

MY POLITICAL AMBITION IS NOT WORTH THE BLOOD OF ANY NIGERIAN: A SOCIOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

**Ekenedilichukwu A. Okolo, PhD; Godswill Okechukwu Nwokedi &
Johnmajor Chinecherem Nwaozuru**

Department of Religion and Human Relations, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka
ea.okolo@unizik.edu.ng, godswillnwokedi@gmail.com, waozurujohnmajor@gmail.com

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Abstract

The present day society is occupied with men and women who are aspiring for one political position or the other. This is because man is acknowledged to be a political being by nature and must always exhibit the politics in him. It is a fact well known that political positions are not given and for one to occupy any of the vacant positions, he must belong to a political party, campaign for such an office, make campaign promises to gain the support of the electorates and stand election that will usher him or her into the available political position. This quest to occupy vacant political offices has led so many Nigerian politicians into directly or indirectly committing violent crimes like kidnapping, killing and other atrocities if they perceive opponents as hindrance to ascending to such position. In Nigeria today, people are willing and ready to do anything that will aid them in occupying one political office or the other. This widely observed notion in today's political landscape is in contradistinction with the view of Goodluck Jonathan who maintained thus, "my political ambition is not worth the blood of any Nigerian". This research therefore is set to examine this assertion and will be adopting phenomenological approach in its study and theoretically framed with Leech Politeness Principle. The research observes that the quest for political position is becoming alarming and there is need for politicians to allow the will of the masses to always prevail. It also observes that there are too many killing during election period which is not supposed to be, because it is not a do or die affair. The study therefore concludes that politicians should always make the above statement their watchword and limit going beyond bound in their quest to occupy available political positions even when they are not elected by the masses. The research recommends that people should learn to play politics with good mind which will help in bringing sanity into politics. It also recommends that the interest of the nation and that of the masses should always supersede any personal interest.

Keywords: Political, Ambition, Worth, Blood, Nigerian, Sociological Appraisal

Introduction

Leadership is an integral aspect of every human society. It is seen in all levels of relationships, ranging from family to community to organization and so forth. It is the life wire of every organization, no organization can function properly without any form of leadership structure. Without leadership, there will be no headway. Shin (2004) observes that, it requires great diligence, faithfulness, time, energy, competence among others. Despite how crucial leadership is, it is a herculean task. Much more when it comes to political leadership which encompasses every sphere of the society. Man as a political and social being must engage in politics and contest for available political positions. However, during campaign/election period, it is through language/communication that politicians convey their manifesto to the masses in order to get their support.

Language/communication is an integral aspect of politics. The means of communication

constitute not only a source of information and transmission of ideology, but also a forum of reproduction of ideology and social legitimation. Within these means, the media has a special capacity to establish particular values and reference models for the public opinion as well as to reproduce dominant ideologies and social conceptions; hence, its value in the political field as a weapon of ideological persuasion and manipulation which politicians use according to their interests and postures. Language could be said to represent relations of power and Ideology, exemplified in the relations of politicians to the general masses. This is manifested in the political sphere. Language plays vital role in politics. Onebunne and Chukwu (2023) observe that language is a veritable tool in politics as politicians use it (even when they violate it) to accrue power to themselves and gain influence over the people they rule and dissuade resistance in the polity. So, they employ several communicative devices and techniques that shift language from the natural function to its deceptive or complicated functions. The result of this is that they accrue more power through sympathy and advocacy of their citizens (Takoua, 2015).

In a democratic state like Nigeria, there is press freedom, freedom of speech and association as well as right to vote and to be voted for, which creates room for periodic election. Periodic election gives political aspirants the platform to be elected into various vacant political positions once every four years. This gives room for periodic election to take place just like long past 2015 Presidential Election. However, before the casting of votes, a certain period of time is given for political parties and their candidates to carry out campaigns which are vital aspect of election process. In recent times, political candidates make effective use of the media during campaigns. Campaign creates an avenue for political candidates to either get the support and favour of the masses or not. For a candidate to get the support and favour of the masses, the candidate must be able to convince the masses through his manifesto which in most times is made known to the public via political/campaign speech.

