

MORE SOCIAL SERVICES, LESS WELFARE: THE PARADOX OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN NIGERIA

Emmanuel I. Wonah

Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Port Harcourt P.M.B 5323 Port Harcourt

ABSTRACT: *All over the world, the cardinal objective of responsive and responsible government is the provision of social services that can improve the welfare of its citizens. Thus, the government is seen as the driving force as it mobilizes resources at its disposal to improve the welfare of its citizens. It follows that the provision of social services and by extension the improvement of the welfare of the citizens is a function of the capability of the government to mobilize resources at its disposal. However, the paper notes that the paucity of these resources in relation to population can be a limiting factor. It is the view of this paper that with commitment, dedication and prudent management of population growth and available resources on the part of the political elites, the provision of social services can actually improve the welfare of the citizens. The paper also notes that Nigerian political elites have not adequately demonstrated the commitment, dedication and prudent management of resources necessary for the improvement of the welfare of the citizens. Thus, the paper argues that the ineffectiveness of social services to improve the welfare of the citizens is largely dependent on the character of the Nigerian state which finds expression in the behavior of the political elites. The paper is set to achieve the following objectives: To show that Nigerian political elites are responsible for the ineffectiveness of social services in improving the welfare of the people. To show that good governance rooted in democracy can improve the welfare of the people. To evince that effective population growth management can improve the welfare of the citizens. The focus of this paper is guided by democratic elitism and relies on secondary sources. In line with the theory of democratic elitism, the paper contends that the few who rule must rule with the interest of the people at heart which must be couched in democratic values. The paper recommends that Nigerian political elites must uphold democratic values and promote good governance in order to improve on the welfare of the people.*

KEYWORDS: *Social Services, Less Welfare, Paradox Democratic Elitism, Political Elites, Nigerian State.*

INTRODUCTION

One of the basic functions of every responsive and responsible government is the provision of social services for the promotion of the welfare of the citizens. The provision of social services and indeed the promotion of welfare of citizens become more expedient when one considers the inadequacies nature has placed on man. The inadequacies are implicit in the fact that man alone cannot satisfactorily provide all he/she needs for self-actualization. Thus, man naturally lives in a community with his fellow man within the purview of mutually beneficial social milieu. This mutually beneficial social environment is consummated by the formation of state in what may be

described as the “Aristotelian teleology”-the development of society from family/household through the village/community to the state.

At the level of the state, man can achieve self-actualization. The implication is that the state is contractually obliged to, apart from protecting lives and property, provide social services for the promotion of the welfare of the people. Social services are therefore seen as the products of social existence of man. Social services are provided by the various levels of government as well as various communities. They are provided largely for a social motive in satisfying the needs of the people rather than economic motive (Onokerhoraye 1995:10). The significance of this view about social services is that social services which according to (Onokerhoraye 1995) include education, health, employment services, social infrastructure, housing, personal and community welfare services, urban planning and recreation and tourism, must not be based on economic consideration in terms of profit maximization.

Although social services play ancillary roles in the enhancement of economic growth and development of society, its provision should not be privatized for pecuniary gains. If the provision of social service becomes privatized, it tends to lose its social character and content and questions the justification of the state. The privatization of social services appears to be reflection of the reverberations from the so-called “Washington Consensus” and which is now accepted as national creed in most countries of the world, especially the developing ones.

From the foregoing, it is obvious that social services are provided in order to promote the welfare of the citizens and the state should play pivotal roles in this regard. Consequently, efforts have been made at international and national levels to provide social services. United States of America and other developed countries are known for their commitment towards the provision of social security for the citizens, especially the unemployed, the elderly and the less privileged. Again, America is ranked highest among the countries of the world in electricity production at the rate of 4,110. The unemployment rate has decreased to 9.1%. Malta records the highest rate of 16.6 on health expenditures (% of GDP), followed by United States 16.2 and Mexico 13.8.

The latent motive of the conception of the Millennium Development Goal by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is basically to promote the welfare of man across the length and breadth of the globe. Nigeria has also demonstrated her desire to provide social services for her citizens. Such programmes as the Universal Primary Education (UPE), and the Universal Basic Education (UBE), the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), the Mass Transit Programme, the establishment of National Directorate of Employment and the Ministry of Water Resources etc. are eloquent testimonies of Nigeria’s determination to provide social services for her citizens. However, it appears the more social services are provided, the less welfare for Nigerians. For instance the rate of unemployment is high at the rate of 21%. The rate of health expenditure is low at the rate of 5.8. This rate of unemployment in Nigeria becomes more ridiculous and embarrassing when compared with some African countries like Burundi-13.1, Sierra Leone 13.1 Kenya 12.2 and Ghana 10.6. This portrays the inadequacy or ineffectiveness of the social services in Nigeria in actually promoting the welfare of the citizens.

