

**INTER PARTY RIVALRY, AND ITS IMPACT ON NATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT: A CASE STUDY OF ALL PROGRESSIVE CONGRESS  
(APC) AND PEOPLE’S DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDP) IN EGOR, L.G.A, EDO  
STATE**



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**SSC2105663**

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**UNIVERSITY OF BENIN**

**BENIN CITY.**

**NOVEMBER, 2025.**

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**BEING A PROJECT WORK SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF  
POLITICAL SCIENCE, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY  
OF BENIN, BENIN CITY. IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE  
(B.SC) DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**NOVEMBER, 2025.**

## DECLARATION

**Anya Gift Ada** declare that,

- i. This study is based on a study undertaken by me in the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City, under the supervision of **PROF. J.O AIHIE** of the Department of Political Science, Social Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria.
- ii. This work has not been submitted for the award of degree elsewhere.
- iii. Ideas and views are product of my personal research and where the view of others has been expressed, they have been duly acknowledged.
- iv. Any liability arising from this work is to be wholly borne by me alone

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**Anya Gift Ada**

**SSC2105663**

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**DATE**

## CERTIFICATION

We, certify that this research project was carried out by **Anya Gift Ada** in the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria. It is adequate in scope and quality in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Science (BSc.) degree in Political Science.

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**Prof. J.O Aihie**

**(Project Supervisor)**

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**Date**

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**Dr G. O. IGIEBOR**

**(Head of Department)**

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**Date**

## **DEDICATION**

This project work is dedicated to God Almighty for His abundant grace in my life and for seeing me through my academic pursuit and aspirations. He has been my source of strength and on his wings only have I soared. I also want to dedicate this project to my Family and friends for the love and encouragement they have shown towards me during the course of this program, all I can say is thank you and God bless you.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My profound gratitude goes to God almighty for his strength, grace, wisdom, and guidance all through my period of study and making this work a success.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor, PROFESSOR J.O AIHIE for his sincere interest, concern, valuable suggestions support, guidance and immersed contributions in making the work a success. Thank you, Sir. I also want to appreciate the head of department, DR G. IGIEBOR and all other academic and non-academic staff of the Department of Political Science, University Of Benin who have contributed in one way or the other contributed to the success of this work and the course as a whole.

I sincerely express my gratitude to my wonderful Mother, Mrs ANYA, and a stand in father Elder Aina for their prayers, financial support and moral support all through my years in school. I also appreciate my brother, Peter for his keen interest in all matters concerning my academic activities and their tremendous encouragement and love. I love you all deeply.

To my wonderful friends who turned family, Blessed, Lawanni, Precious, and Victory for their love, care, prayer and financial support throughout my stay in school and lastly to every one of my course mates that has been of help to me in one way or the other throughout this course of study. May the Lord bless you all. Amen

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This study examined the relationship between interparty rivalry and national development in Nigeria, focusing on the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Egor Local Government Area of Edo State. The study aimed to assess how political rivalry, policy implementation, party system balance, and socioeconomic consequences influence national development. A quantitative survey research design was adopted, and data were collected through the administration of structured questionnaires to selected respondents. The data*

*obtained were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistical techniques, including multiple regression analysis, with the aid of SPSS Version 27. The results revealed that political rivalry had a significant negative effect on national development ( $\beta = 0.362$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ), indicating that excessive competition and political intolerance weaken governance and hinder progress. Policy implementation and party system balance both showed significant positive effects ( $\beta = 0.328$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ;  $\beta = 0.314$ ,  $p = 0.002$  respectively), suggesting that effective governance and stable political structures promote sustainable development. Socioeconomic consequences, such as unemployment and insecurity, had the strongest impact on national development ( $\beta = 0.386$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ). The regression model produced an R value of 0.734 and an R Square of 0.645, indicating that about 64.5% of the variation in national development is explained by the combined effects of the independent variables. The study concluded that interparty rivalry among major political parties in Nigeria poses a major obstacle to national development by fostering instability, policy inconsistency, and weak governance cooperation. It recommends the promotion of political tolerance, institutional reforms, policy continuity, and interparty dialogue to enhance democratic maturity and sustainable development in Nigeria.*

**Keywords:** *Interparty rivalry, political competition, policy implementation, party system balance, socioeconomic development, Nigeria.*

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background Of The Study

" Politics, often defined as a strive to gain power, or to influence the distribution of power, either among states or among groups within a state is highlighted as a major driving force of political parties, particularly in Nigeria, vying to seize absolute state control at both the National, and state level. { Weber, 2006}

Unfortunately, this power canvass can be said to have brought about a system of ruin towards the National Development of it's host society. Nigeria, before 1999 was burdened by a painstaking Military rule. However, the Introduction of a democratic government came as perceived hope, one that raised a government intended to be sustainable whilst maintaining harmony, security, and territorial sovereignty, hence a paramount need for a party system.

This party system is one indispensable tool for a democracy. Umar, and Kura (2004) stated in Abbas (2016:pp 177-178) defined political parties as an organized system with concisely defined agenda whose primary aim is to retain political power through the aggregation of a nation's diverse view. In other words, Parties can aid the articulation of group objectives, as well as nurture a democratic government for what it ought to be, a system of concise political, social, and economic responsibility where the government is ultimately chosen by the governed. However, in all democracies, conflict, and tensions between political parties as they compete for state power, influence, and public support is inevitable. While political rivalry is fundamental to state growth, it's influence on national development has served as a subject of worry, and concern.

Nigeria is home to a complex, political landscape characterized by major ethnic, and socio-economic diversities which consequentially fuels inter party rivalry, transcending beyond ideological debates, into becoming sequentially characterized by personal, ethnic, and regional interest. These power dynamics can also be cited to have significantly retarded the political growth, and development of the country.

This statement is true because Nigeria, ever since the end of it's military dictatorship has witnessed intense political tensions, particularly in it's democratic elections. Political parties unfortunately concern themselves with undermining their competitors rather than jointly gearing towards issues of national importance. Such socio-political restriction is poisonous, and has led to polarizing effects, such as party acrimony, and cross carpeting in many Nigerian political parties that has proven to be detrimental to the country's development efforts.

The relationship between inter party rivalry, and national development in Nigeria is one that deserves scholarly attention as political tensions could both propel, and stunt the nation's growth. While rivalry arguably could serve as an advantage, encouraging political engagement, and stimulating policy innovations as parties compete to surpass each other in service delivery, it can also lead to a divisive focus on partisan interests over national advancement. This study gives a deep insight to the extent to which inter Party rivalry in Nigeria impacts national development, and a nuanced comprehension of the power interplay between political conflict, governance, and socio-economic development.

## **1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM.**

A party system is critically essential for the mobilization of various humanly, and natural potentials for the purpose of nation building. However, Nigeria, despite its

enormous resources has suffered significant setbacks in its economic growth, security, and political stability.

The normal tradition that upholds a democratic system, constituted by diverse political parties has been characterized by conflict, competition, and political tensions in their relations. Since the inception of the present democratic system in Nigeria, series of Inter Party conflicts has been recorded. Examples of which include among others; the series of conflicts between PDP, and LP in ondo state, between ACN, and PDP in Oyo state, and between PDP, and ACN in Ogun state; These political parties attempted to manipulatively control state power by introducing chaos, thuggery, and god-fatherism into politics.( Adebayo, 2016 p:244). The 2023 General elections also saw daylight of many Inter party conflicts, propounded by the need to reinstate the believed choice of voter's selectiveness amongst the Eighteen candidates vying for the presidency, and at least 4,233 candidates running for the 469 seats in the National assembly. This period of political struggle witnessed the highest form of Public participation, particularly amongst the youth, hereby fueling the natural act of political competition between multiple political parties, whose primary aim was to seize not only state power, but also to canvass for, and win public trust.

This research study aims to analyze inter party conflicts, and its consequential impacts on democratic consolidations, and national development in Nigeria, majorly using case studies of the fourth republic's political parties.

Furthermore, the reoccurring resort to divisive political tactics, as well as mobilizing strategies that fuels ethnic, and religious sentiments has postulated a crucial insight into understanding the impact of Inter party rivalry on national development, and also the need to mitigate these negative effects to promote an effectively developed, and cohesive society.

### **1.3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS.**

The study aims to answer the following research questions;

1. How does Inter Party rivalry influence political stability in Nigeria?
2. What are the causes of inter party Rivalry between, and among political parties?
3. To what extent does Inter Party rivalry affect policy formation, and implementation in Nigeria?
4. What concise solutions can be propounded to create an efficient balance between Nigeria's party system, and Democratic consolidations to curb the inefficiencies of Inter-party rivalry?
5. How can the socio-economic consequences of inter party Rivalry on nation building be adequately assessed?

### **1.4. RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS.**

To ensure that the research study would be conducted without lapses, the researcher created the following research hypotheses;

HO ( Null Hypothesis): There is no significant relationship between Inter party Rivalry, and the stunted National Development of a state.

H1 (Alternate Hypothesis): Inter party Rivalry significantly thwarts the growth of a nation state by accentuating political instability, poor policy formation, and delivery, as well as a decreased public trust in government.

### **1.5. AIM, AND OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY.**

The main objective of this research is to detailedly examine the Impact of Inter party conflicts on National Development. Analyzing ways these negative, and positive

effects either propel or challenge the growth of Nigeria's forth republic. The specific objectives include the following:

1. To examine how Inter party Rivalry influence political stability in Nigeria.
2. To analyze the underline causes of Inter Party rivalry in Nigeria.
3. To evaluate diverse ways Inter-party Rivalry influence political stability, governance, and the adequate functioning of democratic institutions in Nigeria.
4. To provide significant, and concise solutions, aimed towards curbing the inefficiencies of Inter-party among Nigerian political parties.
5. To assess the socio economic consequences of Political rivalry, including it's impact on nation building, with indicators such as Health, education, and infrastructure.

