



CREDIBILITY AND AUTHENTICITY OF CARD READER AS AN ANTIDOTE TO ELECTION RIGGING IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study investigates the credibility and authenticity of card reader machinery in Nigeria using Jega reform policy as a case study. Four research questions were formulated to guide the study and analyzed using descriptive statistics. 200 hundred participant were used for the study. The findings revealed that smart card reader enabled credibility in election. Also, the smart card reader is reliable during election, smart card reader is effective in voting, and smart card reader is a means to eliminate electoral violence, smart card reader enables quick voting among the electorate, card readers' increase the authenticity of votes cast among electorate. The findings revealed that the device was introduced to enhance the integrity of the voting process, dissuade multiple voting (as only duly accredited and verified PVC holders could vote) enhance credibility of election, the use of card reader infused some level of transparency and credibility into Nigeria's electoral process. The findings revealed the challenges affecting the effective implementation of the use of smart card readers which includes possible battery failures to power the device, time factor consumed during PVC verification, timeliness issues in verifying PVC holders affects the effective implementation of the use of smart card readers, many voters could be covered within the accreditation process, thus mode of operation was not a problem of challenge, the card readers could not access names of voters beginning from alphabets. The result revealed that there should be training for officials in charge of elections on how to use smart card readers, the electorate should always be informed on the importance of smart card reader in elections, there should be adequate security for the officials handling smart card reader. Recommendations were made based on findings.

Keywords: Elections, Rigging, Card readers

Introduction

Democracy, today, is unarguably the most preferred form of government the world over. One of its cardinal principles is the participation of the people by making a choice on who governs them (Elaiwu, 2014). Hence, it is germane that a functioning democracy requires an informed and active public that understands how to voice its interests, act collectively, and hold government officials accountable through credible electoral process (National Democratic Institute, 2011). This can also be achieved through democratic participation, debate, and, most importantly through voting at elections. Elections involve a set of activities leading to the selection of one or more persons out of many to serve in positions of authority in a society.

Election is the process whereby an electorate chooses, by voting, officers either to act on its behalf or represent it in an assembly with a view to governing or administering. An electorate refers to a class of citizens entitled (by a law course) to vote in an election, by whatever procedure (Alvarez, & Hall, 2008). Elections provide for a bare minimum of political participation, perhaps the only act of participation for the vast majority of the governed, and therefore create a feeling of belonging and a degree of responsibility for government decisions.

Elections could be seen as institutionalized procedures for the choosing of office holders by some or all the recognized members of a society. So an electoral system exists to provide the electorate with opportunity and the right to choose their representative and maintain contact with them. Hence, for an electoral system to be democratic, it



must provide for equal electorate and the freedom by that electorate to make a real and meaningful choice devoid of coercion or intimidation (Eminue, 2005). In effect, 'election would be deemed to be democratic-and hence good if it is free and fair and not based on patronage of any kind. Therefore, elections in Nigeria though seen as a means of controlling the government; within context of electorate's participation reveal a rather disturbing 'state' that has called for serious concern.

Duru (2002) noted that, indeed the Nigerian electoral process since independence has gained an unenviable reputation for fraudulent practices. This situation has forced many to see elections in Nigeria as a mirage or a mere 'selection'; selection in the sense that the electorate are left out of the entire system, owing to the fact that elections are conducted with or without the full participation of the electorate, who are supposed to choose those who rule over them. The organization of elections in Nigeria have often been carried out without due involvement of the people. The system operates in a way that suggests a total disregard and misapplication of democratic ethos. Thus, the outcome has always been manipulated in favour of candidates of the powerful few. This is unfair and shameful, given the democratic system we opted for. It better telling the people that the leaders would be 'selected' so that they would not bother to queue up in the scorching sun.

It is in the light of the above, that the independent Electoral Commission introduced the Smart Card reader in the electoral processes to reduce the high level of malpractice. The smart card reader is an electronic device which is use to detain the authenticity of one's permanent voters card.

Statement of the Problem

In spite of the fact that election in Nigeria is the only avenue for people to change bad governance during the poll, but the politicians have also device a means of defrauding the people during election. This study is sought to address the best solutions to reduced the level of fraudulent practices during election in Nigeria. and the assurances given by INEC to address the issues that aroused with the card readers after its test-run in twelve states of the federation, the 2015 general elections witnessed the inability of the device to deliver effectively in a large number of polling units especially in the Presidential and National Assembly Elections.

