

NIGERIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT: A PHILOSOPHICAL INSIGHT

Ignatius C. Uzundu, Ph.D
Department of Philosophy
Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka
ic.uzundu@unizik.edu.ng

Executive Summary

This June 12, 2024 (democracy day) Nigerians celebrated silver Jubilee of uninterrupted or unbroken democracy in Nigeria. The president and some top government officials were seen at the eagle square, celebrating and later had special dinner in the evening. Though it was labelled low key, but we knew the expenses wasn't low as such. The really truth is there is indeed almost nothing to celebrate as the leaders have not understood that leadership calls for service or sacrifice (servant Leadership). Reflecting critically on the country Nigeria and its present condition, poverty portrayed by acute recession, lack of food, pipe borne water, good access roads and lack of basic infrastructures, equipped hospitals for basic health, electricity, good schools and the likes, one sees that the corruption and bad leadership is the fundamental cause. Still, the remote cause is lack of patriotic spirit by the political elites and even by the masses or citizens who in one way or the other voted or caused such bad leaders to emerge in power. Through analysis and evaluation method, the research critically portrayed the corrupt 4th democratic republic leaders and leadership and their inability to work towards the nation's development with the human and natural resources available. Nigerian citizens should demand accountability from her leaders and shun evil collaborations too as without their votes and supports bad leaders can neither emerge nor thought of looting the nation's treasury alone. The task of nation building in various sectors of live and work is the duty of every citizen, from every tribe or ethnicity as patriotism is aimed at nation building and development.

Keywords: Nigeria, Democracy, Leadership, Development, and Philosophy.

Introduction

Talking about the change of fascism, monarchy, capitalism and other political ideologies, Fukuyama in his book "The end of history and the last man" projected or prophesied that history will come to an end with the emergence of the last man (Liberal

democracy) and the last man will now be at peace with himself. In the like manner, Nigerians have been yearning seriously for this democracy in question in the last 28 years of military dictatorship. The philosophical or fundamental question now is, with the emergence of this last man in Nigeria since 1999 (and it stays till date), has there been peace? Is Nigeria now developed? Is there really peace in Nigeria today? Certainly, since the answer is on the negative, it portrays that history can never come to an end, for even if the last man appears and there is peace, there will still be struggle for recognition, and there will never be peace for even in the midst of democracy, struggle continues. Thus, Fukuyama writes:

Experience suggests that if men cannot struggle on behalf of a just cause because that just cause was victorious in an earlier generation, then, they will struggle against the just cause. They will struggle for the sake of struggle, they will struggle, in order words, out of certain boredom: for they cannot imagine living in a world without struggle. And if the greater part of the world in which they live is characterized by peaceful and prosperous liberal democracy, then they will struggle against that peace and prosperity and against democracy¹.

In so far as there is an inherent contradiction in man, owing to possession of tripartite soul, history can never come to an end. Man is an enigmatic being and it lacks definition, “man is an impossible possible being”² as Mondin portrays. Nigeria has had 25 years of unbroken democratic leadership yet it still struggles for realization of democratic dividends, development and nation building. Nigeria is endowed with both natural and human resources, as an oil producing nation with an enormous revenue generation, it’s hard to believe the extreme poverty of her citizen and her decaying infrastructural and other developments. By rating, Nigeria supposed to be first country in Africa and in the world as far as development is concerned, but unfortunately, it is not. Though it is called the giant of Africa, it’s just a giant with an ant’s or mosquito’s limbs as bad leadership and corruption have crushed its economy and have equally closed door for development. Patriotic spirit is also lacking on both the side of its citizens and her leaders.

Nigeria is now a country that have defiled all known logic of development, especially owing to its degenerative leadership and worst still, it has been having and it’s still encountering numerous challenges day by day, ranging from ethnic clashes to banditry, Boko Haram terrorism, Fulani herdsmen attacks, indigenous people of Biafra (IPOB) insurgency, unknown gunmen attacks and the likes. Pertaining to its leadership degeneracy, one recalls that not minding that it celebrated her silver Jubilee of unbroken democracy this 12th July, 2024, but one thing that is clear is the government has been scarcely chosen by the people themselves but either by those who have incumbency, or the power of money or other strategies often use to bring to power those they want, who will in turn do theirs and not the will of the people.

