



What Is News? News And The Logic Of Platforms

Lecture Notes

Dr Sarah Chidiebere Joe

What is News? News is the factual report of an event; a report about recent happenings on newspaper, radio, television and the internet. News is a timely account of a recent, interesting and significant event.

So many events take place on an average day. While others go about their activities and jobs, it is the journalist, whose duty it is to retrieve, sort out and neatly package the details of issues that are considered relevant, and present them to the public via newspapers, radio or television.

The biggest stories are presented first with complete details, lesser stories are placed in the middle sections of newspapers or are presented later in the broadcast, while the not so important are discarded.

News is judged based on the following criteria:

- Is it new?
- Is it unusual?

- Is it interesting or significant?
- Is it about people?

These features are regarded as the “news value” of information. The stronger the elements are, the higher the news value.

A news story may not be new but emerging information regarding the event may be new. Ordinary everyday occurrences do not qualify as news. But unusual events such as a man biting a dog is new. Events that are of general interest such as the emergence of a female president for the first time in Nigeria, can be deemed new, unusual, interesting as well as significant. Journalists also know that stories are relevant to the extent that they are about people. Thus, they strive to ensure that even non-human sources such as a bush fire, which can qualify as news, are written to highlight the human element and implications. For example:

More than 100 people were left homeless after flood ravaged Ogoloma yesterday – Right

100 hundred houses were flattened when Cyclone Vicky struck the US yesterday – Wrong

Where Does News Come From?

1. Conflict: war, strikes, revolutions, secessionist groups, tribal and clan fights, elections, and the power battle of politics.
2. Disaster and Tragedy: air crashes, train crashes, ships sinking, volcanic eruption, earthquakes, children falling down a deep well, etc.
3. Progress and Development: education, new technology, improvements in farming techniques, road building, irrigation schemes, medical breakthroughs, transport innovations.
4. Crime: road traffic offence, kidnap, break and enter, corruption, forgery, rape, murder.

The Logic of Platforms

The activities carried out by journalists are shaped by a “‘universe of tacit presuppositions’ that organise action within the field” (Benson & Neveu, 2005, p. 3) also known as values, routines and norms

News Values:

News values also known as news selection criteria, represent those elements that determine the news worthiness of a story or an event. The first known attempt at determining what news values were, was carried out in a study by Johan Galtung and Marie Ruge in a research titled *the structure of foreign news*.

Galtung and Ruge (1965) identified the following twelve factors as some of the key parameters for news selection. They include **frequency, threshold, unambiguity, meaningfulness, consonance, unexpectedness, continuity, composition, reference to elite nations, elite people, persons, and something negative.**

In a follow up study, Tony Harcup and Deidre O'Neil in 2001 identified news factors to include: **the power elite, celebrity, entertainment, surprise, bad news, good news, magnitude, relevance, follow up and newspaper agenda** (pp. 18-19). Fifteen years later, in response to changes and evolutions in the media environment, the authors carried out another research and updated the taxonomy of news values. These include **Exclusivity, Bad news, Conflict, Surprise, Audio-visuals, Shareability, Entertainment, Drama, Follow-up, Relevance, Magnitude, Celebrity, Good news, News organisation's agenda.**

Norms:

Journalistic norms are the elements that shape how journalists ought to behave as well as how they influence social identity. They include **Objectivity, accuracy, fairness, balance, and impartiality in reporting issues of societal significance and validated by accounts provided by reliable sources.**

Practices/Routines

News routines are repeated practices that make it easier for journalists to accomplish tasks and ensure immediacy in an uncertain world while working within production constraints. The routines include the use of images to accompany texts and reliance on the account of sources. **Sources are those “from whom journalists’ get information and raw data for the news stories they produce”** (Tandoc & Oh, 2017, p. 1000).

How to Write a News Report – Part 1

• ElanHub

1 month ago



How to Write a News Report – Part 1

By Dr Sarah Chidiebere Joe

A News Report is made up of six key elements – **Headline** (summary of the story), **Byline** (name of writer), **Placeline** (story location), **Lead** (most important aspects of the story), **Body** (details of the story), and **Quotation** (what someone said).

