



## Vote Buying and the Perceptions of the Urban Poor in Nigeria: An Empirical Study

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**Abstract.** The study examines the phenomenon of vote buying from the perceptions of the residents in poor urban communities in Lagos State, Nigeria. This study adopts primary research method and applies quantitative technique to gather data. The study identifies that there is a nexus between poverty and vote buying. It concludes that vote buying is a major determinant that defines the voting behaviour of poor and vulnerable voters. In addition, a large majority of the respondents fault the credibility of the electoral process, stating that vote buying affects the progress of the electoral process. On the contrary, the vast majority of the respondents answered that they are politically active and vote buying does not discourage them from exercising their electoral franchise. Sadly, the larger percentage of the respondents are not aware that vote buying is an unlawful act. The study recommends that the government must proactively and genuinely embark on effective poverty alleviation schemes in order to address the menace of vote buying. Significantly, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) involved in developmental issues must broaden the reach of their specific intervention projects, towards educating voters residing in poor communities on the devastating effects of vote buying on the electoral process in Nigeria.

**Keywords:** Elections, Politicians, Voters, Poverty, Vote buying

### 1. Introduction

Elections in a democratic state should serve as a veritable medium to ensure the succession of leaders in a free and transparent manner. The concept of election and the practicality of voting infer that the independent choices of the citizens as to who governs

them should not be derided. Vote buying is an integral feature of electoral politics in new democracies across the world (Jensen & Justesen, 2014). The negative influences of political leaders on the outcome of elections in African countries are overwhelming. Nigeria is no exception in this regard. In fact, elections conducted since 1999 when Nigeria returned to democratic governance have been rife with various forms of electoral malpractices, thus affecting the outcome of elections and quality of democracy in Nigeria (Aluaigba, 2016). Aliyu et al. (2020) explicate that the desperation for power, the negative mindset of politicians that politics is an investment and an opportunity to enrich themselves, as well as the idea that the election period serves as an opportunity to unleash vengeance on political opponents are some of the major causes of electoral violence. Electoral fraud in Nigeria includes under age voting, snatching of ballot boxes, intimidation of voters at the polling unit by hoodlums or state security in constituencies favourable to the opposition, voting by unregistered voters, stuffing of ballot boxes with fake votes, improper counting of votes, as well as vote buying (Agbi & Saka-Olokungboye; 2019; Ugwuala et al, 2020). Vote buying as an electoral fraud takes place when a voter sells his or her vote in exchange of monetary or other material benefits. According to Ozoemena & Evangeline (2019), vote buying involves the inducement of voters with financial or material incentives by a political candidate, political party, party agent or supporter. The motive is to influence voters to cast their votes or desist from voting in order to increase the chances of victory for a particular candidate. On the other hand, the fact that voters are willing to sell their votes due to financial and material inducements is alarming and portends inherent setback for the political and electoral

processes in Nigeria (Ovwasa, 2014; Agbi & Saka-Olokungboye, 2019). Electoral malpractice, including vote buying is linked to factors such as bribery and corruption, illiteracy, lack of confidence on the part of political candidates and their supporters, inadequate political education as well as poverty (Ozoemena & Evangeline, 2019; Aliyu et al., 2020).

Desperate politicians and their allies pay as low as ₦2,000 to voters and induce them with food items, to buy their votes due to the level of poverty in Nigeria. Olarinmoye (2008) emphasize that money is a significant factor in elections, and often use to bribe officials and induce voters to support particular candidates, especially during party primaries. Sadly, vote buying has remained a consistent feature of elections in Nigeria because of the lack of political will to eradicate the menace. According to Babatunde (2019), the growth of democracy will continue to be in jeopardy until the monetization of politics, vote buying as well as germane issues such as poverty are addressed. Given that there exists a correlation between vote buying and poverty, this study aims to examine the perceptions of vote buying among the urban poor in Lagos State, Nigeria. In particular, it seeks to analyze and understand the phenomenon of vote buying from a novel perspective. It therefore examines the perceptions of the respondents with respect to the following questions; (1) Is vote buying inappropriate? (2) Do voters sell their votes because they believe it will not count? (3) Does vote buying affect the credibility of the electoral system? (4) Does vote buying lead to bad governance? (5) Is vote buying unlawful? The structure of the study is as follows; Section one gives a brief introduction of the study and highlights the research questions. Section two explores existing literature on the subject. Section three discusses the research method employed for the study. Section four analyzes the research findings. Section five covers the conclusion and recommendation. Section six focuses on the delimitations of the study and raises the issues for further investigation.

