Sapientia Global Journal of Arts, Humanities and Development Studies (SGOJAHDS), Vol.3 No.2 June, 2020; p.g. 264 – 275; ISSN: 2695-2319 (Print); ISSN: 2695-2327 (Online)

POLITICAL ECONOMY AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: GOOD GOVERNANCE AND RESOURCE UTILITY PERSPECTIVE.

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Abstract
The central focus of this paper is to reexamine the importance of good governance as a political instrument that could be employed to engender genuine socio-economic development in the third world countries. The fact is that, these nations continues to grapple with the ideals of democratic rule the pillar of good governance that have become symbolic price of leadership to adequately mobilize national resources of nations into national wealth for strategic development agenda like the advance democracies of the West. It is however argued that leadership in these countries are considered to have less ability and weak institutional framework to efficiently and effectively galvanize of both the human and material resources for national development; compared to their Western counterparts in the developed countries. The paper therefore submits that despite the challenges of weak institutions, insignificant global trade arising from arbitrary exchange regime, inept leadership, poor human capital development, poor policies, low-level application of science and technology etc. within them, nonetheless; leadership in these nations can do better, if they implore appropriate steps to ensuring that internal structures are well orchestrated towards the attainment of socio-economic growth and development to ameliorate the living standards of the citizenry. The drive for this is to however interrogate the linkages between democratic rule and good governance as pillars of resource utility for socio-economic growth and development. This paper attempts to historically analyze the dynamics of the appropriate mobilization of the political economy of nations to create wealth for the well-being of the citizenry.

Keywords: Political Economy, National Development, Democratic Rule, Good Governance, Resource Utility.

Introduction

Political economy in the domain of good governance and resource utility fundamentally addresses, the structural appropriateness of the organization of the nation state in a manner that promotes the most efficient and effective utilization of available resources. This is employed to engender national socio-economic growth and development of the country, and invariably; lead to improved living standards of the citizenry. It recognizes however the fact that each nation is endowed or blessed with natural resources, human and material which must be mobilized by political leaders to achieve sectorial growth and national development to substantially improve the well-being of the citizenry (UNDP, 1999:2-3). But, central to all of this, is the ability of each leader to meticulously or appropriately deploy the totality of socio-economic and political forces for the efficient and effective resources utility. We however notes that:

- The measured ability of each leader to efficiently and effectively utilize available resources is proportionately equal to the level of development that could be impacted in the country in the short term.
- The aggregate achievements of political leaders in a country over time will be equal to the level of achieved national development within a given time frame in the long run.

Political leaders in less developing countries, especially African nations have been identified as having less capacity to efficiently deploy internal socio-economic and political institutional structures to engender growth and development. This estimation is probably the consideration as to why the African Union (AU) institutes the concept of African peer review mechanism (APRM) to assist in the strengthening of institutions of African Nations toward the attainment of meaningful development.

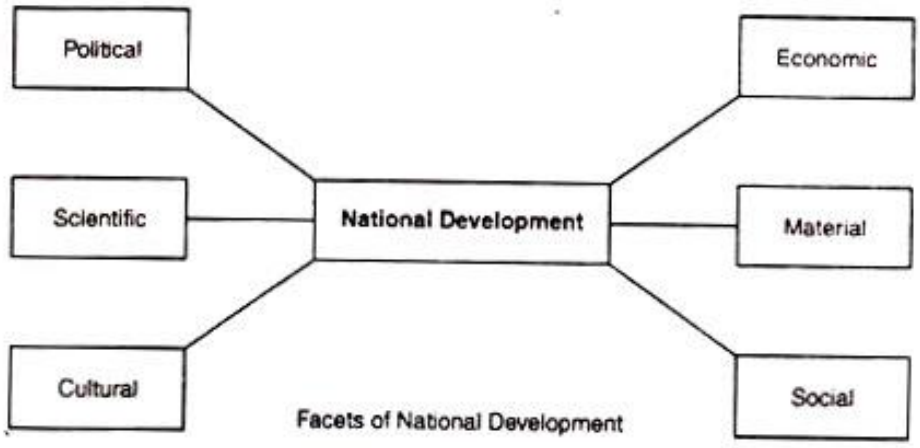
National Development: Conceptual Clarification

The pillar of this paper's foundation rest on national development, which is a key concept that requires clarification for ease of understanding of its usage here. This is so because development as a concept defies universal definition. The conceptualization of development was greatly problematized by the ideological contradiction between the Socialist East and the Capitalized West. It is because ideological orientation seem to becloud scholars to really dissect and critically appraise the constituents of development, as to what it entails. However, growth theorists argued that development is the end product of economic growth while others submits that economic development and growth flourish from structural change, savings and investment in an economy (Harrod & Domar, 1957).

