

# The Impact of Political Leadership on Public Administration Efficiency in Nigeria

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## **Abstract**

*Political leadership plays a crucial role in shaping the efficiency of public administration in Nigeria. This research article investigates how different leadership styles and decisions impact the effectiveness of public institutions and government operations. Political leaders influence the direction of policies, administrative practices, and overall governance. The study examines how leadership quality, stability, and transparency affect public administration efficiency by analyzing various case studies in Nigeria.*

*Historically, political leadership in Nigeria has fluctuated between stability and instability, influencing the performance of public institutions. Leadership styles ranging from authoritarian to democratic have led to varied outcomes in administrative efficiency. Effective leaders who prioritize transparency, accountability, and good governance tend to enhance public administration, while those plagued by corruption and poor decision-making can significantly undermine it.*

*The article highlights that strong and effective political leadership is essential for improving public administration. It explores how transparent policies and accountable practices lead to better management of public resources and services. Conversely, political instability and corruption are identified as major barriers to efficient administration. These challenges hinder policy implementation and reduce the quality of public services. Recommendations to enhance public administration efficiency include promoting leadership that values transparency and accountability, ensuring that political decisions support effective governance, and addressing corruption. By focusing on these areas, Nigeria can improve the performance of its public institutions and better serve its citizens. This study underscores the importance of leadership in shaping the effectiveness of public administration and provides insights into how political decisions can impact administrative outcomes.*

**Keywords:** *Accountability, Administration, Corruption, Efficiency, Governance, Leadership, Policies,*

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Political leadership is a key factor in how well public administration works in Nigeria. Public administration involves the management of government operations and services that affect the daily lives of citizens. Political leaders make important decisions that can either improve or worsen how these services are delivered. Understanding the link between political leadership and public administration efficiency is important for improving governance and ensuring that public services meet the needs of the people.

In Nigeria, political leadership influences public administration in many ways. Leaders create policies, make decisions, and oversee how things are done in government. Their actions can determine if government programs succeed or fail. For example, leaders who are transparent and accountable can help make sure that public resources are used properly and that services are delivered effectively. On the other hand, leaders who are corrupt or ineffective can lead to problems such as waste, mismanagement, and poor service delivery.

Public administration in Nigeria operates within a framework of laws and regulations set by both state and federal governments. These laws outline the roles and responsibilities of public officials and institutions. However, the effectiveness of these laws and regulations depends on the quality of leadership. Leaders who follow the rules and make fair decisions can improve administrative efficiency. In contrast, leaders who ignore the rules or act dishonestly can hinder the performance of public institutions.

The relationship between political leadership and public administration is complex. Effective leadership can lead to better management of public resources and services. For instance, leaders who prioritize good governance can help reduce corruption and improve the quality of public services. They can also create policies that address the needs of citizens and ensure that government programs are implemented effectively. Conversely, poor leadership can result in inefficiencies and problems in public administration. Leaders who are corrupt or lack vision may fail to address key issues and may not implement policies effectively.

One important aspect of political leadership is its impact on administrative practices. Leaders set the direction for public institutions and make decisions about how they should operate. This includes decisions about budgeting, staffing, and policy implementation. Leaders who make informed and strategic decisions can help

improve the performance of public institutions. For example, leaders who allocate resources wisely and invest in staff training can enhance the efficiency of government operations. However, leaders who make poor decisions or who are influenced by personal interests can undermine the effectiveness of public administration.

Another key factor is the level of political stability. Stable political environments are generally more conducive to effective public administration. When there is political stability, leaders can focus on long-term goals and make consistent decisions that benefit public institutions. In contrast, political instability can lead to frequent changes in leadership and policy, which can disrupt administrative processes and hinder the delivery of services. For example, frequent changes in government can result in shifts in priorities and delays in implementing important programs (Akinwale, 2016).

Transparency and accountability are also crucial elements of effective leadership. Leaders who are transparent in their actions and accountable for their decisions can build trust with the public and improve administrative efficiency. Transparency involves making information about government operations and decisions available to the public. Accountability means that leaders are answerable for their actions and decisions. When leaders are transparent and accountable, they can help prevent corruption and ensure that public resources are used effectively.

