



The Relevance of History and Culture in Good Governance in Nigeria

Dr. Maureen Nwando Onyejebu

Institute of African Studies
University of Nigeria, Nsukka
nwando.onyejebu@unn.edu.ng

Abstract

Good governance in Nigeria has been an issue since the attainment of the nation's independence in 1960. For any human society to thrive well and for positive development to be achieved, there is need for good governance. The nation has some basic setbacks today in their governing system. The problem can be traced down to leaders who do not have deep knowledge of their history and culture. The paper is of the opinion that for any nation to attain greatness, have peace and unity, there is absolute need for leaders to know their roots. The concept of good governance also becomes clearer when leaders have the objectives to discharge their duties with justice and equity. The investigation looked at the many issues that have caused poor leadership system in Nigeria in the past years. From the findings, the paper is of the opinion that if bad governance is allowed to go on because most leaders failed to understand their past, and if unstudied and rectified, this could result in more devastating state for the nation. Investigation has shown that many concerned Nigerians are already making efforts to imbibe history education early enough in their citizens and have also realized the need for justifiable elections of good leaders who have genuine concerns for their citizens. The paper concludes that when leaders embrace their history and culture, they will do better and good governance shall prevail.

Keywords: Good Governance, Nigeria, History, Culture

Introduction

For years, the quest and desire for good governance had been the primary wish of many Nigerians. Good governance, two words, but very precise and clear, simply contrasts with the opposite, bad governance. Many factors such as power, corruption, and lack of the will to resist temptations among others often pose challenges to good governance in Nigeria. From the view of Falola (2008), Nigeria is Africa's most populous country whose success has been undermined by ethnic and religious conflict, political instability, official corruption and an ailing economy. Good governance is needed for the good of the people and the nation and where this fail, the people become unhappy and the motive for democracy becomes defeated. In fact, there is no gainsaying the fact that the level of development and progress in any given nation is often reflected in the good governing system of that nation. Addink (2019:16) observed that good governance is not only about the proper use of the government's powers in a transparent and participative way, it also requires good and faithful exercise of power. Good governance, therefore, is the major tool for reasonable development in any given organization or nation.

Nigeria is a beautiful nation that is made up of many ethnic groups. Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba are the three main ethnic groups in the nation. Each ethnic group in Nigeria has its unique culture, way of life and distinct language. Panopio and Realidad (2007:30) said that “culture implies that a society has its own way of life; each society has its own distinctive system of family and economy. Nevertheless, ever since Nigeria got her independence in 1960, the nation, just like many African nations have been battling with the issue of governance. In fact, in recent times, the news going on in the media have alarmingly shown that the degree of corruption going on in the nation is massive which makes the issue of good governance impossible. Azeez (2011:217, 244) argued that Nigeria is supposed to be the giant of Africa if not for past years of military rule and corruption. Nigeria is a democratic nation and is also blessed with quantum mineral and human resources but the leaders have not been able to manage the nation well. It is a well-known fact that democracy practiced well results in good governance and good governance leads to development. In the opinion of Gani (2011), political stability and government efficiency in a nation brings advanced economic growth.

People and organizations have tried to define the meaning of good governance. World Bank (1989) defined governance as the way power is exercised in the management of a country’s economic and social resources while Yaqub and Abubakar (2005) saw governance as the totality of the process of constituting a government and administering a political community. In all, good governance simply means implementing democracy in its right way and judiciously. Good governance requires hard work on the side of the leaders. It requires that they provide basic amenities for the people’s comfort. Some of these basic amenities which signify good governance in Nigeria include good and lasting roads, potable pipe borne water, frequent power supply, payment of workers’ salary in time, evaluation of workers’ welfare and others. For good governance to occur, a leader is needed to be transparent, accountable and honest. He or she must strive to be fair and just in his activities with the masses. Exhibition of good governance further include fair treatment of the people, security provision, creating of enough employment opportunities for the youth, quality free education, enough food supply in the system and stabilization of the nation’s currency. Bad governance has many negative effects in a nation. It brings lack of trust, hatred of leaders, disintegration, and disunity and in most cases the development of the nation becomes retarded. When the economy is destroyed, poverty multiplies and lawlessness, crime, insecurity abounds. These creates the feeling of distrust and unhappiness amongst the people. Hogendoorn (2018:6) observed that most Nigerians, including officials and politicians, admit that rampant corruption and bad governance are denying most citizens even basic services, including security. Most of these mentioned abnormally in governance has been traced on the poor knowledge of the history and culture of the land by the leaders. History and culture are considered basic for good governance to take place. In view of the above, the next sections will address methodology, conceptual issues, and the challenges of good governance in Nigeria.

