



Rule of Law and Good Governance in Nigeria: Challenges and Cures

¹Keneth Mela., ²Mindat Emmanuel Kajang & ³Janet Augustine

¹Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Management and Social Science Federal University Gashua, Yobe State, Nigeria

²Department of Political Science, University of Jos

³Federal Polytechnic Mubi, School of Humanity and Creative Art, Department of General Studies
kenethmela228@gmail.com, kajang@unijos.edu.ng & Janetaugustine4u@gmail.com

Corresponding Author: kenethmela228@gmail.com

Abstract

Despite an advancement in science and humanities, Nigerian still struggle with the issue of development. Rule of law and good governance are the major features of any civilized society today. The rule of law is a liberty centred constitutional concept which stipulates that everything must be done in accordance with the law. The rule of law is fundamental and prerequisite for good governance. Good governance floats on the rule of law, while the good governance promotes and sustains rule of law. Nigeria today, struggles with ensuring that the law applies equally to all. Corruption and bad governance have planted seeds that have stumped the progress of the rule of law and in turn negatively impacted the standard of living and development of Nigeria. The objective of this paper is to find out the extent to which rule of law has influenced good governance in Nigeria. Secondary data, generated through articles, books, scholarly journals were used for the analysis. Our findings indicate that, in principle, rule of law are elaborately provided in Nigeria, but in practice, good governance still eludes the country. Corruption, poverty, ignorance, inflation, declining productivity, maladministration, dictatorship, ethnicity and other primordial factors, as well as prevalent social vices are the road mines to good governance in Nigeria. Equitable distribution of resources, provision of qualitative education, economic restructuring of the society, freedom of the press and political reforms, among other recommendations, are fundamental for the enthronement of functional rule of law for good governance in Nigeria.

Key words: Rule of law, Good governance, Maladministration, Challenges. Nigeria

Introduction

The rule of law is commonly mentioned in conversations concerning peace, economic stability, and sustainable development. The foundation of the rule of law has been traced back to the theory of natural law and the principle that “both man and king are to be judged and that natural rights are given to all men, the right to life,

liberty, and property by God. The concept of the rule of law is one of the prominent and important constitutional concepts. It is fundamental principle accepted as a standard not only for judging the performance of government, but also for determining which is beneficial or destructive to humanity. This concept is the bedrock of our system of justice. Being the bedrock of our system of justice, it is of great importance, so as to

justify the legal order and legitimize the system of a given society.

The rule of law collectively symbolizes the most important features of democratic governance such as government of the people, by the people and for the people; separation of power and checks and balances; representative democracy and substantive limits of governmental actions against the individuals (the protection of human freedom and dignity); limited government; and the review by an independent judiciary as a central mechanism for constitutional enforcement.¹

In Nigeria, One of our greatest challenges has been how to do battle with the evolvement of a culture of disrespect for the rule of law, unbridled corruption, impunity, endemic crime, violence, serious insecurity, insurgence, infrastructure deficit and a general malaise in the polity. The more the need or desire to enforce the rule of law is being proclaimed, the more the symptoms of bad governance manifest itself. This is so much so that one is tempted to wonder if bad governance is the end product of the rule of law.

The question of good governance has captured the attention of international institutions, including the World Bank and several inter-governmental organizations like the G-8. Both institutions have made this issue a critical prerequisite in their aid and donation policies to countries with poor records on governance.

Good Governance can be seen as the act of exercising authority over the affairs of others or a country with justice and fairness. Also, it is to control authority in a rightful manner; and which must be within the tenets of democracy and must coincide with the interest of the majority in the society. In the society what this then suggests about the notion of government is that there should be positive values in government as a discourse to be cultivated and engaged with, to ensure effectiveness and service delivery.

Rule of law and good governance may be provided in principle in Nigeria, but in practice it is a different ball game. Therefore, in an attempt to bridge the divide for human development in Nigeria, this paper seeks to make a short treatise on the concept of the rule of law and governance; And to find out the extent to which the misapplication of rule of law has influenced good governance in Nigeria. In order to achieve our aim in this paper, the research work has been segmented into the following sections: The first section contains the introduction, the second section contains the conceptual review, while the third section contains the discussion and the final section contains the concluding part of the paper respectively.

