

Leadership and Sustainable Development in Nigeria: A Comparative Analysis of Good Luck Ebele Jonathan and Umaru Musa Yar'adua's Administrative Style

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Abstract

It is believed that there is a relationship between leadership skills and the quality of development a nation can attain hence, the study examined leadership and sustainable development in Nigeria: A comparative analysis of Good Luck Ebele Jonathan and Umaru Musa Yar'adua's administrative style. The study relied on the basic human needs' theory as its theoretical framework while data for the study were drawn from secondary sources such as textbooks, government publications and materials from the internet. Analysis was done descriptively via content analysis. The study beliefs that sustainable development can be attained in Nigeria and Africa if leaders at all levels adopt democratic and people-centered policies and programs.

Keywords: *Leadership, Sustainable Development, Nigeria, and Administrative Style*

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Background to the Study

The scramble and struggle for power especially during elections often lead to violent contestations which create room for insecurity which in turn affects the economy and level of development a nation can attain. Thus, it is argued that policies and programs introduced by leaders especially political leaders can either promote development or underdevelopment. It is on record that Africa's underdevelopment is attributed to leadership ineptitude which has affected the living standard of citizens across Africa. This also explains the high level of conflict and insecurity across African states. The situation in Central African Republic, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger Republic are clear examples where leadership failure has led to economic deprivation and underdevelopment. This explains why Achebe (1984) identified leadership failure as a major factor responsible for the myriads of problems and challenges confronting Africa and Nigeria. In the case of Nigeria, several militia groups are rising up against the Nigerian state due to several factors including lack of conclusion and marginalization of minorities. This situation however changed from 2007-2015 during the era of presidents Good Luck Ebele Jonathan and Umaru Musa Yar'Adua-led administration. It is in the light of the foregoing that this study examined leadership and sustainable development in Nigeria: A comparative analysis of Good Luck Ebele Jonathan and Umaru Musa Yar'Adua's administrative style.

Theoretical and Conceptual Analysis

The Basic Human Needs theory by John Burton (1997), helps the government and policy makers to identify the needs, emotions and aspirations of all the parties before negotiation and settlement is agreed upon hence, the outcome is accepted by all without distrust and suspicion which often create room for escalation and tension. The basic human needs theory posits that all human beings have basic fundamental needs which include need for shelter, food, sex, security etc. they agreed that when these basic needs are absent, it could lead to revolts and resistance including protest against the state and societal norms. Basic Human needs theory also creates room for rewards and compensation as it is the case in the Niger Delta where arms were exchanged for jobs, training and skills acquisition. The application of this theory in this study indicates that good leadership and policies is likely to address the needs of citizens and in the process promote peace and sustainable developments. The theory is however limited in several ways. For instance, it is based on material gains and benefits which can be manipulated by the government and policy makers. Such manipulation can also promote divide and rule which will enable the government to put the citizens under perpetual subjection and oppression. Proponents of the basic human need's theory include; Burton (1997) Sites (1973) Maslow (1943) and Galtung (1990).

Conceptual Analysis

Leadership from a general perspective refers to an individual or group of persons who provide direction, implement development plans or programmes and also inspire and motivate people. There are several leadership styles that can be exhibited by leaders in the political, business or other spheres of life. Leadership styles according to Newstorm (1993) therefore refer to the total pattern of explicit and implicit actions performed by the leader. In the same vein, Howell and Costly (2001) maintained that there are seven (7) behavior patterns or

styles of leaders and that such behavior patterns often produce negative or positive actions. According to them, positive and progressive minded leader will use rewards such as education, independence, scholarships etc. to motivate and command respect while negative or autocratic leaders will emphasize on penalties and sanctions. While commenting on the nature of leadership in Nigeria and Africa, Achebe (1984) identified leadership failure and ineptitude as the major problem facing Nigeria and indeed Africa. In his words: the trouble with Nigeria is simply and squarely a failure of leadership. Akiyanju (2000) noted that the democratic or participative leadership style enhances more citizen rights and freedom. It is therefore imperative to state that leadership styles adopted by leaders can promote development and at the same time, failure to address the needs of citizens especially minorities can also lead to instability and underdevelopment.

