

Democracy and National Development: The Nigerian Experience

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Abstract

A cynical view about democratic governance and a genuine development as an expression of a man conscious control of his resources and destiny is widespread in Nigeria. There is also a prevailing idea that government commitment to strategic planning and administration for national development is synonymous with chicanery and all forms of autocratic practices. This to a large extent defines the contemporary issues in Nigeria post Covid-19 era as, a challenge for Nigerians to rise to the task of Plato's advice that "unexamined life is not worth living". It is obvious that Nigeria is undergoing development crisis since 1970s and, solution in form of policies, strategies and political reforms, environmental protection and humanitarian services has failed to provide a right path to genuine national development. The implication is that, in spite of the attainment of political independence, true development and democratic governance has eluded Nigeria for the past years. This paper on democracy and national development attributed the scenario partly to leadership crisis and organizational inefficiency that jeopardize the right and liberty of ordinary citizens and, efficient administrative task of socio-economic transformation. Discourse of the paper focuses on the practice of democracy and its impact on national development. A review of the previous work on national development programmes and substantive amount of literature has been attempted. The paper relied essentially on quantitative survey method and secondary source of data to determine the impact of democratic governance on national development. Distributive Justice Theory and the power theory were adopted as the theoretical framework to help clarify issues of democracy and national development. A sample size of 500 was administered and chi-square statistical technique was used to test the hypotheses. The result from the findings shows that: there is a significant relationship between democracy and national development. The paper discovered that Nigeria's political leadership is fundamentally weak to address the task of national development on democratic principle in the interest of the people. The study therefore, calls for a new leadership with nationalistic vision (development leadership) to address, the current and future challenges of national development in Nigeria.

Keyword: Democracy, National Development, Political Leadership and Bureaucracy

DOI: [URL:https://doi.org/10.36758/ijdds/v5n1.2021/02](https://doi.org/10.36758/ijdds/v5n1.2021/02)

INTRODUCTION

Democracy and national development as an expression of a man's conscious control of his resources and destiny has become one of the enduring issues and a concern to Nigerians and the government past and present. Democracy is rooted on a platform of the strength of popular sovereignty, right and liberties of the people and economic security of the citizens. These as opined by Ekekwe and Uguru (2020) provides the basis for democratic values of freedom, equity, trust, honesty and equality among others. Popular sovereignty as an indicator of democratic value is governed by consent of the governed, accountability and probity of the managers of the state apparatus. Economic security of the people as a viable factor of human survival calls for a widening of economic opportunities, social welfare of the people and alleviation of the plight of the helpless Nigerians. This implies that, the wellbeing of the people, society and the development policies and programmes are dependent on efficient government management, a

philosophy and practice of democratic governance that is competent to discharge the function of a progressive society which demands:

- Reduction of economic, social and psychic suffering of the people.
- Development of new value system of efficient utilization of resources for promotion of mass involvement in development process (Gullick and Urwick 2001).

It is observed over the years that in spite of the attainment of political independence, the weight of the crisis of the political and socio-economic issues in the past, and in the post Covid-19 era, manifests a lifestyle and a storyline of Nigeria of “wealth without prosperity” and “change without progress”. The reflection of this alignment emphasizes political power over resources allocation and distribution which excludes production of resources for development process. This account for inadequate commitment to development programmes implementation and low productivity as observed by Adie and Enang (2019). Such an occurrence is very disturbing in a country classified as 142nd poorest nation in the world with HDI of 0.40 by UNDP human development index in 2017. This equally set in a motion a vicious circle of low economic activity, low production and productivity, low income, saving and investment which manifest generally, low level of living and life expectancy to complicate the transformation of socio-political and economic conditions of Nigerians. Study on urban housing programmes by Enang (2020) maintained that the major determinant of a nation wealth lies on, the degree of the socio-economic wellbeing of the people and, democracy portents the right of the citizens to have access to available resources and the will power to determine who represent them in governance. This as acknowledge by Nyerere (1932) portrayed a set of values which promotes a moral economy based on justice and equality of all.