However, the fundamental problem is that the citizens are badly corrupt, for if left for her corrupt leaders alone, they cannot emerge when not voted for and cannot loot the nation's treasury alone without many people collaborating with them and protecting them as well. Patriotism and patriotic spirit is needed by both the leaders and the citizens in order to reform the country and this is well emphasized in the nation's anthem, both in previous and in current one which we know has been in voyage right from 1960 when Nigeria got her independence. Patriotism and nation building was mentioned, just for one to know that the two items are quite indispensable as far as Nigerian development is concerned. For a nation without patriotic leaders and citizens is surely heading to doom. We now go on with the definition of terminologies; we start with Philosophy.

Philosophy

The word "philosophy" can be employed to express an attitude, worldview or even principles chosen to govern life. In this sense, then, one often hears another say: "my philosophy of life", "the philosophy guiding my actions." Philosophy is seen as a somewhat complex intellectual endeavour such that it is even difficult for philosophers to unanimously agree on its definition. However, there are common grounds among philosophers pertaining to the etymology of the word 'philosophy' as one may see in many philosophical texts. Martin Heidegger says that "philosophy speaks Greek."⁷ Etymologically, the word "philosophy" comes from two Greek words joined together: "philos" and "Sophia"; philein - to love, philos - loving, philia - love, sophos - wise, Sophia - wisdom. Hence, we can say, "philosophia esti philia tes sophias"- (philosophy is love of wisdom). A philosopher is a lover of wisdom, a person strongly desirous of wisdom. Wisdom here begins with wonder, that is, astonishment. This kind of wonder is not ordinary wonder but of deep curiosity. As Plato would say, "It is through wonder that those who began philosophy started off". Also, in Theatetus 860, 155d, "The sense of wonder is the mark of a philosopher."³ Philosophers wonder about things through reflective thinking and through their ultimate causes. Hence, the scholastics defined philosophy as "Scientia rerum per ultimas causas", which means "Science of everything through their ultimate causes."⁴ The research is accompanied with deep analytical or philosophical penetration or understanding of the selected Nigerian political ideas and realism.

Nigeria

Nigeria is a country located on the western coast of Africa and it's still underdeveloped, suffered much on political instability or lack of continuity in government, bad leadership which gave rise to economic and technological stagnation, insecurity and the likes. Nigeria is a multinational state, inhabited by more than 250 ethnic groups, speaking over 500 distinct languages, all identifying with a wide variety of cultures⁵.

Nigeria has a diverse geography with climates ranging from arid to humid equatorial. It's bordered in the north by Niger, to the east by Chad and Cameroon, to the south by the Gulf of Guinea of the Atlantic Ocean and to the west by Benin. It is Africa's most populous country. Nigeria's most diverse feature is its people. Hundreds of languages are spoken in the country including Yoruba, Igbo, Fula, Hausa, Edo, Ibibio, Tiv, and English. The country has abundant natural resources, notably, large deposits of petroleum and natural gas. Modern Nigeria dates from 1914 with the amalgamation of northern and southern protectorates. It got her independence in 1960 and in 1963 adopted a republican constitution⁶.

Development

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English defines development as the process of gradually becoming bigger, stronger or more advanced⁷. Development is a process that creates growth, progress, positive change or addition of physical, economic, environmental, social and demographic components.⁸ Development is the result of society's capacity to organize resources to meet challenges and opportunities.⁹ for Iroegbu, it is the progressive unfolding of inner potentialities of a given realities. It is to de-envelope, that is, to bring out to light existential, functional and epistemic, what was enveloped, folded or hidden¹⁰. Etymologically, development comes from French word *developper*, this means to bring out from envelop, something that was enveloped. It is to "de", "un" and "velope" to wrap from this, "to develop" literally means to unwrap. Thus, development entails the unwrapping, unfolding, un-veloping, unveiling, outgrowth or growing out of envelopment, hidden or latent. Development is the unwrapping of potentials¹¹. In the same vein, Lebret holds that development has to do with growth and creativity of all human potentials achieved at the lowest possible cost in human suffering and in sacrificed value.¹² Walter Rodney holds it is an overall social process which is dependent upon the outcome of man's effort to deal with his natural environment¹³. He thus sees development from an economic point of view. However, this philosophical research looks at development holistically.

