



DEMOCRACY, DEMOCRATISATION AND POLITICAL PARTIES: AN OVERVIEW OF NIGERIAS FOURTH REPUBLIC

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Abstract

Consolidating democracy requires good governance by democratic regimes. It also demands upholding democratic values of popular participation, respect for the rule of law, free and fair elections and the independence of the judiciary. Good governance essentially promotes improved welfare of the people, transparency and accountability by public managers in the conduct of state affairs and reduces corruption to the barest minimum. This Paper examines the democratic consolidation in Nigeria's Fourth Republic. The Paper argues that sustained poor political leadership has seriously threatened the survival of democracy in Nigeria's Fourth Republic. The absence of good governance explained in terms of defective constitutional arrangement, corruption, economic mismanagement, undemocratic internal party politics, fraudulent electoral system, rule of man as against rule of law and lack of accountability and transparency are the major impediments to democratic consolidation in Nigeria's Fourth Republic. The methodology for this paper is analytical. The paper recommends among other things that it is important to review the 1999 constitution for better governance.

Keywords: *Democracy, Democratic Consolidation, Political Parties, Fourth-Republic, Nigeria.*

Introduction

Political parties are central to effective functioning and eventual consolidation of democracy, but this is depend on the nature of political parties as an institution and support they command. Indeed, one of the features or distinctive parts of a democratic nation is the existence of a political party. In other words, the important of political parties in a democratic society cannot be over emphasized, since political parties are closely associated with the development of modern state and representative government. No government could be formed without party politics. Party politics is the politics engaged in by

expressed through the channel considered from the ideal of political parties as opposed to national interest(Nwankwo,2001). It involves the activities of politics in a democratic environment to dominate the polity through democratic institution(Azeez,2004).To this end, party politics exist when elective ideals are present in democratic system and views, opinions or political philosophies and debated with the consciousness of promoting and protecting the interest of the party in power Ayo (2017).

The abiding principle of a democratic government is majority rule, one in which supreme power is held by the people under a free and fair electoral system. In a real democracy, the people possess the constitutionally guaranteed right to choose who rules over them at any given point in time. In apparent recognition of this universal concept of democracy, it is important to take note that sovereignty belong to the people of Nigeria from whom government through this constitution derived all its powers and authority (Constitution, 1999 section 14(2). The security and welfare of the people shall be primary purpose of government and participation of the people in their government shall be ensured (Constitution, 1999 sub- section 2b, 2c). It is also important to note that there is more to democracy than elections and voting. The fact that a nation chooses her leaders through the Ballot Box does not necessarily translate to democracy. There are certain tenets upon which any democracy can be nurtured and sustained. These are sovereignty of the people, majority rule and minority rights, the rule of law and good governance, respect for civil and political rights, mass literacy, economic prosperity, social development, free press and an independent judiciary sustainable democracy is attainable when the condition listed above are prevalent in the society and these cannot be usher in without the function or help of vibrant political parties.

Statement Of Research Problem

The political face of Nigeria has undergone a dramatic transformation since independence in Nigeria does not exist in a vacuum, it has to come in order to realise and sustain the following: guaranting of freedom for all against all form of dictatorship, transparency and accountability in the conduct of government business provision of equal opportunities to citizen, enhancing national unity and continuous improvement in the building of democratic institution as there is no targeted end of democracy (Joseph, 2008:19) Democracy requires immense financial resources to sustain it in the face of inadequacies and rushing debt. it is emphasizes that the legislature and the electoral institutions have to be adequately funded to ensure the smooth running. The resurgence of ethnic, national identity, mayhem in the region of the nation and religions conflicts all

over the country has fuelled pessimism concerning not only the future of democracy in Nigeria, but also the existence of Nigeria as a political entity (Adele, 2001).

Objectives Of The Study:

- i. To find out the roles undertaken by political parties in advocating a vibrant democracy in Nigeria.
- ii. To identify challenges facing political parties in Nigeria.
- iii. To proffer solutions to the challenges facing Nigeria's democracy and political parties.

