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ELECTION RIGGING WITH REGARD TO AFRICA.
DEDICATION

I dedicate this project to my family my father, mum, brothers and sisters and to all my friends.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I want to acknowledge great people, who have helped in the perfection of this work. First to my lecturer who has impacted so much knowledge on me and to my fellow student for the help and supported and not forget the help of the Nnamdi Azikiwe library for providing me with the necessary facts on the work. I say thanks to everyone.
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CHAPTER ONE
DEFINITION

Election rigging can be defined as a situation or condition in which an election results has been dishonestly arranged or concluded before the election occurred. In other words, there was no voting or if there was voting, it is just a mere formality. In Africa, over the years there have been several emanation of different form of election rigging in different combines which should be initiated by the various political parties or electoral board or even the citizens of that country. In African which are made up of regional globe which East African, North Africa, south Africa and west Africa in which Nigeria is situated.

In order to understand the full meaning of election rigging, one must be acquainted with the various words or term used when discharging social political issues term likes.

- **Election**: When people cast their vote to choose someone for an official position by voting.
- **Political parties**: These are groups of people having a common goal relating to government political and public affairs of a country.

- **Rigging**: To dishonestly arrange the result of an election or competition before it happens.

- **Campaign**: Series of action intended or done in order to achieve a particular social or political result.

- **Election commission**: This is a body/group of people setup to combine the affairs and conduct of an election in a state.

(a) **OBJECTIVES OF STUDY**

I went into research about this particular topic to know the ff.

- To know what election rigging is
- The philosophy behind it and its concept
- Election rigging origin in Africa
- How it occurs and when it occurs.
12. NATURE OF ELECTION RIGGING IN AFRICA

Election rigging in Africa has taken so many different forms including Nigeria. When we talk about nature of election rigging, we are talking about the concept, the characteristics, mode of occurrence and its philosophy behind the notion. In most cases in African were election rigging has occurred, it involves the present government political parties or even the electoral board including citizens. In Africa from 18 years and above has the right to vote, and to be voted for, after registration of voters and electoral candidate, it is the duty of the electoral board to critically examines the candidate presented by each party, before campaign begins. Due to high level of corruption, election rigging begins even from the primary election in the various political parties.

Bribery and corruption has become the chief order of the
electoral post first like in the case of Chris Uba and Chris Ngige in 2003 in Nigeria. Election rigging has led to destruction of lives and property in Africa of the years, where by people riot and fight each other. In Liberia 2006 when an election (presidential) between Ellen Sir leaf Johnson and George Unweah in 2006 where the election was rigged due to the fact that the united state of American was interested in Liberia and for the reason that the present president is educated which is an advantage over George Unweah, she was elected over Unweah who won the election. Also in A

Zimbabwe, president Robert mugabe has refuses to set down from office because of “god fatherism syndrome” that is he terrorism his opponent and threaten them away from even thinking about it. According lipsey note that “politics is a sphere of purposeful behaviour through which we seek to live better than we do now”
CHAPTER TWO

2.1 CAUSES OF ELECTION RIGGING

When we talk about election rigging we have to consider factors which cause it and we also look at what must have cause the citizen themselves to engage in such, these include poverty, social, justice economic instability, corruption, ethnicity, illiteracy, gangsterism and God-fatherism. We shall be discussing some.

**Corruption:** This can be defined according to situation as a dishonest or illegal behaviours especially of people in authority. According to websters college dictionary, corruption was defined as guilt of dishonest practices as in bribery debased in honest xter, depraved dented, infested, decay, printed: made inferior by error or alteration in a test to cause to be dishonest.

Corruption has eaten up and down the political system of Africa and due to the fact that even those in authority are highly involved, therefore, it becomes difficult to fight to it and practically eradicated. According to Prof. Ikejiani Clark "Inducement in cash or kind to secure serious goods or services from public officials or other agencies through illegitimate or unlawful or irregular means".
POVERTY: This is the degrading and day struggle for life in which individuals may be unable to afford the luxury of life which they wish to achieve in such situation, citizen of that country especially youth of that nation can engage in anything that world fetch them at least temporal enjoyment. In some countries in African especially, which are underdeveloped or developing nation, where scarcity of food, drought or even fire disaster on their farmland which lead to hunger and first death the could discover that such citizen will end up engaging easy in election rigging for survival.

SOCIAL INJUSTICE: According to Hobhouse "All men are by nature free and equal in respect to those right". But the reverse is the case when it comes to political issues in Africa. Social injustice, has been a serious problem and needs a critical attention, no wonder Max and Engles in their manifesto of the communist party lamented that "the history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggle". Simply examines that individuals struggles for this right and therefore due to lawlessness in the land, people engage in all mariner of lawlessness including corruption and election.
ILLITERACY (LACK OF EDUCATION): Like they use to say, ignorant is a disease, lack of education is also a key factor to election rigging in Africa because a person without education is not fortified to help make a meaningful change in a system except if used as a mob. An illiterate may not even know his left from his right and for such reason, the leaders, and so called politicians capitalize on their ignorance to unleash election rigging in the society. Some of the political leaders are illiterate, primary school drop-outs e.g. Chris Uba of Anambra state who was used as an impersonator to Christ Ngige. Also some of the political leader can even forge fake certificate to get an electoral position, all these increases election rigging.

2.2 EFFECT OF ELECTION RIGGING IN AFRICA: Just like the saying everything good side has a bad side, also the effect of election rigging over the years as a whole, it has led to decoration of many countries in Africa making Africa to have little or no say in the world today. In Nigeria in 1983 election was nothing different from the character of the previous election in all ramifications, instead thuggery, arson, fraud and bribery and falsification of election
rigging has been negative on the social, economic, psychological, political state of the countries, we would now treat them individually.

