

POST-ELECTION INSECURITY AND POPULATION SAFETY IN NIGERIA**Lawrence Aondoaseer Kwaghga, PhD****Anthony Egena****Ernest TerfaTyoban****Joshua Terver Ayaka****Sociology Department, Benue State University, Makurdi****Abstract**

The process, procedure and pronouncement of election results globally attract diverse societal reactions which are either positive or negative. Often, the outburst of negative and aggressive responses after elections have posed threats to live, property effective functioning of societies in developed and developing nations. In Africa and Nigeria in particular, aftermath of elections often results to insecurities of diverse patterns with implications to lives, property and socio-economic development. Consequently, this study examines the patterns and implications of post-election insecurity on population safety in Nigeria. The main objective was to assess the patterns and implications of post-election insecurity on population safety in Nigeria. Data were collected using questionnaire and key informant interview. Descriptive and inferential statistics and content analysis using direct quotation of the views of key informants were used in analysis. The analysis was done at univariate, bivariate and multivariate levels. The study revealed different patterns and implications of insecurity on population safety in the country. It concluded that post-election insecurity has manifested in different patterns with severe implications on population safety. It recommended for improved transparency, integrity, honesty and fair play from institutions and personnel active in the electoral process and sanction of persons involved in electoral malpractices in Nigeria.

Keywords: Post-election insecurity, population safety, Nigeria.

Introduction

Election is critical democratic framework for choosing leaders of modern political societies. It serves as instrument of political choice, mobilization and accountability. In modern democracies, it facilitates the smooth transition from one civilian regime to another and helps in legitimizing sitting governments. Election has been an avenue through which the citizens freely choose those that they wish to govern them. Clearly, it is therefore a procedure for choosing officials or making binding decisions concerning policy by the vote of those formerly qualified to vote. This process no doubt allows for the opportunity to vote in credible men and women of both timber and calibre, who will be expected to pilot the affairs of governance within a specified record of time before the next round of elections (Okorie, Michael & Eze, 2020)

Orjie and Ogbe (2020), submitted that, elections are essential to the performance, functioning and survival of democracy because it determines the level of freedom exercised by the citizens in deciding who govern or represents them in government. In democracies where elections are free, fair and credible, it engenders development, because leaders that emerge from the process are accountable and responsive to the needs of the electorates (Okorie, Michael & Eze, 2020). However, when the reverse becomes the case, it retards development and by extension compromises population security

In spite of the indispensability of election in a democratic setting as the medium for emergence into political office and the political economy of the Nigerian state, elections particularly in developing states like Nigeria are usually characterized by desperation. Historically, there are nine general elections that have been conducted by Nigeria between 1960 and 2023. These general elections were held in 1964, 1979, 1983, 1993, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2011, 2015, 2019 and 2023. These elections have been bedevilled with incessant security challenges ranging from political and electoral violence, ethno-religious conflicts, insurgencies, mass abductions at schools, kidnappings for ransom, armed conflict between herdsmen and farmers, armed robberies, banditry, and others. These identified security challenges have affected democratic consolidation

that can, in turn, facilitate good governance. Hence elections have become a political liability and a source of crises than being a political asset and legitimate force. Nigerian experience with electoral democracy since 1960 has revealed intense competition for power on the part of the political class resulting in various forms of electoral irregularities and violence (Okorie, et al, 2020).

The spate of irregularities including electoral violence which reached unprecedented levels since 1990 accounting for the loss of many thousand lives and property estimated at trillions of naira, not only questioned the rationale for democratic rule but threatened the corporate existence of Nigeria. Nigeria's democratization process has been bedevilled with incessant security challenges ranging from political and electoral violence, ethno-religious conflicts, insurgencies, mass abductions at schools, kidnappings for ransom, armed conflict between herdsmen and farmers, armed robberies, banditry, and others (Abdulkadir, Lawal & Bashir, 2023). In consequence, issues surrounding Nigeria's electioneering processes are seen to be conducted violently whereby the political and democratic rights of the citizens are seen to be violated. As a consequence, the aftermath of these elections has also been characterized by insecurity of diverse patterns and implications for population safety hence the need for this study.

