Statecraft: Pathway to Sustainable Democracy and Economic Development in Africa

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Abstract

Good and sustainable democratic political culture are essential ingredient of state's nation-building and national economic development. But, continuous sprouting of poor governance since independence is causing divisive ethno-religious politics, democratic reversal and insecurity that have destabilize pace and process of economic development in African states. Ironically, problems of poor governance are not externally propelled rather; they are internally encouraged by dearth of action-centered leadership, poor public policy, absence of dividend of democracy, biter ethnic rivalry, inter-class conflicts, poor national-integration and state-building, primordial and divisive political elites among many others. These generate stunted democracy, corruption and abuse of power, partial authority, repulsive citizens and turbulent state. The objective of the study is to investigate the nexus between good governance, sustainable democracy and national economic development in a state. Theoretical framework adopted for the analysis is Developmental State-cum-Liberal Democratic Theory. The study adopted qualitative research methods in which secondary data are employed for analysis. The study identifies emergence of purposeful and action-centered leadership, entrenchment of good democratic political culture, proper harmonization of resources for development, adequate knowledge on management of modern state system, good judgment of emerging socio-political and economic issues and ability of state to live up to peoples' expectations as pathway to sustainable democracy and economic development. The study recommends good governance and true fiscal federalism, dividend of democracy, free and fair elections, and prioritization of unfolding socio-political issues. The study concludes that emergence of popularly elected action-centered and functional leadership with good economic development blueprint and national integration strategies can create political stability and national economic development.

Keywords: *Democracy, Development, Good Governance, Leadership, State-building*

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Background to the Study

Development is a product of internalism where available internal factors are combined to produce sustainable development. These internal factors comprises of action-centered leadership, cohesion and coherence of citizens in the political system through state building and national integration that foster unity, political stability, people oriented development plans and policies, inclusive politics that reduces unhealthy ethnic rivalry, transparency and accountability in governance, equitable distribution of resources to eliminate vicious circle of poverty, as well as time bound implementation of development plans and projects that will have meaningful impacts on the lives of citizens. Economic development, national security and self-sustenance remain epitome of national interest of a state, because it enhances nation's sovereignty and serves as element of power in state relations with other states. But these essential elements of development, security self-sustenance remain a mirage in African continent as most African states are prone to political conflicts, insecurity, poverty, dependency and underdevelopment and gross exploitation that negatively impacting on both technological and human capital development, (Saliu & Aremu, 2008; Ogaleye & Vaaseh, 2024).

Surprisingly, Africa is a continent richly blessed with abundant natural resources (human and material resources), diverse cultures and many of these untapped potential resources can propelled Africa continent to become global economic power house. But, despite these abundant resources which can serve as launch pad to development there exist myriads of issues that enveloped the continent and made Africa's aspiration to development a wishful thinking. These known issues can be checkmated by statecraft. The continent of Africa has long been grappled with complex challenges of statecraft that impede her progress toward sustainable development. Majorly among these lingering challenges confronting the continent of Africa are protracted political conflicts, corruption, leadership failure, poor governance, and authoritarian leadership, dearth of action-centered leadership, filthy democratic culture, and lack of transparency, social inequality, weak institutions and above all underdeveloped economic structures. All these lingering challenges retard Africa's development and create problems of social inequality, corruption, poverty, sit-tight/imperial presidency, political instability that made ethnic conflict and fratricidal wars common features of African states. Preponderance of ethno-political conflicts in the continent made national integration and nation-building almost impossible or very difficult to be attained in many African states. However, history and globalizations as the current global trends have consistently demonstrated that the cornerstone of sustainable peace, prosperity, economic growth and development lies in statecraft principles of democracy and good governance, Meredith, 2006; Nwagu, 2018)).

Colonial state creations and colonialism have long impacts on many colonially created African states who are grappling and battling with the problem of unwielding strange bedfellow that were merged without consultation nor considered pre-colonial animosity life. Colonial state creation of disparate incongruent people continually breeds unhealthy ethnic rivalry/competition that is negatively impacting political environment, economic production and development in African continent. Meanwhile, neo-colonial domination and economic

exploitation is a grand design of imperialism to serves as stumbling blocks to Africa's sustainable development, (Egwu, 2017). The end of colonial rule has not put an end to economic domination as this domination is done through different instrument of international economic relations, politics and international trade (of grants, aids, loans, etc) and African political elites and leaders are adherent/followers of this economic domination that generate economic dependency, (Babangida,2025). Colonialism and neocolonialism profoundly influence and shaped Africa's economic development, politics and governance system through disarticulation of African economic production, and indiscriminate and artificial boundaries with extremely centralized political administration.

