

DEMOCRACY AND NATIONAL SECURITY: EXPLORING THE SYNERGY FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA

by

Okoroafor, Ejike. C, Nzenwa, Bartholomew N. & Oti, Ben I.

Department of Social Sciences
Federal Polytechnic, Nekede, Owerri, Imo State.

Abstract

This paper is an explorative discourse on the state of the nation, Nigeria, in terms of its status on democracy, national security and good governance. Nigeria's democracy is relatively young having taken off on May 29, 1999. Since then, her democratic experience has been undermined by her failure in national security. The paper basically explores the concepts of security and democracy in the context of Nigeria, with a view to establishing the need for true democracy, national security, and good governance in Nigeria. The paper discusses the synergy of democracy and national security, links them to good governance which has the potential to deliver to Nigeria's strong socio-cultural, political and economic development. The paper ends with conclusion and some sustainable measures that can guarantee the promotion of true democracy, national security and good governance in the country, ranging from reforms in electoral system and constitution, improvement in quality of leadership to poverty alleviation and enforcement of anti-corruption measures etc.

Keywords: Democracy, National Security, Exploring, Synergy, Good Governance.

Introduction

It is a known fact that as at now, Nigerians and Nigeria as a nation have not began to experience true democracy, national security and good governance. It is not false to say that Nigeria became democratic since 1999 but has not taken advantage of this form of government to put in place adequate measures that can ensure national security and the prevalence of good governance. The lack of good governance in the country is traceable to the absence of true democracy and even more prevalent now, the increasing threat of insecurity borne out of the presence of bombings, terrorist attacks, kidnapping, poverty and hunger, unstable power supply, lack of adequate infrastructures and particularly, poor leadership etc. This situation in the country is not only killing her efforts at democracy but portends a serious threat to national security in the country. Agekameh (2010), captures the feeling of Nigerian's in these

words, “the consensus Nigerians need from the politicians at this point is how to transform the country from the backwaters of underdevelopment, poverty and disease to a prosperous nation: (The Nations, 2010).

The questions here are, can the synergy of democracy and national security guarantee good governance in Nigeria?. Is there link between democracy, national security and good governance that can be harnessed for a better future for Nigeria? This is the thrust of this paper, that is, the state of Nigeria in terms of these triple concepts (democracy, national security and good governance). First, the paper defines democracy and its nature, explores the synergy that could be developed between democracy and national security in Nigeria. It also discusses the link between democracy, national security and good governance and argues that if this link is properly harnessed, it has adequate potentials to land the country on the path of concrete social, cultural, political and economic development. The paper summarizes with a conclusion and a number of sustainable measures for strengthening democracy, national security and good governance in Nigeria. Among these measures are, improvement in quality of leadership, effective anti-corruption measures, electoral reforms, impartial/strong judiciary, constitutional reforms, enforcement of rule of law and so on.

Democracy: Definitions and Nature

The idea of democracy, or government by the people, is very old, dating back to ancient Greece. As a word, democracy was derived from two Greek words – Kratos (power), and demos (common people). Democracy literally means “power to the people (Henslin, 1998). Dibie (2003) defines democracy as “a form of government in which people exercise their governing power either directly, or through representatives periodically elected by them”. Funk & Wagnalls Standard Desk Dictionary (1993), defines democracy as, “a form of government in which political power resides in all the people and is exercised by them directly or is given to elected representatives, a state so governed”. Macionis (2005), defines democracy as “a type of political system that gives to the people as a whole”. Hornby (1995), offers a broader definition of democracy as ‘a system of government by all the people of a country, usually through representatives whom they elect, though as allowing freedom of speech, religion and political opinion ...’. Abraham Lincoln, one time president of United States of America (U.S.A), gave a classic definition of democracy as “the government of the people, by the people, and for the people”. Lincon’s definition of democracy has remained popular till date and is seen by the paper as a very simple and direct picture of what democracy implies and therefore the preferable definition of democracy for this paper. This is because it captures the real essence of the practice of democracy as a kind of government that has popular power in which

people are free, happy, duly represented and people decide what happens through their representatives. A government that is continually focusing on the general will of the people.