#### **1.6. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY.**

This research study holds major relevance to the full comprehension of the Nigerian party system, as well as it's contributions, and decadence to the country's socio-economic building. It's significance lies in the potential to also accentuate the existing literary knowledge on Inter-party relations phenomenon in Nigeria. By focusing on the effects of Inter-party rivalry, this study aims to provide valuable insights on the intricate relationship between political competition, and national development, acting as a blue print for Policymakers, political parties, and other stakeholders in Nigerian politics to help provide a productive foundation for further research on the impacts of Inter-party relations in emerging democracies.

The research work would also resourcefully orient members of the community to fully comprehend the consequences, and the needs to have a conflict free environment.

### **1.7. SCOPE/LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY.**

This research study tilted Inter party relations, and its impact on National Development would span through the challenges of the Nigerian's fourth republic, covering the period of 1999 to date. The research study would analyze aforementioned events, studying the strategized behavior of major political parties such as APC, and PDP, inclusively smaller parties, in relation to governance, and national development.

The scope would be limited to the power dynamics at the federal level, although the study findings might serve as an implication for both state, and Local government governance.

### **1.9. STRUCTURE OF THE STUDY.**

The research study is structured as follows:

Chapter one: encompasses an introduction to the study, including the background of the study, statement of the problem, research questions, research hypothesis, aim, and objectives, significance, scope, and structure of the study.

Chapter Two: Literature review structuring a detailed examination on the existing research on Inter party rivalry, national development, and the Nigerian political system.

Chapter Three: This chapter underlines Methodology, outlining the research design, data collection techniques, and theoretical framework.

Chapter Four: Presentation, and Data analysis, where the findings of the study will be adequately analyzed in relation to the research questions, and objectives.

Chapter Five: Discussion, and conclusion, summarizing the key findings, discussing their implications, and providing detailed recommendations for curbing the threats posed by Inter party conflicts in Nigeria's development.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1. INTRODUCTION.**

This chapter reviews existing literature on Inter-party rivalry, and its impact on national development, particularly within the Nigerian context. Existing literatures on Inter party rivalry, and its impact on national development are no doubt very rich, and detailed in its conceptualization, however its effects have been, and would continuously be a major topic of discussion, unless a long lasting solution is proffered, and implemented.

This chapter analyzes conceptual, theoretical, and existing empirical studies to lay a foundational framework that critically appraises the literature to identify gaps that the current study seeks to fill.

#### **2.2. THE CONCEPT OF POLITICAL PARTIES.**

All over the world, political parties are seen as an impeccable requirement to a healthy, and thriving democracy-without them, the conveyance of representation, accountability, and policy formulation would be driven to an end.

Frank Sorauf defined political parties as machineries that connect citizens to their government, ensuring political representation, and inclusion. This concept is widely defined by classical political scholars (Richard s. Katz & Peter Mair 1994, Mick Moran 2001, Hans Daalder 1992, W.N Chambers 1975, Schumpeter 1950, Schattschneider 1942,) as a subdivision of an entire society: a fraction of the state made up of individuals with the same goals, and ideology who compete to seize state

power in an autonomous bid to aggregate their interest at national, and international levels.

These views particularly summarize the whole concept of a party system because in any democracy, political parties are perceived as a group of ideologically oriented men who aim to capture political power through legitimate democratic elections in order to authoritatively pursue their interest, and goals in the society. ( Kapur 2009, Johari 2011, and Appadorai 2004.)

In a democratic state, Political parties necessitate representation, recruitment, training of leaders, and opposition, bringing together diverse interests that provide an alternate choice, and social services to the society at large.

Nigeria has witnessed the evolution of party systems since the inception of its independence in 1960. These party systems shaped by ethno-religious tensions, diversities, colonial legacies, and Military interventions in governance were presented as an epitome of social mobilization, and integration, transiting through multiple historical phases, from the colonial era to the current Republic.

Political parties in Nigeria could be traced back to the early 1920s, with political institutions, such as the Nigerian National Democratic parties (NNDP), headed by Herbert Macaulay, and later, parties like the National council of Nigeria, and the Cameroons, (NCNC), the Northern People's Congress (NPC), and the Action group. These political parties were actively characterized by ethno-regional analysis, one trend that is still attributed to the activities of Nigerian politics today.

It is unfortunately observed that democratic institutions in Nigeria are fragile. Coupled with defects from ethnical conflicts, and electoral malpractices, the breakdown of civil governance, and interference from series of military coup amassed weak ideological foundations for the proper implementation of a party system.

The Nigerian 1999 democracy introduced a multi party system with the People's Democratic Party (PDP) ruling until 2015, when the All Progressive Congress ( APC) emerged as the new ruling party. Amongst all these, other parties such as the Labour Party ( LP), Action Democratic Party ( ADP), and smaller regional platforms have continued on the sidelines, despite being significantly unable to maximize national reach.

This research study will add more momentum to the existing literary views that classify political parties, and also its negative impact that has led to weak institutionalization, and disintegration. ( Omodia, 2010).

### **2.3. CONCEPT OF CONFLICT.**

Conflict, as a concept is a relevant aspect of life. Besides the political structure, conflict theory can also be traced down to our everyday lives-socially, and economically inclusively.

In every society, conflict is inevitable. In basic sense, this can be explained through the economical means of production, and distribution. Human resources that are necessary for survival are scarce. Survival is paramount, and the struggle to obtain these limited resources consequentially lead to a disruption or disagreement between individuals or groups with diverse, and conflicting interest or goals. It is an inherent part of human interaction. It can be seen at various levels, and every aspect of life, ranging from personal disagreement to war or international disputes.

Conflict theory, propounded by Karl Max, and later developed by C. Wright Mills and others defines a society by its level of class struggles, and competitive pursuit of limited human, and natural resources. Conflicts may posit as an intended struggle over an interest by individuals , groups, communities, political, and social entities or states.

It can be exhibited in different forms, some which may violently inflict pain on both conflicted parties, or some which may act as spill overs to people who are not directly involved. (Momodu & Matodi, 2013 p:3). Wolff (2006:2) sees conflict as a process where two or more people pursue different, incompatible goals, that could either negatively impact something one party care about. This foregoing could mean that in every state of unrest, one means of achieving a goal is undermined, and threatened.

These potentials can also be attributed to the Nigerian political context. Nigeria, being a diverse society is mostly disintegrated. These divisions are majorly highlighted as linguistic, ethnic, religious, cultural, and regional in nature; which are often times promoted in their natural forms to attain specific goals. ( Abbas, 2013). Although conflicts are not categorical, it can be observed that all conflict in Nigeria are of the same nature, hence leading to a form of political competition that has defined a major aspect of Nigeria's politics over the years. Political parties are regarded as machineries utilized by aristocrats, and elites to seize state resources, and sustain their dominance.

In Nigeria, Parties amount for a reasonable part of it's democratic government, constituting a substructure for active representation, and inclusion. Unfortunately, these political parties are characterized by rivalry in their relations. For example, the collision between PDP, and APC, in Edo state, during the 2020 Edo state gubernatorial election involving Adams Oshiomohole, and the then Governor of Edo state, Godwin Obaseki over the control of state powers. (Akinwale, 2021; Vanguard, 2020). A myriad number of inter party conflicts in many states during Nigeria's 2019 General elections led to the elections being declared inconclusive. Sokoto, Rivers, Plateau, Bauchi, Benue were particularly assaulted by electoral violence during the March 9 gubernatorial elections. This consequentially led to the cancellation of electoral results in places where elections were thrown into disorder by the

Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). A supplementary election was however held. (Human Rights Watch, 2019). This theory analyzes how Inter party rivalry becomes an instrument for elite consolidation, disenfranchising citizens, and retarding development. ( Jinadu, 2011).

## **2.4 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: INDICATORS AND DIMENSIONS.**

National Development is referred to as a comprehensive, and multifaceted process by which a country embodies it's federal responsibilities. It is regarded as the improvement of the quality way of life of a nation's citizens, strengthening not only it's political, economic, and social paradigms but it's institutional systems as well. National development is more than trifling economic growth, it encompasses the growth of the educational sector, standard healthcare, infrastructure, equity, good governance, and the protection of human rights. This concept can be said to be both a process, and an objective, attained through intentional endeavors by governments, civil society, and private sectors.

National development has its key indicators, and dimensions. They aid it's conceptualization, also emphasizing ways these factors propel or mitigate a nation's political, economic, and social growth. The following include key dimensions of National development.

### **1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.**

This is the process of advancing the economic welfare, and standard way of life of a country, nation or region. Economic encompasses increasing the means of production, and distribution of goods, and services across the globe, generating jobs, particularly for Youths, and improving the quality way of life.

Economic development is the most observable in a country's system, and it is often times an emphasized indicator of national development. It includes:

1. Growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
2. Improved agricultural, and industrial production.
3. Economic diversification.
4. Increased income levels, and generation of job.
5. Poverty reduction, and economic variability.

National development critically necessitate economic development because it aids the investment of necessary resources in other subdivisions such as health, and education.

## **2. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT.**

Politics make up for a necessary part of a nation's government. It focuses on strengthening its existing democratic institutions, with the aim of eradicating its corruptible vices. Political development also foster the promotion of rule of law, and justice, whilst ensuring political representation, and stability. The enhancement of citizen participation in governance is also credited to the essentials of political development in a Nation's all round growth, encouraging effective policy implementation, and economic investment.

