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 POLITICAL APATHY IN NIGERIA

Political apathy is the feeling of disinterest towards anything politics. It’s when a citizen is indifferent toward political activities.

Political apathy is one of the major challenges in democracy in Nigeria and it has been a very long battle towards it but due to continual bad leadership and the failing system in Nigeria every effort to curb political apathy among citizens seem futile.

They are three types of political apathy:

* Apathy due to lack of information: information is key and without it people will not know what is happening around them. As a result of this citizens do not participate in politics because they don’t have access to details that will guide them.
* Apathy due to lack of interest :citizens may lack interest in politics mainly because they feel like it doesn’t concern them or have anything to do with them.
* Voters apathy: in a democratic state when the time comes for the eligible citizens to choose their leaders many citizens do not turn up to vote because they lack interest.

CAUSES OF POLITICAL APATHY

* Poor leadership: due to bad leadership many citizens lack interest in politics because they feel like the people in power do not care about them, whatever they do don’t concern them and they really cant change anything even if they participate or not.
* Violence during election and campaign: In Nigeria due to our insecurity and incompetence violence is one thing that seems inevitable during campaigns, elections and many other political activities. As a result many citizens shy away from anything that has to do with politics for their safety.
* Unfulfilled promises: when the time to pick a new leader comes each contesting candidates come out and make many appealing promises to the people in a bid to attract supporters. When they get to the seat of power, they become power-drunk and greedy and they neglect their supporters and fail to fulfill all the promises they had earlier made during their manifestos and campaigns.
* Rigging during election: Many power thirsting candidates are really desperate to win the election and get to the seat of power. In other to ensure this, they employ thugs or sometimes bribe election officials to rig the election and twist the results in their favor. When an unpopular leader is in power they will be chaos, dissatisfaction, unaccountability, distrust resulting in apathy among a large population of the citizens.
* Negative media coverage: the media presents negative criticisms of the government to the citizens resulting to apathy.

IMPACT OF POLITICAL APATHY ON NIGERIA

* Unpopular governorships: when citizens don’t hold the leader responsible when there is unjust leadership, the people in power feel like they can do whatever they want because they are not checked by the people they lead. This gives room for bad leadership and corrupt mediocre.
* Underdevelopment of the country: due to apathy corrupt leaders take over. They will be a lot of fraudulent activities and many funds allocated to infrastructures to develop the country will be diverted to the greedy government officials pocket leading to the stagnation of the states growth.
* Corruption: the top leadership posts will be occupied by corrupt politicians that will stunt the growth of the nation and wont provide for the needs of the people.
* Lack of law and order: inevitably, they will be a very weak check system that is meant to hold leaders accountable when they are going astray, this will result in lawlessness in the country. Chaos, insecurity, doom, anarchy and crime will be the call of the day. It may result in war if there is too much imbalance.

There is a very urgent need for citizens of Nigeria to get involved in the affairs of our country unless all this effects of apathy portrayed above may manifest soon enough. We run a democratic state so your opinion do matter and we cant get the best for our country if we remain silent and allow mediocre rule. We can work together to stop our country from reaching the worst form of insurgency. We can participate in politics and fight apathy by:

* Creating awareness and educating people on the dangers of apathy.
* By turning out to vote for our leaders.
* The government conduct a free and fair elections.
* By contesting for legislative positions during elections.
* Indulging in healthy political debates and discussions in a bid to educate and bring people up to date with the current affairs of the country.
* The government should plunge out and punish corrupt officials in the electoral commission.
* By attending campaigns.
* The government should provide tight security during activities such as campaigns, elections and debates.
* The citizens should conduct violence-free protests and call out bad leadership and unpopular decisions made by the government.

Thereof, if we do all this and If the government should play their part we will have good and accountable leaders, they will be even-development of the country, law and order, peace and unity. We will have an effective democratic state.