Concept of Good Governance and Its Characteristics

According to Smith (2007:4), good governance is the government that is democratically organized within a democratic political culture and with efficient administrative organizations, plus the right policies, particularly in the economic sphere. The International Monetary Fact Sheet described with the title *IMF and Good Governance* (2018: 1) emphasized that governance is a broad concept covering all aspects of the way a country is governed, including its economic policies and



regulatory framework, as well as adherence to the rule of law. Tripathi (2017) also note that the concept of good governance has gained prominence around the world in recent times. In the vein, Agere (2000:1) observed that the concept good governance has recently come into regular use in political science, public administration and more particularly development management. Biju (2007:6) also observed that unprincipled alliances to grab political power and perpetuate populism and patronage at the cost of good governance is seen too often at central and state levels. Fernando (2006:45) note that the concept of 'governance' means the process of decision making and the process by which decisions are implemented while Bevir (2012:5) also observed that governance can refer abstractedly to all processes of governing. Good governance simply means the act of governing the people in acceptable way and in reasonable fairness. Leaders abound in different forms and are found in many offices as presidents, ministers, local government chairmen, vice chancellors, directors, principles amongst many others. Good governance should reflect in all sectors - the economy, politics, and administration etc. of the nation. It also implies that the interest of the masses is always put first in whatever plans and processes the government indulges in. Furthermore, good governance can be described as the government that listens and responds accordingly to the people's plight and responds accordingly. In all, Sundarav (2012:3) concluded by saying that effective government or good governance matters. The World Bank's interest in good governance derives from its concern for the sustainability of the programs and projects it helps to finance (World Bank's Experience, 1994: ii). The government or leaders of a nation are simply those formally elected by the citizens to man the affairs of the nation for peace and order to reign in a given nation. In whichever category one belongs to, president, vice-president, law makers etc., good governance is expected. As Oburota (2003:388) said, "politically, people may disagree about the best means of achieving good governance, but they quite agree that good governance is absolutely imperative for social and economic progress". For good governance to be completely ensured in a given nation, people should be allowed to have a say also in the decisions being made in the nation that concerns them. The masses should be allowed to contribute ideas that will suit them and these ideas should be carried out if necessary.

Basic amenities which favour the people and make their life better should be provided without much ado and hullabaloo. For this reason, there is need for the nation to always look back and remember the history of where they are coming from, imbibe the culture of the nation and then shun corruption which is massively killing the people and the economy. Nigeria has successful men and women across the nation and the world who can contribute meaningfully in the effort for good governance through their manpower and ideas. One of the factors that spoil leaders in Nigeria is the profit in crude oil which recently have been curtailed naturally. But then, for many years past after the attainment of independence, profit from oil developed Nigeria's major cities and created many investments and companies in the nation. In recent times, the present government have made it mandatory that the people shift from their over dependence in oil to something else which is agriculture. So far, the road to democracy has not been very easy for Nigeria and some other African nations. According to Elaigwu cited in Yio (2012), democracy is alien to Africa and needs to be domesticated in Nigeria.

