria has over 250 ethnic groups, the most populous and politically influential being

Hausa-Fulani 29%, Yoruba 21%, Igbo (Ibo) 18%, Ijaw 10%, Kanuri 4%, Ibibio 3.5%, Tiv 2.5%. *Wikipedia* endorses the fact that Nigeria is a very ethnically diverse country with more than 371 ethnic groups, the largest of which are the Yoruba, Hausa and Igbo. To this end, there are at least 371 tribes in Nigeria. With over 500 languages which are spoken among its about 230 million people. This is a result of the number of existing ethnic groups, some of the popular languages spoken in Nigeria are listed as follows; Igbo, Yoruba, Hausa, Kanuri, Ijaw, Ibibio, Edo, Fulfude, Tiv etc. Nigeria has one official language which is English, as a result of the British colonial rule over the nation. Research in 2018 has that Ethnicity in Nigeria is shown below as Hausa 25%, Yoruba 21%, Igbo 18%, Fulani 6%, Ibibio 3.5%, Tiv 2.4%, Kanuri 2.4%, Ijaw 1.8%, and others 19.9%. These differential varieties ought to be the beauty of one country with many nations. And these varieties express in a very deep sense the often glorified maxim unity in diversities and diversity in unity (Findlay, 2019).

Democracy

The word democracy comes from the Greek words demos, meaning people, and Kratos meaning power; so democracy can be thought of as the power of the people: a way of governing which depends on the will of the people. The definition of democracy from the Turnbull, Lea&Parkinson (eds). (2023) is that it is a system of government in which the people of a country can vote to elect their representatives. Merriam-Webster (ed). (2022) has it that democracy is a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives. It is a form of control of an organization or group by the majority of its members. There are a few types of Democracy Direct democracy, Representative democracy, ohacracy, ohazurume, Constitutional democracy and Monitory democracy. Websters (1970) defines democracy as a government in which supreme power is invested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through representation. Turnbull, Lea&Parkinson (eds.) (2023) has it that democracy is the government in which the supreme power is held by the people and used by them directly or indirectly through representation. The Synonyms of democracy are republic, sovereignty, self-rule, self-government, autonomy, home rule and self-determination as against dictatorship, tyranny, monarchy, autocracy, despotism, totalitarianism, theocracy and monocracy.

On Democracy in Africa

It is a truism that African democracy or democracy in Africa is simply limping. A great and better version of democracy existed in Africa before Western imperialism politicized and politicized Africa in the name of colonization instead of a developmental nation. The Western

imperialism that claims to teach us democracy has done unprintable things in Africa in the name of democracy. Unfortunately, most of those arrogant imperialists are back with their version of democracy for Africa as the third world. How can a country that opposed our liberation, supported colonial agenda and regime as well as the apartheid in South Africa, the white racist minority in Zimbabwe, the Portuguese, the colonial government in Mozambique, Angola, Guinea Bissau Zimbabwe and Cape Verde assure Africans of the democratic process in their dealings with us. How can a country that toppled many democratic government institutions in Africa, instigated and championed most coup d'états in Africa come to teach us democracy? Really! A country that has killed and supported the massacre of many of our democratic leaders beginning with Patrice Lumumba toppled Kwame Nkrumah and gruesomely murdered Murmah Gaddafi is today teaching us how to be democratic nations of Africa. How can a country and its allies that opposed the African Union and her developmental strategies having killed the originator of such an idea mention democracy to us? How can a country that is built of brutal force, years of enslavement of other human beings, the humiliation of other human beings, the exploitation of human beings, plundering of other nations' human and natural resources, oppose all forms of human rights come back to teach us democracy and democratic dispensations. This is why many scholars believe that the white imperialists' democracy is highly truncated and inefficient. And stubbornly the colonial masters remain in Africa even amid the Magisterial order to *Hands-off Africa*. A country they hate yet they wish to remain within with their racist arrogance of reversed post-colonial agenda. Today having done with their colonialism and neocolonialism, they are into Post-colonialism and post-colonization and its post-colonial agenda may be most cruel-some and of course, the Western countries' imperialism remains the greatest problem of our time. This Western imperialism widens as there exists as they continue to champion the G-8, the global divide and recently the digital divide.

