

## CRISIS OF DEMOCRACY AND IMPLICATIONS FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE IN SOUTH WESTERN NIGERIA 1999-2021

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### Abstract

*Democratic government globally is designed to cater for the welfare of the populace via the provision of public goods to alleviate the standard of living of the common man and improve the socio-economic development of the country, however, in Nigeria since the return of democratic government in 1999, the country has experienced various degrees of crisis of democracy which has negative effect on good governance. The implications of the crisis made the citizens to lack trust in their elected and appointed representative, the image of the country to the international community has been mal due to recurrent crisis of democracy. The study examined the crisis of democracy and its implication on good governance in Southwestern Nigeria. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design to gather adequate information from the respondents. The study involved an in-depth inquiry involving a structured questionnaire and interview session to collect data from the respondents. The study population of (372) consists of (501) executive members of All Progressive Party (APC), the ruling party (501) People's Democratic Party (PDP) major opposition party, (120) senior staff of Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) and (150) electorates in the selected states of Southwestern Nigeria. In addition, interview sessions were conducted with the Secretary of the selected political parties, INEC officials and Electorates. The findings of the study showed that the unwillingness of political actors to foster the improvement of the people's development and welfare has affected good governance. Also, the study showed that democratic crisis has affected human and natural wealth of Nigeria. The study concluded that political players should accept the results of elections in good fate and collective responsibility should be used in the appointment of government cabinets the attitudes of winners take all should be eradicated in Nigeria's political system.*

**Keywords:** Democracy, Crisis, Good Governance and Democratic Crisis

### Introduction

The basic principles for democratic government globally are acceptance of popular participation, absolute respect for the rule of law, a general guarantee of fundamental freedoms which lubricate popular participation, periodic, competitive, free and fair elections with the vote of every citizen counting equally, respect for majority rule as well as the

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readiness of minority to acquiesce in the decision of the majority, accountability, guarantee of separation of powers in practice, transparency, and responsiveness in governance and opportunity for a change of government or any leadership found wanting (Bello-Imam & Obadan, 2004). It is commonplace that democratic institutions like political parties and government arms of judiciary and legislature are the structures on which democratic governance is attached as they are the frame or foundation of any democratic society. The concepts of democracy and good governance are inseparable because it determines how those saddled with an authoritative decision of the state utilised state power and resources in the provision of public goods for the welfare of its citizen and pursuit of national interest to maintain law and order (Gilbert & Allen (2014). New governance status was assumed by the Nigerian state in 1999 after an end to the authoritarian regime in the country. Military despotism gave way to representative democracy, raising hope and aspiration of good governance and democratic ethos higher than what the apparent flexible democratic institutions could accomplish. However, the source and nature of regime transition in 1999 were subsequently discovered to create a menace to the footing of democracy and destroy the present efforts at democratic consolidation (Ntuk, 2017).

Moreover, the nature of democratic governance in Nigeria followed a pattern of colonial cleavage. Partially, the result of colonialism effect and, to a great extent, for lack of readiness of Nigeria post-colonial political leaders' ability to offer positive changes in the values of good governance (Diamond, 1984) remark that "something is essentially wrong with Nigeria politics" remains incontrovertible till date. For what is observed wrong with Nigerian politics, Diamond's point is that making the government the epicentre for wealth accumulation and resources acquisition is what is primarily wrong with democratic governance in Nigeria. This, essentially, for him, is accountable for the frantic struggle to seize and retain government power since "access to the state constitutes the principal tool for the amassing of capital by the dominant political class". The process of democratisation in Nigeria is evolving at a rather slothful trend, hence threatening the foundation of political stability, strengthening sectional political domination and deepening the root of political gerontocracy (Arowolo & Aluko, 2010). In Nigeria, political violence appears to be had been institutionalized as it comes from the corridor of power, thus political activities and politics exclusively become the rights of some 'dirty' politicians who in the first place make politics dirty. Outside the shore of the African continent, politics is a clean game. It becomes dirty when it gets imported to Africa (Monday & Simon, 2013).

