

THE NEXUS OF LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA.

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Abstract

The paper reviewed the connection between leadership and good governance in Nigeria. The study adopts secondary source of data collection for overall understanding of the subject matter. Literatures were gathered from works of scholars in the area of investigations under review. The major findings from the study revealed a direct connection between leadership failures and poor governance in Nigeria; bad leadership causes not only poor governance but also mismanagement, socio-economic and political stagnation. These had attributed to mass poverty, mass unemployment, inequality, and infrastructural decay in the country. The study argued that without good leadership in government there can be no good governance and genuine development. And for Nigeria to experience good governance that would facilitate socio-economic and political development, the study recommended: the enthronement of credible, patriotic, transparent and accountable leaders to implant the act of good governance in the country.

Keywords: Good governance, Governance, Leadership

Le Nexus du leadership et de la gouvernance au Nigeria.

Abstrait

Le document a examiné le lien entre leadership et bonne gouvernance au Nigéria. L'étude adopte une source secondaire de collecte de données pour une compréhension globale du sujet. Les littératures ont été rassemblées à partir d'ouvrages de spécialistes dans le domaine des enquêtes à l'étude. Les principales conclusions de l'étude ont révélé un lien direct entre les échecs du leadership et la mauvaise gouvernance au Nigéria; Un mauvais leadership entraîne non seulement une mauvaise gouvernance, mais aussi une mauvaise gestion, une stagnation socio-économique et politique. Celles-ci avaient été attribuées à la pauvreté de masse, au chômage de masse, aux inégalités et au délabrement des infrastructures du pays. L'étude a démontré que sans un bon leadership au sein du gouvernement, il ne peut y avoir de bonne gouvernance et de développement authentique. Et pour que le Nigéria connaisse une bonne gouvernance susceptible de faciliter le développement socio-économique et politique, l'étude a recommandé: l'intronisation de dirigeants crédibles, patriotes, transparents et responsables pour implanter l'acte de bonne gouvernance dans le pays.

Mots-clés: Bonne gouvernance, Gouvernance, Leadership

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Introduction

Nigeria is a country richly endowed with abundant natural and productive human resources, but devoid of good governance. The major reason responsible for Nigeria's poor governance is bad leadership. Bad leadership led to mismanagement of resources and mismanagement of resources deepens poverty, unemployment, inequality and infrastructural deterioration in the country. Plato, in his theory of good governance, had reasoned that the root cause of immorality and social disorder in the human society is governance by unknowledgeable, irresponsible and unmotivated people-oriented leaders. He concluded that when the system of governance became bad, social disorder like corruption, poverty, unemployment, insecurity, injustice, immorality and social unrest would be prevalent in the society (Sibley, 1979). Nigeria has had its share of bad leaders and leadership failures which succeeded in breeding poor governance in the country. Inability of Nigeria's past and present leadership to attend good governance had been attributed to persistent and wide spread corruption, mismanagement of resources and social disorder.

Aristotle had also reasoned that the root cause of political instability and social disorder is bad governance. He argued that bad leadership caused poverty and that poverty is the parent of misery life and social disorder in the human society (Sibley, 1979). The present day political and socio-economic predicaments, political conflict, civil unrest, kidnappings, crimes, poverty, unemployment, inequality, infrastructural decay and falling standard of living facing the citizens of Nigeria are caused and worsened by bad leadership. Therefore, it is bad governance that undermines the quest for development in Nigeria. This justified the quest for good governance in order to halt colossal failure of leadership in Nigeria, and thus enhance development. The failure is informed by inept, corrupt and unpatriotic leaders who populate different levels of Nigeria's governance. Bad leadership led to poor governance and poor governance is attributed to high rate of poverty, inequality, unemployment and infrastructural decay. These made life miserable among citizens of Nigeria. Transparency and accountability in governance led to good leadership.