Research questions

The following research questions were used in the study.

- i. What is the state of population safety post-election in Nigeria
- ii. What are the patterns of post-election insecurity in Nigeria?
- iii. What are the economic implications of post-election insecurity on population safety in Nigeria?
- iv. What are the social and political implications of post-election insecurity on population safety in Nigeria?

Research objectives

The main objective of the study was to explore the patterns and implications of post-election insecurity in Nigeria. The specific objectives were to:

- i. Examine the state of population safety post-election in Nigeria.
- ii. Evaluate the patterns of post-election insecurity in Nigeria.
- iii. Explore the economic implications of post-election insecurity on population safety in Nigeria.
- iv. Assess the social and political implications of post-election insecurity on population safety in Nigeria.

Research hypotheses.

The study had the following hypotheses

HO1: Patterns of post-election insecurity have no significant relationship with population safety in Nigeria.

HO2: Post-election insecurity has no significant economic implications on population safety in Nigeria.

HO3: Post-election insecurity has no significant social and political implications on population safety in Nigeria

Literature review

Election

Election could be perceived as institutionalized procedure for choosing office-holders by eligible voters in the state. Election according to Ushie (2005), is a procedure, recognized by the rules of a state or an organization, whereby all or some of the members of the state or organization choose a smaller number of persons or a person to hold office of authority in the state or organization. It is an official or formal procedure through which public officers are filled or specific policy measures are decided. Elections usually take place when two or more candidates are vying for one position either in the public or private sector. Election, despite its role as a medium for the emergence of leaders, equally serves ceremonial functions (Okorie, et al, 2020). Citizens of a State usually have sense of participation in their political process, when they are given the chance to express their will through voting for their preferred candidates. In the same

vein, governments that emerged through free and fair elections, equally enjoys legitimacy and stability emanating from the fact that its power is derived from the people. It is largely a process and procedure of transforming votes into representation in modern democracies.

Insecurity

The word ‘insecurity’ has multitude of connotations. Daniel (2021), sees insecurity as the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection. Udo (2015), avers that insecurity is the state of being subject to danger or injury. It is the anxiety that is experienced when one feels vulnerable and insecure. Feeling insecure is when one is not confident about oneself or relationships with other people; not safe or protected. This further expounds the meaning of the term to include not just the general meaning but it touches the individual person not being confident about his or herself. The above definition of insecurity is affirmed as a state of being not secure and lack of confidence. Considerably, many people would refer to the concept of insecurity to mean lack of safety or the existence of danger; hazard; uncertainty; lack of trust; doubtful; inadequately guarded or protected; lack of stability; disturbed; lack of protection and unsafe (Achumba et al, 2013). It produces anxiety about your goals, relationships, and ability to handle certain situations. This definition limits insecurity to internal composition of an individual; though such feelings of inadequacy are influenced by circumstances external to the individual. Brennan further averred that, everybody deals with insecurity from time-to-time which is not a contestable assertion. The manifestation of insecurity related to the processes and outcomes of elections is termed post-election insecurity.

Population safety

The concept of population safety encapsulates the prevention, control and management of implied and actual threat to the total number of people living in an environment in a given period of time. It has to do with the elimination or reduction of those crimes, human conduct and social vices that poses threat to the overall security of people in a location within a specified time period (Kwaghga, Zaka, Nda, & Chinta, 2021). Population safety is ensured when livelihoods are protected, undue threats or fear are reduced to the minimal, criminal activities are controlled, properties are protected. It also includes national, health and food security and sanctity of human lives (Kwaghga, Chinta & Tachia, 2020). It has to do with tackling extreme inequalities, social exclusion, abuse of human rights, unhindered access to justice, education, healthcare services, religious worship and freedom of association and assembly.