Good governance requires the effort of everyone for a successful Nigerian nation. Leaders need to sit up and do the needful for the betterment of the people. According to Ekweremadu (2014:5), 'Nigerians simply want good governance - the kind achieved when leaders show humility, restraint,

and respect for limitations on their powers, and give primacy to the needs, welfare and rights of citizens'. Processes of good leadership start with credible elections. People should be allowed to make their choices during elections and the leaders must have to accept the results the way they are, not fight. The result must be taken in good faith. Also, the masses have to work along with the government regardless of their age, sex, ethnic group, for effective governance. Transparency and straight forwardness must be actualized during electoral process. It is imperative that each government, no matter at which level they are, should endeavour to have plans for his people especially the youth so that they do not indulge in negative practices that are likely to mar the security and peace of the nation and the people. In fact, large volume of unemployed youths in a system does not depict good leadership system. Some of the characteristics of good governance are transparency, accountability, consensus oriented, participation, responsiveness, and efficiency. It must also follow the rule of law. And because the people deserve to have the best due to the taxes they pay, basic amenities must be provided without much delay and begging from the people. Also, these basic amenities which are always based only in the cities must be made to circulate in the villages and communities to avoid too much influx of people to the cities. This is to say that it is now very obvious that most times in Nigeria, development starts and ends in the large cities while the villages suffer. The only time politicians ply bad roads are only during elections in their bid to go to the remote villages to campaign for election after which they relax and the people continue to suffer in acute rejection.

Characteristic of good governance is the reverse of the above-mentioned case. Good governance must ensure the development of all sectors and communities where people dwell in. Ability to coordinate and mobilize the multi ethnic groups in Nigeria will be a great achievement. Nigerian leaders ought to know that Nigeria has multiple cultures, ethnic groups and must know how to coordinate affairs for effective leadership. Tribalism and sectionalism must be discouraged by all means so that peace can reign. The marks of good governance are clear and simple. Accountability is vital as people look up to the leaders for this important characteristic. Thus, the government has to account for every action he takes with the nation's fund. Leaders must therefore be as transparent as possible to win trust and good will from the masses. Being transparent will make the people believe in them. Rule of law has been narrated as an important part of good governance. Thus, every decision made must tally with the decided rule of law and it must be consistent otherwise there will be complaints from the people. It is unfair to the nation that most governments last their tenures without any meaningful development in the system. Hard work is a good characteristic of good governance. People should be appreciated and included in development processes and decision making too. Being fair enough with the allocation of resources and ministerial positions is a vital part of good governance too.

Elaigwu (2011) researched on this matter and correctly narrated some of the reasons why Nigeria's democratic process since independence has been unstable as 'breakdown of the rules of the game of politics, which profusely polluted the political stadium and made politics as dangerous for players as well as spectators; gross misuse of political power; among public officers including impudent political and economic decisions in allocation of scarce but a locatable resources; erosion of the rights of individuals; disenfranchisement of the Nigerian populace through blatant rigging of elections; conspicuous consumption of politicians amidst the abject poverty of the masses; excessively powerful regional governments, which threatened the relatively weak federal centre'. The



opposite of all these he mentioned will lead to good governance. This is the reason why the eight stipulated characteristics of good governance are listed as participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and that follows the rule of law.

