

TITLE PAGE

**LEADERSHIP AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA:
A CASE STUDY OF BENUE STATE, 2007-2011**

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APPROVAL PAGE

This is to certify that, this project is originally written and approved as having satisfied one of the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) Degree in Political Science of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto.

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DEDICATION

I dedicated this research work to my lovely husband John Agbo and my beloved daughter Judith Ochanya Agbo.

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ABSTRACT

The study examines leadership and National development in Nigeria: A case study of Benue state from 2007-2011. The study posit that, there is a nexus between leadership and national development in Nigerian generally, and Benue state in particular. The study identify corruption, mismanagement, extravagancy and lack of political will as bane to development in Benue state specially during civilian administration. The research used qualitative method for data collection and analysis, which documentary resources were useful in gathering information regarding development in Benue state. The study submit as findings that, comparatively when talking about development, the military regimes perform more better than uninterrupted civilian administration. The research recommend that, there should be mechanism such as anti-corruption agencies at all of government state to check the activities of leaders, and there is need for leaders at all levels to be stable and continuity of policies to encourage investment for national development.

CHAPTER ONE

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Generally there exist a nexus between leadership roles and national development of a given political system. Quality leadership is central to the attainment of development in a given polity. In an increasing changing and globalised world, leadership is the most visible aspect of management with its potential of transforming the workforce into willing and winning team, with the appropriate relations to actualize collectively determine corporate objectives in the society (Dike, 2000).

To be clear about that, leadership is a defining element between success or failure of any organization (polity). It is the thread that binds the resources of the state to people's value goals. The strength of the leadership in terms of character and quality will determine the level of success a polity will attained in its moved toward the end of national and local development prospects (Todaro, 2004).

However, Nigeria today purports to run a democratic system of government that is expected to promote development and general well being through the political will of its leadership. This is because leadership help to translate development process and sustainability through various polices and progrmmes initiated by the leaders. Indeed, National development is critical and essential to the sustenance and growth of any given nation (Oluwatoyin and Lawal, 2011).

Pride of any nation or government is the attainment of higher value level of development in such away that its citizens would derive natural attachment of governance.

Without leadership there could not be development especially in the social, human and cultural dimension.

To this effect, the socio-economic and political development of a given political system account largely on the ability of its leadership to facilitate and sustain good governance. Good governance simply refers to the manifestation of committed, patriotic and discipline leadership in ensuring that there is improvement in the standard of living of its citizens in that society.

However, it is a common knowledge in Nigeria today and Benue state, that the main problem that has bedeviled Nigeria and Benue is poor leadership, especially after the first set of patriotic leaders that emerged immediately after independence up till 1970s, when leaders were more corrupt and selfish as regards to National development.

In recent time, the root cause(s) of socio-economic and political instability according to analysts is leadership (Ebegbulem, 2007).

Although, it could be free to argue here that, leadership crises in Nigeria is a recent phenomenon. Chronologically, from independence, Nigerian state have witness patriotic and nationalist leaders whom their roles and efforts bring to force the making of Nigerian state. Indeed, more of the National developments in Nigeria today, were formulated and implemented by the military regimes and other patriotic leaders. The best and most useful infrastructure we have in Benue state and Nigeria in general were constructed by our early leaders. However, in contemporary Nigeria, most of the leaders are characterized with lack of direction, neglect and drift. Fraud and insensitivity to the plight of the citizens.

In Nigeria today, leadership behaviour often do not attends not seems to be directed towards the achievement of the welfare of the people and progress of the nation (Anazodo et al, 2012).

Socio-economic status has become the precursor of Nigerian leadership and often nobody cares how the wealth has been acquired, public treasures are looted with impunity. No wonder Chinua Achebe reiterated that, the problem of Nigeria is simply and squarely what of leadership Nigeria's political leadership are selfish, mediocre tribal leader and opportunistic small money minded people masquerading as leaders (Ayodele, 2006).

Contemporary speaking, especially at the dawn of democratic governance, most of the problems Nigeria is facing are problems of sustainable development, which are caused by the stop practices of our past and present leaders (Odekunle, 2007). In terms of accountability, transparency and services, delivery, despite the abundance of human and natural resources that make the country the toast of many nations, our leaders have not been at their best as people's expectations of a better hope and opportunities have long be dashed with governance ingredient at elusive stage to Nigerians.

Indeed, Nigerian society has never well governed in recent time. The leaders accumulate wealth at the expense of national development without devotion to the cause of the people for example, after the implementation of early national development plans with above five phases which really ensures development in Nigeria, thereafter, there have been series of development plans or programmes put forward by the civilian government but has not really ensured sustainable development.

This is because on the account of lack of political will of the leaders or the aspect of visionless leaders who concentrate on selfish interest at the detriment of the Nigerian citizens. There is no wonder that, today most Nigerians leaders lack vision and mission what cut across all the states in Nigeria and this is the reasons why effective leadership and sustainable national development is rare in our contemporary Nigeria (Anazodo et al, 2012).

To this effect, contemporary Nigerian leaders are responsible for decayed infrastructures, down turn economy, corruption and decline indicators of national development. Therefore, this study set to examine the failure or otherwise of leadership in ensuring national development in contemporary Nigeria and Benue state in particular.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Past administration in Nigeria and Benue state in particular lack the ability to deliver good governance there ensuring national development. The crop of leaders that have attained position since independence in Nigeria had in one way or the other lacked vision and have been engrossed with corrupt practices and political bickering leading to the entronement of maladministration and mismanagement of public resources, which beget economic setback and poverty as a national inheritance (Dike 2004). Anazodo et al, 2002; Adekunle, 2007).

Cursory glance from independence according to Ayodele (2006) shows that past leaders have really tried their best in ensuring sustainable national development inspite of their short-lived in offices.

However, critics are of the opinion that, the woes of Nigeria today is as a result of past leaders. Past leaders like Tafawa Balewa who ruled Nigeria from 1960-1966 was characterized as lacking capacity to chart a progressive course for national development. Follow by Ironsi in

1966 who do not know how to tackle development prospects. Gowon ruled Nigeria from 1966-1975 whom used petroleum money to do nothing and does not make much impact on national development inspite of the excess crude oil money. Indeed, from independence down to Obasanjo's administration national development has not really put in place that would improved standard of living of Nigerians. Corruption, ethnocentrism, the politics of exclusion, discrimination, political opportunism, economic woes, weak institutions and bureaucracy among several others have militate against effective leadership and national development in Nigeria and Benue state in particular. Government through leadership in Benue state since 1999 has not really shown the desires to manage the affairs of the people. Some noticeable progress recorded has been more of politicking, where leaders only embarked on personal projects. Over decades of Benue state existence would have predisposed her to growth and sustainable development especially given her resources in endowment and location. This would have made it an institution for effective state and national development. Therefore, national development delegating to Benue state have been eluded on the account of its leadership nature. This study seeks to examine the inability of leaders or otherwise in ensuring national development in Benue state.

1.3 RESEARCH QUESTION

- (1) What are the causes of leadership problems in Nigeria?
- (2) Has leadership problem impacted on the National development in Benue state?
- (3) What are the challenges for leadership to ensure sustainable national Development in cotemporary in Benue state?