## 2. Literature Review

In Nigeria, vote buying is a major challenge inhibiting the progress of the electoral process. Vote buying is not a new phenomenon in the electoral history of Nigeria and there have been allegations of vote buying in previous elections that predate the return to democratic governance in 1999 (Oladapo et al, 2020). However, vote buying has attained a normative status in the political and electoral arrangement of Nigeria since the return to democratic rule on 29 May 1999. According to Yakubu (2020),

vote buying is a contract and two-way process that involves the buyer and seller. Politicians and their agents distribute cash and food items as a way of manipulating the electorates to vote for their candidates. It is interesting to note that voters that participate in vote buying sell their votes to the highest bidders. Political observers have described elections in Nigeria as cash-and-carry democracy (Onuoha & Ojo, 2018). The term cash and carry signifies that elections in Nigeria have been monetized and winning elections is a reflection of the highest bidder. A plethora of factors; attitudinal, social, emotional, as well as psychological, motivate the voting behaviour of voters (Adamu et al, 2016; Nkwede, 2019). In the Nigerian context, factors such as ethnicity, tribe, religion, gender, monetary gratification, as well as poverty influence the voting behaviour of the electorate. As it stands, it is not uncommon for politicians and their agents to bribe voters with stipends in order to manipulate them to vote for their political parties during elections. Elections in Nigeria are therefore not a true representation of the will of the people. According to Agbaje & Adejumo (2006), politicians in Nigeria are merchants or barons that suppress the voices and choices of the people by hijacking the electoral process. The appalling level of corruption in Nigeria has infected the electoral process that political candidates and their parties do not repose confidence in the vision of their manifestoes and agendas to win elections. Rather, they rely on the manipulations of vote buying to win elections. It is pertinent to state that politicians in Nigeria are desperate for power and thus explore any means to attain political power, regardless of the approach and strategy.

The political behaviour of many politicians in Nigeria is exhibited in their do-or-die affair approach to politics, as well as winning elections at all cost. Clearly, the campaign strategies adopted by political parties often involve cash and material inducements to influence voters to vote for a political party or its candidate during elections (Yakubu, 2020). Vote buying influences the political behaviours of both the politicians and the electorates with negative impacts on the credibility of the electoral process and the civic right of the voters (Casimir et al, 2013; Onwe et al, 2015; Suleiman, 2016; Chukwurah et al, 2019). Although, a study conducted by Muhtadi (2019) observed that vote buying influences the voting behaviour of 10% of the respondents. As Muhtadi (2019) argues, every vote matters, and the minimum number of voters that engage in vote selling is enough to sway election results in favour of a particular political candidate. The consequences of vote buying transcends its damning effects on the

voting behaviour of voters. Voting buying and money politics have dire implications as they pose a threat to human lives and property. In the view of Babatunde et al (2019), money politics and vote buying ignite electoral violence, social unrest, bad governance, separatist agitations, insurgency, as well as threat to national security. When analyzed within the parameters of the ethos of democracy as a representative system of government, it is evident that vote buying constitutes a drawback to viable leadership and good governance in Nigeria (Ovwas, 2014; Nkwede & Abah, 2019). Agbi & Saka-Olokungboye (2019) emphasize that vote buying is a disturbing phenomenon that portends a drawback to the growth and consolidation of democracy in Nigeria. During the 2019 general elections, Ozoemena & Evangeline (2019) observed that there was vote buying in all the stages of election; Presidential, National Assembly, Governorship and House of Assembly elections, and transactional voters sold their votes for as low as ₦2,000, ₦3,000, ₦4,000 and ₦5,000. To state the obvious, the menace of vote buying makes mockery of the right of voters to express their free will during elections.

