

## **Political Leadership and Economic Development in Kogi State, 2003-2015**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This study titled Political leadership and economic development in Kogi State, 2003-2015 is written to examine the reasons that prompted the demand for and creation of Kogi State and to discuss the impact of recruitment process and performances of political leadership in Kogi State. The study adopted a research survey design with a population of 4,473,500 respondents. However, considering the fact that it will be difficult if not impossible to reach the entire population the study used the Cochran sample size formula to reach a sample of 384. In addition, out of 384 questionnaires distributed only 364 was completed and returned giving 95% retrieval rate. The research instrument used to elicit data from respondents is a structured questionnaire designed in a five points likert scale and the data collected from respondents were analyzed using mean. Findings revealed that there is a correlation between political leadership and economic development of the citizens of Kogi State. Specifically, lack of vision and absence of political recruitment greatly affect political leadership. The study recommends that Kogi State Orientation Agency should vigorously carry out periodic leadership training exercise and enlightenment campaign across all levels to enable the citizens select and vote credible candidates that will improve their economic well-being rather than voting candidates based on ethnic or geographical affinity.*

**Keywords:** *Political Leadership, Economic Development, Kogi State, Democracy, Governance*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Leadership across the globe is expected to be a call to service and responsibility which should lead to meaningful development of society. Therefore, anyone that desires to lead must not only be prepared to take full responsibility of the office, but be able to ensure that the economic wellbeing of the citizens is adequately delivered. In every society, there is a strong relationship between political leadership and socioeconomic development. The importance of political leadership in attaining sustained economic development cannot be overemphasized as each society is defined by a set of values, orientations, practices and norms that identify the context in which their political activities or governance take place. Almond and Powell (1988) refer to this as political culture. They argue that these sets of values and orientations underlie and give meaning to political action, inputs or outcome in any society. In other words, the character of any society determines largely what happens in such a society. Therefore, to understand the relationship between the political

structure/system (political leadership) and economic development of Kogi state, an understanding of the political leadership is necessary (Thomas, 2013). For example, leadership has been able to provide good governance in the nations of Europe such as United Kingdom, France, Germany, Switzerland and Sweden; also, countries of North and South America are examples of nations that have witnessed rapid economic and sustainable development through good governance by the leadership.

Nigeria is operating a democratic system of governance where the leaders and the leadership orientation are expected to transform the human (through affordable healthcare system and quality education), material (which include good road network for easy transportation of goods and people from the rural to urban areas, commerce and industry, affordable housing and many more), with the capacity for exploration of natural resources available in the region to boost socio-political/economic activities for better standard of living such as wealth and job creation. According to Oluwatoyin and Lawal (2011), the political will of the leadership of a society helps to translate development process and sustainability through policies and programmes that it initiates. The pride of citizens in a society is attached to the attainment of development in such a way that the dividends of good governance are felt by them.

Extant literatures such as Oluwatoyin and Lawal (2011) reveal that in Kogi State in particular, that the main problem that has bedeviled Kogi State is poor leadership (Ohiare, 2019). In the case of Nigeria, after the first set of patriotic leaders that emerged immediately after independence, subsequent leaders became selfish and corrupt, hence, less committed to national development (Omachi, 2019). Similarly, Obiozor (2015) opines that Nigeria is a nation born in optimism in 1960 at independence, but has its sixty (60) years lived in a state of doubt and uncertainty. Arguably, much development projects and programmes in Nigeria have been formulated and implemented by military regimes and political leaders of the First Republic. The best and the most useful infrastructure (such as general hospital, roads, Ajaokuta Steel Company etc) that are present in Kogi State were constructed by early leaders. However, in contemporary Nigeria, most of the leaders seem to be characterized by lack of direction and inability to provide socio economic development for the people (Ebegbulam, 2012, Attah, Audu & Haruna, 2013).