Kakistocracy

Kakistocracy according to Turnbull, Lea&Parkinson (eds.) (2023) is the "government by the least suitable or competent citizens of a state". Merriam-Webster online dictionary equally defines it as "government by the worst people". Kakistocracy, therefore, means a state or society that is governed by the least suitable or incompetent citizens. That is to say categorically that kakistocracy is the government of the worst in the midst of the seeming and comparable best. By all human standards and kind humane evaluation kakistocracy is the rule of the incompetent.

Incapable and unqualified citizens of the state. This kind of rule has nothing to do with the idiomatic fact that *in the country the blind one-eyed man is the king*. Never. Rather, it is a type of leadership where the worst choice is purposefully made among better options. With Greek origin, as early as 19th century kakistocracy is the government of *the worst*, the *kakistos*. It is a government of the worst people. It is a government by the least suitable. It is the government of the lowest degree of competent citizens of any state.

Kakistocracy remains the leadership by the worst or least qualified in the midst of the best and most qualified. It is the government of the idiots. That is the *idiocracy*. It is the leadership of the idiots, the moron, the imbecile, the simpleton, the nincompoop, the feeble unreasonable elders and the aged. There is a middle term to this word and type of leadership about plutocracy, gerontocracy and other forms of government limited by age-related problems. Kakistocracy is quite different. It is a deliberate preferential acceptance of the worst against the good, better, and best of the citizens. Often thinkers and researchers have linked kakistocracy to the type of government imposed and practised by the colonial and imperial masters especially Britain which has subjected some countries to remain under their rules till date.

Kakistocracy has over the years metamorphosed into other forms of ill-fated government thereby tilting towards apartheid, neocracy (government administered by new or untried persons) and Kleptocracy (from Greek *kleptos*, *thieves*, is a government whose corrupt leaders (*kleptocrats*). All these forms of government used their political power to expropriate the wealth of the people and land they govern, typically by embezzling or misappropriating government. Nevertheless, a look at the Greek political organization will buttress our appreciation of the type of government and the type of people within the state. Human society gives humanity the opportunity for a meaningful life and meaningful contribution to life. The contribution is meaningful if it borders on human effort. The Greeks acknowledging this fact decided to categorize human beings on earth into three types: *The Idiots*, *The Tribesman* and *The Citizens*. *The Idiots* are those who don't care, defy every civility and live like mere brutes amongst others. *The Tribesman* is too tribalistic and looks at everything from the point of view of his or her tribe or ethnic background. It can be terrible to have a tribesman as a leader, he would alienate the rest and would be very sectionalism in political appointment. *The Citizens* are people who believe you are part of them and their tribe. For them, we are one and they do things as the law prescribes and loves and treat humanity as one caring for the well-

being of others. In complementarity, the Roman Society has three major social classes *Citizens, Non-citizens* and *Slaves*.

Nigerian Polity

Politics means "the things concerning the *polis* and is the origin of the modern English word politics. Aristotle asserts what Plato tacitly denies: that man is by nature a political animal. Man is by nature a political animal because he can communicate and dialogue about justice and good. The city is before the individual. Aristotle in his *Politics* was very clear in his advocacy for a political community, *a polis*, that guarantees a good life. The city is a political partnership that comes into being for self-sufficiency but exists primarily for the sake of living well. Rahe (2000) continues, to believe that "mere life brought the *polis* into being...and through the life of the *polis* that the gregarious beings (human beings) of this sort have a share in the good life".