Political/campaign speech may not be complete without an element of propaganda. Koppang (2009) is of the opinion that propaganda is also used by governments to encourage (or coerce) citizens to act and think in accordance with its philosophy and to uphold and support the contrived image of itself as well as the nation that it seeks to portray. During campaigns, political candidates try to sell their ideology to the people via political speech. Whenever election is around the corner, politicians make use of propaganda to draw the attention of the masses towards them and gain their support. Aytan, Aynur, Hilal, Aytac and Malahat (2021) explain that:

A politician's public speech is a special type of discourse aimed at convincing the audience of the correctness and importance of the information presented in the message. Thus, the main goal is to influence the audience, expect a certain reaction and/or action based on the following functions of the political discourse; i. Drawing attention. ii. Ideological function (problem-solution). iii. Convincing the audience of the correctness of the problems posed and the ways proposed to solve them. iv. Mobilizing the audience and responding to proposals. Actually, these functions are part of one of the political goals of manipulation. (p.741).

Prior to the 2015 Presidential Election in Nigeria, during the campaign period, former President, Goodluck Jonathan equivocally said that “My Political Ambition is not Worth the Blood of any Nigerian.” This political/campaign speech was indeed put into practice by Goodluck Jonathan, as he willingly handed over power after he lost the election despite being an incumbent president as at that time. This research makes efforts to draw out moral lessons from this political speech and action of Goodluck Jonathan so that, present day politicians could learn from it, in order to play politics with good mind which will help to bring sanity into Nigerian political system.

Conceptual Framework

Concept of Politics

Man is a political being, and politics has been seen to be as old as man. Nwaozuru (2020) opines that politics in the world has been on going from ancient times dating back to the Ancient Near East where political power was held by powerful Kings. Although politics does not have a common definition, Nwaozuru (2020) traces that politics originated from two Greek words *polis* meaning city and *techne* meaning art, skill or governing a city. Sigo cited by Ushe (2014) enunciates that the term politics simply refers to the science or art of influencing or guiding government policy, including areas of religion, economy and socio-political responsibility of the state or nation to adjust or order relationship between individuals and groups in a political community. Onyekpe (1998) states that politics is the struggle for power which itself is the authority to determine or formulate and execute decisions and policies, which must be accepted by the society it is the struggle for power of governance, especially executive authority. Nwaozuru (2020) agrees that politics usually involves struggle for power between various political parties and their candidates for different political offices that exist in the society regulated by an authorized election body. The struggle for political power is very visible in a state operating a multi-party system like Nigeria. The 2015 Presidential Election witnessed numerous political parties who contested for the office of the president.

Concept of Political Discourse

Karasik (2004) states that political discourse is a form of institutional discourse which has its own sublanguages (vocabulary, phraseology), that is, it uses a certain system of professionally oriented signs. Onebunne and Chukwu (2023) explain that political discourse is a type of discourse that is derived from politics, controlled by political institutions that are tied to political practices in different contexts. It is the sum of all speech acts as regards to political discussions in a sovereign state. Sharndama (2015) opines that political discourse is seen as a discourse or speech that is associated with either struggle for power or maintenance/control of it. According to Udoh and Ejiaso (2023), it has been observed that in every political discourse, there are speakers who are known as “political actors”, who produce the discourses of politics, and “political recipients”, the general masses. Moreover, Igwedibia (cited by Udoh and Ejiaso, 2023) enunciates that political actors possess political powers that have to do with the position of being in charge over peoples behaviour, making decisions and controlling of general resources of society.