The creation of Kogi State in 1991 brought about so much hope that the economic fortunes of the state will be transformed for the better. The democratically elected political leadership that emerged was expected to transform Kogi State through reforms that will bring about rapid economic development in health, education, road network, agriculture, commerce and industry, and many others. Kogi State is strategically located in North-Central Nigeria where it serves as a link between the north and south, and is endowed with abundant human and natural resources such as coal, tin, crude oil and youthful population, which if properly harnessed by the political leadership will make the state a commercial hub that would generate employment for the teeming youths of the State. Therefore, to achieve this feat, there is need for the political leadership to construct good intra-road network that will facilitate the movement of goods and services from rural to urban areas and vice-versa. Also, access to affordable health care is critical to achieving economic development in Kogi State and if there is concerted effort by the political leadership to improve the well-being of its citizens by constructing hospitals, carrying out immunization to reduce infant mortality, offering employment and training of medical personnel at all levels.

However, despite the zeal by the electorates to vote during elections for democratic leaders to ensure that there is improved economic development and service delivery, the manner in which leaders are

recruited leaves much to be desired, the problems still persist because of lack of sincere commitment on the part of leaders and weak electoral institutions. Kogi State is blessed with abundant natural and human resources which if developed by the leadership would lead to better life/improved standard of living for the people.

The global development index report (2020) reveals that most developing nations, especially Africa seem not to be thriving economically, for example, Nigeria has been reported to be the first having about eighty (80) million Nigerians who are poor, followed by India, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Mozambique. This implies that there is correlation between the quality of leadership and development considering the fact that poverty is one of the critical indices in measuring development.

In spite of the availability of abundant natural, material and human resources, over the years Kogi State has suffered some challenges and remains underdeveloped. It is hoped that adopting measures to strengthen the democratic institutions in Kogi State will ensure good governance and address the challenges of poor development, thereby improve access to economic infrastructure such as affordable health care and good road network transportation. Therefore, the thrust of this research is to assess the effect or impact of political leadership with focus on agriculture and education in Kogi State on economic development in the period 2003–2015.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of this study is to assess the performances of political leadership in terms of economic development of citizens of Kogi State. However, the specific objectives are;

- i. To examine the reasons that prompted the demand for and creation of Kogi State.
- ii. To discuss the impact of recruitment process and performances of political leadership in Kogi State.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Political Leadership and Economic Development in Kogi State, Nigeria**

Kogi State was carved out of old Kwara and Benue States respectively. The birth of the new State was a reunion of a people who had shared a common history and had co-existed as one polity for a period of over seven decades before being severed by the 1976 States creation exercise. The creation of the State on the 27th August, 1991 by the administration of former President Ibrahim Babangida was a dream fulfilled and one which seeks to put the State on the threshold of rapid economic transformation.

The area which today forms Kogi State was a colonial formation then known as Kabba Province which suffered neglect since independence. It was, therefore, the quest for rapid economic development of the area that informed the decision of the Babangida government in 1991 to create along with eight others, a State out of both Kwara and Benue bringing together families who had been separated by the 1976 states creation exercise into a happy reunion ([kogistate.gov](http://kogistate.gov), 2020).

Kogi State is made up of the Igala, Kabba, Ebira and Kogi Division of the former Kabba Province. It is a centrally located State in the country and shares boundaries with the Nasararwa, Niger and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), to the North, Benue and Anambra States to the East, and on the

West, it is bordered by Ondo, Ekiti, Kwara, Edo and Enugu States. It is in short, the Gateway-State with very rich cultural values, great natural endowments and infinite stretches of arable land.

The state capital, according to kogistate.gov (2020) Lokoja is an ancient historical town which once served as the colonial administrative headquarters of Nigeria. It is located on the intersecting point of longitude 70 49'N and latitude 60 44'E on the map of Nigeria. Lokoja town is situated on the slope of a range of hills, Mount Patti. It is located at the confluence of the rivers Niger and Benue. The Kogi State capital is bounded on the North and East by the River Niger and on the West by the wooded heights of Mount Patti and South by Ajaokuta. It occupies an area of between twenty and thirty kilometers. The state capital, like most others in the country, plays a dual role since it is the administrative headquarters of the Kogi Local Government Area. (kogistate.gov, 2020).