The picture in Nigeria contradicts the economy’s enormous wealth endowed with human, natural, mineral and agricultural resources (Obadan, 2015) with a major development challenge which affect virtually every aspect of human endeavors including electioning system which reflects;

- Violence, stampede, skirmishes and death of many Nigerians during political rallies by thugs hired by politicians
- Increasing rate of violence, arm possession, unemployment, inadequate infrastructural etc. to, intensify the incidence of poverty which is not only endemic but, also assumes a dynamic dimension in development.
- There is tendency for misuse and abuse of public office by political bureaucrat to the neglect of the aspiration of the Nigerians for a democratic freedom and improvement in the material conditions of the people. This indeed is a missing link and a democratic question.

The paper examines the nature of democracy and its impact in national development, the study is structured into four sections. Section one provides the introduction, section two focuses on the theoretical and conceptual framework of democracy and national development, section three dwells on methodology, results and discussion of findings. This is followed by the concluding remark and recommendation.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The main aim of the paper is to examine the impact of Democracy on National development In Nigeria post Covid-19 era.

RESEARCH QUESTION

How democracy does relate to National development in Nigeria

RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

There is no significant relationship between democracy and national development in Nigeria.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

*The power Theory [Akeredolu-Ake, 1972 and Tella 1997] and
Distributive Justice Theory [Keohane, R and Paul 1971]*

The study adopts the power theory and distributive justice theory to provide an explanatory scheme as adequate tools in explaining the factors that hinders the relevance of democratic institutions and attainment of national development in Nigeria.

THE POWER THEORY posits that:

- (1) The structure of political power determines the distribution of resources in the society; they make public policies, organize and influence economic system to consolidate their advantageous position to amass wealth. Wealth acquisition as a powerful weapon serves as, the oppressive property system for exploitation, alienation and deprivation of the people (the helpless masses).
- (2) The system creates class antagonism (class of the “have” and the “have not”). The “have not”, lacks revolutionary consciousness and capacity to overthrow the exploitative class.
- (3) The corruption and greediness of powerful few fertilizes poverty in the long run because public resources are rooted with impunity to the total neglect of the oppressed class who are deprived of the nation resources to enhance their lifestyle.
- (4) The system is rooted in equality expressed in relation of production to increase the chances of the poor becoming poorer since it is exploitative and there is no mechanism for sharing the returns from the capital Tella, (1997) contends that the bourgeoisie would vehemently oppose equal redistribution of resources because, it would deemphasize wage incentive since work is fundamentally alienating and the state exist to serve the interest of the wealthy few.

THE DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE THEORY: This theory posits that, economic justice that will lead to national development should be distributed for the benefits of all the people. Paul, R. (2010) added that all social values- liberty and opportunities, income, wealth and self respect are to be distributed equally unless, unequal distribution of any or all of these values are not to every one advantage.

The stepping stone to the applicability of all distributive theory in the view of this paper is a recent call for inclusive governance. Many developing countries Nigeria in particular, is faced with a need to allow all members of the society to participate and contribute to the development process on an equal basis irrespective of the circumstances. A rational frame work for inclusive development programmes implementation based on appropriate and sustainable institutional arrangement will provide:

- Technology acquisition and development to establish the link for agriculture and industry.
- Marketing of agriculture and industrial products with the help of institutional development.
- Integrated scheme for people empowerment, provision of social welfare packages, infrastructural development, adequate exploitation of all and utilization of natural resources.

- Availability of quality institutions measured in term of effectiveness on service delivery (EFD) from political pressure group [PPG] social freedom (SF), control of corruption (CC) and absence of violence and terrorism. These and more justify the operation of good governance on democratic principles.

Distributive justice theory made it clear that national development is attainable only if the nation economic policies were not anchored on self interest of ruling elites.

An examination of the role of Nigeria state in post-Covid-19 era reveals the crisis of the state , the nature of its leadership, it objective interest and value of “self-enrichment” at the expense of a better life for all. This gives meaning to the past and current crisis of the secessionist war of 1967-1970 among different ethnic-tribal fraction of the ruling elite.

The crisis of the annulment of June 12, 1993 presidential election interclass conflict.

- Causalities of pre and voting day electoral violence of the 2019 general election which reveals 938 deaths and the 735 injuries over three days of unrest(Charles and Ganive 2019).
- The Covid-19 pandemic and palliative sharing crisis.
- The End SARS protest 2020 and many others.

These occurrences are, clear indications of development activities devour of people perspective and aspiration. The power theory and distributive justice theory calls, for the need for equal access to societal wealth, fair treatment and equal opportunities among individuals in Nigeria.