The right of the citizens to elect the candidates of their choice is subsumed under the influence and manipulation of vote buying. According to Braton (2008), there is an interlink between vote buying, political intimidation and electoral violence in Nigeria, especially during electoral campaigns. And as Agbi & Saka-Olokungboye (2019) assert, the ugly trend of vote buying has become a subject of discussion and natural embarrassment to political parties that are unable to organize their political activities in a decent manner especially during political electioneering campaigns. Similarly, Olu-Adeyemi (2018) and YIAGA Africa Initiative (2018) report that massive vote buying takes place at polling stations and this undermines the transparency of the electoral process. According to these authors, vote buying is often conducted with impunity and total disregard for the electoral laws. As a stimulus to vote for their political parties, party agents often patronize voters with cash prior to voting on election day. This strategic but awkward approach is triggered at polling stations as a last-minute resort to influence the voting choices of voters. Babatunde et al (2019) concludes that the growth and consolidation of democracy in Nigeria will not be achieved unless money politics is discouraged and eliminated. In his opinion, Ovwas (2014) emphasized that it may be difficult to curb the ugly trend of vote buying and money politics, however the menace can be reduced with the concerted efforts of stakeholders involved in the electioneering process. As a way forward, Chukwurah et al (2019) recommend that there is need

to embark on effective institutional reforms and the strict implementation of the electoral act in order to curb monetary politics and vote buying. While the plethora of existing literature on vote buying have identified poverty as a major factor that promotes the phenomenon, scholars, particularly in the Nigerian context, have yet to examine the perceptions of people who are poor on vote buying. Despite various approaches adopted by successive governments since independence to tackle poverty as a development issue, the reality of chronic and complex poverty remains a challenge to a growing population (Aliyu & Dansabo, 2017). Muhtadi (2019) ascribes the success of vote buying to poverty in third world countries. However, literature on poverty suggest that discussions on the impacts of poverty on the political system as well as the electoral process in Nigeria have received minimal attention (Akinaso, 2019). This study seeks to contribute to the literature on vote buying by addressing this lacuna.

### 3. Research Methodology

This study applied primary research method. It adopts quantitative technique and utilizes questionnaires as its instrument of research. The respondents were selected from Mushin, Ijora-Badia, and Orile-Iganmu areas of Lagos State. Mushin, Ijora-Badia and Orile-Iganmu are areas that are densely populated with majority of residents classified as people who are poor. The respondents are within the ages of 24-60, and the majority have voted at least once. Thus, the larger percentage of the respondents are conversant with the concept of vote buying. The data gathered were vital in providing information on the perceptions of vote buying among the respondents. A close-ended Questionnaire was designed to gather data from respondents. The questionnaire was divided into two sections. The first section focused on demographic information of the participants, while the second section focused on questions relating to the respondents' perceptions of vote buying. The second section contains a 5 point likert scale structured as follows; Strongly Disagree (SD), Disagree (D), Undecided (UD), Agree (A), and Strongly Agree (SA).

The 5-point likert scale was relevant and effective as respondents were able to articulately respond to the questionnaire from multiple options rather than a two-fold yes/no response. Voluntary response sampling technique was effective to draw the required sample from the target population. The sampling technique is inexpensive and provides the researcher a less cumbersome method of selecting the respondents from a larger population. A total of 527

respondents participated in the study. The number of respondents provided the researcher with an ample sample required to evaluate the topic of research. Quantitative technique was applied to analyze data

gathered from the respondents and data were interpreted in tabular forms using frequency and percentages.

**Table 1:** Demographic Data of the Respondents

	Frequency	Percentages (%)
<b>Sex of Respondents</b>		
Male	303	57.5
Female	224	42.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Age of Respondents</b>		
24-30 years	77	14.6
31-40 years	198	44.0
41-50 years	195	43.4
51-60 years	57	12.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Educational Qualification</b>		
Primary School	128	24.3
Secondary School	297	56.4
Tertiary Education	102	19.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Occupation of Respondents</b>		
Employed	420	79.7
Unemployed	107	20.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Number of Times Voted</b>		
None	36	6.8
Once	59	11.2
Twice	57	10.8
Three	93	17.6
Four	104	19.7
Five	102	19.4
Six	77	14.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>100</b>

As described in Table 1.0 above, 57.5% of the respondents are males. Furthermore, majority of the respondents 44.0% are between the ages of 31- 40. In addition, majority of the respondents, 56.4% attended secondary school. In terms of occupation, 79.7% of the respondents are employed, while 20.3% are unemployed. Lastly, 6.8% of the respondents answered that they have never for once voted.