In spite of the difficulties in the definition of the Niger-Benue confluence area, there seems to be a general agreement on the presence of differences between various peoples and cultures that inhabit the areas which now form Kogi State. The peopling of the area has been studied in the context of evidence derived from archaeology, physical anthropology, and historical linguistics. On the whole, the State is heterogeneous in nature with the Ebiras, Igalas and Okun Yorubas forming the major group. The smaller ethnic groupings include Bassa Kwomus, Bassa Nges, Oworo, Nupes, Ogori/Magongo, Egbura Koto, and Kakandas that are in dire need of economic development (kogistate.gov, 2020).

### **The Demand for and Creation of States in Nigeria – The Kogi Experience**

Since 1914 when the Northern and Southern protectorate were amalgamated to form Nigeria, the country has experimented with various governance models in the quest to appropriately situate the interest and agitations of the various ethnic groups that make up the country. At the heart of these agitations is the cry of marginalization and the demand for states particularly among minority ethnic groups in the country (Adeniyi, 2014, Ota, Ecoma and Wambu, 2020). Accordingly, Omotoso (2009), posits that the demand for and agitation for state creation is attributable to several factors including ethnic, political and economic marginalization of small groups. Prior to Nigeria's independence, there were so many agitations for creation of more regions that the colonial government had to set up the Willink Commission, which was asked to ascertain the facts about the fears of minorities in any part of Nigeria and to propose means of allaying those fears, whether well or ill founded. In its final report, the Commission refused to recommend the creation of additional regions to cater for the minorities (Adeniyi, 2014).

These demands and agitations gained sustained momentum immediately after Nigeria attained independence. After the country emerged from a three (3) year civil war (1967-1970), the demand for and agitation for the creation of more "new" states within Nigeria to provide administrative voices for minority ethnic interests increased. Consequently, the military government of General Yakubu Gowon in May 27, 1967 created a twelve (12) states structure in Nigeria out of the existing regional structure in the country (Suberu, 1998).

Justifying the states creation activity, General Yakubu Gowon attributed it to the need to redress some of the anomalies that existed in Nigeria federation. Thus, the first twelve states that existed in Nigeria are as follows: North-Western State comprising Sokoto and Niger Provinces. North-Central State comprising Katsina and Zaria. Kano State comprising the present Kano Province. North-Eastern State comprising Bornu, Adamawa, Saruana, and Bauchi Provinces. Lagos State



as unnecessary. This was because of the long-term consequences. For instance, he argued that state creation would not only impede development by draining the limited resources of the federal government, but would also encourage laziness on the part of the states, and conspicuous consumption among big-time contractors (Shagari, 1996). Also, given Nigeria's heterogeneous nature, it has been contended that the idea of state creation would constitute an unnecessary distraction from the task of government because of the unending competition for the resources of the Nigerian State which, more or less, has as its basis, ethnically-defined constituencies (Suberu, 1998). In other words, the position of opponents of state creation is that rather than engender nation-building and national integration, such an exercise will continue to generate centrifugal challenges instead of encouraging national unity and patriotism.

### **Political Leadership and Recruitment Strategies for Development in Kogi State**

Scholars such as Nwambuko, (2021); Kubiati, (2018); Lawal and Oluwatoyin, (2011) described leadership as the process of persuasion or example by which an individual induces a group to pursue objectives held by the leader or shared by the leader and his or her followers. It is therefore, a process of social influence by which a person influences others to accomplish an objective and directs the organization in a way that makes it more cohesive and coherent. Accordingly, Egwu (2017) posits that leadership is the ability to lead or the office of a leader and a leader is any individual who can conduct, motivate, who has authority to direct, a chief commander, inspire a group of individuals to bring out the best in them. A leader therefore is expected to demonstrate qualities, which embrace but not limited to good character, vision, tact, prudence, and ability to lead by example because people basically ascribe leadership to those who they feel can most enable them achieve important goals or objectives. From the foregoing, an efficient and effective political leader must design and develop strategies to promote economic development for his people. Leadership is of various categories. The focus of this study is political leadership.