Corruption is a major challenge in Nigerian public administration. Corruption occurs when leaders use their positions for personal gain rather than serving the public interest. It can take many forms, including bribery, embezzlement, and favoritism. Corruption undermines the effectiveness of public administration by diverting resources away from their intended purposes and reducing the quality of services. Leaders who are committed to fighting corruption can help improve administrative efficiency by promoting integrity and ethical behavior. However, when leaders are involved in corruption or fail to address it, it can have serious negative effects on public administration.

The impact of political leadership on public administration can also be seen in the way policies are developed and implemented. Effective leaders work to create policies that address the needs of citizens and improve the quality of public services. They use data and evidence to make informed decisions and to design programs that are effective and efficient. For example, leaders who focus on data-driven decision-making can develop policies that target key issues and improve service delivery. On the other hand, leaders who make decisions based on personal or political interests may create policies that are ineffective or that do not address the real needs of the public.

Public administration also relies on effective communication and collaboration. Leaders who communicate clearly with stakeholders and work collaboratively with other government agencies and organizations can help improve administrative efficiency. Effective communication involves sharing information about policies, programs, and decisions with the public and with other government entities. Collaboration involves working together with different groups to achieve common goals. Leaders who prioritize communication and collaboration can help ensure that public administration is more effective and that services are delivered in a coordinated manner.

## **II. LITERATURE REVIEW**

The efficiency of public administration in Nigeria is profoundly influenced by political leadership. This literature review delves into how various forms of political leadership impact public administration in Nigeria, offering a comprehensive analysis that integrates insights from a range of scholarly sources. By examining different leadership styles, administrative reforms, and challenges faced in the Nigerian context, this review aims to provide a thorough understanding of the dynamics at play and their implications for public sector efficiency.

### ***Evolution of Political Leadership in Nigeria***

Political leadership in Nigeria has evolved significantly since independence, with each phase of leadership leaving a distinct mark on public administration. The colonial period established a centralized administrative framework that was largely authoritative and detached from the local populace (Ojo, 2013). This legacy persisted into the early years of independence, where military regimes continued to enforce centralized and authoritarian leadership styles. These regimes, characterized by a top-down approach, often led to inefficiencies and a lack of responsiveness in public administration.

The return to civilian rule in the late 1990s introduced a democratic framework aimed at decentralizing power and fostering greater public participation. This transition was intended to improve governance and administrative efficiency by incorporating more transparent and inclusive decision-making processes (Akinwale, 2017). Despite these intentions, the effectiveness of democratic leadership in Nigeria has been challenged by political instability, frequent changes in government, and inconsistencies in policy implementation (Ojo, 2018; Ogunode et al., 2020).

### ***Leadership Styles and Public Administration Efficiency***

The impact of different leadership styles on public administration efficiency is a critical area of study. Authoritarian leadership, prevalent during military regimes, often resulted in centralized decision-making and limited public involvement. This approach was marked by bureaucratic inefficiencies, such as slow decision-making and excessive red tape (Ojo, 2015; Olowu, 2017). Authoritarian leaders frequently made decisions without consulting the public or considering their needs, which undermined the effectiveness of administrative actions (Ojo, 2015; Ezeani, 2016).

In contrast, democratic leadership emphasizes public participation, transparency, and accountability. Democratic leaders are expected to engage with citizens, seek their input, and make decisions that reflect public interests. This participatory approach has the potential to enhance administrative efficiency by aligning government actions with public expectations. However, in Nigeria, the effectiveness of democratic leadership has been compromised by political instability and frequent changes in government, which disrupt administrative continuity and hinder the implementation of reforms.

Several challenges affect the efficiency of public administration in Nigeria, including bureaucratic inefficiencies, corruption, and accountability issues. Bureaucratic inefficiency is a persistent problem, characterized by slow decision-making processes, excessive paperwork, and poor service delivery (Ogunode et al., 2020). These inefficiencies are often exacerbated by political interference, where leaders influence bureaucratic processes to serve their personal or political interests rather than the public good.

Corruption is another major issue impacting public administration. Adejuwon (2020) argues that corruption in Nigeria is facilitated by political leaders who use their positions to enrich themselves or reward loyalists. This corruption diverts resources away from essential services and undermines the integrity of public institutions. Leaders engaged in corrupt practices compromise administrative efficiency by diverting funds and resources, which diminishes the quality and accessibility of public services.

