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GOOD GOVERNANCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY: EXPLORING THE SYNERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

By

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ABSTRACT

This paper is an explorative discourse on the efforts of Nigeria as a developing economy to develop the infrastructural facilities and human capacity building in a quest to achieve sustainable development. Over the years, several attempts had been undermined by the failure of previous administrations to curtail maladministration and insecurity. The paper therefore, examines the synergy of good governance and national security in the perspective of Nigeria polity, with a view to establishing its links with sustainable economic development through a qualitative human capital development and efficient infrastructural facilities. The paper ends with a conclusion that some sustainable measures that can guarantee the promotion of good governance and national security in the country, ranges from improvement in quality of leadership, creation of employment opportunities, promotion of poverty alleviation programmes and enforcement of anti-corruption measures amongst others are germane towards the achievement of sustainable growth.

Key words: Good Governance, National Security, and Sustainable economic development

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Introduction

There are several studies on the sustainable economic development cum good governance and national security nexus but the literature on the relationship between good governance and sustainable economic development at the macro level is generally inconclusive. For instance, in Nigeria, the government had committed huge investment in human capacity building since as 1959 when the Ashby Commission was inaugurated "to conduct an investigation into Nigeria's needs in the field of post-school certificate and higher education for the subsequent 20 years" (Ojo, 1997 in Dauda, 2011). Since 1960 when the Ashby report was submitted, government expenditure on education continued to increase although it has not yet met the 26 percent UNESCO recommendation (Dauda, 2011). Added to this is the establishment of additional six universities sited in each of the six geopolitical zones of the North-West, North-East, North-Central, South-East, South-West, and South-South. More states and private universities are still waiting for licensing in order to meet up with increasing number of intakes by the tertiary institutions in the country. Furthermore, statistics have shown that pupil/teacher ratio is low in Nigeria coupled with negative growth indices of -0.35 for the period 1980-1985 (Adawo 2011). This has demonstrated that education's contribution to economic growth is low in Nigeria. In the same vein, there is persistent high mortality and morbidity rate among both adults and children. This trend has shown that the extent to which human capital has impacted on the economic growth in Nigeria is not clear. Also, education expansion in Nigeria does not seem to match equally with expansion in economic growth. Umo (2007) in Adawo (2011) observed that in the knowledge economy index (KEI) Nigeria stands at the bottom. For instance, KEI shows that South Africa stands at 5.08, Mauritius 4.32, Egypt 3.77 and Nigeria 1.55.

In addition to the above, the government has pursued the National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP) nothing very serious has taken shape as it is yet to identify any tangible project undertaken under this program. Most of the programs under the NAPEP remain on paper. Again, some of the preliminary studies on the content, nature and coverage of the NAPEP show that contrary to the government's pledge to fully involve the stakeholders in determining the projects and to take ownership, the poor were not in any way part of the decision making, as their opinion was neither sought nor their inputs observed.

Furthermore, the "seven point economic reform agenda" (SPERA) introduced by President Yar'adua's administration and the revised version of President Goodluck administration

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tagged 'economic transformation agenda' were designed to revive and resuscitate the key sectors of the economy such as: energy,and power, wealth creation and employment, land reforms, agriculture, food and securities that were already in moribund stage. These supplementary measures were introduced to translate economic growth into an equivalent increase in human well-being. Regrettably, these policies suffered severe setback like the past plans because of absence of human imperative, inadequate funding, poor political will, mismanagement and misappropriation of funds as well as poor budget implementation monitoring mechanisms. However, infrastructures (such as transport and communication) that can improve commerce within the system or social amenities to raise the welfare of average citizen of the economy are not yet there. This indicates that something is definitely wrong either with the way government expands budget or with the ways and manners it has always been computed.

Also, there are misconception and poor orientation on the part of labour, employers of labour and government on the efficacy of system of government in achieving the much desired World economic growth that would increase the nations per capita income, thereby boosting the standard of living of the economic agent. In Nigeria, the rate of illiteracy is very high. Most of the workers are unskilled and they make use of outmoded capital, equipment and methods of production. By implication, their marginal productivity is extremely low and this leads to low real income, low savings, low investment and consequently low rate of capital formation. Overtime, the following issues relating to the concept have remained unresolved: Uneven distribution of skilled manpower, misemployment of human capital in Nigeria, poor reward system retarding the acquisition and development of human capital. Therefore, the strategy aimed at empowering the citizenry to acquire the skills and knowledge that would prepare them for the vast challenges. In addition, there is dilapidated infrastructure (especially transport and communication) that has led to the collapse of many industries, including high level of unemployment (Nurudeen and Usman, 2010).