Methodology

This study makes use of in-depth content, historical and descriptive analysis of

primary and secondary sources of available literature such as text books, articles sourced from the library and from the internet on the concepts of rule of law and good governance. Furthermore, the researchers make use of empirical data of other published studies on the concept of rule of law and good governance in some African continent.

Conceptual Review

The Concept of Rule of Law

The rule of law has been broadly defined as a principle of governance in which the government and the people are accountable to laws that are publicly known, equally enforced, and independently adjudicated, and which are consistent with international human rights norms and standards. "It requires, as well, measures to ensure adherence to the principles of supremacy of law, equality before the law, accountability to the law, fairness in the application of the law, separation of powers, participation in decision-making, legal certainty, avoidance of arbitrariness and procedural and legal transparency (Robert A. Stein, 2019) It has also been simply defined as a system where government officials and citizens are bound by and abide by the rule of law. (Brian Z. Tamanaha 202) The rule of law simply means that law rules or reigns (Nwabueze, 2007). According to the Black's Law Dictionary, the rule of law is the supremacy of regular law as opposed to arbitrary power. Every person is subject to the ordinary law within the jurisdiction (B. A. Garner 1999).

In Dicey's exposition; Rule of law is the absolute supremacy or predominance of regular law as opposed to the influence of arbitrary power and excludes the existence of arbitrariness, prerogative or even of rule of wide discretionary authority on the part of government ... a man may be punished for a breach of law but he can be punished for nothing else (A. V. Dicey 1885). Dicey emphasized three aspects of the rule of law: No one can be punished or made to suffer except for a breach of law proved in an ordinary court; No one is above the law and everyone is equal before the law regardless of social, economic, or political status; and The rule of law includes the results of judicial decisions determining the rights of private persons.

Lord Bingham in *Kirby*, (2010) reconstruction of the Dicey's rule of law, postulated eight sub-requirements, namely:

1. The law must be accessible and, so far as possible, intelligible, clear and predictable;
2. Questions of legal rights and liabilities must ordinarily be resolved by application of the law and not by the exercise of discretion;
3. The law must apply equally to all, except to the extent that objective differences justify differentiation;
4. The law must afford adequate protection of fundamental human rights;
5. Means must be provided for resolving, without prohibitive cost or inordinate delay, *bona fide* civil disputes which the parties themselves are unable to resolve;

6. Ministers and public officials at all levels must exercise the powers conferred on them reasonably, in good faith, for the purpose for which the powers were conferred and without exceeding the limits of such powers;
7. Judicial and other adjudicative procedures must be fair and independent; and
8. There must be compliance by the state with its international legal obligations.

The principles of the rule of law can be summarized into six main points. The first principle is the superiority of the law. This means that the government and the people are limited by the law. The law must govern the man and the state. The second principle is that the laws must be known and predictable. The law must be set forth in advance and must also be understandable. The third principle is that the laws must be enforceable. The laws imposed cannot be impossible for the people to meet. The fourth principle is separation of powers. This principle ensures that there is separation of powers among each arm of government. The fifth principle is equal application. This principle recognizes that the law may treat classes of persons differently but requires that the different treatment have a rational basis. The last principle is just laws. This might be considered a substantive rather than procedural guarantee of the rule of law. It expresses the idea that laws in society that honor the rule of law must be just.

The Concept of Good Governance

Governance is the act of governing. It relates to decisions that define expectation, grant power, or verify performance. It consists of either a separate process or part of decision making or leadership processes. In modern nation-states, these processes and systems are typically administered by a government (Wiki Project, 2009). Good governance is a difficult concept, as it is not always easy to define. It is amenable to different definitions depending on the perception of the person. Wikipedia (2013) sees good governance as an indeterminate term used in international development literature to describe how public institutions conduct public affairs and manage public resources. However, when we remember that the modern state is a human creation, according to the social contract theorists, namely, John Locke, Thomas Hobbes and Jean Jacques Rousseau, one can hazard on what constitutes good governance.