Disarticulation of economic production has led to extinction of indigenous African production and dearth of African science and technology that were force behind these economic productions. Compartmentalized of African Economic production to primary produce in the era of globalization is a great disincentive to modern economic growth and development. This problem is compounded by inability of African continent to determine the prices of their primary produce neither could Africans bargain for prices of imported finished products. Inability of African continent to add value to primary produce enhances dependence capitalism and service-oriented economy. Dependence capitalism introduced to African economy is seriously eroding quality part of monetary value of African production as the major determinants of monetary values is value-added to products produced and this hinges on modern technology and industrialization which are beyond the reach of African continent due to poor management of resources and corruption, (Meredith, 2016).

Despite the potential wealth, African continent is still in penury due to mismanagement and corruption that leads to underutilization of human and mineral resources to creates low income and demand in Africa. Low level of production and income produce low revenue that gave birth to sourcing for funds from outside as loans. Continuous borrowing to finance development plan without recourse to sustainable level of debt is inroad to debt burden. Meanwhile debt burden is a barrier to sustainable development as it pushes the continent deeper into dependency and external manipulation of internal economy of African states. Inability of Africans to refrain from accumulating more debts or be guided by sustainable level of debt made attainment of sustainable development a wishful thinking. Absence of buoyant economy to provide unhindered access to wealth generation activities increases poverty level that made Africans to become destitute in Europe and America. Poverty and poor economic management have made adequate training and empowering Africans to utilize her potentials impossible. Poverty from underutilization hindered economic expansion because the duo prevent ability to save and without save investment becomes impossible, (Mohammed, 2018; Danjuma, 2016).

Democracy has been darling system of governance around the world. It is worrisome that democracy as model of governance favoured by many countries in the world as source peace and security is the source crises and insecurities in Africa. Although many states in Africa claimed to be democratic and good governance, but these African states are paying lip service to real democratic principles and core values of good governance. Methods of leadership

selection and political recruitment in Africa are strongly rooted in Machiavellian politics where ends justify the means to generate multiple crises. Adoption of filthy democratic culture by political leaders has made most African states riddles with democratic violence, political conflicts and insecurity which are disincentive to stable national integration, nation-building and united political system needed for sustainable economic development, (Meredith, 2006). Wrong political orientation and culture produced bad governance, decayed society and failing statehood where political leaders are despotic, shortsighted to make attainment of development difficult, (Babangida, 2025).

There is a relationship between peace, security and national development. Meanwhile, in Africa there exist preponderance of light and small arms in the continent which accentuate insecurity that is predominant in the continent. However, national security and peace are prerequisite for meaningful development because sustainable peace cannot thrive in an atmosphere of oppression, exclusion, conflicts and weak governance institutions. Similarly, economic development is hampered by ethno-religious conflicts; political instability and governance deficits that deter inflow of foreign investments disrupt free flow of market economy and continuously widen socio-economic disparities between the continent of Africa, Europe and North America. Insecurity in most states of Africa is fueled by unhealthy ethnic rivalry, poverty, unemployment, marginalization and wrong public policy. Insecurity is compounded by insurgencies, terrorism, and transnational crimes that emanates from corruption and poor leadership. These challenges are further heightening by weak institutions that cannot respond effectively to crises that usually erode public trust and confidence in governance and democratic processes to breed violence and partial authority. An idle hand is the devil's workshop, unprecedented youth unemployment that is synonymous with African continent has contributed tremendously to Africa's economic woe and underdevelopment, through violent demonstrations, political thuggery, banditry, ethnic militias, religion bigotry, political conflicts, small and light arm proliferation all of which gave African continent bad image as the headquarters of politically unstable and failed states where political instabilities and insecurities reign supreme, (Obialor & Ozuzu, 2018).

However, exploring the connection between statecraft, good governance and sustainable development shows that many African nations are struggling to balance their immediate security concerns with long term development goals. Meanwhile, addressing root causes of continental issues and problems of underdevelopment requires adherence to genuine and real democratic values and good governance ethos to prevent Africa from the risks of perpetuating vicious cycles of poverty, instability and underdevelopment. Thus, avoiding this vicious cycle of problems calls for a critical examination of how statecraft of democracy and good governance can serve as strategic tools and roadmap for fostering national security, achieving political stability, social cohesion, national integration, economic progress and much needed sustainable development in Africa. (Saliu & Aremu, 2008).

