



## **An Assessment of the Effect of Governance and Crisis of Legitimacy on the Development of Nigeria**

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### **Abstract**

The emergence of the political elite in Africa was required during the colonial era of contact and control. The political and environmental framework for democratic activities was built by the transition from a monarchical to a democratic system of government. But whereas democracy has been seen to promote growth in the other nation, this has not been the case in Africa, particularly in Nigeria. Despite the amount of fertile land, natural riches, a robust population, and other resources, the country's leadership has not been able to convert these into development. The state has become a private residence due to the elite few's seizure of power, and this has caused a crisis in democracy as people begin to abdicate their responsibilities, duties, and obligations. The paper, discovered that the erosion of state value and culture from the society has led the society to produce individuals who do not seek collective development but self-development. As a result, the slow rate of development has been attributed to bad governance and a crisis of legitimacy that has caused a misalignment between the people and the society. The research examined the effects of leadership and governance on Nigeria's development, and it also employed the legitimacy theory and the primary research method to evaluate the findings. According to the research, the people must successfully align with the state, therefore they should bear the majority of the responsibility for finding a solution. Since Nigeria is an inclusive nation and the state is a system, citizens should work to foster tolerance among the various ethnic groups that make up the political system in order to advance national unity. We should do away with nepotism and ethnicity in our country. The state of Nigeria is secular. Our national life should be free of any religious affiliation.

**Keywords:** Legitimacy, Development, Governance, Democracy.

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## Introduction

The contact and control of the third world countries by the Europeans changed the phase of governance, development and politics in Africa. The acceptance and adaptation of the European system has brought a new paradigm of governance which has successfully replaced and phased out the traditional model of governance and has replaced majority of the state with democracy. To some scholar as and thinkers the contact and adaptation of the European system therefore led to the underdevelopment of Africa Walter Rodney (1972). The Third World's pervasive pace of underdevelopment appears to be continuing. Even years after gaining political independence, their country's level of development is still behind expectations. Surprisingly, national development is still essential to a country's future; as such, effective use of development management and excellent governance is necessary for its realization. Nigeria has had both democratic and non-democratic governments throughout the previous fifty years.

Since governance is the means by which development occurs, good governance is essential to development. Effective leadership is essential for achieving high performance because it enables the organization to maximize its use of its human and other resources. A skilled leader inspires loyalty and efficiency in their workforce, and inspired workers go above and beyond the call of duty to improve the overall performance and development of the organization. In Nigeria, the idea of good governance has evolved into a catchphrase that politicians and administrators may use to win over the majority of the populace. The idea is presented as a way to advance development through effective governance and representation, both of which have lagged in a large portion of the state's self-governance. The Nigerian political state has been characterized by scholars as a botch due to a number of factors that have conspired to inhibit efficient government and therefore quick progress, including a crisis of legitimacy, weak institutions, widespread corruption, ethnic and regional base loyalty and interest, and a general amoral public sphere. All that the public expects from the political elite is general prosperity and representation.

Democracy has since independence being a contention in the African state, the African state has struggled in ways inconsequential to adapt and benefit from the democracy like the Europeans have. However, it seems democracy has a reduced or negative effect on Africa has the desired



result has been more opposing in Africa compared to the European state. The development promised and expected has been overtaking by mumbles and crumbs being set aside for the people while the few rich wallows in the wealth of the state. The goal of national development is always central to the minds of the leadership and the led in Nigeria. The process of directing group actions toward the accomplishment of objectives is known as leadership. Any particular nation's development, including its standard of living, infrastructure, and rate of poverty and unemployment, is directly impacted by the caliber of its leadership. A country's wealth is determined by looking at its balance sheet, which is made up of three different types of capital, according to a World Bank Report from 2006. The three types of assets that make up society's quality index are natural assets, produced assets, and intangible assets, which are made up of institutional and human capacities.

Nigeria is one of the top oil producers in the world, but its authorities haven't been able to handle the income from oil for the sake of the common Nigerian. This is a result of the ongoing spread of corruption, ineffective government programs, and poor decision-making. Widespread unemployment among young, physically fit Nigerians has led to their migration to richer nations in pursuit of better opportunities. The migration is also largely caused by a lack of basic social amenities, poor infrastructure, and a weak health and educational system, among other issues. Despite being a widespread issue, unemployment is contingent upon the type of skill that the economy produces for its own purposes. The deficiency of skilled labor needed for the advancement of the industrial, technological, and service sectors characterizes the underdevelopment of third-world economies. They stay jobless in areas where there is a significant level of workforce available. A nation endowed with an abundance of natural resources and in dire need of highly skilled labor could permit a large-scale migration of its physically fit citizens to European nations in pursuit of better opportunities.