Headline

A headline is the title of a news report. It is located at the top or head of each story and serves as the heading for the content written below it. Besides being a summary of the content written under it, headlines help readers decide whether a news story is of relevance or interest to them. Headlines are often presented in **BOLD** and **BIGGER** typefaces or fonts than the body of the story. Typefaces are distinctive styles of lettering while Fonts refer to variations of typefaces, for instance their size and

weight. Think of typefaces as the family and fonts as members of the family. For instance, the Helvetica Typeface is made up of 51 fonts, including the Helvetica light, Helvetica, regular and Helvetica Bold. To know more about the difference between a typeface and font watch the below video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8Fb704siGI>

Functions of Headlines

1. Attract readers' attention – a headline must be catchy and yet, not a click-bait.
2. To communicate a complete message – most people don't read the entire story. A headline must, therefore, embody a balance of being sharp, direct, and informative.
3. Assist the reader in going through the entire story.

Check this article by Steve Hogan for great examples of writing headlines – <https://www.crazyegg.com/blog/best-headlines/>

Fill in the following gaps as you attempt to draft some headlines:

1. The X Worst Ways to Get _____ Without _____ ...
2. You're Running Out of _____! ...
3. We Need to Talk About _____. ...
4. You'll Be _____ if You Miss This Guide to _____

The Process of Headline Writing

Headline writing involves two steps – the literary and technical aspects. Whereas the selection of font size, text positioning, font style, text width are some of the technical contemplations of headline writing, the literary aspect involves word selection, sentence structure and type of headline.

Display and Point Size

Headlines are meant to fit into a designated space. For instance, a headline must fill the four columns in a four-column story. The shorthand for headlines = Number of Columns, the type size and number of lines. The height of the type size is measured in points, while the width of the headline is measured in picas.

Width, Weight and Style

The width of a headline is determined by the number of columns allotted the story. If the headline is longer, then, a double-decker headline is introduced. The bolder the font, the greater the weight of the headline and prominence of the story. The font style also helps decide the weight of the

story. Whereas sans serif font styles are more suited for features and soft news stories, headlines in serif fonts typically carry more weight. Watch this to see the difference between serif and sans serif fonts:

<https://youtu.be/ocvUGN-ODow>

Kinds of Headlines

Label headline – A headline without a verb is known as a label headline. It is used in newspapers to show neutrality in its approach to a news story. For instance, *Buhari's stand shows weakness* can be label-headed as *The President's Stand*

Descriptive headlines are also known as *How To* headlines and are used to detail the heart of the story. They focus on the who, what, when, where and how of the story. For example, *How to become rich in 2022*

Comment headline – This type of headline partially interprets the story. For example: *Desperate Ogologo wants to sabotage Wike's presidency bid.*

Quotation headline – This headline uses quotes to emphasise an angle. A news angle refers to a perspective adopted based on an element or fact of a news story. For instance, a news story may be crafted from the angle of victims, people, the government, or an institution. For example: *I didn't kill her*

Question headlines are mostly used in pro-and-con stories to evoke readers' curiosity and interest. For instance, *Who is Amaechi's running mate?*

Headline Props

Headline props refer to supporting headlines that provide extra meaning to a story. While the main headline speaks to the most important aspect of the story, the props cover other crucial aspects in especially analytical or developing stories. Headline props include shoulder/kicker, strapline, crosshead, sidehead, and navigation.

Shoulder or Kicker: is a supporting headline placed on top of the main headline. It is typically smaller in size.

Strapline: It is the reverse of the kicker. It is usually placed in a single line below the main headline.

Crosshead: It is used to help sustain a reader's attention especially in a long story. They are usually one or two points sizes larger than the body

type. They are placed in between running text and usually after three to five paragraphs.

Sidehead: Sideheads are placed at the beginning of a paragraph and set in bold, but using the same font size as the body text.

Navigation: Navigations are one or two words that guides the reader to a story of interest.

Some Dos and Don'ts of Headline Writing

- a. Keep your headline simple and short
- b. Remember the placement and currency of news
- c. Don't use jargons or slangs
- d. Be specific
- e. Use numerals for numbers instead of words
- f. Don't use auxiliaries (is, are) or articles (a, an, the)
- g. Past events should be presented in present tense
- h. Use popular acronyms

How to Write a News Report



How To Write A News Report – Part 2

Lecture Notes

By Dr. Sarah Chidiebere Joe

As is detailed in my earlier note ([How to Write a News Report – Part 1](#)), a News Report is made up of six key elements – **Headline** (summary of the story), **Byline** (name of writer), **Placeline** (story location), **Lead** (most important aspects of the story), **Body** (details of the story), and **Quotation** (what someone said).

The Lead is a most critical component of every news report. It is the opening paragraph of a news story but may be buried in the middle sections of other types of media messages such as Features. It is usually written to grab the attention of the reader and ranges between 30 and 40 objective and factual words/content.

