

Good Governance as Panacea to the Socio-Economic Crises in Nigeria

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Abstract: *The objective of this study is to examine how lack of good governance generate tensions and crises in Nigeria and how its negates development. A descriptive study was carried out using secondary data, the findings revealed that lack of good governance create a lot of crises, political tension, unemployment, lack of quality education, inequitable resource allocation and increasing poverty have incited extreme and ongoing violence in Nigeria since 1999 such as bomb blast, armed robbery and other social verses, the paper will suggest ways out of these crises.*

Key words: *-Governance; Crisis; Economy.*

I. Introduction:-

There is a significant degree of consensus that good governance relates to way and manner power is exercise in management of social and economic resources, political and institutional processes and outcomes that are deemed necessary to achieve the goals of development. Good governance is the process where public institutions conducts public affairs manage public resources and guarantee the realization of human rights in a manner essentially free of abuse and corruption and with due regard for the rule of law. The basic tenants of good governance is the degree to which it delivers the dividends of democracy: provision of quality education, portable drinking water, provision of employment , safe guard of fundamental human rights, cultural enhancement, provision of good economic atmosphere for development, and political and social rights. The key question is : are the institutions of governance in Nigeria effectively guaranteeing the right to health, adequate housing, sufficient food, quality education, fair justice and personal security? or a country that is becoming fragile. The paper seeks to examine the how good governance creates crises in Nigeria with the hope of providing solutions to these problems. The paper is divided into five parts. Part one is an introduction, part two examines the crisis situation in Nigeria, part three looks into causes of socio- economic crises in Nigeria; other parts discuss the effects of lack of good governance, conclusion and recommendations.

II. Over view of crisis situation in Nigeria

Nigeria is the most populated country in Africa and is blessed with a lot of mineral resources; in-fact is the 8th oil producing state in the world. But unfortunately the country is in crises ranging from Boko Haram crises, Niger Delta Militancy, prostitution, armed robbery, kidnapping and bomb blast due to lack of good governance. A country without sincere leader is always doomed to exploitation, stagnation, chaos and state of anarchy. The quality of life in Nigeria is dependent upon the quality and efficiency of its leaders. For country to develop, it need obedient and hard working leadership that has high degree for tenants like honesty and patriotism. The problem of leader in Nigeria is that it is dominated by people who brainwash their followers, siphoned public funds which will help in development of the country maintain many bank accounts in several part of the world living the masses in penury.

The federal office of statistics (2012) reports that more than 100million Nigerians live in abject poverty earning less than \$1 US per day. With over 20 million unemployed youth and security threat to the country. The country is experiencing low level of institution and administrative bodies, few people are rich and majority poor, In a country where almost all the institutions of the state are performing below expectation of the masses, no access to good drinking water, unemployment and crimes ranging from bomb blast, kidnapping and armed robbery are the order of the day. Muazu (2011) attributed the problems of crises in Nigeria to illiteracy and poverty which led to bomb last and kidnapping in many part of Nigeria and failure of interligent. The northern Nigeria has the highest incidence of poverty, there is tendency of the region not to meet millennium development goals of reducing poverty by 2015, with current population of 168million the children of the poor likely to become poor due to widening gap in access to the following:-

Unemployment rate is very high with likely hood of becoming third country in the world in term of rural –urban migration, Some of the incidence could be attributed to the household size, Single member household has 12.6% poverty incidence, 2-4 member household has 39.3%, 5-9 member household has 57.9% 10-20 member household has 75% and 20 member household has 90.7%.

Quality education: education is the only means of liberating populace from squalor, ignorant and poverty. Statistics has shown that 9 million children are out of school and majority of them are from northern

part of the country Soludo (2008). The implication of this is that it led to increase in poverty, employment and insecurity. House hold headed by those without education had 68.7% poverty, house hold headed by those without primary education 48.7%, secondary 44.3% post secondary 26%. All these have negative implications to the economy.

Forestry and Agriculture are dominant occupation with 75% of the total population as farmers but 50% are sleeping in hunger with 67% poverty level. Rural areas: constitute more than 65% poverty Soludo (2008). The country is enormously endowed with human, agricultural, petroleum, gas and large untapped solid mineral resources but since independence leadership constitute problem. Boko Haram is not the only militant group in Nigeria in the oil –rich south, the movement for the emancipation of the Niger –Delta (MEND) roams the swamps and links up with politician in the regions creating tension and violence to achieve their aims Bolaji (2012).

