

SOCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES REVIEW

Volume 7, Number 1b, October 2021

ISSN: 2545-5826



**UMYU Journal of the
Faculty of Social and Management Sciences**

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TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY AS CATALYSTS FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: LESSONS FROM NIGERIA

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Abstract

National development has been linked to the dual concepts of accountability and transparency, such that the former rests squarely on the strengths of the two. Any country desiring development must inculcate the acts of subjecting the holders of public offices to continuous public scrutiny while also granting unrestricted access to the public to check her books at any time. Public office holders must also inculcate the habit of rendering accounts of their stewardship periodically to the public. The paper traces the origin of the concept of accountability, with a cursory look with its types and forms; and provides a vivid explanation for its closeness with transparency especially in the context of national development. The exploratory technique was employed while relying on secondary data sources for analysis. It concludes that effort towards national growth will only yield positive results only when government businesses are conducted with openness and answerability to the public. Strengthening of laws and government structures, mechanism of control for anti-graft agencies and deliberate political will to put the Freedom of Information Act in to work among others are recommended.

Keywords: Transparency, National development, Development, Accountability, Public office

Introduction

Globally, government performs the basic functions of protection of lives and property of the people within its territorial borders; maintenance of law and order; territorial defense and security of its borders; provision of social services as well as regulation of market economy. One of the basic desire of every government is to cause the massive development of infrastructure for better living; and improvement in the living condition of its citizenry through wealth creation and provision of basic economic framework to see to the realization of

this end. This is because the wealth of every nation is the aggregation of the wealth of its citizenry. This aim of government and its functions are put to manifestation through the formulation of policies, programmes and laws that are periodically reviewed to ensure compliance with modern global practices as well as changing trends in the society.

Government programmes and policies are crafted, domiciled and put to effect through the establishment of agencies, boards, ministries and sometimes ad-hoc commissions and boards to bring to life the intentions of government. This agencies, boards and commissions are manned by people of different orientations, backgrounds, educational certifications and values; the scarcity of resources and funds for the execution of government programmes underscores the imperative necessity for the establishment and formulation of codes of conduct, rules of engagements, (sometime) timeframes and terms of reference for such agencies of government. This is to ensure firstly, that scarce resources are put to judicious use in line with the mandate of the agencies; secondly, to mitigate the biasness of the government agents in the discharge of their duties; and thirdly to ensure that government has value for money in the execution of its various programmes, policies projects and; and lastly to ensure that funds are not diverted for private use or the use other than the one intended by government.

Therefore, mechanisms are put in place to assess the impacts of government agencies and agents on the fulfillment of the aim and functions of government; the extent of accomplishment to the mandates of such agencies and agents and to ascertain the level of compliance of the agencies and agents to the laid down rules, regulations, and whether or not there is respect for the laws and the rights of the citizens in carrying out their mandates. The mechanism for the assessment of impacts and compliance of government agencies and agents could be from the 'bottom' -citizens oriented through the activities of Civil Liberty Organisations (CLOs) or from the 'top' through the activities and censorship of another government agencies like Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Code of Conduct Bureau(CCB), Federal Inland Revenue Service(FIRS), Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), National Broadcasting Commission(NBC) etc.) which is mandated to enforce compliance to the rules and regulation of government.

The development of every nation depends principally on its ability to effectively harness and coordinate the judicious use of her resources through the combination of diversification of her economy, creation of enabling environment for the thriving of business activities and the formulation and execution of good and timely policies and programmes to resolve every emerging or foreseeable challenge. Further to this is the presence of effective mechanism to ensure that every policy is handled by only qualified personnel while ensuring

that they (personnel) be subjected to the whim of accountability through effective scrutiny by the people and other necessary government agencies alike. The conduct of activities of government agencies with openness-permitting public access to its operations with reasonable permission for questioning opens the floodgate for quality and effective execution of government developmental policies. This is because this will serve as an effective mechanism for feedbacks from the citizens. From the foregoing, this study seeks to establish a causal-effect relationship between national development; transparency and accountability, using Nigeria as a reference point.