CONCEPTUAL ISSUES: Analysis of national development with regards to democracy is a subject of intense debate in Africa, particularly in Nigerian post Covid-19 era where the concept has become a “code name” for all the controversies, doubts and experimentation that surrounds the search for genuine democracy and development. Democratic question is seen as a cluster or multitude of questions relating to a common denominator which reflect; 1. The problem of location of political power since particular section of the country has been undermine in political ascendancy. Democratic question means relocation of national political power.

- Maintenance of the status quo where the economic hegemony of the wealthy few must be counter-balanced by popular sovereignty and economic security for human survival.
- The marginalization and alienation of the working class from the “wealth” they produced.
- Political engineering for the transformation of the country Nigeria as mere “geographical expression” rooted in poverty, insecurity, underdevelopment etc. to nation state with a universal interest.

True democracy requires democratic values to thrive and a visionary development leadership for genuine development. (Enang (1995) sees development as trying to outgrow the stage of underdevelopment where life is circumscribed by the policies of survival, the struggle for food and shelter, mere existence, the vicious circle of dependence and marginalizations in which the wealthy few pull the “string” that determine the collective existence. Salient characteristics of democracy in this study carried out by Tunde (2017) in Canada reveals that;

- The locus of authority in a democratic polity must emanate from the consent of the people.
- The people should have the right to effect change in the leadership of the government of their country.
- The leaders must be held responsible for their actions as the representative of the people entrusted with the power to achieve nation development.

- A democratic polity must be based on the rule of law and must be legitimate, to secure the consent and cooperation of the governed without coercion.

In the present day setting more confusion has come to characterize the use of the term “democracy”. Americans believed that their own presidential system of government is the only truly democratic system. The former Soviet Union on their part sees her democratic socialism as the best for all the nations of the world. The assumption here is that the operators of each system of government believes that it serves better in the interest of the common man. On the contrary, non is democratic in the ideal sense of the word because even the most repressive system of government of Idi Amin of Uganda , the fascist regime in Italy and the corruption and leadership ineptitude in Nigeria , claim compatibility with democracy. Democracy has been subjected to many configurations in power structure which this paper may not explore here. Nonetheless, the paper accept Anthony (2005) conceptualization of democracy as the rule of the people regardless of low birth, low income and low status who are guaranteed, to participate equally in development activities based on individual ability for the benefit of all.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As aptly noted by Pigors and Myer, (2002) “...human resources constitutes the heart beat of any country, an indispensable ingredient in development transformation of the society”. This remark is relevant today as they were in the past centuries. This study sees human resources as the people or the masses of a country endowed with talents and capabilities but neglected by successive regime in spite of their importance in the development process.

National development as a concept is comprehensive; it focuses on improving the living standard of the people, economic security in terms of increase in per-capita income, and the availability of adequate social amenities for the comfort of the citizens of the country. (www.studyrankersonline.com.> what –is –n - - -) Pigors and Charles (2000) sees national development as a holistic approach which encompasses all aspect of individual life, reconstruction and development in a nation, full growth of industries, and expansion of agricultural sector, education, social and religious institutions. This denotes all round and balanced development of all facet of the nation. National development depend on the impact of citizen forces (human resources, skill acquisition, knowledge application etc.) on development programmes implementation of the nation.

The UNO decade reports (2020) defined national development as growth plus change. The change reflects the qualitative and quantitative change in social, economic and cultural dimension of the society. Growth plus change is measured in terms of:

- Development through planned national economy.
- Agricultural productivity through application of modern technology
- Industrial development,
- Human resources development.
- Provision of mass education and various facilities to meet the need of the poorest of the poor.