Theoretical framework

Relative Deprivation Theory Relative deprivation theory is a middle range contemporary theory in social sciences that is undistinguishably linked to poverty and social segregation. The theory date back to ancient Greece and it is largely associated with (Gurr, 1970). Thus, drawing inspiration from the principle of Aristotle that revolution is driven by a relative sense or feeling of inequality rather than an absolute measure, (Gurr, 1970) contends that instead of a total standard of deficiency, a breach between projected and accomplished wellbeing result in cooperative dissatisfaction. Therefore, the main root of human capacity for violence appears to be the frustration-aggression mechanism; the anger brought by frustration is an inspiring force that positions men to belligerence, regardless of its instrumentalities. The relative deprivation is the term employed to signify the strain or tension that emerges from a disagreement between the “ought” and the “is” of collective value satisfaction which prompts humanity to violence.

Relative deprivation theory also has some explanations concerning injustice and discrimination in Nigeria. When persons are caught for issues relating to violent conflicts and other crimes, the poor ones are usually brought to book, while the elite class is often set free or fined with ridiculous amount in the law court (Dare, Chidiozie, Onyekere, Chizaram, Anyaegbunam, Shaibu, Ogunwa, 2017). This shows that justice, which is supposed to be the hope of common man has suddenly become the hope of the rich and the enemy of the poor. The construct of this theory explains that systemic failure or structural defect in a given society is significantly connected with frustration and aggression that prompt criminality and violence. In contemporary Nigeria, systemic failure in electoral institutions and personnel manifests in high rate of

election rigging and unprecedented manipulations which has given rise to different patterns of post-election insecurity with devastating economic, social and political implications on population safety.

Methods

The area of the study was Nigeria. The study adopted cross sectional survey research design. The population of the study was all youths who have experienced voter apathy in Nigeria. The sample size used in this study was determined using Taro Yamane formula which gave 1,378 respondents. Multistage sampling techniques were used in the study. Cluster sampling technique was used to divide the study area into clusters using the existing internal structure within the state. The study area was divided into six (6) clusters using the existing geo political zones. These included North West, North East, North Central, South-South, South West and South East. The choice of cluster sampling was due to the fact that, the area is large with the study population dispersed across the area. In the second stage, proportional sampling technique was used to determine the sample size per cluster.

A structured questionnaire with close ended questions was used to elicit data from respondents. The data in this study were collected by the researchers with support from research assistants. Face and content validity was used in the study. This study utilized a test-retest type of reliability with a correlation coefficient of 0.74. The return of the questionnaire was 96.6% which was considered adequate for analysis. Thus, the analysis was based on the 1331 copies of the questionnaire returned. The data collected for this study were analysed with descriptive and inferential statistical tools such as percentages, Pearson Moment Correlation Coefficient. Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to collate the data. Ethical considerations were carefully observed.

Results

The socio demographic data of respondents shows that most (42%) had tertiary level of education. The major source of living for most (4.5%) of the respondents was self-employment. The distribution of respondents showed many (55.8) resided in urban areas.

Table 1: socio demographic characteristics of respondents.

Variables	Category	Frequency(N=	Percentage
Educational attainment	Others	352	26.4
	Secondary education	420	31.6
	Tertiary education	559	42
Occupation	Farming	396	29.8
	Government	220	16.5
	Work in private establishment	110	8.3
	Self-employment	605	45.5
Place of residence	Village	588	44.2
	Town	743	55.8

Source: Field survey, 2025

Safety during post-election insecurity

Findings of the study shows a moderate level of safety during post-election insecurity. Most of the respondents have moderate feeling of safety about their properties, children and a ability to sleep at night. They also feel safe to send their children to school, travel, go to work, interact with others, visit hospitals and also join political parties.