Comparative Analysis of the Administrative Style of Dr Good Luck Ebele Jonathan and Umaru Musa Yar'Adua

This section of the study explains some the policy actions and programmes advanced by the above leaders while in office.

Dr Good Luck Ebele Jonathan

Nwankwo (2017), described Dr Good Luck Ebele Jonathan as a leader who did not only practice democracy but also implemented through his actions and statements. According to him, Jonathan literally turned a paradox into a platitude. He restrained his supporters, stunned and sobered his ever joy opponents. He made good his earliest statement that his ambition was not worth the blood of any Nigerians. The leadership of Dr Good Luck Ebele Jonathan is further summarized in the pre-2015 election statement and assurance he made below:

Democracy is a journey that every nation mindful of advancing the liberty of her citizens must undertake. Nobody's political ambition is worth the blood of any Nigerian. Our votes must count, one man vote, one woman one vote, one youth one vote. Nobody should rig for me. I assure all Nigerians that though I am contesting, nobody must manipulate votes in my favor. Our votes must count. I will congratulate the other candidate of the other political parties for I regard them not as opponents but as partners. We must develop a democratic in which the will of the people will be treated as sacred and be immune to subversions and anti-democratic elements (Nwankwo, 2017: P.17). The tables below further explain the administrative style and programmes implemented by DR Good Luck Ebele Jonathan while serving as vice president and president.

Table 1: Major Policy Actions of the Jonathan Administration

S/N	Policy Action	Expected Outcome
1.	Convocation of a National Conference	Encourage popular participation by giving Nigerians from all walks of life the opportunity to come together and chart a new course for the nation.
2.	Introduction of the Almajiri Education program in the North-East.	A strategic long-term plan aimed at curbing child abuse and insurgency in the north by deflating the ego of the ruling northern elites.
3.	Restructuring of INEC	Prior to the 2011 elections, the federal government appointed Prof. Attahiru Mohammed Jega as INEC chairman, which restored credibility in the electoral process and elections in Nigeria.
4.	Judicial and Executive reforms	The National Judicial Service Commission (NJSC) was repositioned of some erring Judges and Justice. In the same vein, the executive arm of government was repositioned through the appointment of new board chairmen and executive secretaries to head government boards and agencies such as the EFCC, ICPC etc.
5.	Signing of the freedom of Information Bill (FOI) Act of 2011	Increased public participation, accountability and trust in the governance process and in public affairs in general.
6.	Signing of the local content Act 2010	Increased indigenous participation in economic activities, particularly in the oil and gas sector.
7.	Moderation in the use of power and authority	The period 2010 – 2015 witnessed high degree and respect for the fundamental human rights and liberty of citizens by the state and the president. It will be recalled that despite criticisms and opposition to government policies and programs, nobody was intimidated, arrested or detained unlawfully
8.	Demystification of power and putting amend to sit-tight leadership In Nigeria and Africa	Despite demands by members of the ruling people’s democratic party (PDP) on the then president to retain power by all means. DR Good Luck Ebele Jonathan canceled defeat and congratulated Mohammedu Buhari before the election results were officially announced.

Source: Kalama 2018, 266-267

Table 2: Travel Times on Nigerian Roads

S/N	Corridor/Road Infrastructure	Before Jonathan	Under Jonathan
1.	Abuja- Abaji- Lokoja Express way	4 Hours	2 Hours
2.	Onitsha- Owerri- Express way	3 Hours	2 Hours
3.	Benin- Ore- Shagamu- Lagos Express way	9 Hours	4 Hours
4.	Gombe – Numom- yola express way	6 Hours	3 Hours
5.	Eunugu- Abakaliki- Ogoja- Mfum Highway	8 Hours	3 Hours
6.	Lagos- Ibadan- Illorin Highway	6 Hours	3.5 Hours
7.	Otukpa- Ayangba- Ajaokuta- Lokoja Road	4 Hours	1.5 Hours
8.	Jobba- Lafaji- Mokwa Road	2 Hours	45 minutes

Source: One Nigeria Coalition, 2012 P.10-11 cited in Kalama 2018, 38

The above tables clearly shows that apart from policy measures and programs, the administrative styles of DR Good Luck Ebele Jonathan also impacted positively on road infrastructure in Nigeria hence, reducing travel times, hours and expenses of Nigerians across the country.