Development, as evidenced in economic prosperity is one of the major dividends of good governance. Economic prosperity entails mass employment, good income, and high standard of living, good schools, quality health care facilities, feeder roads, affordable housing, portable water and electricity supply. It is the ruling class who run Nigeria's affairs that have kept the common man squalid, wretched and in hell, despite the nation's enormous resources. A people that elect corrupt politicians, imposters, thieves and traitors are not victims, but accomplices. They are members or associates in the commission of a crime against humanity (Orwell, 2014). The Nigeria's underdevelopment is highly associated with weak management, bad leadership and excessive corruption being perpetuated by the political leaders who have been at the helm of affairs since 1960. Successive governments promised the nation adequate electricity, portable drinking water, good health care, good roads, quality education for all citizens by the year 1980, 1990, 2000, and vision 2020. They failed woefully to stand by their promises each time, because of corruption, lack transparency and mismanagement in the country. Nigeria has been largely misgoverned by a rampaging, parasitic and corrupt elite class which often behaves in a manner reminiscent of locusts. However, as the experience of Nigeria suggests, democracy alone does not guarantee absence of corruption, because the country operates a unique type of politics and leadership, which allows politicians and political leaders to engage in prebendalism, primitive accumulation of wealth, wastefulness, reckless pilfering of the treasury and utter lack of transparency and

accountability in the management of the nation's resources. These undermined the process of achieving good leadership which would guarantee good governance in Nigeria.

Conceptual Clarifications

It is imperative at this junction to review the concept of leadership before delving into the concept of good governance. Like many of the other social science concepts, the concept of leadership does not have universal definitions. Schnabel (2007, p.33), cited in Itodo (2016) argued that "leadership does not suffer analysis paralysis, but is always doing something in pursuit of the vision, and inspiring others to do the same". He further summarized the qualities of leadership as:

Integrity, which consists of the integration of outward actions and inner values; honesty in dealings, predictable reactions and well controlled emotions. Dedication, spending whatever time or energy to accomplish the task at hand, inspire dedications. Magnanimity, and giving credit and appreciation to where it is due. Humanity, which recognised the equality of that there is no better or worse than other members of the team humble leaders, self-effective. Openness involves being able to listen to new ideas, to builds mutual respect, and trust between leaders and followers. Creativity entails the ability to think differently to get solution to a problem, while fairness refer to being just in dealing with followers.

These are the essential qualities of good leadership required to achieve good governance. These qualities suggest the nexus between good leadership and good governance. Bad governance is always a reflection of bad leadership. This is in line with a proverb which says "when the head is rotten, the body is useless". It is hard for a country like Nigeria to achieve good governance with bad leadership. Eze, (2001, p.1) observed that "all over the world, leadership is the most important factor that determines good governance of nation". A leadership that is free, intelligent, brave, patriotic, people-oriented, destination bound is the leadership that understands psychology of leading and applies it to governance and development.

Ajayi (2004, p.1) regarded leadership as "a core ingredient in organizing, mobilizing and inspiring societal resources for the attainment of developmental goals". Efficient organization and mobilization of societal resources is one of the qualities of good leadership that can lead to good governance and development in a nation. Gardner (1990, p.14) cited in Ajayi (2004) observed that leadership is the process of persuasion by which an individual or leadership team induces a group to pursue common objectives. A good leader is expected to persuade and induce his followers towards achieving common goals for societal welfare and development. Therefore, good leadership involves the vision as well as the ability to deploy creativity and innovation, a common vision based on knowledge. Leadership is a selfless venture embarked upon to make the lives of the followers more meaningful. It is a call to selfless and purposeful service which would guarantee good governance and prosperity. Therefore, there is no country that can achieve good governance without good leadership. Adebayo, (2000, p.42) posits that a good leadership must be able to demonstrate the following attributes: Tactfulness, efficiency, brilliance, charisma, modesty, sense of judgement, foresight, ability to delegate, sympathy and consideration, flexibility, imagination, persuasion and school experience. These are also the requirements of a quality leadership that can promote transparency, accountability and responsiveness and achieve good governance and development.

Norman (2010), cited in (Ogbeidi, 2012), described leadership as a potent combination of stability and character and strategy. The author emphasised that, of the two elements character is the most preferred for quality leadership. Obeidi, (2012) believed that leadership goes beyond the ruling class, elite that managing the affairs of a state, it embraces the totality of political class that has the capability to manipulate the machineries of government even behind the scene. From the foregoing reviewed, it is evident that good leadership has some attributes or qualities like honesty, brave, foresight, innovation, brilliance, creativity, sense of judgement that are essentials for any meaningful good governance.