There is also the problem of inadequate funding of the educational system in Nigeria, as confirmed in the work of Central Bank of Nigeria (2000) to the extent of very low budget allocations to education as compared to others. For instance, the Federal government allocation to education ranged between 0.6 and 9.0 percent for recurrent and 1.0 to 2.8 percent for capital expenditure of the Federal Government budget for the period of 1992 – 1996. Thus, the government of Nigeria in the NEEDS programme recognizes that one of the

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main challenges facing the educational institutions in the country was inadequate funding. Another problem that this paper addresses is the problem of poor infrastructure for learning in most institutions, which has adversely affected the role of education in economic growth. The tremendous increase in enrolment at all levels of education and training have been affected because of poor and declining quality of the trained manpower concerned without geometric increase in the public expenditure of most developing countries towards the actualization of the Millennium Development Goals (Yesufu 2003: 344).

On comparative basis, better condition of living for citizens, has been achieved in the developed nations of the world, like Britain, United States of America, Germany, Japan, China etc. in these countries, there are evidences of well-run educational system, good organization of industrial sectors, provisions of affordable shelters for the citizens, good national security and political stability. There is also explicitly the interdependence between growth, poverty reduction and sustainable development, which acknowledges that development, rests on the foundations of democratic governance, the rule of law, respect for human rights, peace, and security. The developed nations have put in place some measures such as ensuring security and stability in the politics through actualization of national economic empowerment, making government more efficient and effective through public service reforms, monetization and pension reforms. Oromareghake (2009) reported that the Millennium Development Goal (MDGs) are the world's time-bound and quantified targets for addressing extreme poverty in its many dimensions: income poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter, and exclusion while promoting gender equality, education, and environmental sustainability. They are in respect of the basic human rights such as the rights of each citizen to health, education, shelter and security.

On the contrary, Nigeria is the epicenter of crisis and political instability, with continuing food insecurity and activities of the armed robbers, kidnappers, militants and recently insurgents, a rise in unemployment and underemployment of resources and stunningly high child and maternal mortality. The country is also characterized with large numbers of people living in slums, widespread poverty with about 70% of the population living below the poverty line (FRN- Niger Delta Regional development master plan (2008) and generally a widespread shortfall for most of the millennium Development Goals. Furthermore, Nigeria remains one of the underdeveloped countries in the sub-Saharan region with low per capita income (66% of the US $75) per month and 76.6% earn less than N20, 000.00). The

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incidence of poverty is very high with over 70% living at subsistence level in rural areas (FRN- Niger Delta regional development master plan 2008 in Arisi, 2013). In addition, life expectancy in the country is low with 46.8 years it is even lower in some of the remote areas where access to health care is difficult. In fact child mortality is particularly high (20% die by the age of 5).

This also includes a high degree of adult morbidity emanating from a wide variety of diseases that undermine individual employment and initiative. The quality of life is further affected by social unrest and threats to peaceful co-existence among ethnic groups in Nigeria (FRN-Niger Delta Regional Development master plan 2008 in Arisi, 2013).

The scenario described above depicts bad governance by the state political actors and gladiators (politicians) who have corrosively gained the control and accumulation of the meager state resources for their private use in anticipation of their yet unborn generations. These scavengers and oil *cabals* have succeeded in siphoning the country's fund to the developed countries thereby instituting modern form of neo-colonialism. The fundamental fact is that sustainable national development cannot be achieved in a nation where there is bad governance and where lives and properties of people cannot be guaranteed because of the persistent activities of insurgents and armed bandits.

It is against this backdrop that this paper addresses the interface between good governance, national security and sustainable economic development in Nigeria. Particularly, it seeks to demonstrate through sequential technique of qualitative analysis that good governance and national security is germane towards the achievement of sustainable economic development in Nigeria. The paper is therefore divided into four parts: first, is the introductory section, the second is the conceptual explanations on good governance, followed by the discussions of the synergy of good governance and national security and its links for sustainable national development and the last is the conclusion and recommendations.