A nation devoid of social cohesiveness, nationalism, and a functioning socio-politico-economic system is frequently associated with a lack of national integration. A strong sense of leadership is required to project these principles. Following the removal of the military and the establishment



of a new republic, discussions against the warped and dishonest political systems that prevent the nation from having cohesiveness among its citizens began to emerge.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The intended advancement The demands of Africa, particularly Nigeria, have been undermined by the legitimacy crisis that has gradually distanced the state from the populace.. The hijacking of governance by the wealthy and powerful few has alienated the people from the state activities. The impact of governance and legitimacy crises on Nigeria's development is substantial. Governance issues, including corruption and inefficiency, hinder effective policy implementation and resource allocation, impeding developmental progress (Olowu, 2017; Ayodele, 2019). Simultaneously, a crisis of legitimacy erodes public trust, hindering citizen cooperation with government initiatives crucial for sustainable development (Momoh, 2015; Omotola, 2018). Analyzing these dynamics is essential for understanding and addressing challenges in Nigeria's developmental trajectory.

Governance challenges, marked by corruption and ineffective administration, create a detrimental environment for sustainable development. Resources meant for developmental projects often face misallocation or diversion, limiting their positive impact (Olowu, 2017). Concurrently, a crisis of legitimacy stemming from perceived illegitimacy or lack of public trust weakens the social contract between citizens and the government. This undermines citizens' willingness to engage in developmental initiatives and adhere to policies, hindering overall progress (Omotola, 2018). A nuanced examination of these intertwined issues is crucial for devising strategies to foster effective governance and restore legitimacy in the Nigerian context.

The crisis of legitimacy and bad governance has eluded the state of its wealth and development has the state has overtime being reduced to become an enterprise for the wealthy few who perpetuate all sorts of menace and havoc to ensure there stay in power. Most election cycle are not a reflection of democracy but rather has been reduced to become a festive period where the institution of the state, and other elite stakeholder come together to showcase themselves. Voting by meritocracy, achievements, has been replaced with religion, ethnicity and money. (Aganga



2023) the government has overtime not reflected the peoples mandate but has being a party of the few elite.

### **Objective of the research**

Evaluating the effects of the governance and legitimacy crises on state development is the aim of the study.

### **Methodology**

The research method applied in the course of the research is a primary research method which made use of a structured questionnaire.

### **Theoretical Framework**

Dowling and Pfeffer created the validity hypothesis in 1975. A sociological idea that centres on the interaction between the state and the populace is the legitimacy theory of the state. It implies that states aim to uphold a "social license to operate" through adherence to expectations, values, and norms of society. According to legitimacy theory, the state and its institutions need legitimacy to win over the resources and support of its constituents, including the public, investors, employees, customers, and regulators. This theory holds that states make an effort to present themselves as socially conscious and to make sure that their actions follow accepted social norms. They engage in and adhere to activities that are approved by their stakeholders in order to maintain or enhance their legitimacy. As a result, the state pursues legitimacy from the people while engaging in actions that will demonstrate its subservience to them.

### **Application of the Theory**

Overall, legitimacy theory highlights the importance of National perception and alignment with societal values and expectations. It emphasizes the idea that society need to demonstrate their social legitimacy to foster positive relationships with their stakeholders and secure their continued support. For the society to trust polity then the state and its institutions must be ready to act as representatives of the people. The state versus society street fight is a snapshot of the



dichotomy between the state institutions laden with corruption and political fee interest which negates the society interest and do not reflect the society.

## **Conceptual Clarification**

### **Concept of democracy:**

Democracy is the system of government that ensues popular inclusion, accountability and representations. To Abraham Lincoln, the government of the people, by the people, and for the people is what democracy is all about. The democratic system excludes the populace's involvement and engagement in sociopolitical and economic matters pertaining to the state.

### Principles of democracy

- i. Transparency
- ii. Rule of law
- iii. Accountability
- iv. Periodic elections
- v. Fundamental human rights
- vi. Economic freedoms
- vii. Representation
- viii. Good governance
- ix. Responsive
- x. Equality

### **Concept of Development**

Development can be defined as the social, cultural, political, economic and individual advancement in a society. Development is a broad spectrum that cuts across various sectorial advancement in the society. The increase in the social being of the citizens, in standard of living and purchasing power, the economical increment of Purchasing power parity, GDP and GNP and also the peaceful coexistence of various religious and ethnic groups in the society.



