

11th November, 2021

**THE RULE OF LAW AND ELECTORAL INTEGRITY: THE FOUNTAIN OF
DEMOCRACY, LEGITIMACY OF GOVERNMENT, PEACE AND SECURITY IN
NIGERIA.**

**THIS PAPER IS PRESENTED AT THE 6TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON
FINANCIAL FRAUD, CROSS-BORDER CRIME AND ELECTORAL FRAUD,
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CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY FORENSIC INSIGHT INTERNATIONAL
LIMITED**

First and foremost, may I before the presentation of my paper stand on the existing protocol already established. Today is a momentous day for me and I count it all joy that in such an auspicious gathering like this one when the youths, the very backbone and strength of our great nation converges in this cozy venue to discuss, strategize and articulate the ways forward for our nation. I must admit that with this mammoth crowd of the youths, the journey to a better Nigeria has begun Forward ever, backward never!

The topic of our gathering today is lofty. I say so because it best depicts the traction with which our nation is known for or rather, what our nation has endured, faced and or experienced. As it is often times said that a man's head cannot be shaved in his absence, so it is with our nation that a robust discourse about Nigeria cannot be complete without a mention of Rule of Law; Electoral integrity, Democracy, Governance, Peace and Security et al. Thus, I would at this juncture commend the beautiful brains that masterfully came up with the topic of our meeting today on which my presentation would be predicated upon.

At the risk of not adopting the general format in paper presentation, whereby key terms/words from the topic would have been defined distinctively, I for one in the modesty with which my life is characterized

and for the economy of words I have refrained from the latter instead, I would be cascading all my thoughts on the topic altogether, I crave your rapt attention please.

As I earlier state which I still want to reiterate, the loftiness of our topic is such that it harbours key features of modernization, growth and development, good governance on the one part and on the second part, the gathering today has in the majority, the youths upon whom the bounden duty to ensure that Nigeria is Peddled out of the murky waters of corruption, bad governance, insecurity etc. For most assuredly, there will never be good governance or sustained democracy without strict adherence to the practice of Rule of Law, hygiene electoral regime, sustainable peace and security. These are the precursors that would make a country rank amongst the comity of nations. Ladies and gentlemen, I submit to us that when the aforementioned are entrenched in our political landscape, Nigeria become an Eldorado.

It is true and as rightly observed by the organizers of this conference, I submit that what ensures democracy, legitimacy of government, peace and security in any clime including but not limited to Nigeria are the hallmark principles of Rule of Law and Electoral integrity. These without more have world over been the triggers that had led to what is known as developed societies/countries. Countries that have remained developed became so because they'd perpetuated these principles into their national fabrics so much that the principles have made it possible for their citizens to enjoy the bliss that comes with good governance and hygiene electoral regime institutionalized to serve the general interest of everyone and not a microscopic few, I look forward to when our dear Nigeria will find herself in that primed position.

Looking closely at the principle of Rule of Law which simply put is: governing/governance in accordance with the law (i.e. the constitution and other legislations), which implies that nobody is above the law but that the

law is sacrosanct, in its absoluteness to be the Gaud. Electoral Integrity presupposes the recruiting process whereby leaders that would emerge vide electoral process would have become so through adherence, compliance with the specific electoral legislations, other subsisting legislation and the general law being the constitution (i.e. the Grundnorm) respectively.

On a whole even as I am keen on concluding my presentation, the principle of Rule of Law, electoral integrity, democracy, legitimacy of government, peace and security does not exist in vacuum otherwise they would have become wishy washy. But they and a conglomeration of other factors will become realizable only when the people participate positively, genuinely, sincerely and dutifully in ensuring that those principles and factors earlier mentioned becomes realistic.

In closing, I wish to canvass for what I call the People's Model in governance which as I will submit would be the catalyst that can save us as a nation from falling into the precipice. What I mean by the people's model governance is that since the existence of every society whether good or bad is premised on the people, it follows therefore that governance should be people oriented in that whichever person could be seen, the people should largely contribute positively to the growth and development from their societies and nations. Thus, on this footing, I am inviting you all my comrades to rise up to the task of entrenching absolute adherence to the principles of rule of law by our leaders, a hygiene electoral regime whereby the wishes and aspiration of the people will always override.

I submit finally that the task of having a better, developed Nigeria though a daunting one but with the conviction I have, I know that we all at the end of this gathering will leave here with the resolve to make it work. Growth and development can only thrive in an atmosphere of peace. I urge every good spirited youth to rise up and be a part of the movement for a new, peaceful, secured and developed Nigeria.

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