Purpose of the Study

The study is to investigate the credibility and authenticity of card reader machinery in Nigeria using Jega reform policy as a case study. Specifically, the study is to:

- Examine the effectiveness of card reader machines
- Examine the challenges to the effective implementation of the use of smartcard readers

Research Questions

The study will seek to answer the following research questions;

1. What necessitated the adoption of smart card reader?
2. Would smart cards readers can enhance the credibility of election in Nigeria?
3. What are the challenges for effective implementation of the use of smartcard readers?

Significance of the Study

The study will be of significance to society (electorate), policy makers, INEC body, government, ministry of information and researchers. The study will enable the electorate to understand the importance of smart card readers and the quest for credible elections in Nigeria. The study will help policy makers on the implementation of smart card readers in Elections in Nigeria.

Scope of the Study

The study covers Jega reform policy on credibility and authenticity of card reader machinery in Nigeria. The study is limited to communities in Ondo State.

Importance of Credibility and Authenticity of Card Reader

The smart card reader was the most highly contentious and the real issue in the 2015 general elections in Nigeria. The smart card reader was a critical component in the 2015 general elections. It was used for the first time in Nigeria electoral process and it remains one of the greatest innovative technologies in the 2015 general elections.

Past elections in Nigeria had witness the desperate bid for political power by some stakeholders with vested interests in the Nigerian electoral process. Some of these stakeholders



engaged in all forms of electoral malpractices including multiple voting, impersonation, manipulation and falsification of results which had led to legal actions, electoral conflicts and violence.

Electoral malpractices make the citizens to lose confidence in the electoral process; and lack of confidence by the citizenry in the democratic process is an impediment in deepening electoral democracy because if the citizenry does not believe in the fairness, accuracy, openness, and basic integrity of the election process, the very basis of any democratic society might be threatened (Alvarez and Hall, 2008: 134).

Electoral fraud according to López-Pintor (2010: 9) has more serious political implications, in that it allows a party or candidate to take over public positions contrary to the popular will. This undermines the democratic process and usually leads to electoral violence, insecurity and political instability. The governments of Cote d'Ivoire, Peru, and Serbia all fell in the year 2000 as a result of popular rebellions against fraudulent elections. Similarly, the so called "Orange Revolution" in Ukraine in 2004 caused presidential elections to be completely re-held after extensive fraud was demonstrated (López-Pintor, 2010: 5).

Use of Credibility and Authenticity of Card Reader

The use of card readers for elections is highly commendable because it has helped reduced election fraud like multiple registrations and multiple voting. With the card readers, the true identities of card holders were matched with the details contained in their permanent voter's cards (PVCs), during accreditation and the process helped in reducing fraudulent accreditation that marred electoral processes in the past," (Ekuwem, 2015).

Despite the challenges that confronted the operation of some of the smart card readers during the 2015 general election, a significant impact of the device usage was observed after the elections. First, the use of the card reader led to the increase and reinforcement of public confidence and trust in the electoral process. This public confidence is dependent on the integrity of an election which the 2015 general election appears to possess.

Majority of Nigerians after the elections believed that their votes could count and as such their will could

be respected in future elections; and this has reinforced the legitimacy of Nigerians in the democratic process. Secondly, electoral fraud was reduced. Inflation of the number of voters present and multiple voting at polling stations were reduced. The device checked the undemocratic attitude of politicians in polling booth electoral malpractices (Amenaghawon, 2015).

Thirdly, election litigations were minimized. There was a departure from the past where every election outcome is being contested at the election tribunal. Most of the candidates that lost in the 2015 general election did not challenge the outcome. In fact, some of the major contenders that did not win in the election embraced and congratulated the winners. For instance, the PDP presidential candidate immediately congratulated the APC presidential candidate, the winner of the presidential election. This attitude also happened across many states of the federation in the governorship and house of assembly elections and national assembly elections.

In addition, electoral conflicts and violence was very minimal as the election was seen to be transparent and credible due to the use of the card reader. The usually excessive and pointless attacking and degrading between the election winners and losers in past electoral contest was significantly reduced. In view of the minimal level of electoral fraud due to the use of the card reader, tensions were reduced among the political gladiators, and as such, electoral conflict and violence was grossly diminished in the 2015 general elections outcome compare to past elections in Nigeria (Ekuwem, 2015),

Furthermore, Nigeria's democratic capacity has increased and its democratic institutions strengthened. Nigerians and Nigeria's democratic institutions now understood the knowledge needed to have a free and fair election in order to depend the democratic process.