In a democracy, authority is rooted in the consent of the people, that is, in the belief that people have the right to run or at least to choose their government. Democracies impose clear, legally established limits to what elected officials can do. All participants in the system must obey the rules regarding such principles as; open, free and fair elections, one person one vote, and acceptance of majority decisions while respecting a minority's right to dissent. Calhoun et al (1997), describes democracy as a system in which "the law guarantees extensive civil liberties, including the freedom to associate with whomever one chooses, freedom of speech and the press, and freedom from unreasonable search and seizure". A democracy does not claim exclusive, unquestioning loyalty from its people; in fact, if those in power overstep their authority, the people have a right, even a duty, to vote them out of office or to impeach them through their representatives. Having discussed the definitions of democracy and aspects of its features, what then is the true nature of democracy and democracies? Literally, democracy is government of the people, by the people and for the people and a democracy has a government in which average citizens make the decisions that shape lives. In practice, however, democracy has proved to be anything but simple. In literal sense, democracy cannot exist, because the people cannot rule. In other words, democratic reality has always fallen short of the ideal (Haus, 2000). All known democracies have some sort of shortfall because of their failure to exercise in practical terms the characteristics and demands of true democracy. They compel their citizens to do things that they would rather avoid or not prefer to do, such as paying taxes, observing curfew, serving in the military, driving at or under the speed limit, not drinking alcohol before a certain age, and so on. All, too, have imperfect ways of holding elected officials accountable, which, after all, should be the essence of democracy itself.

The Concept of National Security

The concept of national security can be widely interpreted to mean many similar things or situations by different scholars and analysts. The issue of national security is a very important one to any nation. This is because a nation's state in terms of her peoples' well-being economically, socially, politically, internationally and so on is greatly influenced by her status on national security. The citizens, groups, institutions, corporate organizations and the country in entirety are security conscious. It is in the nature of man to always try to safeguard his physical body, property and even his interests because he needs to do so in order to remain alive, be

significant and also protect his acquisitions etc. A nation, on the other hand, also needs to protect itself from both internal and external forces that try to undermine or harm its collective interests, sovereignty, independence, integrity, as well as its citizens wherever they may be in the world. This is why nations cannot afford to be indifferent or uninterested in issues bothering on their national interest, particularly, national security. To understand the meaning of the phrase national security, the paper will prefer to examine the meaning of the two words that constitute “national security”. First, the word national is defined by Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (1995), as “related to as a whole nation, relation as opposed to other nations, someone who is a citizen of a particular country but living in another country”. Again, Funk & Wagnalls Standard Desk Dictionary (1993), is more explicit and defines national as, “of, belonging to, or representative of a nation as a whole; characteristic of or peculiar to a nation”. Among the above definitions, the latter is relevant and apt to the definition of national security in the paper. On the other hand, the latter dictionary defines security as, “the state of being secure; freedom from danger, poverty, etc”. Hornby (1995), defines security as, “protection—the activities involved in protecting a country, building, or person against attack, danger etc. It also in a simple and short way, defines national security as, “the defense of a country”.

Bringing the words “national” and “security” together for a more comprehensive description is attainable. National security can then be described as the sum of the efforts, energy, intelligence, commitment and the use of institutions (and their products) to enforce and ensure adequate protection of interests, people and properties of a nation. It also involves the overall protection of a nation’s integrity and sovereignty. On a wider scope, national security may be too complex to be captured in one definition because of its meaning in content and implications. National security encompasses the sum of what a nation does in order to safeguard itself as a sovereign entity and this includes every aspect of a nation’s life and existence. It then means that national security of a nation can extend to the well-being of its citizens, institutions, interests, development plans, economy etc. Apart from these, it also involves the physical protection of a nation’s subjects, landscape and independence and even issues such as food security and national image etc. Considering the meaning of, and implications associated with national security, it is important to state that it is a matter that bothers on the posture, well-being, stability and development of a nation. It defines the whole picture of a nation’s efforts in socio-political, cultural, economic and international perspectives. Therefore, the issue of national security is one that expresses the status of a nation in terms of its standing in the globe, in areas like citizen protection, freedom and well-being, property and intelligence safety, national integrity, sovereignty protection and protection of international interests. All these gear towards the overall stability and peaceful co-existence of the citizens of the nation as well as that of the nation at the global level.