Concept of Political Speech

According to Demyankov (2002) in terms of politics, the effect of language impact is manifested at a very high level and has a huge impact on mass consciousness as a means of achieving social consent and shaping massive political views. In other words, Aytan et al (2021) said that, the task of political speech does not consist of simply describing what is happening, but also convincing of fidelity of the words uttered, inducing masses into the “right” action since it is very important for a politician “to touch the right string” in mass consciousness. Political excerpts are important strategic political communication instruments designed to influence public opinion and behaviour. Politicians seek to persuade audiences of their views and a political speech is one of the ways they go about achieving this goal. A political speech is a discourse about political activities, ideas, or relations a political actor addresses to an electorate or the public. This type of discourse, therefore, plays a crucial role in garnering public support and legitimizing prescribed policies (Rojo and van Dijk, 1997). Finlayson and Martin (2008) describe a political speech as:

An argument of some kind; an attempt to provide others with reasons for thinking, feeling or acting in some particular way; to motivate them; to invite them to trust one in uncertain conditions; to get them to see situations in a certain light. ... [also] in some

measure, adapt to audiences, confirming their expectations and respecting their boundaries, even as it tries to transform them (p.450).

Taiwo (2013) remarks that politicians in their communication present themselves as builders and as those who restructure and strengthen democratic doctrines and developmental policies. Political discourse and speech are not void of political propaganda

Concept of Political Propaganda

The interface between propaganda and politics developed to what is termed as political propaganda. Politics and propaganda cannot be separated nor can they run parallel to each other, they are inextricably attached to each other, that is, without politics, there is no propaganda because credible politics always calls for good propaganda since both have same direction, goal and motive. Ojo (2021) elucidates that political propaganda refers essentially to communication activities employed by political actions with the intention to further the interest of political office holders or government. Of course, it is the means by which political governance is sustained (Hasan, 2010). Political propaganda is referred to the utilization of essential mechanisms to change people's minds about the viability of an idea, policy, party, candidates, project or cause. Propaganda is only meaningful and believable when it can show positive results. Propaganda is also used by governments to encourage (or coerce) citizens to act and think in accordance with its philosophy and to uphold and support the contrived image of itself as well as the nation that it seeks to portray.

Theoretical Framework

Leech's Politeness Principle

The Theory of Politeness Principle (PP) was introduced by Geoffrey Leech in 1983. Politeness concerns a relationship between self and other. Leech (1983) states that politeness concerns a relationship between two participants whom we may call 'self' and 'other'. In conversation, self will normally be identified with S and other will typically be identified with H. In the words of Onebunne and Chukwu (2023), in order to ensure cooperation in a conversation, the self and other have to subscribe to a set of maxims as a strategy to show each other that offensive and bad language or behaviour are parried. This shows that the aim behind this is to restrict the use of obscene language and behaviour that may affect both participants' faces. Spradley (1997) views that the application of the principle of politeness in speaking is characterized by the following indicators; (1) do not treat the speaker as someone who is submissive to the speaker; and do not let the speaker incur "costs" (social, physical, psychological, etcetera); (2) do not say unkind things about the speaker; and (3) do not express pleasure over the addressee's misfortune. The purpose of PP is to establish feeling of community and social relationship. Thus, politeness principle (PP) focuses on process of interpretation that the center of the study is on the effect of the hearer rather than the speaker.

There are six maxims of the politeness principle identified by Leech that are used to explain relationship between sense and force in political discourse. They are as follows:

i. The Tact maxim

The tact maxim is minimizing cost to other and maximizing benefit to other. Leech (1983) explains that the maxim of tact dictates that every participant of the speech should minimize the loss of others, or maximize profit for others. This maxim is critical in politeness principle as it requires not stating the offensive thoughts for others. This means there is a lot of embellishment of unsatisfactory truth to reckon for the awful choices people make. Commissives and directives called by Leech as impositives. Awin (2013) explains that commissives is found in utterances

that express speaker's intention in the future action; then, Directives/ impositives are expressions that influence the hearer to do action.