Habu (2014, p.120) linked democratic governance with good governance. It is a system of government in which peoples' interests are represented in the process of governance. Its hallmark revolves around the process of selecting leaders who are expected to be responsive and responsible to the electorates, in addition providing good leadership and governance: transparent conduct of public office and selfless leadership, devoid of corrupt practice or political vindictiveness against opposition. This definition encompassed the attributes of good leader (like selfless, responsible) and the attributes of good governance (like transparent and accountability). Governance is the action or manner of governing a state, while good governance is the positive action and good manner in governing a state.

The UNDP (1997, p.34) described governance as exercise of economic, political and administrative authority to manage a country's affairs at all level. It comprises of mechanism, processes and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences. On the other hand, good governance is participatory, transparent and accountability. It promotes the rule of law and ensures that political, social and economic priorities are based on broad consensus in society and that the voices of the poorest and most vulnerable are heard in decision and policy making over allocation of resources. This definition differentiates governance with good governance and exposed the main attributes of good governance which comprised of transparent, participatory, accountability, respect of rule of law, listening to the voices of the poorest and inclusion. Furthermore, the UNDP (1997) identified three branches of good governance: economic, political and administrative governance.

Economic governance includes good decision making process that affect a country's economic activities and its relationship with other economics e.g. good management of resources, quality life, and full employment. Political governance is the effective process of policy making, political stability and democratic dividends. Administrative governance is the efficient decision making, policy implementation, institutions, structures and procedures. Therefore, good governance entails transparent and accountable process, procedures and structures that guide political, economic and social relationship. However, good governance entails quality life, full employment, economic prosperity, good policies and democratic dividends. A country with history of self-centred and unpatriotic leaders is difficult to realize political, economic and social progress that would guarantee good governance.

In Lawan's (2014) analysis, governance involves both decision making and leadership processes, which are typically administered by a government. This means that good governance requires good decision making and leadership processes. The World Bank (1992, p.23) described governance as the method through which power is exercise in the management of a country's political, economic and social services for development. Good governance is also seen as sound public sector management, efficient and effective economy,

accountability, exchange and free flow of information for development (justice, respect for human rights and liberties).

Good governance is effective process of organizing and managing legitimate power structures, entrusted by the people, to provide law and order, to protect fundamental human rights, ensure rule of law and due process, provide for basic needs and welfare of the people and the pursuit of their happiness. According to this definition the essential features of good governance encompassed obedience to the law and order, respect of rule of law, due process, human dignity, happiness of common man and welfare promotion. Bad governance has the following attributes pervasive disobedience to the law and order, disrespect and violation of rule of law, distorting due process, violations of human dignity and rights, blocking happiness and welfare of a common man (Chazzan, 1992, p.122).

Lutz and Linder (2004), cited in Leke and Monisha (2015) regarded governance to be basically about how power is exercised and how important decisions in a society are taken. The emphasis is about the institutions and their performance. However, (Oyedele, 2012, p.4) defined governance as the total ability to organised, synthesises and direct the various actions of the working parts of government machinery in order for such a government to perform meaningfully, creditability and acceptability. This means that governance involves both the governing class and the governed people. In essence, good governance must of necessity be democratic, entail popular participation by the people, be accountable and ensure basic freedom, good leaders and good welfare for the society. There is heightened awareness that the quality of Nigeria's leadership system is a key determinant of the ability to pursue sustainable economic and social development which is the determinant factor of good governance.

Leadership Failures: The root cause of poor governance in Nigeria

Fundamentally, the root cause of poor governance in Nigeria is the failure of the leaders to demonstrate qualities of leadership. Nigeria earned billions of US dollars in oil revenues alone since 1970, yet remains mired in mass poverty, mass unemployment, social and economic inequality, a burgeoning domestic debt, squalid life, poor and decay infrastructures, abysmal health and educational services, and attendant social frustration and unrest. The adverse effect of poor governance is widespread poverty, unemployment, inequality and poor infrastructural services. According to Dike (1999) cited in Odo (2016), Nigeria's good governance have been bedevilled with corrupt and self-serving and incompetent leadership. The lack of selfless, loyal, non-corrupt and committed leaders had greatly contributed to the socio-economic predicaments facing the country.

