

## **Exploring the Synergy of Democracy and National Security for Good Governance in Nigeria**

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**Abstract:** *This paper is an explorative discourse on the state of democracy, national security and good governance in Nigeria. The paper through the use of system theory unfolds the hyphen and buckle between good governance and national security. It argues that poor political governance as manifested in lack of people centered leadership, corruption, poor institutionalization of democratic principles and ideals, widespread unemployment, poverty, wide spread illiteracy among others have led to crude contestation of political power which continues to threaten the survival of the Nigerian state. It will not be false to say that Nigeria once again became democratic in 1999 but has not taken advantage of this form of government to put in place measures that will ensure good governance and national security. The lack of good governance in the country is traceable to the absence of true democracy which has brought with it increased insecurity. Today, new security challenges like suicide bombings, terrorist attacks, kidnapping, armed robbery and banditry are on the increase in Nigeria. There is also increased poverty and hunger, decayed infrastructure and particularly, corrupt leadership etc. This situation is wreaking efforts at deepening democratic practices, which in turn portends serious danger to national security and integration. This paper therefore aims at examining how the combine efforts of entrenched democracy and good governance can enhance national security in Nigeria.*

**Keywords:** *Synergy, Democracy, National Security, Good Governance, Leadership.*

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### **I. Introduction**

The notion of democratic governance gained greater prominence in Africa in the 1990s. The realisation by the World Bank that its support for authoritarian regimes in Africa did not yield the expected development outcomes provoked a fundamental shift by the Bank towards more accountability, transparency and democracy in government (Egwu, 2006). Governance entails the proper management of state institutions and structures to enhance socio-economic and political transformation of society. It is the expectation that the state will practice and promote the core values of constitutionalism, respect for the rule of law and human rights, popular participation, accountability and transparency, and probity in the management of people and resources. The governance process embodies the social bond existing between the government and the governed, and its capacity to enhance popular trust and galvanize popular participation in the political system is strong <sup>[1]</sup> <sup>[2]</sup>. It is important to stress that while the governance framework consolidates the values of liberal democracy, it nevertheless reinforces the neoliberal agenda of reducing the role of the state in socio-economic development <sup>[2]</sup>.

On the other hand, the concept of National Security goes beyond safeguarding the state from external and internal threats. It also involves improving the socio-economic, health, environmental, physical, food and political security of the people, protecting the dominant values, ideology, and way of life of the state from threats and forestalling any form of socio-economic, political, environmental assault on the state. Therefore, the combination of high level military intervention and improvement in the standard of living of the citizens are required to enhance national security <sup>[3]</sup>.

Essentially, there is a strong correlation between governance and national security. Governance that enhances the delivery of public goods and improved standard of living for the people has the capacity to guarantee improved security of lives and properties and minimise potential risks to national security <sup>[4]</sup>. The catastrophic episodes of poor governance evident in the perversion of the constitution and constitutionalism, subversion of the rule of law and institutions of probity and accountability, and the abuse of political power for personal aggrandizement by the political leadership in Africa; and the attendant devastating challenges of development, poverty, insecurity and conflict underscore the import of governance on development and security <sup>[1]</sup>.

The failure of governance is core to the socio-economic and political development challenges confronting Nigeria and the spate of violence that threatens national security <sup>[5]</sup>. The evolution of democracy and democratic governance in Nigeria has been a turbulent one. Since independence, democratic governance in Nigeria has been devoid of what Egwu describes as the key elements of governance: accountability, transparency, openness, answerability, enforcement and responsiveness <sup>[1]</sup>. Consequently, political corruption,

perversion of the rule of law and due process, subversion of the institutions of accountability and transparency, reckless and rudderless political leadership, violation of human rights, authoritarianism, criminalisation of dissent, widespread impunity and personalisation of political power have become significant attributes of democratic governance in Nigeria. These governance deficits have profoundly affected development and security in Nigeria.