A Lead is typically written following the **5Ws** (WHAT, WHEN, WHO, WHERE, WHY) AND **1H** (HOW) rule. This approach is attributed to Thomas Wilson, an English Rhetorician in his discussion of the “seven circumstances” of medieval rhetoric.

1. *Who (who is involved?)*
2. *Where (where did it happen?)*

3. *What (what is happening?)*
4. *When (when did it happen?)*
5. *Why (why did it happen?)*
6. *Also, how (how it happened?)*

For instance, in crime reporting, a writer needs to ask

- *What crime was committed?*
- *When and where the crime took place? (And does the timing and location of the crime provide more insights regarding the nature of the crime itself?)*
- *How did the crime take place? (What methods were employed? Weapons used? Etc.)*
- *Why did the criminal commit the offence? (Any motives? Is it a repeat offence?)*
- *Who committed the crime? (who is responsible?)*

In writing the lead, most writers follow the Subject-Verb-Object sentence structure. This approach is useful for writing clear and straightforward leads. It also helps in using Active rather than Passive voice.

In the Active voice format, the Subject performs the action, the Subject acts on the Verb. Active voiced sentences have a direct and clear tone.

Active voice

Passive voice

I want ice cream now

I've wanted ice cream for a long time

The cat chased the ball

The ball is being chased by the cat

In Passive voice format, the Subject receives the action from the Verb. Passive voiced sentences are often lengthier and detached. They often contain two types of verbs: a conjugated form of the “to be” verb and the main verb’s past participle. It also contains a preposition. For instance:

Dr. Sarah is (conjugated form of “to be”) beloved (past participle of beloved) by (preposition) students.

Kinds of Leads

Summary Lead – A summary lead as the name goes, conveys the main idea behind a story by employing the 5Ws and 1H rule. Example:

The Resource Centre for Human Rights & Civic Education (CHRICED) has faulted the Federal Government’s \$1 million donations to Afghanistan’s Taliban government, saying the move made no economic sense.

Descriptive Lead – This type of lead is picturesque in nature and often applied to provide an explanation about a person, scene, or event. Example:

An airstrike by the Nigerian Air Force targeting ‘bandits’ has killed six children and wounded others by mistake in Niger State.

Question Lead – This type of lead poses a question in ways that will arouse the interest of the reader. Example:

What happened in Nigeria 20 October 2020? How will this event shape the upcoming elections?

Punch/Caption Lead – This type of lead is employed to create a maximum impact. Example:

The President is dead.

Quotation Lead – Quotes are used to lend credibility to a news story and are often drawn from reliable news sources. Quotes used in leads can be carefully paraphrased but not at the cost of the intent or meaning of the message.

“My plane is taking off without me,” shouted a student pilot to his instructor as he dashed down the runway after the ELAN 140.

Contrast Lead – The contrast lead compares two opposite or opposing sides. For instance, poverty and wealth, black and white, stress and relaxation.

The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) is on strike now for the fifth time in five years, but the city’s 62,000 public school students have been showing up to class.

Staccato Lead – This type of lead is like the descriptive lead but applies when time is the focus, and the most important information is in the last line. To communicate the progression in time, a short burst of phrases with recurring punctuation marks are used. For example:

Midnight on the Choba bridge... a scream ... a shot ... a splash ... a second shot ... a third shot. This morning, police recovered the bodies of two men from the Choba River. A bullet wound was found in the chest of each of the victims.

You lead – The You lead can adopt a question or quotation format but addresses the reader directly. For instance:

If you are one of the 200 million Nigerians praying for a peaceful 2023 election, the Lord has answered your prayer.

Blind Lead – This is used when the WHO element is less important than other elements of the story. For instance:

A police inspector’s son was attacked with a machete by some miscreants on Aba Road this evening.



How to Write a News Report – Part 3

- ElanHub ^{18 hours ago}



How to Write a News Report – Part 1

By Dr. Sarah Chidiebere Joe

Names, Quotes and Attributions

Reporting a source's words lends credibility and authenticity to a news story. However, a news writer must note the following:

1. In identifying a source, include the person's title (if any), then the sources' first and last names. Subsequently, use only the title or the title and the last name. Please note that members of the Clergy are always identified using their titles.
2. All opinions expressed in a news article must be attributed to a source.
3. All expressions which ascribe blame or responsibility must be attributed to a source to avoid [libel](#).
4. Facts from experts must be attributed
5. The sources of quotes must be attributed.
6. The use of vague identifiers like *informed sources* or *sources close to the President* is used only subject to the editorial policies of the organisation.