The Place of History and culture in Understanding Good Governance

Over the past years, emphasis has been laid on the importance of good governance in the development of the nation. Knowledge of history and culture is important for good governance in Nigeria. Diagne (1981:233) has defined history as the knowledge of the past. Alagoa (1978) also said that history is the study of man through the audience of his past actions. As a discipline of inquiry, history is important in shaping one's present actions. In fact, Speedharan (2007:3) said that history is to the community what memory is to the individual. Jayapalan (2008:5) opined that history is concerned with man's past achievements whether the idea or the event in question occurred one minute ago or a thousand years ago. The knowledge of history and culture plays great role in good governance. America and Britain do not play with the history and culture of their fatherland and have gone far with good governance. History is the knowledge of the past event in a society. Many leaders who forget to honour their nation's past history and culture have failed woefully in governance. Jenks (2003:28) said that culture is a description of a particular way of life which expresses certain meanings and values not only in art and learning but also in institutions and ordinary behaviour. According to (CCFU:2010), we increasingly recognize that important aspects of our cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, provide important sources of inspiration and learning to address the nation's current development challenges. Knowledge of past history of Nigeria helps in nation building and in good governance to a large extent. Nigerian history reflects the journey of the nation and the people during the colonial rule. The nation was amalgamated in 1914 and ever since then has been struggling to make ends meet. In 1960, the nation got its independence and has also been struggling since then to make it what with the numerous ethnic groups coming in together as one entity. So far, the road had not been easy and Nigeria has been having governance issues. It has experienced various coups and military rules before it became democratic in 1999. Olusegun Obasanjo was the president at the time. The knowledge of the history of Nigeria's past will boost good governance in Nigeria. It is sad to say but it is true that few Nigerian leaders understand the history of Nigeria and its past sufferings. Some came into power with their minds set on looting the bountiful resources in Nigeria.

History has the capability and the records to tell the people about the governments that did well and those that did not. It informs the leaders of whom they will emulate and whom not to emulate. Nigerian history stated that Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe was the first Nigerian Governor- General when the nation got her independence in 1960. The role he and his fellow patriots played in gaining independence for Nigeria so far had been deemed remarkable. Starting from that time, there had been other regimes or governments in Nigeria. In recounting Nigerian leaders and periods of leadership, General Yakubu Gowon regime started in July 1966 and ended in July 1975. Consequently, General Murtala Mohammed's leadership in the country started in 1975 to stop in 1976. General Olusegun Obasanjo' first reign began in 1976 and stopped in 1979. Leadership continued in Nigeria and witnessed the reign of Alhaji Shehu Aliyu Shagari, General Mohammed Buhari regime (1984-1985),

General Ibrahim Babangida (1985-1993), General Sani Abacha (1993-1998). General Abdusalam Abubakar's regime began in 1998 to end in 1999 while Olusegun Obasanjo's reign began in 1999 and ended in 2007. Shehu Musa Yar'adua's reign as the president of the country was shortlived because of his death. It began in 2007 and ended 2010. This ushered in Goodluck Ebelechukwu Jonathan as the president in 2010 and ended in 2014. Presently, the president of the nation is Muhammadu Buhari who assumed leadership of the country from 2015. A new election was held in 2019 in Nigeria when Nigerians decided on new leadership through their voting and he still continued as the president.

Now, one may ask how does culture relate to good governance? Culture is related to good governance because it has been described as the way of life of the people. Culture has the capability of molding a person into a better human being because enshrined in culture are deep core values and morals. The leaders are human beings and they belong to the society which is enshrined in culture and norms. It signifies doom for any nation that abandons their way of life such as dressing, food, mannerisms, cloth pattern, etc. to adopt foreign cultures. Culture, according to Tylor (1977) is the way of life of the people. Every nation in the world has a culture. Culture determines how people behave. Nigeria has her culture too which is rich judging from the collaboration of different ethnic groups in the nation. Nigerian collective culture and belief embrace good name, discipline, integrity, love, hard work, unity, progress, agriculture. According to Panopio and Realidad (2007:30), culture has the preconditioning factors for the development of the nation.

Thus, knowledge and respect for culture is important for good governance in Nigeria. Hard work, discipline and integrity are part of the nation's collective culture. If the above listed qualities are inculcated by the leaders, there is bound to be good governance. Neglect of culture is disastrous to governance. Therefore, schools must be made to go back to teaching of history and culture to the young ones. In fact, every Nigerian leader must adopt the nation's culture which expresses lasting love, peace and unity for Nigeria through shunning corruption and inventing good governance. They must remember that the national anthem represents the nation's collective culture and must imbibe that into their character. Nigerians must also realize that they are needed to partake fully towards achieving good governance by being good citizens and supportive instead of blaming the system continuously.