Leadership: Leadership is an action of leading a group of people or an organization. It's the ability of an individual, group or organization to lead influence or guide other individuals, team or organizations¹⁴. Democratic leader is someone who asks for input and considers feedback from their team before making a decision¹⁵. Democratic or participatory leadership is about letting multiple people participate in the decision making process .this type can be seen in business, school and in government¹⁶ It is a shared leadership..

Democracy: From the two Greek words, "demos" meaning "the people", and "Kratein" which refers "to rule". It is a system of government in which the people exercise the

governing power either directly or through representatives periodically elected by them. In democracy, supreme or ultimate power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them or by their agents under free electoral system. In democracy, decision making system is based on people's majority opinion. And majority rule with minority right protected and represented. It is government by election and not selection. Aristotle holds it's "the rule of the many for the good of the poor" as opposed to oligarchy which is "The rule of the few for the good of the wealthy"¹⁷ Abraham Lincoln, (on November 19, 1863 at union cemetery in Gettysburg, Philadelphia) holds that democracy is: "government of the people, by the people, and for the people"¹⁸

Democracy as it is known

Democracy as a system of government has institutions that promise to guarantee the people's self-rule and attainment of the common good. So, democracy is a form of government that best protects human rights because it is the only one based on recognition of the intrinsic worth and quality of human being. It recognizes the masses for it is the masses that elect their representatives. Democracy is characterized by: rule by the majority, the rights of all the citizens are equal, there is right to dissent and disobedience, and it provides norm for political participation. Similar to these characteristics are the basis for democracy, which includes: 1. Good government policies that must reflect what people want. 2. Quality information on the government and debates will also be available 3. It's government of the majority 4. Constitution is seen as the basic rule book or supreme rule of the law. 5. Citizens are of equal rights.

Nigerian Democratic Journey

Nigeria is a product of strange amalgamation of about 250 ethnic groups in 1914 by a representative of British imperial majesty, Sir, Lord Lugard. Nigeria gained independence in 1960 and became a republic in 1963. So, the federal republic of Nigeria can be traced to British and Roman colonialism (Roman colonized British) and this link explained the modelling of Nigeria constitution after European concept of law and justice. Nigeria, in her journey towards democracy, she had her first republic beginning on 16th January, 1963 and Nnamdi Azikiwe was the first president to rule Nigeria (1963 – 1966) and a military coup brought Major Gen. Johnson Aguiyi-Ironsi to power terminating the first period of democratic rule in 1966. Trapping of a democratic state were seen in Nigeria at independence; the country had a federal constitution that ensured a large measure of autonomy to the regions existing then. The country was practicing parliamentary democracy modelled along British lines that stressed majority rule. Unlike many African states which adopted one-party system, Nigeria had a functional, albeit regionally based, multiparty system. Despite these democratic trappings of the 1st republic, it contained some fundamental and structural weaknesses that made sure that the republic did not survive.

Shehu Shagari led the second republic (1979 – 1983) which failed as a result of massive corruption and administrative incompetence. The military intervened to stop corrupt politicians whose actions grossly undermined government's efforts. Ernest Shonekan (Interim head of state) led the third republic (26/8/93 – 17/11/93) which was an unsuccessful attempt by General Ibrahim Babangida to restore Nigeria to democracy. It failed due to the political turmoil that followed which the interim national government failed to manage. Obasanjo started the fourth republic which was constituted on 29th May, 1999 and handed over to Yar'Adua in 2007, at his demise, GoodLuck took over in 2010 and handed over to Buhari in 2015. After him Tinubu came in 2023 continued till date.