Nigerian Polity is under a democratic dispensation trusting the people of making wise choices during elections. Unfortunately, there this political syndrome and canker-worm have continued to mar Nigerian Politics leaving her with a peculiar style of leadership popularly known as Gerontocracy and kakistocracy professionally referred to as Gerontocratic Kakistocracy. Right from the time of independence, the almighty British rule, the hoax amalgamation and the eventual republic, the imperial masters never meant well socio-economic and development-wise. Research has shown that the colonial masters ends up having power on independence over the societal misfits and disadvantaged areas. The British just like the French colonial masters places the independence of their subjects in the fate and hands of the gerontocratic *kakistos*. An x-ray of a Nigerian prototype is very important.

Nigeria became a British protectorate in 1901. The period of British rule lasted until 1960 when an independence movement led to the country being granted independence. The colonial era was from 1882 to 1960. Nigeria first became a republic in 1963 but succumbed to military rule after a bloody *coup d'état* in 1966. Back in history, Nigeria was birthed in 1914. On this purported amalgamation instead of annexation the British colonial masters had an agreement with the Jihadists on how to share and own Nigeria as an entity of protectorates.

Research shows that the following were the alleged *Nigerians* who officially was involved in the signing of the amalgamation: Sir Kitoyi Ajasa (a lawyer representing the African community in Lagos as a

Legislative Council member of the Colony since 1902), His Highness, Oladugbolu (Alaafin of Oyo), Hon. R. Henshaw (Obong of Calabar), Hon. Maiturare (Sarkin Mussulumi and Sultan of Sokoto), Hon. Abubakar (Shehu of Borno) and Hon. Usman (Emir of Kano). Note the representation in the discovered list. The *pact* is between the British and the Northern Oligarchy even as Jihadists. These persons who signed the amalgamation were not *National Figures*. Their names have never appeared anywhere, as the *founding fathers* of this great Country. Something definitely must have gone wrong somewhere. There were a little more than 25 persons that were involved in the so-called "Amalgamation" of January 1914. Only about six persons were selected in a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural Nigeria, the rest were Jihadists and the British including Frederick Lord Lugard himself as well as Lewis Harcourt. Where were the founding fathers then? Was there some unknown agreement between these colonial masters and the purported six persons? What was the content of the treaty? Where is the document?

Political inequalities as well as Boko Haram is a direct consequence of this gap and lapse. Lord Lugard and British colonial rule gave little or no thought to the consequences of the amalgamation of people of different nations and multicultural backgrounds. Fafowor (2013), maintains, however, that the indirect rule which is the product of amalgamation remains the major source of ethnic and tribal politics in Nigeria today. The Nigerian-Biafran war, therefore, was one of the fundamental mistakes and aftermath effects of the amalgamation. With its proximity to the coast, the South had for long been subjected to Western influences.

The amalgamation enthroned bizarre and corrupt practices of acrimonious unrest among Nigerians. This was what our current political leaders inherited and it explains their lack of commitment to the rule of law and public accountability. In effect, the 1914 amalgamation in Nigeria destroyed an indigenous political and administrative system that was far more democratic and accountable and replaced it with a colonial system of government that was wholly undemocratic and lacked any kind of accountability. It laid the foundation for a despotic government in Nigeria, virtually without any checks and balances in the system. The Nigerian-styled politics of *Kakistocracy* and *gerontocracy* are explored under three broad areas of Corruption, Bad-Leadership, Greontocratic and Kakistocratic Politics

Candid Evaluation of Nigerian Democracy

The area known as Nigeria began to come under British control in 1861 and was made a British colony in 1914. Nigeria gained independence in 1960 and became a republic in 1963. Nnamdi Azikiwe became Governor-General on 16 November 1960, with Abubakar Tafawa Balewa as Prime Minister, and became the first Nigerian named to the Privy Council of the United Kingdom. When Nigeria became a Republic in 1963, he was its first President. In both posts, Azikiwe's role was largely ceremonial. In the heat of this thriving political era, Nigeria was merely surviving amid nationalities' dissenting and disengaging voices that were suppressed. However, that lingering ethnic strife soon led to military coups and the most civil war.