History and culture are therefore very important in shaping the future of good governance in Nigeria if the leaders recognize its importance and adopt the values they hold now. History's role in good governance is its ability to remind leaders of the past activities of the nation -strengths and weaknesses. Schools must be made to teach history for effective protection and defense of the motherland. In history, the primary and written sources are important for while documented materials are there for reference for Nigerian leaders, the artifacts in the museums tell of our past and of our past greatness. When history is made compulsory in Nigerian schools, it is sure to improve the future leaders' characters. The knowledge of the history of Nigeria's culture, arts and local technology can help not only the leaders but also the masses who are not leaders. Nigerian culture also preaches justice, fairness and equity. According to Ekweremadu,

The integrity as a concept of consistency of nations, values, principles, and measures remains the hallmark of leadership. It is about deep commitment to



the right thing always for the very right reason, irrespective of the circumstance, and whether or not anyone is watching. Leaders with integrity are incorruptible and also incapable of breaking the trust of those who have vested their confidence and trust in them (2012:13).

Nigeria is a multicultural nation. This means that there are different cultures in one nation. Nigeria is strong in its diversity. Nigeria's multiple ethnic groups can be advantageous to the nation if well-coordinated. History recounts that the people of Nigeria fought the Nigerian-Biafra civil war of 1967 to 1970 together; and today are reciting the same national anthem which emphasize that they all have the same story to tell and experience of the good and bad in the nation. This is why the government must understand history and culture of Nigeria for effective governance. A people's culture includes their arts, beliefs, religion, language and technology. A leader who forgets his culture to adopt foreign culture is a failure. Nigerian people are united under a common culture and therefore must unite in ensuring they all work together towards ensuring good governance by electing leaders who are culture driven and who knows the mind of the people.

Challenges of Good Governance in Nigeria

Achievement of good governance has been a great challenge to the nation for many years now. It has always been the expectation of Nigerian citizens that whomsoever that leads them must exhibit good governance qualities throughout their tenure. One of the outstanding challenges to good governance in Nigeria is the embezzlement of the nation's fund. In Nigeria, this has become a common practice amongst many leaders. The rich oil economy of Nigeria made it very tempting for most leaders in Nigeria to offer good governance. Looting and corruption has eaten deep into the Nigerian leadership system as a result of excess profit in crude oil. According to Aziz (2002:2), corruption continues to deny the poor, the marginalized and the least educated members of the society, the social, economic and political benefits that should accrue to them, benefits that are taken for granted in societies.

Many cases of corruption have been witnessed in Nigeria. Some governments have worse corruption cases than the others and are presently languishing in jail. Corruption mars the nation's reputation and destroys the savings of a nation. It is an evil that has been known to have caused endless poverty situations for the masses especially the poor in the villages because it is a crime that enriches the rich and makes the poor poorer. Corruption encourages bad governance because it affects trust and belief of the people in a government. So far, Nigerian government has not been able to account properly for the recovered looted funds in Nigeria. Again, the different ethnic groups in Nigeria have not been very easy to manage or govern successfully. Each group continually complains of being marginalized especially the states with oil resources and this pose a big challenge to good governance. Nigeria is a nation that was merged together with multiple ethnic groups and cultures. Christianity and Islam form her two major religions including traditional religion. Findings have demonstrated that the various ethnic groups in Nigeria have contributed in making the culture of the nation rich but hard to govern. The expression by Oji and Oji (2010:2) that Nigerian administration was grossly abnormal following years of great upheavals and war of people with varying backgrounds, culture and languages is correct. We also find Okonjo-Iweala's (2012:1) expression of

thought useful when she said that in a way, outsiders often fail to understand or fully grasp that Nigeria has always been complex to govern.

