

Challenges of Buhari's Administration and its Implication on Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria (2015-2017)

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Abstract

The socio-economic development of any society is intemperately depending on the nature, character and pattern of its administrative leadership. Since independence, Nigeria witnessed different administrations or regimes with their concomitant implications on the socio-economic development and well-being of its citizens, despite the abundant human and natural resources in the country. This paper, therefore, examines the challenges of Buhari's administration and its implication on socio-economic development in Nigeria (2015-2017). Data gathered mainly from the secondary sources were analysed using content method of data analysis, and the elite theory was adopted to serve as theoretical foundation for the study. The paper revealed that among the major challenges of leadership bedevilling socio-economic development in Nigeria under the current administration include: insecurity, corruption, non adherence to the rule of law and above all, immunity of prosecuting political office holders, with its attendant consequences such as; pervasive poverty and massive unemployment, lost of lives and properties, high level of crimes among others, which further affects the socio-economic well-being of citizens and the country in general. The paper concluded that even though the fight against corruption and insecurity are at front burner of Buhari's administration, more pro-active measures need to be put in place in tackling the menace headlong, and issues such as high level of poverty, massive unemployment and problem of immunity clause need to be revisited.

Keywords: *Administration, Insecurity, Corruption, Development, Socio-economic development, Nigeria*

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Background to the Study

Most if not all African countries are still strangulating to attain a high degree or level in the socio-economic development of their various societies till today. Although, this failure have been always related to the external forces which most a time played insignificant role as the expense of forces or factors within, that are more harmful to the growth and socio-economic development of these countries.

The most prominent among, is the inability of administrative leadership across these countries to tap, initiate and transform the societies in line with the resources (both human & Material) at their disposal within their geographical domain. In other words, the socio-economic development of any society is intemperately depending on the nature, character and pattern of its administration. For instance; Freedom, Christian & Temilola (2015) noted that in terms of resources, Nigeria is endowed with enormous natural and human resources sufficient to place it among the first 20 developed countries of the world. It is also the Africa's largest producer of oil and the sixth largest oil producing country in the world. Yet, these has not been translated or reflected in the socio-economic conditions of the Nigerian citizens.

Since independence to date, Nigeria witnessed fourteen different administrations with their concomitant implications on the structure of socio-economic development and well-being of the citizens across the country, despite its abundant human and natural resources. The return of civil rule in 1999 gave Nigerian citizens a high expectation that the new era of socio-economic development and welfare of citizens has came to stay, but today these expectations were defeated by the high level of poverty, unemployment, corruption, insecurity among others that deteriorated the inferior social, economic and well-being of the common men in the country.

On one hand, the current administration under President Buhari's leadership, during his campaign period vowed to end all the social and economic menaces if elected into office in 2015. On the other hand, many people believed that having assumed office he once occupied as a military officer and for which he contested four times, his administration is expected to urgently tackle several challenges that have besieged Nigeria over the last three decades (Freedom, et.al, 2015). However, things are even getting worse than expected especially considering the massive unemployed youths that are roaming the streets which contributed to the high level of poverty and different sort of crimes across the country.

Therefore, the concern of this paper is to examine the challenges of Buhari's administration and its concomitant implications on the socio-economic development in Nigeria, particularly between 2015 and 2017. Some of the specific questions raised by the study include: what are the challenges making our leaders to perform worse than expected particularly on the issues of citizen's welfare and socio-economic development of the country? Have the challenges of Buhari's Administration differ from the previous administrations since 1999? What are the challenges facing President Buhari's administration? Is there any effort put in place to improve the citizen's welfare and socio-economic development in the country? What are the successes or failure of such effort, if any? Consequently, the paper is divided as follows: introduction which has been covered, conceptual issues, theoretical foundation, challenges of President Buhari's administration since 2015, and its Implications on socio-economic development in Nigeria, conclusion and recommendations.