1.4 AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The aim and objectives of this study is to examine leadership and National development in Nigeria and Benue state. The specific aim and objectives however is as follows:

- (1) To identify the causes of leadership problems in Nigeria
- (2) To examine whether leadership problem impacted on national development in Benue state.
- (3) To identify the challenges for leaders in ensuring sustainable national development in contemporary Nigeria.

1.5 HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

(1) That corruption, maladministration, weak state institutions, lack of continuity and visionless leaders are the factors that impedes national development in Nigeria and Benue state in particular.

(2) That the ways forward for effective and efficient leaders is to elect or votes in leaders with vision and mission to ensure good governance in Nigeria and Benue state in particular.

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The essence of research is to impacts positively to man and his environment. The study is not exception. The study will contribute to scholarship and further analysis as its explore some new knowledge in understanding how leadership style influences or impacted on national development in a given political system. The study traced the origin of leadership crisis in Nigerian state and Benue state in particular.

This study is significant because the provide solutions to use issues of poor or lack of good and qualitative leadership. Leadership as regarded by the society is the bedrock for the societal development and needs for the support of all sundry. This study is also significant because it is hope that, it will serve as a guide for policy making and administration in their bid to address the question of sustainable development through visionary, vibrant, committed, corruption free and selfless leadership style in the country. This study will also help leaders to formulate policy objectives that are in consonance with the interest and needs yearning and aspirations of the Benue citizenry.

Finally, it will recommend solutions to the contradictive leadership and development to the federal state and local government administration. This study also fill gap in the existing literature and knowledge to future research.

1.7 SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The study examine leadership and national development in Benue state from 2007-2011. The reason for this period is that, during that administration there are indices of development prospects that were not really implemented, and when talking about contemporary leadership crisis in Benue State, this period experienced such challenges.

On the limitations, the study ought to have adopted instrument of data collection, Questionnaires, focus group discussion interviews and content analysis to collect data for proper analysis. But due to financial constraints and time frame such could not achieved in this study. Other limitationinclude; lack of accessed to vital materials and relevant information from various ministries in Benue State.

However, it is of the opinion of the researcher that limitations are not enough to derail this study, since there are available reliable information, which could be retrieved electronically through the help of internet and other published academic journals related to the topic under the study.

1.8 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology means understanding the entire research process, including socio-organizational context, philosophical assumptions, ethical principles and political impacts of the new knowledge for the research enterprises (Neuman, 2011).

1.8.1 RESEARCH DESIGN: QUALITATIVE APPROACH

This study is qualitative in nature. Qualitative research is a method that involves the documentation of real events, recording what people say, observing specific behaviours, studying written documents and examining visual images (Neuman, 2011).

Qualitative research, it should be noted as a research strategy that usually emphasize words rather than numbers in the collection and analysis of data. A research using this method, study things in the natural settings, making sense or interpreting social phenomenon in term of the meaning attaches to them. Therefore, qualitative research design is appropriate for this study because it provides reliable data through existing documentary sources and deeper understanding of national development and leadership contribution in Benue state.

1.8.2 SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION

This refers to methods employed in the gathering of data in research. For the purpose of this study, data are collected from secondary sources, which include existing literatures on

leadership contribution in Nigeria, academic books such as journals, articles, public newspapers, documentary notes from Benue state ministries and other internet materials. The reason of adopting this source is to provide detailed background on subject matter. Again, descriptive and historical method is useful for gathering of data, this serve as suitable spring board for investigating and considered to have a good perspective of the issue contained in setting up a more efficient, more human and accountable leadership in Benue state.

This study also adopt personal observation method. This help the researcher to critically and analytically gathered information within a period of the study.

1.8.3 SAMPLE AND SAMPLING TECNIQUE

This study is qualitative in nature, the study adopt “purposive sample” method. The population of Benue state is estimated to be about four million according to National Population Commission (NPC) in 2006.

However, this study could not cover the whole population in Benue state, selected areas are used for data collection especially those areas where national development have been recorded during various administration under this study.

Again, purposive sampling is useful due to the lack of resources and time limit for the study. The areas this study focus include: Otukpo, Owukpa, Ukom, Katsina/Ala, Afia-Zakiziam, Obi, Ogbadibo, Makurdi, Agatu and Guma.

1.8.4 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

This study adopts qualitative method from the extensive literatures review. However, qualitative method does requires the researcher to generate categories or themes for analysis.

Also the researcher must code the qualitative data in to appropriate categories, and the conclusion of the qualitative analysis are drawn out of the analytical categories with the original aims and objectives of the study. Therefore, all the relevant issues, research questions and research problems are listed in the form of themes or sub-themes. This is done through discussive analysis of the research questions with critical inferences.

1.9 DEFINITION OF CONCEPS

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Is the over all development or a collective socio-economic political as well as religious advancement of a country or nation. This best achieved through development planning, which could be described a nation's collection of strategies mapped out by the government or leaders.

DEVELOPMENT: is the qualitative and quantitative changes that occur in the society, which ensure sustainable improvement and living standard of the people in a society.

LEADERSHIP: Is a process of influencing, directing and co-ordinating the activities of organized groups (like political system) towards goal setting, goal achievement and problem solving that necessary involves taking initiatives or policies that is imperatively a function of the leaders.

LEADER: A leader is an individual appointed to a job with authority, and accountability to accomplish the goals and objectives of a given polity.

BENUE STATE: Benue state is a state in Nigeria which is located in the middle belt region of Nigeria with a population estimated about 4.253, 641 million according to 2006 census. The

ethnic group in Benue include Idoma, Tiv, Igede, Etulo, Abakwa, Joku, Hausa, Akwaje and Nyifon with it capital at Makurdi. It was created in 1976.

1.10 CAPTERISATION

This study is divided into five chapters. Chapter one consist of background, statement of the problem, research questions, objectives of the study, assumption of the study, significance of the study, methodology, definition of concepts and chapterization.

Chapter two is on the literature review and theoretical framework.

Chapter three is on the background of Benue state and national development.

Chapter four is on data presentation and analysis.

Chapter five is on summary, conclusion and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

This section review literatures on key concept of the study, this include development, leadership, National development, pre and post colonial development in Nigeria and development in Benue state.

2.0 DEVELOPMENT

Like most social concepts, the problematic of the development is evidently made manifest in the literature. The current pluralism in the developmen literature, as being dominated by different school of thought so, cited in Omotola (2004) attests to this. The concept is further made complex going by the fact that development is multidimensional suffice to say that the concept is often view from political, economic and social dimension.

Development is a process of societal advancement, where improvement in the well being of people are generated via strong partnerships between all sectors, cooperate bodies and other groups in the society.

Again, Gboyeba (2003), sees development as an idea that embodies all attempts to improve the conditions of human existence in all ramification. It helps improvement in material well being of all citizens, not the most powerful and rich alone, in a sustainable way such that today's consumption does not imperil the future. It also demands that poverty and inequality of access to the good things of life be remove or drastically reduced. It seeks to improve personal physical security and livelihood and expansion of life chances (Lawal and Oluwatoyin, 2011) .