Following the economic growth contradiction in most developing economies in the global scene, in the late 1970s, to solve the teething problems of poverty, hunger, unemployment, illiteracy and ever-increasing crimes and wars, called for a paradigm shift, and redefinition of development from economic growth centered to human centered paradigm. It therefore recognizes development as a many sided process geared towards the well-being of the citizenry (Rodney, 1969:9). Corroboratively Michael Todaro conceptualizes development as a multi-dimensional process involving the organization and restructure of the whole gamut of economic and social system, radical changes in institutional structures, improved income and output, customs, and so forth (Todaro, 1992:108). Therefore McCarthy (1994:32) describes development as involving steady adoption by modern society that is not necessarily western values but absorption of culture. Jarret (1996:16) says development is the promotion of political and economic advancement to facilitate comprehensive building of nations. Stated differently, it entails economic growth, social contentment and improved well-being of individuals. While Adebayo (1986:4) contends that economic and material growth should not be seen as sufficient manifestations of development. To him, something that constitute basis for development must not be taken for development itself. According to him, development transcends growth and embraces quality of life such as social justice, equality of all citizens, equitable distribution of income and democratization of development process. Development is fundamentally referred as humans and social advancement in all endeavours. The convergence of these scholarly submissions is that, development entails both the physical

(societal) and a state of mind (psychological), and it is a transformation of the entire society at large.

The term national development like development is very comprehensive. It includes all aspects of the life of an individual and the nation. It is holistic in approach. It is a process of reconstruction and development in various dimensions of a nation and development of individuals. It entails full-growth and expansion of our industries, agriculture, and education, social, religious and cultural institutions. Moreover, national development implies development of a nation as a whole. It can be best defined as the all-round and balanced development of different aspects and facets of the nation viz. political, economic, social, cultural, scientific and material.



Source: The Author

In view of the above, national development is the total effect of all citizen forces and addition to the stock of physical, human resources, knowledge and skill. Also that national development is growth plus change. Change in turn is social and cultural as well as economic and qualitative as well as quantitative. Broadly, development of the nation encapsulates such parameters as:

- Development through a planned national economy;
- Increase in agricultural production through application of modern technical know-how;
- Harnessing industrial production;
- Development of human resources;
- Application of science and technology in production sector;
- Provision of mass education; and
- Provision of various facilities to meet the needs and aspirations of disadvantaged, deprived and poorest of the poor segments of population.

As aforementioned, to a nation, development is referred to as national development, and thus, is a broad range encompassing socio-economic and political advancement of a country. National development can be achieved through a whole lot of deliberate planning by nations. What then is national development? Precisely, it is a country's compendium of strategies

outlined by the government. While National Development Plans (NDPs) are major statements that outlined development strategies, policies, programmes and projects that are to be implemented over a medium term (six years). National development plans thus guide the broad development of the country, based on estimated revenues expected over the planned period versus the expenditure and manpower projects; which embraces all sectors of the economy.

As we have established, the foundation of this paper rests on national development which craves the improvement of the living standards of the citizenry through proper engagement of the principle of good governance and resource utility as key to the socio-economic growth and development that will in-turn addresses the well-being of the society. It is therefore, the quest to determine how good governance and resource utility perspective is appropriate to efficiently and effectively mobilize the political economy and, to transform them to national wealth by leaders of these nations to achieve the desirable socio-economic growth and development hence, national development. This paper will attempts to highlights some of the important features of democratic rule expected to be instituted in these nations in conformity with international best practices.

Appropriate Structural Polity Organization

It has been established that each country in the world is naturally blessed with human and material resources, it is therefore the goal of political leaders to transform these national resources into national wealth to raise the living standards of the citizenry through the development of all spheres of the economic – health, education, social infrastructure, trade and commerce, and human capital. The good governance and resource utility approach therefore presupposes that:

- Without a well-structured polity, no country will be able to efficiently and effectively utilize available natural resources.
- The level of polity organizational capacity of each political leadership or group of political leaders is equally proportionate to the level of achievable socio-economic growth and development within the limits of available resources.

This concept therefore recognizes appropriate structural polity organization as the first and foremost step in the quest of nations to engender economic growth and development and thus, the relevance of the sequence pyramid below:

Appropriate Structural Polity Organization



Efficient and Effective Resource Utility



Economic Growth and Development



Improved Standard of Living

This sequence pyramid provides the essentials indicated that a nation that is able to appropriately harnesses and organizes her polity will most likely be able to efficiently and effectively utilize available national resources to achieve economic growth, development and improved standard of living for the citizenry. Appropriate structural polity organization in this context begins with the ability of political leaders to appoint/ utilize the services of appropriate men/women (citizens) to handle strategic position entrusted towards the implementation/execution of the national development agenda (Juyeoba, 2011:17-18).