Conceptual Issues

Administration

The term administration has been thoroughly defined by different scholars in the field. For instance, in the words of Gladden (1952), Administration means, to care for or look after people, and/or to manage society affairs. For Marx (1959), Administration is a determined action taken in pursuit of a conscious purpose. It is the systematic ordering of affairs and the calculated use of resources aimed towards achieving the societal goals. Administration has also been defined as the organism and use of men and materials to accomplish a purpose (Nigro, 1971). In the same direction, Simon (1947) maintained that administration is the activities of groups cooperating to accomplish common societal goals. According to Gullick (1937), Administration has to do with getting things done, with the accomplishment of defined objectives. Berclay (1991) conceptualized the term “administration” as a process involving human beings jointly engaged in working towards achieving common goals of the society.

Arising from the foregoing definitions, however, this paper adopts the meaning of the term or concept, looking at it, more, from the perspective of political administration. The term political administration is so crucial that it elicits broader discussions among scholars in the recent times. It hence, stresses the relation between politics and administration. Anderson, (2000), for instance, suggested that the level of politics should concentrate on the general political outlining (agenda setting) and entrust the remaining to the administration. It has been observed that politicians make their decisions on the basis of single cases, which ought to be an administrative matter entirely. For the purpose of clarity, political administration, as it applies to this paper, can be seen as the methodology and vision adopted by various leaders in order to address certain issues or problems, which no doubt, has significant effect on the well-being of people and the overall socio-economic development of the country.

For instance, Nigeria, under the administration of late former President Yar'adua, adopted the vision of 7 Point Agenda, which was replaced with Transformation Agenda by his successor Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, even though the program was not completed. While, the current administration under the leadership of President Muhammadu Buhari set to eradicate corruption and insecurity in Nigeria, which left the transformation agenda of the former president Goodluck Ebele Jonathan abandoned.

Development

The concept of development is like other concepts in social sciences that cannot be subjected to a single definition. Todaro (1997) argued that development is a multi-dimensional process involving the re-organization and re-orientation of entire economic and social system that involves radical changes in institutional, social, and administrative structures as well as in popular attitudes, customs, and even beliefs of people in the society. Development is therefore, defined as a planned and comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process, which aims to continually improve the well-being of the entire individuals of a defined geographical area. The individuals would be actively involved in open, meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of benefits (Fritz, n.d)

On one hand, Gboyega (2003) conceptualized development as an idea that embodies all attempts to improve the conditions of human existence in all ramifications. It implies improvement in material well being of all citizens, not the most powerful and rich alone, in a sustainable way such that today's consumption does not imperil the future, it also demands that poverty and inequality of access to the good things of life be removed or drastically reduced. It seeks to improve personal physical security and livelihoods and expansion of life chances. It is reasonable to know that development is not only an economic exercise, but also involves social, economic and political issues and permeates all aspects of societal life (Lawal & Oluwatoyin, 2011)

On the other hand, Gauba (1981) define development as a process in which a system or institution is transformed into stronger, more organized, more efficient and more effective form and proves to be more satisfying in terms of human wants and aspirations. Therefore, development is primarily a positive phenomenon. It stands for improvement of human life in all spheres. Urien (2014) further observed that development does not only means capital accumulation and economic growth, but the condition which people in a country have adequate food, job and income inequality among them is greatly reduced. This is because the major objective of development is to improve the level standard of people and provide the opportunity to develop their potential.

Therefore, development in this context means the ability of political authority to combined both human and natural resources to improve the quality of people's life through the provisions of security, quality education, adequate health facilities, constant water and electricity supply and all other necessary infrastructural facilities that can provided a conducive atmosphere for the people to build up their abilities within state.

Socio-Economic Development

Socio-economic development generally refers to the sustained or concerted actions of policy makers and communities aimed at promoting the standard of living and economic health of a specific area. Such actions include the development of human capital, critical infrastructure, regional competitiveness, health, safety, literacy and other initiatives (Ukpong & George, 2012).