Research Questions

- i. What role do political parties play in democratization process in Nigeria?
- ii. What are the challenges facing political parties in Nigeria?
- iii. What are the solutions to these challenges?

Hypotheses Of The Study

- 1 The more vibrant the political parties are, the more likely the assurance of a progressive democratic nation.
- 2 The circumstance leading to the emergence and formation of political parties tends to undermine democracy in Nigeria

Scope and limitation of the study

The study look into the roles played by the political party in democratization process in Nigeria and it is restricted to Fourth Republic which Nigeria has been witnessing.

Literature Review

Democracy

Democracy is the most familiar concept in many political courses. It has not only attracted more attention and fascinated considerable academic and intellectual dialogue than any other social and political concept in the past two centuries like; justice, human rights, rules of law, good governance, poverty and development are discussed within the preview of democracy. Paradoxically, democracy has generated more academic and intellectual polemics than any other social and political concepts in the recent time. This is so because, the concept is grossly ideologically loaded; (Gitonga cited in Owolabi, 1999:3). Today there is hardly any country that can make a public statement that is not

government by the people (Kura 2007:218). It is uncommon to see regimes with authoritarian character and fascist traits laying claim to democracy. According to a report from the economist intelligent unit (2010), 55 countries constructing about 36.5% of the world population purported to be democratic are classified as authoritarian regimes. Despite the vagueness in its meaning and ambiguities in its practice, attempts have been made by scholars to define the concept.

Joseph Schumpeter defined democracy as a system, “for arriving at political decision in which individuals acquire the power to decide by means of competitive struggle for the people vote” (Diamond, 1999:8). For Robert Bobbio democracy “refers to a cluster of rules permitting the broadest, surest, direct and indirect participation of majority of the citizens in political decision. For example; in decision affecting the whole community” (Cited in Caron e-al 1992:424).

In this content, democracy is governance that involves, the widest participation, either through election or through the administration of the accepted or adopted policies (Kura, 2007:218). At a minimum, democracy according to Bratton and VandeWalle (1997:13) can be defined as a “form of political regime in which citizens choose in competitive elections, the occupants of the top political officers of the state”.

Political Parties and Democratization in Nigeria

In Nigeria, the long-dawn struggle for the return of power to electorate came to pass when the fourth Republic came into existence in 1999 (Abutudu, 2013). Momoh (2001) argues that, political parties in the current dispensation have had the same party structure as in the past, in which there is a National Working Committee (NWC), the zone, the states, local governments and the wards levels of operation.

In general, the political parties that emerged in the fourth Republic were hardly anchored on the forces that spear headed the struggle against military rule. In fact, in most cases, the individuals who formed and dominated the parties constitutes an integral part of the authoritarian political establishment, and participated in the so called democratic transition programmes with little or no regard for any prior liberalization of political space as a prelude to electoral contest. They were always parts of any transition programmes that the military chose, with little or no inclination to question it’s motive logic or form. The

isolation of the civil society from the actual process of party formation largely promoted a transition to a civil regime with military, authoritarian mid-set. Momoh (2013:8) argues that, Nigeria's political parties emerged in the historical situation or trajectory of disenchantment with military rule and militarism. However, the formation of the parties was so sudden and hurried. Similarly, wares typology of weak perpetration by existing political parties is apt, but contrary to his claim that weak penetration will give ground to new political parties to win more voters or members, the evidence in Nigeria shows that new political parties are equally weak and have no convincing message to who electorate.

Political Parties And Building Democracy

Political parties may be large or small, national or local. Large political parties generally have millions of members and supporters. In democratic election campaigns, parties compete freely for votes. Such competition is one of the hallmarks of democracy. As Duverger (1969:105) has rightly said that "a representative democratic system would be impossible without political parties".