The proponent of the device according to Peters (2015) believed that the card reader procedure has the capacity to prevent or minimize rigging in the sense that there would not be multiple voting while the opponents believed that in the peculiar circumstances of the Nigerian situation, the card reader is designed to assist a certain political party to win the general election. Peters (2015) maintained that the major plank of their argument is that the



card reader must have been programmed to assist a pre-determined winner of the election by ensuring that so many persons would discriminately be disenfranchised to deny other parties of favourable votes thereby ensuring the winning of an INEC preferred or pre-determined party. There is also the sentiment about the use of a faith based bank to transfer money for printing of permanent voters" card and the configuration of the card reader.

Research Design

A survey research design was adopted in order to ensure an effective study. The rationale for using the research method was because, survey provides the best means of collecting the views of the analysis of analysis of smart card reader and the quest for credible elections in Nigeria; A case study of Ondo 2016 Election.

Population of Study, Sample and Sampling Technique

The study populations consist of the registered voters in the 2016 Ondo State Governorship Election living in Ondo State. This state was deliberately chosen because it combines the qualities of both urban and rural communities. It houses a large collection of the major tribes in Nigeria.

For the 2016 gubernatorial election, Ondo State had 1,546,081 registered voters, 2,195 polling units, 441 voting points, 203 collation centre's and 18 local government collation centre's. Akoko South West has 168 voting units and 15 wards. The respondents will be drawn from the six (6) communities in Akoko South West Local Government Area of Ondo State

which include Akungba, Ikun, Supare, Oba, Oka, and Iwaro-Oka. Akoko South West has a total population of 229,486 as at the 2006 census. The sample size of 200 respondents was drawn from Akoko South West local Government Area of Ondo State.

Instrument for Data Collection

A Self-constructed questionnaire titled "Credibility and Authenticity of Card Reader Machinery Questionnaire (CACRMQ)" will be used for the study. It will have two sections; A, and B. Section A consists of the bio-data of the respondents, which will include gender, religion, marital status and educational qualification. Section B consists of items that measure the credibility and authenticity of card reader machinery in Nigeria.

Method of Data Collection

The questionnaires were personally administered to the respondents by the researcher and the research assistants. The researcher and the research assistants verbally explain the purpose of the study to the participants.

Data Analysis

The data collected via the questionnaire were analyzed using descriptive statistics with the use of the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).

Results and Discussion

The research data were analyzed using both inferential and descriptive statistics. Chi square statistics was utilized to analyze the research questions. The results were summarized in tables and bar chart

Research Question 1: What necessitated the adoption of smart card reader?

Table 1: Chi Square summary on statement regarding reasons for the adoption of smart card reader

Items		Response				Total
		SA	A	D	SD	
The card reader enabled credibility in election	F	127	69	2	2	200
	%	63.5	34.5	1.0	1.0	100.0
The smart card reader is reliable during election	F	70	105	24	1	200
	%	3.0	52.5	12.0	0.5	100.0
The smart card reader is effective In voting	F	63	99	28	10	200
	%	31.5	49.5	14.0	5.0	100.0
The smart card reader is a means to eliminate electoral violence	F	53	90	45	12	200
	%	26.5	45.0	22.5	6.0	100.0



The smart card reader enable quick voting among the electorate	F	74	82	37	7	200
	%	37.0	41.0	18.5	3.5	100.0
The card readers increase the authenticity of votes cast among electorate	F	72	88	28	12	200
	%	36.0	44.0	14.0	6.0	100.0
Averaged Total	F	77	89	27	7	200
	%	38.5	44.5	13.5	3.5	100.0
Chi Square	X ²					92.560
	df					3
	p					< .05

The findings on the statements regarding reasons for the adoption of smart card reader revealed that 98% of the respondents affirmed that the card reader enabled credibility in election, while 2% did not. It was also affirmed by 55.5% of the respondents that the smart card reader is reliable during election, while 44.5% felt otherwise. Majority of the respondents (81%) agreed with the statement that the smart card reader is effective in voting, while 19% did not. In a similar trend, it was noted that 71.5% of the respondents affirmed the statement that the smart card reader is a means to eliminate electoral violence, while 28.5% felt contrary. Also, 78% of the

Table 2: Chi Square summary on statement regarding how smart card reader could enhance the credibility of election in Nigeria