Table 2: Safety during post-election insecurity

S/	Safety during post-election insecurity	Strongly				
		Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Agree
1	My properties are safe after elections	440(33.1)	660(49.6)	154(154)	55(4.1)	22(1.7)
2	My children are safe after elections	407(306)	473(35.5)	231(17.4)	220(16.5)	-
3	I am able to sleep well at night	132(9.9)	616(46.3)	209(15.7)	363(27.3)	11(.8)

4	I feel safe sending my children to school	187(14.0)	594(44.6)	264(19.8)	220(16.5)	66(5.0)
5	I feel safe to travel after elections	176(13.2)	407(30.7)	275(20.7)	352(26.4)	121(9.1)
6	I feel safe at work after elections	286(21.5)	506(38.0)	132(9.9)	352(26.4)	55(4.1)
7	I feel safe to interact with others	275(20.7)	528(39.7)	275(20.7)	242(18.2)	-
8.	I feel safe to visit hospitals after elections	407(30.6)	385(28.9)	297(22.3)	165(12.4)	77(5.8)
9	I feel safe to join political party	176(13.2)	242(18.2)	418(31.4)	220(16.5)	275(20.7)

Source: Field survey, 2025

Patterns of post-election insecurity in Nigeria

The study revealed different patterns of post-election insecurity in Nigeria. The result includes kidnapping, assassinations, robbery, violent protests, verbal threats and arsons. Other patterns include litigations, job losses, political thuggery, injurious publications and internal displacement of the people.

Table 3: Patterns of post-election insecurity in Nigeria

S/n	Patterns of post-election insecurity	Strongly Agree		Strongly Disagree	
		Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Disagree
1	Kidnapping	880(66.1)	429(32.2)	22(1.7)	-
2	Assassinations	440(33.1)	627(47.1)	154(11.6)	110(8.3)
3	Robbery	858(64.5)	308(23.1)	88(6.6)	77(5.8)
4	Violent protests	484(36.4)	517(38.8)	231(17.4)	99(7.4)
5	Verbal threats	803(60.3)	297(22.3)	99(7.4)	132(9.9)
6	Arson	374(28.1)	638(47.9)	209(15.7)	44(3.3)
7	Litigations	319(24.0)	594(44.6)	242(18.2)	44(3.3)
8.	Job loss	671(50.4)	352(26.4)	264(19.8)	44(3.3)
9	Political thuggery	891(66.9)	308(23.1)	132(9.9)	-
10	Injurious publications	528(39.7)	638(47.9)	99(7.4)	66(5.0)
11	Internal displacements	638(47.9)	528(39.7)	165(12.4)	-

Source: Field survey, 2025

Economic implications of post-election insecurity in Nigeria

The study revealed many economic implications of post-election insecurity in Nigeria. These include loss of properties and livelihoods, reduction in labour force, unemployment, closure of businesses, and loss of revenue and retards economic growth. The list also includes looting of national resources, sharing of collective resources to friends and family, discourages investment, increases expenditure for government, organizations, groups and individuals and destruction of business establishments. Again, it leads to scarcity and high prices of goods and services as well as food insecurity.

Table 4: Economic implications of post-election insecurity

S/n	Economic implications	Strongly Disagree		Strongly Agree	
		Disagree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree
1	Loss of properties	891(66.9)	187(14.0)	99(7.4)	88(6.6)
2	Loss of livelihoods	539(40.5)	583(43.8)	99(14.6)	110(8.3)
3	Reduction in labour force	671(50.4)	429(32.2)	22(1.7)	209(15.7)
4	Unemployment	814(61.2)	363(27.3)	66(5.0)	86(6.6)
5	Closure of businesses	550(41.3)	462(34.7)	253(19.0)	66(5.0)
6	Loss of revenue	495(37.2)	605(45.5)	88(6.6)	143(10.7)
7	Retards economic growth	627(47.1)	517(38.8)	187(14.0)	-
8.	Looting of national resources	528(39.7)	594(44.6)	44(3.3)	121(7.5)
9	Sharing of collective resources	627(47.1)	385(28.9)	143(10.7)	66(5.0)