In the context of UN perimeter of National development, Nigeria socio formation characterized with retarded economic growth in GNP and low standard of living, increase in unemployment, and poverty rate, low quality products of institutions of higher learning, lack of democratic values, and mismatch between moral and scientific values among others pose a threat to attainment of national development. Factors militating against Nigeria development are obvious and this explains why multi sectors programmes , agricultural development, manufacturing, health care delivery, nutrition-related programmes, skill development ,employment generation,

technological development etc. with poverty reduction components embarked upon by Nigeria governments since 1999 to address National development issues proves abortive.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is a quantitative survey; ex post factor design was adopted. This methodology and design is mostly suitable for describing the effect of the existing democratic practice in Nigeria on national development. To solicit responses from respondents, a single descriptive and explanatory approach was employed. A research self questionnaire titled “Democracy and National Development”: Nigerian experience was used for data collection. The questionnaire is a four point scale of strongly agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and [SD] strongly disagree. The population of the study is 140,432,790 (Nigerian population census, 2006). The general information on democracy and national development is measured in terms of the strength of popular sovereignty, economic security, rights and liberties of the people to available resources and, growth plus change. Data were elicited from primary sources using the questionnaire, interviews and non participant observation. The secondary sources include textbook, journals, articles, internet and government publication. The discussion of the sample is based on the bio-data profile of respondents (section A) and demographic data on democracy and national development (section B) which consist of 10 items. Simple percentage was used to analyze the data and chi square technique was used to test the research question raised to guide the study. The study sample is 500, the choice of the sample is motivated by precision the researcher desire in estimating the entire population at a confidence level, for the possibility of effective analysis.

The research questionnaire was tested based on democracy and national development in terms of popular sovereignty, economic security, the right and liberties of the people and growth plus change. This is measured with the use of interviews and direct observation.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

A total number of five hundred (500) samples were administered to the four (4) selected major ethnic groups in Nigeria – the northern Nigeria (Hausa-Fulani), the southern Nigeria (Yoruba), the eastern Nigeria (Igbo) and the South-South region (Middle Belt). Cross River State, Abuja FCT and Abia States were used as study areas to draw the representatives of the various groups who are domicile in Nigeria. Out of the 500 samples administered, four hundred and ninety-five (495) were returned representing 99 percent rate of return which is comfortably representative. The 5 mutilated questionnaire representing 1% are declared invalid. The composition on the sex of the respondents revealed 300 (60%) male and 195(40%) female. Age bracket depicts 70 (14.1%) within 18-25 years, 80(12.1%) within 26-30 years, 55(11.1%) within 31-35 years, 135 (27.3%) within 36-40 and 175 (35.4%) within 41 and above. Composition on marital status revealed 290 (58.6%) married, 100 (20.2%) single, 75 (15.2%) divorced and separated and 30 (6%) widow and widower. Responses on educational qualification shows 30 (6.1%) FSLC, 75 (15.2%) SSCE/GEC, 100 (20.2%) Diploma/ND, 180 (36.3%) B.SC/HND, 90 (18.2%) MBA/M.SC AND 20 (4%) Ph.D. Occupational responses shows: 250 (50.5%) Civil servant, 80 (16.2%) Business, 65 (13.1%) Students and, 10 (20.2%) unemployed. Responses on religion equally revealed 202 (41%) Christianity, 250(50.5%) Islam and, 43 (9%) Traditional.

Table 1 below provides information on the impact of democracy on national development in terms of strength of popular sovereignty, economic security of the people, the right and liberties of the people and, growth plus change (national development).

TABLE 1: IMPACTS OF DEMOCRACY ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	TOTAL
1 Table 5.6	Economic security and social welfare of the people is guaranteed in Nigeria following the practice of democracy	87 18%	90 18%	123 25%	195 39%	495
2 Table 5.7	Economic growth in terms of industrialization and expansion of agricultural sector exist in Nigeria to enhance national development.	97 20%	100 20%	115 23%	183 37%	495
3 Table 5.8	A vicious circle of low economic activity, low production, low productivity and a low level of living and life expectancy militates against national development in Nigeria.	116 23%	92 19%	150 30%	137 28%	495
4 Table 3.9	Leadership ineptitude and official corruption is compatible with democracy.	121 24%	119 24 .5s%	130 26%	125 25%	495
5 Table 5.10	Generally, democracy development guarantees the provision of adequate infrastructural facilities and human development in Nigeria.	100 20%	105 21%	142 29%	148 30%	495

Source: Enang, A (2018) field work

The result in table 5.6 revealed that, respondents under SA (Strongly agree) and A(Agree) representing 177(36%) agreed that, democratic dividend provides economic security and social welfare, while a total population of 318(64%) under D(disagree) and SD (strongly agree) said economic security in terms of widening of economic opportunities and social welfare are services, for the wellbeing of the people do not exist for the poorest of the poor. The political leadership in Nigeria does not guarantee equal participation in development programmes for the overall benefits of the people. This is because a set of values which promote a moral economy based on justice and equality does not exist in Nigeria.

