# Innovations

# Navigating the Gaps in Leadership and Governance in Nigeria Nascent Democracy: An Appraisal of its Bane for National Peace, Security and Sustainable Development

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**Abstract**

*Leadership and Governance refer to the ability to provide direction for others to follow in order to achieve stated goals. It is the combination of individual and institutional leadership needed to achieve sustainable development at the local, national and international levels. Premised on this background, this paper is set to discuss the conceptual meaning of leadership, governance, democratic governance and sustainable development. The study specifically focused on the impacts and relevance of effective leadership and good governance under democratic administrations and how this can be a commendable and veritable tool for sustainable development in Nigeria. In addition, the study aims at establishing the nexus between leadership, democratic governance and sustainable development. Furthermore, the study also aims at studying the challenges facing sustainable development, governance and leadership in Nigeria's Fourth Republic. The data for this study were collected through primary and secondary sources. The Democratic Governance theory, Separation of Powers Theory and Theory of Consent by John Locke were used to illuminate the study. The findings of the study revealed a great disparity between the leadership styles and model of governance and level of sustainable development achievement and attainment in Nigeria. The study concludes that Government at all levels in Nigeria must brace up and inculcate various modern approaches, like the transformational leadership approach which integrate participation, creativity and vision. This will assist to navigate and enhance new and sustainable socio-economic and political development and advancement in this 21st century.  To this end, nurturing democratic governance in Nigeria will no doubt lead to sustainable democratic development that will benefit the current generation and lay the foundation for future generation.*

*Keywords: Leadership, Governance, Democratic, Dispensation, Sustainable and Development*

**Introduction**

The issue of good governance and effective leadership is at the heart of government legitimacy and societal survival which are essential for the promotion of sustainable development. The basic expectation of the citizens in terms of general welfare of its citizens, combating economic and social imbalances in Nigeria is fast declining. The fundamental function of every leader is to ensure the delivery of the expected dividends through the various machineries of governance established by law, the basic needs of the citizens may be elusive (Ayodeji, 2021). Conversely, it has been observed that Nigerian experience with democratic era in the fourth republic is burdened with unbearable difficulties possibly due to the fact that people have spent the most of twenty-two years of democratic governance under various administrations which the nation's resources were squandered, the country growth stunted and many of our aspirations as a people frustrated.

Leadership can be seen as the ability of an individual or a group of individuals to influence and guide followers or other members of an organization. Leadership involves making decisions, creating and articulating a clear vision, establishing achievable goals and providing followers with the knowledge and tools necessary to achieve those goals. Governance is the way rules, norms and actions are structured, sustained and regulated. A good governance is an approach to government that is committed to creating a system founded on justice and peace that promotes individuals human rights and civil liberties. As a corollary, good governance, effective leadership vis-à-vis sustainable development appears to serve as an evaluation criterion for measuring the effectiveness of governmental institution; especially in the context of the basic features of true and egalitarian society, equality of citizens and economic growth and development, uninterrupted political system among others (Ayodeji, 2021).

According to Saldomando (2008), democratic governance is the way in which compatibility between the state and the capitalist accumulation regime has been achieved in order to reproduce the social order, to channel the plurality of interests, the reactions against change and conflict management. Good governance, according to the UNDP and the World Bank (2017), is to be understood as "participation, transparency and accountability, and an emphasis on process." It also encompasses elements such as equity and effectiveness and the rule of law. Habitat (2020) further defines good governance according to the following three principles: "decentralizing responsibilities and resources to local authorities; encouraging the participation of civil society; and using partnerships to achieve common objectives."