10	Discourages investments	352(26.4)	539(40.5)	264(19.8)	110(8.3)	66(5.0)
11	Increased expenditure	858(64.5)	154(11.6)	165 (12.4)	154 (11.6)	-
12	Destruction of business establishments	528(39.7)	561(42.1)	143(10.7)	77(5.8)	22(1.7)
13	Scarcity high prices of goods and services	957(71.9)	198(14.9)	88(6.6)	22(1.7)	66(5.0)
14	Results in food insecurity	616(46.3)	462(34.7)	253(19.0)	-	-

Source: Field survey, 2025

Social and political implications

The study revealed many social and political implications of post-election insecurity in Nigeria. The findings include political instability, lack of peace, reduced social interaction, low level of cooperation and increased crimes. Others are low level of development, negative image of the country, increased burden on the judiciary and voter apathy. Furthermore, low level of political participation, forced migration of citizens and increased rate of political thuggery, suspicion between citizens and the government and destruction of social amenities were some of the social and political implications of post-election insecurity. The findings also include closure of public places, increased frustration among citizens, division among the people, increased burden on security agencies as well as diversion of government attention from development programmes to insecurity.

Table 5: Social and political implications of post-election insecurity

S/ n	Social and political implications	Strongly				Strongly Disagree
		Disagree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	
1	Political instability	792(59.5)	363(27.3)	154(11.6)	22(1.7)	-
2	Lack of peace	561(42.1)	506(38.0)	176(13.2)	88(6.6)	-
3	Affects social interaction	671(50.4)	341(25.6)	165(12.4)	88(6.6)	66(5.0)
4	Reduced cooperation	396(29.8)	594(44.6)	253(19.0)	88(6.6)	-
5	Leads to youth restiveness	715(53.7)	297(22.3)	209(15.7)	44(3.3)	66(5.0)
6	Retards development	462(34.7)	528(39.7)	308(23.1)	22(1.7)	11(8)
7	Negative image of the country	627(47.1)	286(21.5)	264(19.8)	154(11.6)	-
8.	Increased burden on judiciary	462(34.7)	451(33.9)	253(19.0)	77(5.8)	88(6.6)
9	Breads voter apathy	484(36.4)	583(43.8)	242(18.2)	22(1.7)	-
10	Low political participation	506(38.0)	374(28.1)	286(21.5)	165(12.4)	-
11	Forced migration	517(38.8)	418(31.4)	319(24.0)	77(5.8)	-
12	Encourages thuggery	605(45.5)	385(28.9)	187(14.0)	88(6.6)	66(5.0)
13	Brings suspicion	704(52.9)	352(26.4)	165(12.4)	22(1.7)	88(6.6)
14	Destruction of social amenities	638(47.9)	517(38.8)	88(6.6)	22(1.7)	66(5.0)
15	Closure of public places	528(39.7)	418(314)	198(14.9)	121(9.1)	66(5.0)
16	Frustration among citizens	748(56.2)	341(25.6)	132(9.9)	44(3.3)	66(5.0)
17	Leads to division among people.	814(62.1)	352(26.4)	77(5.8)	22(1.7)	66(5.0)
18	Increased burden on security agencies	539(40.5)	451(33.9)	253(19.0)	22(1.7)	66(5.0)
19	Diversion of government attention	704(52.9)	330(24.8)	209(15.7)	-	88(6.6)

Source: Field survey, 2025

Test of hypotheses

H01: There is no significant relationship between patterns of post-election insecurity and population safety in Nigeria.

The findings of the study revealed a positive significant correlation at 0.01 and 0.05 level of significant (two tailed) of patterns of post-election insecurity and population safety in Nigeria. From the

findings, all the patterns of insecurity including kidnapping, assassination, robbery, violent protest, verbal threats, arson, litigations, job loss, political thuggery, injurious publications and internal displacement significantly correlated population. Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternate accepted that there is a significant relationship between patterns of post-election insecurity and population safety in Nigeria.

Table 6: Pearson's Correlation of patterns of post-election insecurity and population safety in Nigeria.

