

BI-MODAL VOTER ACCREDITATION SYSTEM (BVAS) AND CREDIBILITY OF 2023 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

A robust democratic society consists of more than just free and fair elections held on a regular basis but also consists of conducting credible elections which should be able to withstand the international standard. When Nigerian elections were conducted manually and tainted by violence, fraud, and electoral malpractice, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) introduced technology into the electoral process. This was supposed to help lower electoral malpractice and increased public confidence in the electoral process. The focus of this paper is to examine the impact of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) on the credibility and transparency of 2023 presidential elections. Specifically, the paper examine how BVAS contributes to transparency and credibility and decreases electoral violence in Nigeria. The study adopts the system theory and qualitative method of research. The paper also reviewed secondary sources which include books, journal and online materials. The study found that the 2023 presidential elections were credible and transparent to some appreciable extent. It was also discovered that BVAS reduced electoral violence during and after elections. However, this achievement was marred by INEC's inability to transmit results into its portal. The paper, thus, recommends that INEC should improve and train ad hoc staff properly and educate voters on the use of BVAS machines. It also recommends robust data security measures to protect voter information and prevent unauthorized access to the electorate data.

Keywords: Elections, Credibility, Transparency, Violence