Administrative Style of Umaru Musa Yara'dua

This section of the study examined the administrative style and policy actions implemented by Umaru Musa YarA'dua while serving as president. It will be recalled that from 1999- 2006, the federal government under President Olusegun Aremu Obasanjo adopted military force in dealing with the conflict in the Niger Delta region in south- south, Nigeria. This approach no doubt helped to escalate the conflict as the development of military task forces (Operation Pullo Shield, Operation Crocodile smile etc). To the region led to proliferation of military groups and camps across the creeks of Niger Delta, leading to the kidnapping of more expert rates, destruction of oil facilities and other critical national infrastructures located in the oil-rich region. Within this period, oil production capacity of Nigeria dropped, and Angola became the leading oil producing country in Africa. While affirming the fact that YarA'dua and Jonathan are dying hard democrats Mukoro (2018) stated thus; as at the time YarA'dua and Jonathan emerged as President and Vice, Nigeria was being threatened by militancy in the Niger Delta region. This internal resurrection saw the economic life blood of the country being suffocated. In their words: there was a lot of sabotage being carried out against oil exploration and installations. Rather than unleash the Nigeria military on the Niger Delta people as Obasanjo did in the case of Odi Community in Bayelsa state, Jonathan and his team of intellectuals came up with a master- stroke that saved Nigeria from disintegrating. The government of Yar 'Adua and Jonathan decided to become democratic, open and sensitive to the problems plaguing the Niger Delta by granting amnesty to the militants surrendering their weapons in exchange for a presidential pardon, rehabilitation programs and education (Mukoro, 2018, .11-12).

Mukoro (2018), went further to describe Yar A'dua and Jonathan as wonderful democrats who placed national interest above their personal needs and desires. According to him, with hindsight, it has to be stated that the coming of Yar A'dua and Jonathan into the saddle of leadership was a reach of fresh air. They were both recruited from the classroom ad were root fabulously rich. They were a compatible pair that got sworn into office o the 20th of May 2007. Corroborating the above position, Imokhai (2015) noted that president Yar A'dua understood that if his administration was going to be successful, he had to solve the crisis of the Niger delta. In the words of Imokhai (2015), "... rather than going for the military option, Jonathan advocated the peaceful, painstaking, equitable, and infinitely more rewarding option of addressing the compelling grievances of the youths: winning their trust, enhancing their capacity for skills acquisition and employments ad ultimately integrating them into the economic process from which they had for so long been alienated. To further consolidate and deepen the peace building process in the Niger Delta region, the Yar A'dua led federal government in the country also created the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs to take care of specific development challenges in the Niger Delta region. Evidence of violence and insecurity in pre-amnesty Niger Delta is reflected in the table below.

Table 3: List of some hostage takings in oil rich Niger Delta Region of Nigeria Updated 13th March, 2008.

