

## Embracing A New Order: Assessment of the Implementation of 2022 Electoral Acts on Campaign Finance of Political Parties in Nigeria

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### Abstract

Worldwide, fund is a life-wire of every successful organization and integral part of every electoral processes. Campaign finance is a prevailing issue of concern with potential implications on the Nigeria democracy. Finance is one of the important elements of campaign strategy adopt by all political parties in Nigeria to win election. However, the electoral acts review of 2022 present a diverse challenge with far-reaching implications for the nation's democracy, transparency, integrity and accountability in the electoral process. This study seek to ex-ray the effect of 2022 Electoral Act on Campaign Finance of Political Parties in Nigeria with the specific objectives to; ascertain the factors influencing campaign finance practices among the political parties in Nigeria, assess the effects of transparency and accountability in campaign finance on public trust and to highlight the challenges confronting political parties in complying with campaign finance regulations. The study is theoretical based with focus on secondary source of data. Rational choice theory by Becker, (1983) and Downs, (1957) was adopted. The study identifies diverse factors responsible for finance campaign practices in Nigeria, it also highlights the effects of transparency and accountability on campaign finance on public trust and the study highlighted challenges confronting political parties in complying with campaign finance regulations. The study recommended that government should enhance and improve on regulatory oversight and enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with campaign finance regulations, promoting public awareness and education about campaign finance regulations is essential to foster transparency and accountability in political finance practices.

**Keywords:** Accountability, Campaign finance, Influence, Political party, Transparency, Public, Trust, Regulations.

### 1. Introduction

Globally, election is a popular means and a legitimate process of choosing a representative into political or elective offices. This is not exemption to campaign which is a popular strategy of creating awareness, enlightenment and presentation of manifestos. Finance has become crucial part of the election campaign process as it remained the life-blood of every successful of programs. According to Smith (2018), stringent campaign finance laws can enhance democracy by minimizing the influence of money in politics and promoting a level playing field for all candidates. However, political parties in Nigeria have the trajectory of undisclosed sources of funding, leading to concerns about transparency and accountability (Adekunle, 2020). The development posed significant implications globally, nationally, and regionally. In the realm, campaign finance regulations differ with each country implementing its own set of regulations to govern

political party funding. The review of 2022 Electoral Act represents a trend towards greater transparency and accountability in the electoral processes, aligning with global efforts to combat corruption and ensure fair elections. The Act symbolized a step forward in the electoral reform with the aims to tackling the loopholes, and reoccurrence issues of irregularities in campaign financing. The recent 2022 Electoral Act imposes stricter regulations on campaign finance, including caps on individual and corporate donations, as well as requirements for timely disclosure of financial transactions. This allows for equal level grounds for all for the political candidates for elections (Adekunle, 2020).

However, in the light of Political parties in Nigeria where the political rivalry is predominant, with ‘win win syndrome’ with significant political influence and power, the 2023 faced array of implementation challenges and opposition from various political stakeholders. In line with this view, Ibrahim (2023) affirmed that incumbent parties often resist campaign finance reforms that may hinder their access to resources and disadvantaged their opponents. Though, the 2022 Electoral Act have ample effect on the political parties in Nigeria, with the country known for its competitive political environment and history of political violence, the Act is without both opportunities and challenges for the political parties. It stringent law which restrict the sources and amounts of funding that political parties can receive, mandated the political parties such as All Progressive Congress (APC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Social Democratic Party (SDP), and other parties in Nigeria to adapt its fundraising strategies.

Okonkwo (2023) in his study argued that this shift towards grassroots fundraising could lead to greater accountability and transparency within the party. With the limited financial resources, the party has had to prioritize its campaign activities and focus on strategies that yield the highest return. This has led to increased emphasis on door-to-door canvassing, town hall meetings, and other forms of direct voter engagement. In the view of Ogunleye (2023), he suggests that these grassroots campaigns could strengthen the party's connection with voters and enhance its electoral prospects. This development highlights the potential of the act to enhance democratic governance, sustainability and electoral integrity, however, the concerns about it implementation challenges and enforcement mechanisms is in doubt particularly in Nigeria where compliance of the law is less effective. The excess, extravagant and financial recklessness in the Nigeria politics today is a threat to the true democratic practices hence creating negative impression to the public. Nigeria known for it historical and perpetual electoral violence has tainted the image and integrity of the electoral institutions.