The interplay of colonialism, military rule and poor leadership are central to the poor institutionalisation of democratic governance and the attendant security challenges in Nigeria<sup>[6]</sup>. It is within this milieu that the winner takes all nature of politics, the contradictions inherent in the character of the Nigerian state and its power to generate social tensions and violence, and entrenched economic inequality and poverty crucial to understanding the impact of governance on national security and instability in Nigeria are founded (Lewis, 2011). Moreover, democratic governance can minimise the capacity of the socio-economic divisions and tensions in the country to undermine national security and stability. However, the problems of widespread unemployment, poverty, infrastructural decay, political corruption, ethno-religious conflicts, politically motivated violence and general insecurity of lives and property constantly plaguing the country underscore the problematic nature of governance in Nigeria.

The questions here are; whether the synergy of democracy and national security can guarantee good governance in Nigeria? Is there link between democracy, national security and good governance that can be harnessed for a better future for Nigeria? Thus, the thrust of this paper therefore is to unfold the nexus and synergy of democracy and good governance towards achieving national security in Nigeria.

## **II. Democracy: Definitions And Nature**

The idea of democracy, or government by the people, is very old, dating back to ancient Greece. The term democracy originates from the Greek (*dēmokratía*) "rule of the people", which was coined from two words - (*dēmos*) "people" and (*kratos*) "power" or "rule". Democracy literally means — power to the people<sup>[7]</sup>. Dibia (2003) defines democracy as — a form of government in which people exercise their governing power either directly, or through representatives periodically elected by them<sup>[8]</sup>. Funk and Wagnalls Standard Desk Dictionary (1993), defines democracy as, — a form of government in which political power resides in all the people and is exercised by them directly or is given to elected representatives, a state so governed<sup>[9]</sup>. Hornby (1995) offers a broader definition of democracy as a system of government by all the people of a country, usually through representatives whom they elect, though as allowing freedom of speech, religion and political opinion .... Abraham Lincoln gave a classic definition of democracy as — the government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Lincoln's definition of democracy has remained popular till date and is seen by the paper as a very simple and direct picture of what democracy implies and therefore the preferable definition of democracy for this paper. This is because it captures the real essence of the practice of democracy as a kind of government that has popular power in which people are free, happy, duly represented and people decide what happens through their representatives. A government that is continually focusing on the general will of the people<sup>[10]</sup>.

Democratization in Nigeria started during the British Colonial rule especially after the Second World War when Colonial authoritarianism was deliberately relaxed giving way to some degrees of freedom in expression, association and partisan politicking. In the post-colonial period until 1999, democratization characterized by series of political transitions and toleration of some basic human rights were designed and implemented by despotic military regimes. In a democracy, authority is rooted in the consent of the people, that is, in the belief that people have the right to run or at least to choose their government. Democracies impose clear, legally established limits to what elected officials can do. All participants in the system must obey the rules regarding such principles as; open, free and fair elections, one person one vote, and acceptance of majority decisions while respecting a minority's right to dissent. Calhoun, Light and Keller (1997) describes democracy as a system in which —the law guarantees extensive civil liberties, including the freedom to associate with whomever one chooses, freedom of speech and the press, and freedom from unreasonable search and seizure. A democracy does not claim exclusive, unquestioning loyalty from its people; in fact, if those in power overstep their authority, the people have a right, even a duty to vote them out of office or to impeach them through their representatives<sup>[11]</sup>.

Democracy construes man as the centerpiece, focal point and compact core of its body of operation. Power of representation, enacting of law and political authority belong to the people collectively. Democracy according to Ake (1999) is characterized by multi-party system, electoral competition, respect of fundamental human rights and equality before the law, rule of law, accountability of the elected officials to the electorates through the mechanism of representation and civilian control over the military and other Security Services.