Arowolo and Aluko, (2010) posit that the idea of politics has been infested with tribalism, greed, intolerance, parochial nature of political leadership and injustice. Democratic space in Nigeria becomes tense and emphasis is placed on politics and political relations. Non-accommodation is sacrificed on the altar of Intolerance; conflict in place of collaboration and prevalence of rancour rather than unity. In Nigeria, political violence is slowly becoming a stable characteristic of democratization. The reason is that most campaign ground is drenched in killings and violence. This act has the capability of cutting-off democracy in the country if not addressed. Furthermore, the Nigerian political parties also carry some threats to democratic governance in their operations and practices. Ebijuwa (2007) notes that there is

an existing problem of party control by some wealthy politicians who run and finance the parties as their private properties. These sets of politicians call the shot on who takes what and how in the parties while expecting candidates who come out victorious to be submissive to their control in the execution of plans and policies affecting the state. From the foregoing, democratic governance in Nigeria has gone through phases of inconsistencies and crisis thus tending to fail to stand the test of time. Therefore, it is against this background that this study examines the crisis of democracy and its implication on good governance in Southwestern Nigeria from 1999 to 2021.

### **Democratic Overview**

The word democracy is as old as the society. In its development, democracy emerged from the popular practice of representative government exercise by Athens in Greece (Appadorai, 1974; Anifowose & Enemu, 1999). That is democracy that has its' own aged long event details in strengthening the citizens, equity, rule of law, allocation of sovereign wealth and enhancement in performing civic obligations such as exercising franchise when necessary (Sanford, 1996). Michael Saward (1994) also reiterates for the civilian government to be legitimately accepted as democratic administration, fundamental human rights must be protected, recognized and respected individually and collectively. On that note, democracy in the study opines that democracy is a form of government by the people, to the people and by the people dignifies the citizens.

United Nations Development Programme enumerate some nomenclatures for human development which depict dividends of democracy and its characteristics. In its recommendations, (UNDP, 1997) suggest accountability, rule of law, participation, transparency, responsiveness, consensus orientation, equity, efficiency and effectiveness, a strategic vision. Without a doubt, inaccessibility to the above apparatus thus leads democratic crisis. Although the word crisis can be likened to the word 'Conflict.' Be that as it may, conflict or crisis is inevitable in any environment, family, sect, tradition, beliefs, culture and religion among others. Similarly, the crisis in the light of this work can be described as a protracted state of conflictual interest among leaders, tribes, with no means of ending in sight.

### **Democratic Crisis**

The crisis is neither foreign diplomacy nor local heritage in any institutional environment. It is inevitable in terms of peculiarity and uniqueness. The essential output of crisis or conflict produces new ideas, innovations and a course of reengineering of relationships among the players and actors at a particular period. In other words, the crisis also end-up in a total breakdown of developmental phases in the country's economic, political, health, social services, financial institutions by confronting all sectors with reckless challenges. However, any retardation in developmental indicators in political, economic, education, public policy and social among others is infiltrated by behavioural settings such as sentiments, tribalism, traditions, religion, regional ideology and man-made problems that is, gender stratification, quota system, bad leadership, adopted system of a foreign government, self-interest over

public interest and corruption among other could only be better conceptualize to understanding when the history of political development has been emphasized concisely.

Furthermore, democracy is issues free when the government machinery and democratic governance principles are given utmost priority. Historically, Okoroafor (2010) posits the democratic practice cannot stand aloof from its inception in ancient Greece. He however points to the fact that the concept of democracy and citizen's participation emanated from the representative democratic tenets experienced in ancient Greece. In the circumstance, Okoroafor (2010) defines democracy as a kind of government that encompasses the involvement of all at sundry in a political environment in which electorates can exercise their franchise with equal chances of performing civic rights in democratic principles without fear and intimidation as cited in (Macionis & Plummer, 2005). Away from these, a prominent political figure in the United States, Abraham Lincoln defines democracy as government of the people, by the people and for the people. These definitions connote the true democratic process and its holistic acceptance of both the principles of the governance system and its players.