Good Governance

Good governance as a concept is the ability to apply public resources effectively to generate public good and benefit for the whole society. It borders on dedicated leadership, transparency and accountability, rule of law, mechanisms of participatory and dialoguing in policy formulation and implementation (Diamond, 2004:222). It requires international best practices that entails issues of democratic rule, economic diversification and democratization, corruption and respect for international order as the anchor of this paper. We shall therefore concentrate on the gains of these four pillars to drive home the discourse.

Democratic Rule

The central focus of this segment is to describe democracy as the rule of law, in which all individuals and groups in a country are willing and strictly adhere themselves to the rule of law (Elaigwu, 2011). Democratic rule is therefore a governance that is guided by a constitution which carefully defined the responsibilities amongst the three arms of government (executive, legislative and judiciary), relationship between the government and the citizens, the function/responsibilities of the people to the nation (Ibrahim, 2013:188).

This is that in democratic rule, no arm of government must infringe on the constitutional function of the others but serve as check on the actions of the others to ensure the sanctity of the rule of law (Otoabasi, 2003:50). There is also the provision for amicable legal settlement of disputes among the three arms of government, dispute between the government and the citizens and disputes among citizens.

However and importantly, a major feature of democratic rule is partisan politics. That is, interested members of the public (citizens) are expected to organize themselves into political

associations or parties whose underpinning factor is to seek the control of government at all levels (Appadorai, 2004:118; Agbaje, 2008:128; Salih, 2003:57).As constitutional provisions the number of political parties in this manner must be a minimum of two (multiparty system) so that citizens would have the choice to support any party or candidates that would serve them better, based on ideology and capacity to control the machinery of government for the common good of the society. Ake (1994:34) therefore subscribes that, the principle of democratic system should include wider spread of participation, consent of the governed and public accountability of those in power. It also acknowledges the rights of the citizens to dissent. It is characterized by social integration and so on.

Therefore, democratic system of governance has three important attributes, which are: competition for public offices by individuals or groups of individual periodically; popular political participation that guarantees civil and political freedom, which are both necessary for; integrity of political competition and participation (Dahl, 1995). This is that political leaders that recognizes these three ingredients of democratic processes and promote them would often be adjudged good managers of social system.

To facilitate the process of periodic mass or general election into various political positions, democracy makes provision for an electoral body in Nigeria INEC (Independent National Electoral Commission), for example does the following:

- Approve and register political parties;
- Ensure that all registered political parties put in place appropriate mechanism(internal democracy) to select candidates that will contest various political positions;
- Pursue a programme of action to enlighten and educate the citizenry on the need to actively participate in the election of credible leaders;
- Collaborate with other governmental agencies like the media, police, Civil Defense to ensure the conduct of election under a free and secure atmosphere.
- The commission must not be a bias umpire, without party affiliation nor sympathy for the ruling party;
- Above all, the Commission must respect and duly comply with the decision of election tribunal(s) and/or the appellate court (Osiagor, 2010:62).

In addition, free and fair periodic elections must be conducted by an independent electoral umpire to fill up political positions at all levels which in most countries include the central/federal government and the other tiers of government like regions/states, local council and counties. The aforementioned political arrangement is structured to ensure that there is harmony and peace in each polity so that government is devoid of acrimony and rancor. It is also to make decision making process democratic in nature by all stakeholders' participation, contribution and interests are taken into consideration (Ansah, 2007). It equally provides for peaceful resolution of conflict(s) within the polity through the appropriate court.
The essentials of democratic government is therefore political stability, supremacy of law, participatory democracy and harmonious relationships amongst the arms of government and between the citizenry and the government, so that available resources are maximally mobilized for national development.

Economic Diversification and Democratization

Every country in the world is endowed with human and material resources that successive governments always strive to utilize to enhance economic growth and development. In developed nations, a great deal of economic diversification has been achieved due to availability of huge capital and the needed technology which propels these nations to galvanize, employ and develop all the sectors of the economy. In fact, these countries have attained high level private participation in the development processes, giving way to production of quality finished goods and services for huge export earnings and making use of the economic gains of one or some sectors to develop other sectors of the economy. The greatest asset of the above is the development of human capital whose skills and knowledge are readily available to drive the wheel of industrial growth and economic development (Richard, 2008).