Specifically, good governance involves: enthronement of a democratic government, which guarantees equal participation of all citizens in governance; provision, promotion and sustenance of the rule of law; provision and protection of the constitution; promotion and protection of the fundamental human rights of the citizens; provision and sustenance of the freedom of the press; availability of a transparent, accountable and participatory governance at all levels of government; regular, free and fair elections; as well as provision of basic amenities, such as, as stated in the

introduction of this paper, the relationship between the rule of law and good governance in any society is so intricate and organic that it is better described as a triumvirate. They are also interdependent that none can survive without the others. Their relationship is akin to what exists among road, car and fuel. The rule of law is the road, on which good governance is sustained or maintained.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) classified governance into three (3) political, economic and administrative (UNDP 2001) and defines the term as “The exercise of economic, political, and administrative authority to manage a country’s affairs at all levels. It comprises mechanisms, processes, and institutions, through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences.” According to the World Bank, governance means “The way “ ... power is exercised through a country’s economic, political, and social institutions.” (Kaufmann, D., et al 2007). Thus good governance will refer to a system whereby the government is based on good leadership, respect for the rule of law and due processes, respect for the three arms of government with checks and balances, the accountability and contestability of the political leadership to the electorate as well as transparency in the operations of government and also in the public and private sectors.

Good governance requires fair legal frameworks that are enforced impartially by an independent judiciary and its decisions and

enforcement are transparent or carried out in a manner that follows established rules and regulation. Since accountability cannot be enforced without rule of law and transparency, accountability is a key requirement for good governance. The government, the private sector and the civil society must all be accountable to the public and their institutional stakeholder. (Sharma, 2007),

According to the UNDP, the characteristics of good governance defined in societal terms include the following:

- i. **Participation:** All men and women should participate in decision-making, either directly or representatives, such participation must be built on freedom of association and speech.
- ii. **Rule of law:** Legal frameworks should be fair and enforced impartially, particularly the laws on human rights.
- iii. **Transparency:** Transparency is built on the free flow of information. Processes, institutions and information are directly accessible to those concerned with them, and enough information is provided to understand and monitor them.
- iv. **Responsiveness:** Institutions and processes try to serve all stakeholders.
- v. **Consensus orientation:** Good governance mediates differing interests to reach abroad consensus on what is in the best interests of the group and, where possible, on policies and procedures.

- vi. **Equity:** All men and women have opportunities to improve or maintain their wellbeing.
 - vii. **Effectiveness and efficiency:** Processes and institutions produce results that meet needs while making the best use of resources.
 - viii. **Accountability:** Decision-makers in government, the private sector and civil society organisations are accountable to the public, as well as to institutional stakeholders.
 - ix. **Strategic vision:** Leaders and the public have a broad and long-term perspective on good governance and human development, along with a sense of what is needed for such development.
- The Philippines Development Plan (PDP 2011) identified ten strategies to promote good governance, namely,
- i. Ensure high-quality, efficient, transparent, accessible and non-discriminatory delivery of public service. This requires knowledgeable and experienced staffing that is acquired through exposure and training as well as good infrastructure and adequate budgetary support.
 - ii. There should be time limit for disposal of corruption cases and this should be made as key performance indicators (KPI) for enforcement agencies.
 - iii. Curb both bureaucratic and various legal and political corruption. For whatever term is used, corruption has to be fought through legal and non-legal means.
 - iv. The judiciary is independent and this is ensured via constitutional provisions. There should also be clear path for citizen's access to legal recourse and sufficient access to legal aid and pro bono legal services.
 - v. Citizen access to information is enhanced through law and policy on freedom of information. There should be timeline for the introduction of Freedom of Information Bill.
 - vi. Policy and guidelines on elements and parameters of probable cause of corruption should be issued based on law and jurisprudence to avoid frivolous filing of cases and to reduce rate of unsuccessful prosecution in court.
 - vii. The court procedures play an important role in expediting cases and this area needs to be given special attention. The procedures must be strictly observed and yet there should also be room for discretion in the court to expedite cases. Evidential rules are essential but the prosecution must ensure that all instruments to gather evidence are utilized. There should be regular exercise of rules review to expedite trials and provide quick resolution to cases.
 - viii. A comprehensive anti-corruption program should include a single body that deals with the offence and even if there are many bodies involved, a coordinating authority should be in place. The coordinating body should provide seamless investigation pathway between various