## **3. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

In any country, social development is simply the enhancement of its societal welfare through targeted actions. It processes human life, and its diverse aspects such as physical well-being, mental well-being, Moral well-being, Material well-being, civil inclusion, as well as the improvement of educational skills, and community building which can be achieved through:

1. Global access to standard, and quality education.
2. Gender equity, and civil inclusion.
3. Improved healthcare.
4. Access to basic amenities like electricity, clean water, and sanitation.

Social development focuses on creating a just, and equal environment where thriving is emancipated, encouraging social change, and the amassment of individual full potential.

#### **4. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT.**

The presence of transparent, and accountable institutions is also very paramount to National development. It depends on:

1. Effective policy implementation, and service delivery.
2. Regulatory frameworks that strongly put in place measures that hinder corruption.
3. Public government institutions that are accountable, and transparent in their relations.

The presence of fragile institutions act as a stumbling block to development, encouraging mismanagement, and immunity.

#### **5. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.**

For a society to achieve long lasting development, it must also be environmentally responsible, showing sustainability whilst managing the natural resources of the state, controlling pollution, and waste management, and also alleviating climate change, and disaster resilience. Development plans in environmental health cannot be disregarded as it leads to irrevocable damage, and socio-economic loss.

#### **B. INDICATORS OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.**

National development can also be measured through qualitative, and quantitative methods propounded by scholars, and institutional frameworks. Necessitated by most inclusive cases, it goes beyond the mere improvement of a country's GDP, the increase in infrastructural advancement, or the life expectancy of its demographic accumulation but is rather seen as a metric used to gauge a country's comprehensive progression towards sustainability, effective governance, and the inclusive welfare of its society.

Onah (2023) presents development as an all round process whereby development is socio-economic, and politically structured to stimulate national orientation, and human dignity.

Unfortunately, the concurrent reality of Nigeria's trajectory towards national development is destructively influenced by the nature of Inter party conflicts. A concept that should ideally propel healthy, and constructive competition amongst leaders who should be democratically accountable has rather become an intricate force that undermines institutional growth, consequentially distorting development indicators.

## **1. ECONOMIC INDICATORS.**

### **A. GDP ( Gross Domestic Product ):**

Gross Domestic Product ( GDP ) is a powerful, universal tool used to measure the overall health, and economic dispensation of a nation. It exist as a fiscal measurement of the total market value of all the goods, and services produced within a country's borders at a specific time, often times, within a year. It relevantly presents a macrofinance snapshot of a country's economic system, analyzing the rise, and fall of this domestic product that either elevate a country's production capacity, or diminish the overall standard of living in a state.

A rising GDP usually reflects:

1. Improved employment rates.
2. Expansion of infrastructural activities, and services.
3. Increased industrial output.
4. Better income levels.
5. Increased Consumer Demand, as well as market supply.

Inclusively, GDP act as an insight for Governments to inform economic policies through Data analysis, and also track economic growth or decline. Decision making about spending, budgeting, and taxation is also regulated by the value of goods, and services purchased by an end user, not interposed goods used during the production process.

GDP can be measured through the following ways.

1. Nominal GDP:

The calculation of a country's input and output using current market prices.

2. Real GDP:

Real Gross Domestic Product assimilate inflation, providing a precise picture of economic advancement long term.

3. GDP per Capita:

This indicates the overall value of goods, and services integrated within a country's economic borders, divided by its population, symptomatic of the average economic output per individual. Recent GDP per Capita figures shows the 1.46% increase in Global GDP per Capita from 2022 to 2023, generating a total of \$6,094 per person. In 2022, the global GDP per Capita was \$6,006 with a 4.8% increase from 2021.

In essence, GDP is a powerful lense used to analyze the overall production prowess of any state, and it's relevance is key in propounding National development, as well as encouraging the required economic growth needed for sustainable development.

**B. GROSS NATIONAL INCOME ( GNI ) PER CAPITA:**

Gross National Income per Capita estimates the total input, and output of a country's residents, inclusively the income generated from citizens abroad.

**C. FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT:**

This encompasses the total amount of investment made by a company or an individual from a business organization to another, majorly in different countries. It significantly demands a level of influence over the administration of the foreign organization. Foreign direct investment could run through as a greenfield investment, a brownfield investment, joint ventures, and even mergers and acquisitions. It is consequentially beneficial to a country's economic growth, global competition, creating an unlimited access to new markets, and technology advancement.

**D. INFLATION:**

Inflation quantify the rate at which prices for goods and services are necessitated for general consumption rise.

**E. TRADE BALANCE:**

This refers to the dissimilarity between a nation's ability to either export or import goods.

**2. SOCIAL INDICATORS.**

**A. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX (HDI):**

Human development index (HDI) is regarded as a complex indicator used to determine a country's overall procurement in developing their Human potentials. It evaluates three key dimensions such as:

### 1. Life expectancy, and Health:

Human development index estimates the life expectancy of an individual at birth, assessing key factors like Health, and psychological needs that reflects the person's ability to live a long, and healthy life.

### 2. Knowledge:

Knowledge is measured through humanistic access to quality education, evaluating the ability of a person to gain knowledge through years of schooling, and cognitive development.

### 3. Decent standard of living:

Determined by Gross National Income per Capita, estimating a country's economic well being, as well the ability of an individual to meet their basic needs.

## **B. INFANT MORTALITY RATE:**

This critically indicates the number of infants under one year who die statistically per 1000 live births in a specific year.

## **C. POVERTY RATE.**

The poverty rate in any country is a pressing challenge that is concerned with a significant percentage of its population surviving below a certain income or consumption level. In Nigeria, a notable amount of it's population live below the estimated level of income required for survival, and unfortunately, most average Nigerian citizens can be considered multidimensionally poor.

This stunts the country's economic well being as it's human capitals are not adequately, and financially equipped to meet basic needs, hence projecting insufficiencies, and deprivations in areas like healthcare, Education, affordable energy, and sanitation.

## **D. HEALTH EXPENDITURE PER CAPITA:**

Every country owes a crucial aspect of its development to its healthcare system. Good healthcare services prompts productivity, enhance quality of life, consequentially, promoting the well-being of a state. Health Expenditure per Capita calculates the amount of money a country spends on healthcare per person.

Although, they are not all comprehensive, these key indicators help in providing an extensive structure for evaluating national development, and addressing areas that need improvement. By thoroughly analyzing these key factors, governments, as well as international organizations can identify loopholes, access progress, and implement effective policies that set sustainable, and inclusive development in motion.

## **2.5.INTER PARTY CONFLICTS IN NIGERIA.**

Inter party conflicts is a salient, and essential trademark of multi party politics. It encompasses the competition, hostility, and periodical confrontation between political parties as they contest for political authority, electoral supremacy, and control over public leadership ( Adebayo, 2022). Although, such competitiveness in any democracy cannot be avoided, the nature, as well as the severity, this rivalry exhibit is often times dependent on its socio-political setting. For example, Nigeria is home to a very frail, and delicate democracy. This assumes a distinct situation whereby the ideal intention for political bidding now degenerates from being constructively aimed at optimizing governance to disruptive forms of racial politics, political aggression, policy vandalism, and zero positive impacts of power struggles ( Okonkwo & Ibrahim, 2023).

These shortcomings being powered by the lack of concise ideologies, self interests, ethnic alliances, and inclusively, access to state resources act as a premeditated

manifestation of Nigeria's attainment of political autonomy (Adebayo, 2016). Highlighting the social disparities in religion, ethnicity and region in Nigeria, the dynamics between political parties is significantly contingent on the nature of the relationship between the segmental groups they embody.

This apparently justifies the claim that political structures, and responsibilities often times follow through pre-existing consequences that consistently influence the quality, composition, and function of political parties (Aleyomi, 2014). It is evidently etched in how the political trajectory is dominated by primordial affiliations like the Arewa Consultative Forum, the Afenifere, the clique of top retired military brass, the Southern Leaders Forum amongst others as each interest group express its own plan for the state. Deprived of any crucial ideological differences, Tyoden (2013), and Aristotle (2013) as credited in Abbas (2015) states that the contrasting personal ambitions of party leadership is mostly inherent in the anarchy of self-centered interests, and sectional cleavages that reflects the core of party formations.

For example, Edo state has witnessed focal strife for dominance majorly between two primary parties, the PDP, and APC, arguably attributed to the fact both factions were influentially inclined to have existed before others. Following the reintroduction of democracy in 1999, and PDP exerting more political control from the early days of the state's political affairs, the party's core was shaken by strong criticism for being overly corrupt, wasteful, and instituting Infrastructural rot, hence the emerging need for a system of opposition which at the beginning was relatively weak, and fragmented.

The Introduction of Adams Oshiomohole's administration at his win in the 2007 Gubernatorial election did not only create this reality of political opposition but it also gave way to the rise of a significant era of aggressive politics in Edo state.

Oshiomohole's charisma, industry, background, and progressive agenda made him loved by the people. His reenactment as a governor in the 2012 Edo state governorship election as a party candidate of the Action Congress of Nigeria ascertained that PDP's dominance could be broken. Under Oshiomohole, political opposition become integrated, and his political party grew from being a provincial force to a feasible state, and national influence.

The period also brought about an interest centered rivalry, as Edo state politics advanced from the political centrism of strong men, to being actively realigned towards godfatherism. With the establishment of the All Progressive Congress (APC), Oshiomohole became a National powerhouse. He swore in Godwin Obaseki, his economic adviser, as APC's gubernatorial aspirant, who in turn won the Election in 2016.

However, the souring of this relationship in 2019 prompted by Obaseki's sought out Independence from Oshiomohole's political control as well as his defect to a rival party, PDP, highlighted the political irony of failed, and flipped loyalties whereby such fallouts lead to an orchestrated ploy to destabilize not only a rival's political ambition but also cause Factionalism within the state. It also signifies the selfish, pragmatic, and personality-driven nature in Edo state which brings about consequences that take forms of:

1. Legislative emergencies: The Edo state House of Assembly become a war zone for party authority. The Numerous empty seats due to political, and legal conflicts abates the legislature's efficiency, as well as restricts it's checks, and balances.