Olukayode (2014) asserted that socio-economic development is a product of development, thus, can be seen as the processes of both social and economic transformation in a society, which embraces changes taking place in the social sphere mostly of an economic nature. It is made up of processes caused by exogenous and endogenous factors which determine the course and direction of the development. To him, socio-economic development is measured with indicators, such as GDP, life expectancy, literacy, levels of employment and equality in one hand, and on the other hand, changes in less-tangible factors are also considered, such as personal dignity, freedom of association, personal safety and freedom from fear of physical harm, and the extent of participation in civil society.

Socio-economic development therefore, refers to the various authoritative efforts, initiatives, policies and programmes aimed at improving the quality of social life and economic well-being of the majority members of the society. Skills acquisition, poverty alleviation programmes, equality, provision of quality education, health facilities, employment and security, constant water and electricity supply, roads, agricultural facilities are the major factors determine the level of socio-economic development of a country.

Theoretical Foundation

To explain and analyze the challenges of Buhari's administration and its concomitant implications on socio-economic development in Nigeria, Elite theory could be more relevant and useful, because of its ability and strength to identify the character of those who actually ruled or administered the society. This theory originates from the writings of Gaetano Mosca (1858–1941), Vilfredo Pareto (1848–1923), Robert Michels (1876–1936), and Max Weber (1864–1920). Mosca (1939) for instance, emphasized the ways in which tiny minorities out-organize and outsmart large majorities, adding that “political classes” (i.e. political elites) usually have “a certain material, intellectual, or even moral superiority” over those they govern. Pareto (1968), postulated that in a society with truly unrestricted social mobility, elites would consist of the most talented and deserving individuals; but in actual societies, elites are those most adept at using the two modes of political rule, force and persuasion, and who usually enjoy important advantages such as inherited wealth and family connections.

Michels (1962), rooted elites (oligarchies) in the need of large organizations for leaders and experts, in order to operate efficiently, as these individuals gain control of funds, information flows, promotions, and other aspects of organizational functioning that are geared towards the development of organization, power becomes concentrated in their hands. Weber (1978), held that political action is always determined by the principle of small numbers that means the superior political manoeuvrability of small leading groups. In mass states, this element is ineradicable.

However, the term political elite can also be defined as a group of high stratum decision-makers in a concrete political structure which monopolizes political power, influences major social, political and economic policies that are geared towards the socio-economic development and well-being of people in the various structure of society. Thus, the main duty of political elite to the public as a whole is to reconstruct society by attempting to mobilize and tap available resources necessary for the socio-economic development of the state. Yet, the political elite class in Nigeria seems to assumed dimension that is unusual of realistic functions in development context. In other words, the formation and conduct of Nigerian's political elite group have not been translated into a source of socio-economic development in the country. This is in spite of the observation made by Purcell in Ojo (2006), that powerful initiatives from within the political elite groups are critically important for national development.

Presently, the crisis of socio-economic development, induced by the political administrative elite, is the most serious problem facing Nigeria. The country has remained largely underdeveloped despite the presence of huge mineral and human resources. Six decades after

the end of foreign domination, Nigeria is still fighting with problems such as high poverty rate, lack of basic infrastructural facilities in all sectors of the economy, corruption, unemployment, high mortality rate, political crisis and insecurity of lives and property among others.

Challenges of Buhari's Administration (2015-2017)

Since independence, every regime has its own peculiar and inherent challenges regardless of whether it's Military, Interim or civilian administration. However, the re-installation of democracy in 1999 couple with nature of politics in Nigeria gave birth to a new dimension of leadership challenges with its attendant implications on the socio-economic development across the country. Even though, most of the existing challenges are not different from the previous administrations, but the nature, characters, and the personalities involves matters a lot in determining its repercussion on the well-being of people as well as the socio-economic development of the country generally. In a nut shell, this paper identified the following challenges under Buhari's administration from 2015-2017:

- a) Insecurity
- b) Corruption
- c) Non-adherence to rule of law
- d) Immunity of prosecuting political office holders
- e) Pervasive poverty and massive unemployment

Implications on Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria

As a matter of fact, every regime or administration in Nigeria have always accompanied by many challenges that has implications, which can either be positive or negative, progressive or deteriorative on the socio-economic development of citizens. As noted by Lawal & Oluwatoyin (2011) the nature of leadership in Nigeria has not been able to engender any meaningful national development, in spite of her huge resources endowment. This has greatly affected her quest to improved quality of life of her citizens. Poverty, unemployment and starvation still pervade the nook and cranny of the country. Notwithstanding, this section would examine the above outlined challenges of leadership with their associated implications on socio-economic development of the country one after another.

Insecurity

Despite the fact that Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria has been weakening down by the Nigeria Military Forces and to that extant the Chief of Army Staff, Tukur Buratai, recently further declared the defeat of Boko Haram in the North-eastern country (Nigerian Bulletin, 2016). But, other crimes such as kidnapping, militancy in the Niger-Delta, herdsmen/farmer crisis, Armed robbery, Cultism, Domestic violence, Assassination and hooliganism, rape among others still persists, threatening the lives and properties of people vis-à-vis affecting their social and economic lives across the country.

For instance; Nigerian Bulletin (2016) recorded some of the people that have suffered from the issue of kidnapping, in fact some were even killed since the inception of 2016. Among include; Senator Iyabo Anisulowo in Ogun State, Colonel Sama'ila Inusa who was kidnapped and later killed by his abductors same day in Kaduna state, the Permanent Secretary of Osun State

Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, Mrs. Adebimpe Ogunlunmade, her driver and a Director from the same Ministry Mr. Tajuddeen Badejoko who accompanied her were kidnapped in Kogi state. While, in same state, a female lecturer in the Department of Biological Sciences at the Federal University of Agriculture Makurdi was also abducted and killed after collecting the ransom from her family. Again, kidnappers abducted and killed the newly appointed transition Committee Chairman of Jos East Local Government Area of Plateau State, APC Chieftain in Rivers State, Elyon Ntiro Elijah and Chief Ibibia Walter were reportedly kidnapped few hours to the commencement of the state's re-run elections, Nancy Keme Dickson who is a sister of Bayelsa State Governor, Seriake Dickson was also Kidnapped in December, 2015. Also the Lagos Command of the Nigerian Police recorded 51 and 25 kidnapped cases in 2016 and in 2017 respectively (Vanguard, 2017). Moreover, five (5) members of the Nigeria Medical Association (NMA), Cross River branch were also kidnapped, which drive the Association to called on the state government to declare a state of emergency on security across the state (Vanguard, 2018).

On the other hand, the issue of herdsmen/farmer crisis today has taking a new dimension, threatening the security and also affecting the socio-economic life of people across the country. Despite efforts to ease the crisis by the government, in early 2016 herdsmen militant stormed Agatu local government area in Benue state killed close to 2,000 people in what many, including the United Nations described as genocide. The most recent and the worst ones among include; the two days co-ordinated attacks by herdsmen on six communities in Benue state namely: Tomatar, Umenge, Akor villages in Guma, Governor Samuel Artom's House town, and Ayilamo, Turan, Ngambe-Tiev in logo local government area of the state that led to the died of over 50 people, many people with varying degree of injuries, scores of houses and properties were a razed and some even fled their houses for fear of being killed. To that extent, Governor Samuel Ortom declared to the public that Benue state had lost over 95 billion naira worth of assets and properties, while close to 3,000 had lost their lives to the crisis (Vanguard, 2018).

Similarly, herdsmen attacked six villages of Tambo, Tambo-Jumo, Luru, Bakule, Jifan and Bakopi in Girei local government area of Adamawa state, 10 people lost their lives, many were injured, house and valuables were also destroyed (Thisday, 2018). To said it all, in the last two years, Fulani herdsmen have killed not less than 5000 people and destroyed un-estimated properties in Benue, Plateau, Niger, Delta, Osun, Ekiti, Kaduna, Taraba and Kogi states (Leadership, 2017).

