

## Peace and Political Stability as Prerequisite for Sustainable Development: A Reflection of the “Pax Romana”.

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### ABSTRACT

*No country can develop and grow politically without peaceful co-existence among its population. It is our experience that sustainable development is tied to the advancement of lasting peace and political stability. Before peace can be said to exist anywhere, the citizens must be free from all forms of violence, be it political, economic, social or religious. We are convinced that this is the kind of peace Nigeria wants. Violence not only destroys lives, but properties are damaged. So, investing in peace, stability and accountable governance is fundamental to long term development and prosperity. Our country Nigeria is known for political instability, violence, corruption, bad governance, etc. The effect of political instability on the security of communities is evident, as societies, which are politically unstable are experiencing unrest and security charges. Man, being political by nature, seeks to live in an environment where security, stability and harmony are maintained. In (Acts 24:2), Emperor Caesar Augustus of Rome was able to restore order and peace which lasted for about two hundred years, which is referred to as the “Pax Romana” meaning Roman peace. With this peace, the empire excelled and the Roman government was able to bring about a general improvement in the living conditions of the people. So, if you and I start today to keep and maintain peace in our own little corner, then the country at large will have peace. “For a stitch in time saves nine”. Sustainable development, if it is to take hold and flourish needs peace, stability and the firm foundation provided by human rights. Is it possible to have political stability and sustainable development without peace? The paper used critical analytic method in examining challenges of political stability and bad governance as a bane of underdevelopment*

*and poverty in Nigeria. This research reveals that one of the major reasons for political instability in Nigeria is leadership and corruption. Finally, ways of ensuring political stability and creating national security for the nation is for leaders to see leadership as a responsibility.*

*Keywords: Peace, Political Stability and Sustainable Development*

## INTRODUCTION

Nigeria as a nation has not known peace over the years and even till date. Christ prayed for the unity of his people thereby condemning hostilities among men living side by side (Jn.17:11-22). This does not always mean open hostilities, but at least an unceasing threat of hatred and discrimination. Every act of violation of human rights is a sheer disregard for the commandment of God and a threat to national peace and security. We need peace and stability to survive as a nation and for sustainable development and this peace has to start with the individual mind. Therefore, quoting Bayard Rustin who once said, "if we desire a society of peace, then we cannot achieve such a society through violence. If we desire a society without discrimination, then we must not discriminate against anyone in the process of building the society. If we desire a society that is democratic, then democracy must become "means as well as end".

Various factors are said to be responsible for Nigeria's current status as an undeveloped nation. These range from political instability, the monoculture nature of the national economy, the persistent lack of commitment to focused development strategies on the part of the political elites, corruption, poor infrastructural facilities, unemployment, extreme poverty level, etc. Just like the Romans in (Acts24:2), we want a new era of comprehensive development and dignified life. This will pave the way for popular representation and participation in the decision-making in such a way that builds up the present of the Nigeria people and charts a course for their future. Reforms brought about better sustainable development in Nigeria, while at the same time maintaining stability, progress and prosperity. Fifty-six years after independence, Nigerians are disappointed by their leaders who have failed to deliver the good governance, secure the

welfare of persons on the principles of political development, equality and justice and for the purpose of consolidating the unity of the people. Although some have argued that the fundamental problem which hindered Nigeria's political and economic advancement is leadership (Achebe, 1983). As a result of the mismanagement of the economy, unemployment became a key factor in the labor market even as the cost of living rose beyond the reach of the low income earners.

Peace and stability are essential enablers of sustainable development, just as violence is one of its greatest obstacles. The devastating impacts of conflict destroy lives and hold back progress. We must shun violence and embrace peace. Therefore, achieving the overarching goal of the eradication of extreme poverty will simply remain an elusive ideal and dream out of reach of those who most need it, unless we work together to end conflict and instability, and to promote good governance, the rule of law and human rights, including the right to development for all. This study reveals that we should continue to sharpen peace keeping, peace building and preventive diplomacy so that they can do their part to create environments conducive for development. By using these tools in a holistic manner, we can build stable and peaceful societies of freedom and well-being for all. This study is basically on the peace and political stability for sustainable development in Nigeria. A critical analysis which focuses on trials to political development in Nigeria and its effects on the sustainable development has been adopted.