Nigeria and Democratic Leadership in Praxis

Here, we portray how democratic governance was practiced in this 4th republic in order to see the dividend offered. Looking at the Nigerian practice of its democracy, it may not be called democratic government as such; rather it may be called Oligarchy as its elements are bound. Till date one sees a small group of people called politicians or political elites having control of the country and are really holding the nation in bondage as many of them are greatly corrupt. Fourth republic is characterized by corruption and bad leadership. Again, during Buhari regime, it took a little the shape of military and autocratic government, though he came with mantra of change and declared his readiness to fight corruption, but his government was the most corrupt democratic government and full of nepotism. This present Tinubu government is still oligarchy rather than democracy. Buhari and Tinubu government have made people to conclude that Nigeria not only practicing gerontocracy (rule by older people), but one also Kakistocracy or Idiocracy (rule by unfit) in action. All these are owing to bad governance, indeed, many aspects or characteristics of genuine democracy is lacking in Nigerian practice of democracy, for example:

Nigerian Law Book or Constitution is debased: The constitution contained some fundamental and structural weaknesses, not minding it has gone through certain amendments, but indeed those several amendments can never solve the problem as debasement is much. One significant weakness is the disproportionate power of the North in the federation. There is regional power in-balance. This was intentionally made as one can't imagine military government Initiating or writing or drafting constitution for democratic government. This is really the base of deception and corruption in the Nigerian democratic governance till this present day. It is just like putting a square peg in a round hole. However, writing of the constitution is not the issue, another main problem is sharia laws that was attached or dovetailed to it, there by initiating Nigerian Secular state into Muslim state, though not pronounced. It did

not stop at this; as it went further to give the northern part a lion share to the running of the Nigerian state, in certain appointments, and even recruitments of armies, police and the likes. Thus, they marginalization of other regions and tribes witnessed in the nation was deliberately made as it started from the constitution. The constitution is debased ab initio (from the beginning) and this problem can never be solved by parliamentary everyday amendment, rather a new constitution is needed.

No Equality of Citizens: Nigerian law does not consider all her citizens equal as Fulani and Hausa tribes are considered to be superior to other tribes especially to Igbo tribe, while in the real nature of things the reverse is the case. One sees marginalization in action. The funniest part of this inequality is in education meritorious consideration, where one with lower grade is considered for higher studies rather than one with higher grade this is evident in WAEC and JAMB scores consideration for admission into federal Universities. Again, one with lower qualification is considered to head a government ministry/institution rather than one with higher qualification and experience, all in the name of tribal sentiments. With such attitudes, the Nigerian democracy cannot yield much dividend. When leaders consider mediocrity rather than Excellency, the fruit can never be wonderful. Even one sees where the government chooses to dialogue with kidnappers and criminals rather than to dialogue with professors in the university who went on strike for nonpayment of salaries and the likes by the government.

Lack of "Checks and Balance" in Nigerian Democracy: this is owing to the fact that both the executives, legislatures and the judiciary are birds of the same feathers. Corruption is common in the judiciary system as they bow mostly to individual that have access to public funds and revenues. Nigerian judiciary is not independent as the chief judges are been appointed by the president and the 4th republic assembly always work as group that are not independent too as they are interested much on fat allowances from the president, such that they were called rubber stamp Legislators by the populace during Buhari's regime as they regularly adopt his appropriation plans, though one recalls that Obasanjo's third term bid was overruled in 2007.

Immunity Clause, a big problem to Nigerian Democracy: The worst element one sees in Nigerian democracy is "immunity clause" and this has given Nigerian leaders impetus or effrontery to stay in power and be committing all sorts of crime especially embezzlement of public fund and flies outside the country few days to the termination of their governance. Though EFCC was introduce to check all these, but such government agencies as police, civil defence and even (the army) are mostly very corrupt agencies that need serious reformation. Their corruption stories in their security works in Nigeria are bound.

Ethnic or Tribal and Religious sentiments in Nigeria Democracy: As constitution was debased right from the inception of the 4th republic, certainly the application of the law will be difficult as the executive tries to maintain all the clauses with tribal sentiments as provided in the constitution. Religious sentiments come into play as northern part of the country is mostly Muslims while the southern part is largely Christians. The Muslims are sponsored each year in their pilgrimage to Mecca to the superlative degree and Christians are left out.

Freedom of Expression was denied during Buhari's rule: This was seen with government frequent interference, reduction of freedom of press, blockage of some news media sites, arbitrary arrest of journalists and frequent suspension of radio stations and one recalls that Twitter was banned for over six months after it deleted presidency's tweet on violence in south east. He even denied freedom of press and especially freedom of association as one recalls in 2020, Nigerian youths staged END SARS protest in multiple cities in Nigeria to call Buhari's government to order, but were met with violent repression from security forces, equally June, 2021, democracy protest at Lagos and Abuja were met with tear gas and police violence.