Ogar (2011) described political leadership as the ruling class that bears the responsibility of managing the affairs and resources of a political entity by setting and influencing policy priorities affecting the territory through different decision-making structures and institutions created for the orderly development of the territory. These decisions are based on well-thought out mechanisms and strategies. Conceptualizing further on political leadership, Obikeze, Obi and Abonyi (2005) submitted that political leadership class includes people who hold decision-making positions in government, and people who seek those positions, whether by means of election, coup d'état, appointment, electoral fraud, conquest, right of inheritance or other means. In a broader perspective, political leadership goes beyond the ruling class that directly run the affairs of a territory; it includes the totality of the political class that has the capacity to influence the machineries of government even from behind the scene (Okeke and Idahosa, 2009).

### **Political Leadership and Economic Development in Kogi state, Nigeria**

In Nigeria, there is growing concern over the impact of the political leadership on economic development, wealth creation and distribution among the citizenry. Indeed, the slow economic development bedeviling the nation has been largely attributed to poor leadership. The importance of wealth creation and economic development as a core function of government cannot be overemphasized (Egwu, 2005, Egwu 2006, Audu & Gungul, 2014). Economic development results in wealth creation among the citizenry which will in turn trigger other aspects of development within

a society. Almost all the states in Nigeria including Kogi state have natural mineral resources that can be harnessed by political leaders to engender economic development.

In Nigeria, and indeed in Kogi state, in spite of the spatial distribution of mineral resources, underdevelopment conspicuously characterizes the state (Idoko, Agenyi & Oluyote, 2015). Agboola et al (2017) opined that, one of the surprising features of modern economic growth is that economies with abundant natural resources have tended to grow less rapidly than natural-resource-scarce economies. Countries that are endowed with abundant natural and requisite human resources are naturally not supposed to experience grotesque poverty. However, in some countries such as Nigeria, abundant resources, though having the potential to contribute significantly to their economic fortunes, often become the basis for the opposite (Hain, 2015). Competition for a share of government wealth dominates politics, feeds corruption and diverts attention away from improving governance and providing the basic services which Nigerian and indeed Kogi people need (Nicolas & Cottrell, 2014). Poor management of the economy of most states in with abundant human and material resources in Nigeria have had many negative consequences on the society, including conflicts among political leaders over who control power and invariably wealth.

Two major problems that have bedeviled the economy of Kogi state and Nigeria at large over the years are: lack of commitment of political leaders towards grassroot economic development at the state level and consequent dependence on monthly allocations from the federal government; and second is the problem of wealth distribution Idoko, Agenyi and Oluyote, 2015). On the issue of wealth creation, especially through industrial development, Agbor (2012) argued that, the Nigerian bourgeoisie lacks the commitment of a religious socialist or nationalist character of the rationalizing, capital accumulating, surplus expropriating classes of Britain, Russia, Germany, or Japan during their period of industrial development.

Utomi (2015), Abu, and Audu,(2016) also blames the problems in Nigeria on political leaders who, according to him, do not care enough to make Nigeria better. According to Utomi (2015), Nigeria must, as a matter of urgency, determine their factor endowments; those resources, skills and expertise that they hold the most comparative advantage and exploit same to enhance their regional, national and global competitiveness. According to Mkandawire (2001), Attah Audu, and Haruna (2014) the first generation of African leaders, including Nigeria, concentrated their energies on the politics of nation building in the post-independence era. The result of the politics of nation-building was poor. The Nigerian political leaders demonstrated their ineptness through unbridled quest for political power, intolerance, among others, which made the First Republic to collapse (Suberu, 1996). Today, however, harsh realities of life have made the political leadership to turn their focus on the economics of nation building. However, this has not translated to automatic development of states within the country.

