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The Intricacies of Democracy, Leadership and National Development: The Nigerian Experience

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Abstract

This study focused on a critical analysis of the notions of democracy, leadership, and national development in Nigeria. Founded upon the collective agreement of citizens, and strengthening their socio-economic well-being, democracy is to align with developmental agenda of every nation that practice it. However, the Nigerian context presents a less favourable experience with democracy. The nation's economy is in a state of decline, resulting in widespread poverty among its citizens. Furthermore, there are significant issues such as the disenfranchisement of voters, insecurity, electoral violence, and ethno-religious conflicts that can be attributed to ineffective leadership. The trajectory of democracy in any given country is significantly influenced by the way and type of leadership that governs the system. When a democracy is led by ineffective leadership, it not only hinders the progress of the nation but also fosters a desire for political alternatives. The study is anchored on modernization theory and utilizes secondary data obtained from textbooks, journals/articles, newspapers/magazines, and online sources, which were analysed using content analysis. This study posits that the state of democracy in Nigeria is currently at risk due to inherent weaknesses within the country's leadership. These weaknesses hinder the effective implementation of democratic principles and impede the progress of national development, ultimately failing to serve the best interests of the Nigerian people. The study thus recommends, that political leaders in Nigeria should adhere to the fundamental principles of democracy and constitutionalism. This adherence is crucial in effectively addressing present and future difficulties, promoting good governance, and fostering national development.

Keywords: Democracy, Leadership, National Development, Good Governance, Nigeria.

1.0 Introduction

Leadership has a fundamental role in the achievement of success in all human endeavours. The efficacy of leadership strategies significantly influences the level of growth attainable throughout all sectors of society life. Although democracy presents certain inherent challenges, particularly in its indigenous form as observed in Nigeria, it is widely acknowledged that effective leadership plays a crucial role in determining good governance and the subsequent development that follows. This is due to the prevailing notion that political progress in modern times is closely associated with liberal democracy (Emeam, 2015). Therefore, nations that have undergone a well-established process of democratization are considered to have achieved political growth. Nevertheless, empirical evidence has demonstrated that several nations have achieved significant levels of national growth despite not adhering to the principles of liberal democracy (Nwanko & Udeobasi, 2017; Ozohu-Suleiman, 2016). For instance, Russia and China exhibit distinctive leadership styles that are frequently perceived by Western observers as undemocratic due to their divergence from the principles of liberal democracy. Remarkably, the utilization of various leadership styles has enabled them to attain effective governance, a fundamental aspect of political advancement (Emeam, 2015).

Conversely, several nations have long embraced liberal democracy; nonetheless, they continue to exhibit deficiencies in political growth. Nigeria serves as a representative case in point. This implies that it is more accurate to link political progress with effective governance rather than a certain ideology or governmental structure. This is predicated on the notion that the individual and their standard of living should be at the core of national development. However, the presence of ineffective leadership has hindered the attainment of this objective. Hence, this study undertakes a critical examination of the principles of democracy, leadership, and national development within the context of Nigeria.

Structurally, the paper is divided into six sections. Section one which is the introduction took a general overview of the paper. Section two examined the methodology used in carrying out the research. Section three reviewed the extant literature on the conceptual clarifications. Section four explored the work within a theoretical framework of analysis. Section five explained a detailed leadership challenges of democracy on national development in Nigeria while section six drew conclusion and recommendations.

2.0 Conceptual Analysis

2.1 The concept of Democracy

The idea of democracy, similar to many other concepts in the field of social sciences, lacks a specific and universally accepted definition. However, there are areas of accord among experts about this concept. Nevertheless, the disparity in viewpoints among academics about the notion is predominantly ascribed to disparities in historical contexts, geographical factors, and cultural influences. For instance, Elaigwu, as cited by Linus (2015), argues that the notion of democracy is unfamiliar in the African context, and so requires adaptation to suit the unique challenges faced by the continent.