enforcement authorities (*PDP, 2011*). There should also be a regular review of conviction rate; review of case management and monitoring progress of cases.

- ix. There should also be effort to gain knowledge from international experiences from bodies in other countries and to participate in multi-national programmes organized by the United Nation, OECD, Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.
- x. The public should be encouraged to contribute to eradication of corruption by creating various reporting mechanism that is easily accessed by them such as online reporting and direct and free telephone services to the authority. A whistleblower charter or legislation will be a tremendous booster for this programme.

From the above one may surmise that the major components of the definition of good governance are namely: contestable political leadership, accountability and transparency of those in political office and the respect of basic guarantees of freedoms

for the citizenry; with all acting within the confines of the rule of law.

One method of ensuring good governance is ensuring citizen participation in the governance process. It does not mean that the government must consult each and every citizen for every policy and decision to be made. Participation in good governance means that citizen has easy access to official information; there is an ongoing government policy to promote transparency and continuous programs of engaging the public via public forum such as town hall meetings. Freedom of Information bill should be seriously considered by countries in Asia that will provide the legal route for citizen to obtain government documents. Thus, in strengthening rule of law and enhancing enforcement, a review of rules on preliminary investigations is also apt as it is a crucial part in any successful prosecution of criminal cases especially those involving corruption. Taking into account of postulates of rule of law by Lord Bingham and the IBA, it can be hypothesized that the very elements of good governance is the characteristics of rule of law itself. The pairing and connection between good governance characteristics and the postulates of rule of law can be shown as follows:

Elements of Good Governance	Rule of Law Postulates
Accountability	Ministers and public officials at all levels must exercise the powers conferred on them reasonably, in good faith, for the purpose for which the powers were conferred and without exceeding the limits of such powers.
	Judicial and other adjudicative procedures must be fair and independent;
	Means must be provided for resolving, without prohibitive cost or inordinate delay, <i>bona fide</i> civil disputes which the parties themselves are unable to resolve;
Transparency	The law must be accessible and, so far as possible, intelligible, clear and predictable;

	Questions of legal rights and liabilities must ordinarily be resolved by application of the law and not by the exercise of discretion;
	Judicial and other adjudicative procedures must be fair and independent;
Responsive	Questions of legal rights and liabilities must ordinarily be resolved by application of the law and not by the exercise of discretion
Equitable and inclusive	The law must apply equally to all, except to the extent that objective differences justify differentiation;
	Ministers and public officials at all levels must exercise the powers conferred on them reasonably, in good faith, for the purpose for which the powers were conferred and without exceeding the limits of such powers;
Effective and efficient	Means must be provided for resolving, without prohibitive cost or inordinate delay, <i>bona fi de</i> civil disputes which the parties themselves are unable to resolve
Participatory	The conduct of governance in society through open and transparent institutions, with procedures and freedom of information, opinion and expression are prerequisites for operation of all of the foregoing characteristics.