Accordingly, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) refer to Good Governance as the exercise of political power to promote the public good or the welfare of the people. Ndulo (2016) argues that good governance entails first and foremost a government that lives up to its responsibilities of law and order and the administration of justice. Babawale (2016) further cited Nwabueze (2002) to have averred that, public goods embrace within its ambit, the norms or values of free, just, ordered and law governed society as well as those of happiness and the good life. From the foregoing, we can state that good governance is separable from democratic process and that it entails welfare or economic satisfaction of the people. Probably, good governance is perhaps the single most important factor of development (Manning, 2016). Good governance and effective leadership are principles whose application is essential to a country achieving genuine sustainable development. Good governance brings along respect of human rights, the rule of law, effective people's participation in development and judicial redress of infraction.

However, Sustainable Development is the development that is conducted without depletion of natural resources. It is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own. The concept of a sustainable development has been around for decades. In 1981, Lester Brown, defined it as "one that is able to satisfy its needs without diminishing the chances of future generations." Over the years, this concept has evolved to encompass a broad range of

social, economic and environment issues. Sustainable development persists over generations, and it's prudent and perceptive not to undermine either its physical and social development. It is a way of organizing society so that it can exist in the long-term. This means taking into account both the imperatives of the present and that of the future such as social and economic equity. Thus, sustainable development is postulated as communities, towns and cities that have taken steps to remain developed, meeting basic human needs, economic stability and healthy living over a long period of time. Accordingly, sustainable development supports the acquisition of basic needs with the extensive opportunity to aspire satisfactorily to a better life in the present and the future for economic sustainability.

From the forgoing, the objective of this paper is therefore to examine the nexus between leadership, democratic governance and sustainable development; to examine the impacts and relevance of effective leadership and good governance in enhancing democratic administrations in Nigeria; to access the various ways which effective leadership and good governance can be used to facilitate and enhance sustainable development in Nigeria; and to investigate challenges confronting sustainable development and governance in Nigeria Fourth Republic

## Literature Review
### Conceptual Clarifications
### Leadership

Leadership can simply be understood as the ability to provide direction for others to follow in order to achieve stated goals. That is, influencing the actions of others in ways that demonstrate qualities or traits, which motivate and encourage people to support and contribute to the achievement of stated goals. Although leadership traits or qualities are often identifiable in individuals, institutions, whether public or private can also provide leadership through their everyday practices (Adair, 2002). It is the combination of individual and institutional leadership that is needed to achieve sustainable development at the local, national and international levels.

According to John Sculley, leadership revolves around vision, ideas, direction, and has more to do with inspiring people as to direction and goals than with day-to-day implementation. A leader must be able to leverage more than his capabilities. Obasanjo (2012) cited Batten (1989) opined that leadership is a development of a clear and complete system of expectations in order to identify, evoke and use the strengths of all resources in the organization; the most important of which is people.

### Good Governance

Good governance characterizes with issues of performance in the management of the country's political, economic and social resources in order to enhance human progress, social well-being and sustainable development and to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of development programmes. According to Okafor and Eloagu (2012), good governance is an open system with inputs and outputs form its internal and external environment. Changes in the world's economic, political and social systems have brought unprecedented demands for good governance in both developed and developing countries. Good governance is the pivot around which other factors of development revolve, particularly as development is no longer measured solely by per capital income. Other indices of human development include equity in the development of the citizenry (both men and women), co-operation among identifiable groups, security and sustainability, particularly for the younger generation.

Good governance ensures that political, social and economic choices and decisions are made on the basis of broad consensus in the society through elected representatives (Akindele, 2013). Good governance among other things should be participatory, transparent, equitable and accountable. It enhanced high-level institutional effectiveness and economic growth. It have to ensures co-operation between the

political class and the administrative class for the delivery of high quality services needed for sustainable development and growth. Good governance presumes the primacy of laws and due process, the independence of the judiciary, freedom of the press, the separation of powers as between the executive and the legislative and political accountability (Ikotun, 2010).

Accordingly, Balogun (2009) outlines the following factors as critical for the birth and sustenance of good governance which include; open and dynamic policy making, need for managerial adaptability, public service restructuring, new service ethics, self-reliant private sectors, political will, a people oriented leadership, and a developed human capital.