Jega, (2006, p.20) cited in Habu (2014) observed that Africa in general and Nigeria in particular is not an exception of bad leadership scourge. Leadership and legitimacy problem/question constitutes a major part of the various problems that affect the smooth and efficient management of institutions and resources. Good governance entails efficient management of institutions and resources. A leader must have the discipline to work towards his or her vision as well as to direct his or her actions and those of the team towards the desired goals.

Since 1960, when Nigeria got independence, bad leadership had become one of the major factor which attributed to poor governance. Lack of transparency and accountability in government affected the provision of socio-economic services and management of poverty related programmes negatively. It also made the poverty related programmes to fail woefully. This is one of the major factor which deepens poverty, unemployment, inequality and

infrastructural decay in Nigerian. The negative side effect of bad leadership is poor governance. The manifestation of poor governance is high rate of poverty, mass unemployment, inequality and poor infrastructural services in the country.

Lack of transparency and accountability in governance had been the major factors responsible for miserable life, mismanagement of resource and public fund, pervasive corruption and failure in implementation of poverty related programmes in Nigeria. Poor governance has manifested and increased the level of poverty, unemployment, inequality and poor infrastructural services in the country. And there is doubt that provision of good schools, portable and clean water supply, constant electricity supply, good roads, good health care services and full employment are essentials for reducing the level of poverty, inequality and unemployment in Nigeria. However, good governance entails government ability to reduce the level of poverty, unemployment, inequality and infrastructural decay.

Manifestations of Poor Governance in Nigeria: Poverty

Bad governance has impoverished a larger number of Nigerian's citizens. This is evident in wide spread poverty. The implementation of poverty related programmes had failed woefully due to bad leadership and poor governance in the country. The outstanding revelation from the Nation number two citizen, Vice-President Yemi Osinbajo that about 110 million Nigeria (61%) are still living below poverty line testifies to the fact that poverty is really ravaging the nation while the masses appears helpless (Osinbajo, 2015) cited in Adeleke and Marcellinus (2017). Poverty is one of the features of poor governance.

Ezekwesili (2013) cited in Leke and Monisola (2015) submitted that Nigeria is the best known example of the African paradox of a land so rich in natural resources, but where the majority of the people are poor. She located the source of the mass poverty in poor governance; she recalled how corruption and economic mismanagement have condemned 69 per cent of the populace to poverty. The number of families living in abject poverty in Nigeria is increasing alarmingly due to poor governance.

Leke and Monisola (2015) observed that an estimated 126 million out of the country's 170 people live on less than N 220.00 or USD 1.25 per day. The enormous wealth in the country has not impacted positively on the well-being of the citizens due to poor governance and mismanagement. Nigeria ranked 151 out of 177 countries in the United Nations Development Index in 2004. Nigeria also ranked 158th on the United Nations Human Poverty Index and over 50% of the population are living below \$1 per day. In 2010, Nigeria ranked 159th out of 177 countries in Human Development Index. The disparity between GDP per capita and the number of people living below \$1 per day illustrates the enormous income gap in the country. Efforts by past governments to alleviate poverty failed woefully due to poor governance. Relative poverty and absolute poverty rates increased to 69% and 60.9% in 2010 respectively. Poverty is commonly seen as a situation of low income or low consumption. It is a situation in which individuals are unable to meet the basic necessities of life such as food, clothing, shelter, education, security, and health; however poverty could be absolute or relative.

Different poverty alleviation programmes and projects were instituted to control and reduce the level of poverty. Thus, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) in 1986; Better Life Programme (BLP) in 1987; National Directorate of Employment (NDE) in 1987; Family Support Programme (FSP) in 1993; Family Advance Programme (FAP) in 1997; Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP) in 2000; National Poverty Eradication Programme (NPEP) in 2001. In spite of all these programmes Nigeria is ranked 159th out of 177 countries in Human

Development Index in 2010 (Leke & Monisola, 2015). This shows the evidence of poor governance and mismanagement of the programmes in Nigeria. Poor governance is one of the major factors which led to the failure in implementation of these programmes and subsequent increased in the rate of poverty in Nigeria. Sustainability and task accomplishment in these programmes depends solely on transparency and accountability in the management of the programmes. The causes of this state of poverty in the country had variously been traced to, among other factors, bad governance, unfocused government policies and corruption.