Conceptualizing Transparency, Accountability and National Development

Transparency

Transparency remains one of the basic principles of good governance (The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), 2008); though there is no universally acceptable definition, but there appears to be a consensus that the term relates to the right to know and citizens access to information (Annual Transparency Reports, n.d). In a broad sense, transparency has to do with "how much access to internally-held information citizens are entitled to; the scope, accuracy and timeliness of this information; and what citizens (as "outsiders") can do if "insiders" are not sufficiently forthcoming in providing such access" (ATR, n.d).

Transparency when linked to governance implies the uncensored public insight into the activities of governments, governments' agencies as well as public servants in the discharge of their statutory functions and duties. It is the enablement and right of citizens to scrutinize the work of public administrators as well as the availability of mechanism for scrutinizing and monitoring the decision-making process (es) through access to information (Belgrade Open School Good Governance, 2017).

Typologically, transparency manifests itself in two forms: Firstly, transparency could be 'proactive', which involves the un-demanded release of information of public importance to the public by public office holders. It is the wiliness of public servants to offer themselves for public scrutiny, by making available all information to that effect without being prompted to do so (BOSGG, 2017). Proactive transparency holds the common assumption that all Information of public importance belongs (in the actual sense) to the public, hence they are held in trust by government agencies. It further holds that there is an unalienable right of the public to (effortlessly) know what happens in public domains without necessarily having to push. The second typology of transparency is 'reactive', which is the enforcement of the public right to know but through popular demand by the public (BOSGG, 2017). Transparency is the act and process of conducting

government business with openness through the granting of unfettered access to information by the citizenry. Transparency has been agreed to form a cardinal position of good governance and democratic growth which are pivotal to national development.

Transparency when linked with administration and management includes a common need for the provision of good records management systems, archives, and financial regulatory and monitoring systems (IFLA, 2008). It could be somewhat linked to the practice of "socially responsible authorship and journalism, the work of editors, the publishing and the distribution of information through all media" (IFLA, 2008). The last link (IFLA, 2008) is connected to the BOSGG, 2017 pro-active and reactive types of transparency as the media provides the platform for the request and provision of public information by the public from public office holders respectively. In term of essence and importance, transparency as a cardinal point of good governance provides the platform for: 1. Holding government and/or key decision-makers to account; 2. Promotion of good governance; 3. Improvement of public policy and efficiency; and 4. effectively combating corruption in the society (ATR, n.d).

Accountability

The usage and prevalence of the term accountability has recent time assumed a much wider and frequent use which is largely due to the rise of new governance models which have instituted some measure of challenges to the traditional mechanisms of demanding accountability from politicians and administrators (Erkkilä, 2007).

Hitherto the use of the term existed mainly within the Accounting and Finance sub fields, it has however recently extended and adapted into Public Administration, Political Science and International Development Studies, business ethics, governance, international organizations, policy networks, democratization, civil society, and welfare state reforms (Otegbeye, 2016).

Etymology and Historical Development of Accountability

In what looks like the first English usage of the word appeared in 13th century Norman England, "Accountability" has its origin in the Latin word *accomptare* (which means to account), a prefix form of *computer* (meaning to calculate); this is in turn derived from the word *putare* (which also means to reckon). The concept of accountability(account-giving) has its roots in record keeping activities linked with governance and money-lending systems that was first developed in Ancient Israel, Babylon, Egypt, Greece, and later, Rome (Otegbeye, 2016) where money lender required their debtors to give account of money barrowed by repayment of same. The very manifestation of accountability was seeing in the relationship that existed between God and Adam in the Garden of Eden; when

the later was put in charge of tending the garden, but with an instruction to him not to feed on particular specie of fruit at the center of the garden. God was periodically visiting the garden to commune with the couple until a day that Adam and his wife failed the first accountability test by feeding on the forbidding fruit (Genesis 2:16-17; 3:6,8-9). The parable of the talents where a certain man was reported to have given out some 'money' to some individuals (according to their strength) for investment, upon his arrival he requested for account from the individuals, those that traded with profits were rewarded while a particular person who buried his' had his money withdrawn and given to someone else that made huge profit. (Math. 25:16-30). This parable is a reflection of accountability as responsibility, expectation and reporting. The result is either appreciation for a good deed or condemnation for non-performance.