### Democratic Governance

Democratic governance is a system of government where institutions function according to democratic processes and norms, both internally and in their interaction with other institutions. It involves the inclusion of political pluralism, institutional accountability and responsiveness, an active civil society, human rights, the rule of law, and democratic elections (OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights). Democratic governance engage citizens on decision making and it ensures that the fundamental principle of democracy is delivered for all in the society. Democratic governance is characterized by transparency and accountability in both the public and privates sectors (Center for International Private Enterprise, 2021).

Democratic governance is the way in which compatibility between the state and the capitalist accumulation regime has been achieved in order to reproduce the social order, to channel the plurality of interests, the reactions against change and conflict management (Saldomando, 2018).

### Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is an organizing principle for human life on a finite planet. It persist the desirable future state for human societies in which living conditions and resources meet human needs without undermining the sustainability of natural systems and the environment, so that future generations may also have their needs met. Sustainable development ties together concern for the carrying capacity of systems with the social, political, and economic challenges faced by humanity. Sustainable development is a process of attaining growth without compromising the needs of future generation.

The term sustainable development rose to significance after it as used by the Brundtland commission in its 1987 report "our common future". The United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development (2015) defines sustainable development "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Under the principle of the United Nations charter "the Millennium Declaration" identified principle and treaties on sustainable development, including economic, social and environmental development and protection.

Development is sustainable if in the process of attaining it, the needs of future generations are not compromised. In other words, development should take into account the issue of inter generational equity. Specifically, the sustainable development approach is based open the premise that if economic are properly managed both in growth and development can occur within a set of bounds established by the need of maintain in existing resources at a minimum critical level (Orubu, 2008).

### Nigeria Democratic Process and Sustainable Development in the Fourth Republic

Toward the end of the last century, Africa like the rest of the world witnessed the third wave of democratization when authoritarian regime and one party government were replaced or supplanted by elected civilian governments or administrations. Nigeria described by Ette (2013) as one of the

strongholds of dictatorship in the continent was caught in the snowballing effect of the wave after twenty-nine years of military of Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida and Sani Abacha, democracy formally gained root in the country on 29 May, 1999. Nigerians were full of hopes and expectations that hard earned democracy will usher in improvements in standards of living, good governance, and improvement in security and wellbeing.

Subsequently, twenty-two years after the inception of the present democratic dispensation, the political landscape is yet to show clear evidence of good governance. Elections and electoral processes are subverted; there have been credible reports of political violence and killing in many parts of the country; upsurge in ethnic militia groups who make life unbearable for the citizenry; general insecurity and high profile terrorism in the northern part of the country as well as kidnapping and bunkering of the petroleum pipeline in the southern part of the country (Mohammed, 2013).

According to United Nations Development Programme (2009), in Nigeria, hunger exhibits its ugly face in most homes where the average citizens contends with a life of abject poverty. Thus, the average Nigerian is alienated from themselves as they lack the wherewithal to afford the basic necessities of life such as education, infrastructure, health facilities, water, food and so on. According to Ogbonnaya, et al (2012), about 70% of Nigeria population are poor. The consequence of this is that the poor masses are easily brainwashed and their right of choice terribly manipulated making an objective choice of leaders almost impossible. Beside, various forms of inducements and gratification which provide temporary relief from the scourge of poverty are given central attention in making democratic choice. Poverty has also been identified by some scholars as one of the impediments to attainment of sustainable development in Nigeria (Awoyemi, 2012; Harrington, 2012).