Armed robbery, cultism, domestic violence, hooliganism and rape are another crimes that generated a lot of insecurity of live and properties viz-a viz affecting their socio-economic life in the country. For instance, in Lagos state alone, the command of the Nigerian Police revealed that 486 robbery suspects and 542 stolen vehicles were arrested, 162 rape cases and 246 persons were murdered during cultist clashes, gangsterism, youth restiveness and street fights which ranked highest in the state between December, 2015 and November 2016, while 179 crime cases were prevented due to swift response of the security operatives (Vanguard, 2016). In Kano state, 40 unknown gunmen stormed the residence of a popular local politician and slaughtered two vigilantes and abducted his two house wives (Nigeria Bulletin, 2016).

Even though, attacks by militant groups in the Niger-Delta Region have virtually halted since November, 2016 but other attacks remain a looming threat to the peace and socio-economic life of people in the region (Cheto, 2017). For instance, it was in record that unknown gunmen killed 14, and injure 12 persons on attack in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni local government area of Rivers state in the New Year day, while in the same day, attack was also mounted in kaduna state that killed Chief of Numana, in Sanga local government area of Kaduna state, Dr. Gambo Makama and his pregnant wife by unknown gunmen in Southern Kaduna (Vanguard, 2018). Therefore, the issue of insecurity is one of the major challenges of the current administration which if not tackled decisively would continue to have negative effects on the social and economic well-being of the people across the country.

Corruption

Nigeria has been consistently rated among the most corrupt countries in the world by Transparency International in its Corruption Perception Index. In 2011, Nigeria was ranked 143 out of 183 countries. In 2012, Nigeria was rated 139 out of 176 countries and in 2013, Nigeria was placed at the 144 position out of 177 countries. In 2014, Nigeria was rated 136 out of 174 countries. Although from 2014 to today, Nigeria has not made any improvement and has remained 136 in the corruption perception index (Transparency International, 2017).

But, as part of his top priorities, immediately after the inaugural ceremony, President Muhammadu Buhari set up a Presidential Adversary Committee Against Corruption (PACAC) headed by Prof. Itse Sagay and among the mandate of the committee was to formulate a strategy and co-ordinate the anti-corruption war of the administration, ensuring that all sectors of the Nigerian society are involved (Igbuzor, 2016). Due to commitment of the administration in fighting corruption, between 29 May, 2015 and 25 May, 2016 alone, President Buhari recovered N3.4 trillion, including recoveries under interim forfeiture (Cash & Assets) (This day, 2016). And again, through the new Whistle blowing Policy introduced by the Federal Ministry of Finance, about \$160m and another N8 billion stolen government funds were recovered within its first two months of operation (Leadership, 2017).

But, the question one may ask at this juncture is that; does that mean that there are no cases of corruption under President Buhari's administration? Some of the prominent politicians, administrators, observers and civil organizations have provided answer to the question. For instance, Omokri argued that from the so-called anti corruption regime of President Muhammadu Buhari, N270 million to allegedly clear grass for IDPs was diverted by the former secretary to the federation Alhaji Babachiri. Buhari's administration budgeted N180 million to facilitate appearances with social media influencers and the same administration sends the EFCC to arrest its political opponents for facilitating their own media associates (This day, 2017).

On the other hand, Onya & Elemanya (2016) point out that the confessional statement made by APC member and Former Chairman of Appropriation Committee representing the people of Kiru-Bebeji Federal Constituency of Kano State, Hon. Abdulmumin in a press conference after being relieved of his position by his colleagues, stated categorically how the "House of

Representative hideout a systemic corruption”. To further confirm the issue, he listed how they shared the funds by confessed in the following order, even though none of the above accusers were either invited or arrested by the anti-corruption agencies.