The Abraham Lincoln definition has not been only popular among the nations of the world, but it has gained universal acceptance in both developed and underdeveloped states. In another development, democracy has been widely advocated for owing to the aberration of the military inclusion in governance. That is, the implications and consequences of illegitimate regime simply put, military government navigates the popularity of civilian or interchangeably used concept "democratic dispensation. Hewitt de Alcantara (1998), opines that good governance also depicts having a good leadership system or good administration. In the study, the study reiterates that democracy is a multipurpose tool with a myriad of meanings. In this instance, public administrators, political scientists, diplomats, natural and social scientists have also conceptualized the subject matter, hence, democracy.

However, democracy has been conceptualized by the international council. While United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA, 2000) defines democracy as engagement by contract between the ruled and the rulers within the political ambience. United Nations Development Programme (1997) in her endeavour views democracy as an authority exercise in a country's management consisting of rigid tools, procedures and institutions by which the populace demands for their legal and human rights, an arbitrator against any conflict of interest, and aggregation and articulation of interest. In entering into these international definitions of democracy, (Okoroafor, 2010) buttress that democracy is a macro umbrella for good governance rationally. Meanwhile, the rationale behind measuring the performance of democracy is carried out with impact and sphere of influence on the people, Africa not excluded (Mohideen, 1997). Nevertheless, (Bojang, 2017) enumerate some democratic factors that confront democratic governance in developing countries, albeit, Nigeria especially. These militating factors are bad governance, bribery and corruption, undemocratic values and political instability.

Similarly, Daniel (2001) reiterates some factors affecting Africa's democratic processes, patterns and politics. It is stated that persistence of dictatorial influence on modern

democracy, the hypocrisy of the western democracy, inadequate and inappropriateness in connecting and harnessing effort, prejudice in economic and wealth distribution, diversion of scarce resources from development and cultural and ethnic rivalry. However, the account from the study also highlights several root causes responsible for the democratic crisis in Nigeria especially and these include politics of self-centeredness over popular demands, corruption of greed, intra-party crises, ethnocentric issues, insurgencies, political violence, electoral fraud and electoral manipulations, lack of respect for rule of law, partisan politicking of the armed forces, Lack of political will and unpatriotism among others.

Dalhatu, Erunke and Idakula (2019) suggest factors confronting democratic principles in the sub-Saharan. The factors include the following; systemic corruption, weak security system, Ethno-religious, economic and political factors, illiteracy, unemployment and poverty, and malicious media reports. As stated earlier, the work is to examine the menace of democratic crisis Nigeria's national security concerns. As a result of the challenges raises the conceptual work in the study, we can conveniently draw assumptions on the strength of the following: the kind of policies and plans articulated and arrangements by the government to mitigate the crisis in democratic setting over the years has been the bane of development of the nation since the beginning of the fourth republic. That once the state apparatus is charged with the roles of maintenance of peace and order and it cannot execute its legitimate responsibility objectively, the crisis is bound to evolve. More so, media error reportage on information on issues, government policies and decision-making processes and as well as educating the populace on their obligations in security matters has constituted part of the democratic crisis.

### **Good Governance**

Good governance has been conceived differently by different scholars to mean a different thing, this is so because the concept has been a unified or single definition like any other concept in social science. According to World Bank's definition, it is "how power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development". Therefore, good governance translates to how people in the position of authority and public trust in all arms and branches of government use their position for the betterment of the people under them. Good governance will therefore manifest in how the instrument of government channels to advance: the course of democracy, responsive and responsible leadership as well as probity; formulation and implementation of good policies; and to judiciously and efficiently utilize the commonwealth of the people to drive development and banish diseases, hunger and poverty (Yahaya, 1999).