## CHALLENGES FACING POLITICAL STABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

Political stability in Nigeria could be established through good governance, transparency, accountability, effective education, corruption control, honesty, justice, etc. Ake (1995) was right when he said: "Most of Africa is not developing". While most of these countries gained independence in the 1960s, the stability to ensure sustainable development and political stability proved negative despite the abundant of natural resources. According to Ake(1995), "decades of efforts have yielded largely

stagnation, regression or worse. The tragic consequences of this are increasing clear: a rising tide of poverty, decaying public utilities and infrastructure, social tensions and political turmoil, and now, premonition of inevitable drives into conflict and violence”.

Several factors have been identified for this problem. Kes Selman et al. (1996), blamed this on three principal factors—scarce resources, weak legitimacy and patron-client or what is commonly known in Nigeria as “god father” politics. Scarce resources engender poverty, inequality and a weak position in the international economic system. State control of the limited resources provide the leeway for officers, political and bureaucratic, to manipulate government spending to advance their personal fortunes. The citizens lack faith in their political leaders in the political system. Looking at the challenges faced by political stability and sustainable development in Nigeria are:

#### **A. Good Governance**

Governance is a process of decision making and the process by which decisions are implemented or not implemented (UNESCAP, 2009). While good governance is an approach or perspective which focuses on state and societal institutions and the relationship between them as well as on how rules are made in the society which are accepted as legitimate and enhance values that are sought by individuals and groups within the society, Poluha et al. (2002). Good governance includes both a broad reform strategy and a particular set of initiatives to strengthen the institutions of civil society with the objective of making government more accountable, more open and transparent and more democratic. Political elites misappropriate considerable public funds for their personal gain while most of their constituents lack access to potable water. There is a big problem with the wage structure of the bloated civil service (not to mention not being paid on time), which is filled with patronage lives. Consequently, many Nigerians are forced to resort to petty corruption simply to survive. The key to cementing the country's patronage system through corrupt procurements is the handing out of government contracts to political favorites. This has

been the case for contracts for building roads, schools, hospitals, and for the supply of electricity, water and medicines, etc. Nigeria was ranked as the most corrupt place on earth in 2003, but its relative ranking has since been upgraded to 152 out of 159 countries (IRIN/NEWS, 2003). As good governance continues to be found lacking by the majority of Nigerians who live without access to basic public services, other organizations have stepped in to fill the void. Religious organizations, such as the Pentecostal churches and the CAN, Christian Association of Nigeria, now provide a range of social services that government generally provides, and Islamic religious schools have also sprung up in the north. This has actually provided some promising new means to try to address the potential for inter-communal conflict, whereby inter-faith organizations have been offering means for dialogue between groups.

Good governance includes the capacity to formulate and implement sound policies, and the respect of citizens and the state for the institutions that govern economic and social interactions. Good governance has been closely linked to the extent to which governance is perceived and accepted as legitimate, committed to improving the public welfare and responsive to the needs of its citizens, competent to assure law and order and deliver public services, able to create an enabling policy environment for productive activities, and equitable in its conduct (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia). But all these are not found in the political system of Nigeria and it is a challenge to sustainable development.

### **B. Monoculture Base of the Economy**

The monoculture base of our economy is a challenge which political stability and sustainable development has to face. An important factor that has rendered the developmental efforts of Nigeria prostrate is the externally oriented mono-economic base of the country. The country largely depends on crude oil for its survival to the detriment of other resources. All other sectors of the economy are neglected. For instance, agriculture which constitutes the mainstay of the Nigeria economy in the 1960s, has been thrown into oblivion over the years. How would government encourage

export promotion when there is virtually nothing to export? The economy is not diversified and this is not suitable for sustainable development (Mimiko 1998). The dependent nature of developing economies appears to be the foundation upon which other features are built. The “third world” countries were primarily export oriented, of limited range and geared towards the material needs of the imperial powers (Frank, 1967)<sup>1</sup>. The Third world elite incorporated into this system and could do little to establish a more diverse form of economic activities. For instance, Nigeria a typical TWC has been conditioned by imperialism into the production of export cash crops like cocoa, cotton, timber and until recently crude oil and technology constitute the basic of growth and development. In any case the oil and gas sector that is technology oriented is largely dominated by multinational interest: with the oil reserve on Nigeria territory, while exploration, exploitation and control are in tight grip of multinational firms (Idise, 1999) It is now a common knowledge that for every dependent nation to develop, the first steps should be to restructure its economy. Ndoh Cyril (1995), has argued that “there is no doubt that the present ruling class in Nigeria will likely reject any demand for a radical restructuring of the Nigeria economy, and so the only alternative for transformation to a more enlightened and equitable development may be to a revolution”. The present capitalist economy in Nigeria has reached a crisis situation. Except one chooses to play the ostrich one cannot fail to see the bloody revolution handling over the head of the Nigeria elite.

