

Nigeria's development process, methodology and milestones planned for VISION 20:2020 - 13 years after

Good governance and a capable state

**Abanikannda M.O.¹, Adekomi D.A.²*

Abstract

Since after independence in Nigeria in 1960, the country has been fighting for good governance and a capable state in terms of economic and socioeconomic. The Nigeria development programs have been implemented to achieve the objectives. In 2009, the government of Nigeria embarked upon vision 2020, the ambition to position Nigeria to become one of the top 20 economic in the world national development by 2020 by linking the objective of the National Economic and Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS) and the seven-point agenda. However, there are certain questions that need to be asked such as; how much the vision 2020 myth is becoming reality; how has Nigeria performed in terms of good governance and a capable state as far as vision 2020 is concerned.

Keywords: government of Nigeria, good governance, vision 2020, national development, ambition and capable state.

*Corresponding author

Abanikannda M.O.

ORCID-NO: <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-5599-9577>

Email: mo.abanikannda@uniosun.edu.ng

¹Department of Science Technology and Mathematics Education, Faculty of Education, Osun State University, Osogbo, Nigeria.

²Department of Anatomy, College of Health Sciences, Osun State University, Osogbo, Nigeria.

Received: May 31, 2019

Accepted: December 27, 2020

Published: June 30, 2021

Research Journal of Health Sciences subscribed to terms and conditions of Open Access publication. Articles are distributed under the terms of Creative Commons Licence (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0). (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0>).

<http://dx.doi.org/10.4314/rejhs.v9i2.6>

INTRODUCTION

The demand for good governance has been the major desire of every lettered and unlettered inhabitant of every territories of a nation across the earth. To a greater extent, its operation is believed to bring about impartial fairness, objectivity, and fair allocation and disbursement of the 'national-cake' to everyone, consequently, every resident assumes the government is liable to the mandate. Taking into awareness the peculiarities of each country, there are diverse point of view to measure or gauge good governance.

The concept of good governance has become a popular catch phrase which politicians and administrator in Nigeria easily deploy to draw upon support base from the generality of the people. The concept is suggested to be a means to development through good representation and governance which has been evasive in much of post-independence history of Nigeria and in particular the forty republics. While governance have been effectively deployed elsewhere as it were in Tanzania currently under president John Magufuli owing to the type of leadership he represents in terms of prudent resources management accountability and responsiveness, the same cannot be said of Nigeria. In an ideal situation, a capable state guarantees good governance, which can be understood as responsibility, productivity, and clarity in utilizing meager or scanty resources. A capable state is guided by aggregate of esteemed democratic elements and series of operational actions committed to the rule of law and the proper safeguard of human rights.

The Vision 2020 is a careful thought and consideration of the aspiration and determination many nationalities of many countries in Africa, to build a democratically united and comprehensive identity for Nigerians, after so many years of socio-economical turmoil and unrest. One of the bases for creating Vision 2020 is to greatly change Nigeria into a country flourishing, considerably educated, and generally more successful. With the Vision 2020, the Nigeria desired is one that is effectively united and both regionally and globally capable of competing successfully. Nigeria as a country is committed to being a capable state; it is characterized by the rule of law that assists, safeguard, defend, guard and fend for all its inhabitants without prejudice and partiality. The state is devoted to the moral and legal entitlement, unity, well-being, happiness, and prosperity of her people and will also ensure the unification of the nation, its safety,

and protection.

Leadership problems, weak institutions pervasive corruption, ethnic and regional base loyalty and interest, and a general amoral public sphere have all colluded to prevent efficient governance and by extension rapid development upon which Odione (1) defined Nigerian political state as a bizarre. Nigerian state is like a diabetic's patient whose excess sugar in its blood stream serves no purpose Ameh (2). A detailed understanding of Nigeria and its socio-economical networks, set on good governance and a productive and capable state is considered the least possible prerequisite to quicken an appropriately combined development of other fundamental factors

Successive regime and Nigeria leaders merely pay lip service to the twin concepts of good governance and development. They only month ideas to gain access to political power and public offices after which they invariably become either too lethargic to walk the talk or are swallowed or arrested by what was now become known as the "system". The system is a euphemism for dysfunctional state of affairs of Nigeria's public institutions and the public domain which have been perverted by plebendalism. The consequence of this poor attitude to governance is fairly well-know. It includes mass poverty, economic stagnation, political instability, corruption, unemployment, insurgency and terrorism, social unrest and conflict, abuse of power and the principle of the rule of law, all of which reinforces one another. Mass poverty and wide gap between the few rich and the large poor has been the result of a state with massive potentials but which has ironically experienced a steady decline since oil windfall peaked more than three decades ago. The slow and disarticulated growth in concert with rising population and mass unemployment has deposited dramatic increases in the poverty levels of Nigeria state thereby causing social and political instability.