However, the 2022 Electoral Act marks a significant mile stone in turning the tide of the political history of Nigeria. It is in search of this, the study seeks to examine the effectiveness 2022 Electoral Act review on campaign finance of political parties in Nigeria.

### **1.1 Statement of the Problem**

In recent time, campaign finance has long been a contentious issue of concern in the present Nigerian politics, with overwhelming concerns over the influence of money on electoral outcomes and the integrity of Nigerian democratic processes. This no doubt posed significant implication for democracy, transparency, accountability and integrity of the electoral processes in Africa particularly Nigeria, the hub and centre of electoral misconduct. The implementation of this electoral Act aimed to tackle these challenges However, despite these efforts, several challenges still persistent, undermining the effectiveness of the reform Act. One of the core among several challenge that plague campaign finance is the lack of transparency among the political candidates or the parties. For instance, Transparency International (2021) revealed that a significant portion of political donations in many countries, including Nigeria, are undisclosed or come from sources with dubious motives. This lack of transparency erodes public trust in the political process and raises concerns about the potential for corruption and undue influence.

Another core issue confronting campaign finance is the influence of special interest groups and wealthy donors on political parties and candidates. As rightly observes by Jones and Smith (2019), that political campaigns often rely heavily on contributions from influential individuals, special interest groups, and renowned business personalities and interest agencies leading to concerns about their disproportionate influence on policy decisions and implementation and electoral outcomes. These compounded influences often hinder the democratic principle of equal representation and give rise to social and economic inequalities in the country. Additionally, Brown (2020) highlighted the complexity of campaign finance Acts, which differ widely across different jurisdictions and are often subject to interpretation and

manipulation. This regulatory inconsistency creates gaps that allow political parties and candidates to circumvent the law, hindering the effectiveness of the reform efforts. Campaign finance also posed far reaching implication for fairness, and integrity of electoral outcome. Hence, enforcement of campaign finance Acts is necessary for ensuring fairness, accountability, integrity and deterring manipulative tendencies. Though, despite this innovative reform in the electoral processes, however, its effectiveness still remain mirage. Garcia (2021) asserted that enforcement mechanisms are often weak and ineffective, with limited resources allocated to monitoring and oversight. This poor enforcement mechanism undermines the credibility and transparency of the Campaign Finance Act and emboldens political actors to flout the law with impunity. The practical significance of this study lies in its potential to inform policy and practice in the realm of campaign finance regulation. By identifying key factors influencing campaign finance practices and assessing the effectiveness of enforcement mechanisms, the study provides practical insights for policymakers, electoral commissions, and political parties seeking to enhance transparency, accountability, and integrity in the electoral process. The findings of this study can inform the design and implementation of campaign finance laws and regulations, leading to more transparent, fair, and democratic elections. Additionally, political parties can use the findings to improve their internal governance structures and compliance with campaign finance regulations, ultimately strengthening democratic institutions and public trust in the political process. In the light of the above, the study formulated the following research questions to guide the study;

- i. What are the major factors influencing campaign finance practices among the Nigerian political parties?
- ii. What are the major challenges faced by political parties in complying with campaign finance Act among the political parties in Nigeria?

## **1.2 Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of the study is to examine the effect of 2022 Electoral Act on Campaign Finance of political parties in Nigeria. The other specific objectives of the study are; To ascertain the factors influencing campaign finance practices in political among the parties in Nigeria and also to identify the challenges faced by political parties in complying with 2022 campaign finance Acts.

## **2. Literature Review and Theoretical Framework**

### **2.1 Review of Electoral Reform of 2022 Electoral Act**

Electoral reform encompasses a range of measures aimed at improving the electoral process, ensuring fairness, transparency, and accountability in democratic governance. It involves changes to electoral laws, regulations, and institutions to address existing challenges, enhance the integrity of elections, and promote democratic principles. Adewumi, (2023). Electoral reform is a critical component of democratic governance, as free and fair elections are fundamental to the legitimacy and functioning of representative democracies. Over time, electoral systems and processes evolve in response to changing societal norms, technological advancements, and political dynamics. Electoral reforms aim to address deficiencies in the electoral system, improve representation, and strengthen democratic institutions. Electoral reforms typically target various aspects of the electoral process, including: Reforms involve changes to electoral systems, such as transitioning from a first-past-the-post system to a proportional representation system, to ensure more equitable representation of diverse political interests and improving voter registration processes to enhance accessibility, accuracy, and inclusivity, thereby increasing voter turnout and participation in elections. Reforms in campaign finance aim to regulate the funding of political campaigns, increase transparency and accountability in electoral spending, and reduce the influence of money in politics. Adeyemi, (2023).