### **C. Human Resources**

Human resources play an immense role in the success or failure of any organization or nation in terms of capability and strength of character of the leaders and followers. In Nigeria, most of the problems facing the economy today are a reflection of the lack of investment in human capital development and poor management of natural resources because education, which plays a critical role in human development and economic health of the nation has been neglected for decades (Krueger and Lindhal, 2001, Dike, 2002)<sup>1</sup>. Education is knowledge and knowledge is power. One has to understand the tribulations of the educational institutions and social

infrastructure to appreciate the magnitude of the problems facing political stability and sustainable development. Before independence in 1960, the schools in Nigeria were properly funded and managed and the students were well behaved and the quality of graduates were equal to those from advanced nations. But things were sour when the greedy and the 'me first' home-grown politicians took the center stage and the schools were allowed to rot away. Since 1980s, the educational system has been facing countless problems emanating from poor funding, which has affected the morale of the teachers and students and resulted in 'brain drain' from the education sector. The schools lack the tools to produce quality graduates who can contribute meaningfully to national development and manage the affairs of the nation or to compete effectively in the knowledge-driven global economy. Majority of them lack job skills and basic literacy that drive human productivity. No nation would make any meaningful socio-economic and political stride without skilled technical manpower and viable educational institution. Instead of being a place for good character formation the schools are today a breeding ground for cultism and other destructive social behaviors. Thus 'values education' that involves educating for character, quality, graduates, good moral values and civic responsibility and which shape the character of nations has become a thing of the past. As Lickona (October 1992) has noted "respect and responsibility are the two foundational moral values" that a society should teach its citizens.

#### **D. Bad leadership**

The leadership problem that has confronted Nigeria since independence appears to be worsening by the day because the state of the policy is rapidly deteriorating. Yet the leaders appear oblivious of the magnitude of the problems facing the Nigerian political stability and sustainable development. As noted, very few of the leaders, if any, work for the 'common good', unlike in the Roman empire Caesar Augustus the Emperor and his proconsuls were efficient and effective, each working for the good of the empire. The leaders do not seem to understand that leadership is assuming responsibility for something. As Northouse (2007) has noted

leadership “is a process of getting things done through people” it means responsibility-having “passion for the purpose and the mission of the organization” or society one leads. However, the leaders of Nigeria appear good at prescribing solutions to sustainable development without providing the institutional framework to make it grow (Acemogbu, June 2003, Dike, October-December 2003, Edison, June 2003)<sup>1</sup>. And more often than not, their policies are hastily put together and poorly executed. The policy landscape is littered with the wreckage of unreasoned policies and those involved in such activities appear to enjoy the nation’s underdeveloped status (Dike, July 22-28, 2006). The activities of the leaders shape the reality the nation faces today because there is a glaring contradiction in their words and their deeds. For Nigeria to move forward the leaders must clean up their act and unrest in the society. Most of them fail to understand that performance, and not eloquence, is the only standard by which leaders are judged. Nigeria’s political stability and sustainable development rests with good leadership and governance.

### **E. Corruption Challenges**

Corruption is a global scourge; Nigeria appears to suffer the most from it because the leaders are persistently corrupt. Everyone appears to believe that the nation has a “culture of corruption” (Smith, 2008). According to Atlas et al.(2006) corruption is “a situation where two people act to increase their own pay-off at the expense of a third person”. The point here is that, most often, it takes at least two people to perfect an act probably conceived by an individual. Gray and Kaufman(1998) define acts of corruption to include “bribery and extortions, which necessarily involve at least two parties and other misconducts that a public official can carry out alone including fraud and embezzlement”. To them, it manifests in governmental activities through the “appropriation of public assets for private use and embezzlement of public fund by politicians and high level officials” Obua, (2010). Therefore, corruption manifests in all facets of governmental activities, contracts, collection of public revenues, and judicial pronouncements. Officials involved in performing these duties partake at one stage or the other in the abuse of the processes. In the bible



(Acts 8:4-25), Simon the magician was condemned for trying to bribe Peter and John. So we should turn from this great wickedness of ours and pray to God to forgive our evil thoughts. It was also from this act that Christianity developed the concept of "Simony" meaning trying to obtain spiritual gifts with money.