Indeed, flagging growth, rising poverty and deep rooted economic inequality constitute a direct cause of social instability whether ethnic conflicts, religious bigot, or separatist agitation or agenda in Nigeria, the cause can be completely put down to economic decline. The resurfaced and persistent herdsmen/Fulani menace, kidnapping and terrorism could partly be put down to the availability of idle and unemployed youths. The Niger-Delta problem, a resource propelled debate is squarely within the general parameters of deprivation Aghedo (3).

However, the most dangerous and negative challenge that have frustrated governance in Nigeria is the widespread problem of endemic corruption. Corruption has become a contagious and alignment socio-economic and political problem enervating the development aspirations of the state. It permeates every strata of the society, reduces the values system and has been institutionalized. Even, the present government led by president Buhari, that was majorly voted into power in 2015 on anti-corruption slogan is not left out of this endemic virus as evident in some of her top officials been fingered in the act while the president look the other way round as agitations for their investigations and prosecutions felt into the deaf air of the presidency.

The call for good governance has been the major aspirations of citizens of every country across the globe. Its effect is widely understood to bring justice, equity and fair distribution of the wealth of nations to all and sundry hence, every citizen takes to holding government accountable on the mandate. There are different perspectives to measure good governance taking into cognizance the peculiarities of each country. This paper takes a look at good governance within the context of governmental policies in Nigeria as enshrined in the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The data used in this research will be from secondary data such as print media and the measurement will be based on percentage. The relationship between good governance and other key factors such as leadership and democracy will be considered which are critical to growth and National development.

Theoretical Analysis

Questions have often been asked about what parameters to use to determine what good governance is and what bad governance is. Reacting to this question, Madhav (4) argues that good governance can only be determined within the context of the value system of the people in terms of the historical background, the culture, the aspirations, and the nature of the political system, the religious and ideological predisposition, and the declared political and economic objectives of the people. The logic in this is that for good governance to be so-called, it must conform to certain values. According to Ogundiya (5), governance is "the process that is employed to achieve the noble end of the state". From the liberal conception of the state, it means that governance is meant to actualize the

purposes for which the state is instituted. Such philosopher Kings as Aristotle, Plato, Locke and Hobbes advanced various reasons for the existence of the state. But in all, one can clearly infer from their theories that the essence of the state is to provide protection, order, and justice for the citizens.

In the specific case of Nigeria, the fundamental objective principles of state entrenched in section 14(1) of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic provides a basis for determining good governance in the country: "the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be a state based on the principles of democracy and social justice". These principles are re-enforced in section 16(1) and 16(2) of the same 1999 constitution. Section 16(1) states: "The State Shall, within the context of the ideals and objectives for which provisions are made in this constitution":

1. Harness the resources of the nation and promote national prosperity, an efficient, a dynamic and self-reliant economy for every citizen on the basis of social justice and equality of status and opportunity.
2. Control the national economy in such a manner as to secure the maximum welfare, freedom and happiness of every citizen on the basis of social justice and equality of status and opportunity.
3. Without prejudice to its right to operate or participate in areas of the economy, other than the major sectors of the economy manage and operate the major sectors of the economy.
4. Without prejudice to the right of any person to participate in areas of the economy within the major sector of the economy, protect the right of every citizen to engage in any economic activities outside the major sectors of the economy. Thus in Nigeria, good governance can be measured by and large by the extent to which the political leadership succeeds in pursuing these principles for the overall good of the citizenry. Generally, it is when governance is geared towards ensuring justice and equity in the distribution of the nation's natural resources that good governance can be seen to exist in the country. The World Bank, like most international organizations, attaches a lot of importance to good governance as a yardstick for giving financial assistance to needy nations.