Parties articulate philosophies and develop policies. All parties have methods of debating issues and formulating policies to be presented to the electorate during election campaigns. In government or opposition, parties utilize these policy-making processes to determine their attitude to legislation and issues of the day. Parties are an avenue for community groups to influence the decision-making processes. Parties are ultimately responsible for the structure of the machinery of government. The organization of the Public Service and statutory authorities lies in the hands of the government of the day. In practice, parties can make appointments to the public sector from the ranks of their members and supporters.

Yaqub (2002) argues that political party should exercise political power (authority). Political parties are equally expected to serve as instruments of political education, interest aggregation, political socialization and political recruitment. Parties are institutions that help organize, move or effect agenda of government etc. The functions of political parties specifically include: educating, articulating, and aggregating issues that the parties feels the public is not well informed about or about which they want to make their position clear.

In the words of Yaqub (2002): It is the basic of competently performing these roles that a political party can stand a form a political party currently in the saddle.

Merkel (1977:99) summarized the basic functions of political parties as follows:

- i. Recruitment and selection of leadership personnel for government offices.
- ii. Generation of programme and policies for government.
- iii. Coordination and control of government organs.
- iv. Social integration through satisfaction and reconciliation belief system or ideology.
- v. Social integration of individuals by mobilization of support and by socialization.

The functions political parties were also summarized by Carr (cited in Egbewole and Murhtar, 2010) as:

- i. Stimulating the citizenry to take a great interest in election and activities of –government.
- ii. Defining political issues of the day and sharpen the choice between alternative paths.
- iii. Presenting candidates who are committed to announce position with respect to issues.
- iv. Majority party provides basic upon which government can be operated.
- v. Accepting responsibility to govern upon wining election.

The Nexus between Democracy and Political Party

In a democratic setting, political parties are so important to the extent “that neither democracy non democratic society can exist without them” (Omotola, 2009). Democracy depends on parties to survive, since the structure of elections, from citizen participation to candidate selection and presentation of competing political programmes, are done by political parties. The role of political parties become viable when there is an orderly political succession in society. Parties provide order to political process “by regularizing the procedure for leadership succession and for assimilation of new groups into the political system, parties provide the basis for stability and orderly change rather than for instability” (Huntington, 1968). These invariably prompted, Katz (1980) to conclude that Modern democracy is party democracy; the political institutions and practices that are the essence of democratic government in the Western view were the creations of political parties and would be unthinkable without them. It is deduced that the foundation of any government in a democratic setting anchors on the growth of effective party system.

Meanwhile, to consolidate democracy, political parties are expected to exhibit the following features as suggested by Kehinde and Adejumobi, (2007) ; they must be composed of likeminded people whose world views are similar, they must promote a set of programmes embodying the version, mission and manifestoes of the party and designed to meet the needs of the public; they must be mass based, which helps to legitimize them; they must evolved gradually and systematically over time, with identifiable leaders who constitute their rallying points; they must exhibit characteristics of internal democracy in their operations. Once political parties exhibited these features for a considerable time the democratic process can be characterized as consolidated.

Political parties play two important roles in a political process: they form a government or they serve as opposition (Matthias, 2007). Dolo (2006) defines opposition parties as “partisan political institutions that are intentionally designed to temper the ruling party’s excesses while still pursuing both legislative and presidential offices. “For democracy to flourish there must be viable opposition parties on ground. Opposition party according to Egbewole and Mukhtar (2010) is expected to engage in constant criticisms of the governmental policies which are formulated by the majority, to scrutinize carefully the manner in which these policies are administered, and to keep the possibility of alternative legislative policies and administrative practices constantly in the view of the electorate. As a result of this, Dolo (2006:58) argues that “an authentic democracy is one where the ruling party has an effective opposition.” Therefore, in a society where opposition parties were suppressed, democracy itself becomes hopeless.

Challenges Facing Democracy And Political Parties in Nigeria

Nigeria’s current democratic experience is not only characterized by uncertainties but as well, trapped between democratic growth and regression. All these have continued to dim the hope of sustainable democracy in Nigeria. But it must be stated that current experiences with political parties in Nigeria are not peculiar to the Fourth Republic as it represents more of a carryover from the past republics.