## **2.2 Concept of Political Party**

Political parties are central to democratic governance, serving as key actors in the political process, representing diverse interests, mobilizing voters, and shaping government policies. Political parties play a central role in democratic governance, serving as vehicles for political representation, mobilization, and policy formation. Political parties are formal organizations that seek to influence government policies and promote specific political ideologies or agendas through electoral processes. They serve as intermediaries between citizens and the state, articulating and representing the interests and preferences of diverse constituencies. Political parties play a crucial role in shaping public debate, mobilizing voters, and structuring political competition in democratic societies.

According to Duverger (1954), political parties are essential for democracy as they provide a mechanism for aggregating diverse interests and structuring political competition. Lipset and Rokkan (1967) argue that political parties play a crucial role in shaping the social cleavages and alignments that define party systems and electoral politics. Sartori (1976) emphasizes the importance of party systems and institutionalization in understanding the functioning of political parties and their impact on democratic stability. Political parties perform several key functions in democratic governance. Political parties represent the interests, values, and preferences of different social groups and constituencies, providing a platform for citizens to participate in the political process and influence government decisions. It mobilizes voters and supporters through campaigns, rallies, and grassroots organizing, aiming to build broad-based coalitions and secure electoral victories.

Political parties develop and articulate policy proposals and platforms, shaping public debate and influencing government policies and legislation through their elected representatives. In parliamentary systems, political parties play a crucial role in government formation, either individually or through coalition-building, by securing majority support in legislative bodies and forming executive branches. Political parties provide a mechanism for representing diverse interests and holding elected officials accountable to their constituents through regular elections and party platforms. It also contributes to political stability and effective governance by facilitating the peaceful transfer of power, forming stable governments, and promoting continuity in policy-making and stimulate democratic competition by offering voters distinct policy choices, fostering debate and deliberation, and ensuring that government decisions reflect the will of the electorate.

## **2.3 Reforms on Campaign Finance Regulation**

The 2022 Electoral Act represents a significant milestone in electoral reform in Nigeria, particularly in the realm of campaign financing. Campaign finance regulations are crucial for ensuring transparency, accountability, and fairness in electoral processes. The 2022 Electoral Act introduced comprehensive provisions to reform campaign finance practices in Nigeria, aiming to address longstanding challenges and promote integrity in electoral campaigns Adewumi (2023). The Act includes provisions related to contribution limits, expenditure caps, disclosure requirements, and enforcement mechanisms to regulate the financing of political campaigns. The 2022 Electoral Act introduced several key provisions related to campaign finance, including:

The act imposes limits on individual and corporate contributions to political parties and candidates, aiming to prevent undue influence and corruption in electoral campaigns, the act sets limits on campaign expenditures by political parties and candidates, aiming to level the playing field and prevent excessive spending that may distort electoral outcomes, the act requires political parties and candidates to disclose their sources of funding, amounts contributed, and how campaign funds are spent, enhancing transparency and accountability in campaign finance practices and the act establishes mechanisms for monitoring, oversight, and enforcement of campaign finance regulations, including penalties for non-compliance and sanctions against violators Adewumi (2023).

Adewumi (2023) argues that the act represents a significant step towards reforming campaign finance practices in Nigeria, emphasizing its potential to enhance transparency, accountability, and fairness in electoral campaigns. However, Adeyemi (2023) raises concerns about the implementation challenges and enforcement mechanisms of the act, pointing to the need for stronger oversight and regulatory frameworks to ensure compliance with campaign finance regulations. Ojo (2022) highlights the importance of public

participation and civil society engagement in monitoring campaign finance practices and holding political parties and candidates accountable for their actions.

## **2.4 Theoretical Framework**

The significance of theory to academic research can never be overemphasized. Nwafor-Orizu, Okolo and Eze (2019), in their words any idea not subjected to a theoretical support is a disgrace to philosophical truth. This implies that theory provides a skeletal, explanatory and predictable support to research.