Over the years, Nigeria has earned huge sum of money from crude oil, which has been submerged by corruption. In an article, "Oil giant that runs on grease of politics," Nigeria was described as a rich nation floating on oil wealth "but almost none of it flows to the people" (San Francisco Chronicle, March 11, 2007). Top public servants are very rich because they harbor the mentality that public money belongs to no one. National dailies are awash with news of how public officials are acquiring million-dollar homes (within and outside Nigeria) and stockpiling stolen public money in financial institutions abroad. The "war against corruption" appears like trying to contain the wind. The erstwhile Chairman of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Vincent Ogbulafor was forced to resign recently because of mountain of fraud charges against him (Business Day, May 15, 2010). Ogbulafor had earlier challenged the society to prove the 16 count charges against him (Daily Trust, May 11, 2010). The former governor of Delta State, James Ibori was arrested in Dubai, (Business Day, May 14, 2010) on laundering charges and Kenny Martin has about \$97.5m fraud charge hanging over his neck. (Vanguard, May 20, 2010 discovered that over 'N5bn' was allocated to non-existent agency' in the 2010 budget (Nigerian Tribune, May 20, 2010). The reforms appear to have made Nigeria more corrupt.

Okwesilizie Nwodo (former Governor of Enugu State and National Secretary of the PDP) who was once made chairman of PDP was involved in the 2003 National Identity Card Project Scam of about \$214million (Daily Sun, June 14, 2004, Vanguard, December 30, 2003). Nigeria's problems are not from the "harshness and the niggardliness of nature" (Keynes, May 1932) but corruption that prevents the society from investing in human capital development, particularly technological capability to

drive the economy, create employment and the nation's abundant resources into productive use. Supporting this view point, Achebe (1983), maintains that "corruption in Nigeria spans from budgeting abuses, political patronage, public funds being doled out to political allies and personal friends, collection of mobilization fee or full payment without executing the contract, rewarding politicians who failed elections with ministerial appointment, re-assigning ministers, commissioners or council members who are involved in scandals to another ministry or departments. Other forms of corruptions found among the African politicians include, greed, selfishness, intimidation, oppression, violence, thuggery, nepotism and tribalism:

The Federal and States' budget appropriations and statutory allocations recently reported that by December 31, 2010 the three tiers of government (Federal, State and Local) would have spent 40trillion or more, since January 2006,(Vanguard, June 7,2010). But there is nothing on the ground to show for spending such a huge sum of money. The challenge is: how does one expect the corrupt politicians to fight effective the 'war' or corruption? Corruption leads to 'poor governance and low growth and hampers social development (Rose-Ackerman, 2004). Meaningful development and political stability require the collective identity of the citizenry. The African state according to Ayittery (2006),"has evolved into a predatory monster or a gangster state that uses a convoluted system of regulation and controls to pillage and rob the productive class-the peasantry. It is a common knowledge that heads of state, ministers and highly placed African government officials raid the African treasury, misuse their positions in government to extort commissioners on foreign loan contracts, skim foreign aid, inflate contracts to chromes for kickbacks and deposit the look in overseas bank Olusegun Obasanjo,( 2002). The very people who are supposed to defend and protect the peasants interest are themselves engaged in institutional looting .As corruption impacts negatively on sustainable development, it is also politically destabilizing. Corruption and abuses of power have long been features of Nigeria's economic and political scenery. Tell,( 2006) attributes the prevalence of corruption in the

Nigeria policy to the “criminal silence” of political elites. One of the ways to control corruption in Nigeria is to monitor the leaders/people's source of income, particularly those who display their ill-gotten wealth. To breath a new life into the nation's political system and economy, and to improve the people's living conditions, the society must purge itself of high-level corruption and strengthen the institutions and infrastructural that drive the economy.