National security of a nation when ensured, protected or properly safeguarded, is a veritable advantage to the ability of that nation to move forward in terms of development and progress. When a nation provides adequate security for her citizens and properties, sovereignty, and maintains good national image and integrity; it helps to ensure a peaceful atmosphere, viable environment and encourages foreign interest that can make things happen in that nation. People are free, happy and willing to go about their businesses without fear of attack, intimidation, danger or loss of property etc. It creates room for investors to come to do business in that country. The nation itself will enjoy harmony and tranquility among its citizens, institutions and organizations etc. The nation's development plans, structures and people will practically be the beneficiaries. National security is one element that can adequately help to promote democracy (particularly growth of press freedom) and in time foster good governance (which brings socio-economic development) in a nation. A nation that fails to place priority on its national security will eventually become a failed state. However, below is a look at the current state of insecurity in Nigeria.

Current State of Insecurity in Nigeria: 2010–2012

A look at any of the daily newspapers, news from radio, television, or the Internet in Nigeria, sends enough signals that create national panic. Newspaper headlines, such as “SSS Uncovers Bombs Factory”, “The Abuja Satanic Bombing”, “Tight Security in Jos after Violence”, “UN House Attack: Nigeria on Trail of al-Qaeda agents”, Killers on the Rampage: As Robbers massacre 90”, “Bombings Scare Foreign Investors”, “Take Military action against kidnappers” etc , are everyday news in Nigeria since 2010. The state of bombings and socio-political unrests in parts of the country appear to be impacting negatively on every aspect of the Nigerian society. The bombings are now so strategically planned and executed on special days, places, events or occasions and with ruthless intensity. The Nigerian police headquarters in Abuja, the UN office in Abuja, the Independence Day (October 1, 2010) celebration bombing close to Eagle Square in Abuja, Suleja bombings, Gombe and Maiduguri Bombings and so on, leave Nigerians in a state of shock, disbelief and terrifying fear and anxiety. Many Nigerians believe that the government has not been firm enough in dealing with the terrorists' threat to the nation's peace and stability. That Nigeria is in a state of security crisis is highlighted in this statement, “hitting the U.N office in Nigeria which houses about 26 different organs within it has been conjectured to be more political than religious advocacy because Nigeria is at peace and has existed over the past 50 years as an established secular state, without such deep-seated extremist religious tendencies”. (The Nation, 2011).

Moreover, incessant armed robberies that take place day and night, have made sleeping with both eyes closed elusive to Nigerians. Of recent, there has been a

resurgence of the menace across the country. The menace of armed robbery among citizens and banks has been on the increase. To worsen the situation in the country are also cases of kidnapping, occasional rise of violence and conflicts in Jos, Maiduguri and Niger Delta etc. Ugochukwu (2011), comments on the worsening security in the nation in these words, “the situation is precarious. Nigeria’s situation is like a man who climbed a tree to avoid being devoured by a lion only to be confronted on the tree by a deadly snake and he runs to the river only to behold a hungry crocodile”. He further states that “if you run away from Boko Haram, kidnappers are waiting; if you escape Boko Haram and kidnappers, armed robbers are waiting. No doubt, the police have failed in their responsibility” (Saturday Sun, 2011). In support, Agekameh (2011), also believes that “by and large, it is clear beyond any reasonable doubt that there are some people in Nigeria today who are averse to peace in the country” (The Nation, 2011). All these put together, establishes the fact that the Nigerian nation is under siege in terms of insecurity. The issue of national security in the country becomes a question and a national challenge. The effect of this prevalent status quo in the country is tremendous. It negatively impacts on the economy (increasing poverty), socio-cultural and political development, national image and even citizens’ mental and psychological well-being etc. It is obviously a panic situation that needs immediate arrest for the nation to be on the path of true democracy and good governance.