III. Causes of crises in Nigeria

The root causes of this problems lies on problems associated with good governance some of the causes of these crises include the following:-

i. Unemployment

Employment ought to be the priority of any responsible government, once there is employment in the country for the citizens there will be less crime. The causes of crises in Nigeria is idleness, many youths are walking on the street without job, they become tools for religious and ethnic bigots. USAID (2011) assert that since the return of the country to democracy, the country is been plague with many problems such as poverty, corruption and lack of civil empowerment which breed activities of groups like Boko Haram, armed robbery and prostitution.

ii. Appointment in to public service is based on ascription rather than merit

Also tribalism, nepotism and family loyalties are seriously affecting government institutions in Nigeria, appointment in to government offices are means to the enrichment of oneself and one’s patronage network rather that a service to the overall Nigerian polity.

iii. Poor institutional performance

The governance in Nigeria is characterized by rapacious of governing elites and low level of institutionalization and administrative bodies. All institutions of governance are performing below the expectation of the masses.

Iv Corruption

A large part of the wealth was simply stolen through inflated contracts, fraud and other dubious methods. Billion of dollars were lost in foreign banks and public offices are investment outlets specifically meant to enrich the pocket of public officers thereby depriving citizens basic necessity of life such as good roads, electricity etc. In 2011, Nigeria ranks high on the yearly corruption index, the country scored 2.4 on a scale of 10 which means the country is highly corrupt virtually every sector of the economy. Oguniya (2010) observed that despite natural endowment the country have, the Nigerians are still in penury due to poor leadership and corruption.

v. Poor policies

The economic policies pursued by the government do not reflect the interest of the masses who have remained exploited, dominated and poor. Since their true representative were not in power, the majority had no way of controlling the use of resource. The industrial sector is not left behind in this crisis, because the sector does not generate much employment due to poor infrastructure and electricity supply. Agriculture was also in crisis due to rudimentary farming methods Obadan (2009).

vi. Poverty and inequality:

Poverty is another causes of crises in Nigeria, according to National office of statistics (2012) one hundred million Nigerians live in extreme poverty earning less than one dollar par day. The effect of this is that it generate antagonism among the classes, that is the class of rich and that of poor and consequently increased the insecurity of lives and properties in the country.

Statistics Of Unemployment In Nigeria

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Nig. population	140,431,790	144,925,609	149,563,227	154,349,250	159,288,426	164,385,656
Econ. active	78,922,666	81,448,191	84,054,533	86,744,278	89,520,095	92,384,738
Labor force	57,455,701	59,294,283	61,191,700	63,149,835	65,170,629	67,256,090
Employed	50,388,650	51,763,909	52,074,137	50,709,317	13,946,515	51,181,884
Unemployed	7,067,051	7,530,374	9,117,563	12,440,517	13,946,515	16,074,205
Newly Emplo	-	463,323	1,587,189	3,322,954	1,505,997	2,127,691

Source: National bureau of statistics general household survey, 2011.

From the table above, it is clear that unemployment in Nigeria is increasing at geometric progression from 7,067,051 in 2006 to 16,074,205 in 2011 which may not auger well for the country.

Unemployment Rate By Education

Educational level	Urban	Rural	Composite
NEVER ATTENDED	19.0	22.8	22.4
PRI. SCHOOL	15.5	22.7	21.5
MODERN SCHOOL	14.5	27.5	24.3
VOC/COMM.	34.5	27.0	28.7
JSS	16.6	36.9	33.4
SSS O LEVEL	13.9	22.5	20.1
A LEVEL	34.1	29.7	31.0
NCE/OND/NUR	17.2	22.5	20.2
BA/BSC/HND	16.8	23.8	20.2
TECH/PROF	5.0	27.9	20.6
MASTERS	3.2	8.3	5.1
DOCTORATE	11.1	7.7	9.1
OTHERS	31.3	36.1	35.5
AGE GROUP			
15-24	33.5	38.2	37.7
25-44	16.3	24.1	22.4
45-59	12.5	19.6	18.0
60-64	17.8	22.1	21.4
SEX			
MALE	16.9	25.1	23.5
FEMALE	17.2	26.1	24.3
NATIONAL	17.1	25.6	23.9

Source: National bureau of statistics general household survey,2011.