Result obtained in the table 5.7 showed that, respondent under SA (Strongly Agree) and A (Agree) constituting 197 (40%) agreed that industrialization and increase in agricultural productivity in national enhance national development. On the contrary, respondents under D (Disagree) and SD (Strongly Disagree) consisting 298 (60%) said that national development did not encourage industrial growth and agricultural development. Agriculture as a sector has been neglected by political leadership since 1970s oil boom sudden huge oil revenue, this account for food crisis, hunger and massive food importation that intensifies neo-colonial dependency syndrome and poverty level of the people. Besides, sector linkage between agriculture and industrialization equally pose a problem to national development considering the low level of industrial base in Nigeria. Under this condition national development is attainable.

Table 5.8 results revealed that respondent under SA(Strongly Agree) and A(Agree) constituting 287(58%) agreed that the living standard of the people and life expectancy is low in Nigeria while responses under D(Disagree) and SD(Strongly Disagree) representing 208(42%) sees a level of adequacy in terms of the living standard of the people and life expectancy. Since the level of agreement is higher than those disagreed, it is clear that the wellbeing of the people is at stake and that democratic governance did not improve in the national condition of the people. Low economic activities, low income, low investment etc. despite the enormous national and human resources at the national disposal was clearly revealed in the past Covid-19 era as a story line of Nigeria of wealth without prosperity according to Gullick and Urwick (2001).

Results in table 5.9 equally shows that 240(48%) of respondent under SA (Strongly Agree) and A (Agree) sees leadership issues and corruption of public officers as normal in Nigeria. on the

contrary, 255(51%) attributes to the crisis of development to leadership problem and corruption. This implies that, there is a tendency for misuse and abuse of public office by the political leadership whose mission is “wealth acquisition” this is confirmed by Tella (1997) and Enang, A.(2015) assertion that, corruption justifies oppressive property system of exploitation of resources. The level of corruption over the years in Nigeria is high according to them, the desire for public gain by government official has worsen the poverty level of the populace, increasing transaction costs, lower efficiency since available resources are diverted to private account, this also distorts investment priority according to Ogberu, (2020).

Result in 5.10 indicates that, respondent under SA(Strongly Agree) and A(Agree) total 205(42%) agreed that democracy and national development provide adequate infrastructural facilities and also stimulate human resources development, while 290(58%) respondent said that infrastructural facilities are inadequate and that the development human resources has being neglected by successive government in Nigeria. The human resources have suffered various forms of despotism and maladministration in the past four decades. Asiegbu (2015) opines that human development enhances individual capacity to cope with the environment. This underscore the centrality of human resource development in national transformation which suggests that, national development can only be possible if the people are adequately developed and empowered. Human resources development entails increased skill, capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, material wellbeing and responsibility. This paper contends that, the development of the people for national transformation has not started a radical transformation of the structure and institution to check the persistence of the official kleptomaniac and profligacy of the ruling classes who squander and mismanage the nation wealth is lacking in Nigeria.

It is clear that the analysis of the results of the five tables shows that democracy in Nigeria lacks democratic values to address the crisis of development. This impacted negatively on national development.

TABLE 2a: summary of chi-square (X^2) analysis with respect to five tables on democracy and National development.

RESPONSES	A	D	TOTAL
Economic security and social welfare(table5.6)	177	318	495
Industrialization and agricultural sector(table 5.7)	197	298	495
Living standard and life expectancy(table5.8)	208	287	495
Leadership and corruption(table5.9)	240	255	495
Infrastructure and human resource development(table 5.10)	205	290	495
Total =	1,027	1,448	2,475

Source: Enang, A.(2018) field work

TEST OF HYPOTHESIS: $X^2 = \frac{\sum (of-ef)^2}{ef}$

Table 2b: Chi Square Analysis Of Observed And Expected Variables On, Democracy And National Development.

