GOOD GOVERNANCE: THE IDEAL NIGERIA'S SUSTAINABLE DEMOCRACY

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Abstract

Bayelsa had her normal four year gubernatorial election last year in 2019. It was held on November 16th in a calm situation with two major parties (People Democratic Party and All Progressive Congress) featuring. In fact, the Bayelsa State 2019 gubernatorial election was a source of major concern to all Nigerians and international observers with keen interest politically. In the face of all orchestrated methods of rigging so that election results of some polling units could be doctored to increase or decrease a political party's chance of winning, the unexpected mandate of the electorate held sway. The party that failed was declared winner by the supreme court of Nigeria. Be that as it may, this paper examined the role of good governance in a sustainable democracy in Nigeria. So, the features of good governance were examined bringing to bear on the conscience of the electorates nationwide. The sampled survey research design was used for the study. And to source for data, questionnaires were used for the respondents. A total of two hundred and forty (240) respondents were sampled using the stratified random sampling techniques for the study. To analyze the data, the descriptive and inferential statistics was used. The result shows there is a significant difference in citizenship participation in decision making process in the sampled areas for the study. But there was the problem of adequate security of life and property, transparency and accountability, equity in the allocation of government positions and offices. These recommendations were put forward by this study which include: equity, transparency, inclusion, decentralization, adequate security of life and property and accountability in the states nationwide.

Keywords: Good-governance, Decentralization, Sustainable-democracy, Citizens participation, Gubernatorial-Election

For over two decades now since Nigeria returned to democracy (29/5/1999), the electoral process has witnessed positive changes from electronic card readers to voters education programmes. But what happened in Bayelsa State in the 2019 gubernatorial election was unbelievable. It was a sophisticated style of election rigging which has not been heard of in the country that took place in which election results has been announced. One of the parties won over two-third majority of the electorates while the failed party won in one Local government Area out of the eight Local government Areas of the state. But in less than

twenty-four hour before the swearing-in of the party that won according to Alaba (2019), the Supreme Court seating in Abuja declared the failed party the winner of the election in November, 2019 herein February 2020. The reason was that the deputy governor was having inconsistent names in his certificates.

To us here in Bayelsa State, this was a modern kangaroo rigging method of the millennium in Nigeria. To many others, this was called regionalization, while others would see it as decentralization and devolution of power by the incumbent party that failed the elections. Better put, others called it resource control and fiscal federalism.

For those who favoured restricting give their hearts to good governance which is the hallmark of this paper. The purpose of which is to reduce national poverty through good governance. The major objectives are to increase local capacity for governance, so that other stakeholders can imbibe good governance and raise the need for the advocacy for good governance in democracy.

The partway to this essence is to wholesomely put into practice the norms of restructuring good governance in any nation, especially in Africa. For good governance and sustainable administration, the UN has opted for an inclusive strategic planning and decision making processes.

Finally, in the UN Habitat Agenda's Endorsement "enabling approach" the above was confirmed. The said approach is epitomized by several strategies, decentralization of responsibilities and resources to the states and local government areas on fiscal federalism, enjoining civil societies participation particularly absorbing women into the administrative set-up.

Review of Related Literature
Political Institution

Here, the institution define the framework for citizen-citizen and citizen-state interactions, and which influence collective decision making about public resources allocation and delivery of local public services. Actually, formal political institutions play a role in determining process of election of the leaders, the roles and responsibilities of the executive, and legislative, the organization (through political parties) and the accountability and oversight of the state (Scott & Mcloughlin, 2014).

In regulating political, social and economic roles and determining how public authority is mapped out and executed (constitutions, laws, customs, etc). These bodies must approve of how, where and on who resources are spent and given.

Many urban areas suffer from an unbalance of political power, and insufficient inclusive participation (UN-Habitat, 2016). Group decision making did not have the capacity to resolve the problem between national developmental agenda and the local needs of the people. Quite unfortunate, well meaning citizens like youths, the poor, women, minorities and even the disables were not contacted in decision making.