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How to Write a News Report – Part 4

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How to Write a News Report – Part 1

By Dr. Sarah Chidiebere Joe

Differences in Writing Styles – Newspaper, Radio, and Television

| News Element | Newspaper | Radio | Television |
|--------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Lead | Focus on the 5Ws and H. Use 35 words or less. | Focus on the most important 5Ws and H. Use 10-15 words. | Focus on the most important 5Ws and |

H.

Use 10-15 words.

The inverted pyramid style or a sequential telling of events approach is applied.

TV News also highlights the most dramatic events.

Story Structure

The inverted pyramid style is applied.

The inverted pyramid style or a sequential telling of events approach is applied.

Quotation

Direct quotations are allowed. The person quoted is usually identified at the start, middle, or end of the quote.

Statements are usually attributed in past tense. For instance, *it is said*, not *says*. Other popular verbs utilised in terms of attribution include *stated, declared, revealed, added, commented, admitted, denied, etc.*

When referring to a source for the second time, use only the last name. For example, *Secretary of the Commission Sarah Joe* becomes, *Joe*.

Pronouns can be used subsequently.

Actualities (audio tapes) are used.

Indirect quotes or statement summaries are used.

Attribution always precedes the statement, actuality, or indirect quote.

Although the use of past tense is more formal, some stations use present tense. The tense applied is subject to the house style but must be consistent.

For second reference, use only the title, that is the office the person holds. For example, *Secretary of the Commission Sarah Joe* becomes, *Secretary of the Commission*.

The rules of Radio apply here. The key difference is that the actuality comes in the form of a videotape.

Although the use of past tense is more formal, some stations use present tense. The tense applied is subject to the house style but must be consistent.

Radio rules apply here but the name and title can be displayed if sufficient time has gone by since the first tape.



How to Write a News Report – Part 5

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How to Write a News Report – Part 1

By Dr Sarah Chidiebere Joe

New Writing Tasks

Task 1: Write a **news report** based on the headline and picture below. Make up the facts and information by answering some or all of the following questions: Who? What? Where? When? Why? How? You must relate your newspaper report to **both** the headline **and** the picture.

Purpose and Audience: to report on an event for the readers of a newspaper.

Length: 5-6 paragraphs

Criteria for a Pass Mark: You will earn a high score if your Lead is related to the Headline; all 5Ws and H are included in the Lead; the body contains enough detail; you do not include personal opinion; you do not exceed the number of paragraphs, and you use proper spelling and grammar.

Headline: *Atiku Deletes Social Media Posts After Threats From Extremists*

Photo:



Former vice president of Nigeria, Atiku Abubakar (Photo Credit: @atiku)

Task 2: Listen and Watch the News as shown in the link below. Then, develop a Television News Script for sections 21:17 – 25:06 and 27:42 -29:10.

<https://youtu.be/3pCVfWJR-vg>

See a sample TV News Script below:

Television News Report Script

News Story _____ Page _____

| Timing | Video | Audio |
|---------------|--|---|
| 00 – 00.12 | B-Roll – Close ups on ignition, hands on wheel, long shots of cars | VO: Being in control of a vehicle as young as 17 can be daunting. Organisers of the Under-17 Car Club say that's why there's so many accidents. |
| 00.12 – 00.20 | A-Roll – Interview with Paul Silverman | Paul Silverman: We teach our youngsters how to swim so they don't drown. Here we teach them how to drive so they don't crash. This is a life skill, not trying to pass a test. |
| 00.20 – 00.38 | B-Roll – Shots of Megan Pickstock driving HGV. B-Roll – Long shot of airfield | VO: Megan Pickstock is 15. She's been learning to drive since she was 11. She's one of 300 teenagers who meet every weekend and learn to drive off-road. Today at the Long Marston Airfield near Stratford, it's HGVs. |
| 00.38 – 00.44 | A-Roll – Interview with Megan Pickstock | Megan Pickstock: You get to see how difficult it is for them, and how stupid it is for a car driver to cut them up on the road. |
| 00.44 – 00.48 | A-Roll – Interview with Boy | Boy: Since I've been at the club, I will have had 7 years - I will have 7 years by the time I do my test. |
| 00.48 – 00.50 | A-Roll – Interview with Girl | Girl: It is definitely – it builds your confidence. |
| 00.50 – 01.08 | Reporter to Cam – Zoom out from motorway to reporter | Reporter: Young drivers are ten times more likely to be involved in a serious collision than experienced drivers. 80% of accidental teenage deaths happen on our roads. And in the last 10 years over 110,000 teenagers have been killed or injured. |
| 01.08 – 01.23 | B-Roll – long shots of cars, buses, etc. driving at the airfield | VO: Youngsters on this course also learn how to deal with motorways, night driving, and skids. Organisers say experience does lead to safe driving. Laura May McMullen, Midlands Today, Long Marston. |

Click below for a quick reminder on Basic camera Angles and the Difference between an A-roll and B-roll.