### The Nexus between Leadership, Democratic Governance and Sustainable National Development

Development should be understood as a multi-dimensional concept with several inter-locking aspects. Although Randall and Theobald (1985) have argued that the distinction between leadership, governance and sustainable development is difficult to justify, however, in the context of Nigeria, the distinction between leadership, governance and sustainable development (social and economic development) are important. Sustainable economic development refers to industrialization and the development of modern technology and productive structure that would sustain that technology. Sustainable economic development is measured by such indicators as Growth of National Product (GNP), per capita caloric consumption, and the percentage of the work force in secondary economic pursuits (production or manufacturing) or tertiary economic pursuits (service or informational), as opposed to primary economic pursuits. Social sustainable development refers to the development of a social context that would be capable of sustaining and supporting a modern economy and technology (Deutsch, 1961). Thus, the link between leadership, democratic governance and sustainable development lies in the democratisation of the state and the foregoing of national cohesion, good governance and therefore, national development. The pivotal role of leadership and democratic governance in development is to be seen in the ways in which the latter strengthens the state, transforming it from the exclusive property of the elite to that of the citizens as a whole and thereby conferring it with legitimacy to play the directive, regulatory and (re) distributive roles expected of it in the process of development.

### Leadership, Good Governance and Socio-Economic and Political Development in Nigeria

In the area of social development, Nigerians are participating in community matters and issues of daily life, for example through involvement in community projects, self-help groups or charity initiatives. Other popular examples of social participation can be found in the diversity of social groups and activities such as religious groups and churches, sports clubs, traditional and cultural activities and events etc. Through their jobs and income-generating activities people also participate in the economic development. By producing, offering and purchasing goods people become participants in the market. Other examples of

organised participation in the economic sphere are savings clubs and cooperatives, among others (Grigsby, 2015).

In the aspect of political development in Nigeria, people in a democratic system have opportunities to participate through different mechanisms, from the local to the national level. The most common form of political participation in a democracy is voting in elections. Apart from voting for other candidates people can, of course, also become candidates themselves and run for public office. Forms of political participation beyond elections include referenda and consultations by leaders (for example through community meetings) (Harrington, 2012).

### Theoretical Framework

This aspect of the study discusses the theory that forms the framework with which the research works is built. For the purpose of this study, the theories used are Democratic Governance theory, Separation of Power Theory and Theory of Content by John Locke.

*Democratic Governance Theory:* Democratic Governance is in fact an umbrella theory. A wide range of theories exists in the area of urban policy, where the content of governance varies enormously between one theory and the other. "A Governance with possibilities of participation and influence for all social actors although in unequal conditions", governance as instrumentalization of society in function of dominant interest represented in the state. The theory of democratic governance has been related to the democratic local level governance, democratic decentralization processes and democracy. The democratic governance focused on three principles namely; democratic spirit, democratic systems and democratic states.

a) Democratic spirit hinges entirely on convergence of people's free will and sense of responsibility. Given the principle of majority rule while respecting individual and minority rights, a democratic government is required to do its utmost to protect the fundamental rights of individuals. The exercise of all democratic rights by the people reflects the institutionalization of their free will. Governments, in accordance with principles of rule of law, must provide equal and transparent legal protection of people's free will and accord effective due process when judicial relief is in order. At the same time, people should also be obligated to participate in democratic political process as part of their civil responsibilities matching their rights.

b) Democratic systems, a democratic system provides for supremacy of people's power beyond legislature and the government. Government exercises its power through representatives directly elected by all citizens or through parliamentary elections, whereby citizens also fulfill their civil responsibility. Under a democratic system, free and fair elections with participation by all citizens are held regularly, which are truly competitive processes for electoral support, rather than a cosmetic exercise by regimes of dictatorship or one-party system.

c) Democratic states, without exception, attach importance to the balance of power in dynamic relations between government powers and civil rights. Under democratic government, there is appropriate decentralization is open and responsive to the people and their demands to the greatest possible extent In safeguarding civil rights, democratic governments respect the people, who have empowered them, and protect their basic human rights including freedom of speech and religious belief, equality before the law, free association and full participation in political, economic and cultural activities in the society, through systematic and institutionalized mechanisms.