To create political system and institutions that work for the poor, a framework of urban governance must facilitate citizen empowerment through a rights-based approach; such as direct democracy, facilitate bottom up accountability involving evaluation of government performance as facilitator of a network of providers by citizens as governors, tax-payers and consumers of public services (Andrews and Shah, 2005).

Legal and Institutional Framework

Sustainable, equitable and dynamic urban life also exist in the metropolitan urban life of the people governed. Where the citizens work and live also require arrangement of democracy which comes from the distribution of power and resources which are the dividend of democracy. Such features tell well of the governance and those in office who were elected into power.

In fact, local governments promote and facilitate effective participation of the civil society in city management including local governments. However, sustainability of local public action relies duely on the integration of different sphere of government and a wide range of participating actors-informally or formally in the implementation and policy formulation. The enabling environment for all actors is facilitated in participation and procession by the local governments which are the dividends of the citizenry.

This must enable the women and men, youth, the urban poor, ethnic minorities and other disadvantaged people to access the dividend of democracy.

Sustainable Development

The aim of sustainable development is to have a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs (united nations general assembly, 1987;43). Infact, in 1987, the Brundt land commission published its report on "common future", in an effort to link the issues of economic development and environmental stability.

In protecting the sustainability, the concept sustaining socio-economic advancement and progress. Actually, analysis and advocates of sustainable development wants to know the relationship between the two to ascertain the future time horizon which is the basic aims of sustainable development. As a result the board tried to define "what is to be sustained." In doing this, there main areas were focused. Viz nature, life support systems and community. Other areas of focus include the intermediate categories for each of the three areas above; such as earth environment and cultures. The board found findings that more emphasis was laid on life support system. This defined the nature or environment as a source of services for the utilitarian life support of human kind. Infact, the environmental policies and development strategies got their framework from some of the sustainable development findings.

The board (Brundt Land commissions report), after some years of its work was faced with what was the standard definition" of sustainable development? The board has a study on sustainable development of U.S. national academy of sciences tries fathom out a viable definition of the concept from the used literatures. It was discovered the meaning is meaningful with the take of "our common journey. That is, a transition towards valued for its intrinsic value rather than its utility for human being (Nnodu, 2008) has a clear in-depth definition. The three pillars of sustainable development are truly; social and environmental in a standard definition made known during the 2002 World Summit on sustainable development. Again, the Johannesburg declaration produced "a collective responsibility to advance and strengthen the interdependent and mutual reinforcing the pillar of sustainable development; viz: economic development, social development and environmental production at local, national, regional and global level" (Alaba 2019). However, there no details and definitions of these three pillars of sustainable development before they were immediately adopted and accepted.

Governance

For there to be necessary legal frameworks, efficient political management and administrative processes, there must be good governance which will enable the local government respond to the yearning of her citizenries. This, governance means the various ways the local governments and the rulers runs on daily basis the city`s activities so as to attain the short and long term programmes of the people. As a matter of fact, in the local government administration, it is the urban governance that is the software that gingers the urban hardware to triumph. Actually, the governance is used as a yardstick to measure the democratic and inclusive, long-term and integrated; multi-scale and multi level; territorial; proficient and conscious of the computer age span. According to Andrew and Shah (2005), in the real sense of it, the local governments are instrumental in urban governance and administration democratically.

Furthermore, capable and virile local governments bring to the limelight an inclusive and sustainable urban growth. This is always seen in accountable and transparent city management showing a dynamic multi-stakeholder agenda administratively. In most countries of the world where democracy is practiced they have legitimacy and proximity bringing out the beauty of effective governance, management and development of the cities and dwellings (Maciver and Dimkpa, 2011). This study is focused on the strengthening of instructional capacity and local leadership skills in sustainable political governance. In Fact, overarching prerequisite for urban governance is effective multilevel governance which should be characterized by well-defined spheres of government at the local, regional and national levels. Expectedly, this should be based on effective and necessary decentralization policies of governance. This brings about an equitable distribution of responsibilities and arms of government which are legally enshrined showing the financial accountabilities in each area (Alaba, 2019). Thus, there is a balance between the local and central level of governance both at the public and private sectors. This is the main function of the UN-Habitat work which is the permanent structure of dialogue.