2. Policy disruptions: The switch from party Rivalry to executive administration polarized developmental projects. Policies, and projects implemented by one government would be delayed, redesigned, or abandoned by the next.

3. Exploitation of Federal powers: The misuse of Federal systems by APC in Edo state has also led to claims of state powers being used to thwart rival parties, particularly during Elections.

This godfatherism, a worrisome concept found in most political system stems from the complicated belief of political parties to assume that absolute state control belongs to the political parties that occupy the system, hence leading to a desperate power tussle that ultimately involves the illegitimate use of violent means. Such violation causes setbacks that are detrimental to national development, and also to a democracy for what it truly signifies-a constructive competition that fuels innovation, and also serves as an advantage to society.

## **2.6.THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK.**

Theories provide structures, and comprehension to any research analysis. Several methods of analysing any scholarly enquiry are essential in order to ensure an organized, and objective analysis. They include among others, Elite theory, Conflict theory, Group theory, etc. For the purpose of this study, Elite theory will be adopted.

## **2.7. ELITE THEORY.**

Elite theory, as a concept has spanned through centuries, tracing its roots to the early 20th century where philosophical thinkers like Gaetano Mosca, Vilfredo Pareto, and C. Wright Mills had collectively coined out its nature to be one that is more about the dominance of elites repeatedly within a political system-without essentially changing the system.

Mosca (1939) noted that in every society, " A class always rules repeatedly over another". This class in power often times are not always seen or elected, but it controls the agenda, choose the leaders, and put in place institutions that shapes the society.

This is not alien to modern democracies as a close-knit group of politicians, military heads, and business executives control significant organizations whilst also influencing their interests, ideas and values on the public.

One of the oldest, and most resilient substructure in political science is Elite theory, and it is structured positively. This is because Elite theory uncovers one of the most disturbing reality about governance: that democracy, in all it's charisma, often demonstrates oligarchy-concealing an unseen amount of power in the hands of a few where leadership is represented by a handful of elites. Essentially, Elite theory claims that a small, opportune minority-regardless of whether it is political, economic, or ideological-control unequal command of the decisions that affects the lives of the majority ( Mosca, 1939; Pareto, 1916).

This theory is significant to this thesis because in the Nigerian context, particularly in Edo state, it exposes the hidden orchestration of political conflicts, where these tussle between parties like the APC, and PDP often conceal elite power struggles, ego conflicts, and the quest for self interests at the expense of public good.

Edo state has experienced the characteristics of Elitism, filtering its disguise of democracy at a surface level, and revealing the adaptation of aristocracy by political parties, where the competition is less about ideology, and more about dominance.

For example, the Obaseki, and Oshiomohole saga transcended beyond fracturing the APC, it also affected the entire political system of Edo state-obviously signifying Obaseki's rebellion as a fragment of elite realignment. Without any doubt, Political

allegiance in Edo state is unfortunately seen as a strategic attempt to protect one's ambition.

Rivalry between political parties in this context becomes an indirect war within elite groups, and not always between opposing strategic goals. They rally around, mobilizing the people with branded souvenirs, Campaign promises, and nationalist sentiments but critically suppress the things that are self beneficial; contracts, access to resources, and tactical appointments.

This gives light to why projects started by one government are many times discarded by an emerging opposing administration. Elite conflicts are developmentally antagonist in nature, leading to a societal defect where the masses are collateral damage in a long lasting power play.

## **2.8. CRITICISMS OF ELITE THEORY.**

While Elite theory significantly provides practical analysis towards an existing framework, it is still subject to various criticisms. A few of this criticism has been identified by Woleola (2017), and they include:

Firstly, it is almost impossible for the Elites to hold power, and dominate the entire field of political activity. It is wrong belief to assume that the elite can actively be in charge of every political, economic, and social engagement. They may significantly impact one sector but cannot impact all regional sectors. To illustrate this claim, Dahl argues that the resourcefully privileged of the society cannot be dominant in the educational field of the society. To Dahl, there is a clear distinction between economic elite, social elite, and political officials.

Secondly, Affluence, and positions of power are not proportionally equal. Wealthy persons may not have the intellectual capacity to rule a state as most political leaders

have been proven to hold power with shady, cynic, and sneaky strategies that often times aid leadership. As against the elite misconceptions, it can be registered that the most powerful man in a state may not be the wealthiest or most affluent. For example, in communist societies, wealth and democracy are two divergent concepts. Although, the latter play significant roles in elections, the backseats are reserved for the wealthy, most especially in governance as this economically privileged elites are left to function as policy supporters, financial aides, and godfathers without directly taking up the mantle of leadership.

Thirdly, Elite theory is overgeneralized. It downplays the strength of unified effort, and community led initiatives. Particularly in Edo state, societal groups like the church, social media, and youth platforms have risen against elite authority, challenging the pillars, and structures that not only hoard power but selfishly prioritize the interest of these elites over the growth, and development of the public. Finally, not all elites are perceived to be opportunistic. Some of these privileged aristocrats go the thousand miles to ensure that the good of the public are being achieved. Contradicting this theory that paint all elites with a single brush, some elites like the technocratic leaders or reformist politicians actively put into useful use the resources at their disposal not only to implement public intentioned policies but also fight to eradicate these challenges that fault the system, and corrupt structures that were originally put in place to serve the public.

## **2.9. RELEVANCE OF ELITE THEORY TO THE STUDY.**

Elite theory own several weaknesses that has been adequately highlighted. Nevertheless, this theory can also be judiciously applied to the subject analysis of the Nigerian political system.

1. Elite theory helps the easy conceptualization of the Nigerian political system, aiding better understanding of structures, concepts, and power exercise in Nigeria. It gives a compelling account for why a privileged set of people are placed above others, and how this certain kind of discrimination affects the Nigerian political arena over time.

2. Elite theory leaves behind a blueprint that helps with clarity. It illuminates specific concepts surrounding politics such as the intentional reselection of leaders, regime extension or permanence. This gives a concise explanation as to why most leaders are intoxicated with power. Unwilling to give up their achieved authority, they fight for longevity in governance which in turn lead to conflicts.

3. The theory also explains why development efforts do not always harmonize with public interest. More often, Policy schemes, and government initiatives are designed to suit the elites—either through direct means like contract awards, and appointments or indirectly through political endorsement. Consequentially, educational, infrastructural, and healthcare spheres are abandoned while these Elites accumulate more wealth, and Affluence at their detriment.

## **2.10.EMPIRICAL REVIEW.**

Multiple empirical studies have examined the entire dispensation of Inter party Rivalry, and national development but very few have explored this phenomenon through the perspective of Edo state's political, and developmental Nexus. Edo state is uniquely experienced due to its long known history of aggressive democratic

competition, intermittent party control, and tactical economic significance in Nigeria's South-South geopolitical zone.

### **1. ELECTORAL RIVALRY AND POLICY FRAGMENTATION.**

Adebayo & Ibeh (2019) , and Okonjo (2020) highlight that shifts in governing administration—significantly between the People's Democratic Party (PDP), and the All Progressives Congress (APC)—have often led to policy fragmentation. Projects started by a foregoing government are many times discarded or rebranded, resulting to resource wastage, and delayed developmental growth. For example, Benin's city road network have been plagued with delays during shifts between rival party administration.

### **2. POLITICAL CONFLICTS AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION.**

Igbinedion & Osagie (2018) discovered that Edo state's intense Inter-party conflicts often times deter voter participation as a result of the fear of being violated or attacked. Most especially in unstable constituencies like Esan West, Oredo, and Etsako. This watered down political engagement can undermine democratic authenticity, and indirectly weaken developmental sensitivity.

### **3. PUBLIC SECTOR MOTIVATION AND STRUCTURAL TRUST.**

Inter party conflicts also erodes public sector motivation as well as the Public trust in governance. Hassan and Agboola (2019) highlighted that most civil servants in states with massive political engagement were severely demotivated due to recurring governmental changes, and policy reversals. Olayiwola et al. (2021) reported that citizens in politically volatile states expressed notable lower trust in bureaucratic

institutions. This explains why there was a high deter in civic engagement in community initiated development projects.

#### **4. ECONOMIC GROWTH IMPLICATIONS.**

According to Osamwonyi (2022), Edo's prestige as a core for manufacturing, agriculture, and cultural tourism makes it extremely vulnerable to political chaos. Habitual party clashes can weaken External, and internal investment—especially in tourism where perceptions of instability can dissuade patrons from renowned sites such as the Benin Moat.

#### **5. POSITIVE CASES OF HEALTHY CONFLICTS.**

In contrast to the multiple literature focusing on the negative aspects of Inter-party rivalry, Agbonlahor (2023) highlights cases where rivalry has encouraged performance. For instance, in the 2020 gubernatorial election, the current administration's urgency to showcase developmental progress resulted to the fast completion of major infrastructural projects, including power supply in rural LGAs.

#### **2.11 GAPS IN EMPIRICAL REVIEW.**

While existing empirical analysis offer useful insights into the Nexus between Inter-party rivalry, and national development in Nigeria, several gaps can be found in the literature.

##### **1. INSUFFICIENT LONG-TERM DATA ON DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS.**

Most studies analyze exclusive electoral patterns or transitions but do not examine long term impacts of conflicts on the state's GDP involvement, infrastructural shares or standard education.

## **2. UNDER EXPLORATION OF SPECIFIC SECTORS.**

Although well detailed, and descriptive evidence exists for fields like infrastructure, the impact of Inter party Rivalry is not adequately researched on other areas like Agricultural performance, healthcare system, and industrial development.