The Bank defines governance as: "The manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development" Odunuga (6) The

Bank identifies three key elements that can be used as a yardstick for measuring good governance. These are: (i) the form of a political regime; (ii) the process by which authority is exercised in the management of a Nigeria's social and economic resources; (iii) the capability of governance to design, formulate and implement policies and discharge functions. It is important to note that good governance must be carried to all sections of society, such as the three arms of government (the Executive, the Legislature, and the Judiciary), the private sector, the media, the corporate sector, trade unions, and even Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). In all of this, public accountability and transparency are critical elements. For the African Development Bank (ADB), good governance is one that strengthens the capacity and capability of the state, mobilizes civil societies and energizes the private sector. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), on the other hand, sees good governance as "a commitment and the capability to effectively address the allocation and management of resources to respond to collective problems" (UNDP). On its own part, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), identifies 8 elements as integral components of good governance: Participation, consensus-oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and respect for the rule of law UNESCO (7).

INTRODUCTION OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND GROWTH PLAN (ERGP)

The recent government introduced the (ERGP) for realization of vision 2020 complete. The economic recession experienced by Nigeria between 2016 and 2017 constrained government's effort at generating revenue and implementing national development plans. In order to remedy the situation the Buhari government introduced the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) in 2017 as a policy option. The ERGP is designed to diversify the economy, restore economic growth, create jobs, empower the youths, develop the human capital and infrastructure, improved business environment and bring about technological growth. But the success of the ERGP is hinged on the ability of the Buhari led All Progressive Congress government to muster the political will and implement the ERGP in the midst of corruption, predatory and alienated political culture and the symbolic approach to implementing development policies and

programmes in Nigeria. Making deductions from the primary and secondary data used analytical variables the paper concluded that Nigeria needs strongmen, strong institutions, and good political culture for the ERGP to succeed. The apprehension that the predatory and alienated political culture and political interest and social apathy may undermine the successful implementation of the ERGP is justifiable. The checklist of solutions provided requires changes in the ethical, social and political orientation of governance by stakeholders for the ERGP to yield optimal results.

It is a little over one year since President Muhammadu Buhari's administration launched the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan to unlock potential in the non-oil sector for the purpose of diversifying the economy to reduce dependence on oil as the mainstay of the Nigerian economy.

The period may therefore not be long enough to correctly assess the impact of a programme that is designed as a catalyst to drive the much needed recovery and growth of an economy that had been in the woods for many years, especially one that is just coming out of recession. But the signs are already very clear that the programme is on the right track to achieving its objectives.

Experts said that like a seed, the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan requires further nurturing to germinate and grow into the giant economic tree the government intends it to be. According to them, one of the ways of achieving the economic growth plan are focus labs that guarantee access and unlock opportunities to investors in a manner that was hitherto considered impossible.

The first phase of such labs was held in Abuja, from March 12 to April 22, 2018. There were positive outcomes from the six-week event that was held to crystallize the expectations for the economic recovery programme in achieving results. The sessions brought together major stakeholders in the public and private sectors, including investors, experts, relevant government agencies and decision makers in government led by the Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo, for the purpose of identifying challenges that could hamper smooth implementation of the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan, and coming up with practical solutions to those challenges.

According to an economic expert, Charles Olajide, one major achievement of the focus labs was that they erased the doubts and skepticisms that existed in the minds of investors

about the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan, which many erroneously saw merely as the Buhari administration's version of one of the many programmes before it, and which, like their predecessors, would not achieve any purpose. Investors left the focus labs, which were held in form of workshop, convinced that they were the better for it.

At the event, investors received all the assistance they require to overcome the teething problems that are usually associated with business startups. Participation in the event enabled them to get their businesses off the drawing board, by way of expert advice on such areas as project design and implementation, funding opportunities and the various incentives that are available, many of which they were not aware of.

Revelations that came out of the focus labs showed, for instance, that transformation of the agro-allied sector for the objective of achieving self-sufficiency in food production and export is possible. Investors in this sector formed strategic partnerships that would boost their businesses in terms of identification of funding opportunities, increase in capacity utilization and marketing.

Investors in manufacturing, especially Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises got exposed to opportunities that exist for them to unlock their potential, grow their businesses and contribute to building an economy that would compete with the industrialized economies of the world.

The focus labs identified projects that can boost commercial and industrial development, employment generation with positive impact on families, local sufficiency and export for the much needed foreign exchange, and also contribute to GDP growth. It focused on three major sectors of the economy, namely, agriculture and transportation, manufacturing and solid minerals development, as well as power and infrastructure.

The Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo, summed up the success of the exercise when he announced that it had identified more than \$22.5 billion worth of private investments in about 164 projects that are waiting to be unlocked. He said that \$10.9 billion of the amount were tied to projects that can be described as Most Ready, which have the capacity to accelerate the growth of the private sector, with potential to create more than half a million jobs up until 2020. He described the development as a clear demonstration of the far-reaching impact of the

Economic Recovery and Growth Plan to unleash a brighter future for the country. Participants at the focus labs described it as a huge success, and called for them to be replicated at the state and local government levels. They believe that it would create more awareness among investors who may still be unaware of the huge potential that the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan has, and how it can help them grow their businesses for the overall objective of enhancing the nation's economic growth and sustainable development.

The Economic Recovery and Growth Plan is designed to build a highly diversified economy that would lead to sustainable growth and development, with the objective of guaranteeing prosperity for all Nigerians. It has the three-pronged vision of restoring economic growth, investing in people and building an economy that is internationally competitive. Experts said if well implemented, the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan will bring about sustainable and robust growth of the private sector, which is the engine room of economic growth. It will remove the bottlenecks that usually hamper the growth of businesses and help them to grow, with the trickling down effect of creating employment and improving the quality of life of Nigerians, with corresponding increase in the nation's Gross Domestic Product.

Olajide said the achievements that have been recorded by the Buhari administration so far indicate that the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan will, indeed, achieve the objective of diversifying the economy. This is especially so, with the release, by the federal government, of over N2.6 trillion between 2016 and 2017 as capital expenditure to fund infrastructure projects that will address the infrastructural challenges faced by the private sector. The appropriated capital budget provision for 2018 is N2.86 trillion.

He said among the results of the high expenditure on capital projects is the massive rehabilitation of roads currently going on across the country. With about 50 per cent increase in power generation from 4,000 megawatts in 2015 to 7,000 megawatts in 2018, the problem of power, which has been the major factor hindering economic growth, is being addressed. "In the agricultural sector, the Anchor Borrowers Programme of the Central Bank of Nigeria has provided over N82 billion as credit to more than 350,000 rice farmers, which yielded increase in rice cultivation from 2.5 metric tonnes in 2015 to 4 metric tonnes in 2017. On a general note, a 1.5

per cent GDP growth rate in the second quarter of 2018 shows an economy that is on the path to full recovery, especially with foreign reserves hitting a five-year high of \$45.83 billion as at August 31, 2018," he said.

Good governance means transparency, equity and honesty in public office. In the, Nigerian context, good governance calls for constitutional rule and a true federal system (VISION, 2010). In his good will message to the people of Osun State, the State Governor Aregbesola, among other things, promised the people of the State good governance. The Governor made reference to the definition of good governance given by the Commission on Human Rights which identifies the following as key attributes of good governance:

- a) Transparency
- b) Responsibility
- c) Participation
- d) Responsiveness (to the needs of the people).

The Governor emphasized that when an enabling environment devoid of corruption is created for these attributes to thrive, sustainable development will be facilitated for the benefit of all.

Leadership, Democracy and Good Governance

The three variables-leadership, democracy and good governance are critical to the survival and development of any nation. For the state to carry out its functions effectively and efficiently there must be an enabling environment for the three variables to combine, and work in a mutually re-enforcing manner. The whole question of good governance revolves around the nature and style of leadership. It is the manner in which the political leadership of a country conducts itself that determines whether or not there is good or bad governance. It has been established that the character and style of leadership goes a long way in determining the level and scope of democracy and good governance. This implies that the degree to which the ideals of democracy are allowed to flourish and the nature of governance generally will depend on whether or not the political leader is a dictator, autocratic, participatory, or laissez faire. Major socio-economic transformation of any society requires servant leadership. A servant leader must possess the following attributes:

- i. Participatory and visionary style
- ii. Knowledge and use of appropriate policies and implementation strategies

- iii. Knowing the needs of the people
- iv. Ability to move the society forward

The effect of leadership style on the lives and welfare of the people is enormous. A leadership style that is democratic, non-punitive, participatory and follower-oriented enhances democracy and good governance for the benefit of the citizenry. For example, in a country where the press is censored and information flow is hampered, or fundamental human rights of the people are trampled upon, social and economic progress will be impeded. A good leader is known by the extent to which he provides social and economic welfare for the people, his judicious use of the resources of the nation, and the extent to which he is able to transform the nation. Hitler of Germany, John F. Kennedy of the USA, Chairman Mao of China, and more recently Professor Mill of Ghana, and Yar'adua of Nigeria were World leaders who were able to take their respective countries to great heights due to their effective leadership.