Source: (Researcher design 2024)

Discussion

As one of the characteristics of good governance, rule of law plays a pivoting role. Rule of law provides legitimacy and authority to the government. Rules and regulations provide the framework for action and decision making process. As said umpteen times, without rule of law, the quest for good governance will never be successful. Irrespective of the fact that Nigeria as a state has laid down constitution expected to be supreme and strictly adhered to by all and sundry. It is however quite unfortunate that the reverse is the case at certain given circumstances and spheres. An instance in concrete situations where the Rule of Law is grossly challenged via its violations in Nigeria abounds viz:

The present democratic dispensation in Nigeria ensued on the 29th of May, 1999. In principle, Nigeria operates a democratic form of government, both in choosing the

leaders and in administration proper. In practice however, it is seldom implemented. This then is contrary to the assertion of Plato cited in Efebeh, (2015) that, democracy, the rule of law and good governance are the basic elements that are expedient for the existence of an “ideal state”. Employing the Democratic form of governments implies that the rule of law ought to be in practice and realized in such a given state. Submitting to the rule of law as well, will definitely effects genuine democracy and good governance in the actual sense in any state. The truth still remains that, cases of election rigging especially by governments in power at certain period remains obvious.

In lieu with the above assertion, Ogundiya (2010), once asserted that irrespective of the fact that Nigeria commenced the employment of democratic form of government since May 1999, yet little or no significant impact had been made by that on the socio-economic, socio-political,

socio-Religious and the general well-being of the country and her citizens at large. This of course is so owing to the manipulative nature and character of the ruling elite. Thus from the postulation of the Elite theory, it is obvious that the “so called”, Ruling Elites or Each government in power and its political party keeps infringing on the elections results to see that their candidates emerge the winner against the public mandate.

It is quite obvious that most times the peculiar government in power in Nigeria at each given epoch assumes the position of God. There exists several cases of unlawful dentations orchestrated by the government; gross abuse on fundamental human rights backed up by the constitution especially as related to the freedom of expression; government disregard and disrespect for court orders, and the list goes on. John et al.(2011)observed that, the administration of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo between 1999 and 2007 had been described as the worst when it comes to compliance with the rule of law. He cited the instances of how despite the judgement of the supreme court on the feuds between the Lagos state government and the Federal Government over the failure to remite funds allocation meant for local government councils in Lagos; the defaulting party, which happens to be the federal government defied the court orders and went ahead in pursuing the case which was basically improper as if they are placing the judiciary in a tight corner to submit to their disobedience and rule in their favour: whereas, the constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria as amended (2011), stipulates that the reason for the constitution

to be uphold is for: the purpose of promoting the good government and welfare of all persons in our country on the principles of freedom, equality and justice, and for the purpose of consolidating the unity of our people.

Describing the rate at which jungle justice is dispensed in Nigeria, Ayomide (2016), declared in his words: Our society is barbaric, it kills the poor and praises the corrupt. Tyres and a keg of petrol are quick to surface when someone yells “thief” in a neighborhood. Within few minutes, a crowd gathers and descends on the “suspected thief”. His skull is cracked and his ribs are broken before his almost lifeless body is tossed into the flames. It is very rare to find a Nigerian who has not seen the charred corpse of a suspected thief killed by a mob. This, they do with total disregard to the federal constitution of Nigeria that stipulates under the fundamental human rights section 33; that every person has a right to life, and no one shall be deprived intentionally of his life, save in execution of the sentence of a court in respect of a criminal offence of which he has been found guilty in Nigeria. However, the reason for actions as this is mainly that the masses have lost confidence on the police and the government.

They upheld that bad governance, bribery and corruption and the law enforcements agencies irregularities pushes them to such actions. In Ayomide’s view, this jungle justice equally depicts the Nigerian citizens double standard in dealing with poor people who commit crimes and rich people

who commit crimes. The most painful part of this jungle justice is that penalties undeserving a peculiar crime is passed on such crimes, thereby resulting in minor crimes receiving grave and barbaric sentences. There is no standard in dispensing justice and most times, innocent people fall victims of circumstances.

Meanwhile, cases of individuals that were killed in jungle justice abounds: The story of Aluu four, wherein four students of the university of Port Harcourt were horribly killed after hours of tortures. The bitter part of this story was that these boys were falsely accused (Ezea2017).