However, one of the enduring events in the history of Nigerians as a country of nations is the Nigerian-Biafran civil war or rightly regarded as the 1967 massacre of the Igbos. It is estimated that during the civil war, more than one million people died in the battle, as a result of ethnic cleansing referred to as that *civil war*, or because of starvation claiming the vast majority of lives. After the war, bank accounts owned by Biafrans were seized and a Nigerian panel resolved to give every Igbo person with an account in Nigerian Bank only 20 pounds. This is history, a painful one at that. The book, *The Biafran Story*, is a 1969 non-fiction book by Frederick Forsyth about the Nigerian Civil War (1967-70) in which Biafra unsuccessfully attempted to secede from Nigeria. *The Biafra Story* was originally written by Frederick Forsyth who has been working as a correspondent for the BBC Africa Service in Enugu but he quit the job and left for Biafra after becoming "so disgusted" with the BBC's "lies and distortions". The revised edition of the book was published in 1977 under the title *The Making of an African Legend: The Biafran Story*. Another work was that of Chinua Achebe's *There Was a Country*. It is a personal history of Biafra by the literary icon Chinua Achebe. It's like telling the story of the Nigerian-Biafran civil war from the horse's mouth.

The sad story of 1967 starting with the first coup and the murder of northern Nigerian leaders that led to the pogroms in which decades of thousands of Igbos living in the north in the Gen Emeka Ojuwku declaration for the south-eastern region's secession from a country in which Ndigbo "felt unwanted" was not necessary if the needed intervention was respected. The war broke out and was waged by Nigerian Federal General Yakubu Gowon and was heavily supported by the UK government whose interest was in our oil. It was the crudest war as Biafrans fought Britain with partially empty hands for good

three years even though her engineers in their ingenuity tried to make something like the infamous Ogbunigwe (Ojukwu Bucket Bomb).

The war in the expressions of Achebe was out of sheer ignorance amid their ego-driven policies. Even though there was this pronouncement of *no victor, no vanquished*; even though Ndigbo were reintegrated into Nigerian society, they are still faced with vagaries of marginalization and all forms of economic discrimination as every Igbo man, no matter what you have in the bank then was offered £20 flat fee as well as those wanting to convert their Biafran currency into Nigerian Naira amidst other policies of abandoned properties. Yet Ndigbo is true Nigerians in every sense of the word and every part of Nigeria to date. Achebe's book looks forward to a better Nigeria where justice, fair play, good governance, productive spirit will replace corruption, religious bigotry, good leadership and a spirit of consumerism. The coup ushered in the military and military groups ruled the country from 1966 to 1979 and from 1983 to 1999. 1979-1983 saw the emergence of the 2nd republic with Shehu Shagari as President. The military came back having tasted power and never wished to leave. Between 1999 and now we are enjoying the 3rd republic mixed with the worst system of government in the name of democracy and for Fela, it's Demo-crazy.

The list of past Nigerian *Presidents* save a few former *Heads of State* shows a litany of old leaders, a form of gerontocracy that has culminated into gerontophobia. The list depicts a display of kakistos. We must note that old age being a blessing is very specific. In Igbo socio-political affairs, for example, the eldest has a designated position that is sustained and he or she remains in such particular post even as ceremonial head. However, there is a capable youth that seconds him or her to support him officially. However, there are positions of authority that youthfulness is needed as against old age. One such position that demands youthfulness is the Presidency. It's disheartening that with 109 years as a country, we are yet to get it right in regard to governance. 109 years as a country, we still believe that the youth are too young to rule. After 109 years of *There is a country* and 63 years after independence, we are yet to get it right with governance amid the existing leadership of kakistocracy and gerontocracy. After years of existing as a country of nations pivoted on *unity in diversity*, many unhealthy policies like a quota system, federal character, federalism, etc. continue to highlight the obvious gaps of nationalities through the ethnic lines and tribal boundaries inherent in Nigerian socio *cum* geopolitical affairs.