Democracy and National Security: The Synergy

Democracy is not only a people -centered process but one that brings phases of fulfillment to a nation as it progresses. According to Raymond Grams Swing (1887 – 1968), see quotations in Standard Encyclopedic Dictionary (1971), “democracy is unfinished business, not fulfillment; it is a process of always advancing towards fulfillment.” This statement implies, that democracy is an on-going process, project and venture that aim at attaining fulfillment in future. So it requires time to nurture, grow and develop in any county that embraces it. The paper, earlier on, states that Abraham Lincoln’s concise definition of democracy remains classic. Democracy is the government of the people, by the same people, and meant for the same people. Democracy is a system of government in which the people exercise the governing power either directly or through elected representatives. It is a government established by the majority that protects the interest of the minority (Anamgba, 2001). Whether, democracy is being practiced on participatory or representative basis, it requires a stable, conducive and peaceful political space to thrive. It demands relatively calm and chaos-free society to be able to develop on a firm foundation. For the elements of democracy such as freedom, participation, equality, fairness, justice, free and fair elections, existence of opposition, rule of law, respect for fundamental

human rights etc, to thrive in any polity or nation, it requires that the polity or nation maintains some appreciable degree of socio-cultural, political and economic stability and this falls within the domain of national security. National security of any nation covers that nation's total posture and condition in terms of the state of well-being of the people, their assets, national interests and existence as a sovereign entity. National security may not thrive in an undemocratic system of government because the people will lack freedom, respect for human rights, rule of law, participation in governance, justice and equity etc; and will in reaction to this situation, likely become unhappy, restive and even riotous. This could degenerate into lawlessness, chaos, uproar, conflicts, social disorder or anarchy; like we are witnessing in Nigeria presently.

This is where the concepts of democracy and national security meet. They are two concepts that connect because they need each other to thrive and when experienced together in a nation, that nation enjoys social and political stability which are necessary for development to occur. While democracy spells out the way a government should conduct itself, carry-out its programmes and plans, manage the resources available within a nation and ensure the manifestation of the elements of democracy that are people-oriented, national security, on its own, is to provide the peace, security, harmony and intelligence needed to have a calm and free environment for true democracy to blossom. As the democratic system in a nation survives, grows and strengthens; citizens, institutions and the nation itself enjoy good socio-political, cultural and economic conditions that help to enhance their overall stability, harmony, peace and tranquility. This is basically what national security is all about. The two concepts of democracy and national security, has the potential to help one another to thrive in any society. It is imperative that synergy between democracy and national security is employed to ensure the right atmosphere for the development of Nigeria. With all the present happenings, events, circumstances, and feelings of Nigerians about Nigeria, the country remains together. Many Nigerians believe that this is an act of God. With terrorism, kidnapping, poverty and hunger, ethno-religious conflicts, bad leadership, crimes and social vices etc, Nigeria's tender democracy is being threatened. The condition of things in Nigeria today is disturbing and pathetic when one considers the living standard of majority of Nigerians. It is obviously time to propagate democratic rule in Nigeria by the government and citizens doing what is necessary to ensure that national security is guaranteed and this will also help to solidify our democracy. The synergy of democracy and national security is now imperative for Nigeria. This synergy is a sine quo non for good governance to prevail in the country if only a working link can be developed between them.

Democracy, National Security and Good Governance: The Link

There is a ranging controversy among political analysts and social scientists on what form of political system best supports and reinforces good governance. Many researchers believe that a democracy may be more equipped to deliver good governance. A well respected past Prime Minister of Britain, Winston Churchill, once said that, democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others. In his view, there is no other better form of government than democracy known to man yet. This is true even to this moment. This brings us to exploring the link between democracy, national security and good governance. Literally speaking, these three concepts are inter-linked in the sense that democracy can provide an enabling environment for the relative peace and stability of a nation (national security), to be ensured and national security on its own, can also help to provide better socio-political, economic atmosphere in a nation that will propagate democratic principles. It is stated earlier in this paper, that these two concepts can work together to enhance each other's capacity and help to stabilize and develop Nigeria as a nation.