Democracy, when comprehensively analyzed, is a theoretical framework that establishes fundamental principles by which effective government, regardless of its specific structure, should be conducted (Oluwole, 2003). The aforementioned concepts encompass justice, equity, freedom, liberty, accountability, openness, and transparency within the realm of governance (Adagbabiri & Okolie, 2015). Eke (2005) posits that democracy, as defined by Ogbulafor et al. (2018), is the inclusion of the populace in the decision-making process. Its fundamental element lies in political plurality, achieved through party politics, and is characterized by free, fair, and regular elections that promote the freedom of choice in selecting leaders. According to Ayinde (2004), democracy is defined by the presence of practices that ensure representation and participation inside a framework of liberty established by the rule of law. These practices aim to establish a system of checks and balances between different levels of government and society. According to Ogbulafor (2018), democracy can be understood via the lens of representation achieved through regularly scheduled, impartial elections. According to Eke (2005), Roskin and his colleagues assert that democracy can be defined as a political framework that provides consistent constitutional avenues for the alteration of governing authorities. According to Shively (2015), democracy can be defined as a political system in which all eligible adult citizens participate in periodic elections to select individuals who will be responsible for formulating and implementing governmental policies, from a range of available candidates. According to Willige (2017), democracy can be described as a political framework wherein citizens are afforded the opportunity to engage in political decision-making processes or exercise their right to elect representatives to rule. This statement aligns with the argument put forth by Gilbert and Ubani (2015), who contend that democracy is a type of governance that prioritizes the active involvement of the general population and the principle of popular sovereignty. According to Przeworski, Alvarez, Cheibub, and Limongi (2000), democracy can be defined as a political system in which the selection of political representatives occurs through periodic, unfettered, and equitable elections involving many parties, wherein the victorious candidate assumes office without coercion. According to Okeke (2017), democracy is conceptualized as a system of government that places a strong emphasis on the involvement and empowerment of the people. According to Egharevba and Chiazor (2013), a democratic system of government ideally guarantees the accountability of the governing body to the populace, as well as adherence to the legal framework by the government and its officials.

According to Dada, Udoaka, and Dada (2013), democracy is a political methodology and institutional framework utilized to make political, legislative, and administrative determinations. According to Erunke (2012), democracy can be defined as a political system in which elected representatives govern within the framework of the law. In this system, the key groups within the population actively engage in the political process and are provided with adequate representation to effectively participate in the decision-making process, particularly in the allocation of limited resources.

2.2 Concept of Leadership

Numerous definitions of leadership may be found within the extensive body of literature on management and organizational behaviour. Several scholars have provided definitions of leadership that emphasize the leader's role within a group, asserting that leaders are individuals who hold a specific status and continuously exhibit behaviours aligned with their position. Alternative definition of leadership can be framed in functional terms, positing that it plays a pivotal role in shaping the future state of our global society.

An alternative perspective is presented by individuals who perceive leadership as a process of exerting influence. In this context, the leader is perceived as the individual inside a collective who possesses the ability to exert influence over group dynamics pertaining to the establishment and achievement of objectives. Leadership can be defined as the capacity to exert influence over the actions and conduct of individuals within a collective or institutional setting (Odo, 2015).

Leadership can be conceptualized as a set of behaviours exhibited by an individual that exert influence over others in order to effectively accomplish predetermined goals within particular contexts. Therefore, the concept of leadership pertains to the actions performed by an individual rather than being an inherent trait. This statement suggests the presence of a clear sense of purpose or objective.

The overall success of an organisation is contingent upon the leadership exhibited inside the organisation, regardless of its scale, ranging from tiny to enormous, and its jurisdiction, encompassing local, state, national, and multinational levels. According to Ogunjimi and Ogundeji (2020), effective and capable leadership plays a crucial role in facilitating organizational improvement.

Leadership is centre on the capacity to effectively coordinate and mobilize persons towards the attainment of a shared objective. The central emphasis lies on the trait theory of leadership, positing that leadership is predicated upon the distinct personal characteristics possessed by individuals. (Nweke, 2015) Scholars from all backgrounds within Nigeria, as well as those from other nations, have expressed their observations and opinions regarding the prevailing leadership issue or deficiency in Nigeria.

2.3 Concept of National Development

Development refers to the dynamic process of expansion, advancement, and enhancement within a tangible environment. Martinussen (1997) posits that the diverse conceptualizations of development encompass economic growth, enhanced welfare and human development, modernization, eradication of dependency, dialectical transformation, and capacity building. According to the United Nations (1986), development encompasses a wide range of economic, social, cultural, and political factors. Its primary objective is the continual enhancement of the overall welfare of the entire population and individuals alike. This is achieved through active, voluntary, and meaningful engagement in development processes, as well as the equitable allocation of resulting benefits. According to Peet and Hartwick (1999), development, in its robust interpretation, refers to the utilization of society's productive resources to

enhance the living standards of the most impoverished individuals. Development encompasses the enhancement of several aspects of an individual's well-being, including but not limited to their economic, political, psychological, social, and cultural dimensions. The primary objective of development, as articulated by Ajaebili (2013), is to achieve sustainable and favourable transformations in the overall well-being of individuals residing within a certain societal context, typically within the confines of a nation-state.