## **2.5 Rational Choice Theory**

Rational choice theory provides a useful framework for understanding how parties and candidates navigate campaign finance regulations to maximize their electoral prospects and political influence. Becker, (1983) and Downs, (1957) are the proponents of Rational choice theory, rooted in economics and political science, posits that individuals and organizations make decisions based on rational calculations of costs and benefits. Rational choice theorists argue that political actors, including parties and candidates, engage in strategic behavior to maximize their utility or achieve their goals within the constraints of campaign finance regulations. Rational choice theorists assume that individuals and organizations seek to maximize their utility or welfare by making choices that yield the greatest benefits relative to costs. In the context of campaign finance regulations, parties and candidates may engage in fundraising, spending, and disclosure activities to optimize their electoral prospects and political influence.

Rational choice theorists emphasize the role of opportunism and strategic behavior in political decision-making. Parties and candidates may exploit loopholes, circumvent regulations, or engage in strategic alliances to gain competitive advantages in electoral contests while adhering to the letter of the law. It recognized the presence of information asymmetry between political actors and voters, regulators, and other stakeholders. Campaign finance regulations may exacerbate information asymmetry by limiting transparency and accountability, creating opportunities for strategic manipulation and rent-seeking behavior.

For political parties in Nigeria, like APC which is the leading party, utility maximization is central to its strategic decisions regarding campaign finance. The party seeks to maximize its electoral success and political influence within the constraints of campaign finance regulations. This includes allocating resources such as fundraising efforts, advertising expenditures, and campaign messaging to optimize electoral returns. The party strategically targets key constituencies and allocates resources based on perceived electoral benefits, aiming to secure victories in elections and maintain its political dominance in the state. The parties engage in opportunistic and strategic behavior to exploit loopholes and circumvent regulations while maintaining compliance with the letter of the law. This may involve coordinating with independent expenditure groups or leveraging external funding sources to amplify campaign messages and influence electoral outcomes. Additionally, the party strategically allocates campaign funds to prioritize competitive races and strategic electoral battlegrounds, maximizing its chances of success within regulatory constraints.

## **3. Methodology**

### **3.1 Data Collection Method**

This article adopts a qualitative research design rooted in a secondary analysis of existing literature. The objective is to critically examine and synthesized scholarly materials to explore the phenomenon of electoral Acts and its implications for campaign finance practices among the political parties in Nigeria. Data were collected from secondary sources, which include peer-reviewed journal articles (AI, ProQuest, Emerald, JSTOR, Scopus, ScienceDirect, Google Scholars), Grey literature, including reports from think tanks and relevant national dailies, electoral handbook was also reviewed to gain contextual and contemporary insights.

## **4. Discussion of Research objectives**

### **4.1 Objective One: Factors Influencing Campaign Finance Practices in Political Parties**

The current study identifies several factors influencing campaign finance practices among political parties in Nigeria. Key among them as follows;

- 1. Legal Regulations and Electoral Laws:** One of the primary factors influencing campaign finance practices in political parties is the legal and regulatory framework governing electoral campaigns. Electoral laws set limits on campaign contributions, expenditures, and disclosure requirements, shaping the behavior of political parties and candidates. Pildes (2014) argue that legal regulations play a crucial role in ensuring transparency, accountability, and fairness in campaign finance practices. However, the effectiveness of these regulations depends on their enforcement mechanisms and the political will to adhere to them.
- 2. Economic Considerations and Financial Resources:** Campaign finance practices in political parties are also influenced by economic considerations and the availability of financial resources. Political parties rely on donations from individuals, corporations, and interest groups to fund their electoral campaigns. Wealthy donors and special interest groups may exert significant influence on campaign finance practices by providing financial support to parties and candidates. Studies by Milyo and Primo (2015) highlight the disproportionate influence of wealthy donors on political campaigns and the potential for unequal access to political power based on financial resources.
- 3. Societal Norms and Cultural:** Societal norms and cultural factors also shape campaign finance practices in political parties. In some societies, there may be a culture of patronage and clientelism, where political parties rely on financial incentives and favors to mobilize support and secure electoral victories. Additionally, social attitudes towards money in politics and perceptions of corruption may influence the willingness of donors to contribute to political campaigns. Scholars such as Norris (2017) emphasize the importance of understanding cultural contexts and societal norms in analyzing campaign finance practices and their implications for democracy.
- 4. Political Dynamics and Power Structures:** Political dynamics and power structures within political parties also play a significant role in shaping campaign finance practices. In highly competitive political environments, parties may engage in aggressive fundraising efforts to gain a competitive edge over their opponents. Internal power struggles and factionalism within parties may influence the allocation of campaign funds and resources, leading to tensions and conflicts. Research by Green and Issacharoff (2013) highlights the role of intra-party dynamics in shaping campaign finance practices and the potential for abuse of power by party elites.