Having discussed the definitions of democracy and aspects of its features, what then is the true nature of democracy? Literally, democracy is government of the people, by the people and for the people and a

democracy has a government in which average citizens make the decisions that shape lives. In practice, however, democracy has proved to be anything but simple. Scholars have argued years after the return of democracy on whether the experience so far from 1999 to date is full democracy or mere transition to civil democracy. Due to its glaring shortcomings especially in Africa, democracy has been exploited to foist on the people, bad governance, wanton corruption, perverted despotism and sectionalism. Nigerians have witnessed all these evils since 1999. In other words, democratic worth and positive impact are measured by the degree of its provision of good governance and development in all spheres. Democratic good governance is directly linked to the provision of public goods and utilities, accountability, transparency, supremacy of the rule of law, a diminution of corruption in governments, egalitarian economic arrangements and effective protection of human rights. This is vital to this paper because without good governance and development in democracy, National Security will face more daunting governance problems and herculean challenges that could manifest themselves as we are currently witnessing in disintegrative ethno-religious conflagration, ethno - political militancy, civil unrest and kidnapping in the inland environment and international waterways.

### **III. National Security**

The concept of national security can be widely interpreted to mean many similar things or situations by different scholars and analysts. The issue of national security is a very important one to any nation. This is because a nation's state in terms of her peoples' well-being economically, socially, politically, internationally and so on is greatly influenced by her status on national security. The citizens, groups, institutions, corporate organizations and the country in entirety are security conscious. It is in the nature of man to always try to safeguard his physical body, property and even his interests because he needs to do so in order to remain alive, be significant and also protect his acquisitions etc. A nation, on the other hand, also needs to protect itself from both internal and external forces that try to undermine or harm its collective interests, sovereignty, independence, integrity, as well as its citizens wherever they may be in the world. This is why nations cannot afford to be indifferent or uninterested in issues bothering on national interest, particularly, national security.

Security is the state of being secured or free from danger and risk. It is a situation where either an individual, social group or geo-political entity is protected against any form of danger, espionage or attack of any sort, internally or externally. Though scholars often dissect security into several components, interest of this paper is on National Security and those officials saddled with maintaining the security (Security Operatives) in Nigeria. In this context therefore, National security implies the ability of Nigeria to protect and develop itself, promote its cherished interest, legitimate values and enhance the standard of living and well being of its people and visitors. According to Imobighe (1990), absence to those tendencies which could undermine internal cohesion and corporate existence of the state and its ability to maintain its vital institutions for the promotion of its core values and socio-political and economic objectives, as well as meet the legitimate aspirations of the people. On the other hand, the latter dictionary defines security as, — the state of being secure; freedom from danger, poverty, etc. Hornby (1995), defines security as, — protection—the activities involved in protecting a country, building, or person against attack, danger etc. It also in a simple and short way, defines national security as, — the defense of a country <sup>[10]</sup>.

Furthermore, security could also easily be discussed in conjunction with threat to, and doctrine of security. While threat to security refers to any act that has the potential of undermining the peace, stability, positive coexistence and progress of the state thereby constituting obstacles to the political and material aggregation, doctrine of security is the articulation of the fundamental principles that governs the management of security which normally flow from the states' ideology or philosophy of public affairs (Okene, 2008). The individuals mandated by law to ensure security are Security Operatives while the style, modems, models and methodology they used is generally termed Operations. Apart from the state security services, there are the Nigerian Police Force, the Nigerian Armed Forces and the Nigerian Intelligence Agency (NIA) who are also saddled by the law to protect lives and properties of Nigerians and their guests in varying degrees. Other parastatals agencies and organizations which also provide security but at a lesser degree compared to those mentioned above are Nigerian Custom Services, Nigerian Immigration Services, Standard Organization of Nigeria, Nigerian Civil Defense Corp and Nigerian Prisons Services. In order to function very well and meet their highly herculean objectives, those organs tasked with security provision use varieties of methods and means. National security outfits should invest considerably and effectively in re-engineering the services.

Bringing the words —national and —security together for a more comprehensive description is attainable. National security can then be described as the sum of the efforts, energy, intelligence, commitment and the use of institutions (and their products) to enforce and ensure adequate protection of interests, people and properties of a nation. It also involves the overall protection of a nation's integrity and sovereignty. The system of governance through which the people are secured in Nigeria and now globally recognize is Democracy. Nigeria operates democracy and therefore, National security should operate in a democratic Nigeria; securing its

principles, cardinal institutions, the officials who operate the system and indeed the citizens upon whom the system governs.