[Basic Camera Angles](#)

[A-Roll and B-Roll](#)

Economy, governance to suffer as APC, PDP garner N43.9b from forms

By Kingsley Jeremiah, Abuja

13 May 2022 | 4:26 am



PHOTO: TheCable

- **Nigeria pushing for plutocracy, says Kukah**
- **Yiaga Africa: APC, PDP used forms' prices to marginalise youths, women**
- **Garba dumps APC after withdrawing from presidential race**
- **Stakeholders want units in EFCC, ICPC to probe funds, tax politicians**
- **Experts seek leeway for lax campaign finance regulations, monitoring**

Described by some stakeholders as obscene, money laundering scheme, investment and fund-raising tactics, the rave purchase of nomination forms and the slush fund in the hands of political parties ahead of 2023 general elections is creating fresh worries of a situation that could harm national development and the nation's economy, financial experts and civil society organisations have said.

From indications, The Guardian's estimates show that the ruling party, All Progressives Congress (APC) stands to earn nothing less than N32.1 billion from sale of nomination forms to aspirants across all offices, from presidential, Senate, House of Representatives, governorship to state Houses of Assembly.

While the forms sell for N100 million for presidential, governorship goes for N50 million, Senate for N20 million, N10 million for House of Representatives and N2 million for House of Assembly.

More than 27 presidential aspirants already picked the form, totaling over N2.7 billion, at least three aspirants are expected across the 36 states (108 aspirants) for governorship, totaling N5.4

billion and at least three forms are also expected to be picked for 109 Senate seats (327) standing at N6.5 billion.

For the House of Representatives, which has 360 slots, at least three aspirants are expected (1,280) per Federal Constituency, bringing the earning to N12 billion and in the Houses of Assembly where there are 990 seats, at least three aspirants each totaling 2,970 aspirants are expected, bringing the earnings to N6 billion. The ruling party is therefore projected to raise N32.1 billion.

The major opposition party, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), is expected to raise nothing less than N11.8 billion with N680 million already raised from presidential aspirants. At least, N2.2 billion is expected from governorship forms, N1.1 billion from Senatorial aspirants, N3.2 billion from House of Representatives aspirants and N4.5 billion from House of Assembly aspirants. These are projected to bring total earnings of PDP to N11.9 billion.

This development is coming at a time Nigeria's economy has been struggling and currently faced with yearly widening budget deficit, rising inflation that has worsened prices of food items and other products, high foreign exchange, unemployment rate standing at 33.3 per cent, debt burden at a time President Muhammadu Buhari has already approached the National Assembly to borrow N965.42 billion from the domestic market to fund the deficit in the 2022 budget.

THE Catholic Bishop of Sokoto Diocese, Matthew Hassan Kukah, has expressed worry over the huge amount being charged for presidential nomination forms by both APC and PDP, saying the country may soon jettison democracy for plutocracy.

Speaking on the topic 'Citizens Participation in a Democracy' during a brief ceremony to mark the 60th birthday of veteran civil society activist and Director of the Policy and Legislative Advocacy Centre (PLAC), Mr. Clement Nwankwo, the Bishop said Nigeria cannot get citizens' participation in governance right if people don't believe in the constitution or electoral process.

"We went for democracy because we think it is the best form of government, but as it is now, if you want to declare interest to participate in the process or to pick your expression of interest form, despite the quality of your certificate, you must have a deep pocket.

"This is not about your ability, it is not about being acceptable; if you don't have N100 million or N50 million to buy nomination form or if you don't have the kind of friends that can buy it for you.

"This thing has been reduced to some kind of joke and Nigerians are sitting and watching in disbelief and keeping quiet that somebody will just wake up one day to pick a nomination form for N100 million, that person may not have been able to drill a borehole for his village or give scholarship to his people.

"We have to pay the price because we are complicit. We should not pretend that we are running a democracy; we are rather pushing for plutocracy – government of the rich for the rich people," he said.