### **4.2 Objective Two: Transparency and Accountability in Campaign Finance and Public Trust**

Transparency and accountability in campaign finance are essential elements of democratic governance, influencing public trust in the political process. Transparency in campaign finance refers to the openness and accessibility of information related to political donations, expenditures, and financial transactions. It entails disclosing sources of funding, amounts contributed, and how campaign funds are spent. Accountability, on the other hand, involves holding political parties and candidates responsible for their actions and ensuring they adhere to legal and ethical standards in campaign finance practices. An article by Kellermann (2016) explores the impact of transparency in campaign finance on public trust in democratic institutions, emphasizing the importance of disclosure requirements and enforcement mechanisms. When political parties and candidates are transparent about their sources of funding and how campaign funds are spent, it enhances the perception of fairness and integrity in the electoral process.

Citizens are more likely to trust the political process when they believe it is free from undue influence and corruption. Similarly, studies by Norris (2015) and Schlozman et al. (2018) highlight the role of accountability mechanisms in fostering public trust and confidence in the political process. Transparency and accountability in campaign finance contribute to the democratic legitimacy of electoral outcomes. When voters have access to information about campaign financing, they can make more informed decisions and have confidence that their votes are not being unduly influenced by undisclosed financial interests.

### **4.3 Objective Three: Challenges Faced by Political Parties in Complying with Campaign Finance Regulations**

Political parties encounter various challenges in complying with campaign finance regulations, which stem from legal complexities, financial constraints, enforcement gaps, and internal dynamics. This comprehensive analysis will explore the challenges faced by political parties in adhering to campaign finance regulations, providing extensive explanations and narrowing the focus to the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Kogi State, Nigeria. Scholarly views and references will be incorporated to provide insights into the topic.

1. **Legal Complexities and Ambiguities:** One of the primary challenges faced by political parties in complying with campaign finance regulations is the complexity and ambiguity of legal requirements. Campaign finance laws and regulations may be intricate and subject to interpretation, leading to confusion and uncertainty among political parties and candidates. For instance, contribution limits, disclosure requirements, and reporting deadlines may vary across jurisdictions and electoral cycles, making it challenging for parties to navigate compliance. Scholars such as Smith (2016) emphasize the need for clear and consistent legal frameworks to facilitate compliance and ensure transparency in campaign finance practices.
2. **Financial Constraints and Resource Limitations:** Financial constraints pose significant challenges for political parties in complying with campaign finance regulations. Electoral campaigns require substantial financial resources for activities such as advertising, rallies, and voter mobilization, placing financial burdens on parties, especially smaller or less-established ones. Compliance with contribution limits and expenditure caps may be particularly challenging for parties with limited fundraising capacity, leading to disparities in resources and influencing electoral outcomes. Studies by Milyo and Primo (2015) highlight the disproportionate influence of wealthy donors and special interest groups on political campaigns due to financial constraints faced by parties.
3. **Enforcement Gaps and Regulatory Oversight:** Enforcement gaps and regulatory oversight present challenges for political parties in complying with campaign finance regulations. Inadequate monitoring, oversight, and enforcement mechanisms may undermine the effectiveness of regulations and contribute to non-compliance. Weak enforcement may embolden parties and candidates to flout regulations with impunity, undermining the integrity of electoral processes. Scholars such as Schlozman et al. (2018) emphasize the importance of robust regulatory oversight and enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with campaign finance laws and promote transparency in political finance.
4. **Internal Dynamics and Factionalism:** Internal dynamics and factionalism within political parties pose challenges to compliance with campaign finance regulations. Power struggles, rivalries, and factional disputes within parties may lead to mismanagement of campaign funds, diversion of resources, and non-compliance with regulatory requirements. Intra-party conflicts may impede transparency and accountability in campaign finance practices, affecting the credibility and legitimacy of parties. Research by Green and Issacharoff (2013) highlights the role of internal dynamics in shaping campaign finance practices and the potential for abuse of power within parties.

The 2022 Electoral Act was signed into federal law on 25 February 2022 repealing the 2010 Act. According to Policy and Legal Advocacy centre (PLAC, 2022) state that the provision of the Acts consolidates retained provisions from the 2010 Act, subsequent amendments made in 2010, 2011, and 2015, as well as new provisions added in 2022. A repeal and re-enactment of the law was considered by the National Assembly to be the best approach to producing a consolidated document that incorporates all the changes made to the 2010 Act since its enactment and introducing new innovations. The signing of the Act followed from a lengthy process and period that saw several proposed revisions to it before a final document was agreed upon by the legislature and the executive. Previous experiences from past elections unveil gaps in the old law which this new law addresses. For instance, the new Act introduces novel and innovative provisions on the use of technology in elections, which has the potential to improve the administration of elections in Nigeria.