Another factor working at variance with democratic growth in Nigeria could be located in the weak party structures and lack of internal cohesion. Weak structures of the current political parties no doubt inhibit the system from running itself. This is because, it strips the parties no doubt inhibits the system from running itself. This is because, it strips the parties of their autonomy defined in terms of ‘a party’s structural independence from other institutions and organizations’ (Janda, 1980: 91). Consequently, the control of party

machinery and structures is determined largely by the interest of a domineering caucus at any point in time rather than established rules. Similarly, there is no denying the fact that these parties are not intentionally cohesive. On the one hand, this may be explained by the fact these parties are composed of strange bedfellows..

The Emergency of Fourth Republic

The Head of State as at 1985, General Ibrahim Babangida, promised to return the country to civilian rule by 1990 which was later extended until January 1993. In early 1989 a constituent assembly completed a constitution and in the spring of 1989 political activity was again permitted. In October 1989 the movement established two parties, the National Republic Convention (NRC) and the Social Democratic Party (SDP), a situation where other parties were not allowed to register. In the words of Professor Omoruyi, (2010). He stated that: The innovation of the two party system in 1989 introduced some elements of discontinuity between the past and 1989 in terms of origin, composition, leadership selection, funding and the interest they serve. It removed the idea of founders' and joiners', as all were joiners. It removed the idea of owners, as the government financed the founding of the two parties and provided a level playing field for all those who wanted to stake a political career from either of the two parties. (Cited in Lapalombara, et al, 2009:95)

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework adopted in this study is Group Theory. The theory was adopted because of the strong view of scholars such as Bantley (1980) who was the strong opinion that institutional approach should not be used for political analysis as these institutions are statics as against politics which is dynamic and full of activities. The argued that politics is a group affair and each group is competing against one another for power. The group Bantley, added, is a pattern of process involving mass of activities and not a collection of individual. The group emerges from frequent interaction among it's individual members which is directed by their shared interest. The interest leads to the organization of the groups.

Methodology

It is systematic investigation of a problem through a number statistical and fact –finding method with a view to providing possible solutions through some feasible options to the problem. These methods may be mathematical and natural science as a source for guidance. Abdullahi (1988:102)

Sampling technique: The sampling technique adopted is the random sampling technique. This was used in order to allow the member of the population to have equal chances of being selected.

Secondarily, data is collected from documented sources like- Newspaper, textbooks, magazine, online articles, E-Book etc.

Data Presentation And Analysis

This chapter focused on data presentation and analysis. The chapter specifically contains summary of the findings and demographic data of the respondents, data analysis, and discussion of the findings.

Three hundred (300) questionnaires were distributed. Out of which one hundred and four (104) were not returned, forty two (42) were wrongly filled by the respondents. Only one hundred and fifty four (154) were returned successfully, thereby the one hundred and fifty four (154) were used as the basis for the data analysis of this study.

Table 4.01 Shows the Demographic Data of Respondents.

<i>S/N</i>	<i>Variable</i>	<i>Options</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage%</i>
•	Age of respondents	15-20	5	3.2
		20-25	6	3.9
		25-30	24	15.6
		30-35	61	39.6
		35-40	43	28
		40 above	15	9.7
•	Sex	Male	102	66.2
		Female	52	33.8
•	Level of education attainment	Masters	20	13
		HND/B.sc	40	26
		Diploma/NCE	54	35
		Secondary	34	22.1
		Primary	6	3.9
•	Occupation/position of respondents	Civil servant	69	44.8
		Councilor	3	1.9
		members of political party	70	45.5
			2	1.3
		Chairman	10	6.5
		Party chairman		

	Total	154	100
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Source: Field Survey 2021

From the data presented above, we can see that 39.6% fall between the age group of 30-35 which has the highest frequency following by group of 35-40 which accounted 28%, then 25-30% which account 15.6%, 40 above which accounted for 9.7% and the least 15-20 which accounted for 3.2%. From the data presented above response generated show that 66.2% of the respondents are male and 33.8% are female. This shows that politics is dominated by both genders. The level of education attainment from the data presented we can see that 35% are of the respondents are Diploma/NCE holder, 26% are HND/B.sc holder and 22.1% are secondary school holder, masters represent 13% and the least those with primary leaving certificate are 3.9%. This shows that data is collected from literate respondents.