#### **F. Infrastructural and Institutional Challenges**

The challenges facing sustainable development in Nigeria is ineffective institutions and dilapidated infrastructure (bad roads, erratic power supply, limited access to potable water and basic health care, and ineffective regulatory agencies, etc). The fullness of reforms and policies are ineffective due to institutional failure (Hoff, 2003). In a country where electricity take 40 percent cost of productive (Daily Sun, June 7, 2010) improving electricity supply would lure industries into the society and stimulate the sluggish economy into a long –term growth and prosperity, Nigeria must use its resources wisely, invest in science and technology, education and rebuild the institutions and infrastructure without which the economy will not gain from the ‘power of productivity’ (Lewis, April 2004, Dike January 31, 2006. A nation enjoys higher standards of living if the workers can produce large quantity of quality goods and services for local consumption and extra for export Mankiw, ( 2001)<sup>1</sup>. Without technological capacity, the sustainable development will remain in shambles, productivity will remain low, the quality of goods and services will remain poor, and Nigeria will not effectively compete in the global market place.

#### **G. Lack of Continuity of Policies:**

One of the major problems in Nigeria is the lack of continuity in policies and projects. Constant changes in government have been largely responsible for this problem. Examples are bound of projects initiated by a government that have been abandoned by successive governments. Operation feed the nation (OFN) was quickly abandoned by the Shagari government with the introduction of Green Revolution (GR). Better life

for Rural Women was abandoned with the introduction of Family Support Program (FSP). Seven Point Agenda of late President Shehu Musa Yar'Adua was quickly dumped by President Good luck Ebere Jonathan for his Transformation Agenda. Development is a continuous process but with discontinuities in government programs, no meaningful development can be achieved. Also, stability and continuity of policies encourage investment and propel development. For instance, in Korea, when Park was assassinated, his policies remained and were building on Nigeria leadership must learn to build on policies rather than to drop them for new ones for the sake of party politics and personal aggrandizement.

#### **H. The Challenges of Security in Nigeria.**

Some of the major security problems currently confronting the nation have been identified as follows: political and electioneering conflicts, ethnic militias, cultism, boundary disputes, ethno-religious crises, socio-economic agitations etc. These problems individually and collectively constitute threads to the peace, security and sustainable development and political stability in the country. They have implications for the continuity and survival of the nation's democracy. Recent international debates have also raised the need to see security in the broader sense as the struggle to secure the most basic necessities of life; food, fuel, medicine and shelter. This broader human security is important for the attainment of overall peace and development as social unrest arising from the absence of such human security can lead to security problems and conflicts. This position is attested to by recent social unrests in various African countries that have roots in the failure of government policies to provide or manage the basic human needs of their citizen .Of recent Nigeria has witnessed increasing number of security problems and developments that constitute threads to the maintenance and survival of its democratic political system. It can be recalled that violent and desperate politicking among political parties was the cause of the problem in the Western Region in 1965 that set in motion developments leading to the unravelling of the first Republic.

## I. Electoral Fraud

Electoral fraud poses a major challenge to political stability and sustainable development in the nation. Electoral fraud profane the sanctity of democracy and weakens its capacity as an instrument for theawakening of national, human and material resources for the development of the people and the state Abdulsalami (2005). In a game where fraud is systematic, the strength and competence of the electoral act is being undermined. This type of situation undermines the integrity andcredibility of the democratic process and makes government much more difficult. It generates the anger and frustration which is worsened when there is no proper and just means of seeking redness. People tend to resort to violence. We have experienced that in the Western Region in the first Republic. It generates resistance from those who believe they have been cheated out. However, there is a challenge before us and we will confront it and certainly come out of it.

## J. Accountability Challenge

“Accountability” is derived from a latin word “accomptare” (which means to count). Accountability implies that the government is accountable to her citizens. Are our leaders accountable to her citizens in Nigeria? Accountability is noticed more by its absence that is, failure of the government or an agent of government or an elected or appointed offer to discharge official trust as given Martin (1997). It has to do with responsiveness and being answerable to somebody or the people Adegbite, (2009). Lack of accountability is visible in number of ways for example, uncompleted projects like abandoned projects, non-functional industrial establishments, etc. In the public sector lack of accountability also manifests itself in other areas like poor quality jobs executed and certificate of completion issued, political antagonism/discrimination. Funds are denied or withheld to some areas because of their perceived lack of political goodwill towards the government in power. All these forms of political misbehavior are very serious breach of accountability that could lead to poverty, suffering, depressed economy and political instability. Also lack of

accountability led to high level of corruption which is unlawful. Corruption is negation of the accountability ethic of the public service Ujah, (2010).