Patterns of post-election insecurity	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1. <i>Kidnapping</i>	1											
2. <i>Assassinations</i>	.278**	1										
3. <i>Robbery</i>	.244**	.476**	1									
4. <i>Violent protest</i>	.332**	.327**	.602**	1								
5. <i>Verbal threats</i>	.316**	.067**	.133**	.215**	1							
6. <i>Arson</i>	.387**	.286**	.088*	.392**	.667**	1						
7. <i>Litigations</i>	.276**	.257**	.351**	.440**	.602**	.677**	1					
8. <i>Job loss</i>	.299**	.240**	.028	.255**	.052*	.127**	.176**	1				
9. <i>Political thuggery</i>	.304**	.262**	.452**	.165**	.419**	.090**	.428**	.288**	1			
10. <i>Injurious publication</i>	-.029	.068*	.388**	.355**	.343**	.099**	.472**	.209**	.593**	1		
11. <i>Internal displacements</i>	.123**	.447**	.282**	.003	.375**	.178**	.331**	.159**	.763**	.462**	1	
12. <i>Safety post-election insecurity</i>	-.122**	.295**	.092*	.054*	-.254**	-.248**	-.078**	.003	.222**	.154**	.321**	1

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Source: Field survey, 2023

Hypothesis two: There is no significant relationship between economic implications of post-election insecurity and population safety in Nigeria.

The findings of the study show the economic implications of post-election insecurity and population safety in Nigeria. All the economic implications were significantly correlated with population safety at 0.01 and 0.05 level of significance (two tailed). The economic implications include loss of properties and livelihoods, reduction in labour force, unemployment, closure of businesses, and loss of revenue and retards economic growth. It also includes looting of national resources, sharing of collective resources to friends and family, discourages investment, increases expenditure for government, organizations, groups and individuals and destruction of business establishments. The economic implications also cover scarcity and high prices of goods and services as well as food insecurity. Thus, the null hypothesis was rejected and the alternate accepted that there is a significant relationship between economic implications of post-election insecurity and population safety in Nigeria.

Table 6: Pearson's Correlation of economic implications of post-election insecurity and population safety in Nigeria.

Economic implications	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1. <i>Loss of properties</i>	1														
2. <i>Loss of livelihoods</i>	.186**	1													
3. <i>Reduction in labour force</i>	.660**	.149**	1												
4. <i>Unemployment</i>	.492**	.147**	.617**	1											
5. <i>Closure of business</i>	.403**	-.103**	.629**	.320**	1										
6. <i>Loss of revenue</i>	.609	.126**	.726**	.583**	.449**	1									
7. <i>Retards economic growth</i>	.395**	.170**	.387**	-.057*	.264**	.269**	1								
8. <i>Looting national resources</i>	.213**	-.011*	.250**	.241**	.266**	.289**	-.107**	1							

9. <i>Sharing collective resources</i>	of	.252**	.088**	.208**	.273**	.440**	.127**	-.089**	.240**	1
10. <i>Discourage investments</i>		.506**	.215**	.311**	.123**	.118**	.195**	.429**	.316**	.312** 1
11. <i>Increased expenditure</i>		.477**	.162**	.379**	.448**	.145**	.265**	.114**	.204**	.159** .239** 1
12. <i>Destruction of business establishment</i>	of	.048**	.125**	.372**	.150**	.441**	.216**	.488**	.243**	-.004 .316** -.003 1
13. <i>Inflation</i>		.213**	.060**	.227**	.412**	.269**	.119**	-.133**	.154**	.588** .383** .153** -.009 1
14. <i>Food insecurity</i>		.267**	.113**	.352**	.465**	.538**	.340**	.063**	.278**	.485** .412** -.077** .430** .612** 1
15. <i>Safety</i>		-.113**	-.054**	.077**	.155**	.184**	.063**	-.010	-.282**	.025** -.371** -.485** .224** -.161** .082** 1

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Source: Field survey, 2025

Hypothesis three: There are no significant social and political implications of post-election insecurity and population safety in Nigeria.