Accountability was tacitly contained in the social contract theory of the origin of state where citizens jointly surrendered their natural right (in the state of nature) to the state in exchange of civil rights. The state is mandated to offer protection of their lives and properties in exchange for the people's right. The state is however accountable to the people (the original owners of power) of which the failure of the state to carry its own side of the contract could be met with some resistance from the people. For instance, Manigold of Lautenbach held that "if kings violate the agreement according which he is chosen, reason dictates that he absolves the people from their obedience, especially when himself has first broken the faith which bound him and the people" (Johari, 2002). This emphasizes political accountability which demands the rulers to rule according to a given rule, and the citizens to act in a particular way depending on the acts of the rulers. Scholars like Hobbes in his *Leviathan*, Locke's *Political Thought in England*, Green in his *Principle of Political Obligation* and Laski's *Grammar of Politics* provide grand rules of political accountability. The principle of separation of powers and checks and balances heavily influenced the framing of American constitution which is built on the concept of accountability which makes the arms of government accountable to one another in the discharge of their duties as espoused by Locke that:

It may be too far a temptation to human frailty, apt to grasp to grasp at power for the same persons who have the power of making laws to also have in their hands the power to execute them, whereby they may exempt themselves from obedience of the laws they make (Locke, 1690 cited in Johari, 2002).

In the modern usage of the term- accountability', (Erkkilä, 2007) holds that Melvin Dubnick had traced the origins of the concept to the emergence of 'royal legal traditions' in England, just before the rise of the modern bureaucratic state (Dubnick 2005 cited in Erkkilä, 2007). Further still, Richard Mulgan was

acknowledged by Erkkilä to have traced the history of the accountability to a more modern time, but was for a long time limitedly restricted to field of financial accounting and that it first spread of a wider use was associated with the New Public Management (NPM) reforms which started in the 1980's (Mulgan 2003: 9). Mulgan holds the view that accountability was initially conceptually included in responsibility, has grown bogusly to overshadow the concept of responsibility both in usage, scope and importance (Mulgan 2000); in a converse view, Dubnick still holds that accountability is a component of responsibility,

Defining Accountability

Accountability in all its form and scope entails some elements of the exercise of control (Erkkilä, 2007) and the acceptance of such control by the controlled, hence the two term have been interchangeably used by scholars to denote 'comptrol' which is the exercise of authority on the governor by the governed on one side and by the controller on the controlled on the other side. The former denotes accountability in governance i.e. by the electorate on the politicians while the later exists in the organisational realm where superiors exercise control over subordinates. Harlow (2002) has argued out some slight differences between the two concepts as accountability according to him (which) is the process of calling someone to account is done in retrospective, while control most of the time is proactive and instantaneous. Accountability compels government officials to be accountable to higher authorities in the institutional chain of command, and also be accountable to the general public, non-governmental organizations, mass media, and other stakeholders in governance process (Khotami, 2017). Accountability is a continuous, regular and transparent process in creating better organizational conditions for effective and efficient output.

Mihalicz (2019) views accountability as "an obligation for which one can be held to account for one's results and one's actions by a 'specified other'". To him accountability has 3 basic components which include: 1. Obligation- There must be an obligation or duty to perform a given task where someone is held to account; 2. Action – which include holding individual to account for not just results, but also, his actions and inaction. In specific term accountability means more than simply getting something done, it involves various processes of getting it done; and 3. A "specified other"- far beyond holding yourself liable, accountability requires a 'specified other' that holds you to account for carrying out a given task. To Mihalicz (2019), there exists a thin line between accountability and responsibility, as there is tendency of confusing the concepts, while accountability requires an individual to be held to account and the action must yield result, responsibility is imbued with moral values, emotional commitment driven, from within. In other words, one who is accountable is required to

complete a specific task via specified rules (his performance is measured against his key performance index(KPI)), but one who feels 'responsible' holds a moral commitment to the organization and truly believes that what they need to do is important. To be clear, responsibility is essential in organizations as employees feel related to be accountable. Accountability is much more than the mere responsibility of delivery of an assigned task(s) or service(s) but it includes answerability and liability, if a service is not timely and efficient delivered (Pswarayi-Riddihough, 2018). It is however the citizens right and also their duty to demand it.