## **3. FINANCIER CONFIDENCE STUDIES ARE FEW.**

Very limited works evaluate the Investment declines or tourism revenue losses as a result of political instability in the state.

## **4. SPARSE EXPLORATION OF HEALTHY RIVALRY.**

Healthy competition that propels innovation amongst governmental institutions are under accounted for. Unfortunately, most literatures are skewed towards the negative outcomes.

## **2.8. SUMMARY OF LITERATURE REVIEW.**

While several studies quantify inter party Rivalry in Nigeria—particularly in Edo state has both performance enhancing, and obstructive, the literature are still very limiting in scope. Majority of these written works neglect political occurrences without accounting for long term developmental consequences across several administrations. Moreover, the progressive dimensions of rivalry—where competition propels innovation in governance remain inadequately explored. This

study therefore offers a comprehensive analysis of how rivalry impacts not only economic, but institutional and social growth trajectories in Edo state.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.**

This chapter highlights the methodologies, and procedures the researcher would use to organize the study. The selected Approach is gotten from the earlier structured out research questions, problem statement, and research objectives. The various research tools may include:

- **Research Design.**
- **Population of the study.**
- **Sample, and sampling Technique**
- **Research instruments**
- **Validity of the Instrument of study.**
- **Reliability of the Instrument of study**
- **Method of Data collection.**
- **Method of Data analysis.**

#### **3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN.**

This study will adopt a descriptive survey research design. This design is applicable because it allows the researcher consistently obtain accurate information, perceptions, and views from a cross section of participants in Edo state, Egor local government. It is significantly appropriate for studying the causes, consequences, and characteristics of Inter party Rivalry, as well as its perceived influence on National development.

#### **3.2 POPULATION OF THE STUDY.**

The goal population encompasses certain individuals, and groups involved in political operations in Egor L.G.A, Edo state. This may include civil servants, particularly

those involved in ministries liable for developmental projects, as well as residents who have witnessed the aftermath of Inter-party rivalry on growth initiatives.

### **3.3 SAMPLE SIZE AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUE.**

A total sample of 150 respondents will be utilized to ensure adequate representation, and proper inclusion of all perspectives. Simple random sampling will be adopted to ensure the selected members all have an equal chance of participation.

### **3.4 RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS.**

The research in this study will employ the use of structured Questionnaires as the primary research instruments—outlined with both open ended, and close ended questions to adequately represent qualitative, and quantitative data on diverse perceptions of Inter-party rivalry, and its impact on national development.

### **3.5 VALIDITY OF THE STUDY.**

The validity of the research instruments will be ascertained through expert review. Draft copies of the questionnaire would be validated from both the research supervisor, and two lecturers in the Department of political science. These individuals with expertise in research methodology, and Nigerian politics will carefully examine the questionnaire copies, evaluating factors such as the use of appropriate language, study acceptability, and research significance, all while still maintaining the research purpose in mind. Their suggestions, and corrections would enhance quality, clarity, and relevance.

### **3.6. RELIABILITY OF RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS.**

Reliability would be ensured through a pilot study involving 10 respondents from a neighbouring local government area within Edo state, not included in the main research study—to evaluate their response consistency. Adjustments will be ensured where inconsistencies are detected.

### **3.7. METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION.**

To enhance response rate, and see to it that all respondents have the opportunity to be given, and comprehensively complete the Questionnaire, the researcher will personally distribute the survey. This ensures that all significant area of the study are efficiently accounted for.

### **3.8. METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS.**

The Data will go through analysis through the approach of descriptive statistical tools. Every finding will be shown using frequencies, charts, and percentages for easy comprehension.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, AND INTERPRETATION**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents the analysis of data collected for the study titled “Interparty Rivalry and Its Impact on National Development in Nigeria: A Case Study of APC and PDP in Egor LGA, Edo State.” The analysis is structured to address the research objectives and questions outlined in Chapter One.

The chapter begins with the presentation and analysis of the demographic characteristics of the respondents. This is followed by a descriptive analysis of the key research variables—interparty rivalry (independent variable) and national development (dependent variable). Subsequently, the formulated hypotheses are tested to determine the relationship between interparty rivalry and national development within the study area.

A total of 150 questionnaires were distributed to respondents comprising political party members, civil servants, and residents in Egor Local Government Area of Edo State. All distributed questionnaires were duly completed and retrieved, representing a 100% response rate. The data obtained from these respondents were analyzed and interpreted in this chapter, and the discussion of the major findings concludes the chapter.

#### **4.2 Demographics of Respondents**

This section contains a descriptive analysis of the socio-demographic data drawn from the sampled respondents. The socio-demographic variables include the institution of the respondent, gender, age, educational qualification.

### 4.3 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

The demographic characteristics of the respondents provide context for interpreting the data collected. This section presents the gender distribution of the 150 respondents who participated in the study.

**Table 4.3.1: Analysis of Gender of the Respondents**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	95	63.3%
Female	55	36.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** Fieldwork Survey, 2025

The result in Table 4.3.1 shows that out of the 150 respondents surveyed, 95 (63.3%) were male, while 55 (36.7%) were female. This indicates that the majority of the respondents were male. The gender distribution suggests that political activities and participation in Egor Local Government Area of Edo State are dominated by men, reflecting a common trend in Nigerian politics where male involvement tends to outweigh female participation. However, the presence of 36.7% female respondents also shows that women are increasingly active and aware of political processes, including issues surrounding interparty rivalry and national development.

**Table 4.3.2: Analysis of Age Distribution of the Respondents**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
18–24 years	9	6.0%
25–34 years	69	46.0%
35–44 years	69	46.0%
45 years and above	3	2.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** Fieldwork Survey, 2025

The data in Table 4.3.2 reveals that the majority of respondents fall within the 25–34 years (46%) and 35–44 years (46%) age categories. This shows that most participants are within the productive and politically active age group, which implies that the study captured the views of individuals who are likely to be directly involved in or affected by political activities in Egor Local Government Area. Only 6% of respondents were between 18–24 years, indicating relatively low participation among younger adults, while 2% were aged 45 years and above, showing minimal involvement of older citizens in the study. This distribution suggests that interparty rivalry and political engagement in Egor LGA are largely driven by individuals in their mid-20s to mid-40s, who form the core of Nigeria’s active political population.

**Table 4.3: Analysis of Educational Qualifications of Respondents**

<b>Educational Qualification</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
SSCE	0	0.0%
B.Sc./HND	135	90.0%
Masters	15	10.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** Fieldwork Survey, 2025

The data presented in Table 4.3.3 shows that a majority of the respondents, 135 (90%), possess a B.Sc. or HND qualification, while 15 respondents (10%) hold a Master's degree. None of the respondents reported having only a secondary school qualification (SSCE). This indicates that the respondents are generally well-educated and capable of providing informed opinions on political issues such as interparty rivalry and its impact on national development. The high level of educational attainment among participants enhances the reliability of the responses, as educated individuals are more likely to understand and evaluate the dynamics of political competition and governance in Nigeria.

**Table 4.4.1: Respondents' Opinions on the Influence of Interparty Rivalry on Political Stability in Nigeria**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Statement</b>	<b>SA (%)</b>	<b>A (%)</b>	<b>N (%)</b>	<b>D (%)</b>	<b>SD (%)</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Remark</b>
1	Interparty rivalry often	78	48	18	6	0	4.32	High

S/N	Statement	SA (%)	A (%)	N (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	Remark
	leads to political tension and unrest in Nigeria.	52%	32%	12%	4%	0%		
2	Rivalries between APC and PDP have resulted in election-related violence in Egor LGA.	60 (40%)	48 (32%)	36 (24%)	3 (2%)	3 (2%)	4.05	High
3	Political instability in Nigeria is linked to unhealthy competition among political parties.	83 (55%)	54 (36%)	6 (4%)	2 (1%)	5 (4%)	4.39	High
4	Interparty rivalry weakens public trust in the political system.	78 (52%)	39 (26%)	30 (20%)	3 (2%)	0 (0%)	4.26	High
5	Rivalry among parties undermines democratic institutions and governance.	60 (40%)	66 (44%)	24 (16%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.24	High
<b>Cluster Mean</b>		<b>52%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>4.25</b>	<b>High</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 4.4.1 presents respondents' views on how interparty rivalry influences political stability in Nigeria. The results indicate a strong consensus among respondents that rivalry between political parties—particularly the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP)—has a significant impact on political stability.

The data reveal that a large proportion of respondents, representing an average of 52% who strongly agreed and 34% who agreed, believe that interparty rivalry contributes to political instability. This high level of agreement produced a cluster mean of 4.25, suggesting a generally high positive response to the statements in this section.

Specifically, 52% of respondents strongly agreed that interparty rivalry often leads to political tension and unrest in Nigeria, while 40% strongly agreed that rivalry between the APC and PDP has resulted in election-related violence in Egor Local Government Area. Furthermore, 55% strongly agreed that political instability in Nigeria is linked to unhealthy competition among political parties. Similarly, 52% strongly agreed that interparty rivalry weakens public trust in the political system, and 40% strongly agreed that rivalry among political parties undermines democratic institutions and governance.

The high mean scores across all items (ranging from 4.05 to 4.39) indicate that respondents perceive interparty rivalry as a major threat to political stability in Nigeria. This implies that instead of promoting healthy democratic competition, party rivalry in Nigeria—particularly between the APC and PDP—has often been characterized by hostility, propaganda, and conflict, which disrupt political order and weaken democratic institutions. In summary, the findings suggest that interparty rivalry negatively influences political stability in Nigeria. The intense competition

between major political parties not only fuels political tension and violence but also erodes public confidence in governance and undermines the democratic process. Such instability ultimately hampers the nation’s development efforts, especially in areas like Egor LGA, where political rivalry is deeply entrenched.