Conversely, good governance can be a precondition for the realization of democratic rule because only by meeting the people's will in terms of their needs, can a democracy claim some degree of effectiveness. Good governance simply means good government or good leadership. Mohideen (1997), states that, "governance becomes good when it is operated as conceived by society". Good governance, in a wider context, can be perceived from two points. Firstly, the creation of conducive environment for economic activities ensures macroeconomic stability which is imperative for national growth and development. Here, good governance links with national security. This is so because it is in the interest of national security that a nation directs effort towards providing conducive environment (peaceful, calm, non-life threatening atmosphere) upon which good governance can thrive. Secondly, having the political will to embark on political reforms to achieve improvement in public sector management, economic and financial accountability, predictability underlined by the rule of law and transparency. This second perspective of good governance is simply a recount of the basic principles of democracy, which the stability and peace of a nation (national security) equally engenders.

The triple concepts of democracy, national security and good governance are linked because they mutually reinforce one another and therefore neither of them can be adequate or realizeable in the absence of the other. They are in support of common features and values such as political representativeness, enthronement of civil and political rights, public accountability, peaceful co-existence of different peoples and ethnic groups, freedom of association and speech, rule of law, and the notion of

formal equality, social justice and sovereignty etc. Charlick (1991), states that, “indeed, the key properties of the government realm are believed to emphasize and reinforce democratic norms and practices. These are authority, reciprocity, exchange, trust and accountability”. They also directly or indirectly engender national security in a nation. The fact is that political values of governance such as elections, political control and representativeness, freedom of expression and plural politics are equally the pronounced ethos of democracy and national security. Professor Wole Soyinka, 1986 Nobel Laureate Winner for literature, argues that electoral integrity begets governance integrity (the Nations, 2009). And governance integrity can also beget national integrity which is the purpose of national security in Nigeria and in other countries. However, it is important to observe that good governance is not about the form of government in a country or a mode of polity but rather focuses on the concrete result of positive governance. It is not the process or course of a political rule, but its effects. It is about effective and productive governance. It is anti-ideological and best defined ostensibly rather than by semantic prescriptions (Chabal, 1992). Good governance cannot always be attributed to the democratic form of governance because there are democracies that have systematically failed to give good governance to their people. In some Asian countries that have recorded remarkable growth rates, the form of government in place can best be described as “authoritarian”. In Nigeria, democracy is more than ten years now, yet Nigeria is socio-politically unstable, unsecured, economically down and underdeveloped, let alone having a feel of good governance; therefore, what is important is not only about the form of government (democracy), the stability and orderliness of the nation (national security) but also the overall positive impact and outcome of the democratic experiment (good governance). This outcome includes good roads, stable power supply, good healthcare system, good schools, food security and security of life and property in Nigeria.

In conclusion, it is correct to say that democracy, national security and good governance are basic ingredients for the growth and sustenance of socio-economic and political development of any nation. This is because the three concepts can be seen as elements that are linked and tend to support and reinvigorate one another. The argument here is that, the three concepts help to breed one another. They share common features and even aim at common goals and objectives. It also follows that socio-economic and political development (the ability of the people to harness their potentials positively as well as enjoy socio-political stability) can be better realized in a condition provided by a democratic government on the path of bringing the safeguard of human dignity, property, nationhood and good governance to her people. In the context of a nation, like Nigeria, it amounts to the democratic government focusing on the needs and aspirations of the people and making sure that it actually

reflects positively on the quality of life of Nigerians. Good governance, ultimately, brings concrete social and economic returns to the nation. In effect, a true democratic regime that incorporates good governance in its activities and plans for the people will attain a good status on national security and national development. There is no doubt that democracy is a process at all its stages. U.S.A is a big democracy of more than two hundred years and it is still on the process, experimenting and learning from experience over time. Nigeria is relatively a young democracy that requires the synergy of democracy and national security to entrench good governance which is synonymous with good and adequate delivery of what the people needs to be healthy, educated, safe, free, respectable and most importantly, happy with themselves and their government. Nigeria, with its present predicaments, needs to ensure that there is synergy between her democracy and national security which can foster good governance. There has to be a working link between Nigeria's democracy, her national security efforts and the prevalence of good governance in the country.