Table 1: List of Beneficiaries

N0	Names/portfolios	Amount
1.	Hon Abdulmumini Jubrin	N650 million
2.	Speaker Yakubu Dogara	N1.5 billion
3.	His Deputy Yusuf Lasun	N800 million
4.	House Majority Leader Femi Gbajabiamila	N1.2 billion
5.	Deputy Majority Leader Buba Jubrin	N1.2 billion
6.	House Whip Alhassan Ado Doguwa	N1.2 billion
7.	Deputy House Whip	N700 million
8.	House Minority Leader Leo Ogor	N1.2 billion
9.	Deputy Minority Leader Onyema	N800 million
10.	Minority Whip	N700 million
11.	Deputy Minority Whip	N700 million

Source: Adopted from Onya & Elemanya, 2016, and improved by the Researchers, 2018.

At the states level, the corrupt practices accompanied by the lack of accountability and transparency in spending public funds remain the order of the day particularly among the state governors. The huge amount of money that goes to the state governments from 2015 to date cannot be accounted for by many among them. It can be recalled that, apart from the monthly allocation to the states that is constant, bailout and London-Paris club Funds were equally shared to state governments across the country, but compare to the issues on ground in many states across the country is really pathetic. As matter of fact, in some states, paying worker's salary alone became headache, not to talk of even infrastructural or socio-economic development and wellbeing of the state's members.

In line with this, Budgit (2017) observed that the allocation, utilization and spending of public funds remain unclear, uncoordinated, and brazen, given most of the state government's inability to acknowledge the presence or wishes of the same Nigerians who voted for them and in whose names these funds are disbursed. It have been recorded that, in March 2017, the Finance Minister said “the initial disbursement of Paris Club fund to the states was subject to an agreement by state governments that 50% of any amount received would be allocated for the payment of salaries and pensions.” A few days later, it was reported that seven governors have been linked with the alleged diversion of part of the N 388. 304bn London Paris Club refunds into two accounts opened by the Nigeria Governors Forum (NGF).

To justify the statement above, on 5 April 2017, the Adamawa state government refused a Freedom of Information request from a citizen seeking details on how the first tranche of the Paris Club refunds received were spent. This sentiment was further re-echoed within the same month, by a spokesperson of Delta State Governor Ifeanyi Okowa who said that “the Federal Government had no power to instruct states on how to disburse their Paris London Club refund, as the money belongs to the states, it was not a gift, nor a bailout” (Budgit, 2017).

All these indicated that most of the state governments do not concern much about the welfare and socio-economic well-being of their people, but rather interested in diverting the public funds into their private affairs, particular due to their selfish nature, motivated by corrupt mindsets, lack of accountability and transparency within the system, thereby making life difficult for a common men across the states and the country as a whole.

Non-adherence to Rule of Law

One of the major ingredients of democracy anywhere in the world is its adherence to the rule of law which give both ruler and ruled the opportunity to determine their destiny with the stipulated law of the state. However, since return to civil rule in 1999, there were many break of law particularly by those that occupied or holds the political power. Lawal, Imokhuede & Johnson (2012) observed that the leaders in Nigeria do not show respect to the rule of law, especially, judicial decisions. This hampers the judiciary to effectively discharge its duties. The political executives still undermine the independence of the judiciary through patronage appointments, and judicial administration is characterized by weak enforcement capacity.

Therefore, the respect for rule of law or absence of it under the current administration of President Buhari can be understand from some practical issues since the inception of his administration. For instance, the second arrest of Biafra Radio director, Nnamdi Kanu, and the former National Security Adviser to previous administration, Sambo Dasuki in spite of subsisting bail. The recent raid of the homes of some judges (justices Walter Onnoghen & Sylvanus Ngwuta of the Supreme Court as well as the homes of Justices Adebisi Ademola, Muazu Pindiga and Nnamdi Dimgba of the Federal High Court) was describes as evidence of absence, or lack of respect for the rule of law and the principles of separation of powers by the present administration thereby only interested in using the apparatus of state to harass the real and perceived enemies (Adeyanju, 2017).