Forms and Pillars of Accountability

Typifying accountability is much more a herculean task than defining the concept. This because, the various forms of classification of the concept overlap in application (Erkkilä, 2007). Erikila has however provided six types of the accountability which include: political accountability, bureaucratic accountability, personal accountability, professional accountability, performance accountability and deliberative accountability. The relevant ones to this paper are the political accountability, bureaucratic accountability, personal accountability, professional accountability which are discussed below:

1. **Political accountability:** is closely linked with democracy and legitimacy as elected and appointed government official must give account to the electorate of which failure to do so can cause their replacement during election. Moncrieffe (1998) hinted that political accountability depends on by prevailing power.
2. **Bureaucratic accountability:** is related with relationship that is based on a hierarchy and seniority between superiors and subordinates guided by rules and regulations and supervision. Bureaucratic accountability could either be internal (which is the application of internal rules and regulation) or external which has to do with legal control of government officials.
3. **Personal accountability:** refers to personal values, ethics and integrity shared by an individual which intangibly serve as guidelines for acting in the public interest. Sinclair conclude that the "shared values and beliefs communicated in an organisation reinforce 'personal accountability'"
4. **Professional accountability:** talks in term of expertise, know-how and technical knowledge required of personnel to discharge their duties. Personnel are required to be up-to-date in order to be entrusted with certain responsibilities and roles. Peer-review and expert scrutiny are the key to the professional accountability.

Types of Accountability

Type of Accountability	Features	Mechanisms of Accountability	Context (Structure)
Political Accountability	Democratic, External	Democratic elections, chain of accountability	Democratic State
Bureaucratic Accountability	Hierarchic, Legal	Rules, regulations, supervision	Bureaucracy
Personal Accountability	Internal, normative, moral	Culture, values, ethics	Collective
Professional Accountability	Complex, 'deferent to expertise', peer-oriented	Expert scrutiny, peer review, professional role	Expert Organizations
Performance	Output or client-oriented	Competition, self-regulation	Market
Deliberation	Interactive, deliberative, open, public	Public debate, deliberation, transparency, access to information	Public sphere

Owglens provides four further typology of accountability to include i. political accountability, ii. ethical accountability, iii. administrative accountability, iv. market accountability, v. Constituency Relations and vi. public/private overlap. Discussion shall be limited to the first four:

1. Political Accountability is the answerability of the government, government agents, civil servants, political office holders (either elective or by appointment) to either the public and to legislative bodies such as Congress or Parliament. In a few cases, recall elections for parliamentarians and impeachment for presidents or governors can be used to revoke the office of elected officials. However, voters do not have any direct way of holding elected representatives to account during the term for which they have been elected except during election. Constitution, or statute have often empowered legislative bodies to hold their own members, the government, and government bodies to account, which can be done through holding an internal or independent inquiry. Impeachment in the United States has been used as a potent

tool to bring to account both elected representatives and other public office holders such as district court judges. In parliamentary systems, the government relies on the support of parliament, which gives parliament power to hold the government to account. For example, some parliaments can pass a vote of no confidence on the government.

2. Ethical Accountability is the practice of improving overall personal and organizational performance by developing and promoting responsible tools and professional expertise, and by advocating an effective enabling environment for people and organizations to embrace a culture of sustainable development. Ethical accountability may include the individual, as well as small and large businesses, not-for-profit organizations, research institutions and academics, and government.
3. Administrative Accountability has to do with internal rules, regulations and norms as well as some independent commission and mechanisms through which civil servants within the administration of government are held accountable. Within department or ministry, firstly, behaviour is bounded by rules and regulations, secondly, civil servants are subordinates in a hierarchy and accountable to superiors. Nonetheless, there are independent "watchdog" unit (like servicom in Nigeria) to scrutinize and hold departments accountable, legitimacy of these commissions is built upon their independence, as it avoids any conflicts of interest. Apart from internal checks, some "watchdog" units accept complaints from citizens, bridging government and society to hold civil servants accountable to citizens, but not merely governmental departments.
4. Market Accountability under the quests for decentralization and privatization of the public services, providers are nowadays more "customer-driven" and should aim to provide convenience and various choices to citizens, with this perspective, there are comparisons and competition between public and private services and this, ideally, improves quality of service delivery to the public. Simply, the standard of assessment for market accountability is therefore "responsiveness of service providers to a 'body of sovereign customers' with the aim of producing quality service. Outsourcing certain services is yet another means to adopt for market accountability. Government can choose among a shortlist of companies for outsourced service within the contracting period, government can hold the company by rewriting contracts or by choosing another company.