Conceptualization of Good Governance

The concept of good governance is not new. It is as old as human civilization. Simply put, by Coleman (1965), governance means the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented). Governance has been described as an approach or perspective that focuses on state, societal institutions and the relationship

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between them as well as on how rules are made in a society, which are accepted, as legitimate to enhance values that are sought by individuals and groups within the society. Governance has also been identified with the founding values and constitutional policies that constitute the nature of governing institutions, guide their actions, and shape the complex relations between them and the society. Public management based on principles of good governance as one that attempts to improve the system of government, to emphasize efficiency and responsibility for all institutions, to promote democratic principles and to establish a new relationship between government and civil society.

The UN Human Development Report (2004) pointed out that governance has two faces: first, the leadership that has responsibilities derived from the principles of effective governmental organizations. Second, the governed, that is the citizens, who are responsible for making relevant inputs to the socio-economic and political affairs of their society. In other words, governance is a relationship between rulers and the ruled, the state and society, the governors, and the governed. It is important that the two principal actors be as close as possible to ensure the legitimacy accountability, credibility and responsiveness of the rulers and the effective participation, corruption and responsiveness of the ruled is achieved. An important aspect of the relationships within and between the two components of governance is the change that usually occurs. For instance, laws regulating certain behaviors and activities may change after sometime. Where these changes become too frequent, without well thought appraisals, instability results and this may paralyze government operations. Governance, as it applies to waste management, change policies over time, but most often it incorporates not only formal structures of government but also the informal structures created by society, such as community base organization (CBOs), institutions and associations as well as the ways formal and informal structures interact in the collection, transportation, and disposal of waste. It involves intergovernmental relations, fiscal mobilization and allocations, planning and individual participation, the efficiency and effectiveness of delivery depends most importantly on managerial and organizational efficiency, accountability, legitimacy, responsiveness to the public transparency in decision making, and pluralism of policy options and choices. Good governance is an essential precondition for sustainable development. Various countries that are quite similar in terms of their natural resources and social structure have shown strictly different performance in improving the welfare of their people. Much of this is attributable to standards of governance that may stifles and impedes development. In countries, where there is corruption, poor control of public funds, lack of accountability,

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abuses of human rights and excessive military influence, development inevitably suffers. Michels (1962), states that government is one of the actors in governance. Other actors involved in governance vary depending on the level of government that is under discussion. In rural areas for example, other actors may include influential property owners, associations of peasant farmers, co-operatives, NGOs, research institutes, religious leaders, financial institutions, political parties, the military etc.

Similarly, Unescape (2008), states that good governance has eight major characteristics. They are, participatory by both men and women, which is the key to good governance. The next is the rule of law, which requires fair legal frameworks that are enforced impartially. It also requires full protection of human rights, particularly those of minorities. Impartial enforcement of laws requires an independent judiciary and incorruptible police force. The third point is transparency, which means that decisions taken and their enforcement are done in a manner that follows rules and regulations. The fourth is responsiveness, which means that good governance requires that institutions and processes try to serve all stakeholders within a reasonable timeframe. The fifth characteristic is consensus orientation. Good governance requires mediation of the different interests in society to reach a broad consensus in society on what is in the best interest of the whole community and how this can be achieved. It also requires a broad and long-term perspective on what is needed for sustainable human development and how to achieve the goals of such development. The sixth characteristic is equity and inclusiveness. A society's well being depends on ensuring that all its members feel that they have a stake in it and do not feel excluded from the mainstream of society. This requires all groups, but particularly the most vulnerable, have opportunities to improve or maintain their well-being. The seventh characteristic is effectiveness and efficiency. Good governance means that processes and institutions produce results that meet the needs of society while making the best use of resources at their disposal. The concept of efficiency in the context of good governance also covers the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of the environment. The last characteristic of good governance is accountability. It is a key requirement of good governance, not only governmental institutions but also the private sector and civil society organizations. Conclusively good governance is an ideal, which is difficult to achieve in its totality. Very few countries and society have come close to achieving good governance in its totality. However, to ensure sustainable, human development and actions must be taken to work towards this ideal with the aim of making it a reality. Nigeria as a country is rich in natural and human resources, but the inhabitants remain

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perpetually poor due to mismanagement of resources and corruption, which has eaten deep into the fabrics of the nationhood.