Development envisages individual micro level and national macro level. The standard of living, capacity building, and purchasing power of the individual are the main topics at the individual level. One way to consider the importance of capacity building in Nigeria is in relation to economic development. This is due to the fact that capacity building, being people-centered, embodies the true meaning of development (World Bank 2005).

The political management of policies for significant and successful development is known as governance. According to the World Bank (1993), "power is exercised in the management of a country's political, economic, and social resources for development" occurs through the system of governance. The World Bank states that "the use of power to control political and economic resources of the nation" is the main focus here. Therefore, the goal of governance is to maintain political power in order to manage economic power for the benefit of the country's development. Stated differently, it is about allocating the nation's resources exclusively to the national good. The entirety of governmental actions and endeavors focused on formulating and implementing successful economic policies is referred to as governance IMF (2016).

However, in Nigeria and other third world society governance has been laden with some emphatic issues which therefore reduces its efficiency. Governance in cases have been able to lead to meaningful development and in some cases not being able to infer any meaningfulness. Good governance refers to the proper application of policies for societal development. (Lambe 2023) good governance envisages leadership, actions, rule of law, accountability and strategy for public policy. "Good governance" is "the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development," according to former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan (Annan, cited in UN 1998). He claims that hunger and underdevelopment would persist in being encouraged by poor governance. The impact of governmental actions is seen through good governance, especially when it comes to economic development and growth.

According to Ogundiya (2010) he "The process that is employed to achieve the noble end of the state" is the definition of governance. According to the liberal understanding of the state, the goal of governance is to carry out the intentions behind the establishment of the state. Philosophers



including Aristotle, Plato, Locke, and Hobbes presented different justifications for the state's existence. Overall, however, it is evident from their beliefs that the state's primary function is to ensure that its citizens have access to justice and order. Oburola (2003) states that "good governance is absolutely imperative for social and economic progress" in light of this. Regarding Nigeria specifically, the basic goals of the state enshrined in section 14(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria provides a basis for determining good governance in the country.

*“The Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be a state based on the principles of democracy and social justice”.*

These principles are reinforced in section 16(1) and 16(2) of the same 1999 constitution. Section 16(1) states-

*“The state shall within the context of the ideals and objectives for which provisions are made in this constitution”*

Utilize the nation's resources to further national prosperity and an effective, dynamic, and independent economy for all citizens based on social justice regarding opportunity and position; Manage the country's economy to ensure that every person has the greatest possible level of welfare, freedom, and happiness based on social justice, equality of status, and opportunity; Without affecting its ability to oversee and run the main economic sectors or to engage in other economic activities; Protect every citizen's right to participate in economic activities, without affecting anybody else's ability to do so within the main economic sector.

### **Elements of Good Governance**

Good governance is a dynamic administrative concept that considers the quickly changing political, social, and economic environment. It aims to transform the political, economic, and social lives of citizens within the framework of parliamentary democracy. Sharma et al. (2013:69) state that the elements that make up;

(a) Participation – they consider this to be essential to effective governance. Citizens routinely exercise their right to vote and participate in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of



government. Direct participation or participation through the representatives is both possible.

(b) Accountability: A democracy's ability to hold those in power accountable to the people who give them that authority is a key indicator of its health.

(c) Transparency - A key component of good governance is the freedom of information access for the populace, which is something that a decent government must guarantee. Transparency in government becomes essential in parliamentary democracies, and this is made possible by the fundamental ideas of separation of powers and the interplay between the legislative, executive, and judicial departments.

(d) Rule of Law: A foundation for social fairness, human rights protection, and the restraint of power abuse, the rule of law is essential to successful governance. It is applied impartially.

(e) Consensus-Oriented: After resolving conflicts between various social groups in the community's best interest, good governance should work to achieve widespread consensus. It seeks to both accomplish the objectives of such development and promote sustainable human development.

(f) Effectiveness and Efficiency - The foundation of good governance is also the requirement that institutions and processes yield outcomes that satisfy societal demands. It also means making appropriate use of the resources available to them and the government.

(g) Responsiveness: Only when an institution and its procedures are responsive and provide for the needs of all stakeholders in a timely manner can good governance be achieved.