The story of a boy that allegedly stole garri while some maintained that he stole a phone and was later burnt alive by the mob in Lagos state as recorded (Tinibu, 2019). Some people painfully lamented and declared that the boy was even seven years old. Killing of a soldier, Lance CPI. AYUBA Ali in mob action. Ali, as recorded by Tinibu was in mufti while passing AgwanAffi area of Akwanga in Nasarawa state on a motorbike from Maiduguri when he hit a hawker unknowingly. As he stopped to pacify the hawker, altercation ensued between him and some irate youth in the area, who pounced on him and beat him into coma. He died later in the hospital. In addition, killing of several suspected ritualists in different parts of Lagos state in mob actions between 2000 and 2013. Reported cases of mob actions across Edo State as Tinibu recorded: Even the police have been accused severally of killing suspected criminals without passing them through the judicial process. The list goes on and on. All these are challenges to the Rule of Law in Nigeria. Jungle justice does not follow

due process. These irregularities hamper the development of Nigeria greatly.

In all, the Rule of Law is simply projected mainly in principle in line with the instances afore-sampled. Even those that it lies in their jurisdiction to see to it that the rule of law is upheld equally abuse the legalistic stipulations of the rule of law. The law enforcement agencies especially the police most times go on arresting and detaining individual persons in an unlawful mode. This was exactly what once propelled the House of Representatives Committee on Human Rights in 2018 according to Agency Report (2018), to mandate the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to furnish it with the list of Nigerians unlawfully detained by the police. The House insisted on their forwarding these names owing to the fact that there are crime records in all the police stations in Nigeria: Especially of people who were arrested and kept beyond the constitutional timeline. This will keep the police on their toes and make them wary of the fact that they are being watched closely.

In the same vein, the judicial system itself passes judgement at times to buy the favour of the peculiar government in power. The judgment passed on the 2019 presidential elections tribunal had been described by the opposition party as a perversion of justice, and a direct assault on the integrity of the nation's justice system (Oladesu, , et al, 2019). One begins to wonder what the implication will entail for Nigeria where a court will rule that one only has to swear to an affidavit, detailing his personal information's, including

academic qualifications in order to contest for a political position in Nigeria. What happens to the simple arithmetic of presenting original certificates of those academic qualifications as a proof of concrete reality. Thus, irrespective of the fact that the party in power and some person's at the reins of government, who are benefiting from the government are applauding the judgement not minding its associated irregularities; one keeps wondering if this is actually the heartbeat of the citizens of Nigeria. According to Sahara Reporters, the Human Rights Association of Nigeria on their own condemned the judgment, stating that the Nigerian judicial system:

The Effects of the Abuse of the Rule of Law on Good governance in Nigeria

The major challenge to the Rule of Law from the findings of this work is simply the gross abuse and neglect to that rational stance that ought to keep a nation functioning. The resultant effects of these gross violations of the Rule of Law are as follows:

- i. **It facilitates and fosters a failed state:** A country where the Rule of Law is abused with max impunity; corruption, negligence, indifference, falsehood, unpatriotic, hatred, bigotry, violence, terrorism, vandalism, murder, lawlessness, and jungle justice will gain ascendancy. The government cannot resolve such set situations. Such a state is a failed state. This is presently the case in Nigeria.
- ii. **It produces a weak administration:** Abuse of the Rule of Law creates a state of Anomie. The citizens will no longer have

confidence on the government and all within the corridors of power in such a nation. Lawlessness will abound while those within the reins of government will be striving towards enriching themselves and pursuing their whimsical and capacious goals. There is no way in the world such a government will bring stability to such a chaotic scenario. Cry for secession will be on the increase while various insurgent groups will arise. The citizens of Nigeria presently are embarrassing most political appointees and government officials in Nigeria whenever they travel outside the country. They even go to the extent of unleashing violence on them.

- iii. **It hampers growth and development:** Foreign investors may find it difficult to come in and invest in such a country while the citizens of such a country will always be on the move to travel beyond the shores and borders of such a country on the quest for greener pastures. This will definitely affect the economy of such a given state as is currently witnessed in Nigeria.
- iv. **It breeds insecurity:** One cannot boast of being safe in the hands of the police nor the masses in Nigeria. Violence has graduated to terrorism and the country is in perpetual state of insecurity. The Fulani herdsmen barbaric killings, incessant that has gone rite, and kidnappings indiscriminate killing of the citizens by the law enforcement order

personalities and so on typifies the level of insecurity in Nigeria.