Conversely, there is a sharp contrast in the third world countries that tend to concentrate in the development of one sector of the economy. They have not been able to galvanize and employ available resources for remarkable improvement in the living standards of the citizenry. For instance, in Ivory Coast, it is the production of cocoa, in Rwanda, DRC, Sierra Leone, and Liberia, it has been diamond mining sector while in Nigeria the concentration is on oil and gas. As a result, many of the nations in this category, especially African nations depends largely on the export of agricultural produce in the form of raw materials which attract very low price and values in the global market. Truly, there is majorly lack of investment capital and appropriate technology to calibrate in the development of other sectors of the economy couples with the inability to fully development the human capital to acquire appropriate skills and knowledge for the application of technological expertise to galvanize economic development (Khor, 2005:14).

Besides, many of their citizens with skills are grossly under remunerate and therefore immigrate to foreign country for better greener pastures and improve in their living standards. Above all, privatization or commercialization pace is very slow for the private sector participation and collaboration in the development process and so many prospective investors, especially foreign direct investment (FDI) were been discouraged by most governments insensitivity to provide enabling environment under which commerce could strive. However, Ake (1985) on "why Africa is not developing" states that the answer to the question is in double fold. First that, slow rate of development has to do with African internal structures, where the state itself is likely to act as an impediment to development than as agency of economic and social transformation. This may be due to the fact, rather than creating congenial environment for the public interest, the state and resources under its control are for the rulers and their cronies. Second that, slow rate of development is a function of western development imperialistic strategies whose objective is to further integrate Africa's ruling elite into the international networks of wealthy privilege class, rather than to promote development and democracy at large. All these and more have been undermining the African continent.

On the whole, third world countries must boost their economies to attract inflow of foreign capital investment through robust collaboration between local and foreign entrepreneurs that

could transfer the appropriate technology to assist in the diversification of the various national economies. To stimulate these economies requires stable governance and enactment of favourable investment policies sure accelerate private participation in the development of infrastructures and catapult them into an enviable height and this will invariably assist in the technological development and breakthrough.

This can be mathematically expressed according to Jayeoba (2011:25-26) that:

$$\frac{QLD(EFRUT + FDI) + (IPS + VEO)SCEGT}{RCTZ} = DEV$$

- QLD – (Quality Leadership): This is obtained through democratically elected political leaders and the appointment of appropriate credible men and women to handle or head strategic position to actualize set development goals.
- EFRUIT – (Effective/Efficient Resource Utility): Employment of all the sector of the economy, that is total economic development including human capital development and also with a note on transparency and accountability.
- FDI – (Foreign Direct Investment): Facilitating the process of diffusion of foreign direct investment /foreign capital through the provision of enabling environment for active collaboration between local and foreign in addition to the enlistment of the support of development agencies.
- IPS – (Internal Peace and Security): Expected to be brought about by governments favourable and prompt disposition to all legitimate agitations, including, respect for human rights and privileges of the minority and also, instituting good relations with other sovereign nations, especially neighbouring states.
- VEO – (Viable Economic Opportunity): Giving the citizenry the deserved access to viable economic climate with high capacity and capability to partake in the economic process of production and distribution, as well as the provision of employment opportunities, raise standards of living of the citizenry etc.
- SCEGT – (Social Economic Growth): Which comes into being with rapid production of goods and services, leading to improved gross domestic production (GDP), thereby creating national wealth to cater for infrastructural/socio- economic needs of the nation.
- DEV – (Development): It comes into force by effective/efficient usage of the economic dividends (wealth) obtained from both the domestic and foreign earnings to positively improve the standards of living of the citizenry.
- RCTZ – (Responsible Citizenry): Fully cooperate with the government, with attendant respect for the constitution and constituted authority.

Corruption

Globally, corruption is seen as a public evil and the bane of development, especially in the third world countries. In that regard, there has been global intensification of efforts to encourage transparency, accountability and probity in public life, especially so as to fight for a more transparent world, ensures the utilization of public resource for the common good of the society. The pervasiveness and widening dimensions of corruption tends to suggest that is the most veritable means of accumulating private wealth (Ogbeide & Imuetinyan, 2017:48).

It is also common knowledge that, it has become like a plaque which has eaten deep into the system, in the third world countries. This is because the levels of perceived corruption indexes are high in most nations of the world. There is therefore to state that corruption and corrupt practices exist in nearly all countries of the globe with many officials becoming largely wealthy at the expense of the public for which they are expected to serve.