Items		Response				Total
		SA	A	D	SD	
This device was part of the registration and authentication of duly registered voters	F	111	63	20	6	200
	%	55.5	31.5	10.0	3.0	100.0
The card reader had been promoted by INEC as an anti-electoral fraud	F	106	71	17	6	200
	%	53.0	35.5	8.5	3.0	100.0
The device and was introduced to enhance the integrity of the voting process	F	61	99	28	12	200
	%	30.5	49.5	14.0	6.0	100.0
Dissuade multiple voting (as only duly accredited and verified PVC holders could vote)	F	74	86	30	10	200
	%	37.0	43.0	15.0	5.0	100.0
The card readers were also programmed to work for specific polling units	F	62	84	39	15	200
	%	31.0	42.0	19.5	7.5	100.0
Infused some level of transparency and credibility into Nigeria's electoral process	F	69	85	34	12	200
	%	34.5	42.5	17.0	6.0	100.0
Averaged Total	F	81	81	28	10	200
	%	40.5	40.5	14.0	5.0	100.0
Chi Square	X ²					80.120
	df					3
	p					< .05

respondents were in support of the statement that the smart card reader enables quick voting among the electorate, while 22% were not. Lastly, 80% of the respondents supported the statement that the card readers increase the authenticity of votes cast among electorate, while 20% did not.

Averagely, it was observed that 83% of the respondents confirmed the identified reasons for adopting smart card reader, while 17% did not. The X² value of 92.560 and df of 3 revealed a 'p' value that was less than 0.05 level of significant. This implied that the observed variances were significant and the identified factors were actual reasons to adopt smart card reader.

Research Question 2: How can smart card reader enhance the credibility of election in Nigeria?



Considering the enhancement of smart card reader, the result in Table 6 indicated that majority of the respondents (87%) were in support of the statement that the device was part of the registration and authentication of duly registered voters, while 13% was not. Also, 88.5% of the respondents supported the statement that the card reader had been promoted by INEC as an anti-electoral fraud, while 11.5% did not. Further findings revealed that 80% of the respondents were in support of the statement that the device and was introduced to enhance the integrity of the voting process, while 20% was not. It was also affirmed by majority of the respondents (80%) that dissuade multiple voting (as only duly accredited and verified PVC holders could vote) enhance credibility of election, while 20% felt otherwise. the programming of card readers to work for specific polling units were also affirmed by 73% of the respondents as means for enhancing election

credibility. Lastly, most of the respondents (77%) affirmed the statement that the use of card reader infused some level of transparency and credibility into Nigeria's electoral process, while 23% felt otherwise.

The average summary indicated that 81% of the respondents confirmed that smart card reader enhance the credibility of elections in Nigeria, while 19% did not. The X^2 value of 80.120, df of 3 and p value that was less than 0.05 level of significant indicated that the observed differences in the responses were valid for conclusion. Therefore, the identified relevance of smart card reader for the enhancement of election credibility in Nigeria were valid.

Research Question 3: What are the challenges affecting the effective implementation of the use of smart card readers?

Table 3: Chi Square summary on statement regarding challenges affecting the effective implementation of the use of smart card readers

Items		Response				Total
		SA	A	D	SD	
Possible battery failures to power the device	F	75	65	52	8	200
	%	37.5	32.5	26.0	4.0	100.0
Timeliness issues in verifying PVC holders	F	50	100	40	10	200
	%	25.0	50.0	20.0	5.0	100.0
Many voters could be covered within the accreditation process	F	91	64	31	14	200
	%	45.5	32.0	15.5	7.0	100.0
The card readers could not access names of voters beginning from alphabets A to E, which eventually deprived them from voting	F	40	72	52	36	200
	%	20.0	36.0	26.0	18.0	100.0
In ability to capture the biometrics from finger tips	F	56	92	39	13	200
	%	28.0	46.0	19.5	6.5	100.0
Irregular capturing	F	45	79	40	36	200
	%	22.5	39.5	20.0	18.0	100.0
Averaged Total	F	60	79	42	19	200
	%	30.0	39.5	21.0	9.5	100.0
Chi Square	X^2					39.320
	df					3
	p					< .05