The primary emphasis of this work pertains to the concept of national development. Balogun (1972) posits that national development encompasses various aspects, including the augmentation of food production and quality, the promotion of physical and mental well-being, the enhancement of living conditions, the advancement of transportation and communication systems, the provision of comprehensive education and enlightenment to the population, and the overall increase in financial resources available within the society. According to Pigors and Charles (2000) as cited in Enang (2021), the concept of national development can be understood as a comprehensive undertaking that embraces various dimensions of human existence, including the rebuilding and advancement of a nation, the robust growth of industries, the expansion of the agricultural sector, the development of education, and the strengthening of social and religious institutions. This concept signifies the comprehensive and harmonious advancement of all aspects of the nation. The progress of a nation's development is contingent upon the influence exerted by its citizenry, encompassing factors such as human resources, skill acquisition, and the application of knowledge, among others, in the implementation of development initiatives.

According to Adagbabiri and Okolie (2016), national development encompasses the sustained enhancement of both the material and spiritual aspects of a nation's existence, while ensuring that these advancements are achieved in a manner that upholds human dignity. The process of national development necessitates the consolidation of a nation's resources in order to promote the overall welfare of its citizens, encompassing economic, social, political, and technological progress. The concept of national development, as outlined in the UNO decade reports (2020) cited by Enang (2021), is characterized by a combination of economic growth and societal transformation. The aforementioned modification signifies the alteration in both the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the economy, culture, and social sphere inside the society. The quantification of growth and change is assessed in relation to:

The provision of widespread education and diverse amenities to address the need of the most economically disadvantaged individuals.

The enhancement of agricultural productivity can be achieved by implementing contemporary technologies, promoting industrial development, and investing in human resources development.

Idike (2014) argues that national development refers to the comprehensive progress and advancement that occurs across an entire nation-state. This statement suggests that the concept of well-being pertains to the majority of citizens in terms of material conditions, and is accompanied by a reduction in degrees of inequality. Primarily, national development encompasses the assurance of security for both the lives and property inside the confines of the nation-state. Furthermore, Okeke and Idike (2016) argue that national development encompasses the eradication of inter-ethnic animosity and conflicts within inter-group and interpersonal dynamics in a nation-state. National development, as defined in this study, encompasses the gradual advancements and alterations in a nation's economic, social, political, demographic, scientific, ecological, and technical spheres. It is crucial that these changes occur in a manner that does not compromise future growth.

The notion of national development is all-encompassing as it centres on enhancing the quality of life for individuals, ensuring economic stability through a rise in per capita income, and providing sufficient social infrastructure to enhance the well-being of the populace (Enang, 2021).

In the realm of UN indices pertaining to national development, Nigeria's socio-economic structure is marked by hindered economic growth in Gross National Product (GNP) and a low standard of living. Additionally, there is an increase in the unemployment rate, a high poverty level, and subpar quality of products from institutions of higher education, a deficiency in democratic values, and a misalignment between moral and scientific values. These factors collectively pose significant obstacles to the achievement of national development. The evident factors impeding the development of Nigeria are the rationale behind the unsuccessful implementation of various programmes across multiple sectors, such as agricultural development, manufacturing, healthcare delivery, nutrition-related initiatives, skill development, employment generation, and technological advancement. These programmes, which have incorporated poverty reduction components, have been undertaken by successive Nigerian governments since 1999 in an attempt to address national development challenges. However, they have proven to be ineffective.

3.0 Methodology and Main Argument

This study employs a qualitative methodology that is grounded on historical design. The main method of data collection employed in this study was the utilization of secondary sources. The analysis of the data in this study was enhanced by the incorporation of System Theory as an analytical framework. The significance of the system theory resides in its capacity to facilitate the interaction between the central entity and its constituent components allowing for a comprehensive examination of the primary issues and themes discussed in the paper. The aforementioned illuminated the discourse, discoveries, and suggestions of the investigation. The central thesis of this paper posits that the functioning of democracy in every given location is significantly influenced by the way and type of leadership employed within the governing system. It argues that the presence of ineffective leadership not only hinders the progress of a nation's growth, but also fosters a desire for other political solutions. The proposed recommendations have the potential to mitigate these difficulties

4.0 Theoretical Framework

The present study employs system theory as a theoretical framework for analysis. The significance of the system theory resides in its capacity to facilitate the interaction between the central entity and its constituent components as promoted by David Easton in 1953.