*Separation of Powers Theory:* The theory of separation of powers was propounded by Charles Montesquieu in 1747. The theory is built on the doctrine which tries to bring exclusiveness in the functioning of the three organs and hence a strict demarcation of power is the aim sought to be achieved by this principle. This doctrine signifies the fact that one institution or body of persons should not exercise all the three powers of the government. By application, it is widely accepted that for a

sustainable development to be attained and enhanced, the holders of power need to be balanced off against each other and checkmated each other. The principle of separation of powers deals with the mutual relations among the organs of the government, namely legislature, executive and judiciary.  In Nigeria, for better leadership and good governance to be enhanced, there must be clear-cut division of power between the three organs of the state which will further strengthen development at all levels.

*Theory of Consent:* The theory was propounded by John Locke's in the 16th century. The theory is built on the societies and government. The societies are set up on the basis of social contract (contact for the establishment of the society, and; contract for the establishment of government). After society is setup, government is created not by contact but by a trust involving on one hand, the citizens who are both the trustors and beneficiaries and the legislator which serves as the trustee. The theory established the fact that the people have rights, and governments have obligations. The trustee (leaders) is almost a servant to the trustor and beneficiary (citizens).  Government exist by the consent of the people in order to protect the rights of the people and promote the public good. Locke's central idea of government resting on the consent of the citizens is very significant and valuable. A government can continue to rule a people if and only if it pays heed to their wishes. This means that power derives from the citizens. This idea has really helped the development of good governance and effective leadership in the modern political society. The government were put in power because the citizen's consent and the expectations of the people are for the government to bring reverberated growth and developed the society. For effective leadership and good governance to be established in Nigeria, the seventeenth (17) global goals for sustainable development must be achieved by the Nigeria government.

**Methodology**

The study utilized mixed methods research design which comprises qualitative and quantitative research approaches. In the context of this study, qualitative method involved the use of Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), Focus-Group Discussions (FGDs) and Direct Observations (OBs) while quantitative method involving the use of questionnaire. The combination of qualitative and quantitative methods in this study helps in understudying and examining Leadership and Governance in Nigeria Democratic Era as Veritable Tool for Sustainable Development in the 21st Century

## Findings and Discussion

### Findings of Objective 1

**The Nexus between Leadership, Democratic Governance and Sustainable Development**

There are indication from the data gathered that there are interconnection between leadership, governance and sustainable development is that there can be no development without effective leadership and good governance especially in the socio-economic and political, infrastructure of the state and society. Achieving sustainable development depends on leadership and governance. Once the leadership is good and effective, responsible governance is guaranteed. Where these two are in place naturally, there will be sustainable development.

The primary function of an enlightened representative government is to consolidate and spread the gains of democracy to be citizens. Democracy has been defined as the government of the people, for the people and by the people. This depends on equitable, just and egalitarian society where every section functions to complement the efforts of one another in a liberal democratic state, a social environment where the role of the civil society is well established, the role of the judiciary is well entrenched and each organization functioning in line with the provision of the constitution. When every arm of government performs its functions according to the laid down rules, it is said to bear the feature of good governance,

when the dividends and promises made before and during election are fulfilled for the electorate, the governance is said to be good.

As already emphasized in this paper, the idea of good governance is a gradual but consistent and unfailing drive towards transparency, accountability, recourse to the rule of law and best practice; the end result of effective leadership and transparent government is good governance which will lead to sustainable development. Sustainable development means an attempt to improve the conditions of human existence in all ramifications. It implies improvement in material well-being of all citizens, not the powerful and rich alone, in such a way 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 removed or drastically reduced.