According to Naomi (1995) she believes that development is usually taken to involve not only economic growth, but also some notion of equitable distribution, provision of healthcare, education, housing and other essential services all with a view to improving the individual and collective quality of life.

Development according to (Aluko 2010) as social, cultural, economic and political change when must infact be accompanied with the ability of the people to control their destiny, relate to the outside on equal basis with the capacity of the people to conquer and control their environment without resorting to external aid.

Development according to Rodney (1976) development is a phenomenon which is inherent in all societies. Development means growth or changes or planned change. Development means a process by which a type of social change introduced into a system in order to produce a better production method and improve social arrangement. It may involves a structural transformation of the economy society, polity and culture of a country.

Gbemga Lawal (2007) Buttress that, the level and rate of development in a given society is measure by political culture and leadership style (Anazado, et al., 2012).

Development in human society is not a one side process rather a multi-sided issues. It is an increased in skill and ability. However, sustainable development does not only involve capita; accumulation and economic growth only but the conditions in which people in a country have adequate food, job and income inequality. It is a process of bringing fundamental and sustainable changes in the society. (Anazodo *et al.*, 2012).

Development encompasses growth and embraces the quality of life as a social justice, equality of opportunity for all citizens, equitable distribution of income and democratization of

development process. It is the capacity of members of the society to actualize them by participating actively in the social engineering of their destiny. Sustainable development entails the ability of individuals to influence and manipulate the forces of nature for their enhancement and that of humanity (Anazodo *et al*, 2012).

Todaro (1980) for instance, views development as “a multi-dimensional process involving changes in structures, attitudes and institutions as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality and the eradication of absolute poverty”. In another work this same scholar identified three core values of development (Todaro, 1989) they are; ability to provide basic needs or the ability to acquire adequate food, shelter, health care and protection. It also include perception of individuals or groups self-worth and esteem as a respected member of the society, and freedom in other sense that individuals and society at large have a say in, of not to determine the method and process by which values are allocated in the society.

Adebayo (2000) argues that development takes place only when the central problem of poverty, unemployment and inequalities in a society have reduced from high levels. It is necessary to state that, they objectives of development is to extend the frontier of human lives.

Adebayo (2000) further asserted that, Nigeria’s as main problem is not its federalism but rather its visionless and irresponsible political elite who have manipulated its politics, economy and religion to serves their own parochial interest. Stashing away billions of dollars in foreign banks account while urging the masses to endure two decades of austerity and structural adjustment.

Achebe, (1983) in his book opined that, the trouble with Nigeria is simply and squarely a failure of leadership. There is nothing basically wrong with the Nigerian character, the Nigerian

problem is the unwillingness or inability of its leader to rise to responsibility, to the personal example which are the hall marks of true leadership.

In addition, Huntingo (1994) averred that the two factors affecting the future stability and expansion of democracy are economic development and political leadership. It is an incontestable fact that corruption and mismanagement on the part of Nigerian leaders have made the success of democracy and development an illusion.

2.1 LEADERSHIP

Leadership is a process of influencing directing and co-ordinating the activities of organized groups towards goals setting, goal achievement and problem solving, that it necessarily involves taking initiative or initiating new structures and new procedures and that is imperatively a function of the leader and the situational variable (Anazodo *et al*, 2012).

Eneh (2011) views that, Nigeria has been superseded in terms of development by some developing nations who Nigeria was far better than in 1960. This is on the fact that the nation abounds with abandoned projects and policy some faults which can be credited to the leadership crisis in the nation.

According to Mimiko (2011) “many years of political perambulation and inept, leadership have stunted Nigeria’s development, accentuate ineffective governance deepened alienation of the people for political process”.

Adeyeri (2007) reiterate that, Nigeria is a nation born in hope and optimism but has lived in anxiety for most of its 50 years due to the country’s failure to produce a nationally acceptable

leadership that transcends ethnic, regional and religious boundaries, that can unit its diverse people's for mobilization towards national development”.

Teller (2012) argued that, roles of leaders in economic development is crucial but the leadership that should engineer development is to raise the standard of living of the people via judiciously developing human and non-human resource for productive uses.

Dike (2000) two types of leadership (1) societal and (2) institutional leadership. That Nigerian leaders have led the country from independence are institutional leaders, who uses power and influence to pursuer private goals.

Achebe (1998) in his opinion buttress that, “tribalism, corruption, indiscipline, social injustice, and preference for mediocrity over excellence among others, none of these can be solved without good leadership in place.

Achebe sees that leadership is a sacred trust, no one get into it highly because it demands qualities of mind and discipline of the body and will far beyond the needs of ordinary citizens Achebe (2010).

According to Buhari (1998) “the whole process of development lies in the primary of human resources about every other factor. But this capital has to be planned for, nurtured, educated and trained for the sole responsibility of the leadership”. It is not mere large number of people but a large number of highly skilled, motivated, manpower which is the engine of progress and development. Leaders are expected to raise the living standard of the general population for a more balanced and safer society. But reverse is the case in Nigeria and it has affects development in the nation.

Omolayo (2005) describes leadership as an essential oil that keeps the wheel of government working without any difficulty. Leadership makes the difference between success and failure in a country. It involves giving direction to citizen who are the critical assets of the nation. Leadership is a reflection of characters, which include but not limited to knowledge, vision, courage, openness, accountability, determination, transparency, motivation and patriotism put in place by office holder to lead their people and or followers so as to achieve reasonable and positive societal development. Thus, profound changes need committed leadership exemplified in transformational and actions (Ukaegbu, 2010).

In another development, leadership is an interpersonal influence exercised in a situation and directed through communication process towards the attainment of desired goals. Leadership is the ability to persuade others to seek defined objectives enthusiastically and efficiently.

Ademolekum, 1986. Anyadike *et al.*, 2014) leadership is the act of leading performed by a person authorized via appointment or election to do so. Leadership emerged because every nations and societies is either organized or seek to be organized as the masses cannot lead hence the need to have a few people to lead.

Leadership relates to exerting influence among a group of people so that the collective purpose of that group of will be achieved and optionally too, that group could be the entire world or country (Ojo, 2012).

To this study, leadership is the ability to bring out the number of talents and to operate effectively through other people making them gladly accept your goal while still having the freedom to do things their way. It involve and innovation while reorganizing this in others who

share vision based on knowledge of the big picture, reiterate a clear consistent value, crafting a culture and strategy.

In addition, Mohammad (2010) “leadership is a concept that encompasses personal or group attributes, organizational, structural, arrangement, position, functions, responsibilities, knowledge, skills, actions and attitudes that are shape by the past and current socio-politic-economic and cultural condition in pursuing shared common vision objectives. Thus, it is a road and vehicle leading from the pat through preset into the future.

Leadership according to Eze (2002) “all over the world, leadership is the most important number one factor that determines whether a nation can develop. That a leadership that is free, brave, patriotic, people oriented, destination bound, the leadership that understands the psychology of leading and applies it to the development of the people must be at the affairs of men”.