The example of the tact maxim is, why will you not vote for me? It is the directive/ impositive utterance. This utterance is spoken to ask the hearers who are eligible to vote. The speaker (political candidate) uses indirect utterance to be more polite and minimizing cost to the hearer. This utterance implies that voting for the speaker (political candidate) will be beneficial to the hearers (electorates). Onebunne and Chukwu (2023) enunciate that politicians employ euphemistic expressions to achieve this in order to give credence to their supposed argument and gain the people's support.

ii. The Generosity Maxim

The generosity maxim states to minimizing benefit to self and maximizing cost to self. Awin (2013) states that like tact maxim, the generosity maxim occurs in commissives and directives/ impositives. This maxim is centered to self, while the tact maxim is to other. The example will be illustrated as follows; you have to come out in mass to vote, as it is your civic responsibility. However, please make sure you vote for my party. This is an advice utterance that is involved in directive illocutionary act. In this case the speaker (political candidate) implies that cost of the utterance is to his self. Meanwhile, the utterance implies that benefit is for the hearers (electorates). Onebunne and Chukwu (2023) are of the opinion that in generosity maxim, the speaker uses euphemism to misshape the truth and to be seen as supporting and generous with other.

iii. The Approbation Maxim

The approbation maxim requires to minimizing dispraise of other and maximizing praise of other. In the words of Awin (2013), this maxim instructs to avoid saying unpleasant things about others and especially about the hearer. This maxim occurs in assertives/ representatives and expressives. Assertives/ representatives are utterances that express the true propositional. Meanwhile, expressive are utterances that show the speakers feeling. The example is sampled below. "A": The performance of our party was great! "B": Yes, was it not? In the above example, "A" gives a good comment about the party's performance. The politician talks the pleasant thing about his party. This expression is a congratulation utterance that maximizes praise of his party. Politicians use this not only to promote and sell their party manifesto to the electorates but also in gaining praise and support of the masses during election period.

iv. The Modesty Maxim

In the modesty maxim, the participants must minimize praise of self and maximize dispraise of self. This maxim is applied in assertives/ representatives and expressives like the approbation maxim (Awin, 2013). Both the approbation maxim and the modesty maxim concern to the degree of good or bad evaluation of other or self that is uttered by the speaker. The approbation maxim is exemplified by courtesy of congratulation. On the other hand, the modesty maxim usually occurs in apologies. The sample of the modesty maxim is stated thus; You have seen the little our party has done within this few years in power, please vote for our party, as you support us for greater achievement. Onebunne and Chukwu (2023) identify that politicians employ modesty maxim through euphemism to indirectly tell their good deeds and make a good impression on others while hiding the real meaning of what is said.

v. The Agreement Maxim

In the agreement maxim, there is tendency to maximize agreement between self and other people and minimize disagreement between self and other. The disagreement, in this maxim, usually is

expressed by regret or partial agreement (Awin, 2013). This maxim occurs in assertives/representatives illocutionary act. An example will be illustrated thus; “A”: Fulfilling all campaign promises are difficult “B”: True, but making campaign promises are quite easy. From the above example, “B” actually does not agree that all campaign promises are difficult to be fulfilled. He does not express his disagreement strongly to be more polite. The polite answer will influence the effect of the hearer. In this case, B's answer minimize his disagreement using partial agreement, true, but.

In political discourse, Onebunne and Chukwu (2023) suggest that agreement maxim helps to show the interest and concern between politicians and their audience which should be mutually interchangeable still politicians would use euphemistic expressions to conceal their disagreement with fraudulent promises. They inject people's mind with supposed but doubtful future promise and obligation just to have their trust and votes.

vi. The Sympathy Maxim

The sympathy maxim explains to minimize antipathy between self and other and maximize sympathy between self and other. In this case, Awin (20213) avows that the achievement being reached by other must be congratulated. On the other hand, the calamity happens to other, must be given sympathy or condolences. This maxim is applicable in assertives/representatives. The example is as follows. It is appalling that the present administration has not done much to alleviate poverty among the masses. Hence, you must vote for change, if you want a brighter future. It is a sympathetic expression for the masses who are poverty stricken as a result of poor performance of the ruling party. This utterance is uttered to arouse the interest of the hearers (electorates) to the necessity of voting out the ruling party if they want positive change in the future. The expression is meant to draw the attention of the hearers to the speaker who claims to have all it takes to improve the welfare of the masses. Thus, shows the solidarity between the speaker and the hearers. Furthermore, this maxim has been used in political discourse to conceal damaging events and facts and to be self aware about others' plight (Onebunne and Chukwu, 2023). Politicians use euphemism strategy to obfuscate a sad and troubling event that may be injurious to their name and mirror unfavourable and negative policies.