National security encompasses the sum of what a nation does in order to safeguard itself as a sovereign entity and this includes every aspect of a nation's life and existence. It then means that national security of a nation can extend to the well-being of its citizens, institutions, interests, development plans, economy etc. Apart from these, it also involves the physical protection of a nation's subjects, landscape and independence and even issues such as food security and national image etc. Considering the meaning of, and implications associated with national security, it is important to state that it is a matter that bothers on the posture, well-being, stability and development of a nation. It defines the whole picture of a nation's efforts in socio-political, cultural, economic and international perspectives. Therefore, the issue of national security is one that expresses the status of a nation in terms of its standing in the globe, in areas like citizen protection, freedom and well-being, property and intelligence safety, national integrity, sovereignty protection and protection of international interests. All these gear towards the overall stability and peaceful coexistence of the citizens of the nation as well as that of the nation at the global level.

National security of a nation when ensured, protected or properly safeguarded, is a veritable advantage to the ability of that nation to move forward in terms of development and progress. When a nation provides adequate security for her citizens and properties, sovereignty, and maintains good national image and integrity; it helps to ensure a peaceful atmosphere, viable environment and encourages foreign interest that can make things happen in that nation. People are free, happy and willing to go about their businesses without fear of attack, intimidation, danger or loss of property etc. It creates room for investors to come to do business in that country. The nation itself will enjoy harmony and tranquility among its citizens, institutions and organizations etc. The nation's development plans, structures and people will practically be the beneficiaries. National security is one element that can adequately help to promote democracy (particularly growth of press freedom) and in time foster good governance (which brings socio-economic development) in a nation. A nation that fails to place priority on its national security will eventually become a failed state.

The purpose of national security is to safeguard national values. And the most fundamental value of any nation is survival, self preservation and self-perpetuation. In this regard therefore, the national security goal of Nigeria has always been to expel external aggression and contain internal upheavals. Under such paradigm, the state and military power was the primary focus. But while the rest of the world has now come to recognize economic imbalances, environmental issues, terrorism and weapons proliferation, international health concerns, international migration, natural resources and shifting demographics as part of the national security equation, Nigeria continues to stick to tired model of national security.

National security once meant military power. It was later expanded to include international economics; however, according Mathews (1989), "global developments now suggest the need for another analogous, broadening definition of national security to include resource, environmental and demographics issues." And indeed, no nation-state can afford to ignore environmental degradation. In the Niger Delta region of Nigeria for example, the ongoing agitation and melee is not just as a result of political marginalization, theft and institutional corruption -- it is also a consequence of environmental degradation which manifest itself in air and waterborne diseases. Of national and international security concerns are the combined effects of HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other preventable diseases which have had and continue to be devastating to the economic and overall welfare of the country. As posited by Chen, Leaning et al (2003), there is a link between global health and human security. Already, one quarter of all deaths in the world is due to infectious diseases. In Nigeria, the facilities for modern health care are not only grossly insufficient, but also very expensive. The cost and scarcity therefore puts healthcare beyond the reach of the vast majority of the masses. The impact of HIV/AIDS on Nigeria's security is enormous. It creates political and social tension; stunts economic and human development; and reduces the effectiveness of the military. In a country where malaria and other communicable diseases kill untold number of people, the addition of HIV/AIDS to the mix makes the situation almost hopeless. There is also the additional burden resulting from escalating rates in infant and maternal mortality in the country.