From the data presented above, responses show that 44.8% of the respondents are civil servant, 45.5% are members of political parties and 6.5% are party chairman, 1.9% are councillor, 1.3% are chairman.

Question one: what role do political parties play in democratization process in Nigeria? In other to know the roles play by political parties in Nigeria, the study asked the below questions.

Table 4.02 Role political parties play in democratization process in Nigeria.

<i>Variables</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage%</i>
<i>political process structuring</i>	14	9
	49	32
	21	14
	68	44
	2	1
<i>political socialization of the citizen</i>	10	6.5
	50	32.3
	30	19.5
	56	36.5
	8	5.2
<i>voters easily identification of candidate position</i>	40	26.0
	63	40.9
	13	8.4
	33	21.4

	5	3.2
<i>support public policies</i>	40	25.9
	20	45.5
	10	6.5
	22	14.3
	12	7.8
<i>Total</i>	154	100

Source: Field Survey 2021

Table 4.02 above shows that there were 14 (9%) of the respondents strongly agree that political parties perform the function of political process structuring in Nigeria, 49 (32%) agree, 21(14%) strongly disagree, 68(44%)disagree,2(1%)undecided. On item that stated that parties contribute to political socialization of the citizens in Nigeria, 10(6.5%) strongly agree, 50(32.3%) agree, 30(15.5%) strongly disagree 56(36.4%) disagree, 38(5.2%) undecided. On the third item of the above which stated; the way and manner in which voters easily identify a candidate position is done by the political parties, 40(25.9%) strongly agree, 63(40.9%) agree, 5(3.2%), 13(8.4%) strongly disagree,33(21.4%)disagree,5(3.2%)undecided . Also on the item that stated that political parties serves as the agent supporting public policies 40(25.9%)strongly agree, 70(45.5%) agree, 10(6.5%) strongly disagree,22(14.3%)disagree, 12(7.8%)undecided.

Question two: what are the challenges facing political parties in Nigeria? To discover this the research asked the questions below.

Table 4.03 Performance of political parties in Nigeria

<i>Response</i>	<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Percentage%</i>
<i>Yes</i>	94	61
<i>No</i>	60	39
<i>Total</i>	154	100

The above table shows that out of 154 respondents 94 of them agreed that political parties failed to perform in Nigeria 60 of them however, do not agree with the assertion.

Table 4.04 Possible reasons political parties fail to perform in Nigeria.

<i>Variables</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage%</i>
<i>Lack parties internal cohesion</i>	69	44.8
	55	35.7
	10	6.5
	15	9.7

	5	3.2
<i>Electoral choice that is based on personality</i>	82	53.2
	60	38.9
	2	1.3
	6	3.9
	4	2.6
<i>Lack of clear identity and manifestoes</i>	70	46
	66	42
	5	3
	3	2
	10	7
<i>God fatherism</i>	80	52
	45	29.2
	14	9.1
	10	6.5
	5	3.2
<i>Total</i>	154	100

Source : Field Survey 2021

Table above shows 69(44.8%) of the respondents strongly agree that parties failed to perform as a result of lack of parties internal cohesion, 55(35.7%) agree, 15(9.7%) strongly disagree and 10(6.5%) disagree,5(3.2%)undecided . On the second item, stated that parties failed to perform as a result of electoral choice that is based on personality 82(53.2%) strongly agree, 60(38.9%) agree and 6(3.9%) strongly disagree while 2(13%) disagree,4(2.6%)undecided. On the third item that stated parties fail to perform as a result of lack of clear identity and manifestoes 70(46%) strongly agree, 66(42%) agree,3(2%) strongly disagree and 5(3%) disagree,10(7%)undecided.