Democracy is the bedrock of good governance. Espousing this, Thomas Pickering, a onetime United States Ambassador, declared that "the bottom line of good governance is democracy itself" Skinner (8). In view of this, many scholars in Africa and in the rest of the Third World have said that the stunted growth and snail speed development of the developing world is as a result of the absence of the culture of democracy in the area. What is Democracy? The term "democracy" is pregnant with meanings; it is a term that is on the tips of powerful people, particularly statesmen and political leaders who lay claim to democratic governance regardless of the type of government they are running. Consequently, virtually all the definitions of democracy given by different scholars and political actors over the years are value-laden and nebulous in that the definitions are coloured by their individual subjective perceptions of democracy relative to the ethical and ideological leanings of their respective societies.

Today, democracy has certainly developed beyond the level of direct practice as conducted in the Greek city-state of Athens upon which it was defined by Abraham Lincoln as "government of the people for the people and by the people". Accordingly, most definitions of democracy at the present time take cognizance of the representative nature of modern democracy. Thus Black (9) has defined democracy as "that form of government in which the sovereign power resides in and is exercised by the whole

body of free citizens directly or indirectly through a system of representation as distinguished from a monarchy, aristocracy, or oligarchy”.

The nexus between democracy and good governance is incontrovertible. Fundamentally, democracy provides a congenial atmosphere for both human rights and fundamental human rights to be enjoyed by the citizenry, which itself, is a measure of good governance. The western liberal democracy demands that such things as right to life, freedom of association, freedom of worship and expressions are recognized by government as inalienable rights of the citizenry. Fundamental human rights also extend to the rule of law which insists on conformity with the provisions of the law of the land. Under the rule of law, the law of the land must be seen and recognized by individuals and government as supreme. The principle of equality before the law must be obeyed; and the fundamental human rights of citizens must be allowed to prevail. Any government, military or civilian, which claims to be democratic must not only give verbal and rhetoric recognition to these rights, but must also be seen to promote them in the interest of the people.

Governor Aregbesola of Osun State has identified four major links between democracy and good governance, especially as it relates to human rights. These are:

- i. Democratic institutions
- ii. Service delivery
- iii. Rule of law
- iv. Anti-corruption

On democratic institutions, the Governor argues that democratic institutions should be structured in a manner to accommodate popular participation, especially in decision-making process. Such participation, according to him, should also include the contributions of civil society organizations and local communities. Service delivery, accordingly to him, is a necessary ingredient of democracy and good governance. He therefore insists that infrastructural facilities, education, health, and food must be major priorities of any responsible government. Public accountability and transparency, according to Aregbesola, are a sine qua non for good governance.

Rule of law is unequivocally an integral part of good governance. It therefore behooves on any democratic government to respect the rule of law, initiate reforms in critical institutions of government such as the judiciary and the legislature, and capacity building of human resources and institutions of governance

generally.

Any democratic people-oriented government so as to create an enabling environment for sustainable development must pursue anti-corruption measures vigorously. In Nigeria, for example, the establishment of Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) and Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) are commendable efforts towards fighting corruption in high places so that development and social progress can be enhanced.

In the light of the above analysis, good governance can only be achieved in an atmosphere of effective and visionary leadership and a government that embraces the tenets of majoritarian democracy.

Good Governance as Key to National Development: Nigeria in Perspective

Good governance manifests itself in all facets of society and the economy. Development cannot take place in an atmosphere of insecurity and unstable political system. It is in view of this that the World Bank has said that lack of development is a direct consequence of bad governance, emphasizing that bad governance inhibits the growth of the economy.

According to World Bank (10) “*Bad governance has many features, among which are, failure to make a clear separation between what is public and what is private gain; failure to establish a predictable framework for law and government behavior in a manner that conducive to development; or arbitrariness in the application of rules and law; excessive rules, regulations, licensing requirements, etc., which impede the functioning of markets, and encourage rent-seeking; priorities that are inconsistent with development, thus resulting in a misallocation of resources and excessive narrow base for, or non-transparencies, decision-making.*”

As Obadan (11) argues, where all these problems exist there is little or no room for development. Thus, bad governance hinders socio-economic and political development anywhere in the world. There is no doubt that national development can only be achieved where there is good governance and stable polity.