On the other hand, the various ethnic groups prevalent in the nation have their individual needs which when the government fails to meet, bring aggressiveness or dissatisfaction which can make governance hard for the leaders. In most cases, each ethnic group strives to be represented in the nation's government. In fact, some groups become more prominent in the nations' governing system that other groups feel bad about. This in turn brings lack of full cooperation from such groups. Ethnicity and tribalism set Nigeria back. Security - the issue of terrorism and insecurity in Nigeria no doubt has set the nation's good governance back in recent times. So far, nothing has been so deadly and causes insecurity in Nigeria in recent times like the Boko Haram insurgency and the ravaging actions of the Fulani herdsmen. The level of insecurity and terror they administer in the nation wards off foreigners from investing in Nigeria. It destabilizes Nigerian economy, destroys lives and properties. It also brings distraction and massive monetary waste that good governance which needs concentration becomes impossible. Before it is unheard of that school children are abducted but today it is a common occurrence unfortunately. Regaining these children often require some plans that take millions of naira mapped out for the development of the nation.

As stated earlier, corruption is a factor that sets Nigerian good governance back. So far, a lot of money cash has been discovered in many homes in Nigeria and a lot of fund recovered from numerous banks around the world belonging to Nigerian politicians and citizens. These and many more examples clearly show that corruption truly exists in Nigeria. In fact, the level of corruption going on in Nigerian work places, ministries, etc. are even more than is heard in the news. Corruption has eaten so deep in Nigerian system that it destabilizes all efforts being made towards good governance. In most cases, most Nigerian workers in financial positions have allowed the will for their personal gains to cloud their senses for good name and good governance. In the observation of Achebe (1983:1), the trouble with Nigeria is simply and squarely a failure of leadership.

False election results set good governance in Nigeria back in many ways. Some leaders who are not qualified and who have little or no vision for the nation are most times supported and elected by the help of the so-called godfathers that when eventually they assume office as leaders, their visions become the type that is not favourable to the nation. In fact, their political godfathers become the ones who govern from the background thereby making good governance in Nigeria impossible to actualize. Abundance of and over-dependence on crude oil in Nigeria have somewhat helped in spoiling Nigerian leaders and the masses that it makes good governance impossible. Most leaders are busy negotiating foreign currencies on Nigeria's biggest mineral oil and gas that they fail to concentrate on good governance. According to Adegbesola,

This is a momentous period in the political evolution of our country; and as a people, we are at a historic crossroads with regard to the kind of society we are running vis-a-vis the sort of society we should be running. This is particularly more important for those of us in leadership positions in the country (2014:1).



Thus, the past history of Nigeria is supposed to play a major role in restructuring Nigerian governance but it has not due to gross neglect of its value in governance. In fact, some Nigerian leaders in the past have at one time or the other removed history from the educational curriculum in Nigerian schools. Also, the rudiments of culture have not been adequately imbibed by the leaders. The collective culture of Nigeria which includes, integrity, discipline, truthfulness etc. are missing in the lives of many Nigerians. They sing the national anthem without knowing that the words therein are the cultures that unite the people. Jenks (2003:35), is of the opinion that history and culture brings out the moral or philosophical points of view, aesthetic, humanitarian or theological and or inspiration; the desire to know what the past was because the past appeals to our sentiments in a manner which need not be vindicated but cannot be gained – all these are legitimate. Magelssen & Justice-Malloy (2011:2) said that the past has been a subject of theatre and performance since the beginning. Non-participation in the nation's struggle for good governance by the masses also sets the struggle back. For good governance to thrive, the citizens have roles to play too in good governance. Most Nigerian citizens dodge taxpaying and most times assist the leaders in siphoning money meant for the nation's development. Leadership is a collective effort of the people and the established leaders. Good leadership begins first from the home before nationwide. According to Huntington (1996) political system is democratic.