Consequently, it is on record that President Buhari sent the name of the Acting Chairman of the EFCC, Ibrahim Magu, to the Senate for confirmation twice, the first time was in December 2016 and subsequently in March 2017. However, on both occasions, the Senate refused to confirm Magu's appointment, asking the President to appoint someone else which is not done till today, even though the senate's decision was subjected to various interpretation. Again, the administration has also refused to release the leader of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria, Sheikh El-Zakzaky, and his wife, despite an order of court. However, many others facing anti-corruption charges have been released on bail based on the conditions imposed by the court, even the Nnamdi Kanu, was also released last year after he fulfilled the bail conditions set particularly in view of President Buhari's stance on the issue (Odude, 2017).

Adeyanju (2017) further pointed out that the rule of law has suffered some setbacks presently, which need to be properly addressed for the entrenchment of sustainable socio-economic development in Nigeria. And more worrisome of this development is the fact that these events are happening when Yemi Osinbajo, a law professor and Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), is the Vice President of the country.

Immunity of Prosecuting Political Office Holders

Another leadership challenge facing the present administration of President Buhari, with its accompanying negative effect on the socio-economic development of this country is the issue of 'immunity clause'. This is despite the widespread anti corruption campaign led by his administration. Consequently, the immunity clause had created an umbrella for some top government officials (e.g state governors) to tamper with their state resources, thereby leading to infrastructural decay and underdevelopment at the state levels (Daily Post, 2016).

Premium Times (2013) noted that the immunity clause in the constitution provides the president, vice president, governors and their deputies, with protection from prosecution of offences they commit while in office which is contrary to the views of an overwhelming majority of Nigerians. For instance, during the House of Representative public sessions on the review of the 1999 constitution in 2013, out of the nation's total 360 federal constituencies polled, 225 voted to support a partial removal of the immunity clause on presidents and governors and their deputies which no doubt represents the interest of many Nigerians. However, in his commitment to fight corruption and to ensure offenders face the full wrath of the law, President Buhari assured Nigerians that no stone will be left unturned in the fight against corruption, not even immunity clause will aid the escape of anyone who is fingered and found guilty by the law, but till today none among the corrupt political officials have neither convicted nor jail. Even the attempt by the President Buhari to freeze the account of the Ekiti State Governor, Ayodele Fayose, was actually shattered by serious arguments as to whether those under the category of sitting Presidents and governors as well as their deputies, can face investigation, which includes freezing of their accounts (The Guardian, 2016).

In line with argument above, Saidu (2015) makes it clearly that one of the weaknesses of Nigeria's constitutions is the provision of immunity clause to political office holders so long as one is occupying political seat of power, that person is too big to go to jail or court until his/her administration is over. And the ongoing tradition now a day is that every political leader will make sure that his/her political friends succeeds him/her in office as a price for political protection of mismanagement and diversion of public funds. This new emerging trend constitutes a serious threat to the promotion of welfare and socio-economic development of the Nigerian citizens as a whole. Therefore, it is a reality that the immunity clause itself, is a gross ambiguity and huge of contradictory, which calls for all hands to be on deck to curb the menace.

Pervasive Poverty and Massive Unemployment

Pervasive poverty and massive unemployment in Nigeria has become the greatest challenges facing the current administration under President Buhari. Although, these problems are not

only peculiar to the present administration, because even the previous administration suffers the same problems, but what differs them is the effort made to reduce the repercussions of these challenges. For instance, according to National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the unemployment rate in Nigeria increased to 14.2% in the last quarter of 2016 from 10.4% same quarter in 2015. It is the highest unemployment rate since 2009. And it rose from 14.2% to 18.8% in 2017 (Vanguard, 2017).