Nigerian Celebration of 25th Year of Unbroken Democracy

On 12th June 2024, Nigeria celebrated 25 years of unbroken democracy and surely it is a historic event. It was declared to be done in a lower key and that is what it should be as there is virtually nothing to celebrate. And worst is that the present political class are not willing to retreat and learn how to make the country better, moving it out from the present economic recession towards economic prosperity. Their sole interest lies much on how to get much allowances and largesse' from the government and continue their luxury life. Nation development and nation building are never their primary concern. Pondering on this Nigerian ridiculous journey with democracy, the fundamental question that stands out is: How far has the masses benefitted from this 'Nigerian Democracy'? Is everyone given the opportunity to participate, and freely exchange ideas through discussion, debates and the likes? We have seen a little how Nigerian leaders/leadership have practiced democracy or thrived over the years and through some democratic principles and examples have seen equally that it was not well practiced; It was really a democracy denied.

This lengthy period in retrospect, a social and political philosopher must surely have occupied himself with some critical questions especially on the achievements of the country all these years. Ideologically, the political classes suppose to have understood what politics and democratic leadership is all about as well as the democratic values and dividends that follow it, also being eager always to lead in such a manner that the citizens will know and obtain both democratic values and merits respectively. If

politicians cannot think in the line with the political philosophers, they should however be able to toe the line of political scientists, at least to know the best way for voter's education, registration, voting itself, counting and result recording and declaration as they have been on it since 25 years. Nevertheless, all these may not really perturb many Nigerian politicians as the plain truth is, in these 25 years of unbroken democracy, Nigerian election result and declaration especially in the presidential election has never been done through the actual voting by the citizens and this is still a fundamental problem as far as Nigerian election is concerned.

Nigerian Democratic Leadership and Development

Development is a movement from bad or good to better, from better to best, from primitive to civilization, from stone age to machine age, from slavery to freedom, feudalism to capitalism, from illiteracy to literacy, from ignorance to wisdom, from abject poverty to relative richness, from colonialism to political independence, from political independence to economic development, from tribalism to nationalism, from nationalism to pan-Africanism. Right from the beginning of the 4th republic, Nigerians started seeing the gain of democracy as Abacha's military regime has no equal. Again, one cannot deny so many infrastructural developments and the likes done by the federal, state and local governments within this period in question. There were really some transformations in the country as the leaders and other private sectors embarked on modernization which is the same as Europeanization or Americanization. Nigeria is a developing country though not as technologically advanced as the United States, France and most European and Asian nations but the far-reaching worlds of technological revolution today has caught up with her. The remarkable achievements or advancements of science and monumental technological feats have cut across all sectors of society: Health, biomedical technology, transport, education, information and communication technology and the banking sector cannot but be over emphasized. Other amazing areas where this candid transformation has been felt are building and construction, power (electrical) generation, agriculture and military\warfare technology, industrialization and automation among others. Worthy of mention is, the innovations in these different sectors of society are not solely the product or dividend of their governmental leadership, as many are the collaborative efforts of international and national agencies, foreign and local non- governmental organizations, religious bodies and the likes. We now see the other side of the coin pertaining to these corrupt democratic leaders.

Corruption antithetical to Development

However, notwithstanding some of the above developmental features, the cankerworm in the form of the corruption of the past military era was copied magnificently as these years of democratic leadership were also characterized by looting of public funds,

abandoned projects, money laundry, unfulfilled campaign or electoral promises and manifestoes. Corruption is the major factor militating Nigerian development. Ehuasani writes that “Nigeria has been stripped naked by corrupt, greedy and callous elites. They have been humiliated, pauperized and reduced to a state of destitute by the combined forces of military dictatorship, political subterfuge, economic profligacy and moral degeneracy.”¹⁹ The Nigerian state is corrupt and has been managed and even presently been managed by corrupt leaders who have made the state an instrument of capital accumulation rather than using it for the interest or for the development of the citizenry. Nigerians may have a good plan for development, but as it’s supervised by corrupt leaders, they can hardly do a thorough job as corruption and development are antithetical. Obasanjo initially introduced ICPC and Economic and financial crime commission (EFCC) to tackle this but the commission are also corrupt especially EFCC that continued till date. It is just like village house dog that can’t bite its owner even when the owner or members of his party has committed crime. Thus, though the commission is still retained till today, it has little or no worth for Nigerians, owing to its selective administration of justice. Buhari during his rule introduced Integrated and personnel payroll system {IPPS} for civil servants, to check corruption, but it was still manipulated within his nose, in the account general office for self-enrichment.