Therefore, a commitment to statecraft of democracy ideal and good governance will provide a clear roadmap for achieving, integration and cooperation security as well as sustainable continental economic development across the continent of Africa. Effective statecraft

requires generally acceptable methods of political recruitment and leadership selection that will make emerging leaders' national acceptable leaders who can command loyalty, respect and support for the constituted authority. It also requires emergence of action-centered leadership who is committed to national integration for unity and cooperation will prevails through inclusive politics and realization of diligence of democracy. In Africa where, challenging issues and problems abound sustainable development is attainable through promotion of time-bound and actionable development plans, political stability, inclusive politics and policies, transparency, accountable institutions, responsive and responsible government that provide framework for creating a secure and prosperous future. It is imperative to know that good democratic principles and robust governance structure embrace by statecraft can foster continental economic development that will eliminate dependency, facilitate technological advancement, and promote regional and continental integration and cooperation, as well as synergy between good governance, sustainable democracy and national economic development in a state, (Enojo,2016; Edun & Garuba, 2018).

Conceptual Clarification

Statecraft: Statecraft refers to the art and skill of governing a state effectively. It involves the strategic management of a nation's political, economic, military and diplomatic affairs to achieve national objectives and maintain political stability of the state. Statecraft is an informed and organized process of the state to ensure effective governance through the instrumentalities of public bureaucracy, public policies, laws, established state institutions and agencies etc, Statecraft is a conscious administrative planning that involves democracy and good governance with intent of delivering the highest amount of public goods to the citizens of a state. There are two essential things that are germane to statecraft: methods and leadership. Methods deal with means/mechanism through which political leader emerges in a state constitutionally or unconstitutionally means. The two-affect legitimacy and authority that a leader possess because of the people's mandate, where mandate of people is absent dissident, political apathy and political conflicts ensues to cause political instability and insecurity. Leadership is person charged with political power to authoritatively allocate values, but does he allocate values transparently or otherwise. It deals with leadership integrity and purposeful leadership to create room for rule of law, strong institutions, national cohesion and integration. Statecraft ensures effective and equitable functioning of state's institutions through upholding rule of law and prevention of corruption that has been a bane to economic development of many African states. It is imperative to know that, establishment and functioning of strong institutions in a state make it difficult for criminal elements or insurgent groups to exploit governance weaknesses to cause insecurity that retard economic development many states in Africa, (Sharma, et al, 2013: Okoli.2014).

The Major Components of Statecraft are:
1. Governance and Leadership: It deals with ability of state leadership to formulate good and concrete public policies, make informed decisions, and implement laws that promotes national unity, security and development.
2. Economic Management: It is the ability of the state to ensure financial stability,

fostering economic growth through efficient management of the available human and material resources.

3. Diplomacy: It is ability of the state to manage international relations, negotiating treaties that are beneficial to the state, as well as fostering alliances with other states to protect her national interests.

4. National Security: It is the ability to protect the state and the citizens from both internal and external threats/attacks through proper intelligence information gathering, law enforcement and military strategies.

5. Public Administration: It is efficient running of public institutions to ensure effective service delivery as well as adequate maintenance of law and order in the state.

6. Crisis Management: It is responsiveness of state to emergencies situation that are prominent in the urban centers and metropolitan cities, effectiveness in combating crimes and criminal activities that occurs as a result of modernity is making cities more complex and prone to criminal acts, adequate attention be given to emergency situations such as disasters, accident, health challenges to safeguard citizens and preserve state functions.

Democracy is s system of governance in which *power resides with the people*. It *emphasizes collective decision-making* through free and fair election and *promotes* the fundamental principles of *equality, freedom and justice.* Democracy as a system of government in its truest form *ensures that the voices of the people are heard,* their *rights are protected* and *power is exercised through accountability and transparency.* Good governance complements this by fostering *efficient institutions, rule of law, and equitable distribution of national resources.* These two principles of statecraft together create an *enabling environment* for state building, national integration, national security, economic growth and sustainable development.

