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## **CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

Voting is a means of selecting or choosing leaders. It does not apply only to local governments, states and federal government of Nigeria but also in different institutions and social organizations. Therefore, the conduct of elections in a democratic society is very important not only because through it a change of government is effected but also because voting is the main form of political participation for most people for democracy to be sound and smooth, it should be enhanced on election free from fraud.

A voting registration system is like any other registration system, it takes information or data about different groups of people, information that can uniquely identify each person, and other relevant information.

Many centuries ago, most societies were societies that were primitive and had not evolved a system of voting to elect the leaders that will govern them and promote societal harmony and peace. This means that people have to devise a system whereby a leader or a set of leaders have elected from the ranks of the people. At that point the idea of voting and being voted for became important and necessary. But before an individual can cast his or her vote, there are certain conditions to be met, one of which is to be registered as a voter.

Since independence in 1960, the Nigeria political scene has witnessed incessant upheavals, wide scale dishonesty and societal bitterness, which in most instances, degenerated into lawlessness and destruction of lives and property. These unfortunate situations paved the way for and served as spring boards for the emergence and growth of unskilled democrats and military leaders in the governance of the nation. Many Nigerian's are disappointed that a post independent 56 years-old Nigeria is still operating constitution which does not enjoy an overwhelming national acceptance, as evident in the persistent calls for the convocation of a sovereign's national conference on the one hand, and the growing demand for ethnic nationalities on the other.

For about five and half decades since independence, the nation had shifted position between parliamentary and presidential system of government, with several military incursions into politics over the years. Even the present presidential democratic dispensation is still undergoing experimentation with varying degrees of trial and error approach. It is in the light of the foregoing, that this project on voter registration is written to serve as a useful tool of enlightenment in the hands of voters, the electorate and the general public.

However, voter registration is a critical aspect of the electoral process. A credible voter register is a prelude to free and fair elections. It is also important for people to know who is qualified to vote, where, when and how to vote. Also, a full knowledge of the registration procedure will encourage eligible voters to participate in the electoral process.

## **1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The inefficiency of voting process in Lagos has resulted in a lot of problems. These problems have continued to obstruct the peace of democracy in Lagos because the choice of a capable candidate is not encouraged by the current system. The problems could be emended as follows.

- Ø The high incidence of multiple voting, massive transfer of ballot papers and forging of electoral papers using fictitious names. Indiscrete manipulation and inflation of election figures by electoral commission officers to suit the interest of their favored candidates.
- Ø Thuggery operation, fear of intimidation and victimization and smuggling of ballot papers into the ballot boxes.
- Ø The fragile nature of some ballot boxes make them vulnerable to destruction
- Ø Loss of votes due to either wrong voting or the case of any of accident occurring during transporting of the statement of result forms and other electoral materials to the collation centers.
- Ø The delay in the generation and announcement of the results which gives room for other manipulations.

Therefore, there should be change for data handling.

## **1.3 PURPOSE OF STUDY**

The purpose of design and implementation of a web based voter registration system is to:

1. Design a voter registration system which will help to improve the voters system
2. Implement a web voter's registration system.
3. Improve the standard of voter's registration
4. Avoid unnecessary delay in voter's registration.
5. Update the voter's registration roll without bribery and conspiracy.

## **1.4 OBJECTIVES OF STUDY**

The main objective of this project work is to design a fully web voter registration system which should be able to:

1. Effectively carry out the task of voting automatically and timely.
2. Put to an end the indiscriminate alteration of election results by any officer of the electoral commission of Lagos. This will inculcate discipline in the commission and promote their independence.
3. Secure ballot papers and election results from any accident what server and to quickly detect any defaced ballot paper or a ballot paper that is wrongly thumb printed.
4. Stop multiple or double voting, forgery in any shape or form and smuggling of ballot papers into ballot boxes. This will restore the integrity of votes cast in any election in Lagos state.
5. Generate accurate report and effect a stick knowledge of election results using an on-line computer processing system.

## **1.5 RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

- a) Who is registering online?

b) How can we make use of the building blocks of a responsive application in improving the voting experience for stakeholders?

c) What are the Challenges faced by INEC during the conduct of the 2015 elections?

### **1.6 SCOPE OF STUDY**

It is focused on studying the existing system of voting in Nigeria and to make sure that the people's vote is counted, for fairness in the elective positions. This will also produce:

- Less effort and less labour intensive, as the primary cost and focus primary on creating, managing, and running a secure web voting portal.

- Increasing number of voters as individuals will find it easier and more convenient to vote, especially in western society where life is a lot more regimented and programmed.

### **1.7 LIMITATION OF THE STUDY**

This study is limited by the restricted nature of the number of polling centers it covers. It does not represent a general election to cover the whole federation of Nigeria at the same time due to time constraints. Also there was limited time to effectively combine the research work with class study.

### **1.8 ASSUMPTIONS**

It is assumed that the implementation of the new system will rapidly improve the economic and the socio-political lives of the people of Lagos state. There will be no room for rigging and election malpractice.

### **1.9 DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**VOTER:** A voter is a person who has a right to participate in an election as an elector.

**ELECTION:** This is a set of activities whereby members of a community choose their leaders.

**POLITICAL PARTY:** Is a group of people who share common principles about the management of their affairs, with the aim of capturing political power in a given polity.

**BALLOT:** This refers to the system of voting in a country, balloting could be open secret.

**DEMOCRACY:** This is government of the people by the people and for the people. This form of government places emphasis on the majority of people.

**POLLING:** A system of voting.

**JUDICIARY:** The organ of government responsible for the interpretation of laws and punishment of offenders for the breach of law.

**ELECTORAL COMMISSION:** This refers to an independent responsibility to conduct all elections from the level of government election to the presidential election in the country.

**INEC:** Independent National Electoral Commission.

**NYSC:** National Youth Service Corp.

**IPI:** International Peace Institute.

**RERC:** Report on the Registration and Election Review.

**ELECTORAL OFFICIALS:** Personals who carry out election exercises.

**POLL CLERK:** A person who assists the presiding officer and deputizes in an event of the officer's absences.

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** He or she is the actual officer who conducts the election in the polling station where he is in charge.

**SUPERVISORY PRESIDING OFFICER:** He or she is in charge of election in a ward usually made

up of about 10 polling stations.

**COLLATION/RETURNING OFFICER:** He or she collates data from the elections and declares the results were required.

**ROLL ASSISTANT/ORDERLY:** There may be one or more poll assistants or orderlies in a polling center. Their duty is to assist in election duties and ensure orderliness in the station.

**NOTICE OF ELECTION:** This is a notice issued not less than 90 days before the date appointed for holding of an election which is published in each state of the federation and the federal capital territory.

**PUBLICATION OF THE LIST OF CANDIDATES:** This is the publication by the electoral commission of the final list of all candidates who stand nominated, to all candidates together with the names of the persons nominating them, including their respective addresses and occupations.

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