

Review of: "Government interference in election administration and lethal electoral irregularities in Africa: Evidence from Nigeria"

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Thank you for trusting me to review this article. This article is very interesting, especially linking the National Election Commission of Independence (INEC) in Nigeria with elections. One of my key points is that in almost all developing countries, election commissions, even if they say they are neutral or independent, are not. This independence is influenced by the government's interest in the general election commission. Based on descriptive statistical analysis methods and in-depth content, the authors claim that government interference in INEC's membership composition, finances, and operations is largely responsible for deadly electoral irregularities and lowering public confidence to the lowest level.

Government interference is said to be a weakness of government-driven electoral reform and requires reform on the part of the electorate to produce the best electoral system for Nigeria. Although these results and conclusions are good, as long as the article does not explain some basic points; (1) according to the authors, the composition of INEC, including its financial budget, does not come from the government? If that's the assumption, how can INEC operate? Or (2) the government only has the authority to provide funds, but does not interfere with its operations or composition? Indeed, ideally, INEC----whatever it's called in other countries, is semi-independent so that the electoral function goes well to produce the right leaders. As long as the government intervenes in the commission, the results will definitely not be independent. It's just that, it needs to be underlined and determined which sectors are most affected by this government intervention?

In this paper, I did not find it. Even though the name is public service, in my opinion it must be determined, which public service, and how public service is not going well. I understand the statement in this conclusion: "This finding underscores the need for voter-driven electoral reform as government-mandated electoral reforms have not addressed the fundamental problems of Nigeria's electoral system. Instructively, this research does not claim to offer a one-step explanation of the myriad of electoral problems facing democracy operations in developing countries by exposing enduring systemic interference in the conduct of elections in Nigeria. That leaves other plausible explanations in the domain of further study. Such a study should explore other factors and explain why various legislative reforms in Nigeria as elsewhere have failed



to address underlying problems related to the operational independence of the EMB, logistical arrangements, and/or budgetary challenges.” In my opinion, this is a very good conclusion.