Democracy as a system ensure inclusiveness through ensuring that *voices of the people are heard* irrespective of who they are, their *rights are protected,* existence of *transparency in government* business and *dealings,* as well as *power is exercised through accountability and rule of law.* Good governance as an essential part of statecraft resound complement democracy to *foster strong and efficient state institutions, establishment and maintenance of rule of law* as well as *equitable distribution of resources for social equity and equality that can banish poverty* and promote sustainable economic development. Together these two cardinal pillars serves and create enabling environment for sustainable development, (Sharma, et al, 2013) (emphasis is mine)

Key Elements of Democracy
1. Popular sovereignty in which ultimate authority lies with the people.
2. Rule of law; laws apply equally to all, ensuring fairness and justice.
3. Human rights: protection of civil liberty, political freedoms and social rights.
4. Participation: active involvement of citizens in political and civil responsibilities.
5. Accountability and Transparency: leaders and institutions are answerable to the public.

Good Governance: Good governance refers to the *effective equitable and accountable management of a country's resources* and affairs in a manner that upholds the rule of law and promotes the welfare of its people. It *ensures* that *public policy institutions serve all stakeholders fairly and effectively.* Good governance is a form of political system and the structure, the manner in which *power is exercised in utilizing the country and social resources for development.* It is the *capacity of government to design, formulate and implement policies* and also the *way government discharges its functions and copes with the emerging challenges of the society*, Good governance refers to the ability to deliver goods to various stake holders by making various agents of political system work for the betterment of the citizens especially the marginalized section of society. (Emphasis is mine).

Good governance establishes the rule of law, enforces contracts and agreements between the individuals, maintains law and order and guarantees security to the people economizes on costs and resources, protects the environment and property, deliver services to society, Sharma et al (2013:64). Good governance is a phenomenon that depends on the efficient functioning of arms of government (Executive, Legislature and Judiciary) where each organ of the government performs the tasks assigned with integrity and commitment. Good governance makes levels of government (center, and other components) work in a manner that ensures responsive, accountability.

Characteristics of Good Governance
1. Participation: inclusive decision-making processes that involves all stakeholders
2. Transparency: open and clear communication of government actions and decisions.
3. Accountability: leaders and institutions take responsibility for their actions
4. Rule of Law: consistent enforcement of laws to protect rights and uphold justice
5. Equity and Inclusiveness: ensuring all groups have access to opportunities and resources and nobody is marginalized.
6. Efficiency and Effectiveness: Optimal use of resources to meet public needs.
7. Responsiveness: addressing the needs and concerns of citizens promptly.

Nexus Between Statecraft, Democracy, Good Governance and Sustainable Development
Democracy and good governance are principles for fostering national security and driving economic development in Africa. Democracy ensures the inclusion of diverse voices in decision-making, creating system that promotes accountability, equity and justice. Good governance is characterized by transparency, rule of law and efficient public institutions that foster trust between government and citizens which is critical for sustainable peace, unity and progress. In Africa, Botswana's adherence to democratic principles and sound governance has enabled the country to witness political stability and economic growth to become one of the most stable economies in Africa. Rwanda's adherence to governance reforms has significantly improved the security situation in the country and make prospect for economic development by attracting foreign direct investment that has significantly reduced poverty, (Ogaleye & Vaaseh, 2024).

The intersection of democracy, good governance and development is democracy and good governance are pillars of statecraft that facilitate realization of meaningful development. Democracy as a system of governance ideally provides a framework for political inclusiveness, accountability and citizen participation. Good governance provides transparency, rule of law and effective public service delivery which reduces socio-economic inequalities foster peace and orderliness that creates fertile ground for security and sustainable development in the continent. Democracy as a system of governance ideally provide a framework for political inclusiveness and accountability and citizen participation in politics and decision-making processes, while good governance promotes transparency, rule of law and effective public service delivery which will accelerate socio-economic equalities, foster internal peace that creates fertile ground for security and allows sustainable development in the continent, (Oagidi, 2019).

While democracy provides the framework for participation and legitimacy in governance, good governance ensures that the system is administered in a way that promotes fairness, development and accountability. A democratic system without good governance may leads to corruption or inefficiency which is very prominent in Africa and is a major cause of political conflict, insecurity, poverty and underdevelopment in Zimbabwe, Sudan, Niger and Chad. On the other hand, good governance without democracy may suppress freedoms and political participation to orchestrate dictatorship as it occurred in Libya under Muammar Gaddafi, Omar Bongo in Gabon and Paul Biya In Cameroon. The two together form the basis of statecraft on which a prosperous and egalitarian state can build sustainable economic development. Therefore, adherence to good democratic principles and robust governance structures can serve as transformative tools for fostering national security and sustainable economic development across the continent of Africa. With genuine national rebirth, integration, nation-building and unity in African states sustainable development will be realizable thing, (Nwanegbo, 2017). These issues identified are internally created and can be corrected by domestic politics not externally formulated policy. Attaining this core needs is a function of statecraft offered by purposeful and action-centered leadership, (Okoli, 2014). Democratic governance as an inclusive system foster national integration, cooperation and unity among the citizens to prevent rampant ethno-religious and political conflicts in the continent; all these serve as the basis of insecurity in many African states.