In most cases, corruption increases poverty and under development, limits freedom and undermines human rights. Many ruling elite gags the media and individuals from exposing corruption in public places to the extent that journalists, crime investigators, public prosecutors and other concerned citizens, have lost their jobs, incarcerated, imprisoned or killed by agents who are either collaborators or loyal to the government. As purveyors of good governance, Governments of developed nations in particular, continue to castigate the perceived high level of corruption in the third world countries, their transparency and accountability responses has been made a necessary pre – condition for further economic assistance to these countries. For instance, the Bretton Woods Institutes of IMF, World Bank and other international financial agencies like the London Club, Paris Club etc. prefer to put in place stringent mechanism to supervise and control the utilization of credits the governments of these countries may draw from them to be efficiently use for socio – economic development and prevent misappropriation.

In the same vein, Governments of the so-called third world countries have been crying out loud also identified the developed nation's bane to their developmental issues as the destination for stolen money. They accused that governments in these nations have not done enough to assist in arresting and prosecuting individuals and institutions who engages in money laundering activities (Ifamose, 2008:83). Perhaps for these loud cries or protests registered by the third world nations and others the United Nations establishes the new United Nations convention against corrupt practices as embedded in Article I of the convention.

The summary of it is that proper management of public fund and property, will definitely discourage public corruption. This will therefore pave the way for appropriate channelization of public resources towards sustainable development. Many African countries could be seen to have acted accordingly to discourage corruption in public life. For example, in Nigeria both the serving and past government officials and others have been prosecuted and punished for corrupt practices and in most cases, confiscated stolen property, as well as seek cooperation with the governments and foreign financial houses of the West to recover stolen money stacked in foreign accounts. In Nigeria, the late General Ibrahim Sani Abacha's loots that were stacked in United States of America and Swiss Bank (Odunuga, 1999:227) are being returned to the Nigerian government recently.

Respect for International Peace and Order

Unarguably, the global system consist of numerous sovereign nation states with each country being administered by a political leader according to dictates of national constitutional provisions or best practices. These *defacto or dejure* governments are expected to adhere and maintain global instruments of peace and order communicated by world body (UNO), its agencies, as well as regional organizations like African Union, European Union and others, in

order that the world will be a free and safer place to live and to uplift the living standards of the human race. This is essentially to create the enablement for the universal development of all spheres of human endeavour through international cooperation.

The United Nations therefore recognizes in chapter nine(ix) of the Charter, the organization amply provided for international economic and social cooperation as a way of ameliorating any harsh economic condition among nations and peoples. Hence the provision that:

> With a view to the creation of condition of stability and well-being which are necessary for peace and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self- determination of peoples, the United Nations shall promote (a) higher standard of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development; (b) solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems; and international cultural and educations cooperation; and (c) universal respect for, and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion (Agwu, 2013:89)

This is the basis for which the above could be linked to the myriads of attempts by the UNO to encourage nations in the international arena to achieve, especially the millennium development goals (MDG'S) as highlighted below:

- The eradication of extreme poverty and hunger;
- The achievement of universal primary education;
- The promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women;
- The improvement of maternal health;
- The reduction of child mortality rate;
- The combating of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases;
- The ensuring of environmental sustainability; and
- The development of global partnership for development (Agwu, 2013:91)

Taken together, the eight items UN millennium development goals reveal the necessity for good governance and global cooperation for sustainable development in order to improve the living standards through socio-economic enhancement of the human race. This is to stress the fact that many third world countries' especially African nations cannot be said to exhibit many of the aforementioned characteristics of international declarations as there has been prevalence of abuse of human rights. However, China and Iraq are also constantly been accused of abuse of human rights and disrespect for human dignity.

Concluding Remarks

It has been established that the fundamental goal of governments all over the world is to efficiently and effectively galvanize available resources for the socio-economic development that ensures the transformation of the quality of living standards of the citizenry. While a great deal of good governance has been achieved by developed economies the third world countries are still wallowing in distress. This basically accounted for the differential quality of lives in the developed and developing countries. The paper however highlights the ingredients for

development to be achieved by third world countries such as political stability, democratic rule, separation of power, fundamental human rights, public probity and accountability, popular political participation, transparency and amicable resolution of conflicts, which are the basic elements of socio-economic growth and development of nations (Sen, 1990).

Also that a zero-sum tolerance for corruption can turn around economic growth and development with efficient utilization of national resources to achieve economic diversification to tackle problems of insignificant global trade, inequality in income distribution, hunger and starvation, unemployment and underemployment; that breeds poverty and leading to capital flight of skilled manpower in the third world countries. It is therefore to stress the importance of good governance and resource utility as veritable instruments to transform economies of the third world nations for the desirable improvement of living standards of the citizenry is a necessity.

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