(h) Inclusivity and Equity: Good governance promotes the idea that no one should be kept out of society's mainstream and that those on the margins should have access to opportunities.

## **Literature Review**

After the third wave of democratization in Africa got underway, academic focus moved—or at least started to move—away from the overly discussed debate that blamed authoritarian rule and colonial roots, among other things, for the continent's governance shortcomings. Therefore, the free political environment that currently prevails provides a fresh viewpoint for expressing the development issue in Africa's emerging democracies. This essay aims to investigate how Nigeria's democratic process has suffered because of the unfavorable effects of this governance



structure, leading to the loss of development. In order to shed light on the reasons behind Nigeria's poor governance, it promotes the theory of elite cooperation.

In 2019, Shehu Mustapha Liberty and Abdulhamid Ozohu-Suleiman a critical analysis of elite cooperation, the African government system, and democracy and development in Nigeria. The study argues that the hegemonic interest of the ruling class is the main factor that still firmly determines public policy. The study used an interpretive methodology to look at development reports and secondary data from the literature that already existed and were pertinent to the research question. It was shown that the predictable consequences of institutional and governmental activities that are not aligned with the common good account for a significant amount of the development gap. A politically charged society dominated by a self-serving and unpatriotic governing class exacerbates this alienation. The article comes to the conclusion that, while democracy is a must for both sustainable development and good governance, party politics with a strong ideological bent is needed to reshape the current system of government. There are several recommendations offered, one of which is the urgent need to counter elite collaboration, create strong, rule-bound governance structures (re-bureaucratization). Then, reorient the democratic process to embrace the social democratic form, which places a higher priority on the involvement of the general public in the process of development.

Taire Ikemefuna Paul Okudolo, Ntsikelelo Benjamin Breakfast, and I. Mekoa (2021) talked about this in their article Can National Development Succeed Without the Help of the Local Government? Nigerian Outlook: Insights for Africa. Without the other, it is impossible to have both a positive contribution from local government and a reasonable rate of national growth. As a result, establishing effective local administration is essential to avoiding negative interactions and impacts associated with development. This research evaluates articles about Nigeria that were written between 2010 and 2020 in an effort to pinpoint the barriers that prevent local governments from contributing significantly to national development and to make recommendations for other African nations. It looks at the ways in which the current absolute local government structure limits its potential to foster the growth of the country as a whole.



The study's theoretical foundation is the fundamental objective of municipal governance as understood by classical philosophy. Drawing on literary insights of the Nigerian context, the paper provides reform agendas to enhance the optimal efficacy of local administrations in the intergovernmental relations schemes for development in Africa. The basis of the paper is the methodology employed in the literature review. The research follows the three theme codes that emerged from the traditional theory of local government justification: facilitating effective local service delivery, strengthening local democracy, and optimising local governance. It notes that the application of ineffective decentralisation policies and a deficiency of local autonomy are important factors impeding Nigeria's and other African countries' ability to develop to their full potential. On the other hand, local autonomy and decentralisation highlight how important local government is to the country's progress. Ineffective in Nigeria the decentralization and lack of local autonomy hinder national development, offering lessons for African nations.

Pius Odey and Augustine Ugar (2023) *Managing Prolonged Social Conflicts in a Multicultural Society*. Studies on disputes in Nigeria indicate that the primary causes of violent conflicts in the nation are socioeconomic, political, and governmental shortcomings. The paper investigates the prospects and difficulties of managing protracted societal disputes in Nigeria by looking at the socio-economic and political dynamics of the Nigerian State in the context of the nation's current security concerns. A desk study of secondary sources and a comprehensive evaluation of field data were integrated into the content analysis of the issues raised by the study's topic. The findings indicate that the main causes of violence in Nigeria are ethnic and religious intolerance and power rivalries. Furthermore, a lack of resources, poor leadership, dishonesty, and a disorganized strategy towards the resolution of this conflicts.

According to the study's findings, sound governance is the only tactic that may effectively stop violent conflicts in Nigeria. A well-run government facilitates the creation, upkeep, and advancement of peace. This article makes the case that strategic strategies based on good governance must be established in order to effectively manage protracted societal conflict in order to achieve sustainable peace and security in Nigeria. Put another way, effective



administration is essential to the resolution of protracted societal problems in Nigeria, such as power struggles, resource scarcity, and ethno-religious intolerance.