From the table above, unemployment rate in 2009 was 19.7%, increased to 21.1% in 2010 and 23.9% in 2011. Rural unemployment is 25.6% and Urban unemployment 17.1%. Also, 0-14 years has 39.6% and 15-64 that is active population constituted 56.3% while 65 years and above constituted 4.2%.

IV. Efforts made by various administrations to reduce crises in Nigeria

Government has played and continue playing a vital role which aimed at reducing poverty, increase economic growth and to reduce crises in Nigeria, numerous policies and programmes have been designed at one time or another to address the needs of the poor, for instance operation feed the nation was set up in 1976 with the entire purpose of making the nation strong and viable economy in food production but by 1980 instead Nigeria became dependent country in term of food production especially importation of Rice, Green revolution was another viable programme launched by president Shehu Shagari but at the end of the proramme there was nothing green, other programmme include family support programme, better life for rural women, the Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure, the Structural Adjustment Programme in 1986 was a good policy embark upon by than the Military head of state General Ibrahim Babangida with the aim of reducing poverty. While structural adjustment had its salutary effects on economic growth, it lacked emphasis on development and also accentuated socio-economic problems of income inequality, unequal access to food, shelter, education, health and other necessities of life. It indeed, aggravated the incidence of crises among many vulnerable groups in the society Akanji (2008).As a result of the continuous deterioration of living conditions in the late 1980s, several poverty alleviation programmes came on board. They were designed to impact positively on the poor. By the end of 1998, there were sixteen poverty alleviation institutions in the country. In 1994, the Government set up a broad-based Poverty Alleviation Programme Development Committee (PAPDC) under the aegis of the National Planning Commission. The primary objective of the PAPDC was to advise the government on the design, coordination and implementation of poverty alleviation programmes. Its work contributed immensely to the emergence of a new approach to the design and organization of poverty alleviation programmes culminating in the establishment in 1996 of the Community Action Programme for Poverty Alleviation (CAPPA). CAPPA is a community based approach which adopts a combination of social funds and social action strategy. The CAPPA document drew largely from the past experience on poverty reduction efforts in the country and attempts to ensure that the poor are not only carried along in the design and implementation of poverty projects that affect them but that the poor themselves actually formulate and manage the poverty projects. Various agencies (Government, Donors and NGOs) involved in poverty alleviation in the country have embraced the CAPPA strategy. Also, in 1996, a draft National Poverty Alleviation Policy document was produced by the Government through the National Planning Commission. Its thrust is the improvement in

human welfare in the immediate and distant future. In 1999 when the country returned to democracy poverty alleviation programme was launched with the aims and objectives of liberating Nigerians from squalor, poverty and hunger which was later transform into National poverty eradication programme. Specifically, a number of government programmes initiated in the past, have aimed at improving basic services, infrastructure and housing facilities for the rural and urban population, extending access to credit farm inputs, and creating employment. Most of the programmes were, however, not specifically targeted towards the poor, though they affect them. There are specific multi-sector programmes (water and sanitation, environment, etc) as well as sector specific programmes in agriculture, health, education, transport, housing, finance, industry/manufacturing and nutrition Akanji (2008).

V. Reasons for failure of past government policies

A number of factors have contributed to the failure of past poverty-related programmes and efforts. Some of them are:

1. Selfishness and greed of those entrusted to managed the programme which resulted in looting treasury. Lambert and Aiguosative (2011) opined that due to selfishness and lack of patriotism among the leaders in Nigeria, the country is still backward which resulted to insecurity of lives and properties.
2. Lack of visionary leaders and nationalism.
 - (i) Lack of targeting the poor and the fact that most of the programmes do not focus directly on the poor.
 - (ii) Frequent change of government have resulted in frequent policy changes especially during the military rule.
 - (iii) lack of proper coordination of the many programmes has contributed to collapse of the prograame
 - (iv) Overlapping functions ultimately led to institutional competition and conflicts.
 - (v) Corruption and nepotism has also constituted a factor that led to maladministration of many viable government programmes Political leaders perpetuate corruption in top administrative sectors of government in Nigeria.
 - (vi) Poor budgetary, mismanagement and governance problems have afflicted most of the programmes, resulting in facilities not being completed, broken down and abandoned, unstaffed and equipped.
 - (vii) Lack of accountability and transparency thereby making the programmes to serve as conduit pipes for draining national resources.
 - (viii) Over extended scope of activities of most institutions, resulting in resources being spread too thinly on too many activities.
 - (ix) Inappropriate programme design reflecting lack of involvement of beneficiaries in the formulation and implementation of programmes.
 - (x) Absence of target setting for Ministries, Agencies and Programmes.
 - (xi) Lack of smooth intergovernmental relations between the three tiers of government for effective running of the programme.