Ogbu (12) argues that inept political leadership and lack of organization constitutes a stumbling block to national development in Africa and the rest of the Third world. He says that these two variables provide a useful framework for appreciating and analyzing the

internal dimension of the problem of national development in Nigeria and the rest of Africa. Ogbu argues further that the task of defining and pursuing national goals is carried out only by a relatively few political leaders who represent a small percentage of the total population of the country. The active involvement of the intellectual class will go a long way in defining appropriate goals and objectives and in also charting a clear course for development. However, the vision 20:2020 that promises economic standardization and promising leadership which has due time left has yet to prove accountability, good governance and capable state.

3. Conceptual Analysis

Most developing nation share a set of well-defined goal. These include a reduction in poverty and unemployment, the provision of minimum levels of education, health, housing and food to every citizen; the broadening of social and economic opportunities and the forgoing of a cohesive nation state all which are part of the objectives of vision 20:2020.

The Nigeria government are made of three arms; Executive, Legislative, and the Judiciary

The objectives of the Executive-: The executive level consists of Federal Ministries. The ministries are responsible for various government-owned corporations. The executive level of government is also responsible for such services as education, healthcare, welfare, and finance. The same person cannot simultaneously be a member of the government and the National Assembly. Each applicant for the post of the federal minister must meet the criteria for candidates for elections to the National Assembly.

The objectives of Judiciary-: The most respectable judicial body among the arms of government is The Judiciary. Chief Justice of Nigeria heads the Supreme Court of Nigeria. The primary function of the judiciary is the interpretation of the law and strengthening the rule of law, ensuring compliance with legislation and developing democracy. The judiciary also performs checks on the power of the executive and the legislature.

The functions of Legislative-: The primary function of this government arm is lawmaking. The Legislature possesses supremacy and independence in the sphere of establishing the

legal principles of state and public life. It ultimately determines the entire judicial system of society. These arms of government are what make good governance in Nigeria if they are accountable for their services and are all assigned to responsibilities to create capable state and also the responsibilities of attaining vision 20:2020.

The Vision 20:2020 wants to create a peaceful, equitable, harmonious and just society where every citizen has a strong sense of national identity and citizens are supported by educational and healthcare systems that benefit all and sustains life expectancy of not less than 70 years. The economic agenda became a unifying force for all Nigerians, regardless of ethnicity, status or religion, to unite and stand behind the common cause of placing the country firmly on a path of sustainable growth and taking it to its rightful place in the comity of nations.

Measurement and Evaluation-M&E in Nigeria

The evaluation of good governance will be derived from measurement of the vision 20:2020 target and the achievement. The measurement and evaluation started with the GDP. Is the Nigerian government accountable in the national production? Nigeria's position in terms of GDP size has risen compared to 2009, even though remaining below 20th. While this shows improvement and that the country is close to achieving its vision, an assessment of other economic indicators shows the uninspiring result.

Based on the most recent nominal GDP data from the World Bank, Nigeria is not among the world's top 20 economies with respect to GDP size. It was the 29th largest economy in the world in 2019, moving three steps backwards from 26th it ranked in 2016. However, in 2010 when the vision 20:2020 was created, Nigeria was the 30th. From the vision 20:2020 objectives, it's derived that the aim to achieve rapid growth did not materialize. While the Nigerian economy grew by 7.8 per cent in 2010, economic growth has slowed and contracted 2.01 per cent in real terms in the first quarter of 2019 compared to 2.38 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2018. Thus, Nigeria government didn't not achieved 50% in about a year before 2020 which likely to be unachieved which therefore account for bad governance. In terms of social development, Nigerian government has not been able to achieve significant development in the nation state in average (2010-2020). Nigeria's progress on the Human Development Index, (HDI) is also not

encouraging.

Between 2010 and 2015, Nigeria's HDI increased to 0.532 in 2019 from 0.5 in 2010. In comparison to other economies, its ranking has not significantly improved. In 2010, it ranked 153rd among 188 economies; in 2015 it was 152nd. In a similar vein, the country's ranked 157 in 2019. These statistics demonstrate that the economy has not fared well after the adoption of the Vision 20:2020 in 2009. Following the oil price collapse in 2014-2016, combined with negative production shocks, the gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate dropped to 2.7% in 2015. In 2016 during its first recession in 25 years, the economy contracted by 1.6%. Poverty remains significant at 33.1% in Africa's biggest economy. For a country with massive wealth and a huge population to support commerce, a well-developed economy, and plenty of natural resources such as oil, the level of poverty remains unacceptable. As of 2018, Population growth rate is higher than economic growth rate, leading to a slow rise in poverty. According to a 2018 report by the World Bank, almost half the population is living below the international poverty line (\$2 per day), and unemployment peaked at 23.1%.