Leadership has to do with the management of people with clearly defined goals or objectives. It involves mobilizing and motivating people for greater productivity. It is the ability to operate effectively via other people making them accept the goals of the leader while other leader still has the freedom to do things their way (Ebegbulem, 2012).

Leadership is one of the essential determinants of development and a core ingredient in organising, mobilizing and inspiring societal; resources for the attainment of goals” (Ajayi, 2004).

Ayodele (2006) defines a leader “as an individual appointed to a job with authority, and accountability to accomplish the goal and objectives of the society”. He further buttress that a leader must be a good manager as well as an individual who is able to effectively coordinate the

activities of followers or team towards pre-agreed or available resources. A leader must possess the ability to create in the followers the necessary effort to deliver on set goals. Thus, the ability not only to conceive but also to communicate a vision or idea is utmost importance as an attribute of leadership.

However, going by all the development parameters and performance indices, Nigerian leader, have failed, economically, macro-economic stability, fiscal discipline, economic reforms, due process and low inflation rate, massive vice unemployment and rising of the quality between poor, and rich (Lawal, 2013).

Unfortunately past administration have lacked these virtues or at best have possessed one at the expense of the other and as led them to grouping in the dark on how to deliver good governance. The increasing fears is that today, with the legislature implicitly, involved, the current government is guilty of the same crime, as the current administration have refused to cultivate leadership qualities. Shown to have knacks to develop a metal magnitude, as clear as our problems are, and there seems a lack of ability in appreciating and grasping the salient details as well as most of the temporal and practical implication of a given situation or problem (Dickson, 2012). Hence, the crop of leaders that have attained leadership position since independence in Nigeria had in one way or the other lacked vision and most of them have been engrossed with corrupt practices and political bickering leading to the enthronement of maladministration and mismanagement of public resources, which beget economic setbacks and abject poverty as national heritage. This is based on the fact that the socio-economic and political development of any country depends largely on the ability of its leadership to facilitate, entrench and sustain good governance. Good governance seen and a manifestation of committed, patriotic, and discipline leadership. In Nigeria's fifty four years of independence existence, there is but

little record of socio-economic development. This ugly trend is not unconnected with poor leadership as Achebe and others had asserted (Lawal et al, 2012).

Thus, professor Anezi Okoro, in his introductory remark as the chairman of dialogue 33, an African leadership forum, examine the various leadership dynamics, complexities and contradictions that have transported African countries (Nigeria inclusive) from the misfortunes of colonial domination to the domination of bad governance and the consequent misery that has become the lots of most Africa. Africa leader, he said, have through a complex mix of mismanagement, pandemic corruption, primitive greed and gross incompetence, comprehensively retarded the growth of their nations and people and relegated them to the lowest rungs of global economic ladder. He lamented the tragic irony of African's abject poverty in the midst of its often stated super- abundant natural and human resources. This he attributed partly to historical hangovers and subsequent neo-colonial manipulations, actively aided by the divisive internal forces deeply entrenched at the heart of many African societies in the face of which both leaders and the followers have remained lamentably helpless, and at times, criminally negligent (Farm House Dialogue, 2000). Aside corruption, other factors that militate against good governance and effective leadership in Nigeria in constitutes moral or ethnical issues which operate as retardant to the emergence of effective leadership and good governance when they are absent in a polity. These include, corruption, ethnocentrism, the politics of exclusion, discrimination, political opportunism, economic mismanagement, weak social institution, weak bureaucracy, lack of transparency, job insecurity and unemployment, nepotism, mediocrity, lack of patriotism and sycophancy, lack of national consensus, communication gap between government and the governed, social political alienation, lack of respect for the rule of law, endemic poverty and low human development, poor population management strategies,

flawed educational system, environmental degradation, intolerance, inconsistencies in government plans and lack of continuity e.t.c These have conspired to make the emergence of effective leadership and good governance difficult in Nigeria (Farm House Dialogue, 2000).

2.2 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

National development is the overall development or a collective socio-economic, political as well as religious advancement of a country or nation. This is best achieved through development planning which can be described as the country's collection of strategies mapped out by the government leaders.

2.3 LEADERSHIP AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN PRE-COLONIAL NIGERIA

Before the advent of colonialism, Nigeria had different autonomous societies that administered governance on its people (Oyderian, 2005). This means that the leadership trend in Nigeria is traceable to the pre-colonial societies of the land. Administration or governance was not done in a vacuum. Development policies and programmes were duly initiated and executed by the people under the strict supervision of the respective leaders.

In Nigeria, societies were divided into Kingdoms, emirates, empires etc Notable among them are Oyo Kingdom, Benin Empire, Sokoto and Gwandu Emirate and autonomous communities, in East. This arrangement was acknowledged in three major political administrative systems thus, the Hausa/Fulani, the Yoruba political system and the Ibo pre-colonial system. In each of these systems there used to be the head or absolute authority or sovereignty in place. The kingdoms were also religious leaders, that is the North, while in the East where a non-centralised political system was practiced, the autonomous communities were headed by the Village heads or the Chiefs otherwise the little leaders called Ofo (Akinterinwa,

1997). The pattern of administration of this effect was based on the value system of the people. For instance the use of Islamic law in the North was to compel compliance and total obedience to the constituted authority.

The arrival of the colonial powers however, saw the organization of the administrative structures in place and it was on these structures that they, the colonial masters established their own administrative machineries to carry out policies and programmes. Therefore, it is remarkable to point out that there was leadership in the pre-colonial state that was pursuing development needs of the people. And it is comparative to observe that these leadership maintained the principle of checks and balances and thus peace, security, transparency, accountability and discipline among the members of the communities. However, the development pace was slow and primitive according to customs and beliefs.

2.4 LEADERSHIP AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN POST-COLONIAL NIGERIA

Post Independence Nigerian leadership had to swing to a new set of development objectives with the departure of British who had been the power, the oversees and principal actors. The father of independence like Zik, Awo Balewa, Ahmadu Bello etc were faced with the unviable task of forcing a national identity out of the multi-ethnic groups that were brought together without anyone being given the prerogative to hold to power and like the British did they had satisfy the competing needs and demands of the various localities, ethnic groups or religious.

Issues of national unity, religious dispatch or equity and social justice which were hitherto in the background now became major development goals, such national goals could not be achieved with “self representation” as the underlying directive principle for development.

2.5 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

There is hardly any valid research study that has no theoretical construct. It is on this note that this research work adopts “Elite theory”.

In general sense, the elite theory is based on the idea that every society “consist of two broad categories: (1) the selected few, who are able and, therefore, have the right to Supremes leadership and (2) the vast masses of people who are destined to be ruled (Varma, 1999, Agarwal, 2012).

Elite theory does not actually have its. Origin from political science it was developed by sociologist but was adopted by political scientists in analyzing politics.

The theory was popularized into politics by Harrold Laswell. The theory was used to appose socialism and democracy because the elitist argue that in every society there is always a small clique of people that are engaged in policy formulation and implementation, unlike the claim by socialism and democracy that the masses are involved in governance.