Table 7 indicated the challenges affecting the effective implementation of the use of smart card readers and it was noted that 70% of the respondents supported the statement that possible battery failures to power the device, while 30% did not. The time factor consumed during PVC verification was another identified challenge. This was such that 75% of the respondents affirmed the

statement that timeliness issues in verifying PVC holders affects the effective implementation of the use of smart card readers, while 25% said otherwise. On a contrary view, majority of the respondents (77.5%) affirmed that many voters could be covered within the accreditation process, thus mode of operation was not a problem of challenge. Majority of the respondents (56%) affirmed the statement that the card readers could not access names of voters



beginning from alphabets A to E, which eventually deprived them from voting, while 44% said otherwise. Other identified challenges were the ability to capture the biometrics from finger tips (74%) and irregular capturing (62%). On the average summary, 69.5% of the respondents affirmed the identified challenges affecting the effective implementation of the use of smart card readers, while 30.5% did not.

The X^2 value of 39.320, df of 3 and p value that was less than 0.05 level of significant indicated that the observed differences in the responses were valid for conclusion. Therefore, the identified factors were the challenges affecting the effective implementation of the use of smart card readers.

Research Question 4: What are the solutions to the challenges experienced in the use of smart card reader in Nigeria?

Table 8: Chi Square summary on statement regarding solutions to the challenges experienced in the use of smart card reader in Nigeria

Items		Response					Total
		SA	A	D	SD		
There should be training for officials in charge of elections on how to use smart card readers	F	104	64	18	14	200	
	%	52.0	32.0	9.0	7.0	100.0	
The electorate should always be informed on the importance of smart card reader in elections	F	100	88	10	2	200	
	%	50.0	44.0	5.0	1.0	100.0	
There should be adequate security for the officials handling smart card reader	F	80	79	33	8	200	
	%	40.0	39.5	16.5	4.0	100.0	
Averaged Total	F	95	77	20	8	200	
	%	47.5	38.5	10.0	4.0	100.0	
Chi Square	X^2					108.360	
	df					3	
	p					< .05	

The result revealed that 84% of the respondents supported the statement that There should be training for officials in charge of elections on how to use smart card readers, while 16% did not. Majority (94%) also supported the statement that the electorate should always be informed on the importance of smart card reader in elections, while 6% did not. Lastly, 79.5% of the respondents supported the statement that There should be adequate security for the officials handling smart card reader, while 20.5% did not. Conclusively, the average summary revealed that 86% of the respondents confirmed the view on the identified solutions for the problems experienced in the use of smart card reader in Nigeria. Further confirming the result is the Chi Square results. It was noted that the X^2 value of 108.360, df of 3 and p value that was less than 0.05 level of significant indicated that the observed differences in the responses were valid for conclusion.

Discussion of Findings

Research Question 1: What necessitated the adoption of smart card reader?

The findings revealed that smart card reader enabled credibility in election. Also, the smart card reader is reliable during election, smart card reader is effective in voting, and smart card reader is a means to eliminate electoral violence, smart card reader enables quick voting among the electorate, card readers' increase the authenticity of votes cast among electorate. The findings of this study confirms with the study conducted by Sanjay and Ekta (2011) and revealed that smart card reader eliminates the possibility of invalid and doubtful votes which, in many cases, are the root causes of controversies and election petitions.

Research Question 2: How can smart card reader enhance the credibility of election in Nigeria?

The findings revealed that device and was introduced to enhance the integrity of the voting process, dissuade multiple voting (as only duly accredited and verified PVC holders could vote) enhance credibility of election, the use of card reader infused some level of transparency and credibility into Nigeria's electoral



process. This result is similar to a report made by Dr. Ekumen, (2015). According to the report, the use of card reader machines for the 2015 general elections has proved that INEC could conduct credible elections with minimal complaints. The use of card readers for elections is highly commendable because it has helped reduced election fraud like multiple registrations and multiple voting. With the card readers, the true identities of card holders were matched with the details contained in their permanent voter's cards (PVCs), during accreditation and the process helped in reducing fraudulent accreditation that marred electoral processes in the past.

Research Question 3: What are the challenges affecting the effective implementation of the use of smart card readers?

