

1.1. Background of the study

Local government is the third tier in Nigeria's federal system. To underscore its importance, section 7(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria specifically guarantees a democratically elected local government system, while schedule 4 of the same constitution defines the functions of the local governments (Abubakar, 2012:25). Local government is the government at the grassroots that is nearest to the local populace.

The implication of its constitutionally guaranteed governance structure and its closeness to the people is that the institution of infrastructural development and administration and their norms in governance should be more evident at this level. But contrarily, local governments in Nigeria are often seen as nurturing grounds for barefaced corruption and near absence of infrastructural development and administration in the conduct of governance. Local government areas. Local governments are intended to serve as the lower tiers of governance that will be most responsive to the needs of the people; they are also expected to enhance political participation at the grassroots (Afrobarometer, 2008:1).

However, this is not the case; instead of discharging their functions as development centers, Local governments have acquired notoriety for corruption, fiscal indiscipline and overall irresponsibility.

The lack of integrity, Infrastructural development and Administration at the level of governance definitely constitutes a heavy toll on the well-being of ordinary Nigerians (Agbo, 2012:20). Stealing has become a major hobby and pastime for Nigerians in high places. It has become a big time business. All arms of government are affected (Gabriel, 2011:19), Local government inclusive.

Against this analytical background, this paper examines various strategies, for institutionalizing the culture of administration in the Local government in Nigeria, so that they can be repositioned as bedrock for service deliveries and infrastructure development at the grassroots.

1.2. Statement of the problem

The research work is to evaluate and investigate the problems associated with the culture of administration in Local Government in Nigeria. Local government councils have been faced with the problem of Employment racketing, Corruption in procurement, Internal revenue collection, Award of contracts to the wrong contractors, etc.

Salaries and allowances are paid to non-existing workers as if they are duly recruited staff of local government. Government goes on to pay this money without a due process to ascertain this transparent nature of transaction. The accounting officers in this process go on in this act without adequate accountability of its responsibility.

Overhead expenditures in the council are incurred without documentation; documents that are not favorable to the council chairman or officer-in-charge are destroyed to avoid persecution after services. Tender are not observed as a process of procurement but insistently friends and family members are not given the mandate to supply goods and provide services to the council without tenders.

Contract award has been on man know man, which could either be political allies or financiers. These

contractors as a return to investment of financial support to the council chairman either abandon or execute the contract to the extent to which they wish, in order to make back their money invested in election of the council chairman knowing fully well that the council chairman will not query him. In this act, council inhabitants suffer. The federal government of Nigeria presumes that introduction of accountability and infrastructural development (the progress) in the administration of government activity down to local government could put a check to these illegitimate activities in financial transactions of government down to council activities. This research tends to assess the value of accountability and infrastructural development interventions in the local government financial and non-financial of government down to council activities as enshrined by due process office.

1.3. Objective of the study

The following objectives to this research work stand to be achieved;

- i. Examine the role of Local Government in socio-economic development of Enugu North local government;
- ii. Examine the performance of local government through assessment of some projects;
- iii. Evaluate the levels of political empowerment through democratic performance to demonstrate if decentralization has to lead empowerment
- iv. Assess how the representative of the local government is to the people of ENUGU NORTH by using the nature of election as an indicator for measuring the levels of representatives of local government.

1.4 Research questions

- i. Did the constitution make any provision for infrastructure development in Nigeria?
- ii. How can you rate the administration of Enugu North local government?
- iii. Does Local Government administration affect the development at the Grassroot?
- iv. Do you think empowering the local people can bring about development at the grassroot?
- v. Do you think local government aims at pursuing development at the grassroot level?
- vi. Are you fully satisfied with the performance of Enugu North local government since the new democratic dispensation in 1999 till present?
- vii. Has Enugu North local government undertaken any employment exercise for the benefit of the grassroot people?

1.5 Statement of research hypothesis

The research work is based on the following hypotheses which are formulated in tackling the problems in the subject.

H₀: Culture of Administration has not put to check the circumvention of due process in financial and non-financial activities of the local government council in Nigeria.

H₁: Culture of Administration and infrastructural development has put to check the circumvention of due process in financial and non-financial activities of local government councils in Nigeria.

H₀: The inhabitants of local government council has not benefited from the proceed of administration in improvement of social amenities.

H₁: The inhabitants of local government council has benefited from the proceed of administration and infrastructural development in improvement of social amenities.

H₀: The process of administration and infrastructural development has not affected the official and

non-official financial behavioral attitudes of council staff in Nigeria.

H₁: The process of administration and infrastructural development has affected the official and non-official financial behavioral attitudes of council staff in Nigeria.

1.6 Significant of the study

The study was carried out in ENUGU NORTH, a rural area in South West of Nigeria, the decision to study this area and this particular choice of topic was rooted from its historical status which inspired me to ask questions. In recent time, much has been said and written about the failures of government as implementers of socio economic growth to reach the grassroots.

Development forces are gradually gaining ground in ENUGU NORTH because of the presence of the local government which operates at the grassroots and has the capacity to boost participation but they are not responding adequately and efficiently to the needs of the local people for reasons that will be discussed in the analysis. Much as been written on Infrastructure development but it seems to be having very little effect on the problems it seeks to address: are the local people empowered?

The rationale behind this study is therefore rooted in the great discrepancy between policy discussed and practiced (According to Bomitt 2011).

This work is not only directed at bringing more knowledge to the public and the researchers benefit. It focuses principally on putting forward practical and sustainable results obtainable by policy makers, planners donor agencies and various interest groups in Nigeria, the undeveloped and developing nations as a whole it could be of profound importance to the ENUGU NORTH community and for Grassroot people's struggles for a better life thereby focusing attention and bringing a solution to well identified local problems.

The significant of this study is of two folds:-

- i. Firstly as source of reference for professionals and policymakers when they are nothing to implement new policies
- ii. Secondly the background information provides insight into the dilemmas of the developing world and Nigeria specifically.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ENUGU NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENUGU STATE

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