The 2022 Act notably mandates early funding for elections, election expenses shall not exceed the sum stipulated in subsections (2)-(7). It also stated the maximum election expenses to be incurred by a candidate at a presidential election shall not exceed N5,000,000,000. Additionally, the maximum amount of election expenses to be incurred by a candidate in respect of governorship election shall not exceed N1,000,000,000.

The maximum amount of election expenses to be incurred by a candidate in respect of Senatorial and House of Representatives seat shall not exceed N100,000,000 and N70,000,000 respectively.

In the case of State Assembly election, the maximum amount of election expenses to be incurred by a candidate shall not exceed N30,000,000. In the case of a chairmanship election to an Area Council, the maximum amount of election expenses to be incurred by a candidate shall not exceed N30,000,000. In the case of Councillorship election to an Area Council, the maximum amount of election expenses to be incurred by a candidate shall not exceed N5,000,000. The Act emphasized that no individual or other entity shall donate to a candidate more than N50,000,000.

A candidate who knowingly acts in contravention of this section, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of 1% of the amount permitted as the limit of campaign expenditure under this Act or imprisonment for a term not more than 12 months or both. Any individual who knowingly acts in contravention of subsection (9) is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of N500,000 or imprisonment for a term of nine months or both. An accountant who falsifies, or conspires or aids a candidate to forge or falsify a document relating to his expenditure at an election or receipt or donation for the election or in any way aids and abets the contravention of the provisions of this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of N3,000,000 or imprisonment for a term of three years or both.

The Acts also increases timeframes for various activities in the election cycle and expands the powers of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to enhance the performance of its constitutional role as Nigeria's electoral management body. It introduces provisions to promote the internal democracy of political parties regarding their candidates' nominations process and clarifies ambiguities such as what happens in the instance of the death of a candidate while election is ongoing, but before the announcement and declaration of results. Overall, the Electoral Act 2022 provides an improved and robust framework which, if complied with, will allow for improved credibility in the electoral process.

In general, the enactment of the 2022 Electoral Act has significant implications for campaign finance regulations and the behavior of political parties in Nigeria. The new provisions introduced in the Act aim to enhance transparency, accountability, and fairness in electoral processes by regulating the sources and uses of campaign funds, imposing expenditure limits, and strengthening enforcement mechanisms. The impact of the 2022 Electoral Act on campaign finance practices of political parties is multifaceted, influencing fundraising strategies, spending patterns, and compliance with regulatory requirements. The study reviewed several literatures and adopted rational choice theory.

## **5. Conclusion**

2022 Electoral Act represents a significant step towards enhancing transparency, accountability, and fairness in campaign finance regulations in Nigeria. The Act introduces important provisions aimed at regulating the sources and uses of campaign funds, imposing expenditure limits, and strengthening enforcement mechanisms to promote integrity in electoral processes. However, the effective implementation and enforcement of these provisions are essential to realize the intended objectives of the Act. Political parties play a central role in ensuring compliance with campaign finance regulations and upholding the integrity of electoral processes. By adhering to the provisions of the 2022 Electoral Act, political parties can contribute to the promotion of transparency, accountability, and fairness in campaign finance practices, thereby strengthening democratic governance and electoral integrity in Nigeria.

## **6. Recommendations**

**The following recommendations were made to;**

- i. Enhancing regulatory oversight and enforcement mechanisms is crucial to ensure compliance with campaign finance regulations. This includes increasing transparency and accountability in campaign finance reporting, implementing robust monitoring and enforcement measures, and imposing penalties for violations.
- ii. Increasing public awareness and education about campaign finance regulations is essential to foster transparency and accountability in political finance practices. This includes launching public awareness campaigns, providing accessible information about campaign finance rules and reporting requirements, and engaging civil society organizations and media in monitoring campaign finance activities.

- iii. Addressing information asymmetry between political actors and stakeholders is vital to promote transparency and accountability in campaign finance practices. This involves improving access to comprehensive and timely information about campaign finance activities, enhancing disclosure requirements for political parties and candidates, and promoting transparency in the allocation and use of campaign funds.

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