However, in the late 2016, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) also reported that about 112 million Nigerians (representing 67.1%) of the country's total population of 167 million are living below the poverty level (Vanguard, 2016). As matter of fact, poverty is a product of unemployment and inequality on one hand, and it also a parent of all crime in the society on the other hand. This is what we are witnessing today in Nigeria, because the jobless youths are frustrated and retaliating back to the system that created and rendered them unemployed. In line with this, Jombo (2014) observed the following trend that;

The Niger Delta youths, the Movement for Actualization of Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), the Oduduwa People's Congress (OPC), and the Boko Haram insurgents comprised the young people of Nigeria without salary-earning jobs. The incidence of suicide bombing, terrorists' attacks, kidnapping, destruction of lives and properties, armed robbery, vandalization of corporate facilities, (such as the power holding installations and oil pipelines), car-snatching, drug abuse, and other criminal acts are unlawful activities associated with these groups (Jombo, 2014: 33).

Therefore, this indicated a direct relationship between unemployment, poverty and high rate of insecurity of lives and properties in Nigeria, meaning that the increased wave of crimes and violence is as a result of pervasive poverty and massive unemployment among the Nigerian youths. To find solutions to some of these issues, the current administration introduced an unprecedented social investment programme known as N-Power initiative aimed at creating jobs for the youth but, the question one may asked is that can it solve the problems of unemployment across the country where over 100 tertiary institutions are producing more than 200,000 graduates per annum (Freedom, et.al, 2015). What about un-skill citizens that are busy roaming the streets everyday in search of jobs across cities in the country.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This paper established the fact that insecurity, corruption, non-adherence to rule of law, immunity of the political office holders and pervasive poverty and unemployment are part and parcel of the major challenges of the current administration under the leadership of President Muhammadu Buhari. Although these challenges are not different from those faced by the previous administration, however the way and manner they were handled differs. As a matter of fact, many public office holders today are extra careful to be associated with the issue of corruption, unlike what was obtained in the last administration, this is by no means to say that the scourge (corrupt practices) those not exist among the present sets of political office holders in the country, who hide under the canopy of the so-called immunity clause, in breach of the extant laws of the land (rule of law). On the other hand, the issue of insecurity particularly the Boko Haram insurgency in the northeast and the militancy in the Niger-Delta has minimize to

the barest minimum, if not defeated. However, other security challenges as mentioned earlier in the paper still persists, which can be trace to pervasive poverty and massive unemployment that lingers among the teeming population of our youths, and by implication, threatening the lives and properties of the mass of the people, vis-à-vis their social and economic well-being across the country. Even though the fight against corruption and insecurity are at front burner of Buhari's administration, more pro-active measures need to be put in place in tackling the menace headlong, while issues such as high level of poverty, massive unemployment and problem of immunity clause need to be revisited.

Consequently, the paper suggested the following recommendations:

1. That the fight against corruption should be comprehensive and holistic regardless of political affiliations, ethno-religious inclinations or any other ties. The officials of anti-craft agencies must to be objective enough and sincere, as well as well equip and independent, to enable them carry out their duty without fear or favour.
2. The security agencies should imbibe the habit of quick response to emergency situations that has to do with crime, particularly by exploiting modern communication gadget and detective device measure to intercept crimes before they occur. And on even where the crime is successfully committed, both the perpetrators and sponsors should be identified and brought to book.
3. Both leaders and the citizens at all level of governance in Nigeria must adhere to the rule of law, this is necessary for the evolution and establishment of a just and egalitarian society.
4. As a matter of fact, the Buhari's administration must do the needful, by sponsoring an executive bill, in respect of amendment of the immunity clause, if the fight against corruption and overcoming the ills of socio-economic development is to be achieved in this country.
5. And lastly, as a matter of emergency, the Buhari's administration must expand and improve upon its social intervention programmes to ensure the creation and provision of jobs to both skills and un-skills citizens of the country. This would go a long way in reducing poverty, and thereby minimising the rate of crime in Nigeria and among Nigerians.

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