

# [The nigeria political process prior to the](https://assignbuster.com/the-nigeria-political-process-prior-to-the/)

The Nigeria Political Process prior to the 1999 democraticrule has been dominated by military dictatorship after several year ofpolitical subjugation or hostage in the hand of military rulers, the politicalprocess seem to be under threat by the emergence of political gladiators.

1 Oluloyo, V. (2014) stated that the phenomena canbe generally seen as a practice which entails the sustenance of a kind ofsocial and political relationships that exist between the subordinate and thesuperior for the propagation and fulfillment of certain roles, desires and interactionswhich binds both together or in which both have equal stake but with thesuperior determining what the subordinate gets in the process just as Williams, I. (2004) expressed, in the realm of politics, godfatherism portrays apower-based relationship. For instance, as emphasized by several scholars andresearchers of this topic, the implicit feature is godfatherism in power. Ukhun, C.

E. (2004)  stated that, power is the determinant or fundamentalfeature of godfatherism and the power could be economic, political, spiritual, voodoo etc. , he also sees Godfatherism as a power relationship often skewed infavour of the godfather who can afford to lord it over the godson, if, he so wishesowing to his super ordinate influence and affluence.

The godfather settles todictate “ who gets what, when and how” in the distribution of scarce resourcesafter the elections have been contested and won. Chukwuma, O. (2008) the role of godfathers thereforegoes beyond the elections of one having the abilities and capabilities tomanipulate the electoral process to the favour of his chosen godson. Kolawole, D. (2004) Political godfatherism alsoindicates sponsorship of contestants in an election by a wealthy andinfluential individual or group of who in return expects protection and otherforms of reward and privileges. Researchers therefore, see godfatherism as “ aninstitution of political king making through which certain political office holdersof tenuous political clout come into power”. Hence, it is a relationship basedon political surrogacy involving financial and moral assistance where thegodfather is the major donor and the godson the primary receiver.

Godfatherism, in its simple form is a term used to describe the relationship between agodfather and godson. Godfathers are slightly different from mafia and electionsponsors. For Bala J.

, Sonni G. (1987). Mafianism in politics consist of formidable powerfulblocs that have tremendous influence in the society. It comprises of coalitionof strong socio-economic and political elites that share similar value system, and under an organized structure. In most cases, there are always godfatherswho control the affairs of the mafia.

Godfathers are powerful individuals whodetermine “ who, what, when and how” in the corridors of power. Onubi, A. (2002), Many godfathers in thepresent-day Nigeria operates like the mafia by displaying similar violentscheming and aggressive campaigns coupled with manipulating devices of having theirway by any means, on bear as Machiavelli expressed- “ the ends justify themeans”.

Election sponsors, on the other hand are rich individuals thatvolunteer to donate generously towards the electoral success of a party orsponsor candidates during election. He might be less bothered about the activepolitics or supervision of government business, but expects friendly policiesfrom government. Nigeria’s godfathers in the 21st century sponsors election, butnot all election sponsors are godfathers.

Godfathers reign across all spheresof the society: academics, legal, and religion environment. The relationshipbetween godfather and godson in politics claims the monopolistic use of theterm godfatherism and makes it political. Godfatherism thrives across theglobe. There is hardly any state devoid of the existence and influence of godfathers, though the level of such influence varies. FawoleA. (2001), in other advancedsocieties, group influence and endorsement could be more valuable than apowerful individual and it is almost impossible to prevent this sought ofinfluence.

1 Arabian Journal of Business and ManagementReview (OMAN Chapter) Vol. 5, No. 8; March 2016