Variables	OF	EF	OF-EF	OF-EF ²	OF-EF ² /EF
1	177	205.4	-28.4	806.56	3.22
2	197	205.4	-8.4	70.56	0.34
3	208	205.4	2.6	6.76	0.03
4	240	205.4	-8.4	70.56	0.34
5	205	205.4	-0.4	0.16	0.00
6	318	289.6	28.4	806.56	2.78
7	298	289.6	8.4	70.56	0.24
8	287	289.6	-2.6	6.75	0.02
9	255	289.6	-34.6	1,197.16	4.13
10	290	289.6	-2.6	6.75	0.02
Total				$X^2 =$	11.12

Source : Enang, A. 2018 computation.

The degree of freedom (df)
= (c-1) (r-1)
df= (2-1) (5-1)
= (1) (4)
= 4
Calculated (X²) value=11.12 df=4
Critical value at 0.05=9.488

Decision rule:

Accept null hypothesis if the calculated value is less than the critical value. Since calculated (X²) value of 11.12 is greater than 9.488 critical values at 0.05 degree of freedom. This study accepts the alternative hypothesis which states that: There is a significant relationship between Democracy and National development.

SUMMARY

The summary of the research findings shows that;

- Economic security and social welfare service for the wellbeing of the people is inadequate in Nigeria because moral economy based on justice and equality do not exist (application of the rule of law).
- Democracy in Nigeria does not encourage industrial growth and agricultural development. Evidence is glary in massive importation of finished products and food items since 1980s SAP crisis.
- Democratic governance did not improve the material conditions of the people, particularly the helpless poor. This is because the oppressive property system for exploitation legitimatizes looting of public funds with impunity to the neglect of the oppressed class.
- Inadequate provision of infrastructural facilities and a neglect of human resource development is critical, this exist because inclusive development programmes based on appropriate integrated scheme for people empowerment is lacking.
- Leadership crisis and official corruption is pervasive. This engender a biased to administration of democratic principles. The findings above negates united nation (UN) perimeter of national development of “growth plus change” In terms of qualitative and quantitative change in socio-economic and cultural life of the society and the people as balance development.

Interviews on Democracy and National development provides the data below:

- Nigeria is a state of class domination and oppression as a capitalist social formation, the interest of the non-ruling class is undermine in Nigeria government whether military or civilian.
- The quality of leadership characterized by the ability to generate active cooperation of the people’s honesty, discipline and accountability among others is lacking. That, leadership is not socially conscious to promote social responsibility for the people welfare. Covid-19 pandemic of 2020 revealed the helplessness of Nigerians in Bakassi peninsular in Cross River State who seeks shelter in crowded camps without food, safe water and source of income. They are marginalized, exploited and abuse according to Agbajalingo (2020). Edem Okon, one of the interviewers also revealed that Covid-19 palliative from international agencies and Nigeria government were not distributed to IDPS but were siphon by government agencies. Besides the housing units that exists for more than three thousand people are 52 and 3 families is attached to one bedroom flat. This is a clear case of inadequacy in resource allocation to a social welfare programme.

- The insecurity crisis in Nigeria intensified by terrorist groups and the current challenges of Nigeria's electoral system resulting in massive loss of lives, grievous injuries and facilities, loss of limbs, property etc. during political rallies and elections (governor, house of assembly and presidential election) in 2019 coupled with increase rate of kidnapping, raping etc. clearly demonstrate the weakness of leadership for genuine democratic governance necessary for national development.

CONCLUSION

The solution to National development lies in the socio-economic transformation of the life of the people. Lack of democratic practice in Nigeria poses a destabilizing threat for peace, development and social order. The objective basis of national development lies in the educational, economic, political and social inequalities within the context of the class dynamics of Nigerian society. The critical problem facing Nigeria is the "aspiration" of the Nigerians for a democratic freedom, improvement in the material conditions and respect for the rights of all the people. At present the declining state of standard of living of the people, the repressive policy of exploitation and alienation of the masses and psychological deprivation, frustration and discrimination of all sorts meted on the people makes democracy incompatible with national development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the paper recommends:

- Equal distribution of the nation resources for the benefit of the people.
- Good governance based on effectiveness, efficiency, transparent, visionary and disciplinary leadership with ultimate objective of implementing economic policies and human development programmes as the way forward to national development. The "people" must be placed at the centre of development.
- The solution to Nigeria development crisis is summed up in two words- "democratization" and the "rule of law". Democratization not procedurally but, in substance and, the application of the rule of law for transformational changes in our leaders, our thinking, institutions, systems and capabilities. Positive attitude is compatible with National development.

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