Caulfield (2005) (cited in Rodrigo, 2012)'s view on the pillars of accountability is reflected in four pillars. She provides a seasoned understanding of the framework of accountability based on the four pillars of: 1. professional, 2. ethical, 3. legal

and 4. employment accountability. These pillars take into account the different understandings and views of accountability. The main pillars within the context of this work are ethical and legal accountability, which is a fundamental aspect of national development. The Caulfield's legal and ethical accountability is akin to Errikla's political and bureaucratic types of accountability and Owglens' political and administrative forms of accountability.

Ethical Accountability: Ethics is a philosophy which places huge emphases on the sense of right and wrong in relation to a person's decisions, actions and inactions (Rodrigo, 2012). However ethical accountability explains that public officials are by rules, regulation or personal conscience put on the burden performing their duties in line with the lay down procedure. Ethical accountability compels government functionaries to judiciously utilize public resources while being ready to submit themselves for public scrutiny.

Legal Accountability: In governance and administration the law does not often advocate who performs what role or tasks, except in some cases, the law does however compel public servants (civil servants, elected and appointed official) to be mindful of his action and inaction in the cause of carrying out their duties as they are duty bound to give account. They are as well compelled by law to carry out such duties in accordance with the laws.

National Development

Development

The concept of development is multivariate in usage and meaning, its use in Biology is not exactly what it denotes in Sociology, Economics, Political Science and Public Administration. To Seers (1969) cited in (kokminglee.com), development is when a country experiences a decrease or eradication of poverty, inequality and unemployment. In the opinion of Edgar Owens (1987 cited in kokminglee.com) development is people centred and material centred, in the sense that, it takes place only when there is advancement about the people (human development) and not development of material things. Gandhi's view of development is in broader sense, to him development means the total development of society that include mental, spiritual, and material needs. For Sen (1999 cited in Nafziger, 2006), development involves reducing deprivation or broadening choice. Deprivation here represents a broader view of poverty that includes hunger, illiteracy, illness and poor health, powerlessness, voice lessness, insecurity, humiliation, and a lack of access to basic infrastructure (Narayan, Patel, Schafft, Rademacher, and Schulte (2000) cited in Nafziger, 2006) development involves reducing deprivation or broadening choice. According to the World Development Report (WDR 1991):

The challenge of development, in the broadest sense, is to improve the quality of life. Especially in the world's poor countries, a better quality of life generally calls for higher incomes but it involves much more. It encompasses, as ends in themselves, better education, higher standards of health and nutrition, less poverty, a cleaner environment, more equality of opportunity, greater individual freedom, and a richer cultural life (WDR 1991).

Development is related with transformation, material improvement, industrialization, scientific and technological advancement, nuclear energy innovation, electronic and biological revolution, fresh humans and the cosmos knowledge and insight. It concerns urbanization, socio-cultural changes, massive literary growth, effective and efficient mobility, job opportunities and the growth of specialization and free professional responsibilities (Umuru, 2002). Development is an enduring positive change that results in quality life style and healthy living of a people as Seers (1979) cited in Nafziger, (2006) maintained that the essence of development is to minimise poverty, inequality, and unemployment. This further explains that the development must be geared toward betterment and improvement of the status quo.