Month/Year	State Incident Occurred	No of Hostage Victims	Place of Hostage Taking	Parent/Subsidiary Coy Hostage Victim(s) Attached to	
October 2006	AKWA-IBOM	8	Near Eket	Bristol Helicopters Coy	-
3 rd June, 2007	"	7 (one killed)	Ikot-Abasi	Aluminum smelter coy of Nigeria	15
2003	BAYELSA	18	Middleton and Pennington Offshore Platform	Chevron Texaco	
Dec. 2004	"	1	Ekeremor	SPDC	
10 Jan. 2006	"	4	Offshore EA Oil Platform	SPDC	
July 2006	"	4	Ekeremor LGA	Trico Supply Coy Norwegian Shipping Firm	
June 2006	"	1	Gbarain Near Yenagoa	Westminster Dredging (International)	
June 2006	"	8	Ekeremor LGA	Peak Petroleum SPDC Contractors	
June 2006	"	24 (8 Military Officers Involved)	Ogboinbiri	Agip (NAOC) Flow Station	
Nov. 2006	"	2	Bilabiri	Norwegian Oil Service Coy	
7 th Dec. 2006	"	4	Twon-Brass (Terminal)	Agip (NAOC)	
10 th Jan. 2007	"	9	Ogu-Yenagoa	Daewoo Nig. Ltd	
24 th Jan. 2007	"	9	Sagbama	Chinese National Petroleum Coy (CNPC)	
March, 2007	"	2	Bayelsa	SETRACO NIG. LTD	
March, 2007	"	3	Koluama 1	EBEOBI NIG. LTD	
1 st May, 2007	"	6	Funiwa Oil Field	Chevron Nig. Ltd	
25 th May, 2007	"	10	Sangana AKASSA	Conoil	
June 2007	"	26 (Including Soldiers & Agip Workers)	Ogboinbiri	Nigerian Army & Agip (NAOC)	
July 2007	"	1 (over 70 yrs old woman)	Akaibiri, Yenagoa	Mother of Bayelsa State, Speaker	
31 st July, 2007	"	1 (2 yrs old child)	Yenagoa	Son of Governor's Office Staff	
August, 2007	"	1 (over 60 yrs old women)	Akassa	Mother of Bayelsa State House of Assembly Member	
August, 2007	"	1 (11 yrs old child)	Yenagoa	Son of a Female Member of Bayelsa State House of Assembly	
October, 2007	"	1 (over 80yrs old Chief of Odi Town)	Odi Town	Father of a Bayelsa State House of Assembly Member	
October, 2007	"	1 (over 70 yrs old woman)	Enewari Town	Mother of Hon. Member of Bayelsa State House of Assembly	
October, 2007	"	7 (3 Foreigners & 4 Nigerians)	Ekeremor (70 Miles from the Atlantic Ocean) E.A.Oil Platform	Shell (SPDC Facility)	
18 th Oct, 2007	"	1 (over 60 yrs old women)	Toru-Oruha, Sagbama L.G.A	Mother of House of Representative	
Dec. 2007	"	1 (Paramount Ruler of Aleibiri Town)	Aleibiri, Ekeremor L.G.A	Father of the Deputy Governor of Bayelsa State.	
Dec, 2007	BAYELSA	1 (91 yrs old man)	Bolou-Orua, Sagbama L.G.A	Father of the Accountant General of Bayelsa State	147