Participation an Inclusion

One of the multidimensional challenges in good governance is to ensure a municipal government leverage economic inequality among the governed. For this to work well in urban governance relationships among stakeholders must be maintained. For it to come to pass, policy coordination at the local and regional levels be encouraged and the voice of the governed must be head.

According to UN-Habitat (2013b) global report of the human settlements (2013), Nairobi, the poor have both a role to play in governing the urban area and interest to sustaining to ameliorate the growth of urban poverty and misery. In governing the urban area, the poor have been excluded from participation except in exchange for partial political support and interest. Thus, in terms of access to social, economic and political opportunities, especially in decision-making and participatory roles, the poor have been removed from urban governance. As such the associated benefits of urban living have been the inequalities between the urban and rural dwellers. Such inequalities include improvements in reproductive health, gender inequality, education, income, and reduction in child mortality, housing, security and the improved general welfares in the urban areas. More of the

inequalities exist in urban management governance, uneven capacity to draw a patronage networks and interrelationship discrimination between rural and urban dwellers.

So many urban areas suffer from an imbalance of political power and insufficient participation and inclusion (UN-Habitat, 2016). The gap between national development agendas and local needs have failed because of lack of collective decision making. Excluded from decision-making include the urban poor, women, minorities and youths (Alaba, 2019).

According to Shah and Shah (2006) others excluded from the collective decision making include "who you are" (your class or religion, where you live and your ethnicity). Others are "where you live" (peri-urban areas or informal settlements). Again, according to political institutions mainly determine the process for electing leaders, the rules and responsibilities of the executive and legislative organs, the organizations of political representation (party by party including the oversight and accountabilities of the elected). Finally, how, where, and upon whom resources are allocated and spent are also determine by these set of groups.

Institutionally and Financially Sustainable Local Government

To provide reliable, quality and affordable basic services and to ensure equitable urban citizenship, the urban government must rest at the hands of the local governments that provide the aforementioned amenities (Venables, 2005). Infact, a good public financial management system is needed by the local governments so as to be able to do their job very well. In this direction, the urban poor and all and sundry will be served very well. Furthermore, local government should liaise with the national governments and private and the informal sectors so as to succeed (Holder, 2014). Finally, in order to promote a strong system of cities and balanced territorial development there must be an effective provision of needed services.

Transparent and Accountable Local Governments

Local governments play greater role in designing policies and delivering key public services in the face of weak governance structures once there is the devolution of powers, budgets and responsibilities. Of course once the situation is like this, some sectors are likely going to be corrupt and possibly misappropriate funds culminating in a mismanaged and inefficient administration politically (Alaba, 2019).

In this light, government merits and accountability are physically affected and political service qualities ate eroded dashing public trust into the dust. For good governance to exist, transparency and accountability are needed for cities growth in today's politics. For efficient and accountable manners, citizens globally want the best instruments to be in control of public administration (Haider, 2014). Finally, citizens should be made to participate in the development, control and monitoring of the formulation, spending and performance of public policies especially at the local level for a good governance to emerge.

Methodology

The sampled survey research methodology was used for this study. The main population of this study is 1120 while the sample size was 240. The stratified random sampling technique was used while distributing the questionnaires to the respondents. Focus

group discussion was the complement of the questionnaire survey in the study. The collected data were analysed and descriptive statistics.

S/N	Items	Strongly Agree (SA) 4	Agree (A)3	Disagree (D) 3	Strongly Disagree (SD) 1	Mean	Decision Rule
1	Citizen participation in decision making	122	70	14	34	3.2	Accepted
2	Transparency and accountability is needed for sustainable democracy	194	30	10	6	3.7	Accepted
3	There is security if life and property	8	16	86	130	1.6	Accepted
4	There is equity in the allocation of resource and appointment decision making	6	14	44	176	1.1	Accepted
5	Decentralization of power constitutes restructuring and good governance	54	90	42	54	2.6	Accepted

Results and Discussions
Table 1: Frequency of Responses on Good Governance
Source: Author's field survey, 2020
Table 1 above reveals the perceptions of the respondents on the different attributes of good governance on Bayelsa State of Nigeria.