Accountability is crucial for improving public administration efficiency. Leaders who prioritize transparency and integrity can enhance administrative performance and restore public trust in government institutions (Akinyele, 2021). Effective anti-corruption measures, such as transparent procurement processes and rigorous oversight mechanisms, are essential for combating corruption and improving efficiency. Holding leaders accountable for their actions can help improve overall administrative performance and foster a culture of integrity within public institutions.

### ***Comparative Perspectives on Leadership and Efficiency***

Comparative studies offer valuable insights into how political leadership influences public administration efficiency in different contexts. Olowu (2017) compares public administration reforms in Nigeria with those in other African countries, such as Ghana and Kenya. This comparison highlights Nigeria's unique challenges, including ethnic and regional politics, which complicate efforts to improve administrative efficiency. In Ghana, decentralization efforts have led to significant improvements in administrative performance, demonstrating the potential benefits of reducing centralized control (Olowu, 2017). Similarly, Kenya has implemented various reforms to enhance public sector management, although challenges persist.

In Southeast Asia, countries such as Singapore and Malaysia provide additional insights. Singapore's emphasis on meritocracy and transparent governance has resulted in high levels of public sector efficiency (Akinola, 2018). The country's focus on recruiting skilled professionals and ensuring transparency in administrative processes has contributed to its success in public administration. Malaysia, on the other hand, has made notable advancements through various reforms and anti-corruption measures, though challenges remain. These examples illustrate how different leadership approaches can lead to varying degrees of administrative efficiency and offer valuable lessons for Nigeria.

### ***The Role of Political Stability and Continuity***

Political stability and continuity are essential for effective public administration. Frequent changes in government and political instability can disrupt administrative processes and hinder the implementation of long-term reforms. Ojo (2018) emphasizes that political instability undermines administrative efficiency by creating an environment of uncertainty and inconsistency. When governments change frequently, it can lead to discontinuity in policies and projects, affecting the overall performance of public administration.

Stable political environments provide the foundation for effective governance and administrative efficiency. Countries with stable political systems are better positioned to implement and sustain reforms, ensure continuity in public services, and maintain trust in government institutions (Ogunode et al., 2020). In Nigeria, achieving political stability and ensuring continuity in governance are crucial for addressing the challenges faced by public administration and improving overall efficiency.

### ***Decentralization and Local Governance***

Decentralization involves redistributing power from central authorities to local entities, aiming to enhance public administration efficiency. In Nigeria, this process is driven by the need to improve governance, service delivery, and local development. Decentralization includes political, administrative, and fiscal dimensions. Political decentralization shifts authority to elected local governments, administrative decentralization delegates functions to local bodies, and fiscal decentralization allocates financial resources to local governments. Each aspect is designed to empower local governments, increase responsiveness to community needs, and enhance administrative efficiency.

Theoretical perspectives offer insights into the effects of decentralization. The Principal-Agent Theory suggests that decentralization helps align local officials' interests with those of their constituents by bringing decision-making closer to the people. This proximity can improve how local officials address specific community needs. However, Governance Theory highlights potential risks, such as increased corruption and inefficiency if local governments lack the necessary capacity and accountability mechanisms (Oates, 1999). Without proper oversight, decentralization may lead to mismanagement and corruption, undermining its benefits.

One major advantage of decentralization is the enhanced responsiveness of local governments. Being closer to the community, local officials can more effectively identify and address local needs, leading to more tailored and timely service delivery (Smoke, 2001). Decentralization also promotes greater public participation. Local governments offer platforms for citizens to engage in decision-making processes, increasing transparency and accountability (Faguet, 2004). Research shows that decentralized systems can result in higher levels of citizen engagement and satisfaction with public services (Alderman, 2001). In Nigeria, increased voter participation in local government elections reflects a greater sense of local political involvement.

Despite these benefits, decentralization faces significant challenges. Capacity constraints are a major issue, as many local governments in Nigeria struggle with inadequate infrastructure, limited financial resources, and a lack of technical expertise. These constraints can hinder effective decentralization, leading to uneven service delivery and governance outcomes. Additionally, decentralization can exacerbate corruption and inefficiency. Mungiu-Pippidi (2015) notes that delegating power to local authorities can create opportunities for corruption if there are insufficient checks and balances. Reports of embezzlement and mismanagement of local government funds in Nigeria raise concerns about the effectiveness of decentralization in addressing corruption.