Conclusion

The Rule of Law is a principle that is put in place to ensure that human greed, insatiable excesses for dominance, power and lawlessness is controlled. It is a tool for maintaining sanity and peace in the society. The Rule of Law is there to enforce the respect for the basic fundamental human rights by all and sundry. This implies that a society where the contents of the Rule of Law is constantly challenged by gross abuse of its precepts will simply become ungovernable, barbaric, uncivilized, parochial, unprogressive and lending leadership opportunities in the hands of a “dominance sect”: Nigeria is tilting towards the extreme end in featuring all these afore-mentioned ill-traits and misfortunes in her society.

Every society in the cosmos possesses the innate ability to harness their God given resources in a selfless, stance for the benefit of all in order to ensure growth and wellbeing of the society and her inhabitants. In maximizing the use of these resources and God given potentials; there is a need to ensure equitable allocations and usage. This is where governance comes in. In order to ensure good governance, peace, sanity and stability in the society, the Rule of Law should be upheld in principle and core practice. The challenges to the Rule of Law in the human society and Nigeria in particular is simply the result of materialism narrow mindedness, selfishness, greed, addiction for power, pride and other related vices. The historical and

theoretical analysis proffered in this work combined with the corollary solutions will go a long way in effecting the respect and application of the Rule of Law in Nigeria.

Recommendations

- i. The in-depth research carried in the course of this work is spurring the recommendation for every citizen of Nigeria to learn to have confidence in God and God given abilities in their lives to survive as humans. They should learn to bring their rationality into focus in handling issues bothering on politics (choosing her leaders), national welfare, justice, law and order, economic activities, constitutions, policy making and in proper implementation.
- ii. This work strongly recommends that the citizens of Nigeria should learn to uphold dignity, good image and name, patriotism as against whims and caprices, and good legacy: They should internalize the fact that side talks, false accusations, character assassination, unlawful detention, and ingratitude can never write off good works. Good works is positive result oriented and beneficial to all and sundry.
- iii. Core democracy should be practiced in Nigeria: Not an indigenized or homemade democracy that features election rigging, unjust disenfranchisement of certain citizens, lies, irregularities and indecencies of the highest. Rather a democracy that upholds and promotes the basic tenets of

democracy which includes amongst others: popular sovereignty, political equality of all citizens; free fair and frequent elections (frequent in the sense that it must be held often enough to enable the people to exercise their control of government); alternative sources of information (... will enforce freedom of the press); liberalism constitutionalism (the use of constitutions to limit government by Law). Military-Atavism, a situation wherein a military man after resignation or retirement will come up to context in a democratic government election should be discouraged completely. Military men should face their core duty and responsibilities as military men and allow the smooth running of the government for civilians. It is obvious from the findings of this work that some of the democratic president of Nigeria so far were once military men before being elected into office. Little wonder they employ mostly authoritarian form of leadership. This in turn leads to their gross abuse of the Rule of Law in various circumstances.

- iv. One method of ensuring good governance is ensuring citizen participation in the governance process. It does not mean that the government must consult each and every citizen for every policy and decision to be made. Participation in good governance means that citizen has easy access to official information; there is an ongoing

government policy to promote transparency and continuous programs of engaging the public via public forum such as town hall meetings. Freedom of information bill should be seriously considered by Nigerian government for citizen to obtain government documents.

- v. Thus, in strengthening rule of law, enhancing enforcement including anti-corruption enforcement, the prosecuting body and the court is of utmost importance. This also includes improving investigative abilities of law enforcement agencies, for instance forming or improving forensic sciences by establishing forensic laboratory.
- vi. A review of rules on preliminary investigations is also apt as it is a crucial part in any successful prosecution of criminal cases especially those involving corruption.

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