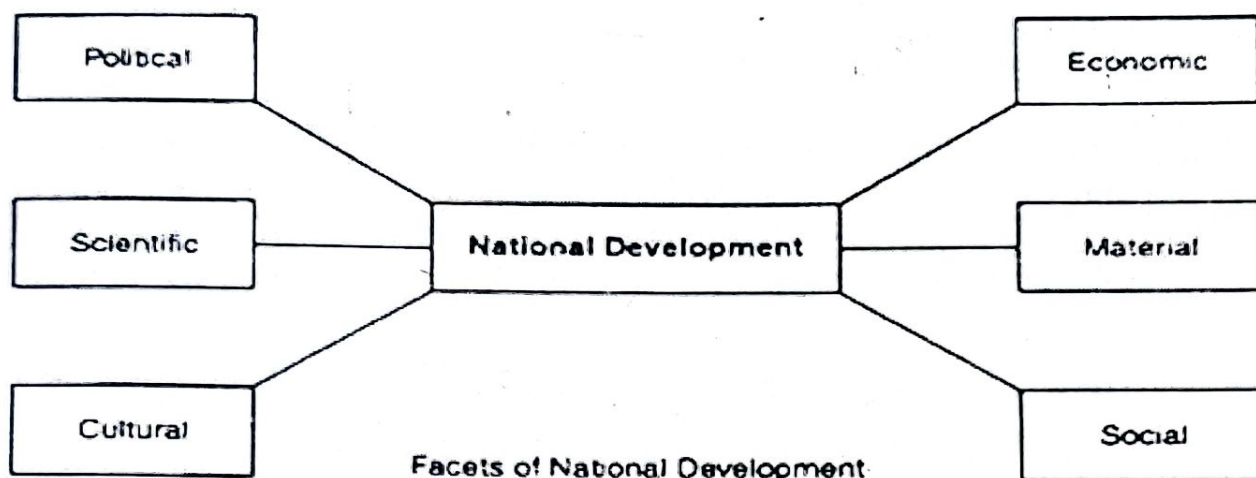
National Development

National Development as accept is a very extensive and broad in meaning, scope and coverage. It covers every facets of the development of a nation which could be political, social, economic, technological, educational etc. (Bluemington, 2018). John Vaizey(cited in Bluemington, 2018)'s view of national development is "the total effect of all citizen forces and addition to the stock of physical, human resources, knowledge and skill." According to UN Decade report, national development is growth plus positive modification in term of social, cultural, economic, qualitative as well as quantitative advancement. National development is the positive modification and advancement in social, cultural, political and economic segments of a country. It is the advancement and improvement of the various segments that transform into positive lives of the citizenry of a particular country.

To Bhanwa(n.d) National Development encompasses the full-growth and expansion of the industrial, agricultural, educational, social, religious and cultural institutions of nation. He further asserts that national development implies the all-round and balanced advancement of different aspect and facets (political, economic, social, cultural, scientific and material) of the nation.

From the socio-economic angle, national development refers to the ability of a country to advance the social welfare and economic life of its citizenry. It is an embodied drive toward the advancement of the various segments and sectors of the nation for the overall benefits of the citizenry.

Forms of National Development



Source: Bhawna, B.(n.d.)

In his further discussion of national development, Bhawna enumerated five parameters of national development viz: (i) Development through a planned national economy, (ii) Increase in agricultural yield through application of modern technology, (iii) harnessing industrial production, (iv) Development of human resource, (v) Application of science and technology in production sector, (vi) provision of mass education and (vi) Provision of various facilities to meet the needs and aspirations of disadvantaged, deprived and poorest of the poor segments of population.

The United Nations Organisation UNO (1971) offers opinion on the aims of national development which according to her include: Equal living standard for all.

1. Equal share of all in profit.
2. Similarly, Equal distribution of income and capital.
3. Expansion of facilities regarding education, health, shelter and social welfare.
4. Preservation of environment.

In another thought, Bluemington(2018) listed 7 factors that affect National Development as follows:

1. **Economic:** Economic development is one of the major factors affecting national development. An economy where goods and services are produced at higher rate would develop more rapidly than others.
2. **Political:** The political system of a nation also determines the rate of national development. In democratic government- whether it's liberal or social democracy determine the rate of development of the people.

This is because the level of participation of the citizen and government in social and economic activities is determined by the type of government in practice. It is easier to achieve the desired goal because it is represented by its own people.