There is a false sense of safety in Nigeria when it comes to international terrorism. There are no official policies to thwart terrorism. There are no official policies to dislodge terrorist organizations. In fact, neither the security nor intelligence organizations have had cause to address the issue of international terrorism on Nigeria's soil. The time has come for a change in attitude, priority and policies especially since Nigeria is already home to several Islamic and Christian fundamentalist groups that are waiting for the opportune time to wreck havoc. By virtue of her position as the "giant of Africa", Nigeria invariably becomes the object of untold and unwarranted intension from nation-states and extrajudicial organizations. Therefore, Nigeria must rethink its national security objectives before it is too late. Consequently, the time has come for Nigeria to redefine "national security" to include not just military projection, but also environmental security, economic well-being, international health and demographics, and good governance. According to Torulagha (2004), national security must also include: "...good governance...Anything short of the totality of good governance minimizes the meaning of national

security...Unfortunately, in Nigeria and in most states in Africa, the leaders do not seem to realize the importance of good governance and transparency.” It is unfortunately that Nigeria, for much of its existence as a nation-state, has not been blessed with good governance and transparency.

The aforementioned factors are what Nigeria must take into consideration if she wants to refashion her national security policies and objectives. And indeed she must refashion her national security model because, amongst others things, her restrictive and traditional national security paradigm are not meeting the needs of the country. The current environment speaks for itself: incessant ethnic and religious conflicts; fetid environmental conditions; encroachment on her national borders and sovereignty; lackadaisical attitude towards international terrorism; institutional corruption and the pilfering of her oil and other natural resources by local and international crooks. Consequently, one wonders what Nigeria’s national security policies indeed are?

Nigeria’s National Security therefore should not just be interested in bringing to book those violating the constitution but also look at variables that precipitate these violations. In other words, the National Security policy must concern itself with such practical challenges like food security, economic security, domestic order, educational growth, old age security, natural disaster security, job security, environmental security, cyber security and general political stability and national integration.

#### **IV. State Of Governance And National Security In The Fourth Republic Of Nigeria**

With the commencement of the fourth republic on May 29, 1999, most Nigerians were full of great hope that the democratic experiment would enhance and entrench constitutionalism, respect for human rights, the rule of law, accountability, transparency, popular participation, and improve the economic wellbeing of the people <sup>[12]</sup> <sup>[13]</sup>. Implicit in the expectations is the recognition that the country’s previous experience with democratic governance failed to respond to the yearnings of majority of Nigerians. Once again, the fourth republic appears to be a replica of the previous republics in terms of the failure of the state to guarantee minimum conditions of governance, deliver democratic dividends, and development. The inability of democratic governance to meet the challenges of food, employment, security, potable water, accessible health care, roads, qualitative education and other basic needs of the masses are glaring and well documented <sup>[14]</sup> <sup>[13]</sup> <sup>[15]</sup>. Therefore, given the existing state of poverty and deprivation, the emergence and prevalence of diverse security threats like armed robbery, kidnappings and abductions, and crude oil theft in the country can be well appreciated <sup>[15]</sup>. Moreover, high level unemployment among the youths coupled with the proliferation of small arms in the fourth republic appear to have contributed to the terrible state of violence and insecurity in the country (Lewis, 2011). Drawing from the foregoing analysis, there is strong suspicion that the failure of leaders in Nigeria’s fourth republic to deliver ‘democratic dividends’ to the masses is directly linked to the raging state of insecurity in the country. Specifically, the absence of strong institutions frameworks for accountability and transparency and the penchant for political leaders to undermine existing regulations have weakened the ability of the state to deliver public goods and services. This has deepened political corruption and led to a near crisis of leadership across Nigeria.

The high level of profligacy, lawlessness, fraud, blatant looting of national treasury, miscarriage of justice and impunity have constrained economic development, undermined popular trust in government and democratic institutions and subverted accountability and the rule of law <sup>[16]</sup> <sup>[13]</sup>. The resulting economic inequality continues to deepen social tensions, violence, and legitimacy crisis, with grave danger to national stability and security. The entrenched social and economic divisions in the country in addition to political rivalry among political parties are plausible explanations for the 2011 post election violence in the North (Lewis, 2011).