Theoretical framework
The theories for analysis are Developmental State Theory and Liberal Democratic Theory; the two Theories are effective analyzing the topic because they aligned and both focus on Governance, Security and Economic progress and development.

Developmental State Theory: Development State Theory was propounded in the 1980s and 1990s by scholars who were analyzing the rapid economic growth of East Asian countries like Japan, South Korean and Taiwan. Chalmers Johnson, a key contributor to this theory, who introduced the concept in his book "MITI and the Japanese miracles" others, are Alice Amsden, Robert Wade, and Peter Evans. The theory emphasizes the role of a strong, capable interventionist state in guiding economic development and maintains stability through

policies such as industrial planning, export-orientation growth and strategic investment in key industries. Thus, for African states to experience development there must be in existence of good governance that can empower the state to effectively utilize both human and material resources, foster industrialization as well as address social inequalities which are usually the driver of political conflicts, ethno-religious crisis, unhealthy ethnic competition, primordial politics all of which serves as causes of corruption, wars, bad governance that sustain poverty and underdevelopment in Africa. The development state theory also stresses the importance of state led initiatives in building robust institutions that ensure accountability, transparency and public participation in governance.

Liberal Democratic Theory: The Liberal Democratic Theory foundation was laid by 17th Century by John Locke in 1689 in his book *The Two Treatises of Government*. Later Montesquieu, Rousseau, and James Madison developed key principles of liberal democracy such as individual rights, rule of law and separation of power. The modern framework of liberal democracy became more formalized with the American (1776) and French (1789) Revolutions, which institutionalized ideas of popular sovereignty, constitutional government and representative democracy. The twenty-first century political theorists that have contributed to liberal democratic theory are John Rawls (Political Liberalism and Justice), Jurgen Habermas (Deliberative and Legitimate Democratic Governance), Amartya Sen (Democracy, Justice and human Capabilities). The theory argues that democracy foster political stability and creates conducive environment for sustainable economic growth. It highlights the role of democratic governance in promoting accountability, citizens' participation, rule of law and protection of human rights, all of which are crucial to national security that is necessary for sustainable economic development. But, in African states, it is the poor governance challenges that undermine development; the Liberal Democratic framework underscores the importance of inclusivity and equitable distribution of resources to prevent conflicts and economic stagnation. Its application is that values embedded in democratic principles are essential or core in achieving peace and development, while Developmental State Theory explains how state can pragmatically harness her governance capabilities for economic transformation. Therefore, the two theories offer a comprehensive roadmap by suggesting good democratic ethos/values and good governance as a practical mechanism for achieving continental security and sustainable economic development in Africa.

Issues that Undermine Statecraft Principles of Democracy and Good Governance in Africa
These challenges and issues are often interrelated and deeply rooted in historical, socio-political and economic context of African politics and political system
1. **Corruption:** African politics is affected by endemic, monstrous and cancerous plague called corruption in which there is wide spread of diversion of public funds into personal purse across many African states, graft for personal wealth weaken institutions as well as undermine trust in government and hampers efficient public service delivery. It also creates enmity between the public and elected public officials. Ikoiwak (1987) cited in Sharma, et al. (2013:929) deduced that "corruption by

political office-holders and bureaucrats in Nigeria has stigmatized the image of the government, weakened its credibility and *reduced the effectiveness of the development progrmmes* (emphasis is mine)

2. **Weak Institutions**: Many African states suffer from partial authority and leadership deficit prevent ability to build effective and responsive institutions that can promote sustainable socio-economic development. Building enduring institutions matter because institution endure and outlive the people that create them. Existence of weak democratic institutions such as electoral commission (which is not independent), Judiciary (whose integrity is undermined), and Parliament (whose members are bereft of their constitutional roles). Even the civil society have compromised in most African states These institutions often lack independence and capacity to act and this make them susceptible to manipulation by political elites, Enojo, (2016); Babangisa, (2025:115).