Manifestations of Poor Governance in Nigeria: Unemployment

Poor governance is one of the major causes of unemployment in Nigeria. Mismanagement, lack of accountability and transparency increases the rate of unemployment in Nigeria. Unemployment is one of the major features of poor governance and high rate of unemployment is triggered by poor governance. In 2008, about 9.1 million of the 61.1 million Nigeria's available labour force was unemployed. By 2010, the total number of unemployed Nigeria's had increased to 16 million. Available data shows that unemployment rate has been on the increase, rising from 14.9% to 21% between 2008 and 2010. The unemployment rate was 23% as at November, 2011. Nigeria was ranked 153 out of 186 countries in the United Nations Human Development Index where unemployment rates have been steadily increasing and younger Nigerians are encountering increasing difficulty in finding gainful employment. Unemployment situation was further worsened by poor governance and mismanagement of resources in Nigeria (Leke & Monisola, 2015).

Emmanuel (2017) argued that the consequence of the mismanagement (poor governance) of the nation's resources is the high rate of unemployment, especially among the youth. In 2016, between 12.1% of Nigeria's youth were without a job, and rates of underemployment are even higher. The inability of the government to generate enough jobs results from the poor governance and insufficient allocation of resources.

The state of unemployment in Nigeria is associated with poor governance, and poor governance is caused by bad leadership. Programmes such as Community Bank, DFRRI, National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Peoples Bank, (PBN), and Better Life for Rural Women (BLRW), Family Support Programme (FSP), Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP), Agricultural Co-operative and Rural Development Bank (NACRDB), National Bank for Industries (NBI), Nigeria Industrial Bank, Nigeria Agricultural and Co-operative Bank (NACB), and NEEDS had failed woefully to reduce the rate of unemployment due to bad leadership and poor governance in Nigeria. Unemployment continued to increase due to lack of transparency and accountability in the management of the unemployment related programmes in the country.

Manifestations of Poor Governance in Nigeria: Infrastructural Decay

Infrastructural facilities constitute the basic needs of life and are highly essential for a successful living as well as viable productivity. The poor governance has become noticeable in the manner and way infrastructures are distributed. Where such infrastructures exist, they do not function due poor governance. As such they always fail to meet the requirements of the users. Apart from lack of accessibility and sufficient basic infrastructures such as water, housing, health, and education, transport system and roads are in poor condition due to poor governance in Nigeria. The problems of infrastructures in Nigeria lie in the character and the structure of governance. Poor quality of governance witnessed since independence accounted for the decay in infrastructures. This is possible because our leaders could not even manage

effectively what they inherited from colonial government. The absence of good practices in governance affected infrastructures. Nigerians continued to experience poor and inadequate social and economic amenities due to bad leadership and poor governance in the country. These increased the level of disease, illiteracy, hunger and miserable life among the population of Nigeria.

Subaru (2007, p.76) cited in UNDP (2006), argued that bad leadership is the major cause of the present day suffering and poor life in Nigeria. And poor life is a product of poor governance. However, this unenviable fact, should not have been so if only the nation had purposeful, selfless and visionary leadership. Similarly, it is a paradox that Nigeria, the world's eighth largest exporter of crude oil, a country endowed with many resources, still has more than 70% of its population living below the poverty line as a result of bad governance caused by bad leadership. Pathetically, the logic of the Nigerian political leadership and ruling class has been that of self-service, self-centred, unpatriotic and lack of transparency as some of the leaders are mired in the pursuit of selfish and personal political goals at the expense of national interest. Given these circumstances, Nigerians cannot enjoy the dividends of democratic governance and steady development in virtually all the sphere of its national life. Qualitative and dynamic economic growth and development have eluded Nigerians since independence as a result of lack of good governance and effective leadership.