Nigeria's Unemployment Rate data was reported at 23.132 % in Sep 2018. This records an increase from the previous number of 22.728 % for Jun 2018. Nigeria's Unemployment Rate data is updated quarterly, averaging 10.400 % from Mar 2012 to Sep 2018, with 27 observations. The data reached an all-time high of 23.132 % in Sep 2018 and a record low of 6.400 % in Dec 2014. Nigeria's Unemployment Rate data remains active status in CEIC and is reported by National Bureau of Statistics of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The data is categorized under Global Database's Nigeria. Table 1 shows the unemployment rate from March 2014 to Sep 2018.

CONCLUSION

From the measurement of the target and achievement from 2010-2019, it can be evaluated that the vision 20:2020 and can be said to be more of myth than reality. The vision 20:2020 has not been able to produce good governance and a capable state. Although there have been improvement in the GDP as it moved for the 30th position to the 26th position, however, still not able to reduce the poverty rate and unemployment rate. The population is higher than the outcome. Poverty and unemployment rates are very high in Nigeria and the rest of Africa as a direct consequence of bad

governance. Statistics show that 70.8% of Nigerians live below the poverty line of \$1 a day and up to 92.4% live below \$2 a day (The United Nations International Children's Fund, 2003; World Bank, (2006). The high rate of youth unemployment of between 20 and 75% of Nigerian youths who graduate from tertiary institutions year by year contributes to insecurity and high rate of crimes in the country. The springing up of the Boko Haram set made up of idle Muslim youths in Nigeria is not unconnected with the usual frustration arising from unemployment. Public Policies such as Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), Green Revolution (GR), Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI).

An acknowledged fact in Nigeria's public domain is that Nigeria has always developed feasible and effective strategic plans, but inherent weaknesses in implementation and execution remain debilitating clogs in the wheels of our economic progress. Across the world, a common attribute of governments that are functional and effective is the existence of mechanisms for transiting from strategy into action and results. Such mechanisms include systems for enhancing the quality of government spending, and the ability of public institutions to effectively utilise public funds to deliver critical outcomes that impact the lives of their citizens. Deepening the ability of Government at both state and federal levels, to consistently translate strategic intent into action and results on a permanent basis, is recognised as the single most important factor in making NV20:2020 a reality. Developing this ability to provide a platform to ensure that the strategies outlined across the three pillars are realised is the essence of the monitoring and evaluation element of the NV20:2020 framework.

Over the years, Nigeria has experienced modest economic growth, driven mainly primarily by the non-oil sector. The oil boom and associated income derived from oil exports have not translated into sustainable development and wealth for its citizens. The key challenges facing the sustainable social and economic development of Nigeria are the weak infrastructure base, especially power and transport infrastructure, corruption, macroeconomic instability, security of lives and property, over-dependence on oil revenues and poor governance. Nigeria has never been in short supply of policies/programmes or reforms aimed at alleviating the failing economy and livelihood insecurity over the past five (5) decades. Some of these programmes include the

Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and other specific reforms associated with poverty alleviation and sustainable development. However, majority of these programmes failed to deliver on the objectives for which they were introduced.

The major bottlenecks in these policy reforms and programmes developed over the years include corruption, lack of continuity in policy implementation, inappropriate fiscal and macroeconomic policies, ethnic and political divides leading to instability of the political and social environment. Between 2003 and 2007, the government implemented a comprehensive economic reform programme, the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) that emphasised fiscal, structural, and institutional reforms. These reforms resulted in significant improvements in the country's overall economic indicators with inflation declining from 15% in 2003 to 5.3% in 2007. There is an economic dreamer out there. His name is **Goldman Sachs**. In 2004, he dreamt that Nigeria will emerge one of the 20 largest economies of the world in 2025. Another dreamer, Olusegun Obasanjo, then President of Nigeria, though, he did not dream this time around, said 2025 was too long, he said his own dream was 20:2020. So Nigerians were forced to accept the dream in the name of Vision 20:2020.

Eight years to the dreamed promised land, another dreamer, this time, Fitch Rating agency, said that Nigeria can make it to the dream land in the next eight years not minding the poverty, lack of infrastructure, political bickering and insecurity in the land. The unfortunate thing is that some of these dreamers are not Nigerians. They do not live here and do not understand how Nigerians feel. Their consolatory sermons are for the Nigerian dreamers like themselves who have stolen the nation blind.