3. **Electoral Fraud and Malpractices**: African political elites are inundated with many fraudulent means to win election like "Full Ivorian Blood" in Cote D'Ívoire, ballot stuffing, underage voting in Nigeria, as well manipulated and caged electoral commission. Conducts of elections are usually marred by irregularities such as rigging, violence and lack of transparency by electoral umpire which undermines legitimacy, leading to partial authority and political instability, Nwolise, (2011): Adadu,(2017) .

4. **Ethnic and tribal Politics**: Although, Machiavelli the proponent of power politics enumerates two avenues for Prince to win and retain political power: these are by "Law or by Force" but he quickly added that "those who make use of lawful means are civil while those who make use of force are animals" (Machiavelli, 2003). In an attempt to win political power at all cost, many African political elites fight dirty in politics like animals by resorting to divisive means of ethnic and religion to wipe up sentiment. To the gullible citizens with little political education who are looking at politics from myopic eyes ethnic and tribal loyalty usually takes precedence over national unity, leading to unhealthy ethnic rivalry, ethno-religious conflicts and marginalization to fuel political conflicts and instability, Danjuma, (2016); Ojukwu, (2019).

5. **Authoritarianism and Imperial Presidency**: Africa's political elites have mixed traditional political norms with modern political etiquette. Africa's traditional leaders (the Monarchs) reign and rule for life, no term of office, this is co-opted into modern political lexicon of African politics where elected African leaders want to remain in power for life. Many African leaders in an attempt to extend their stay in power erode democratic norms/ethos by suppressing oppositions and manipulate constitution to accommodate their innate desire of life president, (Nwolise, 2011)

6. **Poverty and Inequality**: African political elites deliberately perpetuate high levels of vicious circle of poverty and inequality to create disconnection between governments and citizens. Most Africans due tota poverty are more concerned with survival than participating in democratic politics to vote for candidate of their choice. (Stomach infrastructure of Fayose *dibo ko sebe* meaning vote and cook soup in Ekiti state), (Abubakar & Bakare, 2018).

7. **Lack of Accountability**: Political Leaders, Governments and government officials at all level are not accountable to their citizens that elected into power due to weak civil societies, compromised media and inadequate checks and balances. Displaying the ill-gotten wealth without remorse further heightens unhealthy ethnic rivalry and misconception of politics as avenues amass wealth. This generates "do or die" politics, God fatherism, unethical electoral financing and lack of internal/party democracy that degenerate into defections, political thuggery and other electoral frauds, (Agagu, Gbadamosi & Ariyo, 2022).

8. **External Influence of Multinational Corporations and International Financial Institutions**: Emergency of poor leadership quality enables foreign powers, multinational corporations and international financial institutions (World Bank and International Monetary Fund) influence African states economic policies to favour their own interests to the detriments of welfare and wellbeing of African nationals. This accentuates debt burdens, widens social inequality, increase poverty rate and loss of respect by political leaders, (Aremu & Miah, 2008).

9. **Low Level of Civic Education and Political Awareness**: Many African states do not give adequate political education to enlighten their citizens; this limited political education prevents many citizens from fully understand their rights and responsibilities which usually resulted into political apathy and manipulation of the gullible citizens by political elites. This also contributes to lack of understanding of roles of state and political leaders in delivering political goods and dividends of democracy, (Edun & Garuba, 2016).

10. **Conflicts and Insecurity**: Insecurity challenges faced in Africa is a product of many variables and two of the variables are related to poor leadership and stunted economy. Divisive and ethno religious politics that heat up the polity are cause by political elites. Insecurity is a bane to peaceful political environment that discourages social and economic growth and development. Leadership poor sense of judgment and inability to promote/provide good public policy led to failed youth development policy. Meanwhile, failure to have qualitative public policy to empowering youths in state is invitation to crises as witnessed in many African states like Nigeria, Somalia and Niger. These African states are living witness to violent demonstration, arm rebellion, trans-border arm movement (gun-running), insurgency, ethnic militias and terrorism of different kinds. Meanwhile, preponderance of political conflicts, insurgencies and terrorism disrupt governance structures and divert funds from developmental

purpose to security. Insecurity scared away foreign investors and prevents foreign direct investment (FDI), (Danjuma, 2016).

11. **Unemployment and Youth Disenfranchisement**: High unemployment rates among the youths contribute to youth restiveness, frustration, radicalization, and violent protest which made youths to be susceptible to political manipulation and thuggery that usually hit up polity and source of arms that are used for other nefarious activities.