It is therefore important to stress that for a nation to attain or achieve good governance, it must come as a consequence of the deliberate efforts of the political leaders' couple with their integrity, political ideals and dedications. This is not enough and must be assisted by well trained, well remunerated and focused public service. World Bank, therefore, posits that attainment of good governance is not the exclusive role of the political office holders alone, but the synergy between them and a well-positioned and strategically equipped public service. Good governance includes "both a broad reform strategy and a particular set of

initiatives to strengthen the institutions of civil society with the objectives of making government more accountable, more open, transparent and more democratic (Minogue, 1997). It has to do with the collective efforts and activities of all the known facets, levels and arms of government that wield legitimate authority.

Good governance also involves the process through which national leaders emerge, their actions moderated and re-elected or replaced as at when due; the readiness and political will of people in authority initiate and execute policies add values to the lives of their subjects; as well as, respect and adherence to the principle of natural law, equity and justice at all-time especially by those in the position of authority and the general populace as well as its protection by those in government (Kraay, Zoido-Lobaton, & Kaufman, 1999). Good governance, therefore, is indispensable when considered in relation huge collapse and moribund nature of most government institutions, and abating level of poverty occasioned by a high level of unemployment, corruption and other societal maladies which characterised the nearly 30 years of the military regime in Nigeria. During this period and according to (Tricker & Tricker, 2015) governance at all levels was at its abyss. This ostensibly was why the Former President of Nigeria Chief Olusegun Obasanjo opine that;

*The parlous state of our infrastructures huge debt and poverty combined with the moral decay in our society, the passive corruption, lawlessness, selfishness and cynicism that have taken over all areas of national life have led to a persistent deterioration in the quality of governance and the functioning of all public institutions. This has led in turn to the attitude of indifference to the common good or welfare (Obasanjo, 1999).*

Moreover, good governance assures that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities are taken into account, and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision making. It is also responsive to the present and future needs of society". Therefore, the underlining importance of good governance was further emphasized by Kofi Ana 1999 who observed that without good governance, the rule of law, predictable administration, legitimate power, and responsive regulation no amount of funding, no amount of charity would set the path of prosperity" (quoted in Elahi, 2009). The World Bank (2000) broadly argued that "without the foundations for good political and economic governance, Africa's development will be sluggish or stalled.

Good governance, therefore, logically flows from the concepts of governance (Adejumobi, 2009). Hence, governance became good only if it is operated legally and ethnically Furthermore, (Nnanna, Alade & Odoko, 2003) define good governance as a matter that has to do with the judicious, prudent and responsible allocation of the commonwealth of the people for their better and improved welfare and well-being. To them, good governance involves effectiveness in economics management which imply the optional use of resources to reduce the macro-economic imbalance arising from deficit finance. They went further to argue that "good governance relates to transparency in the handling of a government account, effectiveness in public resources management, political stability and transparency in

economic regulation". Given the above, good governance is clear that the government ought to be reprehensive and responsible in its action to the society. This is because of the following reasons: the ability to identify, apply and take responsibility for national solutions; conducive and simplifying governance; a regulation rather than controlling governance; ability to deal with temporary issues; strengthening of indigenous mechanism; service-oriented governance.

More so, in the same vein, Abba (2012) concluded that good governance is "fundamental to economic and social transformation in any given society". He further stressed that good governance constitutes the following: credible elections visionary leadership, credible opposition, tackling poverty and corruption. Good governance according to United Nations Development Programme (1997) is the utilization of the collective resources of a country through its established and recognised economic, social and political institutions for the common good, growth and development of its people as well as their protection. Nigeria's democratic system has not been able to achieve this due to the following challenges, such as weak institutional framework, regional and ethnic politics, weak judicial system and absence of clear policy implementation to ensure the independence of the judiciary in political matters, underfunding of electoral bodies, poverty and high level of illiteracy, lack of political education, and political apathy and lack of electoral integrity.