Also on the item stated that parties fails to perform as a result of godgatheringism 80(52%) strongly agree, 45(29.7%) agree, 10(6.5%) strongly disagree and 14(9.1%) disagree,5(3.2%)undecided.

Table 4.05 Comments on the method used by the political parties in solving their problems.

<i>s/n</i>	<i>Categories</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage%</i>
1.	Bridging linking cohesion	34	22
2.	Having clear manifestoes	40	26
3.	Unity	80	52
	Total	154	100

The Table above shows method used by political parties in solving their problems. 34(22%) represent categories of bridging internal cohesion, 40(26%) represent categories of having clear manifestoes and 80(52%) represent categories of unity.

Table 4.06 Comment on the ways parties could solve their problem of weak structure

<i>s/n</i>	<i>Categories</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage%</i>
1.	Ideology of personality	65	42.2
2.	Having clear manifestoes	38	24.7
3.	Having internal democracy	51	33.1
	Total	154	100

The table above shows the ways parties could solve their problems of weak structure. On the item that stated parties could solve their problems through ideology devoid of personality 65(42.2%) agree with the solution. 38(24.7%) support the idea of having clear manifestoes while 51(33.1%) also support having internal democracy as a way parties could solve problems of weak structure.

Table 4.07 Comment on how political parties in Nigeria could solve the problem of ethnicity and regionalism that affects the choice of votes in Nigeria.

<i>s/n</i>	<i>Categories</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage%</i>
2.	Presentations of credible candidate	40	26
3.	Political socialization	90	58.4
4.	Introduction of multiparty System	24	15.6
	Total	154	100

The table above indicates comments on the way political parties in Nigeria could solve the problem of ethnicity and regionalism that affects the choice of voters in Nigeria. The first categories 40(26%) represent presentation of credible candidates, 90(58.4%) comment political socialization while 24(15.6%) comment introduction of multi-party system.

Table 4.08 Ways of solving lack of clear ideology and manifestoes.

<i>s/n</i>	<i>Categories</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage%</i>
III.	Publicized ideology	52	33.8
JJJ.	Socialization	48	31.2

KKK	Simplifying manifestoes	54	35
	Total	154	100

The table 4.08 above shows how the problem of lack of clear ideology and manifestoes could be solved 52 representing 33.8% comment socialization of masks and 54(35%) comment simplify manifestoes

Table 4.09 Challenges facing political parties in performing their role in democratization process?

<i>Response</i>	<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Percentage%</i>
<i>Yes</i>	98	63.6
<i>No</i>	56	36.4
<i>Total</i>	154	100

Table 4.09 above shows that there were 98 representing 63.6% of the respondents affirm that political parties in Nigeria face challenges in performing their roles in democratization process. While 56 representing 36.4% say no to the affirmation.

Table 4.10 Possible challenges of political parties in Nigeria.

<i>Variables</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage%</i>
<i>Internal conflict</i>	83	53.9
	51	33.1
	8	5.2
	6	3.9
	6	3.9
<i>Lack of internal democracy</i>	55	35.7
	47	30.5
	20	13
	26	16.9
	6	3.9
<i>Finance</i>	20	12.9
	69	44.8
	10	22.7
	20	12.9
	35	6.5
<i>Godfatherism</i>	62	40
	43	28

	27	17
	20	13
	2	1
<i>Total</i>	154	100

Source: Field Survey 2021

Table 4.10 above shows 89 (57.8%) of the respondents strongly agree that political parties in Nigeria face challenges of internal conflict in performing their role 51(33.1%) agree, 8(5.2%) strongly disagree,12(7.8%)disagree, 6(3.9%)undecided .

On the second item which stated that lack of internal democracy is one of the challenges facing political parties in Nigeria 55(35.7%) strongly agree, 47(30.5%) agree and 20(13.1%) strongly disagree,33(21.4%)disagree, 6(3.9%)undecided.

On the third item stated that political parties faces financial challenge in performing their role, 20 (12.9%) strongly agree, 69 (44.8%) agree, 33 (22.7%)strongly disagree, 20 (13%) disagree, 10 (6.5%) undecided.