**ECONOMIC EFFECTS**

As a result of electoral rigging the economic status of most African countries has depreciated according to Adam Smith, say economies were primarily concerned with wealth, the production and distribution of wealth and disparity in wealth. The production and distribution of wealth and disparity in wealth between nations and the economic of a nation is the strength of such nation, therefore due to election rigging, the economics of most African nations have fallen, it has led to lack of investment from foreign investors due to rioting and fighting from the election rigging shutdown of banking and financial dissolution, strike and protest which will definitely cause a drop in the economic of such country. Therefore one can see that presence of election rigging in a country has a negative effect on the economic sector of a nation.
DESTRUCTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY:

In Nigeria in 1993, during Ibrahim regime it was regarded as one of the most bad experience that Nigerian has ever experienced. It happened that Gen Ibrahim Babangida annually the much celebrated June 12 1993 election won by Chief M.K.O. Abiola because he wanted to stay longer in office which led to lost of lives and present, many homes where shelter, many business where destroyed, building cars and values substance where lost united the interceptors of the international organization. This led to creation of Gen Abacha's regime from 1993 to 1998 which became Nigeria nightmare. It was characterized by dictatorship, suppression, abuse of democracy, denial of fundamental human right.

PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT

According to Engle and Snell grove defined psychology as "the election that studies the human behaviours of organism". The election rigging in African has made many African with honest mind host interest in the respect, to withdraw from the political aspect of their country leasing it for things, thieves, illiterate that knows no much about politics has been seen as a game of death. I.e. to say if
one wants to venture into politics he or she must be prepared to face all the problems and risks of losing it life, property or even family. In Nigeria and other combine like Libya, Zimbabwe, Liberia, costly on Nigeria during president Obasanjo civilian regime, it has been described by many observer as commentator and writer as being characterized by mass rigging. Falsification of election result, kidnapping, killing and intimidation of opponent.

SOCIAL EFFECT

The social aspects of any country talks about it relationship between different groups within the country and also international relationship into the outside country. Due to the catastrophe caused by money from of election rigging in African, there have been the forms of bridge between some Africans countries and international bodies or organization which led to many breakdown of social welfare of individual in the country.

Social security here has not had any significant change from what it used to be previously many Africans hence no houses to live, electricity is nothing to write home about. The common man has no
fight and rioting and thereby causing strikes and improper scarcity of food and water to some extent. Water resources is an expensive commodity to many Africans even food has been a very scarce product such like in countries like Malawi, Libya, and Congo republic as a result of these, there is always a gap from the rich to the poor i.e. upper class to lower classes.

**POLITICAL WAR:** One of main side effect of election rigging is that gives birth to the political war/crisis according to dare he and I quote "power is the key concept in politics" and according to Ogunna he also said the "power is an indispensable element in politics" therefore as result of rigging in election, stir-up political crises, fight among different group, assassination of differ aspirant e.g. in Nigeria in 2006, Lagos PDP gubernatorial aspirant, Funsho Williams was assassinated in his home, this are part of what are the result of lection rigging. Most Africans are afraid whenever their country election approaches due to fear of the unknown.
CHAPTER THREE
SOLUTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS PROFFERED TOWARDS ARRESTING THE UGLY STATE OF ELECTION RIGGING IN AFRICA.

3.1 SOLUTION

In life every problem has an idea solution in overcoming that problem, such that can help in overcoming election rigging in Africa such are:

VOTING AND COUNTING OF VOTES

This is to say that the government of electoral board should make all thing segment of the election public from the registration of voters to the counting of vote, all should be made public such that the people might see clearly that which is wrong and that which is right.

PUBLIC EDUCATION ENLIGHTENMENT ABOUT POLITICS AND ELECTIONS

Even the bible said “my people perish for lack of lack knowledge” lack of enlightenment, lack of understanding lack of technical know how, in such shadow, the feature of that countries or society is in danger. When carried out or voting requirement and
vote, the people stands to be self confident I the fact that their vote
counts and that and that they cannot be taken for granted thereby,
they would avoid any form of election rigging and in such note,
election rigging is being reduced.

FREE AND FAIR ELECTION TOGETHER WITH
ESTABLISHMENT OF DISCIPLINARY ELECTION

The government in conjunction with the people should ensure
free and fair election, by voting for someone who worth their vote
and the government should established a disciplinary electoral board,
which cannot take bribe or involve in any action found illegal, which
the power co cancel any election found illegal non-electoral board
which particle in illegal and corruption practices. By so doing election
rigging would be eradicated from Africa.

MAINTENANCE OF HUMAN RIGHT INTERFERENCE OF
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

With the help of international organization, one can practically
reduce the rate of election rigging and by backing it up within
maintenance of human right, making the individual right remains
function, avoiding intimidation, unnecessary harassment and threat,
function, avoiding intimidation, unnecessary harassment and threat; adequate punishment of any one that goes against the law not minding his status or class in the society by so doing one is gradually phrasing out election rigging. Also when maintaining the human rights, one religion, therefore any individual can stand, press and share his/her own opinion about the way an election should go or has to go.

4.1 CONCLUSION

African is a blessed continent which is endorsed with resources both human and mineral resources which can help them become the best therefore in order to become the best and to good social and political amenities to its citizens.

Africa must allow the right and real voted person to rule and saying no to election rigging by so doing there would be peace and harmony in the great continent Africa.
ENDNOTE


5. Wikipedia. (1940) "Free Encyclopedia Political and Election".