Kayode, Adagba and Anyio (2013) viewed good governance as a consequence of open, accountable, pro-active, responsible responsive and, quality political leadership with the betterment in the lots of the people as its centre point. He maintained further that good governance will not happen by mirage, rather it is attainable through deliberate and properly conceptualised policies and actions directed towards human and infrastructural development. It is then crystal clear that the ultimate attention must be directed at the people before we can talk of good governance in any form. It ultimately means good quality of life of the people, increased wealth, standard security and other social services, access to justice and guarantee of their fundamental human rights and other good things of life which are governance indices and as entrench in the principle of a social contract. The presence of these as mentioned above means there is good governance while lack of them means hunger. Deprivation, fear and uncertainty which on the contrary are evidence of bad governance or absence of good governance.

## **Methodology**

The study utilized primary and secondary means of data collection. Primary data were obtained through the administration of questionnaires and the conduct of interview sessions. Secondary data were obtained from both published and unpublished materials such as textbooks, journals articles, conference proceedings, institution material and the internet. The study population of (372) consisted of (51) Executive members of All Progressive Party (APC), (51) People's Democratic Party (PDP), (120) Senior staff of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and (150) Electorate. The study adopted a multi-stage sampling procedure. At the first stage, states in Southwestern Nigeria were stratified into three axes of Lagos/Ogun, Oyo/Osun and Ondo/Ekiti. At the second stage, Lagos, Oyo and

Ondo were purposively selected representing 50% of the states. The selection of the states is premised on the fact that they are the oldest states from the axes. At the third stage, purposive sampling techniques were employed to select two political parties (APC) and (PDP) in the selected states. The parties were selected because they are the ruling and opposition party in the region. The purposive sampling technique was used to senior INEC staff in the selected states. INEC staff were selected because they are saddled with the constitutional duties of conducting elections in the country. Also, a convenient sampling technique was employed to select Electorates from the selected states. The electorates were selected because they were beneficiaries of good governance. In addition to these respondent's interview sessions were also conducted with the Secretary of the political party, Senior staff of INEC and Electorates. Data generated were analysed using SPSS and content analysis.

### **Discussion of Findings**

This section aimed at analyzing respondents' views on the crisis of democracy and its implication on good governance in Southwestern Nigeria. In this regard, Table 1 revealed the frequency and percentage distribution of respondents on each of the statements and its value/responses were organized using Likert scale measurement to elicit information from the respondents. In addition, the mean value and standard deviation of each of the investigated variables were stated. Data generated from interview sections were analysed qualitatively using the contents method to support the quantitative data collected.

The first assertion in Table 1, presented the data distribution on how the democratic crisis has affected the human and natural wealth of Nigeria. In their responses 96 (28.8%) very effective, 104 (31.3%) of the respondents effective. It was contrary to the view of 75 (22.5%) were ineffective and 22 (6.6%) of the respondents very effective. 36 (10.8%) of the respondents were undecided on the statement. This was confirmed by the mean value and standard deviation ( $\bar{\chi} = 2.24$ ,  $SD = .719$ ). This data imply that the majority of the respondents affirmed that the democratic crisis has affected the human and natural resources of the country with 60.1% of the respondents on agreement rate.

With respect to the second assertion as presented in Table 1, the respondents were asked to respond to the incapacity to foster the advancement of people's development and welfare needs as an effect of the democratic crisis on good governance in Southwestern Nigeria. In their responses, 142 (42.6%) were very effective and 73 (21.9%) of the respondents were effective, 26 (7.8%) of the respondents were undecided on the statement. It was contrary to the view of 69 (20.7%) ineffective and 23 (7%) of the respondents very ineffective. The mean value and standard deviation for the variable were ( $\bar{\chi} = 2.43$ ,  $SD = .783$ ). The analytical interpretation of the data revealed that the citizens have not enjoyed development in concrete terms and their welfare not taken care of due to the democratic crisis in the region with a 64.5% agreement rate from the respondents.