System theory adopts the political or social system as the primary unit of analysis. System theory posits that society is comprised of interconnected parts that operate as a unified whole. A failure in one part will affect other parts. This method examines society from a macro-level perspective, focusing broadly on the social structures that influence society as a whole, and considers both social structure and social functions. The phrase "development" is a multi-dimensional notion that encompasses all sectors of a nation, indicating that a deficiency in one area will impact others. Thus, a flaw in the political institution, represented by leadership, which influences societal concerns through social policies (as the governing body), will affect the other institutions, and ultimately, national development.

The system theory is primarily focused on political activities that revolve around the environment, input, political system, and output. The environment encompasses the goals, circumstances, and factors that give rise to demand and facilitate the provision of resources. Demand refers to the process by which resources are allocated, whereas support include obedience to rules or positive systems, such as loyalty, patriotism, and displays of acceptance for specific decisions. According to Francis (1999), the output typically comprises authoritative determinations, such as government policies, judicial rulings, and acts of parliament.

The population wholeheartedly embrace national growth as a consequence of effective leadership and the presence of a democratic system. In turn, the government is afforded a distinct level of respect, recognition, and loyalty. In this context, the feedback mechanism exhibits a positive flow along both the output and input chains. In exemplification, within relatively stable democratic societies characterized by effective leadership, such as the United States of America, Britain, France, Germany, and Canada, the government typically experiences reduced pressure in terms of citizen demonstrations and protests due to the positive outcomes yielded by democratic governance. Moreover, it can be argued that state institutions are more effective when they operate within a framework of institutionalized democratic values, thereby offering citizens the most optimal kind of enduring and high-quality leadership. Therefore, in cases where democracy is truly functioning, it is expected that national growth will be facilitated by effective leadership, as these two factors are inherently separate and distinct.

The presence of democracy and effective leadership are essential elements in ensuring political stability, fostering nation-building, and promoting the growth of nation-states. The continued existence of a sovereign political body is contingent upon the system's capacity to effectively uphold and preserve stability. The system theory is utilized based on this particular context.

5.0 The Interconnection between Democracy, Leadership, and National Development

There exists connection between leadership and national development. Therefore, a considerable number of shared characteristics can be identified across the three distinct yet interconnected notions. Effective leadership is crucial for implementing required reforms that drive a country's progress by establishing a clear emphasis on development for everybody. In every institution, someone must assume leadership capacity while others follow his orders to attaining any defined aims. He shows humility as a leader in pursuit of their goals. Effective leadership is based on the foundation of effective governance to drive resourceful policy. Boeinger, as described in Bassey and Agbor (2015), describes policy capacity as the ability to exercise power, solve problems, resolve disagreements, and implement programmes and policies. Leaders, particularly those in political positions, are expected to effectively lead and create a solid foundation for national progress.

Poor leadership has hindered genuine democratisation by excluding certain parts of the political elite from participating effectively in the country's politics. Fayemi (2009) stated that years of political misrule and bad governance under civilian administrations and military dictatorships since the country's independence have left the nation politically inactive, underdeveloped, and economically unproductive, with a large population suffering from poverty. When democratic rule was reinstated in Nigeria in 1999, people anticipated that the new political leadership and democratic governance would speed up the nation's progress. The political leadership was anticipated to address the country's socio-economic and political issues, including poverty, corruption, governance deficiencies, flawed election system, unemployment, and insecurity (Orji, 2014). Furthermore, Sharma (2007) as referenced in Ahmed and Mailabari (2020) argues that enhancing the caliber of leadership plays a crucial role in fostering economic development. It is noteworthy that proponents and supporters of the democracy-good governance initiative prioritize the significant characteristics of democracy that can potentially lead to effective governance and ultimately contribute to national progress. In accordance with the findings of Ayatse, Onga, and Ogoh (2013). The relationship between democracy and effective leadership is often perceived as mutually reinforcing, with the latter serving as a prerequisite for the achievement of the former and subsequent societal progress. The relationship between democracy and leadership in Nigeria can be characterized as distant, as Nigerian democracy has not effectively facilitated national growth due to the prevalence of poor leadership from the time of Nigerian independence to the present (Enang, 2021). The prevailing political system operates on a winner-takes-all principle. The party system, intended to foster national unity, has instead exacerbated societal divisions. Numerous experts engaged in the analysis of Nigeria's political system contemplate the reasons for the perceived ineffectiveness of democracy under the country (Ogbulafor, 2018)