The theory of Leech's Politeness Principle is relevant to this research because, politicians employ it during campaigns in projecting their manifestoes in order to gain the support of the electorates. Furthermore, Leech politeness principle is used by politicians to maintain self-image and to avoid face loss in political discourse. Leech's Politeness Principle is in agreement with democratic principles such as freedom of speech, periodic free and fair election which allows adult qualified citizens to vote and be voted for, as witnessed in the remarkable 2015 Presidential Election in Nigeria.

Brief Biography and Political Career of Goodluck Ebele Jonathan

Goodluck Ebele Jonathan is from Bayelsa State. An indigene of Otuoke, Ijaw ethnic group and a Christian. He was born in November 20th, 1957. He attended Christian primary and secondary schools in the area and later attended the University of Port Harcourt, earning a BSc. in zoology (1981), an MSc. in hydrobiology and fisheries biology (1985), and a Ph.D. in zoology (1995) (McKenna, 2024). Jonathan being interested in politics became a member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the late 1990s. He was elected deputy governor of Bayelsa State in 1999 under PDP. In 2005, he became governor when the incumbent Governor Diepreye Alamieyeseigha was impeached on the grounds of corruption charges. In 2007, he became Vice President to Late Umaru Musa Yar'Adua under the banner of PDP. Yar'Adua, died on May 5, 2010 and Jonathan was sworn in as president. In 2011, he contested and retained the presidential

seat until in 2015 when he lost the bid.

My Political Ambition is not worth the Blood of any Nigerian: a Sociological Appraisal

Prior to the 2015 Presidential Election in Nigeria, during the campaign period, former President, Goodluck Jonathan equivocally said that “My Political Ambition is not worth the Blood of any Nigerian.” First of all, it is necessary to understand the reason Goodluck Jonathan made this statement. The main reason he said this, is that he understood the kind of politics played in Nigeria especially at the peak of elections. Nigeria political terrain is associated with many ills which make it unhealthy ground for innocent citizens to actively participate in politics. Ushe (2014) captures the political scenario of Nigeria in his statement:

The political history of Nigeria has manifested an unmerited monotony of rascality, political, unbridled corruption, political blundering, moral decadence, incessant conflicts, and political motivated assassinations of political opponents, molestations of innocent citizens, wanton destruction of properties that worth millions of naira, political sycophancy and lawlessness due to the introduction of monetization of politics (p. 21).

People opt for political positions not for the sole purpose of rendering services to the people but for self-aggrandizement. The manner at which election campaign and politicking is being carried out in Nigerian is worrisome. On that note, Ugwu (2011) stated that politicking in Nigeria is scary; killing, poisoning, character and real assassination, occultism has become associated with it. Party membership and opposition are not understood as differences in vision or opinion but rather as enmity. Nyam (2010) cites that some politicians would employ the services of abductors to intimidate or eliminate their opponents while others who are not good at politicking and lack the political skill of bargaining and bullying the voters result to kidnapping and political killings. Violent crimes are now used as a tool of political intimidation to political opponents and an instrument for political vendetta and settling of political scores. With these in view, Goodluck Jonathan did not want his political ambition to make him directly or indirectly involve in acts capable of endangering the lives of Nigeria citizens as some politicians do.

Furthermore, Goodluck Jonathan applied Leech's politeness principle particularly generosity maxim, to project himself as a leader who ensures the safety of lives and properties of his subjects. He used the speech to make it clear that he is not in support of acts that leads to blood shed like the rising cases of insurgency and terrorism happening under his tenure.

Also, he employed approbation maxim to portray himself as a peacemaker and not like his fellow contestants that wanted the post by fire or by force. Through Leech's politeness principle, he ensured that his campaign speech will not heat up the polity leading to pre or post election violence commonly witnessed in Nigeria. Political speech can heat up the polity, leading to electoral violence. Electoral violence is seen as any kind of act that results in bodily, psychological and social harm to the electorate. It is the kind of violence that is connected with the use of force before, during, and after elections. As such, any kind of unpleasant expression, whether physical, psychological, or even verbal that is used during an electioneering process is regarded as electoral violence.

