



AGBEROCRACY A NEW CONCEPT OF TERRORISM IN NIGERIA?

As our country is still fighting hard to deliver itself from the clutches of insecurity orchestrated by the rampaging activities of Boko Haram, ISIS, Bandits, Unknown gunmen and the rest of them the 2023 Elections has introduced a new wave of terrorism which can be aptly referred to as Democratic Terrorism or what some people have coined 'Agberocracy'. In Nigeria's parlance, road transport workers and touts who loiter around motor parks to scout for passengers are referred to as Agberos. So Agberocracy can be described as a new form of criminality where 'Agberos', touts, hooligans' hoodlums and street urchins take over the electioneering process to unleash mayhem on the electorates in order to compel, coerce and force them to vote for their preferred candidate. A system where a criminally minded few connive with the electoral body under the full glare of security agencies to force themselves to power through violence and take over the reign of leadership. This is no longer democracy which is the government of the people by the people and for the people. It is now government of the Agberos for the Agberos and by the Agberos. This was largely what transpired in the March 18th Guber and State House of Assembly election in Nigeria.

The enthusiasm and determination that heralded the participation of Nigerians who came out on February 25th during the Presidential / National Assembly poll in their droves to take back their country from the clutches of darkness and retrogression was completely aborted by the dubious and criminal collaboration between the ruling party and some INEC officials under the supervision of security Agencies who may have been heavily compromised to look the other way. This to an extent was partly responsible for the voter's apathy that made it easy for criminals to invade the Guber/HoA elections rescheduled for March 18th

Very unfortunately and in a more dangerous dimension than the Feb.25th Presidential/National Assembly elections Nigerians and International Observers witnessed scenarios where organized criminals and thugs took over the entire process and raided individual homes and polling units to attacks voters and cart away voting

materials and ballot boxes while inflicting various degree of injury and harm and violence on innocent voters who still summoned courage to come out to perform their constitutional obligation to their fatherland.

It was a gory tale of violence, bloodshed and killings in different parts of the country especially in Lagos, Kano, Kogi and some parts of the eastern states as political thugs welding different kinds of crude weapons had a field day. *In his tweet a foremost Media Executive Dr. Rueben Abati said about the election 'What just happened in Nigeria, is it an Election or a burlesque, even masquerades voted, touts and thugs replaced the electoral commission. Shame on INEC and Security Agencies for turning our country into a comedy station of the world.*

The whole process was marred by intimidation, suppression, vote buying, manipulation and outright rigging of election results. Politicians in league with some security agents and staff of INEC unleashed their thugs and hoodlums 'to invade the strongholds of their political opponent to disrupt the entire process and ensure that the results were manipulated to their advantage. In some states like Abia, Enugu, Adamawa etc the results were deliberately delayed by INEC in order to attempt to subvert the will and mandate of the people. This is unacceptable to us as a nation. Nigeria cannot allow the world to continue to see us as a people without morality and standard. How can few people force themselves on the generality of the people by crookedly compromising the entire system? How long will our electoral umpires continue to slide downward? With the huge amount of monies expended in every electoral cycle the so-called giant of Africa is not doing any better. This is the shame of a nation. The politicians are not men of honour, our professors and Electoral umpires have been long been compromised, our security Agencies are no better, our judges have no honour. What a vicious cycle. Please God help us as a nation and show forth your HAND OF MERCY. We have all gone astray. Give us a NEW NIGERIA and bring it to pass in your own way.