The issue plaguing Nigeria can be attributed to a fundamental failure in leadership. The Nigerian land, climate, water, air, and other aspects do not possess any fundamental deficiencies. The issue in Nigeria pertains to the leaders' lack of responsiveness, accountability, transparency, and responsibility towards

the citizens, as well as their failure to set a positive example, which is a fundamental characteristic of genuine leadership (.Okeke, 2017)

Politicians frequently assert that holding political office is a designation rather than a summons to engage in public service (Ogundeji, 2020). This statement suggests that during a political appointment lasting four years or longer, the leader should prioritize personal gain without considering the financial well-being of the nation. Financial waste pipes have been implemented within the nation's treasury in the pursuit of democratic principles. Senatorial grants represent a form of financial allocation designated for the purpose of implementing developmental initiatives within a senator's constituency. The aforementioned policy demonstrates a high level of deliberation with the aim of expediting progress. There exist those leaders who, with further time and patience, could potentially generate innovative ideas that could contribute to the effective functioning of a democratic system. However, the majority of these leaders have been coerced into a precarious situation, where they are compelled to either resign prematurely, abandon their beliefs, or persist despite significant threats to their personal safety and public image (Odo, 2015). Due to a sense of urgency, those who opted for the third alternative have resorted to implementing stringent procedures as a means of self-preservation or safeguarding their initiatives.

The lack of success experienced by Nigeria as a nation cannot solely be ascribed to the presence of democracy. It is indeed accurate to assert that democracy seemingly provides a fertile environment in which dictatorial leaders can operate without being held accountable. The lack of effective leadership can be attributed, in part, to a shift in the paradigm of the democratic model. Nigeria is a country that has been bestowed with favourable circumstances. The extensive human and material resources with which she is endowed confer upon her a unique position in Africa and the global community, which cannot be assumed or fulfilled by any other individual. Unfortunately, subsequent leaders in the nation have tragically forsaken the country's lofty potential beyond recovery.

Nigeria is currently experiencing a deficit in effective leadership, which hinders the implementation of programmes aimed at fostering national growth. The populace resides in a state of lacking functional healthcare facilities, well-maintained transportation infrastructure, reliable access to power, inexpensive housing options, educational institutions, and other essential amenities. According to Enang, (2021) there is evidence to suggest that money designated for public welfare have been misappropriated by the leadership and are currently held in various international banks, including Swiss Banks. This situation has resulted in the deprivation of impoverished individuals from opportunities to alleviate their poverty, while also compelling talented Nigerian individuals to seek better prospects outside.

The majority of Nigerian leaders since attaining independence have consistently demonstrated a lack of concern for the future of the nation (Okeke & Idike, 2016). Nigeria is confronted with a situation where its leadership is predominantly comprised of individuals who have attained power through illicit methods, subsequently depleting the country's financial resources. Furthermore, these leaders often engage in efforts to secure re-election, and in cases where this is unattainable, they pass on power to their

associates who may perpetuate even more detrimental actions than their predecessors. They engaged in a process of self-recycling inside the realms of political authority. Therefore, it may be said that Nigeria is a nation characterized by ineffective political leadership, resulting in a profound sense of disillusionment and betrayal among its populace.

The personalization of public office and the lack of continuity in policies have been identified as significant challenges in Nigerian leadership. The act of initiating a vision and subsequently departing from government while still pursuing it can have adverse effects on the progress of a nation. The issue of leadership presents a significant obstacle that gives rise to the problem of policy instability, wherein policies are subject to frequent and arbitrary changes and counteractions, preventing them from fully developing and maturing. (Mark, 2014)

The impact of ethnicity on the formation of good leadership in Nigeria has been widely recognized as a significant concern. Nigeria is currently confronted with a crisis of governance, characterized by the presence of ethnic sentiments influencing the manner in which government is conducted. The presence of ethnic politics in Nigeria has significantly eroded the confidence in the ability of the Nigerian state to ensure the protection and well-being of all its residents.

According to Ogbulafor, (2018) , ruling parties are strategically designed to accommodate tribal and ethnic divisions by aligning themselves with either the predominant tribal group or a suitable alternative tribe, in order to maintain a delicate equilibrium.