It could be said that some political expression can lead to a problem, conflict, if it is not delivered well. This position is also canvassed by the International Peace Institute (2011), in that the organization see many factors as being responsible for the spate of electoral violence in West Africa. Standing out among the issues are inflammatory rhetoric used by politicians and the way the media help to propagate these negative linguistic usages. The concern here is the way politicians use political speech to dominate the thinking of their supporters and make them do what they want them (their supporters) to do especially negatively.

The Conduct of a Free and Fair Election in 2015

Nigeria as a democratic state, observes periodic elections. Since the return of democracy in 1999, general elections take place once every four years. According to Atanda, Oluwashina and Bakare (2018), periodic free and fair elections constitute one of the most significant institutions of liberal and participatory democracy. Nigeria as a democratic state participates in periodic elections. According to Aniekwe and Kushie (2011), elections are a complex set of activities with different variables that feed on one another. The word elections encompasses all the events that happened during the days, weeks, months and even years before election day including the campaign period. It includes not only the totality of what took place during the election period, but also all the post-election events. Ujo (2008) asserts that election is an umbrella word with a wide coverage that includes other activities before, during and after voting. These activities include planning, voter registration, constituency delimitation, arrangement of the polling stations, polling procedure, vote counting and announcement of results. In Nigeria, the body in charge of election is Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

The 2015 Presidential Election was remarkable in the history of Nigerian democracy. It saw the introduction Permanent Voters' Card (PVC), the use of electronic voting process to replace the manual voting method. Hence, the use of Biometric Verification Authentication System (BVAS) machines all geared towards conducting of a free and fair election in 2015. More political parties were formed notably All Progressive Congress (APC) whose flag bearer for the presidential race was Major General Muhammadu Buhari. Many candidates from various political parties contested for the Office of the President. However the most notable parties were Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and All Progressive Congress (APC).

Although the election was not free and fair as envisaged by many, as it was marred by election rigging and malpractices coupled with technical errors, as some of the BVAS machines could not function properly in various polling units. Recall that Goodluck Jonathan the incumbent president as at that time, could not vote electronically as he could not be accredited using the BVAS machine hence, he voted manually. The inability to effectively use the BVAS machine in accreditation and voting process led to irregularities.

The handover to the new Government in keeping to his Campaign Speech

For Goodluck Jonathan to keep to his core campaign speech “My Political Ambition is not worth the Blood of any Nigerian”, despite that the 2015 Presidential Election was marred by election rigging and malpractices coupled with technical errors associated with it is worthy of emulation. He conceded defeat, even before the final result was announced. This action of Goodluck Jonathan was in keeping to his campaign speech. This singular act of Goodluck Jonathan made the nation to be at ease with little or no record of violence which is the first of its kind as regards to previous presidential elections held in the Fourth Republic. He ensured that smooth transition of power was properly done on May 29th 2015. It marked the first time in Nigeria's history that an incumbent had been defeated. This showed that Goodluck Jonathan placed the interest of the nation and citizens above his political ambition, which is a mark of a true and dedicated leader.

A view at Today's Politicians and the Lesson from Goodluck

Presently, in Nigeria, many politicians in their ambition and quest for power has involved in various nefarious acts directly or indirectly that have devastating impacts on the general public. For instance, during the 2019 gubernatorial election in some states, some contestants with their supporters hired the services of “area boys” to victimize and intimidate their opponents and those supporting them. Some election officials were forced at gunpoint to alter results in some people's favour. This was mainly witnessed in some gubernatorial and senatorial elections across some

states of Nigeria. Recall that during the Kogi West Senatorial election, a relative of Dino Malaye was killed. Punch Newspaper (2019) reported thus, the candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party in Saturday's Kogi West Senatorial election, Mr. Dino Melaye, says his nephew Olorunjuwon who was allegedly shot at a polling unit on the election day, died the following day.