## **Theoretical Framework**

### **Elite Theory**

The major proponents of Elite theory include; Vilfredo Pareto (1848-1923), Garetano Mosca (1854-1941), Roberto Michels (1876 - 1936) and Ortega Y. Gasset (1883-1955). All the proponents are of the view that in every society, political leadership plays vital role in its development or otherwise, and society is divided into two groups ruling and non-ruling elites.

In general sense, the central theme points to the fact that society consist of two broad categories firstly, the selected few, who are able and, therefore, have the right to Supremes leadership and secondly, the vast masses of people who are destined to be ruled (Varma, 1999). Pareto on his part, believed that every society is ruled by a minority that possesses the qualities necessary for its accession to full social and political power. They are known as the elite. To him, the Elites consist of those successful persons who rise to the top in every occupation and stratum of societies; there is elite of Lawyers, an elite of mechanics and others (Varma, 1999).

In its pyramidal structure, Pareto uses circulation of elites” to explained that in every society, there is an unceasing movement of individuals and “elites” from higher to lower level, and from lower to higher levels resulting in a considerable increase of their degenerate elements in the classes which still hold power (Varma, 1999).

Mosca on the other hand, opines that, in all societies, two classes of people appear a class that rules and a class that is ruled. The first class, always the less numerous, performs all political functions, monopolize power and enjoys the advantages that power brings, whereas the second, the more numerous classes is directed and controlled by the first in a manner that is now more or less legal, now more or less arbitrary and violent and supplies the first in appearance at least with the instrumentalities that are essential to the vitality of political organism (Varma, 1999). Mosca believes that, in every society elite, the governing elite tries to find a moral and legal basis for its being in the citadels of power and represent it as the logical and necessary consequence of doctrines and beliefs that are generally recognized and accepted. (Varma, 1999).

Michels in his part used his concept of “Iron law of oligarchy” described that, leadership is a necessary phenomenon in every form of social life. That all order and civilization must exhibit aristocratic features, that, as organization or polity grows in size more functions have to be delegated to an inner circle of leaders. The majority of human beings are apathetic indolent and are incapable of self-governing. However, Michels is of the opinion that, leaders easily take advantage of these qualities to perpetuate themselves in power (Varma, 1999).

Ortega Gasset placed his assumption that, a nation’s greatness depends on the capacity of the masses to find their symbol in certain chosen people (Leaders), or whom it pours out the vast store of its vital enthusiasm”. A nation is organized as a result of selected few individuals as their leaders. In politics, the elite denote specifically those who exercise preponderant political influence in a community. There are differently designated as the power elite, the ruling class, political entrepreneurs, the establishment and the governing minority. Politics is seen in terms of a small group dominating the whole society and taking the decision which make the mark and history of politics. Even when there is a mass participatory democracy, consensus is generally brought about by a few or supported by few people who constitutes informal exclusive group (Mba, 2006). In addition, proponents of the theory like Pareto (1848-1923) believed that every society is ruled by minority that possesses the essentials qualities needed for accession to full social and political power. Those who get to the top are always the best. The elites consist of those successful persons who rise to the top in every occupation and stratum of society. Thus, there are elite of Lawyers, elite of mechanics, elite of thieves, and even elite of prostitutes (Varma, 1999). The elite theory is relevant to this research because of its practical application on political leadership and economic development as it is capable of integrating political view and ideologies towards political sustainability in Kogi State.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Design**

Research design is the comprehensive strategy that is adopted for the study. This research adopt survey research design. This is because considering the nature of the research; the technique is most suitable, since the researchers need to reach out to respondents directly or indirectly to elicit relevant



data. To this end, the study which examines political leadership and economic development in Kogi State adopt the descriptive research survey design which involves collecting data from respondents through the primary and secondary sources. Specifically, the major instruments adopted for this study is questionnaire, to assess the views and opinions of respondents about political leadership and Economic development in Kogi State within the period under review. The data is therefore subjected to both descriptive and inferential statistics for analysis.