The major proponents of Elite theory includes; Vilfredo Pareto (1848-1923), Garetano Mosca (1854-1941), Roberto Michels (1876 - 1936) and Ortega Y. Gasset (1883-1955). All the proponents are of the view that in every society political leadership plays vital roles in its development or otherwise, and society is divided into two groups ruling and non ruling Elites.

Pareto on his part, believed that every society is ruled by a minority that possesses the qualities necessary for its accession to full social and political power. They are known as the elite. To him, the Elites consist of those successful persons who rise to the top in every occupation and stratum of societies; there is an elite of Lawyers, an elite of mechanics and others (Varma, 1999).

In its pyramidal structure, Pareto used circulation of elites” to explained that in every society, there is an unceasing movement of individuals and “elites” from higher to lower level, and from lower to higher levels resulting in a considerable increase of their degenerate elements in the classes which still hold power (Varma, 1999).

Mosca on the other hand, opined that, in all societies, two classes of people appear a class that rules and a class that is ruled. The first class, always the less numerous, performs all political functions, monopolize power and enjoys the advantages that power brings, whereas the second, the more numerous class is directed and controlled by the first in a manner that is now more or less legal, now more or less arbitrary and violent and supplies the first in appearance at least with the instrumentalities that are essential to the vitality of political organism (Varma, 1999). Mosca believes that, in every society elites, the governing elite tries to find a moral and legal basis for its being in the citadels of power and represent it as the logical and necessary consequence of doctrines and beliefs that are generally recognized and accepted (Varma, 1999).

Michels in his part used his concept of “Iron law of oligarchy” described that, leadership is a necessary phenomenon in every form of social life. That all order and civilization must exhibit aristocratic features.

That as organization or polity grows in size more functions have to be delegated to an inner circle of leaders. The majority of human beings are apathetic indolent and are incapable of self-governing.

However, Michels is of the opinion that, leaders easily take advantage of these qualities to perpetuate themselves in power (Varma, 1999).

Ortega Gasset placed his assumption that, a nation's greatness depends on the capacity of the masses to find their symbol in certain chosen people (Leaders), or whom it pours out the vast store of its vital enthusiasm". A nation is organized as a result of selected few individuals as their leaders.

In politics, the elite denote specifically those who exercise preponderant political influence in a community. There are differently designated as the power elite, the ruling class, political entrepreneurs, the establishment and the governing minority.

Politics is seen in terms of a small group dominating the whole society and taking the decision which make the mark and history of politics.

Even when there is a mass participatory democracy, consensus is generally brought about by a few or supported by few people who constitutes informal exclusive group (Mba, 2006).

Proponents of the theory like Pareto (1848-1923) believed that every society is ruled by minority that possesses the essentials qualities needed for accession to full social and political power.

Those who get to the top are always the best. The elites consist of those successful persons who rise to the top in every occupation and stratum of society. Thus, there are elite of Lawyers, elite of mechanics, elite of thieves, and even elite of prostitutes (Varma, 1999).

In addition, the theory assumed that, people in every society fall into two division; those who have important or decisive political power and those who have none as a result cannot exercise any decisive power over government output functions.

The major argument here is that in every society a minority of the population takes the major decisions while the majority simply obeys.

The elite perform the political functions, monopolize power and enjoy the advantage of power. The non-elite on the other hand are directed and controlled, they are assumed by the elitists to be indolent, slavish and un-intelligent.

In other words, what there elites are trying to point out that the elites in the society are entitled to political leadership and by implication they influence the political system and happening.

However, this theory is considered suitable for this research because since it argues that elites are bound for political leadership as such they influence policy formulation and implementation. Leaders in the context of this study are also viewed as political leaders and they influence policy formulation and implementation in Nigerian state and Benue state in particular.

The attitudes and conducts of leaders in office has a far-reaching impact on the development process of their areas since they are charged with the responsibility of spear heading the affairs of the respective society.

In other words, since leaders make decision on behalf of the people or masses, when the leader make wrong decision or does things that are unethical, or morally and constitutionally wrong. For example engaging in corrupt practices it is said that the leadership in crisis and this will definitely impacts on the national development of the nations or society they are leading.

The theory is suitable in this study because political leaders in Benue state influences policies and programmes that engendered development in the state. The leaders in the state in every successive administration, their attitude and conducts in office has a far-reaching impact on the developmental process of their state sicken they are charged with the responsibility of spear heading their affairs of Benue state.

Thus, leadership success or otherwise is the product of elite decision which definitely impacted on the development of that society they are leading.

However, inspite of the usefulness of the theory in understanding formulation and implementation of policy that thereby enhances development in a given society, the theory is criticized as follows:

- (1) That the elitist have failed the scope of influence wielded by numbers of the elite class.
- (2) That the elitist believing that power is cumulative have tended to regard all influential as exercising political which is not the case in Nigerian state as civil society organization also influences the policies and programmes.
- (3) That there is no significant correlation established between leadership on the hand, and the hierarchies of wealth, status and power.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 BACKGROUND OF BENUE STATE AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Benue state is located at the med-belt region of Nigeria with a population of 4.2 million in 2006 census (Wikipedia, 2015) it was created on 3rd February 1976 among the seven states created by general Murtala Muhammed. Benue state derives its name from the river Benue, the second largest river in Nigeria. The major language in Benue is Idoma and Tiv. There are other ethnic groups, including Igede, Etulo, and Abakwa, Jukun, Hausa, Akweya and Nyifon, with it capital at Makurdi.

Administratively, benue state has 23 local governments, namely Agatu, Apa, Burutu, Gboko, Guma, Giwer East, Giwer west, Kastina-Ala, Konshisha, Kwande, Logo, Makurdi, Obi, Ogbadibo, Ohimini, Oju, Okpokwu, Otukpo, Tarka, Ukum, Oshongo and Vandeikya (Wikipedia, 2015).

Benue state as it exist today is a surviving legacy of an administrative entity which was carved out of the protectorate of northern Nigeria at the beginning of the 20th century.

On natural resources, Benue state is the nation's "food basket" because of its rich agricultural produce which include yam, rice, beans, cassava, sweet potato, maize, soyabeans, sorghum, millet, sesame, cocoyam etc. Indeed, according to statistics, Benue state account for over 70% of Nigeria soyabean production (Wikipedia, 2015).

Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy, engaging over 75% of the state farming population. The state also boast of one of the longest stretches of river systems in the country with great potential for viable fishing industry, dry season farming through irrigation and for an

inland water way. The state is rich with forest and wild life reserves due to its vegetation nature suitable for raring of animals of different types and species.

Benue state is also endowed with various mineral resources such as limestone at Tsekucha near Gboko and kaolinite at otukpo, baryte, liypsum, feldspar, wolframite, salt and gemstone among others (Omale, 2015).

3.1 OVERREVIEW OF LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT IN BENUE STATE DURING MILITARY REGIME

Chronologically, development in Benue state have witness various transformation because the major development of infrastructure in the state were carry out by the military regimes, although due to short-lived or coups of every successive military administration, which curtailed development prospects in the state then.