Sustainable development could further involve the economic growth, provision of health care, education, housing and other essential services all with a view to improving the individual and collective quality of life. Sustainable development as a process of societal advancement, where improvement in the well being of people are generated through strong partnerships between all sectors, corporate bodies and other groups in the society. Sustainable development is critical and essential to the sustenance and growth of any nation. A country is classified as developed when she is able to provide qualitative life for her citizenry. Sustainable development is that which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

**Findings of Objective 2**

The Impact and Relevance of Effective Leadership and Good Governance in enhancing Sustainable Development and Democratic Administrations in Nigeria

As observed, Nigerian leaders in the fourth republic have introduced various policies and programmes in enhancing the development and advancement of the citizens economically, politically and socially. Leaders at various time have been ensuring promotion of national integration and cohesion; peace and security; fostering national unity in diversity; promotion of socio-economic life of the citizens; enhancing good governance in a democratic setting by conducting periodic national elections and so on. The federal government of Nigeria has introduced various socio-economic development programmes and political reforms at various times. These include National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) such as (Npower programmes, Tradermoni, Marketmoni, Farmermoni etc), youth employment and social support system.

Based on report of United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the social dislocation and refugee crisis arising from conflict in the North-East have left Borno State alone with 240, 000 displaced persons, over 500, 000 people have been displaced in the North central due to crimes and criminalities associated with banditry and farmers/herders conflicts. The Nigeria ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Social Development and Disaster Management through the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and IDPs (NCFRMI) have made reasonable efforts to resettle and reorganize the affected victims with relief materials such as shelter, food aid, health service and education.

Currently, the National Social Register of Poor and Vulnerable Nigerians (NSR) has 32.6million persons from the 7 million poor and vulnerable households, identified across 708 local government areas, 8, 723wards and 86, 610 communities across the 36 States of the country and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). From this number, 1.6million poor and vulnerable households (comprising more than 8 million individuals, in 45, 744 communities from 5, 483 Wards of 557 LGAs in 35 States and the FCT have benefitted from the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) Programs of the Federal Government of Nigeria (Premium Times Newspaper, 2021). This probably shows that the government is working towards reduction of obscene poverty from the country.

Furthermore, the Federal Government of Nigeria initiated Alternate School Programme (ASP) in order to ensure that every out-of-school child in Nigeria gains access to quality basic education, irrespective of social, cultural or economic circumstance, in line with the aspirations of Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG-4). To this end, there has been noticeable reduction in number of out-of-school children, by 3,247, 590, as at end of year 2020.

From the data gathered, the Nigerian government is still lagging behind in implementing and executing various goals of sustainable development in the area of Protection from slavery, servitude and forced labour, Equality and freedom from discrimination, Protection of the right to life, Protection of personal liberty, Respect for human dignity and protection from inhuman treatment, Protection from deprivation of property, Right to privacy of person and other property, Protection of freedom of conscience, expression, movement, religion, assembly and association, Right to education,  Rights of women,  Rights of children, Rights of persons with disabilities, Protection of minorities,   Right to a clean and healthy environment, Right of access to information, Right to just and fair treatment in administrative decisions

## Findings of Objective 3

**Challenges Confronting Leadership, Good Governance and Sustainable Development in Nigeria**

In the face of the series of national development plans in Nigeria Fourth Republic, there still exist huge development gaps that have reached levels that can be appropriately dubbed problematic. In spite of several years of democratic governance in Nigeria, the country failed to produce the supposed much sought-after dividends of democracy.

In Nigeria, the challenges of confronting the achievement or attainment of sustainable development are complicated and complex.  The major challenge may not just be bad leadership at all level of government. Good governance is more talked about or debated and celebrated than practiced. Nigeria leaders have spent considerable time preaching about the need for, and benefits of good governance, but nearly at no time initiating real changes to improve governance. Nigerian leaders have woefully failed to transform the catchphrase of good governance into reality which could have enhanced sustainable development. It's obvious that challenges of good governance and sustainable development in Nigeria are frightening and higher than at any time before, because the forces that drive bad governance and leadership remain persistent and pervasive, while the hope for a better Nigeria, at sustainable development pace remain elusive.  The major challenges' facing sustainable development and governance in Nigeria in the fourth republic includes the following;

a.  Superficial approach to social, economic and infrastructural development, particularly in the areas of education, health, water and sanitation, road, power, housing, transportation, telecommunications and creation of jobs for teeming youths;

b.  Planning relies basically on data: One of the major challenges of sustainable development and governance in Nigeria has been the inadequacy of statistical data concerning all aspect of the economy. Accurate data is a very scarce commodity in Nigeria due to problems arising from the inadequacies of the Federal Office of Statistics and the outright manipulation of data for pecuniary gains.