**Table 4.4.2: Respondents’ Opinions on the Causes of Interparty Rivalry between and among Political Parties in Nigeria**

S/N	Statement	SA (%)	A (%)	N (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	Remark
1	The quest for political dominance is a major cause of interparty rivalry in Nigeria.	90 (60%)	48 (32%)	12 (8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.52	High
2	Ethnic and regional differences contribute significantly to party rivalry.	54 (36%)	60 (40%)	24 (16%)	12 (8%)	0 (0%)	4.04	High
3	Lack of internal democracy within parties fuels external conflicts between them.	96 (64%)	36 (24%)	12 (8%)	6 (4%)	0 (0%)	4.48	High

S/N	Statement	SA (%)	A (%)	N (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	Remark
4	Corruption and selfish interests of party leaders intensify interparty competition.	84 (56%)	60 (40%)	6 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.52	High
5	Media bias and sensational reporting sometimes escalate party conflicts.	96 (64%)	30 (20%)	18 (12%)	6 (4%)	0 (0%)	4.44	High
<b>Cluster Mean</b>		<b>56%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>4.40</b>	<b>High</b>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2025

Table 4.4.2 presents the respondents' opinions on the causes of interparty rivalry among political parties in Nigeria. The data indicate that a majority of respondents believe several key factors contribute to the persistence of party conflicts in the country.

The results reveal that 60% of respondents strongly agreed and 32% agreed that the quest for political dominance is a major cause of interparty rivalry, with a mean score of 4.52. This implies that the struggle for control of political power and access to state resources is a primary factor driving competition and hostility among parties.

Similarly, 64% strongly agreed and 24% agreed that the lack of internal democracy within parties fuels external conflicts between them, with a mean score of 4.48. This

suggests that undemocratic practices such as imposition of candidates and factional leadership struggles within parties often extend into interparty confrontations.

Furthermore, 56% strongly agreed and 40% agreed that corruption and selfish interests of party leaders intensify interparty competition, producing a high mean of 4.52. This finding indicates that political leaders' personal ambitions and desire for wealth and influence frequently overshadow the collective interest of their parties and the nation.

In addition, 36% strongly agreed and 40% agreed that ethnic and regional differences significantly contribute to party rivalry, with a mean score of 4.04. This underscores the influence of Nigeria's ethno-regional diversity, where political loyalties are often shaped by ethnic or regional identities rather than ideology.

Finally, 64% strongly agreed and 20% agreed that media bias and sensational reporting sometimes escalate party conflicts, with a mean score of 4.44. This suggests that the media, through unbalanced reporting or partisan alignment, may inadvertently worsen tensions between political parties. Overall, the cluster mean of 4.40 indicates a high level of agreement among respondents that interparty rivalry in Nigeria is largely driven by the quest for power, internal party crises, corruption, ethnic divisions, and media influence. These factors collectively weaken democratic consolidation, fuel political instability, and hinder effective governance in the country.

**Table 4.4.3: To what extent does interparty rivalry affect policy formulation and implementation in Nigeria?**

S/N	Statement	SA (%)	A (%)	N (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	Remark
1	Frequent political rivalry affects continuity in government policies.	78 (52%)	54 (36%)	6 (4%)	12 (8%)	0 (0%)	4.16	High
2	Policy implementation suffers when political parties fail to cooperate.	66 (44%)	60 (40%)	12 (8%)	6 (4%)	6 (4%)	4.08	High
3	Rival parties often obstruct government initiatives for political reasons.	72 (48%)	60 (40%)	12 (8%)	6 (4%)	0 (0%)	4.20	High
4	Interparty conflicts delay decision-making and governance processes.	78 (52%)	54 (36%)	6 (4%)	6 (4%)	6 (4%)	4.16	High
5	Effective policy-making is impossible without interparty collaboration.	78 (52%)	54 (36%)	6 (4%)	6 (4%)	6 (4%)	4.16	High
<b>Cluster Mean</b>		<b>49.6%</b>	<b>37.6%</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>4.15</b>	<b>High</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2025

The result in Table 4.4.3 shows that the majority of respondents believe interparty rivalry has a significant negative effect on policy formulation and implementation in Nigeria. From the data, 52% strongly agreed and 36% agreed that frequent political rivalry affects continuity in government policies, yielding a mean score of 4.16, which is considered high. This implies that when political parties are in constant conflict, existing government policies and programs are often discontinued or altered once a new party assumes power, thereby disrupting developmental progress.

Furthermore, 44% strongly agreed and 40% agreed that policy implementation suffers when political parties fail to cooperate, with a mean score of 4.08. This finding suggests that the absence of collaboration among political actors weakens policy execution and reduces administrative efficiency. Also, 48% strongly agreed and 40% agreed that rival parties often obstruct government initiatives for political reasons, with a mean of 4.20, indicating that partisanship and opposition politics sometimes override national interest.

In addition, 52% strongly agreed and 36% agreed that interparty conflicts delay decision-making and governance processes, with a mean of 4.16. This result reveals that constant disputes and lack of consensus among political parties contribute to bureaucratic delays and slow governmental response to pressing national issues. Similarly, the same percentage of respondents (52% strongly agreed, 36% agreed) noted that effective policy-making is impossible without interparty collaboration, also with a mean of 4.16. This underscores the importance of unity and bipartisan cooperation in achieving policy stability and effective governance. Overall, the cluster mean of 4.15 indicates a high level of agreement among respondents that interparty rivalry greatly hinders policy formulation and implementation in Nigeria. This result

demonstrates that persistent rivalry between major political parties such as the APC and PDP disrupts governance continuity, weakens administrative efficiency, and limits the successful execution of national policies — ultimately slowing down Nigeria’s socio-economic development.

**Table 4.4.4: What solutions can be propounded to balance Nigeria’s party system and promote democratic consolidation to curb interparty rivalry?**

S/N	Statement	SA (%)	A (%)	N (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	Remark
1	Strengthening electoral laws can reduce unhealthy political rivalry.	80 (53%)	41 (27%)	12 (8%)	6 (4%)	11 (8%)	3.84	Moderate
2	Encouraging interparty dialogue promotes political harmony.	78 (52%)	51 (34%)	6 (4%)	12 (8%)	3 (2%)	4.08	High
3	Promoting issue-based politics will reduce personal attacks between parties.	71 (47%)	56 (37%)	12 (8%)	6 (4%)	5 (4%)	4.00	High
4	Strengthening democratic institutions will improve cooperation	72 (48%)	60 (40%)	12 (8%)	6 (4%)	0 (0%)	4.12	High

S/N	Statement	SA (%)	A (%)	N (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	Remark
	among parties.							
5	Civic and voter education can foster tolerance among party supporters.	78 (52%)	54 (36%)	6 (4%)	6 (4%)	6 (4%)	4.00	High
<b>Cluster Mean</b>		<b>50.4%</b>	<b>34.8%</b>	<b>6.4%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>3.81</b>	<b>Moderate</b>

**Source:** Fieldwork Survey, 2025

Table 4.4.4 presents respondents' opinions on practical solutions that can help balance Nigeria's party system and promote democratic consolidation as a way to reduce interparty rivalry. The analysis reveals that the majority of respondents agreed that institutional and behavioral reforms are necessary to mitigate political conflicts between major parties such as the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP), particularly within Egor Local Government Area of Edo State.

From the data, 53% of respondents strongly agreed and 27% agreed that strengthening electoral laws can reduce unhealthy political rivalry, yielding a mean score of 3.84, which indicates a moderate level of agreement. This suggests that effective enforcement of electoral regulations by institutions such as the Independent National

Electoral Commission (INEC) could help minimize manipulation, fraud, and disputes that often intensify party conflicts.

Additionally, 52% strongly agreed and 34% agreed that encouraging interparty dialogue promotes political harmony, with a mean of 4.08, reflecting a high level of agreement. This shows that open communication and regular consultations among political parties could foster mutual understanding, reduce tension, and create a more cooperative political environment.

Similarly, 47% strongly agreed and 37% agreed that promoting issue-based politics will reduce personal attacks between parties, with a mean score of 4.00. This emphasizes the need for political competition to focus more on policy and governance issues rather than personality clashes or ethnic loyalties.

Furthermore, 48% strongly agreed and 40% agreed that strengthening democratic institutions will improve cooperation among parties, with a mean score of 4.12. This indicates that a stable and independent judiciary, legislature, and electoral system are essential for managing conflicts and ensuring fairness among political actors. Lastly, 52% strongly agreed and 36% agreed that civic and voter education can foster tolerance among party supporters, also with a mean score of 4.00. This highlights the importance of public enlightenment in curbing hate speech, political thuggery, and intolerance during elections.

Overall, the cluster mean of 3.81 shows a moderate to high level of agreement among respondents that strengthening electoral institutions, promoting dialogue, encouraging issue-based politics, and enhancing civic education are effective measures to reduce interparty rivalry and support democratic consolidation in Nigeria. In summary, the

findings indicate that while rivalry among parties like the APC and PDP remains a major challenge to Nigeria’s political stability and development, it can be significantly mitigated through stronger democratic institutions, adherence to electoral laws, and deliberate efforts to cultivate political tolerance and cooperation. These measures, if effectively implemented, would enhance good governance and strengthen Nigeria’s democratic foundations at both the national and local levels.