3. **Social:** A society with marked social stratification may witness weakened national development, due to conflict related to caste, class, creed, colour that would have impacts on firm decisions as such decision would be viewed from the lens of biases.
4. **Increasing population:** Population of a nation also influence national development of a nation. In countries like China, India, Bangladesh people were often deprived of the basic needs due to its massive population explosion.
5. **Socio-cultural:** The cultural traits, traditional milieu, customs and value system of the different societies determine their reactions to changes which is a prelude to national development.
6. **Modernization:** a society that is educationally sophisticated will embrace modernization which results in turn to faster growth in national development.
7. **Psychological condition:** Mental status of people of a nation, their mental health and hygiene also gives directions to national development.

Further still, UNO (1971) provided the scope of national development as follows:

1. National Development seeks to remove poverty.
2. It improves the National Income as well as per-capita income.
3. It develops quality in Education.
4. In addition, it brings revolutionary change in the field of Agriculture.
5. It develops Transport and Communication.
6. Development of Medical facilities.
7. On the contrary it controls pollution and environmental hazard.
8. Use of Science and Technology.
9. Preservation and development of nature and environment.
10. Development of the economic condition of the people living in the particular country.
11. Development of the socio-economic condition of the people.
12. Introduction of welfare scheme of people for the betterment of their life and standard of living.
13. Development of an impartial and well-organized political system.
14. It encompasses the preservation, enrichment and development of culture.
15. Moreover, it promotes the concept of sustainable development

Bhawna, (n.d.) provides an outline of challenges that usually militate against national (i) Delayed economic growth in terms of gross national product (GNP) and standard of living. (ii) Massive unemployment and under-employment. (iii) Large pool of illiteracy. (iv) Rapid population growth. (v) Challenges of national and emotional integration. (vi) Disinterest to change process. (vii) Slow process of modernisation. (viii) Problem of evolving a democratic, social and secular order. (ix) Poverty and poor standard of living. (x) Urbanisation and its allied malaise. (xi) Sluggish attitude of people to the core value of work and unwillingness to take responsibility. (xii) Mismatch between moral and scientific values. (xiii) Rise of phenomenon of brain-drain. (xiv) Compromised and low quality products of institutions of higher learning.

Accountability, Transparency and National Development: The Nexus

Government has the immense responsibility of ensuring individual and national prosperity through some carefully formulated policies, programmes and schemes. These policies are implemented by government agencies and agents that are legally empowered to carry out specialized tasks in specific spheres. Rules and regulations are formulated to serve as guides for government agencies or and public servants in the course of implementation of government policies and programmes; just as standard and benchmarks are set. It thus, becomes most important that government agencies and public servants are put under continuous scrutiny and checks through the dual instrumentalities of accountability and transparency to ensure compliance with the set rules, regulation and standard.

National development is strongly linked with the dual concepts of accountability and transparency as national development depends on the judicious utilization of available resources for national growth on one hand; and the general perception of investors (foreign and local), donor agencies and development partners of the country as being very opened and amenable to public scrutiny backed by legal framework to ensure compliance. This is demonstrated through: 1. the presence of framework to ensure government officials (both elected and appointed) are made accountable to the public for their actions and inactions in the course of carrying out government businesses. This is what Sinclair (1995: 225) cited in Erika, (2007) refers to as political accountability, which according to him, "reaches even non-elected bodies of government through a 'chain of accountability' that makes them accountable as subordinates of democratically elected representatives". 2. Demonstration by government of a very strong ability and will to ensure accountability and transparency in the private sector realm through mechanisms that put officials to check through legislation(s) that promote openness, and the prescription of sanctions for those that falter, err or negligent in the discharge of their duties.

This is so germane to boost investors and development partners' confidence in taking parts in the socio-economic development of the country. While there is no consensus about a universal model for national development, effective governance can be seen as the acceptable standard. However, there is a strong link and agreement around the role and significance of effective, accountable and transparent government institutions in promoting enduring national development (OECD, 2015).