The findings revealed the challenges affecting the effective implementation of the use of smart card readers which includes possible battery failures to power the device, time factor consumed during PVC verification, timeliness issues in verifying PVC holders affects the effective implementation of the use of smart card readers, many voters could be covered within the accreditation process, thus mode of operation was not a problem of challenge, the card readers could not access names of voters beginning from alphabets. Some INEC officials according to Ekumen (2015) attributed the failure of the card readers to INEC engineers who could not decode the inbuilt security installation in the card reader. The security code in the card reader is reportedly designed to update the time and date of voting. One official claimed that the cards were initially programmed for February 14 that with the postponement to March 28, some of the cards readers had not been re-programmed. This result is also in line with the observation of Alebiosu (2015) who outlined the Challenges of Smart Card Reader in the 2015 General Elections in Nigeria. Alebiosu observed that in spite of the assurances given by INEC to address the issues that aroused with the card readers after its test-run in twelve states of the federation, the 2015 general elections witnessed the inability of the device to deliver effectively in a large number of polling units especially in the Presidential and National Assembly Elections.

Research Question 4: What are the solutions to the challenges experienced in the use of smart card reader in Nigeria?

The result revealed that there should be training for officials in charge of elections on how to use smart card readers, the electorate should always be informed on the importance of smart card reader in elections, there should be adequate security for the officials handling smart card reader. The result is in line with the findings of Beetseh and Akpoo, (2015) which stated that both INEC and Adhoc staff should be properly trained on the use of smart card readers to eliminate the challenges experienced in the 2015 general elections.

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

Summary

The credibility and authenticity of card reader machinery in Nigeria: A case study of Jega reform policy. The data generated in this study provide insight to examine how smart cards readers can enhance the credibility of election in Nigeria; the challenges for effective implementation of the use of smartcard readers; the solutions to the challenges experienced in the use of smart card reader in Nigeria. In conducting the study, the researchers deemed it necessary to begin with the demographic variables of the respondents; this decision was aimed at determining how the differences and diversities among the participants in Ondo State.

The gender distribution shows that the male respondents outnumber their female counterpart in all the Local Government Area studied; however, majority of the respondents are single. The data also show that respondents, especially those between the age brackets of 23-27 years and above constitute the highest in voting in Nigeria election.

The findings revealed that smart card reader enabled credibility in election. Also, the smart card reader is reliable during election, smart card reader is effective in voting, and smart card reader is a means to eliminate electoral violence, smart card reader enables quick voting among the electorate, card readers' increase the authenticity of votes cast among electorate.

The findings revealed that device and was introduced to enhance the integrity of the voting process, dissuade multiple voting (as only duly accredited and



verified PVC holders could vote) enhance credibility of election, the use of card reader infused some level of transparency and credibility into Nigeria's electoral process.

The findings revealed the challenges affecting the effective implementation of the use of smart card readers which includes possible battery failures to power the device, time factor consumed during PVC verification, timeliness issues in verifying PVC holders affects the effective implementation of the use of smart card readers, many voters could be covered within the accreditation process, thus mode of operation was not a problem of challenge, the card readers could not access names of voters beginning from alphabets.

The result revealed that there should be training for officials in charge of elections on how to use smart card readers, the electorate should always be informed on the importance of smart card reader in elections, there should be adequate security for the officials handling smart card reader.

Conclusion

The use of the card reader generated debate before, during and after the Ondo State 2016 governorship elections. However, the significant impact of the device despite its challenges during the election cannot be quantified. Though, INEC deployment of the card reader was to improve the electoral process and deepen the democratic process. However, lack of trust, suspicion and altercations among the stakeholders with vested interest in the election created tension within the body polity. With the use of the card reader in the 2016 Ondo State governorship elections and the gradual deployment of technology in subsequent in Nigeria, the prospect of Nigeria belonging to one of the countries of the world where elections are driven largely by technology is nearby.

Recommendations

Arising from the foregoing, the study recommends as follows:

1. Accreditation should be done simultaneously with voting. The reason for having accreditation and then voting is to prevent voters who wish to vote at more than one polling unit on Election Day from doing so.
2. All Nigerians should accept the use smart card readers in the conduct of elections at all levels.
3. Both INEC and Ad-hoc staff should be properly trained on the use of smart card readers to eliminate the challenges experienced in the 2015 general elections.
4. Electorates should be given proper orientation on the use of smart card readers
5. INEC should embark on full implementation of e-voting and other technology-based approach to elections administrations.
6. INEC should insist on the use trained personnel in smart card reader. There should be no substitution of electoral personnel by politicians during elections.
7. INEC should maintain the usage of the card readers in all subsequent elections. Despite the hiccups associated with the use of the machines, it is very important that their usage be maintained in all subsequent elections.
8. Proper electricity to power smart card battery be put in place in all polling units across the country

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