This same thing repeated in 2023 general elections. The 2023 presidential election violence that occurred in some states like Lagos, where many voters were attacked, seemed to have been triggered by unguarded comments and actions of some politicians in their quest to take over political power. Vanguard Newspaper (2023) reported that the presidential candidate of the Labour Party (LP), Peter Obi visited Mrs. Jennifer Efidi, woman in viral video who was attacked by political thugs while queuing to vote at her polling unit in Surulere, Lagos.

It could be observed that some politicians through their campaign speeches heat up the polity, leading to electoral violence. Omolara and Akewo (2016) observed that politicians in Nigeria make use of political speech to entangle the people in their political shenanigans. It may be that the way some Nigerian politicians understand politics, is to use political speech not only to discredit their opponents but invariably to heat up the polity. Character assassination among political opponents seems to be the order of the day during election period. The violence witnessed in 2019 and 2023 General Elections seemed to have been triggered by unguarded comments by some politicians. From the above viewpoint, it could be regarded that the some Nigerian politicians through their political excerpt seem to make threatening statements without weighing the possible imports. It could be concluded that the linguistic choices of some Nigerian politicians could heat up the polity and such tend to disregard the safety and well being of the Nigerian populace as well as the social and governmental systems (Omolara and Akewo 2016).

However, it is worthy to note that Goodluck Jonathan in his campaign speech both in oral and print texts never made expressions that could heat up the polity nor cause election violence, rather he made it clear that his political ambition is not worth the blood of any Nigerian. It is regrettable that present day politicians have not emulated the political footprint of Goodluck Jonathan in making utterances that will sue for peace. Instances are; in 2019, Omoyele Sowore the presidential candidate of the African Action Congress (AAC), through his political speech heat up the polity by what he termed *Revolution Now*. This led to a protest within some states in Nigeria.

After the 2023 presidential election result was announced, Atiku Abubakar via his political speech heat up the polity. This is because, he called on the supporters of People's Democratic Party to come out in mass and protest against the result. Eboh (2023) reported that on March 6 2023, Nigerian presidential candidate Atiku Abubakar led hundreds of supporters in a peaceful protest over the electoral commission's handling of February 2023 disputed vote which the commission says was won by ruling party candidate Bola Tinubu. Atiku and senior members of the opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP) led placard-holding supporters during a march to the offices of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in the Federal Capital Abuja where they handed in a petition. So, some politicians in their ambition to win election had made political speech which seemed to heat up the polity that resulted to violence.

To this end, Politicians should emulate the example of Goodluck Jonathan by learning to place the interest of the people above their political ambition. They should make campaign speech that could serve as means of education, information and enlightenment. Jaganegara and Dewa (2023) observe that politicians who work for public services usually try to avoid using negative

or harsh language and instead focus on their own feelings to make a positive impact on society. One of the ways of making positive impact in the society is through delivery of a political speech that is educative and informative in nature. Here politicians are to present facts about their opinions towards the issue they tend to address if elected.

Moreover, politicians should make campaign promises that they can fulfill and if they fail to win, they should accept defeat in good fate just like Goodluck Jonathan did. However, they can seek redress through the election tribunals. Rather than making utterances or involving in acts capable of causing havocs in the society. Goodluck Jonathan through his campaign speech made a promise that he fulfilled even when the election did not turn to his favour. He was aware that if he had refuted the election result, cancelled the election or called for a rerun, the whole nation would have been turned into a theatre of war. And the blood of innocent citizen would have been wasted. Thus, since his political ambition is not worth the blood of any Nigerian, he conceded defeat despite all odds. Such spirit of sportsmanship should be emulated by contemporary Nigerian politicians.

Conclusion

Polical leadership is essential as it is through it, that the helm of affairs of the state is steered. Democracy calls for a periodic free and fair election. Election creates room for political candidates to contest for available political positions. However, it has been observed that some Nigeria politicians in their ambitious pursuit for political power has taken to various means to achieve their aim which are not in tune with the principles of democracy. This sometimes negatively affects members of the society. Thus, if present day Nigeria politicians could emulate the example set by Goodluck Jonathan in pursuit of their political ambition and career, it will help to ameliorate political thuggery, acrimony, vote buying, political motivated killings, election violence and help to restore sanity to Nigerian political system.

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