### **Population of the Study, Sample and Sampling Techniques**

The population of the study is drawn from a general population of Kogi State which is 4,473,500 (NPC 2016). For the purpose of this study, the researcher worked with a target population of 1,485,600, because two (2) Local Government Areas (LGAs) each were selected (because most of the citizens dwell in the rural areas where economic development is most needed) from the three (3) Senatorial districts in the state, thereby, bringing the total number of Local Government Areas to six (6). The justification for the choice of two local government areas from each of the senatorial zones is source for adequate and reliable information from response across Kogi state. Additionally, these LGAs were selected based on their centrality and spread from the senatorial districts. This selection is again justified based on the fact that each of the LGAs has geographical links to other areas.

Those covered specifically as respondents from these Local Government Areas include former top government officials, members of the cabinets, Members of the State House of Assembly, Members of Senior /Management Staff of Departments and Agencies and Boards, Local government Chairmen, Councilors and Cabinet Members of the Six (6) selected Local Government Areas, Executive Members of Community Based Associations, Traditional Rulers and Religious Leaders, Executive Members of Women Associations and other categories (for instance, rural dwellers, traders, artisans, unemployed, farmers, and traders) in the Selected LGAs. These were the target respondents and, in a situation, whereby any are not available, they delegated or sent responses.

### **Sample Size**

The selected set of people or group that participated in the study investigation described as a study sample. Sample size according to Kotler (2012) is the list of individuals in a population from which a sample is drawn. The sampling technique for the selection of the population for the study or investigation was described as the sample size. The researchers adopted Godden (2004) statistical sample size determination formula that was used to draw the population of the study. The sample size formula helps the researchers find the accurate sample size through the difference between the population and the sample. The number of observations in a given sample population is known as **sample size**. Since it not possible to survey the whole population, the researchers took a sample from the population and then conduct a survey or research.

According to Godden (2004) sample size determination formular is for the study population which is based on 95% confidence level, 5% margin of error and a variability degree of 50%, due to the unique and heterogeneous nature of the population of Kogi State.

The formular is thus: 
$$SS = \frac{Z^2 (P)(1-P)}{C^2}$$

Where SS = Sample size

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$$\begin{aligned}
 Z &= 95\% \text{ confidence level (1.96)} \\
 P &= \text{Estimated proportion of the population (0.5)} \\
 q &= 1 - P \\
 e &= \text{error margin (5\%)} \\
 \text{Thus, no} &= \frac{1.96^2 (0.5) (1 - 0.5)}{0.05^2} \\
 &= \frac{1.96^2 (0.5) (0.5)}{0.0025} \\
 &= \frac{3.8416 (0.5) (0.5)}{0.0025} \\
 &= \frac{0.9604}{0.0025} \\
 &= 384
 \end{aligned}$$

To determine sample size, the researcher substituted the above using the following formular below to modify:

$$\text{NSS} = \frac{\text{SS}}{1 + \frac{(\text{SS}-1)}{N}}$$

Where NSS = New Sample size  
 N = Population,  
 1 = Constant

$$\frac{384}{1 + \frac{(384 - 1)}{1485600}}$$

$$\text{Therefore, } n = \frac{384}{1 + (384-1) / 1485600} = \frac{384}{1 + (383) / 1485600} = \frac{384}{1 + 0.01} = \frac{384}{1.01} = 384$$

Finally, **NSS = 384.**

To get the sample size for each local government, the formula is:

$$\frac{\text{Pop. of Local Govt Area}}{\text{Pop. Of the Kogi State}} \times 384$$

### **Method of Data Collection**

Survey research technique comprise is primary data. Primary data generated through distribution of questionnaire conducted with key informants, particularly senior civil servants, politicians and political appointees, Local Government Chairmen and Councillors, government aides / Heads of ministries, departments and parastatals (past and present), Traditional Rulers and religious leaders, Exco members of women Associations, religious leaders, rural dwellers, traders, artisans,

unemployed and farmers. Again, it was purposive, based on those who have fore knowledge of the area of study, while structured questionnaire distributed to respondents.