Furthermore, governance in Nigeria’s fourth republic has been plagued by what Omatseye (2012) succinctly captures as ‘the stormy waters of ethnic and sectarian malice’ <sup>[17]</sup>. The elevation of identity politics to the level of state craft by political actors and their inability to manage properly the diverse socio-economic cleavages has breed resentment and frustration among social groups in the country. The ensuing dangerous competition among various social groups and forces for scarce political and economic resources is crucial to ethno-religious conflicts that have negatively affected the security, peace and stability of the country since 1999. Such conflicts which have become recurrent in states like Kaduna and Plateau have resulted in the death of over 30,000 Nigerians since 1999 (Lewis, 2011).

A look at any of the Nigerian daily newspapers, radio and television news and even Internet or online news, send enough signals that create national panic. Newspaper headlines, such as —SSS Uncover Bombs Factory, —The Abuja Satanic Bombing, —Tight Security in Jos after Violence, —UN House Attack: Nigeria on Trail of al-Qaeda agents, Killers on the Rampage: As Robbers massacre 90, —Bombings Scare Foreign Investors, —Take Military action against kidnappers, etc , are everyday news in Nigeria since 2010. The state of bombings and socio-political unrests in parts of the country appear to be impacting negatively on every aspect of the Nigerian society. The bombings are now so strategically planned and executed on special days, places, events or occasions and with ruthless intensity. The Nigerian police headquarters in Abuja, the UN office in Abuja, the Independence Day (October 1, 2010) celebration bombing close to Eagle Square in Abuja, Suleja

bombings, Gombe and Maiduguri bombings and so on, leave Nigerians in a state of shock, disbelief and terrifying fear and anxiety. Many Nigerians believe that the government has not been firm enough in dealing with the terrorists' threat to the nation's peace and stability. That Nigeria is in a state of security crisis is highlighted in this statement, —hitting the U.N office in Nigeria which houses about 26 different organs within it has been conjectured to be more political than religious advocacy because Nigeria is at peace and has existed over the past 50 years as an established secular state, without such deep-seated extremist religious tendencies<sup>[23]</sup>.

Additionally, incessant armed robberies that take place day and night have made sleeping with both eyes closed elusive to Nigerians. Recently, there has been a resurgence of the menace of armed robbery across the country. Ugochukwu (2011) comments on the worsening security in the nation in these words, —the situation is precarious. Nigeria's situation is like a man who climbed a tree to avoid being devoured by a lion only to be confronted on the tree by a deadly snake and he runs to the river only to behold a hungry crocodile. He further states that —if you run away from Boko Haram, kidnappers are waiting; if you escape Boko Haram and kidnappers, armed robbers are waiting. No doubt, the police have failed in their responsibility (Saturday Sun, 2011). In support, Agekameh (2011) adds that — by and large, it is clear beyond any reasonable doubt that there are some people in Nigeria today who are averse to peace in the country<sup>[23]</sup>.

All these put together, establishes the fact that the Nigerian nation is under siege, experiencing its worst insecurity in history since the civil war. The issue of national security in the country becomes a troubling question and a national challenge. The effect of this prevalent status quo in the country is tremendous. It negatively impacts on the economy (increasing poverty), socio-cultural and political development, national image and even citizens' mental and psychological well-being etc. It is obviously a panic situation that needs immediate solution if the Nigerian nation is to survive.

## **V. Democracy And National Security: The Synergy**

Democracy is not only a people-centered process but one that brings phases of fulfillment to a nation as it progresses. According to Raymond Grams Swing (1887 – 1968), as cited in Standard Encyclopedic Dictionary (1971), —democracy is unfinished business, not fulfillment; it is a process of always advancing towards fulfillment<sup>[22]</sup>. This statement implies that democracy is an on-going process, project and/or venture that aims at attaining fulfillment in future. So it requires time to nurture, grow and develop in any country that embraces it. The paper, earlier on, states that Abraham Lincoln's concise definition of democracy remains classic. Democracy is the government of the people, by the same people, and meant for the same people. Democracy is a system of government in which the people exercise the governing power either directly or through elected representatives. It is a government established by the majority that protects the interest of the minority<sup>[18]</sup>.