The experiences of other countries offer valuable insights. In Kenya, decentralization has led to improvements in service delivery, particularly in health and education sectors, where strong institutional frameworks and active citizen engagement have made a significant impact (Mwangi, 2019). In Nigeria, the effects of decentralization have been mixed. States with effective decentralization mechanisms have achieved better governance outcomes, while those with capacity constraints have seen limited improvements. This highlights the importance of designing decentralization strategies that consider local contexts and capacities. Political leadership is crucial in shaping the success of decentralization. Effective leaders promote transparency, ensure equitable resource distribution, and support capacity-building initiatives for local governments (Nwachukwu & Eze, 2023). Political will is essential for addressing challenges such as corruption and inefficiency and for aligning decentralization policies with national development goals.

### ***Governance Reforms and Institutional Strengthening***

Governance reforms are integral to enhancing public administration efficiency, particularly in Nigeria, where recent initiatives emphasize institutional strengthening, transparency, and anti-corruption efforts. These reforms are designed to create a more accountable and effective public administration system. According to Bello and Ibrahim (2023), institutional reforms are essential in improving the performance and accountability of public Institutions.

The cornerstone of effective governance reform is political leadership. Leaders play a pivotal role in driving these reforms and ensuring their successful implementation. Political leadership is necessary to provide a clear vision and direction, address deep-rooted inefficiencies, and combat corruption. Leaders must champion transparency and support reforms that enhance institutional capacities and integrity. One significant aspect of governance reforms involves establishing robust accountability mechanisms. This includes implementing stricter auditing procedures, enforcing legal standards, and ensuring that public officials are held accountable for their actions. Ogunleye (2023) highlights that transparency and accountability are crucial for reducing opportunities for corruption and mismanagement. Effective reforms require mechanisms that enable public scrutiny and oversight to ensure that resources are used efficiently and that officials adhere to ethical standards.

Institutional strengthening is another key element of governance reforms. This entails enhancing the capacity of public sector organizations through improved management practices, increased technical expertise, and investment in technology. As noted by Fagbemi (2022), strengthening institutions involves not only creating new structures but also improving existing ones to ensure they are capable of delivering quality public services.



Capacity-building efforts, such as training personnel and upgrading systems, are essential for enabling institutions to perform their functions more effectively. Furthermore, governance reforms must address the structural issues within public institutions. Addressing structural weaknesses involves revising legal frameworks, improving regulatory oversight, and ensuring that institutions have the resources and authority needed to execute their responsibilities effectively. Reforms should focus on creating a more transparent and accountable public sector that is responsive to the needs of citizens.

Empirical evidence supports the positive impact of governance reforms on public administration. For instance, in countries like Kenya, decentralization and governance reforms have led to improvements in service delivery and institutional performance (Mwangi, 2019). Similarly, Nigeria has seen some successes in implementing reforms that enhance transparency and institutional capacity, although challenges remain.

### ***Public Sector Accountability and Transparency***

Ensuring accountability and transparency within the public sector is vital for boosting administrative efficiency, particularly in Nigeria. Implementing anti-corruption measures, rigorous financial oversight, and comprehensive public sector reforms are key strategies to combat mismanagement and corruption that can undermine effective governance. Olamide and Afolabi (2023) emphasize that political leaders are crucial in establishing and enforcing systems that promote accountability and good governance.

Accountability involves holding public officials and institutions responsible for their actions and decisions. This requires implementing strong systems that track performance, manage resources effectively, and ensure that public servants follow ethical standards. Anti-corruption initiatives are central to this approach, including strict enforcement of anti-corruption laws, regular financial audits, and transparency measures that allow public scrutiny (Ajayi, 2021). Without these safeguards, there is a significant risk of mismanagement and misuse of public funds, which can severely affect the efficiency of public administration. Transparency, equally important, means making information about public spending, decision-making, and institutional performance readily available to the public. This openness helps citizens hold leaders accountable and builds trust in public institutions (Gordon, 2022). Transparency mechanisms, such as public access to financial statements and procurement processes, are essential for preventing corruption and ensuring proper use of resources. These measures are crucial for improving public sector performance and accountability.