However, this is done through government agencies (on one hand) that are saddled with the responsibilities ensuring compliance with the legal framework. Such agencies may include among others, Independent Corrupt Practice Commission (ICPC), Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), the Police, Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) and the courts. Legislations like Freedom of Information Act (FoA), Assets Declaration Clause in the 1999 Nigerian Constitution as amended, EFCC Act, 2004, ICPC Act, 2000, are to ensure utmost openness and accountability in Nigeria. On the other hand, a virile Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), effective opposition party and an unbiased and free press provide the platform for putting the public officials and their activities under public scrutiny.

It has been noted that inclusive and transparent political processes which actively create platform for engagement between citizens and other stakeholders build a robust environment for trust in government and help create more responsive policies, public services and business environments that are conducive for development across different fulcrum of the society (OECD, 2014a). Just as public institutions that uphold the principles of integrity and transparency, and are subject to objective and thorough oversight processes (accountability), are more answerable to the public; this act of public answerability promotes less susceptibility to corruption and the mismanagement of scarce resources which in turn promote greater impact on national development.

International Chamber of Commerce (2008), has noted the painful implications of weakened integrity, less transparency and less effective anti-corruption mechanisms which cost an estimated 5% of global GDP or USD 2.6 trillion every year. The implication of the loss of these huge funds to corruption accessioned by lack of transparency and accountability has grave implication for national development in developing nations like Nigeria where corruption is still very pervasive. Such incidences rob the nation of its growth as resources meant for the development of critical areas that would later translates into national development end up in private hands.

Competent and adequately-resourced (human and materials) public organisations are central to the delivery of public services which is a prelude to national development; it also forms an essential part of the enabling

environment for attracting investment and providing private sector development supports (ICC, 2008). Government institutions whose activities are shrouded in secrecy with less accountability to the public as it in in Nigeria is a recipe for wastage of public resources as well as a fertile ground for retarded development. A case in hand is the moribund Nigeria Independent Power Plants (NIPPs) initiated under the administration of Olusegun Obasanjo in 2004 to resolve the perennial power problems of the country. Millions of dollars have been sunk into the project without any impressive progress. Power is critical to the development of any nation. The seeming unsurmountable challenge of providing adequate power supply to power the Nigerian's economy appears to be worsened even after the power sector was privatized. The situation got worsened as the distribution companies(Discos) are being manned by incompetent individual whose motivation was greed. The privatization processes were fraught with irregularities and without recourse to transparency as Prof Barth Nnaji the Minister of Power under whom the privatization took place confessed that the privatization process was hijacked by vested interests (Omonfoman, 2017). Which was the reason the Discos fell in the hands of incompetent businessmen who were motivated solely by the desire to make money. The cost of doing business in the country has tripled as entrepreneurs depend on alternative power supply that eats into their profit and a large chunk of small scale businesses are folding up. The power situation in the country is uninviting to foreign investors and is highly unfavorable for the growth of local industries.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The paper has revealed the explicit nexus that exists between accountability, transparency and national development as the later depends largely on the openness in doing government business and the answerability of public servants to the public, higher authority or the law. It's a causal- effect analysis that is premised on the analysis of development of a nation as heavily reliant on the whether or not there is adherence to the rules, and how much access do citizens have to information of public interests. Developed countries have a common denomination, which is a system that is transparently run on the basis of rule of law and a structure that is stronger than every individual, such that all public officials are by norm brought under public scrutiny(accountability). Such system does not give room for the protection of public officials against public interests.

It is therefore recommended that:

1. Our laws should be strengthened to bring every public official under control of public scrutiny. This will ensure that no individual escapes from the consequences of their misdemeanors.
2. The Freedom of Information Act which is meant to promote transparency

and openness in public domain should be made fully operational in the real sense of it to enable citizens unfettered access to information of public importance.

3. Governance structures should be strengthened after those of the developed countries with deliberate political will by the leadership of the country to ensure that no individual or group of individual is able to escape from the consequences of their actions.
4. Application of sanctions against corrupt public officials should reflect transparency, openness and devoid of prejudice. In other word, application of sanctions should not be done with prejudice.
5. Mechanisms to check agencies like ICPC, EFFCC, CCT etc. should be put in place to ensure continuous compliance to the rule for public interests, such that their actions are not deemed as final in itself, as such feelings could in itself embolden and encourage wielders of such power to become power drunk, hence takes actions that are inimical to public interest.

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