For Yiaga Africa, the high cost of nomination forms being charged by political parties in preparation for the 2023 general elections was used to allegedly marginalise youth, women, and persons with disabilities from political participation. The Executive Director of Yiaga Africa, Samson Itodo, stated this in a statement on Tuesday.

He said: “This is a huge disservice to teeming young Nigerians and women who nurse the ambition to run for elective office in next year’s general elections.

“These groups make up the largest demographic in the country from participating in the political process, with young people constituting over 60 per cent of Nigeria’s population and 54 per cent of registered voters.”

THIS was the case with a presidential aspirant on the platform of the ruling APC, Adamu Garba II, who this week withdrew from the race over his inability to raise N100 million for the nomination form. He attributed his decision not only to the high cost of obtaining APC’s expression of interest and nomination forms to run for office of president but overall cost of running for political office.

He noted that his campaign team had generated N83.2 million in private and online donations, adding that the sums would be returned to the donors.

“This goes contrary to our belief that you can only separate serious contenders from unserious ones by the competency, capacity, credibility, strength of the programme, workable solutions, and sellable candidate to Nigeria through rapid intraparty debates and other high-level criteria reviews that can ensure we present a better leader for future for Nigeria.

“We further discovered that even if we went ahead to obtain the form, the party has foreclosed the plan for primary election because of the presence of the request for a Letter of Voluntary withdrawal on page 18 of the nomination form.

“I cannot, in all honesty, rally funds from my supporters in the hope that we will be having a primary election, then sign a postdated letter of voluntary withdrawal from the contest.”

After announcing his decision not to buy the APC presidential nomination form, Garba yesterday dumped the party, alleging that it has “lost its moral bearings.

“I cannot continue to retain membership of a party that favours money beyond competency, vested interest beyond common interest, chronic elitism beyond public good, politics of exclusion beyond inclusion.

“I do not in all honesty, sincerely and with consciousness believe that any young man in Nigeria has a future or model worthy of emulation for the benefit of Nigeria in APC. I believe the party has drifted so much from the original beliefs of its foundation to something more cynical, undemocratic institution,” he said, though he has not announced the party he would be joining.

Economics and developmental experts are worried over sources of political funds, insisting that the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) urgently begin investigating into sources of fund of politicians as well as their tax records.

Coming in the days of extreme hardship for the masses, some stakeholders have described as obscene the crave for nominations, insisting that it remained a slap on the faces of innocent hardworking Nigerians who would never see such sums in their entire lives.

“No one should pay such an amount without showing how they earned it,” Patrick Okigbo, who heads Abuja-based Nextier Advisory said. According to him, at the very least, politicians must

submit their tax returns and let auditors in the opposition party comb through it to validate that aspirants could afford such an amount.

Okigbo demanded reform in campaign financing, stressing that no groups or friends should be allowed to pay that much of money on behalf of their friends.

“It is for this reason that various western countries put limit to how much an individual or organisation should contribute to a party or candidate,” he said.

Economic expert at PWC, Habeeb Jaiyeola, noted that while attention of politicians have shifted to election at the detriment of developmental issues, government decisions are already becoming politically motivated instead of focusing on the economic benefits for the country.

Team Lead (Research and Policy) Nextier SPD, Dr Ndubisi Nwokolo, noted that there was a political economy dimension to the sale of forms by the two dominant parties in the country.

While using previous experiences as a benchmark, Nwokolo said the parties are using these long list of aspirants to build a war chest for the campaigns, adding that, it “looks like sheer corruption, finding a way to circumvent the rule on party financing and elections.”

The development according to him would have implications on the economy considering that “majority of the fees paid are drawn from the country’s treasury by one way or the other.”

An International Development Consultant, Micheal Uzoigwe, stated that the prevailing situation only confirms that the moment most politicians get into positions they begin to mop finance for their next position.

“That war chest is something that would have been amassed using public position. There are people we know have no clear businesses that can generate that amount of money. So, Nigerians need to ask questions around how these resources are being mobilised.”

Executive Director, Centre for Transparency Advocacy, Faith Nwadishi, said: “The money for the purchase of nomination form is just the beginning. They have to pay delegates at primaries. They have to settle party hierarchy. To whosoever that wins, the first thing is to recover that money. This is investment for them. This is why corruption and nepotism will never stop in this country,” she said. An economic expert, Prof Godwin Oyedokun, noted that the prevailing situation would drastically affect the economy and national development.