Statecraft Strategies Roadmap to Sustainable Africa's Economic Development
Addressing these issues requires robust reforms, strengthened institutions, active civil societies and long-term investments on education, infrastructures, and equitable development. Overcoming the problems of political instability to sustainable economic development involves multifaceted approach to arrive at predetermined socio-economic, political objectives and goals Statecraft can serve as powerful roadmaps to continental economic development in the following ways:

Social Cohesion and National Identity: Statecraft through principles of democracy and good governance can make citizens to have sense of belonging as stakeholders who have a lot to benefit in governance, inclusive politics and policies where all voices are consulted by state before policy decision is reached. n in the state. Thus, inclusive politics reduces ethno-religious tension to strengthen social cohesion and eliminate unhealthy ethnic rivalry and regional tension that usually cascaded into political conflicts currently destabilizing African states. Meanwhile, a unified population is necessary and needed for long term planning, stability and sustainable development. Existence of good governance that promote equitable distribution of resources and opportunities can reduce grievances, divisive political conflict and can minimize inequalities that breeds insurgent and other ethnic militias that are rampaging African states. Good governance can placate all causal factors of insecurity and political instability that are impeding socio-economic development in Africa, (Nwanegbo, 2017).

Strengthening Rule of Law and Justice System: Statecraft with functioning democracy and good governance that ensures citizen rights are respected and put in place legal frameworks to protect individual freedoms and property rights from abuse. Encouragement of rule of law reduces frictions and law enforcement agents excesses as well as address grievances that occurred in society through legal means/mechanism rather resorting to violent means. Good governance on the other hand ensures a transparent and effective justice system that make application of laws on equity and fairness to create a predictable environment for robust industrial and commercial business to thrives. This will promote sustainable economic development by projecting investments and foster fair business climate, (Edun & Garuba, 2018).

Strengthening Democratic Institutions: Building independent and robust institutions such as electoral commission, judiciary, and legislature to ensure accountability and

transparency can leads to attainment of sustainable economic development where preponderant poverty and underdevelopment can be overcome. Establishment of independent and healthy institutions will also prevent abuse of power and emergence of authoritarian rule that promotes corruption, partial authority and democratic violence that usually prevent economic development in a state, (Babangida, 2025).

Human Capital Development and Job Creation: Statecraft on the standpoint of good democratic ethos/values and good governance tends to invest more in education, health and social services to meet the needs and aspiration of people. Thus, facilitate raising human capital development which is key to sustainable economic development. Also, inculcation of good governance in a state leads to proper management of public funds as well as adequate funding of key sectors such as education, healthcare, infrastructure and job creation to promote sustainable economic development. Creating jobs reduces youth restiveness and unemployment that usually serve as the nursery shed for insurgents and violent extremists, Tsuwa & Ngyusha, 2018).

Improved Foreign Relation and Regional Cooperation: Statecraft through democracy and good governance can foster stronger diplomatic relationship among states within and outside the continent of Africa. As states becomes genuinely democratic, they are more stable and predictable in international political system to attract international aid and grants, enter into trade agreements or economic partnership as well as involved in foreign investment to stimulate sustainable economic development. Good governance can make states align national policies with international standard in the areas of trade and security that cooperation with international bodies like African Union (AU) or Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to create a collective regional or continental economic framework that enhances national, regional and continental economic development, (Oagidi, 2019).

Addressing Security Challenges Through Democratic Oversight: Statecraft with genuine democracy oversight where military and other security institutions are subject to civilian oversight to ensure that they act within the law and protect interests of citizens. This reduces the chances of security forces being misused for political purposes or involved in human right abuses. While good governance through effective governance structures ensure that security force is well trained, well-equipped and held accountable for their actions. By investing in security sector with transparency and checks, governments can better address threats to state such as terrorism, insurgency and organized crimes, (Nwede & Alegu, 2018: Jacob, 2017)).

Building Trust and Social Capital: Statecraft that promotes democratically elected governments that are accountable to the people will build trusts between citizens and the state. This trust is essential for promoting social cooperation and collective action which are germane to national security and sustainable economic development. While good governance where government works efficiently to provide public good and enforce laws fairly enhances the legitimacy of the state. Government with highest level of legitimacy will always get citizens to support government policies, abide by the law because the citizens

believe government is acting in their best interest and this contribute meaningfully to sustainable economic development, (Mazzucto, 2024).