The relationship between social and political implications of post-election insecurity and population safety was examined using Pearson's Moment Correlation Coefficient. The correlations of the social and political implications and population safety were significant at 0.01 and 0.05 level of significance (2-tailed). The implications were political instability, lack of peace, reduced social interaction, low level of cooperation and increased crimes. Others are low level of development, negative image of the country, increased burden on the judiciary and voter apathy. Further on the list were low level of political participation, forced migration of citizens and increased rate of political thuggery, suspicion between citizens and the government and destruction of social amenities. The findings also include closure of public places, increased frustration among citizens, division among the people, increased burden on security agencies as well as diversion of government attention from development programmes to insecurity. Thus, the null hypothesis was rejected and the alternate accepted that there is a significant relationship between social and political implications of post-election insecurity and population safety in Nigeria.

Table 7: Pearson's Correlation of social and political implications of post-election insecurity and population safety in Nigeria.

Social and political implications	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1. <i>Political instability</i>	1																		
2. <i>Lack of peace</i>	.604**	1																	
3. <i>Poor social interaction</i>	.393**	.605**	1																
4. <i>Reduced cooperation</i>	.381**	.786**	.714**	1															
5. <i>youth restiveness</i>	.254**	.331**	.694**	.423**	1														
6. <i>Retards development</i>	.435**	.591**	.469**	.565**	.524**	1													
7. <i>negative image of the country</i>	.264**	.360**	.374**	.261**	.614**	.714**	1												
8. <i>Increased burden on the judiciary</i>	.070**	.112**	.365**	.120**	.532**	.423**	.516**	1											
9. <i>Breads voter apathy</i>	.495**	.244**	.357**	.192**	.560**	.394**	.478**	.473**	1										
10. <i>Low political participation</i>	.412**	.638**	.647**	.547**	.346**	.428**	.324**	.360**	.388**	1									

11. <i>Forced migration</i>	.566**	.625**	.755**	.618**	.418**	.293**	.158**	.252**	.435**	.680**	1								
12. <i>Encourage thuggery</i>	.335**	.742**	.864**	.802**	.715**	.597**	.428**	.398**	.371**	.697**	.639**	1							
13. <i>Brings suspicion</i>	.447**	.554**		.585**	.703**	.559**	.515**	.430**	.502**	.615**	.546**	.807**	1						
					.746**														
14. <i>Destruction of social amenities</i>	-.005	.219**	.524**	.416**	.668**	.403**	.487**	.566**	.396**	.280**	.205**	.571**	.576**	1					
15. <i>Closure of public places</i>	.098**	.100**	.506**	.261**	.508**	.299**	.344**	.655**	.375**	.234**	.302**	.401**	.582**	.663**	1				
16. <i>Frustration among citizens</i>	.257**	.438**	.614**	.498**	.717**	.623**	.600**	.564**	.452**	.581**	.378**	.727**	.859**	.783**	.600**	1			
17. <i>Leads to division among people</i>	.201**	.217**	.649**	.337**	.693**	.358**	.435**	.518**	.541**	.402**	.459**	.584**	.744**	.828**	.681**	.781**	1		
18. <i>Increased burden on security agencies</i>	.188**	.365**	.543**	.563**	.692**	.639**	.583**	.670**	.547**	.425**	.364**	.646**	.730**	.792**	.659**	.818**	.742**	1	
19. <i>Diverts attention</i>	.035*	.114**	.564**	.405**	.679**	.409**	.348**	.391**	.413**	.183**	.337**	.500**	.596**	.790**	.660**	.686**	.840**	.705**	1

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Source: Field survey, 2023

Discussion of findings

The electoral processes and outcomes in Nigeria have been bedeviled with incessant security challenges which occurred as a result of system failure, mal-functioning and poor socio-economic control and security challenges confronting the country which could be traced back to decades of misrule, bad governance, corruption, unemployment, and diversion of the common wealth. Yaqub (1999), noted that the various experiences with competitive electoral politics in Nigeria have brought the worst in political thuggery, brigandage, rigging, manipulation of electoral results, ballot boxes snatching, arson, wanton assassination of perceived political opponents, unmediated and unrestrained destruction of lives and property among others.