Whether, democracy is being practiced on participatory or representative basis, it requires a stable, conducive and peaceful political space to thrive. It demands relatively calm and chaos-free society to be able to develop on a firm foundation. For the elements of democracy such as freedom, participation, equality, fairness, justice, free and fair elections, existence of opposition, rule of law, respect for fundamental human rights etc, to thrive in any polity or nation, it requires that the polity or nation maintains some appreciable degree of socio-cultural, political and economic stability and this falls within the domain of national security. The national security of any nation covers that nation's total posture and condition in terms of the state of well-being of the people, their assets, national interests and existence as a sovereign entity. National security may not thrive in an undemocratic system of government because the people will lack freedom, respect for human rights, rule of law, participation in governance, justice and equity etc; and will in reaction to this situation, likely become unhappy, restive and even riotous. This could degenerate into lawlessness, chaos, uproar, conflicts, social disorder or anarchy; like we are witnessing in Nigeria presently. This is where the concepts of democracy and national security meet. They are two concepts that connect because they need each other to thrive and when experienced together in a nation, that nation enjoys social and political stability which are necessary for development to occur. While democracy spells out the way a government should conduct itself, carry out its programmes and plans, manage the resources available within a nation and ensure the manifestation of the elements of democracy, national security, on its own, is to provide the peace, security, harmony and intelligence needed to have a calm and free environment for true democracy to blossom. As the democratic system in a nation survives, grows and strengthens; citizens, institutions and the nation itself enjoy good socio-political, cultural and economic conditions that help to enhance their overall stability, harmony, peace and tranquility. This is basically what national security brings to the table.

The two concepts of democracy and national security have the potential to help one another to thrive in any society. It is imperative that synergy between democracy and national security is employed to ensure the right atmosphere for the development of Nigeria. With the present happenings, events, circumstances, and feelings of Nigerians about Nigeria, that the country remains together, is an act of God. With terrorism, kidnapping, poverty and hunger, ethno-religious conflicts, bad leadership, crimes, corruption and other social

vices etc, Nigeria's fragile democracy is under serious threat. The situation and general condition of things in Nigeria today is disturbing. The synergy between democracy and national security must be enhanced if Nigeria is to enjoy good governance, long term development, national integration, peace and progress.

#### **VI. Democracy, National Security And Good Governance: The Bond**

There is a raging controversy among political analysts and social scientists on what form of political system best supports and reinforces good governance. Many researchers believe that a democracy may be more equipped to deliver good governance. Former Prime Minister of Britain, Winston Churchill once said that, democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others. In his view, there is no other better form of government than democracy known to man yet. This is true even to this moment. This brings us to exploring the link between democracy, national security and good governance. Literally speaking, these three concepts are inter-linked in the sense that democracy can provide an enabling environment for peace and stability of a nation (national security), and national security on its part, can help provide a conducive socio-political and economic atmosphere that will facilitate the growth of democracy and good governance.

This paper equally stated earlier that these two concepts can work together to enhance each other's capacity and help to stabilize and develop Nigeria as a nation. Conversely, good governance can be a precondition for the realization of democratic rule because only by meeting the people's will in terms of their needs, can a democracy claim some degree of effectiveness. Good governance simply means good government or good leadership. Mohideen (1997) states that — governance becomes good when it is operated as conceived by society. Good governance in a wider context can be perceived from two points. Firstly, the creation of a conducive environment for economic activities ensures macro-economic stability which is imperative for national growth and development. Here, good governance links with national security. This is so because it is in the interest of national security that a nation directs effort towards providing conducive environment (peaceful, calm, non-life threatening atmosphere) upon which good governance can thrive. Secondly, having the political will to embark on political reforms to achieve improvement in public sector management, economic and financial accountability, predictability underlined by the rule of law and transparency. This second perspective of good governance is simply a recount of the basic principles of democracy, which the stability and peace of a nation (national security) equally engenders <sup>[19]</sup>.