**Table 2:** Questions on vote buying and the perceptions of the respondents

S/N	ITEMS	SD	D	UD	A	SA	Total
1	Accepting cash and other material inducements from politicians to vote for them is appropriate	313 (59.4)	178 (33.8)	12 (2.3)	19 (3.6)	5 (0.9)	527 (100%)
2	Voters sell their votes because they believe their votes do not count	63 (12.0)	65 (12.3)	39 (7.4)	139 (26.4)	221 (41.9)	527 (100%)
3	Vote buying negatively affects the credibility of the electoral process	37 (7.0)	76 (14.4)	57 (10.8)	121 (23.0)	236 (44.8)	527 (100%)
4	Vote buying leads to bad governance	78 (14.8)	234 (44.4)	5 (0.9)	173 (32.8)	37 (7.1)	527 (100%)
5	Vote buying discourages me from voting	473 (89.8)	15 (2.8)	0 (0)	31 (5.9)	8 (1.5)	527 (100%)
6	Vote buying determines my voting behaviour	98 (23.0)	47 (11.0)	83 (19.4)	168 (39.3)	31 (7.3)	527 (100%)
7	Vote buying is an unlawful act in Nigeria	28 (5.3)	88 (16.7)	273 (51.9)	93 (17.6)	45 (8.5)	527 (100%)
8	Vote buying should be eradicated	22 (4.2)	179 (34.0)	74 (14.0)	211 (40.0)	41 (7.8)	527 (100%)

#### 4. Findings and Discussion

Table 2.0 presents the questions on vote buying and the responses of the respondents. The respondents were asked whether it is right to accept inducements to vote for a political party or candidate. The responses from the respondents indicate that indulging in vote buying is inappropriate. 59.4% strongly disagree and 33.8% disagree that vote buying is appropriate. This study agrees with the work of Ovwasa (2014); Onuoha & Ojo (2018); Ozoemena & Evangeline (2019); Agbi & Saka-Olokungboye (2019); Yakubu (2020), that vote buying is inappropriate and a drawback to the growth and progress of democracy in Nigeria. Although, a small percentage of the respondents answered that vote buying is appropriate, however, it is significant to note that the responses from the respondents imply that the majority of people that indulge in vote buying are aware that the phenomenon is inappropriate and as such morally wrong. Furthermore, 41.9% strongly agree and 26.4% agree that voters sell their votes because they believe their votes do not count. The responses of the respondents may find justification on the submission that political parties have a way of manipulating election results to favour their candidates. With this, the votes of voters do not count as elections are always won by the best manipulating political party. Onuoha & Ojo (2018) explained that voters trade their political rights for material gains. In this light, vote buying violates the rights of voters to elect the candidates of their choices (Nkwede & Abah, 2019). Apparently, the citizens, particularly people who are poor have become frustrated due to bad governance in the country that the significance of their rights to vote means less to them. The menace of vote buying makes mockery of the right of voters to express their free will during elections (Ejue & Ekanem, 2011). The submissions from the respondents bear incontrovertible evidence to the level of decay in Nigeria's electoral process and the lack of political trust on the part of the electorate. The credibility of the electoral process is an important feature of elections. Therefore, the respondents were asked if in their opinion, vote buying negatively affects the credibility of the electoral process. In their responses, 23.0% agree and 44.8% strongly agree that vote buying negatively affects the credibility of the electoral process. This study aligns with the work of Casimir et al. (2013); Onwe et al. (2015); Agbi & Saka-Olokungboye (2019); Yakubu (2020); Magaji & Musa (2022); Oduntan (2022) that vote buying is detrimental to the development of the electoral process and growth of democracy in Nigeria. There is no doubt that the inimical act of vote buying has had a devastating

impact on politics, elections, as well as democracy in Nigeria. As it is, this study further lends credence to the level of decay in Nigeria's electoral process. The study reveals that not only do the majority of respondents understand that vote buying is inappropriate, a large percentage equally recognize and have the understanding that vote buying serves as an albatross that impedes the possibility of conducting free and fair elections in Nigeria.