An analysis of Nigeria and Iraq demonstrates the mitigating role of governance in conflict and state fragility. By Abbo Usman and Mohammed Mustafa Qader (2016) Based on the ideas that the majority of social conflict causes, such as resentment and greed, have their roots in how the state and society interact with one another and how crucial effective governance is to the development and upkeep of nationalism, This study applies the social identity theory to assess the sociopolitical circumstances that gave rise to Boko Haram and ISIS, respectively, in Nigeria and Iraq. The study used a content analysis approach to strike a balance between the two, carefully assessing the results of earlier research that has identified the causes of conflicts in various contexts and conducting an in-depth examination of different studies on governance reform.

The study indicates that structurally reforming local governance by putting an emphasis on and enforcing inclusivity, integration, and effective local democracy is the only way to guarantee success in the fight against insurgency and domestic terrorism in both countries. This is because every radicalization model that resulted in political violence implicitly acknowledged that the cause of civil unrest is a crisis of legitimacy. In conclusion, structurally reshaping local administration with a focus on inclusivity, integration, and functional local democracy may guarantee the battle against insurgency and domestic terrorism in Nigeria and Iraq. Two significant problems remain about our understanding of poverty in Nigeria. The first is how good governance affects socioeconomic and political progress. It is crucial to emphasize that, although numerous diseases claim the lives of the underprivileged, none is more fatal than poor governance because, for the most part, poverty is the outcome of political and economic dictatorships. The continuous scandals involving embezzlement, corruption, and office misuse have made this inevitable.

The second is that in projects where they are still the intended beneficiaries, residents should be included and consulted. Akinkugbe (2003), cited by Ajayi (2003), asserts that during Nigeria's forty years of political independence, values, the standard of governance, commitment, and the



integrity of our environment have all steadily declined. He went on to say that much of what passes for the norm in our society today is negatively permissive and would have raised suspicions in earlier times.

Then-President Obasanjo said in a press conference (The Guardian, 2003 in Ajayi, 2003): "The issue with Nigeria is that, ever since our independence, whenever we take a step forward, we take a step backward, and as a result, we go further backward than forward." He went on to say that our issue is comparable to a water tap with a closet. The base of the closet is left open by some persons, making it impossible to fill the closet, while others are busy turning on the water tap. These phrases succinctly describe Nigeria's appalling governance. It is unnecessary to highlight the corruption, poor administration, division, conceit, and numerous other traits of governance in Nigeria.

However, a lot of people have attributed this lack of success in governing to the military, which entered the political sphere six years after the nation gained its independence and remained there for around three to four decades, preventing the political class from having much opportunity to gain practical experience in governance. This military era is compared to the Dark Ages in terms of growth that involves participation. Others, such as Akor (2001) and Anger (2002), believe that colonialism is the root of the issue. The colonial administrative institutions in Nigeria were designed with the intention of upholding law and order and fostering an environment that would facilitate the extraction and repatriation of Nigerian resources, claims Akor (2001, p. 116). Critical components of this colonial administrative framework have not changed in more than 20 years of Nigeria's democratic independence. Despite recent fragmented changes, the executive nature of post-colonial administrative systems has not changed. According to Anger (2002), who shared this viewpoint, the colonial rulers of Nigeria monopolized political and economic power for their personal benefit as well as the benefit of foreigners, socializing the country's political leadership to an authoritarian style of government.



## Results and discussion

Below are the figures gotten from the analysis of the questionnaire.

**Figure 1: Academic Qualification**

Academic qualification	Frequency	Percentage
primary education	3	2%
Secondary education	32	37%
Tertiary education	47	53%
Others	7	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: researcher's survey 2023

**Figure 2: Occupation of Respondent**

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
civil servant	14	16%
self employed	23	28%
Student	36	39%
Others	16	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: researcher's survey 2023



**Figure 3**

<b>Leadership is the major driver development in the state</b>					
		Frequenc y	Percent%	Valid Percent%	Cumulative Percent%
Valid	strongly agree	25	28.1	28.1	28.1
	Agree	37	41.6	41.6	69.7
	Undefined	18	20.2	20.2	89.9
	Disagree	5	5.6	5.6	95.5
	strongly disagree	4	4.5	4.5	100.0
	Total	89	100.0	100.0	

**Source: researcher’s survey 2023**

**Figure 4**

<b>Good governance influences the level of development</b>					
		Frequency	Percent %	Valid Percent%	Cumulative Percent%
Valid	strongly agree	21	23.6	23.6	23.6
	Agree	41	46.1	46.1	69.7
	Undecided	20	22.5	22.5	92.1
	Disagree	6	6.7	6.7	98.9
	strongly disagree	1	1.1	1.1	100.0
	Total	89	100.0	100.0	