Followership is essential as leaders cannot exist without followers. In a democracy, leaders get permission from their followers through the use of ballots, both in principle and in practice. Therefore, followers are instrumental in the formation of leaders and consequently deserve the leaders they receive. It may be tempting to just blame a leader for failures, but it is important to remember that followers also play a crucial role in determining the success or failure of a leader. Followers play a key function as watchdogs over leadership. The followers relinquish that responsibility by unquestioningly accepting the leader's actions.

An attentive followership fulfils its watchdog role, maintaining a climate that inhibits a democratic leader from becoming autocratic and prevents an autocratic leader from assuming godlike status. Passive followership, in contrast, lacks the willingness to challenge or hold the leader accountable for their actions. Passive obedience provides a conducive environment for ineffective and unsuccessful leadership (Odo, 2015; Ogunjimi & Ogundeji, 2020).

Enlightened cultures typically have discerning followers who, as a result, tend to have more effective and dedicated leadership. Nigeria and other unenlightened nations typically have passive followers and often exhibit inadequate leadership. Nigeria has persistently encountered the ongoing challenge of effective leadership. Educating the population is the key to developing critical followers. Education enlightens

followers about their rights and responsibilities, as well as the obligations of leadership towards the people (Ogunjimi & Ogundeji, 2020).

Also, poverty and illiteracy promote a culture of dependency, which then encourages a culture of charity. The culture of kindness conflicts with the culture of accountability because individuals in this culture are hesitant to investigate the actions of those providing help or the origins of their generosity. Confront the leaders who are responsible for bad leadership, but praise and work together with those who are affected by it. Nigeria is burdened by both illiteracy and extreme poverty, which have contributed to the emergence of ineffective leadership. Nigerians' capacity to demand accountability from their leaders is significantly diminished, if not completely denied, due to widespread illiteracy and severe poverty.

Poor leadership as reflected in the management of security issues in Nigeria has made insecurity a significant obstacle to democratic administration in Nigeria due to the actions of the Boko Haram insurgency in the northern region. There is also a new wave of this maladministration of security issues currently as reflected in the rising cases of Kidnaping for ransom in all parts of the country (Enang, 2021). This insurgency has resulted in the loss of numerous lives, and properties of the people including causing major setback to agricultural development in the country. . The presence of insecurity not only leads to the depletion of human and material resources, which cannot be measured in monetary terms, but also imposes significant economic challenges that pose a threat to the unity and overall existence of Nigeria

The integrity of elections is of paramount importance for the viability of any political system, as it ensures that electoral processes are meaningful and that the interests of the electorate are adequately represented. However, the general elections that have been held since the return to the fourth republic in Nigeria, have been marred with different shortcomings (Enang, 2021, Ogundeji, 2020). These elections were marred by extensive instances of electoral fraud, political violence, targeted killings, intentional suppression of voter participation, corrupt behaviour by electoral officials, and a blatant disregard for legal principles. Since the elections have been described as faulty, then, the leaders produced through those electoral processes cannot be isolated from the deficiencies of their elections. Therefore, faulty electoral process produces inefficient leaders with little or no capacity to drive developmental agenda for the country.

6.0 Conclusion

In conclusion, it can be inferred that the information provided supports the notion that the principles of democracy, leadership, and national development have been delineated and expounded upon. It has been contended that the fate of democracy is contingent upon effective leadership, and the current shortcomings in Nigeria can be attributed to the deficiency in leadership. Nigerian political leaders have been unable to effectively utilize democratic governance to stimulate national development. Consequently, it can be inferred that development is not an arbitrary occurrence, but rather a deliberate

outcome resulting from the guidance of resolute leaders who motivate their constituents to pursue challenging yet significant objectives.

6.0 Recommendations

The following recommendations are suggested:

Based on the aforementioned concerns and deliberations, as well as the resulting conclusion, the study proposes a set of recommendations aimed at fostering a prosperous and resilient democracy, with an emphasis on leadership that prioritizes public service and contributes to the advancement of the nation. These recommendations are as follows:

The establishment of effective governance is crucial, characterized by transparency, efficiency, discipline, and visionary leadership. The primary objective should be the implementation of feasible economic policies and human development programmes that foster national progress.

The equitable allocation of national resources is vital to ensure the welfare of all residents. Also, For democracy to thrive, it is imperative to have robust political institutions that uphold democratic principles, a steadfast commitment to the rule of law, and inclusive economic institutions. The Nigerian government should adopt a more proactive approach in enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of anti-corruption institutions, rather than allowing them to function as simply extensions of the presidency, perhaps engaging in politically motivated persecution of perceived adversaries.

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