

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

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The findings presented in this study shed light on the critical issues affecting the electoral process in Nigeria, particularly the interference in the membership composition, control of personnel, finances, and operations of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). The study offers valuable insights into the challenges faced by INEC in maintaining its independence and impartiality, ultimately impacting the credibility of elections in the country.

One significant aspect highlighted is the excessive power wielded by the Nigerian presidency, which influences the appointment of INEC principal officers and other staff. This government interference has hindered INEC's ability to function independently and provide a level playing field for all candidates and political parties. The study also points out how this interference affects the recruitment of election staff, leading to logistical problems and election postponements. This study examines the financial dependence of INEC on the government, which has been a major obstacle in the efficient management of elections. The delayed and piecemeal release of funds by the government has hindered election planning and preparation, impacting the overall effectiveness of the electoral process.

Another crucial finding pertains to the manipulation of the electoral process itself. The study reveals how those in control of INEC's human and financial elements often use their influence to undermine the implementation of policies and technologies aimed at ensuring credible elections. The absence of a participatory framework and stakeholder buy-in further exacerbates these challenges. This study provides valuable evidence on the need for voter-driven electoral reforms to address the systemic issues plaguing Nigeria's electoral system. It emphasizes the importance of INEC's true independence and its role in ensuring free, fair, and credible elections. The findings presented here serve as a significant contribution to the ongoing discourse on electoral democracy in developing countries.

The comprehensive analysis and empirical evidence presented in this study make it a compelling and thought-provoking contribution to the field of electoral studies. The authors' recommendations for voter-driven reforms open up avenues for further research and policymaking to strengthen democratic processes in Nigeria and beyond.