

PDF - "ACCOUNTABILITY ITS DILEMMA IN PUBLIC SECTOR REPORTING" (A CASE STUDY OF ENUGU STATE POST PRIMARY SCHOOL MANAGEMENT BOARD) - researchcub.info

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

At the onset of the oil boom in the 1970's, many were convinced that the era of scarcity has given way to abundant resources. A major problem was how to plan for the societies to be confronted with the vast increases in material wealth and leisure. The national priorities shifted rapidly as Nigerians embrace the increased material wealth with poor planning and abundant waste. The cost of running the government enlarged bureaucracy and social programme increased tremendously as money realized from the oil boom was squandered with impurity. Inflation, affluence and ostentation life-style became the habits of Nigerians.

A decade later, in the 1980's the fall in oil prices presented a big blow on the Nigerian Economy. The financial plight of the nations' book on crises, inflation, lack of liquidity and unfavorable balance of payment forced the government to introduce several economic survival packages such as: the economic stabilization and reconstruction of policy, by the shagari administration and numerous reforms and commissions set up to bring spending sanity on the populace to a lower level for improvement of the situation in the near future. For these reasons accountability or the demand for public offices to give account of public resources, be it funds, properties, public statement, personal behaviors, actions, performance will continue to be of great concern to government policy makers.

As the public continues to feel an increasing painful economic pinch, the management practices of public officers will be under great scrutiny. If government and public officers cannot account for the way they use resources, then there will be a complete loss of confidence and trust on programme, necessary resulting to general apathy and discontent among the populace and even a breakdown of law and order. Thus, the inherent problem, facing the government is to devise ways and means of making public officers accountable to the taxpayers for the scarce resources under their care and for their actions while discharging their duties. In essence, accountability in public administration refers to efficient management of resources for the general welfare of the citizens. This idea will be fully developed in the proceeding discussions.

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