

**EDITORIAL NOTE**

Elections and its dynamics are critical to the institutionalization of the democratic process. This is more for the African continent given the chequered political history. Since the end of the Cold War that saw the appreciation of democracy as the most popular system of rule and one which African countries bought into following decades of varying forms of illiberal rule, elections on the continent have been a collector's item for research and policy governance. In the year 2019, various types of elections held across the continent. The common thread in most these elections was violence and other malaises that brought to the fore the need to re-examine elections and its dynamics on the continent. Can we say, elections are now the only accepted route to political power on the continent? This question resonates in the papers published in this issue of AYIKA: Journal of Environment and Politics in Africa.

The journal is a platform for the discourse of African environmental and political dynamics. The papers featuring in this issue of the journal dwell on Elections and Electoral violence in Africa. Elections are a critical item on the development agenda of African countries. It is therefore pertinent to interrogate the many issues that are bedevilling the process. The papers are a product of the International Conference on Elections and Electoral Violence in Africa, held at the University of Lagos, Nigeria, from December 4-6, 2019. The agenda of the conference was to come up with practical and policy-relevant recommendations that can help proffer solutions to the many issues in the electoral processes of African countries. We, therefore, use this medium to appreciate all participants at the conference for the robust contributions to presentations at the various breakaway sessions of the gathering of elections enthusiasts.

This journal strives for professionalism in all the aspects of its publication. This we have ensured in the careful selection and processing of the articles featuring in this issue. The issue is also a product of the efforts of many of colleagues who have served as reviewers and others who contributed in one

or the other. Hence, we appreciate them immensely for this. This issue of AYIKA: Journal of Environment and Politics in Africa contribute to the discourse of African politics, elections, governance and development that can serves as focus for scholars, civil society activists, politicians and students of African politics and elections as we all grapple with the issues and challenges in elections on the continent.

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