Manifestations of Poor Governance in Nigeria: Inequality

Inequality is deepening due persistent poor governance in Nigeria. The scale of economic inequality has reached extreme levels and it finds expression in the daily struggle of the majority of the population. Statistics have shown that more than 112 million Nigerians are living in poverty and inequality. The richest Nigerian man will take 42 years to spend all of his wealth at 1 million per day. Public resource management is subject to elite capture, corruption and rent-seeking, and as such contributes to reproducing inequality and compromises opportunities for inclusive growth. According to the EFCC, between 1960 and 2005, about \$20 trillion was stolen from the treasury by public office holders. This amount was larger than the GDP of United States in 2012, which was about \$18 trillion. This shows the level of corruption and poor governance in Nigeria. The gap between the rich and poor may be a worldwide, but in Nigeria the scale of inequality is extreme. In one day, the richest Nigerian man can earn from his wealth 8,000 times more than the poorest 10 percent of Nigerians spend on average in one year for their basic consumption. Inequality in Nigeria is not due to lack of resources, but due to poor governance and mismanagement. Therefore, and inequality in Nigeria is not due to lack of resources but to the ill-use, misallocation and misappropriation of such resources by our bad leaders (Emmanuel, 2017). This is one of the attributes of bad leadership and poor governance which subjected majority population into inequality, mass poverty, mass unemployment and infrastructural decay in Nigeria.

Weak policy implementation due to poor governance is another factor which deepens inequality in Nigeria. In fact, over the years a number of policies and programmes have been designed and implemented with the purpose of alleviating inequality, such as: Rural Basin Development Authority (RBDA), Directorate of Foods, Roads and Rural Infrastructure DFRRI, Rural Electrification Scheme (RES), Agricultural Development Programme (ADP), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), and Better Life for Rural Women. Others were the Family Support Programme FSP, Rural Banking Schemes (RBS), National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) and the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme (ACGS). However, in the majority of cases, these policies and programmes have not been implemented

effectively due bad leadership and poor governance in Nigeria. The programmes had failed woefully to reduce the level of inequality or have meaningful impact on citizens' life. There is an urgent need to critically examine the culture of governance and transform the policies and norms that concentrate extreme wealth, privileges and very high incomes in a small percentage of the population at the top, to forestall the self-perpetuating cycle of inequality that subjugates many Nigerians (Emmanuel, 2017).

Sharma, (2007, p.30) cited in Leke and Monisola (2015), suggests six indicators of governance: a) Voice and accountability, Nigerian leaders are do not always listen to the voice of the common man; and therefore not accountable to the common man interest and needs. b) Political stability and lack of violence or violent conflicts. Violent - conflicts like ethno-religious, herders-farmers, boko-haram and Niger-Delta have become persistent due to bad leadership and governance in Nigeria. c) Government effectiveness cannot be achieved due to institutional failures. d) Regulatory quality remains poor due to breakdown of law and order by the ruling class or elites to protect their interest at the expense of common man interest. e) Rule of law is not respected by the ruling class. f) Control of corruption has become debateable. Corruption had become pervasive due to bad leadership.

As Achebe (1984) once argued, the root cause of the Nigerian predicaments or bad governance should be laid squarely at the foot of bad leadership. In his popular phrase "the trouble with Nigeria" Achebe argued that the problem of Nigeria is simple and squarely a failure of leadership. There is nothing basically wrong with the Nigerian character, there is nothing wrong with Nigerian climate, water, air, resources or anything else. The Nigerian problem is the unwillingness or inability of its leaders to rise to their responsibility, to the challenge of personal example, which is the hallmark of true leadership. Consequently, the state of Nigerian's political and socio-economic backwardness or bad governance is directly related to bad and ineffective leadership that had been managing the affairs, resources and wealth of the country since independence.

As the UNDP (1997, p.23) argued, "for a nation like Nigeria to achieve good governance, good leadership is required". The assumptions or propositions of a good leadership involves participatory, consensus-oriented, accountability, transparent, responsive, efficient and effective, equitable and inclusive, and rule of law. Adegbami and Uche (2016), cited in Adeleke and Marcellellinus (2017) asserted that most political leaders in Nigeria could best be described as political merchants. This is because they see politics and governance as a business deal that brings forth huge profits. Nigeria's political leaders do not believe in service to the people or common man; instead they are self-serving as they serve themselves more than the governed, hence always play politics of wealth acquisition. Many of these so-called leaders came to power without "shoes" but after spending few years in the offices, they would not only have acquired many shoes, but would have garnered fleet of cars, private jets, and different mansions in choice areas of Nigeria and abroad. They equally would have owned fat bank accounts in Nigeria as well as foreign accounts across the world. This type of politics has become the bane of Nigeria's efforts at good governance and development. Bad leadership and lack of concern for the common man has culminated in a situation where the citizens are deprived of social infrastructures and amenities such as poor schools, hospital, portable water, accessible roads, and electricity supply in Nigeria.