VI. Consequences of crises in Nigeria

One of the effect of the crises is that it led to crimes and social malice in Nigeria which is very rampant in Nigeria since the country return to democracy in 1999 such as prostitution, internet scam, political violence, kidnapping and likes had been increasing recently. For instance prostitution has been increasing, political violence, kidnapping and activities of such groups such as Boko haram, and militant in Niger Delta has increase Elite (2007).

These vices have a negative effects on the country because they have been fear of most foreign investors and they are also given the country bad name.

Crisis destroys state, economic growth and economic development is negated and welfare of people ignored. Discrimination, intimidation, humiliation and trampling on the peoples human rights is the order of the day (E. g Bomb last).

In most cases such a polity anxiety, suspicion, ethnic conflicts and clashes, violence and war are known to have been persistent in situations of lack of good governance.

Also, refugees problems, hunger, starvation, disease, malnutrition and general poverty are the antecedents of injustice. In most cases thousand of people flee from their homes as a result of crisis. A good examples of this are the recent happening of Bomb blast in some part of Northern states such as Borno, Bauchi and Kaduna.

The overall effect of such crises is poverty, death, retrogression, and lack of development. Development does not thrive in a situation devoid of peace and rancor.

VII. Good governance and crises in Nigeria

The links between good governance and stability can be seen under four factors:-

Democratic institution

Rule of law

Transparency and

Service delivery

Democratic institution

Democracy encourage equal participation of people in decision making and also strengthen the relationship between social group in decision to formulate and express their position on issues importance to them. Political and economic equality and enhance stability. But all these are lacking in Nigeria, instead the politician are using the youth to breed rancor by giving them hard drugs to create crises in Nigeria.

Rule of law

Rule of law is one of the tenants of democracy and when it prevail it prevent arbitrary rule, the issue of equality before the law and promote good governance. The laws in Nigeria are meant for poor men but not for the rich and powerful politicians which constitute problem to good governance and enhance crises in Nigeria.

Transparency

Good governance rely on principles such as accountability, anti corruption and thoroughness on the part of government. For government to be accountable, it must come out with initiative such as establishment of institutions like anti corruption commission to check the excesses of corrupt politicians, create mechanisms of information sharing, monitoring government use of public funds and policies implementation. The anti corruption institution in Nigeria such as economic and financial crimes commission, anti corruption commission serves as oppression to opposition political parties instead of playing their role in checking the excesses of corruption.

Service delivery

Another way of promoting good governance, and is the primary function of government to free it citizens from the basic needs such as security, food, shelter, education and promotion of democratic ideal.

VIII. Conclusion

The papers vividly addressed the effects of lack of good governance and how it generate crises in Nigeria such as insecurity of lives and properties, bomb last, kidnapping and other social malice. The findings revealed that greediness, corruption, and lack of good policies that have direct bearing on the masses has created tension and anxiety in the country leading to insecurity of lives and properties.

IX. Recommendations

The following are some of the recommendations with the hope that if put in place will help in minimizing problems of crises in Nigeria

1. The only means of ensuring enduring and sustainable development is through creating an enabling stable political climate that is built on democratic ethos and principles that are practical and maintained in the society.
2. Mass participation of people in the political process is the ultimate road to development.
3. Government need to provide conducive atmosphere to encourage private sector led group with good policy of government to encourage private enterprises so as to provide employment to the timing youths.
4. Government should pursue project that have direct bearing on the masses such as provision of stable electricity, good road networks and development of agricultural sector.
5. The education should be structure towards vocational training that could enable the youth to develop a skill to enable them live in good and normal life.

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