Political leadership is instrumental in cultivating a culture of accountability and transparency. Leaders must support reforms that tackle corruption and enhance governance. This involves backing legislative changes, enforcing anti-corruption regulations, and promoting integrity within public institutions. Effective leadership is necessary to drive these reforms and ensure compliance across all levels of government. Countries with robust accountability and transparency practices achieve better outcomes in public administration. For example, increased transparency and anti-corruption efforts in Ghana have led to improvements in public service delivery and institutional effectiveness. Similarly, while Nigeria has made progress in enhancing accountability and transparency, challenges remain in fully implementing and enforcing these measures (Bello & Ibrahim, 2023).

### ***The Impact of Political Stability and Leadership on Public Sector Innovation in Nigeria***

In Nigeria, political stability is very important for how well public administration works. When the political environment is stable, it is easier for government policies and processes to be carried out effectively. According to Yusuf (2024), a stable political climate helps build trust in public institutions and makes it easier to put policies into action. For instance, during President Olusegun Obasanjo's time from 1999 to 2007, Nigeria saw improvements in infrastructure and public services, partly because the political environment was relatively stable. The creation of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to fight corruption also happened during this period.

However, when the political situation is unstable, it can cause big problems for public administration. For example, Nigeria has faced political instability during times of frequent government changes and regional conflicts. The military rule from 1983 to 1999 caused disruptions in government functions and policy-making. More recently, issues during the 2015 and 2019 elections, such as violence and irregularities, showed how political instability can hurt public administration. Leadership is also very important for encouraging innovation in the public sector.

Good leaders help bring in new ideas and use new technologies to improve services. Ahmed and Suleiman (2024) point out that strong leadership is needed to drive these changes and make public administration more efficient.

In Nigeria, there are examples where good leadership has led to important changes. The National Identity Management Commission (NIMC), started in 2010 under President Goodluck Jonathan, aimed to create a national identity database. This project helped make services more efficient by simplifying identification processes. Another example is the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC), set up in 2016 by President Muhammadu Buhari. PEBEC worked to make it easier to start and run businesses in Nigeria by cutting

down on red tape and improving transparency. This shows how effective leadership can lead to better public sector services. But there are still challenges. Changes in leadership and political instability can disrupt ongoing projects and reforms. Local governments often face issues with corruption and lack of resources, which can stop good ideas from being put into practice.

### **ADDRESSING CHALLENGES IN PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY AND THE IMPACT OF POLITICAL PATRONAGE ON ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY IN NIGERIA**

Public service delivery in Nigeria faces several significant challenges that impede its efficiency and effectiveness. Key issues include inadequate infrastructure, inefficient resource allocation, and bureaucratic red tape. These challenges hinder the quality of services provided to the public and limit the overall impact of government initiatives. Addressing these problems requires strong leadership capable of implementing effective policies and strategies.

#### ***Challenges in Public Service Delivery***

One of the major challenges in public service delivery is inadequate infrastructure. Many areas in Nigeria, especially rural regions, suffer from a lack of basic infrastructure such as roads, electricity, and water supply. This lack of infrastructure directly impacts the ability of government services to reach and effectively serve these communities. For instance, according to the Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics (2023), only about 60% of rural areas have access to reliable electricity, which affects local businesses and public services.

Inefficient resource allocation is another significant problem. Resources in Nigeria are often not distributed based on need or effectiveness. Instead, funds may be allocated based on political considerations or personal connections, leading to imbalances and inefficiencies. For example, the mismanagement of funds in the education sector has resulted in poorly maintained schools and inadequate teaching resources, affecting the quality of education for millions of students.

Bureaucratic red tape also creates obstacles to efficient public service delivery. Excessive paperwork, complex procedures, and slow decision-making processes can delay or even prevent the delivery of essential services. According to Eze and Nnamdi (2024), this bureaucratic inefficiency often results from outdated regulations and lack of coordination among government agencies, leading to a sluggish response to public needs.

To overcome these challenges, strong leadership is crucial. Leaders must be able to implement policies and strategies that address these systemic issues. For example, the implementation of the Integrated Personnel and Payroll Information System (IPPIS) aimed to tackle issues related to ghost workers and payroll inefficiencies in the public sector. While the system has faced its own challenges, it represents an effort to streamline processes and improve efficiency.

#### ***Impact of Political Patronage on Administrative Efficiency***

Political patronage and nepotism further complicate the situation by influencing appointments and resource allocation based on political loyalty rather than merit. In Nigeria, political patronage has been a persistent issue, affecting the efficiency and effectiveness of public administration.