The data gathered was presented in simple percentages; frequency tables for clarity of understanding mean criterion employed as the statistical tool analysis to test the impact of the variables and the proposition. The result of the study presented in descriptive, narrative form which implies descriptive account of selected and development derived from the data which form the bases for acceptance or rejection of the proposition.

### Data Analysis and Results

**Question 1:** What is your assessment of the impact of Political leadership on the economic development of Kogi State?

**Table 1:** Whether the impact of Political leadership on the economic development of Kogi State has been effective.

Responses	X	Frequency (f)	FX	Percentage (%)
Very Effective	5	39	195	10.71
Effective	4	64	256	17.58
Undecided	3	19	57	5.22
Ineffective	2	162	324	44.51
Very Ineffective	1	80	80	21.98
Total	$\sum X = 15$	$\sum F = 364$	$\sum fx = 912$	100

**Source:** Field Survey, 2023.

$$\text{Mean} = \frac{\sum FX}{n} = \frac{912}{364} = 2.51$$

Table 1 shows that thirty-nine (39) respondents representing 10.71% said that 0 have been very effective, sixty-four (64) respondents representing 17.58% ticked effective, 19 respondents representing 5.22% were undecided, while one hundred and sixty-two (162) respondents representing 44.51% ticked ineffective and eighty (80) respondents representing 21.98% said the ticked very ineffective. Therefore, most the respondents said that the impact of political leadership on the economic development of the citizens have been ineffective.

Considering the mean value for table 4.2.6 above, (which is 2.51) and the mean criterion (3.00), the researcher therefore rejects the research question because the mean value is less than the mean criterion. And can conclude that the impact of political leadership on the economic development of the citizen is ineffective.

**Question 2:** To what extent do you agree that recruitment process affect political leadership in Kogi State?

**Table 2.:** Whether recruitment process affect political leadership in Kogi State.

Responses	X	Frequency	FX	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	5	43	215	11.81
Agree	4	143	572	39.30
Undecided	3	51	153	14.01
Strongly Disagree	2	107	214	29.49
Disagree	1	20	20	5.49
Total	$\sum X = 15$	$\sum F = 364$	$\sum FX = 1174$	100

**Source:** Field Survey, 2023.

$$\text{Mean} = \frac{\sum FX}{n} = \frac{1174}{364} = 3.22$$

Table 2 shows that forty-three (43) respondents representing 11.81% strongly agreed that recruitment process affect political leadership in Kogi State, one hundred and forty-three (143) respondents representing 39.30% agreed, fifty-one (51) respondents representing 14.01% were undecided, one hundred and seven (107) respondents representing 29.39% disagreed while twenty (20) respondents representing 5.49% opted for strongly disagree. Hence, most of the respondents agreed that lack of recruitment process affect the quality of political leadership in Kogi State.

Considering the mean value for table 4.2.7 above, (which is 3.22) and the mean criterion (3.00), the researcher therefore accepts the research question because the mean value is greater than the mean criterion. And can conclude that lack of recruitment process affects the quality of political leadership in Kogi State.

**Question 3:** To what extent would you agree that the reason that prompted the demand for the creation of Kogi State been achieved.

**Table 3:** Whether the reason that prompted the demand for the creation of Kogi State been achieved.

Responses	X	Frequency	FX	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	5	40	200	10.98
Agree	4	33	132	9.06
Undecided	3	19	57	5.22
Strongly Disagree	2	184	368	50.55
Disagree	1	88	88	24.28
Total	$\sum X = 15$	$\sum F = 364$	$\sum FX = 845$	100

**Source:** Field Survey, 2023.

$$\text{Mean} = \frac{\sum FX}{n} = \frac{845}{364} = 2.32$$

Table 3 above shows that forty (40) respondents representing 10.99% strongly agreed that the reason that prompted the demand for the creation of Kogi State been achieved, thirty-three (33) respondents representing 9.06% agreed, nineteen (19) respondents representing 5.22% were undecided, one hundred and eighty-four (184) respondents representing 50.55% said disagreed while eight-eight (88) respondents representing 24.28% strongly disagreed. Hence, most of the respondents disagreed that the reason that prompted the demand for the creation of Kogi State not been achieved.