The responses from the respondents indicate that 14.8% strongly disagree and 44.4% disagree that vote buying leads to bad governance. These responses contradict existing literature, Ovwasa (2014); Aluaigba (2016); Agbi & Saka-Olokungboye (2019); Babatunde et al (2019); Nkwede & Abah (2019); Oladapo et al. (2020); Osimen & Iloh (2022) on vote buying and good governance. These authors, just like many others clearly assert that vote buying and selling have significant negative consequences that affect good governance in Nigeria. This assertion is hinged on the fact that vote buying/selling promotes the commodification of votes and thus what matters to the vote sellers is not the desire to elect good and formidable leaders but the financial and material benefits they can get from politicians. On the other hand, politicians have lost confidence in their political manifestoes and ability to win elections without buying votes. In reality, most of the politicians are desperate for power without genuine intention to entrench good governance and effect positive change in government (Ovwasa, 2014). Thus, the large percentage of candidates that contest for political offices in Nigeria do not have the genuine interest in the progress of Nigeria, but partake in politics for their personal benefits and that of their cronies. Significantly, that the majority of respondents do not see a correlation between vote buying and bad governance means that they hold the perception that vote buying does not have negative and dire impacts on governance in Nigeria. The responses reveal that vote buying is not a factor that discourages the majority of the respondents from exercising their franchise. A large percentage of the respondents, 89.8% strongly disagree that vote buying discourages them from voting. As Nwankwo (2018) notes, vote buying did not discourage the masses from participating in the voting exercise during the 2018 Ekiti governorship election. What is actually not clear is the motive behind the responses of the respondents that answered that they are not discouraged to vote regardless of vote buying. It should be noted that some of the respondents will participate in voting because they want to sell their votes. For them, it is an avenue to make some cash as they commercialize their votes, while for others they

participate in elections with the genuine intention to vote for their desired candidates, and will not sell their votes.

A below the average percentage, 39.3% answered that vote buying determines their voting behaviour. Although not totally convincing, however, the study supports previous studies Sakariyau et al (2015); Nwankwo (2018); Cinjel et al (2019); Oladapo et al (2020); Magaji & Musa (2022); Osimen & Iloh (2022) that identify vote buying as a prominent factor that determines the voting behaviour of voters. The responses of the respondents depict that most voters that are poor are willing to sell their votes if the offer or incentive is appealing. These incentives come in form of cash or food items and sometimes both. Several existing literature Sakariyau et al (2015); Chul et al (2017); Nwankwo (2018); Adeabgo & Omodunbi (2019); Adigun (2019) underline that distributing food items and cash are strategies politicians adopt during elections to induce voters to sell their votes. Similarly, Cinjel et al. (2019) stated that money, food additive, grains, shoes, attires, salt, maggi, sugar, wrappers, exercise books and many others are mostly used as the bait to entice the desperately awaiting voters. While the issue of what appeals to them may vary from one voter to another, what is certain is that the incentives offered, be it cash or food items are usually minimal and of little significance. For example, commercial voters sell their votes for between ₦2,000 and ₦5,000 (Ozoemena & Evangeline, 2019). Nwankwo (2018) reported how the news circulated in the media of aggrieved commercial voters that received ₦3,000 but complained that they should receive ₦5,000 instead. The study supports the submissions of Jensen & Justesen (2014), Akinnaso (2019) and Muhtadi (2019) that poverty is a major motivating factor that endorses vote buying. The feedback from the respondents reflects the sad realities of the level of poverty in the country. Poverty has become an intractable phenomenon ravaging the lives of many. In fact, poverty has eaten deep into the fabrics of the society and is a profitable weapon of exploitation for politicians to achieve their political goals at the expense of the suffering masses. In progressing, there is an urgent need to affirm that poverty is a reality that influences the political behaviour of both politicians and electorates in Nigeria. The word influence in this regard will point to having a negative impact on democratic growth considering that voters who are poor are vulnerable to the monetary influences of desperate politicians.

Vote buying is an unlawful act in Nigeria according to article 127 (a&b) of the Electoral Act 2022. Section 127 states that a person who: *corruptly by his or herself or by any other person at any time after the date of an election has been announced, directly or indirectly gives or provides or pays money to or for any person for the purpose of corruptly influencing that person or any other person to vote or refrain from voting at such election, or on account of such person or any other person having voted or refrained from voting at such election; or being a voter, corruptly accepts or takes money or any other inducement during any of the period stated in paragraph (a), commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of ₦100,000 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months or both.*

As depicted in table 2 above, 51.9% of the respondents were undecided in their responses when asked whether vote buying is an unlawful act. This study establishes that the majority of respondents understand that vote buying is an immoral act, but on the contrary, the majority of respondents are not aware that vote buying is unlawful. The finding shows that apart from being poor, the majority of respondents lack knowledge of the electoral act and its stipulations, especially as regards to vote buying and selling. Evidently, the lack of knowledge of the electoral act can be adduced to the low level of voter education in the country. This study aptly reflects the views of Cinjel et al. (2019); Mohammed (2020); Oladapo et al. (2020), that the low level of voter education promotes the menace of vote buying. In essence, it buttresses that beyond poverty, a plurality of factors trigger vote buying and given this, the causes of vote buying are multidimensional.