About seventy three percent of the respondents agreed that devolution of power and decentralization make up restructuring and good governance in Nigeria as a nation. Out is these respondents, ninety three percent opined that transparency and accountability are needed for sustainable democracy of any country in the world. Again for decision making process, eighty respondents ascribed to this injunction. On the negative note, ninety and ninety one point seven percent respondents are respectively agreed that security of life and property and allocation of resources/appointment to government offices promote good governance.

Test of Hypothesis
H_0: There is no significant difference in citizenship participation and equity in Bayelsa state federal constituencies.

H_i: There is a significant difference in citizenship participation and equity in Bayelsa state federal constituencies.

Table 2.

	O	E	O-E	$(O\text{-}E)^2$	$\dfrac{0-E}{E}$	X^2 Tabulated	Decision
SA	76.8	1060	16.8	141.12	4.704		
AA	44	1060	-16	128	4.26		
DD	39.2	1060	-20.8	216.32	7.22		
SD	80		20	200	6.66		
					22.844	**3.564**	**Significant**

The calculated chi- square is; 22.844
The Degree of freedom is;
df= (R-1) (C - 1)
df= (4- 1) (5 - 1)
df= 3 x 4 = 12
Where R = the number of rows
        C = the number of columns
        X = 0.05
The calculated chi-square value is; **3.564**

Decision Rule
        Once the calculated chi-squares`s value is less than the tabulated value, at 5% level of significance, we accept the null hypothesis (H;). From table 2 above, it is evident that the calculated (22.844) is greater than the critical value (3.564) at 0.5 level of significance and degree of 12. Hence, we rejected the H_0 and accept the H¸. This means that there is a significance difference in citizenship participation and equity in Bayelsa federal constituencies.

Summary of Major Findings
        Meanly, this research study sought to assess the role of good governance in sustainable democracy in Nigeria. From the findings, it was true that decentralization, transparency and accountability, citizenship participation and inclusion are needed for sustainable democracy and it attendant development. This was in consonance with the findings of Shah and Shah (2006). But for good governance, which were lacking from the result of this study, prerequisite are security of life and property. Be that at it may, the results of the findings of the research show that there is a significance difference in citizenship participation in decision making in Bayelsa federal constituencies. This findings was in consonance with the research findings of Alaba (2019).

Conclusion
        Good governance is the main theme of the hue and cry of this country for restructuring in many quarters of Nigeria. This involves, according to Alaba (2019), centralization and devolution of power to local authorities, equity, transparency and accountability of the various arms of government. Knowing fully well that it is at the local levels that this essentials are remitted, the local government and states should be allowed to

generate and manage their resources in the country. Thus, in their local proceedings, there should be transparency and accountability for the citizens to be happy.

Recommendations
The following recommendations were made by the author of the research, such as;

Citizenship and civic engagement: Citizens like youths and women should be engaged to partake in the process of decision making. Infact, people from different walks of life should be encouraged to contribute in governance for variance in decision for good governance.

Decentralization of authority and resources: In distributing service provision responsibility, there should be equitability of subsidiary principle; such that the lowest appropriate level consistent with cast effective and efficient be given delivery of services duties. This will give the room to easy flow of ideas among the ranks and files.

Decision makers' transparency and accountability: Local government operates in a sustainable democracy need transparency and accountability. Such will make the policy makers to know which sector of society are benefiting from actions and decisions of the government.

Equity of access to decision making processes: this the equitable representation of youths, men and women. Their needs and priorities must be equitably reached to avoid complaints.

Individuals` security and their environment/living conditions: Constitutionally, everybody has the alienable right to life, liberty and personal security. In fact, insecurity pose poor stance to life thereby attracting communal poor life style. For a good governance to thrive, this condition of living must be addressed properly by the administrators in any democracy.

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