On the last item stated that godfatherism is one of the challenges facing political parties in Nigeria in performing their democratization role, 62(40%) strongly agree, 43(28%) agree, 27(17%) strongly disagree,20(13%)disagree, 2(1%)undecided.

Table 4.11comment on the way out of challenges facing political parties in Nigeria

<i>s/n</i>	<i>Categories</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage%</i>
1.	Maintain internal democracy	54	35.0
2.	Liabile source of fund	40	26
3.	Avoiding godfatherism	60	39
	Total	154	100

In Table 4.11 above 55 representing 35% of the respondents' comment on maintaining internal democracy, 40(26%) comment on liable source of fund. And 60(39%) comment on avoiding godfatherism.

Question three: what are the solution to the challenges facing political parties in Nigeria? In other to proffer solution to the problem the study asked the below questions.

Table 4.12 National identity is solution to party's challenges in Nigeria?

<i>Response</i>	<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Percentage%</i>
<i>Yes</i>	124	80.5
<i>No</i>	30	19.5
<i>Total</i>	154	100

Table 4.12 above indicate that 124 representing 80.5% of the respondents say yes to national identity is solution to parties challenges in Nigeria 30(19.5%) say no to national identity as solution to parties challenges in Nigeria.

Table 4.13 Possible solution to party's financial problem.

<i>Variables</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage%</i>
<i>Government</i>	45	29.2
	20	13
	19	12.3
	60	39
	10	6.5
<i>Party donation</i>	61	39.6
	45	29.2
	23	15
	20	13
	5	3.2
<i>Loan</i>	10	6.5
	15	9.7
	50	32.5
	44	28.6
	35	22.7
<i>Total</i>	154	100

Source: Field survey 2021

Table 4.13 above shows 45(29.2%) of the respondents strongly agree that government is solution to party's financial problems, 20(13%) agree, 60(49%) strongly disagree and 19(12.3%) disagree, 10(6.5%) undecided . On item two stated party donation is the solution to party financial problems, 56(36.4%) strongly agree, 40(26%) agree, 20(13%) strongly disagree, and 23(15%) disagree, 5(3.2%) undecided.

On item three which stated loan is the solution to party's financial problem 10(6.5%) strongly agree, 15(9.7%) agree, 44(28.6%) strongly disagree and 50(32.5%) disagree. 35(22.7%) undecided.

Table 4.14 Comment on how party can solve the challenge of regionalism

<i>S/N</i>	<i>Categories</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage%</i>
1.	Representative party position	40	26
2.	Socialization	53	34
3.	Introduction of multi-party system	61	40
	Total	154	100

Table 4.14 shows 40 representing 26% of the respondents commend representative in party positions, 53(34%) comment socialization and 61(40%) comment introduction of multi-party system.

Table 4.15 Comment on the way party can solve the challenge of ethnicity and religion

<i>s/n</i>	<i>Categories</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage%</i>
1.	National identity	70	45.5
2.	Enlightment of party member	50	32.5
4.	Allow leadership rotation	34	22
	Total	154	100

Table 4.15 Indicates 70 representing (45.5%) of the respondents comment National Identity, 50(32.5%) comment enlightenment of party member and 34(22%) comment allow leadership rotation

Conclusion

In any democratization process, parties serves as agent of transition. If not for the sake of political parties the transition programme will be futile. This is what the study tends to point out- the role political parties played in the democratization process of Nigerian's Fourth Republic. From the second assertion, the condition that lead to the formation of political parties in Nigeria stands to the slowness of democracy consolidation in Nigeria.

Recommendations

- i. Party should maintain internal democracy which will reflect in their national policies and programme in other to enhance Nation building.
- ii. There should be political socialization of the masses and orientation of politicians, which can be done through organising

- seminars,public lecture through media that will enhance the masses knowledge of political goals and mission towards Nation building.
- iii. Declaration of clear ideology and manifestoes should be adherent to,because from this party policies can be known in relation to Nation's problems.

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