On whether vote buying should be eradicated, 40% of the respondents agree that vote buying should be eradicated. This study identifies with several existing literature that stress the urgent need to eradicate vote buying. Scholars such as Aluaigba (2016); Onuoha & Ojo (2018); Babatunde et al. (2019); Chukwurah et al. (2019); Aliyu et al. (2020); Yakubu (2020) emphasize that vote buying is an ugly trend that negatively affects election outcomes and the growth of democracy in Nigeria. The fact that 40% of the respondents agree that vote buying should be eradicated clearly indicates that vote buying in Nigeria, is a disturbing phenomenon that requires urgent and significant attention. Conversely, the fact that 34% of the respondents disagree that vote buying should be eradicated implies that some of the respondents are not aware of the hazards of vote buying, while others in this category may prefer that vote buying persist because of the financial and

material benefits that accrue to them. Consequently, this infers that a lot still requires to be done to curb the menace of vote buying. Curbing or eradicating vote buying as it is, will require a fundamental and consolidated approach that will involve all stakeholders in the electioneering process; electoral body, political parties, political candidates, voters, security and law enforcement agents, as well as the legislative and judiciary arms of government.

### 5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The study was able to establish a nexus between poverty and vote buying. It equally justified that vote buying influences the voting behaviour of voters. Clearly, it observed that while vote buying does not influence the voting behaviour of every voter suffering from poverty, the majority of voters suffering from poverty are willing to sell their votes for monetary and material gains, even though they understand that the menace is inappropriate and amoral. Again, it established that the voters that sell their votes believe that their votes do not count. By this, the study underlines that voters that sell their votes lack confidence in the legitimacy of their rights to vote and are not willing to protect this suffrage. In essence, the study affirms that the pernicious act of vote buying is an albatross that impedes voters from expressing their rights to freely elect a leader to represent their interest in government.

Sequel to the findings of this study, it is recommended that government policy responses towards poverty alleviation should focus on comprehensive programs aimed at drastically reducing the level of poverty in the country. Significantly, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that promote developmental agendas should broaden the reach of their specific intervention projects, towards educating voters in poor communities on the hazards of vote buying, and its consequences on the electoral process in Nigeria. These projects should also include educating this category of people to protect their rights to vote regardless of their level of poverty, as this remains the most legitimate and assured means to positively transform the electoral process. In addition, stakeholders in the electioneering process must initiate projects and programs to inform poor and uneducated voters that vote buying is an unlawful act that contravenes the electoral law and that anyone caught indulging in vote buying is liable on conviction to a fine of ₦100,000 or 12 months imprisonment or both. To this end, the government must implement and enforce stringent laws to punish the perpetrators of vote buying.

### 6. Delimitations of the Study and Issues for further study

A major challenge encountered during the fieldwork for this study was the refusal of some persons that fell within the target group to participate in the study. They were afraid to share their perceptions because they were not convinced of the researchers' genuine intentions. It is important to point out that the perceptions of those that declined to participate in the study would have deepened the insight gained from this research. Secondly, the lack of funds from external sources, and reliance on the limited resources of the researchers limited the scope of study. Thirdly, restricting the scope of study to 3 study areas in Lagos State limited the depth of research as well as the results considering that findings from similar study areas could have broadened the scope of the study. Notwithstanding these issues, this study has contributed significantly to the literature on vote buying.

During the course of undertaking this study, issues arose that warranted the need for further investigation. In taking this research forward, it is expedient to broaden the scope of study to cover similar study areas within and outside Lagos State. Ultimately, it is suggested that empirical research be conducted to understand the strategies adopted by NGOs and other stakeholders in the electioneering process to educate voters on the hazards of vote buying. Understanding these strategies, will enable a detailed analysis of the strengths and weaknesses, as well as impacts of NGOs and other stakeholders with respect to curbing vote buying.

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