Col. Abdullahi shelleng (1976-78), He was the first military administrator posted to Benue state. During his regime he embarked on few projects mainly infrastructural developments such as construction of roads, building schools and mobilize of farmers, by giving them farming materials. He was described as sympathetic, sensitive and great mobilizer with a positive vision for the state.

However, the regime was criticized as weak and slow in terms of vision of expanding the state to national grid of development and also the military regime administrator usually act according to command structure.

3.2 CAPTAIN ADEBAYO, LAWAL (1978-79)

The ban on political activities was lifted on the 21st September, 1978 and Lawal was mandated to supervise the transition to civil rule in the second republic. By the nature of his coming and what was intended to achieve, there was a kind of dominant development during this regime. The regime carryout some projects in the 13 local government, which was more beneficial to the people in various communities before handing over to another regime.

The main achievement of this administration was the 1979 transition programme which he natured well and finally handover to civilian government.

3.3 BRIGADIER JOHN ATOM KPERA (1984-85)

During the administration of Atom kpera, various policy framework were adopted to serve as corrective measure of the past administrators in the area of education. The regime believe that having only the government to continue bear totally the cost of education in the state was not proper. A kind of tripartite approach to the cost of education were adopted, which involves parents, government and voluntary agencies. Other state function and responsibilities were also carryout by the administration.

Indeed, people appraised this regime, for using draconia-measures to correct excesses of the past regimes. This regime measure's really improved development prospect in the state, although, it was argued that, detention of former political actors, reversal of earlier policies, and scraping of some projects draws the state backward instead by forward (Omale, 2005).

3.4 CAPTAIN JONAH DAVID JANG (1985-86)

This administration in order to ensure efficiency and effective development, he reform the public services. He brought the policy of discipline through principle of automatic reward or punishment. He went further to reprimand workers who perform below expectations and reward those that are due.

The regime went beyond the physical development of the state to provide the social comment” among the various ethnic groups. He revised many earlier popular decisions, boosted the morale of the civil servants, and introduced new procedures and practices to the public service.

Col. Yahonna Madaki (1986) this regime was seen as a revolutionary administration because of his provocative speeches on his assumption of the office which was more of controversial to politicians in the state. However, the regime only spent 20 days in the office which he could not embarked on any developmental projects in the state.

3.5 COL. ISHYA BAKUT (1986-1987)

This regime was more concern with rural development. He provided basic amenities to various communities in the state which was a major challenges ranging from electricity, pipe borne water and sanitization equipment among others. According to Bakut in his inurgural speech, “we know that Benue state is not the only state in the country but our case is very much perculiar. In terms of growth and development, benue lays behind every other facet, yet it could alone feed the country if optimally exploited. We are a promising state but we only require some lubrication or if you like working capital to enable us tap our vast agricultural resources and at

least get out of the tortuous terrain of acute underdevelopment. Our problem of now is finance to inject the working capital which would make Benue state viable in development”.

However, his comment alone prove his leadership quality and development prospect in the state.

3.6 COL. IDRIS GARBA (1987-1988)

This is another administration that pay serious attention to rural development. The regime believed that the task of rural development must not be left to the directorate of food, road and rural infrastructure (DFRRI), alone it therefore enjoined all communities and development associations to team up with the agency which he promised to reorganized at the local government level to enhanced efficiency. Although, this administration came on board when the unsavory political development did not favour Benue state. It made significance efforts to attracts development to the state.

In its efforts to harness the numerous natural resources that abounds them, the government declares its intention to enter in to joint venture arrangement with the organized private sector or state governments that were ready to face the challenges of social development. To this end, the new Nigeria development (NNDC) was established during the administration, which was a significant development in the state and national development indicator in Benue state at that point in time.

Indeed, the regime was known for accountability, transformation and developer in the state.

3.7 LT. COL. FIDELIS MAKKA (1988-1992)

The regime was the anchor between the military and the coming civilian administration, governor Makka put up a strong determination to achieve positive results within the period he was to stay and possibly handover to an elected civilian government. He intended to leave a legacy of concrete achievements.

This administration in its determination to execute its rural development programmes in such areas as adult literacy campaign, health, education and the monitoring of rural development projects being carried out under the auspices of directorates of food, roads and rural infrastructure (DFRRI). Also to engender mutual understanding between government and the governed as a firm basis for cooperation, evolved some refreshingly new strategies to reach out to the people. Three out of such strategies were the public forum, the civil service forum, and the press forum which clearly and really constituted the hallmark of the governor's style of reaching the people.

The administration among others performed creditably in many areas of development and finally handed over to an elected administration in 1992.

3.8 CAPTAIN JOSHUA OBADEMI (1993-1996)

Another military administration in the country came on board on 1993 with the resignation of chief Ernest Shonekan international government (ING). In Benue state before the substantive military administrator was appointed, the former civilian governor Rev. for Moses Orshio Adasu handed over the affairs of the state to the police commissioner, Mr. Theophanous Akeredolyu on the 8th of December 1993. Military administrators were later appointed nationwide and captain Joshua Obademi was appointed for Benue state.

The administration coming in to power was confronted with several domestic problems of non-payment of staff salaries, moribund, non-perform industries and inter-ethnic and boundary clashes. In a bid to tackle these enormous problems the war against indiscipline and corruption (WAI-C) campaign was quickly and successfully launched in the state by the administration.

The little achievement recorded by this administration seemed to be of no effect as the mounting pressure tended to over-shadowed it. The leadership was widely criticized by the benue indigenes for lack of co-existence between the government and the people.

3.9 LT. COL. AMINU ISAH KONTAGORA (1996-1998)

Aminu Isah kontagora assumed that duty in Benue state at a time when under-capitalization, bad management and over bearing interference had put most government owned companies in coma. The kontagora led government shortly after assuming office took a militarization-tour of all the local governments across the state to acquaint himself with the problems of the state. When met with issues of unabandoned projects and ailing industries he therefore acknowledged to his administration to resolved to stand on the existing structures of his predecessors and deliver services to the people. In other words, complete the already existing projects as well as revitalize the dying industries through refurbishing them or selling them to private hands.

Those earmarked for sale were the Benue Breweries Ltd. The Makurdi international Hotel and the fruitcon Nigeria Ltd. The administration also took agriculture, education, health and rural development as its corner stone. It therefore pursued its policies in this respect with enthusiasm and boldness.

3.10 COL. DOMINIC ONEYA (1998-1999)

When Col. Oneya assumed office in Benue state, his impression of the state was that of disappointment with the pace of development. He said that with the kind of people and its geographical location, the state should have gone further than what he met. He acknowledged that, the preceding administrations did the much they could, but that the pace was too slow. This administration as expected did not really achieved much before it handed over to an elected civilians regime. However, the legacy was the call by the administrator on Benue indigenes who had made it across the country to come home and develop the state.

There was also a closer monitoring and coordination of the administration of local governments. This was an administration that came in to being in the wake of the new beginning for Nigeria's occasioned by the sudden death of general Sani Abacha. It was a plan of General Abubakar to eliminate military rule on 29th May, 1999. Col. Oneya religiously adhered to this board policy objective and goals of the general Abubakar administration.