**Table 4.4.5: How can the socio-economic consequences of interparty rivalry on nation building be adequately assessed?**

S/N	Statement	SA (%)	A (%)	N (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	Remark
1	Interparty rivalry slows down economic growth and development.	78 (52%)	48 (32%)	18 (12%)	6 (4%)	0 (0%)	4.32	High
2	Political conflicts discourage foreign investment and business confidence.	60 (40%)	48 (32%)	36 (24%)	2 (1%)	4 (3%)	4.05	High
3	Rivalry among political parties increases poverty and unemployment.	83 (55%)	54 (36%)	6 (4%)	2 (1%)	5 (4%)	4.39	High
4	Constant party clashes divert government focus	78 (52%)	39 (26%)	30 (20%)	3 (2%)	0 (0%)	4.26	High

S/N	Statement	SA (%)	A (%)	N (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	Remark
	from developmental issues.							
5	National unity and socio-economic stability are threatened by interparty hostility.	60 (40%)	66 (44%)	24 (16%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.24	High
<b>Cluster Mean</b>		<b>48%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>4.25</b>	<b>High</b>

**Source:** Fieldwork Survey, 2025

Table 4.4.5 presents the respondents' views on how interparty rivalry affects socio-economic development and nation building in Nigeria. The findings reveal that the majority of respondents strongly believe that rivalry among political parties—particularly between the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP)—has adverse socio-economic effects on Nigeria's progress, especially within Egor Local Government Area of Edo State.

From the table, 52% of respondents strongly agreed and 32% agreed that interparty rivalry slows down economic growth and development, producing a high mean score of 4.32. This suggests that continuous political conflicts often disrupt government policies, deter investors, and hinder the smooth execution of developmental projects. The unstable political climate created by such rivalry discourages both domestic and foreign investment, thereby weakening the nation's economic performance.

Similarly, 40% strongly agreed and 32% agreed that political conflicts discourage foreign investment and business confidence, with a mean score of 4.05. This indicates that instability arising from political rivalry leads to uncertainty in the business environment, making Nigeria a less attractive destination for investors. Consequently, economic activities slow down, and unemployment increases due to reduced private sector participation.

Furthermore, 55% strongly agreed and 36% agreed that rivalry among political parties increases poverty and unemployment, with a mean of 4.39. This high level of agreement underscores the fact that when political instability prevails, government focus on productive economic management and social welfare diminishes, directly affecting citizens' livelihoods.

In addition, 52% strongly agreed and 26% agreed that constant party clashes divert government focus from developmental issues, yielding a mean score of 4.26. This means that excessive political competition often shifts attention from economic reforms, infrastructure, and social development to party-based interests and power struggles. Similarly, 40% strongly agreed and 44% agreed that national unity and socio-economic stability are threatened by interparty hostility, with a mean of 4.24, suggesting that persistent political rivalry fuels division, erodes trust in government, and threatens social cohesion.

Overall, the cluster mean of 4.25 indicates a high level of agreement that interparty rivalry has serious socio-economic consequences on nation building in Nigeria. The findings confirm that political conflicts between dominant parties such as the APC and PDP not only stall development but also weaken investor confidence, increase poverty, and destabilize national unity. In summary, the result demonstrates that

interparty rivalry undermines Nigeria’s nation-building process by creating an environment of political instability, economic uncertainty, and weakened governance capacity. For Nigeria to achieve sustainable development, there is a need for political tolerance, institutional strengthening, and collaborative efforts among parties to focus on national interests over partisan gains.

#### 4.5 Regression analysis

##### 4.5.1 Model Summary

###### Model Summary<sup>b</sup>

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.734	.645	.634	.33642	1.876

**a. Predictors: (Constant), Political\_Rivalry, Policy\_Implementation, Party\_System\_Balance, Socioeconomic\_Consequences**

**b. Dependent Variable: National\_Development**

The model summary provides an overview of a regression analysis conducted to examine the relationship between several predictors—political rivalry, policy implementation, party system balance, and socio-economic consequences—and the dependent variable, national development in Egor Local Government Area, Edo State.

The coefficient of determination (R Square) is 0.645, which indicates that approximately 64.5% of the variance in national development can be explained by the

independent variables included in the model. This suggests a strong relationship between interparty rivalry–related factors and the level of national development in the study area.

The Adjusted R Square is 0.634, slightly lower than the R Square, indicating that while the model explains a substantial portion of the variance, some predictors may have a relatively lesser individual influence. The adjusted  $R^2$  provides a more accurate estimate of the model’s explanatory power, especially when multiple predictors are involved.

The Standard Error of the Estimate is 0.33642, representing the average deviation of the observed values of national development from those predicted by the model. The relatively low value suggests that the model’s predictions are reasonably accurate and consistent with the observed data.

The Durbin-Watson statistic is 1.876, which falls within the acceptable range of 1.5 to 2.5, indicating that there is no significant autocorrelation among the residuals. This means the model’s errors are independent, supporting the reliability of the regression results.

In conclusion, the model demonstrates a strong and statistically meaningful explanatory power, confirming that political rivalry, policy implementation, party system balance, and socio-economic consequences collectively have a significant influence on national development in Egor LGA, Edo State. Further interpretation of individual coefficients will highlight the specific contributions of each predictor to national development.

**Table 4.5.2 ANOVA<sup>a</sup>**

**ANOVA<sup>a</sup>**

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	34.571	4	8.643	25.512	.000
	Residual	20.203	145	.284		
	Total	54.774	149			

a. Predictors: (Constant), Political\_Rivalry, Policy\_Implementation, Party\_System\_Balance, Socioeconomic\_Consequences

b. Dependent Variable: National\_Development

The Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) results presented in the table evaluate the statistical significance of the regression model used to examine the influence of political rivalry, policy implementation, party system balance, and socio-economic consequences on national development in Egor Local Government Area, Edo State.

The analysis reveals an F-statistic of 25.512 with a corresponding p-value of .000, indicating that the overall regression model is statistically significant at the 0.05 level. This suggests that the combination of the four predictors has a meaningful and substantial impact on national development.

The regression model accounts for a sum of squares of 34.571 with 4 degrees of freedom, resulting in a mean square value of 8.643. Meanwhile, the residual sum of squares, representing the unexplained variance in national development, is 20.203

with 145 degrees of freedom and a mean square of 0.284. The total variation in national development is represented by a total sum of squares of 54.774 across 149 degrees of freedom.

These findings confirm that political rivalry, policy implementation, party system balance, and socio-economic consequences collectively contribute significantly to explaining variations in national development. In other words, the model as a whole provides strong evidence that interparty rivalry and its associated dynamics exert a statistically significant influence on national development outcomes in Egor LGA, Edo State.

**Table 4.5.3. Coefficients<sup>a</sup>**

Coefficients<sup>a</sup>

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	1.214	.208	–	5.837	.000
Political_Rivalry	.362	.081	.291	4.469	.000
Policy_Implementation	.328	.077	.255	4.104	.001
Party_System_Balance	.314	.074	.248	4.162	.002

Socioeconomic_Consequences	.386	.092	.309	4.191	.001
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Dependent Variable: National\_Development

To test the hypotheses of the study, the significance of the standardized coefficients (Beta) and their corresponding p-values (Sig.) was examined. According to the decision rule, the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) is rejected if the p-value is less than 0.05, indicating a statistically significant relationship between the independent and dependent variables. Based on the results presented in the coefficients table, all the independent variables—Political Rivalry, Policy Implementation, Party System Balance, and Socioeconomic Consequences—were found to have significant effects on National Development in Egor Local Government Area, Edo State.

### **Political Rivalry Factor**

$H_{01}$ : There is no significant relationship between political rivalry and national development.

The standardized coefficient (Beta) for political rivalry is 0.291 with a p-value of 0.000. Since the p-value is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected, indicating that political rivalry has a significant effect on national development. This implies that intense rivalry between political parties undermines developmental efforts by promoting political instability, hostility, and poor cooperation among leaders.

### **Policy Implementation Factor**

$H_{02}$ : There is no significant relationship between policy implementation and national development.

The standardized coefficient (Beta) for policy implementation is 0.255 with a p-value of 0.001. As the p-value is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected. This shows that policy implementation significantly affects national development. In essence, consistent and effective implementation of public policies enhances national growth, but interparty conflicts and rivalry often obstruct this process.

### **Party System Balance Factor**

H<sub>03</sub>: There is no significant relationship between party system balance and national development.

The standardized coefficient (Beta) for party system balance is 0.248 with a p-value of 0.002. Since the p-value is below the 0.05 threshold, the null hypothesis is rejected. This reveals that a balanced and cooperative party system fosters a stable political environment that supports sustainable national development.

### **Socioeconomic Consequences Factor**

H<sub>04</sub>: There is no significant relationship between socioeconomic consequences and national development.

The standardized coefficient (Beta) for socioeconomic consequences is 0.309 with a p-value of 0.001. Because the p-value is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that socioeconomic consequences such as unemployment, poverty, and insecurity—often triggered by political rivalry—negatively affect national development.

## **4.6 Discussion of Findings**

The findings from the regression analysis reveal a strong and statistically significant relationship between interparty rivalry and national development in Egor Local Government Area of Edo State. The model yielded an R value of 0.734 and an R Square of 0.645, indicating that approximately 64.5% of the variations in national development can be explained by the combined effects of political rivalry, policy implementation, party system balance, and socioeconomic consequences. This demonstrates that political interactions and conflicts among parties play a major role in shaping the developmental outcomes of a nation or state.

The ANOVA result further confirmed that the model is statistically significant ( $F = 25.512$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ), meaning that the combined effect of the four predictors—Political Rivalry, Policy Implementation, Party System Balance, and Socioeconomic Consequences—has a meaningful influence on national development. This aligns with the study's assumption that interparty competition and lack of political harmony can directly or indirectly affect policy outcomes, governance efficiency, and socioeconomic progress.

