

The nigeria political process prior to the



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

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

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

The godfather settles to dictate “ who gets what, when and how” in the distribution of scarce resources after the elections have been contested and won. Chukwuma, O. (2008) the role of godfathers therefore goes beyond the elections of one having the abilities and capabilities to manipulate the electoral process to the favour of his chosen godson. Kolawole, D. (2004)

Political godfatherism also indicates sponsorship of contestants in an election by a wealthy and influential individual or group of who in return expects protection and other forms of reward and privileges. Researchers therefore, see godfatherism as “an institution of political king making through which certain political office holders of tenuous political clout come into power”. Hence, it is a relationship based on political surrogacy involving financial and moral assistance where the godfather is the major donor and the godson the primary receiver.

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

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

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

Election sponsors, on the other hand are rich individuals that volunteer to donate generously towards the electoral success of a party or sponsor

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candidates during election. He might be less bothered about the active politics or supervision of government business, but expects friendly policies from government. Nigeria's godfathers in the 21st century sponsors election, but not all election sponsors are godfathers.

Godfathers reign across all spheres of the society: academics, legal, and religion environment. The relationship between godfather and godson in politics claims the monopolistic use of the term godfatherism and makes it political. Godfatherism thrives across the globe. There is hardly any state devoid of the existence and influence of godfathers, though the level of such influence varies. Fawole A. (2001), in other advanced societies, group influence and endorsement could be more valuable than a powerful individual and it is almost impossible to prevent this sought of influence.

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