This was the background against which he conscientiously towards the successful termination of the transition programme, which culminated in the return to civil rule that ushered in the current democratic dispensation.

3.11 BRIEF BACKGROUD OF CIVILIAN ADMINISTRATION OF BENUE STATE

The civilian government or civil rule started in Benue state in the second republic in 1979 following the creation of Benue state in 1976 by general Murtala regime. This republic terminated on 31st December 1983. The third republic which is regarded widely as the aborted republic never had full democratic structures from local to the federal levels following the annulment of June 12, 1993 presidential election by general Babangida. The fourth republic

become on board in 1999. And it is the only republic that has successfully handed power over from one civilian administration to the other 2007 after eight years of two tenure of offices.

3.12 MR. APER AKU (THE FIRST CIVILIAN EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR 1979-1983)

The man, Mr. Aper Aku, was elected as the first executive civilian governor of Benue state. This period could be revered to as “ the golden era civilian administration” in Nigeria and Benue state in particular.

Having witnessed thirteen years of military rule in Nigeria, the aspiration and expectation of the populace to have a change were very glaring. The story of the land and the people of Benue is not one of sustained economic and natural development over the years since 1960 rather it is one of poverty, greed and accusation of criminal neglect by the central administration in the country. Governor Aper Aku among other governors given the most media exposure. This no doubt because of his reputation as an anti-corruption crusader. His administration tackled the infrastructural development of the state with great deal and passion (Omale 2005).

Mr. Aper Aku’s administration placed very high emphasis on education, for example, the establishment of 127 government day secondary schools, and three new advanced teachers colleges, also the establishment of university of technology and many others (Omale, 2005).

Although, critics are of the opinion that, the regime did not live up to the expectations of the citizens.

3.13 REV. MOSES ORSHIO ADASU (1992-1993)

This administration came into government by the grace of god and was to perform a special task in the state. He said, his era was that of change from darkness to light, impossibility to possibility.

The regime detected the problems of the state and set out the strategies to tackle them but time never permitted him to do so. For instance, the problem of education at the university level was done with through establishment of Benue state university. It was this administration that embarked on development with moral and ethical principles.

3.14 MR. GEORGE AKUME (1999-2007)

Nigeria returned to full democratic government on 29th May, 1999. Mr. Akume became the third executive civilian governor of Benue state and was sworn in on the 29th May, 1999. He came to power at a time when in spite of all the various successive governance may have done or claimed to claim to have done, the benue economy was depressed with a weak, financial base which led to a very fragile social system. The administration from the onset realized the need for immediate redemptive measure to save the economy. The regime introduced the “Benue Advance plan” which was intended to be used to stimulate the rapid socio-economic development of the state.

Though the benue advance plan did not achieve its optimal aim, the administration ended up enriching individuals in other words human development at less significant in its implementation of policies and the execution of projects throughout the eight years of the leadership in the state.

3.15 HON. GABRIEL TORWUA SUSWAN (2007-2011)

Hon. Suswan took over leadership of Benue state from his predecessor under the platform of people's democratic party (PDP). The administration under Suswan consolidate on the gains of democracy quickly initiated the programme blue print of "our Benue" and "our future". This development plan serves as an antennary for document as a guide for the execution of government projects and programme.

As a mark of consolidating of the gains of democracy, the administration successfully completed some of its projects. The regime was tagged as the administration of infrastructural development.

However, suswan led-administration on social contract he entered with the people of Benue state when he resumed power in 2007 and second tenure 2011. One of the remarkable development of suswan according to Duru (2012) is the issue of water borne disease like diarrhea and cholera, which is very critical in other states of the federation.

Numerous roads projects undertaken by suswan led-administration would undoubtedly galvanize growth and economic activities in the rural economy of the state. For example, the construction of governor's lodge, water projects, schools and health facility projects.

Another project worthy of mention is the recent completed Benue state university teaching hospital project, which has been completed, finished. However, teaching hospital is envisaged to be the state's window to hospital tourism as it is expected to open the way for foreign nationals to come for medical visitations, which is national development to Benue state. The administration embarked on construction and rehabilitation of over 2,015 kilometers of both urban and rural road cutting across the entire state (Duru, 2012). Some of those roads include;

the Anyii-Ugba-Amafu road, the Adikpo-Ikyogen-Jato-Akaa, Gbeji-Afia-Zaki Biam, Ugbokolo-utonko, Eke-Eleungbecho-ugbokolo, Otukpo-Igumale roads and the Orokam-Owukpa, Ukon to road that links all local government in Benue state and south senatorial district. The construction of these major roads went alongside the tarring and resurfacing of major streets within Makurdi, Gkobo, otukpo and katsina (Ala local government with all of them wearing the new looks to benefiting towns and adored with street lights).

However, critics are of the opinion most of these projects embarked by the Suswan's administration were for patronage to his political allies as it only beneficial to those areas where politicians lived (Duru, 2012).

Another project undertaken by suswan administration are the three water works in makurdi, katsina/Ala, otukpo, all completed. The greater makurdi water works with installed capacity to pump over 100,000 cubic meters of water per day is a project that would permanently address the water needs of the inhabitants of makurdi and its environment.

The otukpo and katsina/Ala water works with a capacity of 15,000 cubic meters of water per day each, remains another landmark, achievement of the suswan administration that has been greeted with thunderous ovation by the indigenes of the state irrespective of political or tribal inclination.

On the whole, the suswan administration have at least embarked on several developmental projects but the question here is to what extent is the projects has national impact and how sustainable are those projects were just rural development programmes while the issue of ICT and tourism which has national linkage were not given much attention during the Suswan led-administration.

3.16 LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTION IN BENEU STATE

From the foregoing discussion of leadership role in national development, it is obvious that there is appraisal of some successive administration in Benue state.

Comparatively, it has been observed that in long years of independence the Nigerian state have witnessed more years of military rule than the civilian. The military administration in Benue state recorded more national development. This is because most of their development plans and programme were more consistent and transparent in spite of the unstable regimes, which was truncated with series of military coups. For example, the infrastructural development in Benue state such as roads, pipe borne water and electricity to national grid are product of military regimes.

Most of the empirical literature reviewed on the account of this study shows that in spite of the high level of corruption of civilian administration, there is a remarkable national development in the state. Every successive administration tried to atleast embarked on development through infrastructural construction and rehabilitation in the state (Musa, 2006)

Comparatively, it has been observed that in long years of independence, the Nigerian state have witnessed more of military regime than it civilian counterpart (Omale, 2000).

The military administration in Benue state recorded more national development this is because most of their development plans and programmes were more political and consistent in nature, which translate for development due to its transparency inspite of the unstable regime recorded by the military era. The infrastructural development in Benue state such as roads, pipe borne water and electricity to national grid are product of military regime (Omale, 2005).