Critical Evaluation

Thus far, we have gone through Nigerian democratic leadership, we see that since twenty-five years of unbroken democratic rule, not much have been achieved when compared with other developed and developing countries in the world and considering the enormous opportunity, human capital, and natural resources available in Nigeria. However, we know that little improvements have been made in certain areas like in banking system and in transportation and communication modes as one can travel with trains, communicate with android phones and even do transactions of money with phones, but building of access roads is still an onerous task to both federal and state governments. In education sector, quality education or action learning is still lacking. In health sector, basic health services is not yet assured and in power generating and distribution sector, instead of improvement one sees criminality as the masses are even forced to pay for the electricity they did not consumed.

However, within these years of unbroken democratic regime, Nigeria nation is expected to stand top in the committee of nations considering the available human and natural resources God has blessed the country with. Corruption and bad leadership especially among the political elites are the major setback to the country. The Nigerian political elites are not interested in the study of political Philosophy to get the best political ideology and its application for nation’s problem solving. They are only interested in nation’s purse. They knew allocations given are meant for provision of electricity, pipe

born water, road constructions, basic health centers, hospital rehabilitations, educational building blocks constructions and rehabilitations, provision of teaching and learning materials/equipment, but most of them pocket these allocations and use them for their own private investments like buying properties in overseas and within.

Development comes in where we have accountable leaders, so, the citizens should hold their leaders and representatives in the federal and state houses accountable. Where there is no quality representation the masses have to withdraw the person's mandate and make sure that honest representatives are elected during next election by shunning money politics and any other inducement from greedy and selfish leaders.

Divide and rule leadership is another major setback to development. This type of leadership was in existence even during colonial masters' regime and the element is still in existence till date. Here, the leader brings in tribalism, sectionalism, ethnicity and religious sentiments into leadership and all these continue to breed serious enmity to the people. The result is strife, struggles and clashes among tribes and religious bodies and with this peace and love are far away and with the absence of unity among citizens, nation building and development cannot be possible. This bad political attitude was present during Obasanjo's regime, manifested much during Buhari's rule and in this Tinubu's regime as there are many ethnic or tribal agitations like Boko haram, IPOB and etcetera. Nigeria electoral system is another area that dwarfs this Nigeria democracy as it is really the same way elections were done since 1999, that it is still done today. In whichever case, the masses are still intentionally disenfranchised in so many places and still at the end results are produced. Thus, it has always been politics by Godfatherism or money bag politics or incumbency power and this is a serious problem for the country as it's a rape of democracy and democratic process and with this Nigerian democracy cannot yield enormous fruit. Bad leaders and leadership emerge through these channels. Practical example is the emergence of Ahmed Bola Tinubu as the president in the last concluded 2023 presidential election, certainly he did not win, but his declaration is as result of manipulation of the new media information. Thus an author writes:

However, a discernible trend among some contestants was their endeavour to influence the media narrative in their favour. Notably, figures like president Ahmed Bola Tinubu, having made substantial investments in the media, tactfully utilized these channels, to shape and sometimes misinterpret events. Accusations of media manipulations and transgressions among the contestants proliferated, further complicating an already fervent electoral atmosphere.²⁰

Issue of insecurity is a big threat to Nigerian democracy as we see that Nigerian security, including soldiers are really unable to tackle the issue of insurgency in Nigeria, such as the Boko haram, Fulani headsmen attack, kidnappers, IPOB, unknown

gunmen and the likes. There is an urgent need to have state police and vigilante in every state of the federation to protect their communities. The main reason for the inability of the present Nigeria security agencies to tackle the present insecurity threats is not only corruption or mismanagement of security allocation funds, It's mainly due to tribalism where youths from one section (northern part) of the country are recruited into the army force and the police force of the nation and worst still this same section and the former president (Buhari) breed in Boko haram insurgents and Fulani headsmen to win presidential election in 2015 and later recruited this same Boko haram insurgents into the nations army force and baptized it "repented Boko haram members", there by bastardizing the nation's armed forces. Thus, one sees sabotage in army forces always, such that the trust to the nation's army forces and even the police force is gone as one certainly sees nowadays kidnapers, unknown gunmen, Boko haram insurgents, Fulani dangerous herdsmen army or police uniform in their midst.