Nigerian Democracy

The term *demokratia*, postulated by the Athenians, as “rule of the people” which was coined from *demos* “people” and *Kratos* “power” or “rule” very prevalent in the 5th century B.C. within their political system was such that the democratic citizenship was exclusive to an elite class of free men only, that is the *citizens as against some of the tribesmen and idiots as well as the Slaves and women*. The Nigerian version of democracy as shown below will make the differential exception while exposing our problem over the years with the almighty democracy with our *nascent Nigerian democracy* since 1960 is ever plagued with a myriad of intrigues, marred with glaring corruption amid thuggery and other archaic and crude forms of electioneering and political thievery with any respect and regard to rule of law and the revered electoral act. The worst is that the Democratic umpires have been compromised. The 2023 democratic election in Nigeria is simply a mockery of democracy. Even the blind saw it and the deaf heard the blunder and daylight robbery and disenfranchisement of the electorates. The whole was swept under the carpet thus if you are not happy with the national democratic umpire go to court. And the political impunity of imposing a selected that elected candidate moves on.

Democracy according to Abraham Lincoln’s definition is *the government of the people, by the people and for the people*. Jokingly Brainjotter (BJ) Comedy made an impressive input in this classical definition to fittingly mock our Nigerian leadership system when he redefined democracy according to Nigeria as *the government of some people, for some people and by some people*. And the key phrasal concept for him in this definition is *some people* which can equally be defined as *people that have bastard money*. Continuing, he rejected *the election* as the method of choosing *some people* in any democratic system like Nigerian. Rather he opted for *selection*. Accordingly, BJ noted that in other countries, it is election but in Nigeria it is selection. And he hilariously dramatized this selection in selecting and announcing the candidate of his choice as the class captain. Even as the whole class has listened to the manifestos of the few contestants, who ought to have bought *election and or selection forms*, by paying into his account, and voted otherwise, BJ announced the candidate of his *choice selection*. When the class objected BJ reminded them that he used the method in tandem with the Nigerian definition of democracy. He, however, advised the class to go to court if they don’t agree with him.

Nigerian contemporary democracy is a sham and inglorious sabotage of political innuendoes. Nwogu (2015) reasoned that name-calling and

name-dropping among the political class is the order of the day. Every activity, every policy of a ruling party is questioned and criticized by the opposition. This tends to overheat the polity. Politicians should endeavour to complement enduring strides made by opposing parties. On the other hand, constructive criticism should be openly acknowledged and amends made where necessary. This promotes enduring democracy and brings to the barest minimum dissenting opinions amongst the ruling class.

Conclusion

Nigerian polity seems to have a version of her government. It's a government that borders on old people, the worst set of people in terms of character and disposition and selection in terms of election. *Wikipedia* made a summary of Nigerian polity thus: Nigerian version of politics takes place within a framework of a *federal, presidential, representative democratic republic* in which executive power is exercised by the federal government. The *Federal Government of Nigeria* is composed of three distinct branches namely the *legislative, executive* and *judicial* whose powers are vested and bestowed upon them by the *Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria*, the *National Assembly*, the *President*, and lastly, the *Federal Courts*, which includes the *Supreme Court* which is regarded as the highest court in Nigeria respectively. One of the major functions of the constitution is that it provides for separation and balance of powers among the three branches and aims to prevent the repetition of past mistakes made by the government, some other functions of the constitution include that it divides power between the federal government and the states, and it also protects various individual liberties of the citizens of the nation. Democracy in Nigeria's independence and membership in the British Commonwealth (1960) and republic (1963) was short-lived with a coup d'état with a military regime (1960-1979 and 1983-1999). With all these facts on the ground, Nigeria battles with a democratic dispensation that is more viable than kakistocratic.

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