Recommendations

Based on the discussion in this paper, the following recommendations have become necessary:

- a) The fight against corruption should be intensified and carried out with total commitment from the political leadership backed by strong political will devoid of lip-service. Nigerian state should combat corruption to a minimal level before any meaningful development and good governance can take place. There should be a serious drive towards poverty reduction, inequality and squalor life through sustainable transparent leadership, oriented policies and development programmes that can address the basic needs and necessities of life. These may include programmes that can engender good health, quality education, portable water supply, stable electricity supply, housing scheme and good feeder roads.
- b) The political leadership in Nigeria should imbibe the culture of leadership by example anchored on selfless service, transparent, honest, responsive and accountable to the people with total commitment and sacrifice. Our leaders should not see political office as a means of self-enrichment and personal aggrandizement rather as a means of selfless service to Nigerian citizens. This will also help in building good leadership from the grass root and ensure good governance in Nigeria.
- c) There is the need for attitudinal change through a re-branding of the country's value system to promote hard work, integrity, commitment and tolerance at all level of leadership to have good leaders and ensure good governance in Nigeria.
- d) Nigerian state should control the use of excess money in politics to make political office less attractive and lucrative to our politicians. This would allow those who are genuinely concern about rendering service to citizens to seek for office. This would drastically reduce the number of greed and selfless leaders in government and facilitate good governance in Nigeria.
- e) Immunity clause in section 308 of the 1999 constitution which protects some categories of public officers from arrest, prosecution and punishment during their tenure of office should be removed or reviewed. Constitutionally, nobody is above the law and we are all equal before the law in respective of power, authority, status or wealth. This would help in building transparent and accountable leaders that would guarantee good governance in Nigeria.
- f) Electoral system and electoral process in general should be made free and fair, all electoral laws should be observed, since electing credible leaders would automatically consolidate good governance in Nigeria.
- g) Capital punishment by (death penalty) like in China and Singapore should be applied on high profile corrupt political and administrative officers in Nigeria. Government officials found to have corruptly enriched or embezzled government resources should be summarily dismissed, tried in court and their properties confiscated and permanently banned from any political and administrative offices. This would help in breeding good leaders in Nigeria.
- h) Leadership training or reorientation and sensitization should be put in place for our leaders at all level of governments, prior to their inauguration, for them to appreciate the importance of leadership, acquire knowledge, skills and psychology of leadership. This would help in building qualities of a good leader among our leaders and facilitate good governance in Nigeria.
- i) Accountability and transparency should be ensured to create a context for the empowerment of the common man. Empowerment will allow the common man to

have good welfare, avenue for possibilities available and encourage citizen participation and democratic governance.

Conclusion

This paper reviewed the link or connection between leadership and governance in Nigeria. The paper argued that good leadership and governance are characterized by transparency, participatory, accountable, responsive, equity and fairness, and respect for rule of law. In this context, good governance remains the key to economic prosperity and development. It is evident that the problem with Nigeria is not just corruption but leadership failures and is the root cause of bad governance in Nigeria. Lack of competent, responsible, transparent, accountable leaders with integrity, vision, patriotism, high moral values, selflessness has been the bane of the country's good governance. Little surprise therefore, that Nigeria as a country blessed with abundant natural and human resources has remained poor with majority of her citizens in abject poverty. Good leadership and good governance are interconnected and interrelated. Mass poverty, inequality, unemployment and infrastructural decay are the products of poor governance in Nigeria.

In order to achieve good leadership, the paper canvassed for a positive change in the attitudes and moral values of the leadership class; change to selfless, transparent, accountable and patriotic leaders is required. For a developing country like Nigeria to achieve any meaningful development a concerted effort towards achieving good leadership and good governance is required. It demands zero-tolerance for corruption, diversification of the economy and social re-orientation.

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