Good governance and national security synergy: Links for Sustainable National Development

The objectives of good governance and attainment of national security is very laudable and commendable. They are geared towards national development and securing a future. Thus, some scholars seem to place emphasis on absence of threat to acquire values or tendencies that would undermine national cohesion and peace as criteria for determining what security connotes (Oche 2001). In his view, David (2006) posits that security is the condition or feeling of safety from harm or danger, the defence, protection and the absence of threats to acquire values (cited in Igbuzor, 2011:2). Security in an objective sense, measures the absence of threats to acquire values, in subjective sense, the absence of fear that such values will be attacked (Wolfers, 1962). In spite of its conceptual complexities, the understanding of the term shows that security is vital for national cohesion, peace and sustainable development. Thus, "security has to do with freedom from danger or with threats to a nation's ability to protect and develop itself, promote its cherished values and legitimate interests and enhance the well being of its people. Thus, internal security could be seen as the freedom from or the absence of those tendencies which could undermine internal cohesion and the cooperate existence of the nation and its ability to maintain its vital institutions for the promotion of its core values and socio-political and economic objectives, as well as meet the legitimate aspirations of the people. Internal security also implies freedom from danger to life and prosperity" (Imobighe cited in Oche 2001:76-77). It therefore refers to avoid, prevent, reduce, or resolve violent conflict- whether the threat originates from other states, non-state actors, or structural socio-economic conditions (Stan, 2004:2).

National Security is a cherished value associated with the physical safety of individuals, groups, or nation-states, together with a similar safety of their most cherished values. It denotes freedom from threats, anxiety or danger. Therefore, security in an objective sense can be measured by the absence of threat, anxiety or danger. More importantly, security has a subjective sense, which can be measured by the absence of fear that threat, anxiety or danger will materialize (Nnoli, 2006: 16).

As a corollary, Edeh and Ugwueze (2014) opine that the survival of any nation is embedded on its security situation. Insecurity is a threat to development because it produces economic

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stagnation .Their study utilizes the theory of Good Governance and National Security in analyzing Boko Haram insurgence and the Nigerian economic development. They therefore suggested that the only thing that can sustain development and curb insurgencies in Nigeria is good governance because what we are witnessing presently is the resultant implication of contrapuntal maladministration that had hitherto characterized the Nigerian state.

In the same vein, Adele (2011: 60) posits that: the transition to civilian rule has created its own challenges for national security and socio-political development, as demonstrated by diverse conflicts, upheavals and anti-state/government agitations especially in the Niger-Delta, SouthEast and now in the menace of the Boko Haram in Northern Nigeria. He has more importantly identified that these problems are paradoxical in nature because they impinge on the basic issues of poverty, socio-political grievances, human rights and the ethnic question.

Similarly, Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013) note that one of the major setbacks to development in Nigeria is insecurity. They added that, until very recently, plethora of explanations on the crawling pace of development in Nigeria tends to pay infinitesimal attention to the centrality of security to national development. They observed that it is no surprise therefore that since 1999 when Nigeria returned to civil rule insecurity tends to have hampered national development. Security is evidently the pillar upon which every meaningful development could be achieved and sustained. The development strides in most Western Capitalist States that place premium on security lend credence to this assertion. Whilst Nigeria is endowed with abundant resources, negligence to numerous challenges of insecurity of the environment appears to have created porous security condition that engendered violence and retards development.

Development as a concept is a victim of definitional pluralism. It is a difficult word to define. This is because authors from various areas of specialization have viewed it from different perspectives. However, erudite scholars have attempted to conceptualize development. Some of these definitions would be explored for the purpose of this paper. Development according to Indabawa and Mpofu (2006) cited in Onyenemezu and Okanezi (2013) defined development as "transformation both socially and materially".

In addition, Gboyega (2003) captures development as an idea that embodies all attempts to improve the conditions of human existence in all ramifications. It implies improvement in material well being of all citizens, not the most powerful and rich alone, in a sustainable way

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such that today's consumption does not imperil the future, it also demands that poverty and inequality of access to the good things of life be removed or drastically reduce. It seeks to improve personal physical security, livelihood, and expansion of life chances. In the same vein, Naomi (1995) believes that development transcend economic growth, but also some notion of equitable distribution, provision of health care, education, housing and other essential services all with a view to improving the individual and collective quality of life. In another dimension, Akinpelu (2002) in defining development focuses on human beings whom he referred to as the target of development processes neither rather than material accumulations surrounding him nor of the economic progress and growth of any nation state. He conceived development as:

a process of changing the personality, equipping it with the necessary skills, knowledge and attitudes to conceive, design and carry out his/her own self development. It involves liberating him/her from all inhibitions (social, economic, political and cultural) that prevents him/her from realizing the best confidence, self-reliance, self pride, and poise to face the world, and of his/her creative potentials and sense of freedom and readiness to participate in any matters involving self/or the environment (p.80).