Such violence is usually accompanied by massive looting and plundering of public and private property as experienced in the 2020 EndSARs protest in Nigeria. Election in such hostile environment becomes an affair of the mighty and powerful, where rigging, arson, intimidation, snatching of ballot boxes among others become the norm rather than aberration. The violence lingers even after the elections as the sham called elections had already created cracks and divisions within the polity. This is because the defeated class has no other option than to protest the electoral outcomes, through others means available to them. This accounts for the post-election litigations, riots, demonstrations and other forms of mass action in Nigeria. As in the case with Nigeria, when such mass actions are not adequately addressed, they escalate to outright war as expressed in the Nigeria civil war, sub-nationalist agitations, ethnic militancy, and Boko Haram insurgency among others.

The irregularities and malpractices that characterize elections in Nigeria engender unimaginable conflicts that consume lives and properties. During election, the ruling parties employ all devices using their incumbent power to suppress any opposition from other parities. They commit the national resources especially finance using it to influence the security agents to protect and safeguard their manipulations during elections. The consequences and grievances emanating from the electoral fraud and misconducts as manifested by the opposition parties affect both our development and democracy. The impact of the above on governance and by extension national security remains enormous; as the masses are alienated from their

leaders, disenchanted with government policies and become strong apathy towards electoral process. It is the reoccurring and catastrophic impacts of these phenomena on inclusive governance, physical safety of the citizenry and the state (Okorie, et al, 2020).

obviously, elections in Nigeria are pervaded by electoral violence, manipulation, allegations of rigging, imposition, intimidation, corruption, excessive spending, vote buying, godfatherism and other obstacles that discredit the process in most cases (Abdulkadir et al., 2023, Sule, Sani, & Mat, 2018). Oluwatosin,Daisi and Oluwatosin (2020) added that, individuals or political parties go to any extent, using any means to attain this power (the former) and when they could not achieve their aim, violence emerged with its resultant effect of loss of lives and property. Barely all elections conducted during this present republic have been characterized by different forms of violence owing to the fact that the electoral body has compromised the sanctity/credibility of the electoral processes.

Conformably, post-election insecurity in Nigeria has become the most dangerous monster threatening the lives and properties of the people, hampering business activities, and discouraging local and foreign investors. Markedly, insecurity has hampered the political, social and economic growth and development of Nigeria (Zubairu, 2020). Consequently, elections in Nigeria have been characterized by electoral violence, manipulation of election results and political participation constraints. Olukunle (2019), posited that, more often election periods in Nigeria are times of battles, violence and conflicts. Nonetheless, Ishaya (2021), admitted that, the country is not capable of ending banditry's, kidnappings, terrorism, armed robbery, or rescuing the escalating abducted citizens, a situation which forces family members to the abductors to secure release of their loved ones.

Conclusion/recommendations

The electoral processes and outcomes in Nigeria have resulted in different patterns of insecurity with dire severe economic, social and political implications on population safety. Notably, elections respecting the free and fair principles will serve as a stabilizer for the democratic system, ensuring repeatable mechanism of recruitment and selection of candidates for elective positions in the political institutions. They create patterns of peaceful transfer of power in the event of changes in the political frame of reference. The implications have adverse effects on population safety. The conduct of peaceful, free, fair and credible election is very essential for democratic sustainability and reduction in post-election insecurity in Nigeria. This is because, insecurity undermines Nigeria' democratic development and also boosts the forces of division and instability and threatens population safety across the country.

There is need to strengthen the Independent National Electoral Commission and ensure maximum and transparent functioning of existing checks and balance to ensure votes count and are truly reflected in the outcomes of elections. Additionally, those elected must ensure the provision of dividends of democracy to all and sundry and improve the socio-economic wellbeing of the people and ensure their safety.

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