### **K. Transparency**

Transparency is identified as a back bone of good government. Kailasam et al (2004)<sup>1</sup> defines transparency as “sharing information and acting in an open manner”. Transparency is essential for controlling corruption in public life. It helps not only to inform the public about development ideas and proposals, but also to convince people that the public agencies are interested in listening to their views and responding to their concerns Takaya, (1989). This in turn enhances the legality of the decision making process and strengthens democratic principles. Government that share their plans with citizens and seek their views can be far more effective in implementing development programs with the participation of stakeholders. Do our government share their assessments and seek our views on development programs? Transparency can help to promote active engagement of the private sector and civil society in public affairs, thereby confirming the changed role of the government. When will our government be transparent in its outlook? For this automatically will promote political stability and enhance sustainable development.

### **L. Terrorist and Insecurity Challenges**

Attacks in different parts of the country, leaving unpalatable consequences for the nation’s economy and its growth and equally posing a threat to political stability and sustainable development. According to Ewetan (2013)<sup>1</sup> the concept of insecurity connotes different meanings such as; absence of safety, damages, hazard, uncertainty, lack of protection, and lack of safety. Beland, (2005) defined insecurity as a state of fear or anxiety due to absence or lack of protection. Therefore to address the threat to national security and combat the increasing waves of crime the federal government in the 2013 budget made a huge allocation to security, and the national assembly passed the Anti-Terroism Act in 2011 (Ewetan,2013). Despite these efforts, the level of insecurity in the country is still high, and

a confirmation of this is the low ranking of Nigeria in the Global Peace Index (GPI, 2012).

### **M. Disrespect for the Rule of Law**

Poor and uncertain regulatory framework is among the major challenge in developing political stability in Nigeria. Nigeria is known as a lawless society, a place where the laws are disrespected. Disregard for the rule of law was rampant during the Obasanjo administration, it was an era of selective justice; a set of law for the rich and another for the poor. Although disrespect for the rule of law has lessened, it has not stopped completely. This vindictive action does not encourage sustainable development. For example, during the former President Obasanjo's civilian regime, there were mounting signs of a third-term bid in office. It went as far as the senate constitution review committee recommending a three-year extension of tenure for the president and all the thirty six state governors. This selective justice for personal gratification does not encourage an enduring democracy in Nigeria. There are still some unresolved electoral cases from the 2007 elections Punch, January 14, 2010). After a protracted court case the Appeal court in Enugu ruled on March 25, 2010 that it was Alphonsus Igbeke of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), and not Joy Emodi of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), who won the April 28, 2007 election for the Anambra North Senatorial District. But David Mark attempted to refuse to swear in Igbeke as directed by the court if not the invention of the Attorney General, Mohammed Adoke (Daily Independent, May 19, 2010).

Political corruption has rendered the laws of the land impotent. Despite the plethora of security measures taken to address the daunting challenges of insecurity in Nigeria, government efforts have not produced the desired positive result. This has compelled the Nigeria government in recent times to request for foreign assistance from countries such as USA, Israel and EU countries to combat the using waves of terrorism and insecurity. Amidst the deteriorating security situation in the country, Nigeria is also confronted with daunting developmental challenges which pose serious

threat to sustainable development. These developmental challenges include endemic rural and urban poverty, high rate of unemployment, (youth unemployment), low industrial output, unstable and deteriorating exchange rate, high inflation rate, inadequate physical and social infrastructure, very large domestic debt (EWETAN, 2013)<sup>1</sup>

## WAY FORWARD FOR PEACE, POLITICAL STABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

Leaders in this nation should do everything possible to activate existing institutions in pursuit of the society's goods and help remodel such institutions to achieve results. These duties they must do within a framework of constraints which include an uncorrupted electoral process, the rule of law, institutional checks and balances and a free press. The leaders should wage war on ethnicity and nepotism, which are central to the unity, (peace) of this great nation. They should tame bribery and corruption, nepotism and tribalism that are obstruct in the wheel of sustainable development. Politicians who wish to occupy important positions should be selected or elected on bases of hard work, good skill and intelligence and should be rewarded strictly on merits, without regard to ethnicity and religion. This is an option that will take the nation to a stable development. Nigeria also should be re-constituted in such a way that one could live in any state of his choice, secure employment without limitations and participate in the affairs of the community.