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Considering the mean value for table 4.2.10 above, (which is 2.32) and the mean criterion (3.00), the researcher therefore rejects the research question because the mean value is less than the mean criterion. And can conclude that the reason that prompted the demand for the creation of Kogi State not been achieved.

**Question 4:** Poor recruitment process of political leadership is responsible for poor performances in Kogi State.

**Table 4:** Whether poor recruitment process of political leadership is responsible for poor performances in Kogi State.

Responses	X	Frequency (X)	FX	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	5	82	410	22.53
Agree	4	171	684	46.98
Undecided	3	22	66	6.04
Disagree	2	50	100	13.74
Strongly Disagree	1	39	39	10.71
Total	$\sum X = 15$	$\sum F = 364$	$\sum FX = 1299$	100

**Source:** Field Survey, 2023.

$$\text{Mean} = \frac{\sum FX}{n} = \frac{1299}{364} = 3.57$$

Table 4 shows that eighty-two (82) respondents representing 22.53% strongly agreed that poor recruitment process of political leadership is responsible for poor performances in Kogi State, one hundred and seventy-one (171) respondents representing 46.98% agreed, twenty-two (22) respondents representing 6.04% were undecided, fifty (50) respondents representing 13.74% disagreed while thirty-nine (39) respondents representing 10.71% strongly disagreed. Hence, most of the respondents agreed that poor recruitment process of political leadership is responsible for poor performances in Kogi State.

Considering the mean value for table 4.2.14 above, (which is 3.57) and the mean criterion (3.00), the researcher therefore accepts the research question because the mean value is less than the mean criterion. And can conclude that poor recruitment process of political leadership is responsible for poor performances in Kogi State.

## Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study the research concludes that there is a correlation between political leadership and economic development of the citizens of Kogi State. Specifically, lack of vision and absence of political recruitment greatly affect political leadership, though, political leadership is supposed to enhance the socio-economic well-being of the people of Kogi State but this has not been achieved over the years. Additionally, the weak institution created by the political leadership is responsible for executive recklessness and lack of economic development in Kogi State, therefore, the citizens have not been satisfied with the way and manner the political leadership has governed them over the years under review.

## **Recommendations**

The study recommends that leadership recruitment process should be instituted and scrutinized with view to providing quality visionary leadership to the citizens of Kogi State. More so, based on empirical evidence and findings of this study, specific recommendations are as follows:

Based on the findings that the impact of political leadership on the economic development of the citizen is ineffective., the study recommends that Kogi State Orientation Agency should vigorously carry out periodic leadership training exercise and enlightenment campaign across all levels to enable the citizens select and vote credible candidates that will improve their economic well-being rather than voting candidates based on ethnic or geographical affinity. Again, the citizens should also carryout adequate critique of the candidates in terms of past records of performance in cases where they have served before. This will go a long way in enhancing the chance of recruiting the best candidate with a vision that will transform Kogi State economically.

Finally, based on the findings that lack of recruitment process affects the quality of political leadership in Kogi State, the research recommends that the political architecture should be properly institutionalized with the view to creating a virile avenue for proper checks and balances. Through this measure, those at the helm of affairs will be able to perform their functions without any form of recklessness or violation of extant laws. Also, other regulatory bodies particularly the anti-graft agencies should be adequately empowered to scrutinize and carry out the duties freely while mass media is given easy access to verify the score cards of political leaders, as through this the leaders will carry out their duties conscientiously.

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