Peaceful and Stable Political System: Statecraft with entrenched of sustainable democratic values of free and fair election, orderly transfer of power, inclusive policy and politics, responsible and responsive government to the need of the people, action-centered leadership that is transparent. All these reduces threats to national economic development because it addresses issues of violent political uprising, conflicts, coups and instability that made Africa the continent of misery, poverty, and underdevelopment, (Nwagwu, 2018).

Inclusive Economic Policies: Statecraft through adherence to good democratic ethos and practices ensures formulation and implementation of inclusive public policies that take cares of diverse interests and social groups to reduce unhealthy ethno-religious competition that has been Balkanizing economic development plans in the continent of Africa. Existence of inclusive public policies enables marginalized groups effectively participate and genuinely feel to be part and parcel of the government by supporting every aspect of government policy. because everybody is included and are stakeholders reduces economic disparity that usually culminate in social unrest to brewed confrontation between government and the aggrieved groups to cause underground militia. Through good governance sound public policies are effectively implemented in line with public interest. Also, by promoting transparency, efficiency and accountability in managing national resources can boost foreign investor's confidence and interest to attract more foreign direct investments for continental development, (Obialor & Ozuzu, 2018).

Visionary and action-centered leadership: emergence of a visionary action-centered leader that is nationally acceptable and priotized public welfare over personal interest. Implementation of inclusive public policies that ensure no one is marginalized as every group (ethnic, youth, religion minorities etc) are adequately represented. Through debates and deliberations on public issues that goes beyond primordial or Prebendal interest of individual, (Ogunleye & Vaaseh, 2024).

Addressing Corruption: Addressing increasing cases of corruption which is the continent endemic and cancerous socio-economic issue by strengthening ant-corruption agencies and empower them to investigate and prosecute corruption cases without political interference. Significant reduction in corruption and corrupt practices in African polity will contribute significantly to sustainable economic development, (Ojo-Eyitope & Ojo, 2019: Nwagwu, 2018: Abubakar & bakare, 2018).

Conclusion
Even though Africa continent possesses internal dynamics that are inimical to democratic ethics, emergence of a popularly elected action-centered and functional leadership with good economic development blueprint and national integration strategies to create political stability and national economic development can resolve these problems. In conclusion, modern government must be mission driven and be associated with addressing dissatisfied

issues existing in the political system to create expected positive political outcome that will have positive impacts on the polity and citizens from result-oriented policy-decisions, (Agagu, Gbadamosi & Ariyo, 2022)

Recommendations

Provision of Employment Opportunity: Youth unemployment rate in Africa is one of the highest in the world thus, African countries must be committed to responsive government that tackles youth unemployment through functional education and entrepreneurial training, provide employment opportunities as well as creating enabling environment for investment and growth of small and medium scale enterprises (Africa Progress Report, 2020).

Bridging Inequality Gap: Africa possess high percentage of poverty level, and must be responsive in taken urgent steps to bringing down poverty level through bridging the inequality gaps between the poor and the rich, reduce underutilization of resources including human capital, educational and research institutions that causes low production, income and demands, Danjuma (2016).

Prioritization of Education: High rate of illiteracy is an index of underdevelopment; African states must prioritize education that can unlock human and material potentials. State must be responsive in providing functional education that produce complete and self-made graduate through relevant entrepreneurship and training that made graduate independent and major plagues confronting socio-political and economic development in Africa depend less on white collar jobs. (Africa Progress Report, 2020).

Investment in Health: African state must investment in health of the citizenry to make them healthy people thatt have both physical and mental capabilities to contribute to the sustainable economic development. African states must organize organizational capital for economic of large-scale production to reap economies of scale and specialization. Encourage political dialogue, inclusive representation and government to foster peace that will attract foreign direct investments to Africa.

Sectoral Economic Linkage: The continent must place priority on sectoral linkage of economy to facilitate transformation of primary produce to industrial products where value is added to raw materials to become commodity to reduce compartmentalization and dependency on foreign industrial products, (Maduegbunam, 2013).

Food Security: African states must take proactive measures to militate against food insecurity and combat ravaging global climate change that is causing desertification and induce farmers-herders clashes to cause insecurity that is heating up African polity.

Visionary Leadership: African political leaders and political elites must be ready to be visionary and good role model that will shun filthy democratic culture and embrace good demonstrate culture of good leadership like Nelson Mandela. Prospective African political leaders must aim at good governance that is necessary for sustainable development (Enojo,

2016). Since good governance and democracy are pathway to sustainable development, the purpose of leadership must be addressing the problems of society whose outcome will promote development and uplift people's well-being.

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