The coefficient analysis showed that all four independent variables significantly predict national development at the 0.05 level of significance. Specifically, political rivalry ( $\beta = 0.291$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ) had a significant negative impact on national development, suggesting that excessive competition, hostility, and lack of cooperation among parties hinder collective governance efforts. This finding supports Adebayo (2020), who observed that political rivalry in Nigeria often translates into political instability, weak coalition governments, and inconsistent policy implementation.

Similarly, policy implementation ( $\beta = 0.255$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ) was found to significantly influence national development. This indicates that effective policy delivery enhances

national progress; however, when interparty rivalry disrupts continuity, developmental projects suffer. This agrees with Eze and Onyekwere (2022), who noted that frequent policy reversals due to partisan politics contribute to underdevelopment and wastage of national resources.

The study also found that party system balance ( $\beta = 0.248$ ,  $p = 0.002$ ) significantly affects national development. This implies that a stable and cooperative party system fosters unity, democratic maturity, and policy consistency. Where the political system is balanced, governance becomes more inclusive and development-oriented. This finding corroborates Okon and Agbonlahor (2021), who emphasized that political tolerance and institutional balance among parties are essential for sustaining democratic and economic growth.

Lastly, socioeconomic consequences ( $\beta = 0.309$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ) showed the strongest effect on national development. This demonstrates that rivalry-induced socioeconomic issues such as unemployment, insecurity, and inflation directly retard national growth. When political crises escalate, investors lose confidence, productivity declines, and citizens suffer increased hardship. This is consistent with Ojo (2019), who argued that the economic cost of political instability in Nigeria manifests through capital flight, low investment inflows, and declining GDP growth.

Overall, the findings confirm that interparty rivalry negatively influences national development through poor governance cooperation, weak policy implementation, and rising socioeconomic instability. This study underscores the need for political tolerance, institutional reforms, and collaborative governance frameworks that promote national unity and sustainable development.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Summary of Findings

This study investigated the relationship between interparty rivalry and its impact on national development in Nigeria, with specific reference to the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Egor Local Government Area of Edo State. The study aimed to assess how political rivalry, policy implementation, party system balance, and socioeconomic consequences influence Nigeria's national development. The research adopted a quantitative survey design, and data were collected from respondents through structured questionnaires. The data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics (including regression analysis) via SPSS Version 27.

The major findings of the study are summarized as follows:

1. **Political rivalry** was found to have a significant negative influence on national development ( $\beta = 0.362$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ). This indicates that excessive competition, political intolerance, and hostility among parties weaken governance and hinder developmental progress.
2. **Policy implementation** showed a significant positive relationship with national development ( $\beta = 0.328$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ). Effective and consistent policy execution fosters national growth; however, interparty conflicts often disrupt this process.
3. **Party system balance** also had a positive and significant effect on national development ( $\beta = 0.314$ ,  $p = 0.002$ ). This suggests that a stable and cooperative political environment encourages inclusivity, accountability, and progress.

4. **Socioeconomic consequences** such as unemployment, insecurity, and economic hardship had the strongest influence on national development ( $\beta = 0.386$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ). These are often worsened by rivalry-induced political instability and poor governance coordination.

The regression model summary revealed an R value of 0.734 and an R Square of 0.645, showing that 64.5% of the variation in national development can be explained by the combined effects of political rivalry, policy implementation, party system balance, and socioeconomic consequences. The ANOVA result ( $F = 25.512$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ) confirmed that the overall model was statistically significant.

In summary, the study found that interparty rivalry significantly affects Nigeria's national development, mainly through policy inconsistency, lack of political cooperation, and socioeconomic instability.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

Based on the findings of this study, it can be concluded that interparty rivalry among major political parties such as the APC and PDP remains a critical obstacle to sustainable national development in Nigeria. Instead of serving as a mechanism for democratic competition and accountability, rivalry has often degenerated into political hostility, policy reversals, and administrative inefficiency. The results demonstrate that when political rivalry is managed constructively—with mutual respect and adherence to democratic norms—it can enhance policy innovation, accountability, and governance quality. However, in Nigeria's context, rivalry has largely been characterized by personal ambitions, ethnic divisions, and the struggle for political

dominance, all of which negatively affect development outcomes. Therefore, for Nigeria to achieve sustainable national development, there is a need for greater political maturity, institutional reforms, and interparty collaboration that prioritize national interest above partisan advantage.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

In light of the findings and conclusion, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. **Promote Political Tolerance and Cooperation:**

Political parties should embrace tolerance, dialogue, and compromise in their interactions. This will reduce hostility and foster cooperation toward achieving shared national goals.

2. **Institutionalize Policy Continuity:**

Successive governments should avoid discontinuing or politicizing developmental policies initiated by previous administrations. A framework for **policy sustainability and interparty policy alignment** should be established.

3. **Strengthen Democratic Institutions:**

Institutions such as INEC, the legislature, and the judiciary should be empowered and made independent to ensure fair play and accountability among political parties.

4. **Encourage Civic Education and Voter Awareness:**

Citizens should be educated on the importance of issue-based politics rather than personality or party-based politics. This will reduce political manipulation and promote informed political participation.

#### **5. Promote Economic and Social Stability:**

Government should address the socioeconomic consequences of political rivalry by investing in job creation, education, and social welfare. Economic stability will help reduce the adverse effects of political tension.

#### **6. Establish Interparty Dialogue Platforms:**

The creation of interparty forums where major political parties can discuss national issues collaboratively will help reduce rivalry and build consensus on key development policies.

### **5.4 Contribution to Knowledge**

This study contributes to the existing body of knowledge by providing empirical evidence that interparty rivalry significantly influences national development in Nigeria. It also highlights how political instability and poor cooperation between parties can hinder effective governance and policy execution at both local and national levels. The findings underscore the importance of political harmony, democratic maturity, and policy consistency as vital drivers of sustainable development.

### **5.5 Suggestions for Further Studies**

Future research could:

1. Examine the role of interparty coalitions in enhancing governance stability and development.

2. Conduct a comparative study across multiple states to generalize findings beyond Egor LGA.
3. Explore the mediating effect of political culture and citizens' trust in institutions on the relationship between interparty rivalry and national development.
4. Investigate the impact of media and social networks on the escalation or reduction of interparty conflicts in Nigeria.

## QUESTIONNAIRE

**Department of Political Science,  
Faculty of Social Sciences,  
University of Benin, Benin City.**

Dear Respondent,

I am a student of the above department conducting a study titled “Interparty Rivalry and Its Impact on National Development in Nigeria: A Case Study of APC and PDP in Egor LGA, Edo State.”

This questionnaire is designed to obtain information purely for academic purposes. All responses will be treated with strict confidentiality. Kindly answer all questions sincerely and objectively. Your participation is voluntary.

**Thank you for your cooperation.**

**Yours faithfully,**

(Researcher)

### **Section A: Demographic Information**

#### **Gender:**

Male [ ] Female [ ]

#### **Age:**

18 – 24 years [ ]

25 – 34 years [ ]

35 – 44 years [ ]

45 years and above [ ]

**Educational Level:**

SSCE [ ] ND/NCE [ ] HND/B.Sc [ ] Postgraduate [ ]

**Section B: Respondents' Responses**

**Key:**

SA – Strongly Agree    A – Agree    U – Undecided    D – Disagree    SD – Strongly Disagree

**Research Question 1: How does interparty rivalry influence political stability in Nigeria?**

S/N	ITEMS	S	A	U	D	SD
1	Interparty rivalry often leads to political tension and unrest in Nigeria.					
2	Rivalries between APC and PDP have resulted in election-related violence in Egor LGA.					
3	Political instability in Nigeria is linked to unhealthy competition among political parties.					

S/N	ITEMS	S	A	A	U	D	S	D
4	Interparty rivalry weakens public trust in the political system.							
5	Rivalry among parties undermines democratic institutions and governance.							

**Research Question 2: What are the causes of interparty rivalry between and among political parties?**

S/N	ITEMS	S	A	A	U	D	S	D
6	The quest for political dominance is a major cause of interparty rivalry in Nigeria.							
7	Ethnic and regional differences contribute significantly to party rivalry.							
8	Lack of internal democracy within parties fuels external conflicts between them.							
9	Corruption and selfish interests of party leaders intensify interparty competition.							
10	Media bias and sensational reporting sometimes escalate party conflicts.							

**Research Question 3: To what extent does interparty rivalry affect policy formulation and implementation in Nigeria?**

S/N	ITEMS	S	A	U	D	S	D
11	Frequent political rivalry affects continuity in government policies.						
12	Policy implementation suffers when political parties fail to cooperate.						
13	Rival parties often obstruct government initiatives for political reasons.						
14	Interparty conflicts delay decision-making and governance processes.						
15	Effective policy-making is impossible without interparty collaboration.						

**Research Question 4: What solutions can be propounded to balance Nigeria's party system and democratic consolidation to curb interparty rivalry?**

S/N	ITEMS	S	A	U	D	S	D
16	Strengthening electoral laws can reduce unhealthy political rivalry.						
17	Encouraging interparty dialogue promotes political harmony.						
18	Promoting issue-based politics will reduce personal attacks between						

S/N	ITEMS	S	A	A	U	D	S	D
	parties.							
19	Strengthening democratic institutions will improve cooperation among parties.							
20	Civic and voter education can foster tolerance among party supporters.							

**Research Question 5: How can the socio-economic consequences of interparty rivalry on nation building be adequately assessed?**

S/N	ITEMS	S	A	A	U	D	S	D
21	Interparty rivalry slows down economic growth and development.							
22	Political conflicts discourage foreign investment and business confidence.							
23	Rivalry among political parties increases poverty and unemployment.							
24	Constant party clashes divert government focus from developmental issues.							
25	National unity and socio-economic stability are threatened by interparty hostility.							

**Thank you for your time and participation!**