Suggestions on the Way Forward

Based on the above discussions, the paper makes the following suggestions:

- First, leaders or those that aspire for leadership roles must have the knowledge of their history and imbibe the culture of their land which has deep moral values. According to Smith (2006:53), the materiality of heritage is itself a brutally physical statement of power, universality, objectivity and cultural attainment of the possessors of that heritage.
- Secondly, Nigerians must vote wisely for credible leaders to govern them. They must remove sentiments and tribalism out of elections.
- Thirdly, Nigerians must ensure strict resistant to bribery and corruption at all levels. Elected leaders need to know that they are expected to be credible and ensure that they carry out their promises to the people because the people are watching. In fact, Ekweremadu observed that in general, 'Nigeria needs the kind of leadership that will orchestrate moral, ethical and values revival. Nigeria needs a leadership that can easily win and sustain the trust of the citizens to be able to mobilize them for development whether at community or national levels. Nigeria needs the kind of leadership that does not need the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) to breathe down their neck to be able to hold public fund as sacred and applied for the general good of all' (2012:13).
- There is need for the government to be conscious of their words and promises of service delivery.
- It is essential for the leaders to ensure that they are servant leaders and not the other way round where the citizens are used as servants and people without opinion. Bellver &

Kaufmann (2005) recited the importance of leaders being transparent in their dealing with the citizens.

- Transparency will build trust and increase good relationship between the leaders and the people. According to Ekweremadu (2014:5), to create a better environment marked by peace, Nigeria must deal with the following issues – effective leadership, reform the electoral process, reform party politics, deal with insecurity, tackle corruption, address poverty and unemployment, engender public participation, revamp public institutions, improve education, restructure the NYSC scheme, practice true federalism, attitudinal change and observation of law. Leaders must imbibe the spirit of justice, equity, fairness when they assume public office. They must be aware that the masses are watching to see if they will keep the words, they promised at election campaigns. They must strive to strengthen democracy in Nigeria instead of disintegrating it with corrupt practices and nonchalant attitudes.
- Government must try to welcome the opinion of Nigerians whenever they suggest ways to move the nation forward because good governance is a collective effort.
- The government on the other hand must instill fair elections into the system. The practice of having political ‘God fathers’ during elections for support after which the ‘god fathers’ determine what will go on in the system must be completely erased as they cause bad governance in Nigeria.
- Most financial homes engage in severe corruptions which most times are not even noticed. For good governance to thrive this must be controlled. Leaders who put personal interest first before the nation must be impeached without delay, fear or favour. Nigerians must be made to return to agriculture and produce abundant food to reduce hunger which leads to bad conducts, terrorism, insurgency, and crimes of different natures in the nation.
- Rebranding in all sectors and in all individuals in Nigeria is very important now than ever before. Late professor Dora Akunyili, the former Minister of Information and Culture in Nigeria once emphasized repeatedly the value and need to rebrand Nigeria.
- Finally, it is vital to reconstruct the people’s mentality to governance especially the leaders who call embezzlement of national wealth the ‘national cake’. The slogan ‘national cake’ is not good for the system and must not be tolerated anymore because it creates an avenue for committing of financial crime without feeling guilty.

Conclusion

In this paper, attempts have been made to explain the meaning of good governance in Nigeria, history and culture. So far, there have been a lot of lamentations on Nigeria’s governance status. Good governance is not being hundred percent practiced in Nigeria today because of many reasons some of which are the neglect of the values of history and culture by the leaders. In this paper, the importance of history and culture were explained. History is vital in achieving good governance in Nigeria



because it reminds leaders of the journey of the nation so far and helps them to sit up and correct what has not been corrected in the past. Remembering where they come from, the battles they have indulged in the past, the civil war, and the roles of the bad leaders in the past and how it has affected the people's lives will make for good governance. History speaks of the nation's past failures and successes in Nigeria. This serves as a laid down reminder of the need to move on with the greater desire for good governance. The paper also posited that leaders must imbibe culture so that they can deliver governance for Nigeria. Culture is also discussed in the paper in another angle. Nigeria, though a multi-cultural state, has a collective culture that promotes integrity, hard work, discipline, etc. Thus, knowing how to tackle the various cultural ethnic groups in Nigeria is crucial. Nigerian leaders must respect the common culture that binds the people together. Many other factors such as corruption, terrorism and insecurity are discussed as some of the factors that destabilize the nation.

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