It was however discovered from the third assertion that democratic crisis has encouraged ethnic, community, and neighbourhood development associations, ultimately securing people's loyalty at the expense of devotion to the Nigerian state with an agreement level of

59.7% from the respondents. 131 (39.3%) were very effective and 68 (20.4%) of the respondents were effective. It was contrary to the view of 38 (11.4%) ineffective and 37 (11.2%) of the respondents very ineffective while 59 (17.7%) of the respondents were undecided on the statement. The analytical implication of the data affirmed to the variable that democratic crisis promoted conflict of interest in the study area with a mean value and standard deviation of ( $\bar{\chi} = 2.46, SD = .745$ ).

With respect to the fourth assertion, the pattern with which the leaders of the Nigeria state-administered country, has affected good governance. In their reaction, 50 (15.1%) were very effective and 72 (21.6%) of the respondents were effective. 64 (19.2%) of the respondents were undecided on the statement. It was contrary to the view of 78 (23.4%) ineffective and 69 (20.7%) of the respondents were very ineffective. The mean value and standard deviation for the variable were ( $\bar{\chi} = 2.00, SD = .696$ ). This data interpretation revealed that 44.1% of the respondents disagreed with the statement while 36.7% of the respondents agreed to the statement.

The respondents' opinions were sought on how the democratic crisis has affected the pace of socio-economic development of Nigeria. In respect to the fifth assertion, 86 (25.8%) were very effective and 97 (29.1%) of the respondents were effective. It was contrary to the view of 38 (11.4%) ineffective and 53 (16%) of the respondents very ineffective. 59 (17.7%) of the respondents were undecided on the statement. The analytical implication of the data affirmed to the variable that democratic crisis has affected socio-economic development in the country with a 54.9% agreement level from the respondents with mean value and standard deviation of ( $\bar{\chi} = 2.22, SD = .885$ ).

Regarding the sixth assertion, about 92 (27.6%) of the respondents were very effective and 77 (23.2%) of the respondents effective, making an aggregate of 169 (50.8%) of the respondents who fell in agreement category with the assertion that democratic crisis has negatively affected the international image of the country. 63 (18.9%) of the respondents were undecided on the statement. It was contrary to the view of 46 (13.8%) were ineffective and 55 (16.8%) of the respondents were very ineffective. This data representation shows that the democratic crisis has affected the country's international image. The mean value and standard deviation for this variable were ( $\bar{\chi} = 2.27, SD = .897$ ).

Faulty policy formulation and implementation as results of excessive abuse of power and non-people-oriented governance approach. In their response to the seventh assertion, 80 (24.1%) very effective and 82 (24.6%) of the respondents were effective. It was contrary to the view of 74 (22.2%) ineffective and 56 (16.8%) very ineffective. 41 (12.3%) of the respondents were undecided on the statement. The mean value and standard deviation for the variable were ( $\bar{\chi} = 2.14, SD = .754$ ). This data interpretation revealed that 162 (48.7%) of the respondents agreed to the statement that faulty policy formulation and lack of people-oriented governance are a result of the democratic crisis in the southwestern region of Nigeria.

**Table 1: Examination of democratic crisis and implication on good governance in Southwestern Nigeria between 1999-2021**