**Source: researcher’s survey 2023**



**Figure 5**

<b>Political distrust is as a result of historical trend of corruptions</b>					
		Frequency	Percent %	Valid Percent%	Cumulative Percent%
<b>Valid</b>	strongly agree	19	21.3	21.3	21.3
	Agree	34	38.2	38.2	59.6
	Undecided	35	39.3	39.3	98.9
	Disagree	1	1.1	1.1	100.0
	Total	89	100.0	100.0	

Source: researcher’s survey 2023

**Figure 6**

<b>Accountability and transparency are important for bridging political and citizens trust</b>					
		Frequency	Percent%	Valid Percent%	Cumulative Percent%
<b>Valid</b>	strongly agree	25	28.1	28.1	28.1
	Agree	37	41.6	41.6	69.7
	Undefined	18	20.2	20.2	89.9
	Disagree	5	5.6	5.6	95.5
	strongly disagree	4	4.5	4.5	100.0
	Total	89	100.0	100.0	

Source: researcher’s survey 2023

**Figure 7**

<b>Crisis of legitimacy is a result of ignorance of the people</b>					
		Frequency	Percent %	Valid Percent%	Cumulative Percent%
Valid	strongly agree	19	21.3	21.3	21.3
	Agree	4	4.2	4.2	68.5
	undecided	24	27.0	27.0	95.5
	Disagree	42	47.5	49.5	100.0
	Total	89	100.0	100.0	

Source: researcher's survey 2023

**Figure 8**

<b>The economic and social condition of the country is as a result of political leadership</b>					
		Frequency	Percent %	Valid Percent%	Cumulative Percent%
Valid	strongly agree	22	24.7	24.7	24.7
	Agree	37	41.6	41.6	66.3
	undecided	25	28.1	28.1	94.4
	disagree	5	5.6	5.6	100.0
	Total	89	100.0	100.0	

Source: researcher's survey 2023

## Discussion

Initially, the inquiries of the There is a low perception among respondents regarding leadership as the primary engine of progress in the state. Though numerous factors contribute to the development of a state, the majority of respondents feel that governance is just one of them. The



goals are money laundering, mistrust, and corruption. A majority of respondents agreed, according to the second question, that a state's progress is influenced by its leadership. The question in the questionnaire went further, asking if ignorance is the cause of the crisis of legitimacy. The respondents gave conflicting answers, some of which suggested that the government is the main source of the pessimism while others demonstrated how some citizens are blinded by ignorance and lack of understanding of governmental practices. An embezzlement, racketeering, and corruption trend etc. has led to the public's mistrust in the government. Finally, the majority of respondents concurred that political leadership is to blame for the nation's social and economic conditions. The state is run by its political elite. Leadership, governance, and administration all influence performance and the developmental paradigm.

## **Conclusion**

The present world order as established the importance and the uniqueness of the state and its institutions. Many academics and philosophers who hold the opinion that the state sets the tone for development have further demonstrated that the state is one of the drivers of development. On the other hand, ideas lamenting Africa tend to focus more on poverty, insecurity, health problems, and underdevelopment, all of which have been linked to inadequate governance. The development of the state is hampered when the people are not reflected in the governance. The African state appears to reflect the elite more than the people, which has finally resulted in a problem of legitimacy. The state is meant to be a reflection of the people. The society has withdrawn itself from its obligations, duties, and responsibilities because of the inadequate leadership it is given.

## **Recommendation**

The state's fragility, which resulted in the elite few gaining control of the state and turning it into an enterprise, is what caused the crisis of legitimacy and bad governance. Since the people's support is necessary for the state to ensure progress, the electorate's power cannot be undermined. So, rather than representing the wealthy few, the state must first represent the masses who are enslaved. Society will support the state if it believes it has been beneficial to it.



Second, rather than electoral reform, the State needs political transformation. Because of the political climate's excessive religiousness, ethnic consciousness, violence, and wealth, the brightest minds are drawn to politics. Finally, since the judiciary is meant to be the last resort for common citizens but has been taken over by the elite, political reform is necessary first to lessen the effects of party politics, money politics, and the bloodbath for power. This can be achieved by separating the judiciary's budgeting and finance from the executive and legislative branches.



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