1999	RIVERS	2	Ewhen Flow Station (Ahooda West)	Helicopter Pilots	
1999	"	1	Ebeolom – Abua	N/A	
1999	"	1	Night club G.R.A P.H	Tidex Nig. Ltd	
2005	"	1	Mbiama	Daewoo Nig. Ltd	
2006	"	2	Port Harcourt	Daewoo Nig. Ltd	
11 th May 2006	"	3	Rivers State Territory	Saipem (Agip Contractor)	
20 th June, 2006	"	2	Port Harcourt	Beaufort International	
July 2006	"	1	Port Harcourt	Bilfinger Berger (B+B)	
4 th Aug. 2006	"	3	Port Harcourt	N/A	
9 th Aug. 2006	"	4	Port Harcourt	N/A	
August 2006	"	2	Port Harcourt	International Dredging Coy	
13 th Aug. 2006	"	4	Port Harcourt	B+B	
16 th Aug. 2006	"	1	Port Harcourt	N/A	
24 th Aug. 2006	"	1	Port Harcourt	Saipem	
Oct. 2006	"	25	Cawthone Channel	SPDC-Contract Firm	
22 nd Nov. 2006	"	50 Km off Coast Off	Eni SPA Subsidiary of Agip Oil Coy		
Jan 2007	"	5	Emohua, Rivers State	Sichuan Telecommunication Coy	
Jan 2007	"	2	Rivers State	Nigerian Navy Officers	
Jan 2007	"	2	Port Harcourt	Pivot G.I.S. Coy	
Feb, 2007	"	1	Port Harcourt	Wife to an Iranian	
17 th Feb. 2007	"	4	Port Harcourt	Missionaries	
18 th Feb. 2007	"	3	Port Harcourt	Hydrodrive Coy	
March, 2007	"	1	Port Harcourt	Julius Berger Plc	
30 th April, 2007	"	1	Ubima, Rivers State	Gov. Celestine Omehia (Former) Mother	
2 nd May, 2007	"	11	Ayama Rivers State	Daewoo Engineering & Construction Coy	
May 2007	"	6	55 Miles Off The Coast of Rivers State	Eni SPA	
5 th May, 2007	"	1	Port Harcourt	Beloroussian Women, Wife of a Nigerian from Akwa -Ibom State	
19 th May, 2007	"	2	Port Harcourt	Petrochemical Firm	
1 st June, 2007	"	7 (Two children & two women involved)	Port Harcourt	Indorama Petro Chemicals Firm	
3 rd June, 2007	"	4	Port Harcourt	Schlumberger Coy	
8 th June, 2007	"	1	Port Harcourt	Modant Marine Coy	
June, 2007	"	3yrs old child (Master St. Micheal Steward)	Elekahia, Rivers State	In a Private Nursery School	
4 th July, 2007	"	5 (2 Nigerian & 3 Foreigners)	Soku, Rivers State	SPDC	
5 th July, 2007	"	3yrs old British child Margaret Hills	Port Harcourt	Briton	
8 th July, 2007	"	2 Nigerian	Near Buguma Rivers State	SPDC Contractors	
12 th July, 2007	"	3 yrs old Nigerian Child (Prince Samuel Amadi)	East-West Road, Port Harcourt	Ikwerre, Community (Son of a Royal Highness)	

August, July, 2007	“	2	Port Harcourt	Engineering Firm Staff	
August 2007	“	2	Port Harcourt	ADC Engineering Firm (MTN)	
August, 2007	“	1	Port Harcourt	Hydro Dive company	
Sept, 2007	“	1 (2 ½ yrs old child)	Akpajo-Eleme	Child of an NNPC Staff	
Sept, 2007	“	4	Iwofe P.H	SAIPEM	
Oct, 2007	“	1 (Pa Lawrence Kara)	Bane, (Ogoni Land), Rivers State	Father of the Deputy Speaker, Rivers State House of Assembly	
24 th Oct, 2007	“	2 (6yrs old girl & 5yrs old boy)	Obi Wali Rd. P.H	Children of Elf Coy Staff	
Dec. 2007	“	1	Port-Harcourt	Chairman of Rivers State Electoral Commission Prof. Nimi Briggs	
8 th Jan. 2008	“	1 (10yrs old child)	Port-Harcourt	Son of the State Secretary of P.D.P, Rivers State	
Jan. 2008	“	1	Agip Junction P.H.	Wife of assistant commissioner of police	
Feb. 2008	“	1	Port-Harcourt	Abonema Town	
Feb. 2008	“	1 (Wife of a Politician/Business Mogul)	Port Harcourt	Vice Executive Chairman of Moni Pulo LTD	
Feb. 2008	“	1	Port Harcourt	Divisional Manager (Public Affairs) Agip	
25 th Feb. 2008	“	1	Peter Odili Road, P.H.	Deputy General Manager Total Drilling Company	
26 th Feb. 2008	“	2 children (2 yrs & 1yr old)	Port Harcourt	Pupils of University of Port Harcourt School	
Feb. 2008	“	1	Ada George Road Port Harcourt	PDP Chairmanship Aspirant	
5 th March, 2008	“	2 children of Former Chairman of Etche LGA)	GRA Phase2 port Harcourt	Pupils of Groove Nursery & Primary School	
March, 2008	“	1	Along East-West Rd. Construction Camp Site Rivers State	Expatriate Staff of Julius Berger	
10 th March, 2008	“	1 (6yrs old child)	D/line Port- Harcourt	Pupil of IBCF School Woji, Road Port Harcourt	
^h March, 2008	“	6 persons	New Calabar Rivers	Workers of Julius Berger vessel/tugboat	156
18 th Feb. 2006	Delta	9	Riverine Area of Delta State	Wilbros Coy	
Jan. 2007	“	24	Chanomi Creek	Baco Liner Shipping Coy	
Jan 2007	“	7	Near Ankrankoko		
8 th May 2007	“	4	Okan Oil field	Global Off-Shore International (Chevron Nig. Ltd)	
May, 2007	“		Enerhen Junction Warri	Niger Cat (Oil Services Coy)	45