In view, a country of 167 million people living without even five hours of uninterrupted electricity power supply; where 120 million live below N200 a day; where the national and sub-national governments budget 80 per cent of resources on conspicuous consumption, where leaders are not ready to make any sacrifice for the sake of the nation, where everything under the sun is imported, where the stench of corruption in public places is to high heavens, where you cannot sleep with your two eyes closed; will become one of the 20 largest economies in 20:2020? Imagine what a country! A leader has to feed him with 1billion per year when an average

Nigerian lived below 200 naira per day. An average Nigerian can't afford going to school education is as expensive as gold, even at the end of it employment cannot be guaranteed.

The overarching submission of this paper is that governance milieu in Nigeria is dysfunctional to the extent that it is invariably unable to drive development. Nigeria leaders for decades have spoken dividend of democracy, good governance but have largely been unable to effectively realize the ethos and core tenant of good governance, therefore, problem of corruption must be addressed without selective obedient to court order or persecution of political opposition. The ultimate recommendation would be a trial over hauling of our institutional mode and make them hold leaders accountable. While the present anti-corruption drive of Muhamadu Buhari should be total and the expected "change" must indeed being from government by way of demonstrating leadership by example, failure to all these measure and above recommendations leaves the Nigerian society highly vulnerable to human security stresses.

In a nutshell, Nigeria's Vision 20:2020, like most other development visions, programmes and plans (perspective, medium- and short-term), policies and reforms agenda in Nigeria, remains a vision until it is actualized - not by mere touting, but by commitment to discipline and political will on the part of the leadership. Meanwhile, the vast majority of Nigerians are ill-fed, ill-clothed, ill-housed and ill-educated. They live in the rural areas characterized by massive underdevelopment. Poverty is the basic malady of Nigeria which is involved in misery-go-round, as part of the slum of the world economy. Nigeria's Vision 20:2020 is, therefore, too ambitious. And, against the backdrop of historical antecedents of policy reversals, summersaults and failures in Nigeria, the Vision is 'utopian'.

REFERENCES

1. Odion, A. Human rights diplomacy and democracy in Nigeria. *Journal of constitutional development*; 2007. P.7
2. Ameh, D. The diabetic nature of the Nigerian state, African path local connection. Bass, (2007).
3. Aghedo, I. saving peace, reaping violence understanding the resurgence of kidnapping in post-amnesty Niger-Delta, Nigeria. (2015). *Insight on Africa* 7 (2) 137-153.
4. Madhav, G. *Report of the one Man Committee on Good Governance, July, Human Right Watch (2007), "Election or Selection"*. Human Rights Abuse and Threats to Free and Fair Elections in Nigeria.

5. Ogundiya, I. S. Democracy and Good Governance: Nigeria's dilemma. *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations*; 2010. (p.202)
6. Odunuga, S. Failure of Governance and the Phenomenon of Conflict in Africa. In O. J. Obi (Ed.), *Philosophy, Democracy and Responsible Governance in Africa*. New Brunswick and London, Transaction Publishers; (2003).
7. UNESCO. *Good Governance*; (2005).
8. Skinner, E. P. African Political Cultures and the Problems of Government. *African Studies Quarterly*; (1970).
9. Black, H. *Black's Law Dictionary* (5th ed.). St. Paul Minn, Welt Publishing Company; 1979. P.388.
10. World Bank. *Governance and Development*. Washington: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. VISION 2010, Nigeria. <https://doi.org/10.1596/0-8213-2094-7>.
11. Obadan, M. The State, Leadership, Governance, and Economic Development. *A Presidential Address delivered at the Annual Conference of the Nigerian Economic Society, Kano*. The National Centre for Economic Management and Administration (NJCEMA). (1998).
12. Ogbu, S. O. *Human Rights and Good Governance in Africa: A Short Commentary*. Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA). (1998).
13. Inyokwe, Otinche Sunday, Economic Recovery and Growth Plan and Nation Building in Nigeria: Matters Arising (August 3, 2018). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3225997> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3225997>

Table 1. Unemployment rate in Sep 2018

Last	23.132 Sep. 2018
Previous	22.728 July 2018
Min	6.400 Dec 2014
Max	23.132 Sep 2018
Unity	%
Frequency	Quarterly
Range	Mar. 2012-Sep 2018 Updated on 19 Dec. 2018

How to cite this article:

Abanikannya M.O., Adekomi D.A. Good governance and a capable state. *Research Journal of Health Sciences*, 2021, 9(2): 158-168