c.  Another major reason why sustainable governance and development have failed in Nigeria is pervasive corruption. Corruption in Nigeria has been institutionalized and catapulted raised to the level of a structural parameter, thus it has become part of the value system of the society

d.  Youth Unemployment: The unemployment situation has played into the violence in the north, rising armed robbery and kidnappings all over the country. Youth unemployment threatens to further worsen the problems of crime.

e.  Pitiable social service delivery, inequitable and non-transparent utilization of natural resources, and weak management of economic institutions

f.  Failure to grant autonomy for the judiciary and local government administration in Nigeria;
g.  Lack of effective institutionalization of local governance processes and systems;
h.  Lack of accountable, transparent and responsive institutions of all the arms of government; the judiciary, legislature, the executive, the media and electoral system;
i.  Poor conflict management and resolution approach, focusing attention on relief rather than prevention;
j.  Dislodgement and castration of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholder's participation in the important affairs of state, including advice.
k.  Inability to ensure and enhance human rights and the rule of law
l.  Major societal contradictions in philosophy, lifestyle and cultural beliefs that must be resolved if policies and new initiatives are to succeed in Nigeria.

**Conclusion**

There is a general impression among Nigerians that effective leadership has not really transformed into good governance and enhanced sustainable development. There are urgent need for improvements and enhancement of quality of lives to the populace, zero tolerance for citizens, drastic reduction of poverty and hunger level, creation and development of the non-material or qualitative condition of human existence.

Nigeria government's insensitivity to the needs and welfare of the populace stem from ineffective and unresponsive leadership that can transmit democratic values to citizens, hence, to ensure good governance and sustainable development, Nigerians expect their leaders to confront unequivocally and tenaciously, the evils of corruption, human rights abuses and poor living conditions of the people.

The Nigeria state is currently beset with a myriad of security, economic, environmental, infrastructural and social challenges. Amongst these, the violence, banditry and insurgency in the north must be resolved as soon as possible in order for normalcy to return to the region. The increasing cases of armed robbery and kidnapping have also risen sharply and should be considered urgent enough to require adequate attention by the security apparatus. Peace and security requires effective and efficient leadership. Without adequate mechanisms to restore peace, the country risks losing more lives and property and in particular the goal of sustainable development will be out of reach.

Therefore, repeating endlessly the virtues of good governance does nothing to reassure people who bear the consequences of leadership failures. Good governance is no longer an aspirational ideal; it must be displayed and reflected in the policies, programmes and activities of leaders. Good governance entails dramatic and holistic changes in the way Nigerian leaders govern their country. To entrench sustainable development, leaders must act and govern in a manner that will transform citizen's lives positively and must govern responsibly and honestly, respect their rights and freedoms and allow institutions and processes that strengthen good governance to function as intended.

Moreover, government commitment to good governance and sustainable development is not only its capacity to provide immediate needs, but to create and sustain an atmosphere where socio-economic development can strive, although the government has initiated programmes and strategies, more still needs to be done if Nigeria is to be on the part of sustainable development.

In order to ensure sustainable development in Nigeria, there must be transparency, efficiency on the rule of law, protection of fundamental human rights of the citizens, improvement on gender issues, free and fair election, citizens based economic policies, infrastructural development, promotion of inclusive and sustainable industrialization, constitution review, devolution of more power and functions to state governments and the local government administration must be strengthen.

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