Variables	Very Effective		Effective		Undecided		Ineffective		Very Ineffective		Descriptive Statistics N= 333	
	f	(%)	f	(%)	f	(%)	f	(%)	f	(%)	Mean Value	Standard Deviation
1. Democratic crisis has affected the human and natural wealth of Nigeria	96	(28.8%)	104	(31.3%)	36	(10.8%)	75	(22.5%)	22	(6.6%)	2.24	.719
2. Unwillingness to foster the improvement of people's development and welfare desires	142	(42.6%)	73	(21.9%)	26	(7.8%)	69	(20.7%)	23	(7%)	2.43	.783
3. The democratic crisis has bolstered tribal, community, and neighbourhood development organizations, which have ultimately secured people's devotion at the expense of devotion to the Nigerian state.	131	(39.3%)	68	(20.4%)	59	(17.7%)	38	(11.4%)	37	(11.2%)	2.46	.743
4. The leaders of the Nigerian state followed a form of administration that was devoid of morals.	50	(15.1%)	72	(21.6%)	64	(19.2%)	78	(23.4%)	69	(20.7%)	2.00	.696
5. Democratic crisis has affected pace of socio-economic development of the Nigerian state	86	(25.8%)	97	(29.1%)	59	(17.7%)	38	(11.4%)	53	(16%)	2.22	.885
6. Democratic crisis has negatively affected the international image of the country to a mere fake	92	(27.6%)	77	(23.2%)	63	(18.9%)	46	(13.8%)	55	(16.5%)	2.27	.897
7. Faulty policy formulation and implementation as a result of excessive abuse of power and non-people oriented governance approach	80	(24.1%)	82	(24.6%)	41	(12.3%)	74	(22.2%)	56	(16.8%)	2.14	.754

Source: Field Survey, 2021

On the other hand, the quantitative outcomes were complemented with the qualitative responses from the interview sessions. A cross-section of key stakeholders was interviewed. An anonymous interviewee, a senior officer of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Ondo State revealed that: The effect of democratic crisis cannot be overemphasized on good governance in southwestern Nigeria. He further stated that the democratic crisis in Nigeria is as old as democratic practised in the country, the crisis which has been experienced since the first republic in the country has made most elected officeholders in the country deviate from their primary assignment to the citizens which is to ensure good governance via the provision of basic social amenities for the populace. To collaborate the above statement, an electorate in Oyo State revealed that: Democratic crisis is a usual business of politicians in the country, many of the politicians see it as a medium to express their opinion to the general public. He further stated that the crisis in the country has made the citizens lose trust in elected public office holders, the crisis has diverted their attention from the basic essence of governance which is to provide citizen-centred governance that is based on government accountability, responsiveness and trust to the electorate. When the crisis is the order of the day it will harm good governance.

An executive officer of the All Progressive Congress (APC) in Lagos State revealed that: Democratic crisis has a negative effect on the image of the country from an international community perspective. He further stated that the effect of the crisis could be felt on human resources in the country which has contributed to a high rate of brain drain, insecurity among others. The crisis has made most international nations lose their interest in investment in Nigeria, while most of the developed nations prefer to invest in other African nations such as Ghana and South Africa among others. An electorate in Ondo State revealed that: The effect of democratic crisis in Nigeria could be seen in all sectors of the national economy as the socio-economic development of the country is deteriorating daily. The resultant effect is obvious in the rising rate of the cost of goods and services and the devaluation of Nigeria's currency as against foreign currency. He further noted that due to the lack of good governance in the country, the unemployment rate in the country is on the increase.

## **Conclusion**

To ensure a country free of democratic crisis, the government must put machinery in place to ensure free and credible elections, a democratic process where the vote of the people count. Also, conscious efforts must be made by the government in securing the lives and properties of the citizens and the provision of public goods to improve the socio-economic standard of the country.

## **Recommendations**

1. To curtail ethnicity, tribalism, and sectionalism in Nigeria, Government must take proactive action to sustain the unity of the country in diversity by ensuring that political appointments cut across every ethnic group in the country. This will help secure citizens' loyalty and patriotism to the country.

2. Those saddled with the authoritative decision on government policies and programmes should ensure that resources of the state are utilised for the provision of basic social amenities and the welfare of the common man. This will go a long way to curtail the brain drain in the country and ensure national development.
3. The leadership of the country should be more focused on developmental activities and infrastructural programmes to improve the socio-economic development of the country and alleviate the standard of living of its citizens.
4. Political players of politics in the country should avoid a do or die act of politics and accept election results in good fate, this will help project a positive image of the nation to the international community and curtail the crisis of democracy.
5. The game of winners takes all should be avoided in Nigeria democratic system, collective responsibility should be the game of politics that would give room for opposition parties to be appointed into the cabinet of government.

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