Conclusion

It is my belief that good governance is attainable in Nigeria. Good governance which is about equity, justice, fairness and proper implementation of people-centered policies can be promoted by a true democratic government that enjoys good status in terms of national security. The paper concludes that a democracy with effective security of its citizens and interests is a very fertile ground for good governance to thrive. And also, good governance can in turn enhance national security and the entrenchment of democratic principles in that democracy. The synergy of democracy and national security is what Nigeria requires now in order to ensure the delivery of good governance to her people. Good governance will better the life of Nigerian's and stabilize the country for progress and greatness. Nigeria is at the crossroads, only good governance can deliver her.

Sustainable Measures for Democracy, National Security and Good Governance in Nigeria.

These strategic measures have the potential to strengthen and drive the nation's pursuit for a good status on national security and also to attain true democracy and good governance, they include:

- ❖ **Improving the Quality of Leadership:** Leadership in Nigeria has the bulk of the blame for insecurity, failure of the democratic effort and the lack of good governance. The state of the nation today gives eloquent testimonies to this fact. Adeboyea (2009), was so disturbed by the quality of leadership in Nigeria that he declared that, "this is one huge joke of a country that needs deliverance. So blessed, yet so impoverished. I often wonder (sometimes to the point of almost

asking God) why he gave Nigeria quality human and natural resources but did not ensure that the country has the right leadership to manage all these”. Leadership in Nigeria must begin to do the people’s wishes and live upto their expectations.

- ❖ **Effective Anti-corruption Measures:** Corruption comes first in the list of Nigeria’s problems according to some schools of thought. This is because corruption has eaten deep into the fabric of the Nigerian society. To help the nation in the fight against this cankerworm, the leaders, citizens and institutions (particularly law-enforcement agencies) must intensify their effort towards eradicating/reducing corruption in Nigeria. Anti-corruption measures in public services must be made effective, in order to rid the nation of this problem and create a better society in which democracy and good governance can thrive.
- ❖ **Enforcing Electoral Reforms:** Many political analysts in Nigeria agree that Nigeria’s electoral system is faulty and has most of the time failed to conduct true, free, fair and acceptable elections. Most elections held in Nigeria had been marred by irregularities and sharp practices. Nigeria’s electoral system needs urgent reformation, in order to have a better electoral system that can adequately ensure credible elections in the country. This will help to produce trusted leaders, reduce insecurity, and foster good governance.
- ❖ **Applying Freedom of Information Law:** The passing of the Freedom of Information Law is one bold democratic step taken by the National Assembly in Nigeria so far. The FOI Law will encourage the free flow of information which is vital for the growth of democracy and good governance in Nigeria. It has the potential to directly impact positively on the fundamental human rights of freedom of speech, expression and press. These rights when exercised, can go a long way in empowering Nigerians with information that can engender our democratic rule, peaceful co-existence and good governance.
- ❖ **Impartial/Strong Judiciary:** The judiciary is a very important arm of government that acts like a “stabilizer” in a democracy. They interpret the law (constitution) of the nation and must endeavour to use this power in the discharge of duties appropriately and to the best expected of them. They must guide the collective interests as a nation through balanced, fair and acceptable judgments that can enhance national security, democracy and good governance in Nigeria.
- ❖ **Exercising Constitutional Reforms:** Many well meaning Nigerians have continued to call for immediate constitutional reform. They argue that the Nigerian constitution requires a thorough review in order to suit the demands of Nigerians and the effects of globalization. For instance, there have been several calls for the removal of the “immunity clause”, which protects some top government officials from prosecution while in office. The advocates of this claim that it allows these officials to amass so much wealth with which they bribe their way out when they are out of office.