Source: The Atlantic Express Magazine volume 8 No1, 9th -23rd April 2008.

Table 4: Demography of Amnesty Participants and the Total Number of Beneficiaries

S/N	States	Male	Female	Registered	Summary of Total Amnesty Beneficiaries
1	Akwa Ibom	155	8	163	1 st phase 20,192
2	Bayelsa	6,900	61	6,961	2 nd phase 6,166
3	Cross River	159	1	160	3 rd phase 3,600
4	Delta	3,361	-	3,361	
5	Edo	450	-	450	
6	Imo	297	3	300	
7	Ondo	1,198	2	1200	
8	Rivers	6,958	39	6,997	
9	NDDC	571	19	600	
	Total	20,049	133	20,192	30,000

Source: Adapted from Arugu and Okoye, 2014, 82. *The Punch Newspaper*, 20 December 2012, *Premium Times* 24 December, 2012 and *Africa Today* November, 19, 2009).

Conclusion

The study examined Leadership and sustainable development in Nigeria: A comparative analysis of Good luck Ebele Jonathan and Umaru Musa Yar'Adua's administrative style. In the course of this work, we interrogated the nexus between administrative style, and development and noted that inclusive, democratic, and transparent leadership styles can lead to economic stability and development in any society. In the same vein, the study observed that poor and inept leadership can create poverty, violence and instability. Relevant data from the study further shows that the character of a leader and the leadership style adopted in the process of governance determines the level of progress, development, acceptability and legitimacy of the government. This explains why Presidents Good Luck Ebele Jonathan and Umaru Musa Yar 'Adua are still honoured and celebrated by Nigerians within and outside the country even when they have left office. In other to advance the course of democracy in Nigeria, the study posits that leaders at all levels should embrace the tenet of democracy, transparency and accountability.

Recommendations

The dream of every leader is to promote development and peace in the society. Thus, the following recommendations will no doubt help to guaranty sustainable development and political stability in Nigeria:

1. The task of promoting sustainable development entails a complex process hence, leaders must not rely on a single leadership style rather leaders can apply multiple leadership styles in order to achieve the desired result.

2. Institutions and agencies of government at all levels charged with the responsibility of formulating and implementing government policies should be straightened and made to function optimally and independently without interference. Similarly, agencies and departments of government in charge of project monitoring and evaluation should be monitored, empowered and sanctioned where necessary. This is important and necessary because if the basic needs of citizens are provided regularly there will be no justifiable reason for agitations, protests, uprisings, violence and insecurity at any level.
3. Authoritarian leaders should be dethroned through impeachment or other means to ensure peace and sanity in the society. This will serve as deterrence to leaders who are now in power and those who intend to contest elections.
4. Basic needs of citizen especially the masses should be given priority attention by the government at all levels (federal, state, and local governments). This is important because gainful employment and positive engagement of the youths will help to reduce violence and insecurity across the country.
5. Fraudulent and corrupt-minded public official's is not allowed to remain in office or contest for any elective post in the country. If by any chance they contest un- noticed, they should not be sworn in or allowed to take the oath of the office. This important and fundamental because such criminal and fraudulent background could lead to autocratic leadership styles at the end of the day.
6. Nations like Cameroon and Mali where leaders emerge through un-democratic means should not be allowed to attend important international meetings convened by reputable international organizations such as ECOWAS, African Union etc. In fact, such recalcitrant erring countries should be sanctioned and suspended from all international organizations. Furthermore, such nations should be isolated and declared pariah nations by the international community.

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