The civilian regime on the other hand, did less in terms of development prospects in spite of their staying on power for about 16 years. This fact could be attributed to poor leadership and mismanagement. Indeed, one of the major problems of Nigeria's development programmes under prioritization of politics and lack of political will on the part of leaders. Poor infrastructural facilities in Benue state, poor agricultural productivity and industrial development witnessed in Benue state in the handwork of civilian administration. This is evidence because the civilian administration adopts various policy strategies but lack of implementation hindered the success of those programmes (Duru, 2012). Indeed, the beauty of development plans is the faithful implementation of such plan, which its success lies with the implementers.

Lack of implementation led to failure of development in Benue state. For example, the recent development policies such as NEEDS, National Economics Empowerment and Development Strategies (during Obasanjo regime), Seven point Agenda and Vision 2020 (during the late Yar'adua regime) and most recent one, Transformation Agenda (during Jonathan regime), Federal to trickle down to Benue state due to lack of commitment and implementation from the political leaders in the state (Duru, 2012).

On the whole, leaders contributed in Benue state to some extent because without leadership role the available resources in the state would not have been put in order. The state on the account of its leaders remained one of the best supplies or exporter of food stuffs to other state in the federation and International market, which is the avenue of contributing to national development in the state.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.1 INTRODUCTION

One of the major concern for effective leadership is to ensure good governance, which whereby brings about National development.

As earlier stated from the methodology, this is documentary in nature, which all the data is collected from existing literature and personal observations.

In this chapter, qualitative method of data analysis is used to code in order to assessed roles of leadership in Benue state towards National development. This is done through using discussive analysis of the research questions and objectives by categorizing it in to themes, in order to draw critical inference from the study.

4.2 LEADERSHIP CRISIS AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

From the available sources of information, this study identify that corruption contributes to failure of leaders in ensuring national development in Benue State. That the socio-economic development most especially during the civilian administration was hindered by lack of qualitative leadership to chat the course of national development in Benue State.

In Benue State, the causes of leadership failure is attributed to among other things corruption of leaders and lack of political will to implement those projects that was put in place as out come of national development in the state.

This also identify that, regime changes during the military era slow down the pace of development in Benue state, although comparatively most physical infrastructure in Benue State were carried out by the military administration in the state.

To this end, the study identified that, Benue state political leadership especially during the civilian regime were selfish, mediocre, tribalistic and ineffective, which really affect delivery of sustainable development in Benue State.

4.3 THE IMPACTS OF LEADERSHIP PROBLEMS ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN BENUE STATE

From the available literature reviewed this study is of the opinion that inspite of leadership crisis in Benue state, there have been at least a remarkable development within the period under the study.

However, it is observed that across the major areas in Benue state poor infrastructural facilities, poor agricultural productivity and industrial development, the absence of social amenities such as roads, pipe borne water, electricity and the instability of social economic, political and cultural institution that would have contributed to boosting of development in the state, were absent mostly during the previous administration.

The study observed that, the administration of 2007-2011 have achieved little of development in the state. The led administration embarked on what they called “Our Benue Our Future” as slogan of development prospects. The treatment of diarrhea and cholera through constituting standards of pipe borne water through state in order to curtailed the spread of the scourge to the citizens of the state.

Also, the administration constructed national Teaching Hospitals as widow for national development through inviting foreign investors into the state for medical tourist. The study also analyzed the role of that administration as regards to the construction of 2015 kilometers of both urban and rural areas in the state. The roads constructed in areas like Aniji-urba, Akaa-jato, Eke-

Eleunbgecho-Ubgokolo, Otukpo, and Ukom among others served as link for National investors to transact their business, which really impacted positively to the development of the state.

This study also identified that the civilian administration on its part tried to ensure development in the state by constructing 15000 of water to supply all the inhabitants of Otukpo, Katsina/Ala that usually experiences shortage of water due to its topography.

4.4 LEADERSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN BENUE STATE

It is observed from the study that, for effective and sustainable development the leaders priority should focus on service delivery and political will to implement development prospects that qualitative leadership is very necessary in development, this is because when such leaders are into power there would be accountability and transparent leadership in the state.

4.5 FINDING AND DISCUSSION

One always find it difficult when it comes to the measuring of societal satisfaction. This is because what may be regarded as development to one person may be regarded as failure to others. This is base on the fact that development is perceptible in accordance with one's feeling and individual environmental influence or background orientation.

However, this study show that it is the leadership quality accompanied with good governance that brings, development to people in any given society that is every person in the state should see it as duty or responsibility to contribute his/her quota to development in the state.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 SUMMARY

This study explore the role of political leadership and national in Benue state.

The central argument of the research is that quality and purposeful leadership is essential for the development of any state. Qualitative leadership is determined by a number of features such as ideological learnings, backgrounds and nature of society among others.

The absence of qualitative leadership in Benue state mostly during civilian administration comparatively with its military counterparts leads to crisis of national development that the impacts of leadership is felt in all sectors of Benue state, which manifest through various ways such as; the prevalence of corruption, security challenges and policy somer saults and abandonment of various projects of the previous administrations.

The study also established that, leadership has a great role to play in the development process not just of Benue state alone but in every society. And leadership in Benue state is the principal cause of development.

Finally, that if where is purposeful, committed, and goal oriented leaders, thus problem of development would be a thing of the past.

5.2 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Benue state has abundant resources including, natural, human, financial. It needs to be developed in all its ramifications, that is social, political and economic. But there is

more to national development when having all the resources at woe's disposal. There is need for effective and efficient leadership with clear vision and mission that will direct how such resources will be utilized. This result is to sound management of the available resources for the attainment of the desire height of development in the state. This has been the major challenges of Benue state in its quest for attaining development.

Good leadership, as earlier mentioned in this study, is very important for any society what strive to develop. Benue state's leaders mostly during civilian administration from 2007-2011 have contributed in hampering the development prospects of the state through their actions and inactions which are mostly selfish, so far, for Benue state to attain the desired height of development its wishes to attain, its leaders must have the people at heart not their own personal individualistic interest, they must also be fair and just in their conducts. Once problem of leadership crisis is solved in general and Benue state in particular.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

After considering the appraisal of some roles played by political leaders in Benue state towards national development.

What then is the ways out of this problem? How can we reduced this menace of leadership crisis? It is important however, to note that providing solutions to this problem is difficult but not impossible. Therefore, it is the opinion of this study that,

(1) Leaders should be well focused and they should put the interest of their state first before their personal interest, by So doing they can be nationalistic in their actions and inactions which will inevitably lead to national development.

(2) The society must learn to probe at all ill-gotten wealth in the society instead of celebrating them and even giving traditional titles to people of questionable characters. We should question such wealth and if possible report such issues to the appropriate authorities.

(3) There should be mechanism such as anti-corruption agencies at all level of government to check the activities of leaders from time to time. Such mechanism will pave way for accountability, transparency, and probity in office thus ensure sustainable development.

(4) There is need for leaders at all levels to stability and continuity of policies encourages investment and propel for national development.

(5) Again, development requires total commitment on the part of the leadership. The need for discipline and honesty on the part of the project implementers cannot be compromised; such officials should show enough discipline, interest, willingness, dedication and honesty.

(6) Leaders and followers should take cognizance of the fact that governance is the responsibility of all thus, everyone owes a duty for national development to be achieved in the state in particular and the country in general.

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