- ❖ **Enforcing Rule of Law:** The principle of rule of law has not taken strong root in Nigeria's democratic endeavour. This has continued to manifest in the way some judgments are handled, the open crises in Nigeria's judiciary, extra-judicial killings that have remained unsolved etc. This state of affairs gives rise to insecurity in the country and slows down the growth of democracy and good governance. The rule of law is one of the cardinal principles of democracy that must flourish if Nigeria needs a better future.
- ❖ **Absence of Abuse of Human Rights:** Human right abuses are being recorded across the nation, with many individuals locked up or detained for a long time without trial. Many civilians complain of police brutality, extra-judicial killings, denial of their right of peaceful assembly and demonstrations etc. These are evidences of the poor state of human rights in Nigeria. This is adding to insecurity in the country and must be stopped for a better Nigeria.
- ❖ **Reducing Illiteracy/Ignorance:** Many people have advised that one way to eliminate youth restiveness, terrorism and other social vices in Nigeria (particularly in the North and Niger Delta) is to educate the people. Doing away with illiteracy by at least improving basic education for the citizens should be government's first priority. Education should get the highest amount from the budget and the fund should be used to build, equip and operate schools that can effectively produce a literate Nigerian society. An educated populace will help facilitate the actualization of good governance.
- ❖ **Eschewing Social Vices:** The presence of social vices such as ethnicity, nepotism, favoritism, gratification, indiscipline, increasing immorality, cultism etc has not helped Nigeria's situation. These social vices help to increase insecurity by creating social tension, conflicts, ethno-religious crises etc. They also have a way of undermining individuals' and institutions' effort at creating value and delivering service for the country.
- ❖ **Alleviating Poverty and Hunger:** This is widely seen as the biggest problem facing Nigeria today. Poverty and hunger remain paramount as the one obstacle to national security, growth of democracy and good governance in Nigeria. To alleviate or reduce poverty, government must intensively put efforts in the agricultural sector, create more jobs, support medium and small-scale businesses and provide infrastructures, particularly power supply. This will no doubt significantly minimize insecurity; propagate democracy and good governance in the country.

References

- Anamgba, A.O. (2001) *The Substance of Government*. Enugu. Snaap Press limited.
- Calhoun, C Light, D & Keller, S (1997) *Sociology* (7th ed.) New York. The McGraw-Hill Company Ins.
- Chabal, C (1992) *Power in Africa: An Essay in Political Interpretation.*, New York. Saint Martins Press.
- Charlick, R (1991) “*Governance Working Paper, African Democracy Bureau and Governance Project I*” Associates in Rural Development.
- Dibie, C.C (2003) *Essential Government for Senior Secondary Schools*. Lagos., Tonad Publishers Limited.
- Funk & Wagnalls Standard Desk Dictionary (1993) U.S.A R.P Donnelley & Sons Company.
- Hauss, C (2000) *Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges* (3rd ed) U.S.A Wadsworth .
- Henslin, J.M (1998) *Essentials of Sociology: A Down –to-Earth Approach* (2nd ed) Massachuesetts. Allyn and Bacon.
- Hornby, A.S (1995) Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary: Students edition. London. Oxford University Press.
- Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (1995) (3rd ed).
- Macionis, J.J (2005) *Sociology* (19th ed). New Jersey, Prentice Hall.
- Mohideen, A (1997), “*Stock Taking and Assessment of Democracy, and Good Governance*”, in proceedings of the Development Policy Management Forum (DPME) Conference on Democracy, Civil Society and government in Africa. December 1-4, Addis Ababa Ethiopia.
- Standard Encyclopedic Dictionary (1971) Chicago. J.G Ferguson publishing Company Inc.

Okoroafor, Ejike. C, Nzenwa, Bartholomew N. & Oti, Ben I.

Newspapers:

Adegboyega, T. (2009) “*Nigeria’s Perpetual back-bench position*”, The Nation, 11 October, 2009.

Soyinka, W (2009), “*Electoral integrity begets Governance integrity*”: The Nation, 20 November, 2009.