Conclusion

In this 21st century, the demand or challenges for a better democratic leadership and dividend are really much and should not be left only in the hands of the few political elites, all the citizens have to sacrifice and participate actively to put an honest man or woman in political office and always demand for accountability of his or her stewardship. Spirit of patriotism and nationalism is highly needed by both the political elites and the citizens in order to build the nation and develop the country in all sectors, both in human development which should be the first as development is aimed to better the lots of mankind. Intellectual or mind development is also crucial, followed by other sectors of development like infrastructural development, and the likes for a better Nigeria. Patriotic democratic leadership is really needed in Nigeria and in Africa at large, that is:

a civilian led governance in which all citizen have fundamental equal rights, votes and privileges; where citizens enjoy equal liberty and freedom; where the ultimate legitimacy of actions, choices, appropriations and decision rest with the citizens' supreme power or through their legitimate representatives elected by fair ballot.²¹

With fair and free elections by patriotic and good citizens of Nigeria, bad leaders can never emerge and without collaboration from the citizens in all spheres, (top government civil servants inclusive), it's quite impossible for any leader to loot the nation's treasury. Finally, with the spirit of patriotism and nationalism in the practice of real democratic leadership in Nigeria, the dividend will surely be much and the nation will be developed and built as well.

References

1. Francis Fukuyama, *The end of history and the last man* (New York: Penguin Books, 1992), 330.
2. Battista Mondin *Philosophical Anthropology* (Rome: Urbaniana University Press, 1998), 19.
3. Plato, *Theatetus* 860 155d
4. Philosophy defined as...Numerade available <https://www.numerade.com> accessed 28/06/2024.
5. Nigeria in Wikipedia @ <https://en.wikipedia.org> accessed 26/05/2024.
6. Nigeria / History, Population, flag, Map, Languages, Capital & Facts in Britannica <https://www.britannica.com> accessed 27/06/2024.
7. *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*, (Harlow Pearson Education Limited, 2005), 338.
8. What is development, available at <https://sid-isreal.org>. accessed 20/03/2024.
9. Wikipedia <https://en.m.wikipedia.org> accessed 20/03/2024
10. Pantaleon Iroegbu, *Enwisdomization and African philosophy*, (Owerri: International University Press, 1994), 81.
11. Ibid.
12. Marcel Onyibor, *The Challenge of Development in African: The Task of African Philosophy in* Ogirisi, *Journal of African Studies*, Vol. I 2003, 95.
13. Walter. Rodney, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, (Abuja: Panaf Publishing Inc. 2005). 5.
14. Leadership in Wikipedia, available at <https://en.wikipedia.org> accessed 27/06/2024.
15. Democratic Leadership in <https://www.indeed.com> accessed 27/06/2024.
16. The style in democratic leadership available at <https://torch.io> accessed 28/06/2024.
17. Aristotle *Politics*, III, V. 7; (New York: Penguin Books Ltd. 1981)
18. Abraham Lincoln "The Gettysburg Address, 1863" *The New Right of Man*, ed. John E. Lewis, (London: Robinson, 2003), 421.
19. John Paul II, *Ecclesia in Africa: Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation*, (Italy: Vatican press 1995), 42.
20. Valentine Obienyem "Machiavellianism and The Role of New Media the Nigerian 2023 Presidential Election" in *Alkebulan: A Journal of West and East African Studies*, Vol.3, No. 2, 56.
21. Chukwuma Soludo "Toward Sustainable Democracy and Free Market Economy in Nigeria June 12, 2024 Democracy Day Talk at Lagos, Nigeria. Available @ usafricaonline.com