More attention has to be given towards education, particularly science and technology education and produce quality goods and services at least costs. This will enable the society to compete effectively in the global market place. This is necessary because Nigeria problems require a realistic solution. But it lacks the institutions and infrastructure to transform itself from a consumer to a producer nation. Sound economic policies should be established to diversity the nation's mono-product economy. The diversification of the economy would help reduce Nigeria's over dependence on the outside world for her basic needs. Political leadership is needed to achieve these. The people themselves have a critical role to play



in meeting these challenges. They should become politically educated and remain vigilant to make leaders listen and act right.

Lack of accountability and transparency impedes political stability and sustainable development. But their existence enhances political stability. Accountability and transparency will help re-attract international investments. Accountability and transparency will help Nigeria consolidate its democratic reforms and reintegrates her position for rightful international opportunities. To achieve these objectives, there is need for efficient and effective transparency and accountability systems so as to reduce corruption and promote sustainable development and political stability in Nigeria. Corruption which is a bane of Nigeria and other third world countries should be confronted with sincerity by the present leadership of these nations. Because of corruption, the Nigeria government remains distant from serving the interest of its people, the focus of leadership become a consideration for survival rather than national development. Many of the killings, terrorist's activities, and ethno-religious violence in Nigeria today are a direct consequence of the collapse of the Nigerian ruling class project. Therefore, there is need for effective leadership which is the bedrock of development. Quality leadership is a key to prosperous and peaceful life and political stability. We cannot function without leaders and that our quality of life depends on the quality of our leaders and stability of our political administrations. There is the absence of quality, stable and effective leadership. We must therefore, face the challenge of identifying, developing, training and raising a generation of leaders who would secure the future of our children.

## RECOMMENDATION

To sustain political stability consequently fostering sustainable development, the following recommendations are hereby suggest

1. Let us build effective and trustworthy institutions, promote the rule of law and pay closer attention to human rights abuses. By using these tools in a holistic manner, we can build stable and peaceful societies of freedom and well-being for all.

- II. Government should include in the curriculum subjects where focus will be on democracy, accountability, transparency, etc, will be taught along with other subjects.
- III. There should be effective use of approved law without discrimination nor laxity.
- IV. A strong political will to fight corruption by all be evolved in every state.
- V. Transparency and accountability be enforced in government functions and private sectors particularly in financial transaction.
- VI. Efforts should be geared towards the creation of awareness of the evils of corruption and how to fight it and control it as this provides the foundation for lasting peace. People should not blame the problems of the nation on leaders alone but should assume leadership in the fight for emancipation of the country from the cabals that have held her captive. For leadership to take its due place in Nigeria, our conception of leadership must move from rhetoric to application of correct values.
- VII. The Federal, State and Local government should remain focus in developing strategic sectors of the economy, namely energy and electricity supply, resolution of Niger Delta crisis, suppression of corruption, infrastructure development, human capital development, poverty eradication and improved security for life and property.

## CONCLUSION

It is obvious that governance are the bane of national development and political stability in Nigeria. Political plots became the cover-up for corruption. While most societies have put in place credible infrastructures for enforcing anti-corruption laws, Nigeria has yet to do so. The nations law enforcement institutions entrusted with the responsibilities of law enforcement are themselves found to be the most corrupt Transparency International (2013). The problem facing Nigeria is how best to maintain peace and manage her vast natural resources and invest them in the interest of cooperative/united and national development. Nigeria lack effective leaders. And a society without committed leader will relapse or

will remain stagnant. Adegbite, (2009) opines that “where there is no accountability, development will inevitably be stunted”. This has been the problem of Nigeria. The leaders in Nigeria are more interested in the pursuit of selfish personal goals at the expense of broader national needs. Achebe (1983)<sup>1</sup> pointed out that ‘the trouble with Nigeria is simply and squarely a failure of leadership’. He pointed out that “there is nothing wrong with the Nigeria character, there is nothing wrong with the Nigeria land or climate or water or air or anything else”, but leadership. The lack of selfless, non-corrupt and committed leaders has contributed immensely to the socio-political and economic predicaments facing Nigeria today. With durable peace, political stability and sustainable development our country Nigeria will move forward if we work together to see what we can do for the development of this country.

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