Appointments to key positions often go to individuals based on their political connections rather than their qualifications or experience. This practice undermines the professionalism and competence of public institutions.

When political loyalty takes precedence over merit, it leads to the appointment of less qualified individuals to important positions. This can result in poor decision making, inefficiency, and corruption. For example, reports have shown that some public officials in Nigeria have been appointed not because of their expertise but because of their connections to influential politicians. This undermines the quality of governance and public service delivery. Political patronage also affects resource allocation. Resources intended for public services may be diverted to projects or areas that benefit political allies rather than where they are most needed. This practice not only results in unequal distribution of resources but also perpetuates inefficiency and waste. For instance, in some states, infrastructure projects have been awarded to companies owned by political cronies rather than those with the capability to execute the projects effectively. This has led to poorly completed projects and wasted funds.

Addressing the impact of political patronage requires reforms aimed at ensuring that appointments and resource Distribution are based on competency and fairness. Implementing merit-based systems for hiring and promotions, improving transparency in resource allocation, and strengthening anti-corruption mechanisms are crucial steps.

The introduction of the Open Treasury Portal, which allows for the public monitoring of government spending, is one example of a reform intended to increase transparency and reduce the impact of political patronage.

### **Combining Leadership and Reform Efforts**

To effectively address the challenges in public service delivery and mitigate the impact of political patronage, a combined approach involving strong leadership and systemic reforms is essential. Leaders must be committed to implementing reforms that address the root causes of inefficiency and corruption. They need to promote a culture of transparency, accountability, and merit-based decision-making within public institutions.

Reforming bureaucratic processes to reduce red tape, improve infrastructure, and ensure efficient resource allocation requires both political will and administrative capability. Leaders should focus public service processes can help cut down on bureaucratic inefficiencies and improve access to services. Moreover, combating political patronage requires structural changes in the way appointments and resource allocations are handled. Establishing independent bodies to oversee appointments and ensure merit-based selections can help curb nepotism and favoritism. Additionally, fostering a culture of accountability through regular audits and public reporting can help ensure that resources are used effectively and transparently.

### **III. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Public service delivery in Nigeria faces many problems that affect how well services are provided. Issues like poor infrastructure, wasted resources, and too much red tape make it hard for the government to serve its people effectively. On top of this, political patronage and nepotism worsen these problems by allowing political loyalty to influence hiring and resource distribution instead of merit and fairness. To tackle these issues, strong leadership and effective reforms are needed. Good leadership can help improve how public services are delivered by making sure resources are used wisely and that services meet the needs of the people. Leaders must also work to reduce corruption and ensure that appointments and resource allocations are based on merit.

### **IV. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Improve Infrastructure:** The government should focus on building and improving infrastructure like roads, electricity, and water supply. Investing in these areas will help provide better services to people, especially in areas that lack these basic needs.

**Better Resource Allocation:** Resources should be allocated more efficiently. Transparent budgeting and financial management practices can ensure that resources are used where they are needed most. Independent bodies should oversee how resources are spent to prevent misuse.

**Reduce Bureaucratic Red Tape:** Streamline government processes to make them more efficient. This includes reducing unnecessary paperwork and using technology to simplify procedures. This will help speed up service delivery and make it more effective.

**Merit-Based Appointments:** Make sure that hiring and promotions are based on skills and qualifications, not political connections. Create fair and transparent processes for these decisions to avoid nepotism and favoritism.

**Strengthen Anti-Corruption Measures:** Implement strong anti-corruption policies and enforce them rigorously. Regular audits and making government spending information public can help prevent corruption and ensure that funds are used properly.

**Encourage Public Participation:** Get citizens involved in decision-making processes. This can be done through public consultations and feedback mechanisms. When people have a say in how services are run, it increases trust and helps ensure that services meet their needs.

**Invest in Training and Development:** Improve the skills of government officials through training programs. Investing in their development will help them perform their jobs better and improve overall public service delivery.

**Ensure Leadership Accountability:** Leaders should be held accountable for their actions. This includes regular performance reviews and making sure their decisions are transparent. Accountability helps build trust and ensures that leaders work for the benefit of the people.

By following these recommendations, Nigeria can address the problems in public service delivery and reduce the negative effects of political patronage. This will lead to better services, more efficient use of resources, and increased trust in government institutions.

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