The triple concepts of democracy, national security and good governance are intertwined because they mutually reinforce one another and therefore neither of them can be adequate or realizable in the absence of the other. They are in support of common features and values such as political representativeness, enthronement of civil and political rights, public accountability, peaceful co-existence of different peoples and ethnic groups, freedom of association and speech, rule of law, and the notion of formal equality, social justice and sovereignty etc. Charlick (1991), states that, — indeed, the key properties of the government realm are believed to emphasize and reinforce democratic norms and practices. These are authority, reciprocity, exchange, trust and accountability. They also directly or indirectly engender national security in a nation. The fact is that political values of governance such as elections, political control and representativeness, freedom of expression and plural politics are equally the pronounced ethos of democracy and national security <sup>[20]</sup>. Professor Wole Soyinka's 1986 Nobel Laurel Winner for literature, argues that electoral integrity begets governance integrity (the Nations, 2009). And governance integrity can also beget national integrity which is the purpose of national security generally. However, it is important to observe that good governance is not about the form of government in a country or a mode of polity but rather focuses on the concrete result of positive governance. It is not the process or course of a political rule, but its effects. It is about effective and productive governance. It is anti-ideological and best defined ostensibly rather than by semantic prescriptions <sup>[21]</sup>. Good governance cannot always be attributed to the democratic form of governance because there are democracies that have systematically failed to give good governance to their people. In Nigeria, democracy is more than ten years, yet Nigeria is socio-politically unstable, unsecured, economically down and underdeveloped, let alone having a feel of good governance; therefore, what is important is not only about the form of government (democracy), the stability and orderliness of the nation (national security) but also the overall positive impact and outcome of the democratic experiment (good governance). This outcome includes good roads, stable power supply, good healthcare system, good schools, food security and security of life and property in Nigeria.

It is correct to say that democracy, national security and good governance are basic ingredients for the growth and sustenance of socio-economic and political development of any nation. This is because the three concepts can be seen as elements that are linked and tend to support and reinvigorate one another. The argument here is that, the three concepts help to breed one another. They share common features and even aim at common goals and objectives. It also follows that socio-economic and political development (the ability of the people to harness their potentials positively as well as enjoy socio-political stability) can be better realized in a condition provided by a democratic government on the path of bringing the safeguard of human dignity, property, nationhood and good governance to her people.

In the context of a nation like Nigeria, it amounts to the democratic government focusing on the needs and aspirations of the people and making sure that it actually reflects positively on the quality of life of Nigerians. Good governance ultimately brings concrete social and economic returns to the nation if adhered to. In effect, a true democratic regime that incorporates good governance in its activities and plans for the people will attain a good status on national security and national development. There is no doubt that democracy is a process at all its stages. U.S.A is a big democracy of more than two hundred years and it is still in the process, experimenting and learning from experience over time. Nigeria is relatively a young democracy that requires the synergy of democracy and national security to entrench good governance which is synonymous with good and adequate delivery of what the people needs to be healthy, educated, safe, free, respectable and most importantly, happy with themselves and their government. Nigeria with its present predicaments needs to ensure that there is synergy between her democracy and national security which can foster good governance. There has to be a working link between Nigeria's democracy, her national security efforts and the prevalence of good governance in the country.

## VII. Conclusion

The central thrust of the paper is to establish the deep linkage between democratic governance and national security in Nigeria. The paper contends that there is a strong connectivity between the poor state of governance in Nigeria and the widespread threats to national security. This is in part connected to the colonial experience, decades of military rule, zero sum nature of state politics and the recklessness of political leadership. Importantly, the failure of the ruling elites to provide purposeful and responsible political leadership has affected the delivery of public goods and services and undermined popular trust in democracy and democratic institutions.

From the literature, it is safe to conclude that good governance is attainable in Nigeria. Good governance which is about equity, justice, fairness and proper implementation of people-centered policies can be promoted by a true democratic government that in turn enjoys robust national security. Thus, a democracy with effective security disposition and interests is a very fertile ground for good governance to thrive. On the other hand, good governance can in turn enhance national security and entrench democratic principles. The synergy of democracy and national security is what Nigeria requires in order to ensure the delivery of good governance.

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