The meaning of sustainable development has attracted attention across disciplines and scholars of various dispositions. Sustainable literarily means 'which' can continue or be continued for a long time; capable of being maintained at a set level, keep up assumed role competently' (The American Heritage Dictionary, 2000; The 21st Chambers Dictionary, 2001; Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, 2003; Hornby, 200) in Abraham (2012). Sustainable development therefore is one of the latest concepts that emerged in the literature and thinking of development policy. The World Commission on Environment and Development brought the concept into common usage in its 1987 report (Kempe, 1996:193). The report conceptualized sustainable development as human progress that meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Uguw and Ijah 2011). However, sustainable development according to Onyenemezu and Okanezi (2013) is an amalgam of two component words; namely "sustainable" and "development." As a corollary, Arisi (2013) opines that governance is the process of decision making and the process by which decisions are implemented or not implemented. She explained further that governance could be used in several contexts such as corporate governance, international governance, national governance and local governance. The concept is an attempt to shape and secure a future generation.

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In addition, the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) conceives sustainable development to mean environment, economic and social well-being for today and tomorrow.

Abraham (2012) submits that sustainable development mantra enjoins current generations to take a systematic approach to growth and development and to manage natural, produced and social capital for the welfare of their own and future generations – a system that connects space; and a system that connects time.

National development can be simply defined as national growth in all ramifications (economic, social, cultural, political and environmental). It involves all the activities, which a nation engages in to achieve a good standard of living for her citizens. The main purpose of national development is to liberate citizens from the shackles of poverty. Agboeze (2011) once posits that development is of man, by man and for man. Hence, economic, political, social, cultural, physical, spiritual, material and moral development of a nation is inevitable for freedom and dignity of man. It should be noted that national development does not concern only economic development, even though, it is a crucial factor of it. Sustainable national development therefore can be seen as the capability of a particular nation or country to achieve comprehensive improvements or refinement in all ramifications of its existence (economic, political, cultural, religious etc) and set, maintain and continue affairs at that level for a long time (Abraham, 2012). This simply means the ability of a particular country to plan and achieve betterment and improvements in its socio-economic, political, cultural and environmental lives both now and in the future. Sustainable development ties together the carrying capacity of national systems with the social challenges confronting humanity. In the early 1970's, sustainability was used to describe an economy in equilibrium with basic ecological support systems (Abraham 2012). The field of sustainable development can be conceptually broken into three component parts: economic sustainability, environmental sustainability, and socio-political sustainability (Bassey, Ekpah and Edeth, 2008) in (Abraham 2012:2). Economic sustainability clearly identifies information, integration and participation as key building blocks to support countries achieve development that recognizes these independent pillars. It emphasizes that in sustainable development, everyone is a user and producer of information. It stresses the need for change from old sector-centered ways of doing business to new approaches that involve cross-sectional co-ordination and the integration of empowerment and social concerns into all development process.

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Environmental sustainability is the process of making sure that current processes of interaction with the environment are pursued with the idea of keeping the environment as a pristine as naturally possible on ideal seeking behaviour.

Contemporarily, sustainable development has become a password that resonates across all disciplines in today's knowledge industry. It is associated with "omnipotent capabilities" of proffering solutions to all problems of man and the society. It suggests harmonious living and quality growth among individuals in the society in order to secure the well-being of future generations. In other words, the present generation should avoid practices and activities that can be harmful to future generations.

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Conclusion

The concept of good governance can be used to address the national problems, which is very essential as a precondition for sustainable economic development and securing of the future. National security and stability are certainly guaranteed where there is full participatory by both men and women, enforcement of the rule of law which requires fair legal frameworks, full protection of human rights, particularly those of minorities, equity and inclusiveness, efficiency and effectiveness of socio-economic as well as political institutions, and accountability and transparency at all levels of government and private sectors. The above scenario depicts prerequisites for the attainment of sustainable development and hence national security and stability.

Recommendations

As a matter of urgent national importance, the paper proffers the following recommendations: There is urgent need to pursue rigorously some sustainable measures such as improvement in quality of leadership, rebuilding largely eroded faith in the integrity, intents and capability of governments among the populace and global community. In addition, creation of employment opportunities, implementing multisectoral action to alleviate wide spread of poverty and enforcement of anti-corruption measures such as capital punishment for corruption. Therefore, embracing of good governance and peaceful resolution of conflicts are germane towards the achievement of economic growth and development that is sustainable.

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