In tandem with this paradox of social services in Nigeria, the paper argues that apart from the consideration of the paucity of resources vis-à-vis the rising population growth rate, the character of the state which finds expression in the behavior of the political elites can be held responsible. This argument is anchored on democratic elitism which essentially requires that political elites should consider the general will or interest of the people in formulating and implementing policies and programmes aimed at providing social services for the people.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This paper hinges on democratic elitism. It is an attempt to accommodate the elite theory in the framework of democratic theory. This accommodation becomes necessary when one considers the fact that democracy is a system of governance that involves the majority of the people in the process of decision-making. This was the case in the Greek City States when everybody (save for the women, the insane and children) participated in the process of decision-making. It was an exercise in direct democracy. Direct democracy was feasible in the Greek City States partly due to the small population. But with the phenomenal rise in population coupled with the attendant complexity of governmental activities, it became pretty difficult for everybody to directly participate in the process of decision-making. Consequently, indirect democracy became an acceptable option. In this case, the people elect their leaders who make decisions on their behalf. The leaders who are also known as political elites must be answerable to the people. The point is that even in democracy, not everybody is directly involved in making-decisions. This contradicts with the understanding of democracy as government of the majority. This contradiction seems to agree with the elitist theory. The elitist theory holds that every society consists of two categories of man-the elite or the minority within a social collectivity (such as society, a state, a religious institution, a political party) which exercise a preponderant influence within that collectivity; and the masses or the majority which is governed by the elite. (Guaba, 1981). Democracy becomes integrated with elitist theory when the political elites are the products of the popular choice of the people via periodic free, fair and credible elections. Furthermore, they (the political elites) must be accountable to the people, protect their interest and uphold the general will of the people. Thus democratic elitism which is a product of the combination of democracy and elitism can play vital role in catalyzing the adequate and effective provision of social services for the promotion of the welfare of the people.

The State, Democracy and Social Services in Nigeria

The state exists basically for the protection of lives and property and the promotion of the welfare of the people. It is therefore the consummation of the existence of man for self and collective actualization. The diverse interests in the society makes the state a rallying point for unification and makes governance under a determinate rule of law possible. Thus, the state plays a central role in this regard and is seen as symbol of authority. According to Alapiki (2008:6), politics takes place in and around the agencies, associations and public space defined by the state. The organization of the public domain has an important bearing on political, social and economic processes and forces. The pattern of interaction of these forces has serious implications for the kind of policies introduced by the state.

The state fulfills the need of the people and subjects them to binding laws and decisions to provide for order and security, and common services (Guaba 1981:120). The above views approximate the liberal view of state which upholds the necessity of a state in a society ridden with conflicting diverse interests. The state does not exist in a vacuum. It is personified by the political elite who occupy its institutions and agencies. The behaviour of the political elites which to a large extent is informed by the prevalent value system in the society influences the character of the state. The character of the state in turn influences the public policies formulated and implemented. In other words, the efficacy of public policies in fulfilling the needs of the people, to a great extent, is a function of the behaviour of the political elites.

However, the Marxian perspective sees the state as an instrument of exploitation and domination and therefore not necessary. But the thought of a stateless society merely reminds us about the Hobbesian state of nature where life is short, nasty and brutish. The exploitative and domineering tendencies of the state was corroborated by Alapiki (2008:6) when he noted that the structures of the state, its organization of people and resources and the establishment of policy outline, priorities and interest articulation are essentially institutional arrangements and instruments of power and political domination. (See also Efemini 2002:36).

The Nigerian State, it should be reiterated has made frantic efforts to justify its existence by formulating and implementing policies and programmes aimed at fulfilling the needs of Nigerians, particularly the provision of social services. But it appears the more it does that, the more it is hunted by the antagonistic social forces that formed the basis of its formation. The Nigerian state is a product of conquest and subjugation of several pre-colonial empires, kingdoms and communal states by the colonial British Authority (Alapiki 2008:6). The British colonial state in Nigeria, considering its economic interest was exploitative and a machinery for the exercise of brute force on the people.

At the dawn of independence, the emergent political elites served as ‘conduit pipes’ for neo-colonial manipulation and exploitation of Nigeria by the erstwhile colonial masters. They (The Nigerian Political Elites) saw the state and its apparatuses as means of enriching themselves. As a consequence, ascendancy to state power became a do-or-die affair, leading to the abuse of democratic tenets and values such as transparency, accountability, fair play, rule of law and the participation of the people in the decision-making process. Ake (1996:6) corroborated this fact when he noted that state power became arbitrary, often violent and always threatening. Again according to Ake (1996) politics remained a zero-sum game and power was sought by all means and maintained by all means. Part of the means of seeking and maintaining state power can be demonstrated in electoral fraud which characterizes the Nigerian electoral process (Oddih, 2007:160).

The implication of the electoral fraud is that the people are bereft of their political mandate and the leaders that emerge do not reflect the popular choice of the people. As a consequence, the people are alienated from the decision-making process and decisions that are made and implemented, in most cases; seem not to reflect the interests of the people. Although in a bid to pacify the people, the political elites can come up with policies and programmes that are pro-

poor. But unfortunately, like the Biblical parable of the Sower, such policies and programmes fall on 'rocky soil' and are suffocated by corrupt practices and selfish interests of the political elites. In most cases, there is brazen misplacement of priority as colossal resources are wasted on projects that do not have direct bearing on the lives of the people.

The corrupt practices and selfish interests of political elites and the attendant misplacement of priority have adversely affected the provision of social services and indeed the welfare of the people in sub-Saharan Africa. It is estimated that African States lose as much as \$148 billion annually to corruption, amounting to approximately one quarter of GDP. Corruption in many sub-Saharan African countries has been entrenched for decades, often through systems of patronage and nepotism (<http://www.one.org/c/internal/issuebrief/1029>). Sometimes, this ugly trend of corruption is being perpetrated by the support of Donors to corrupt governments based on strategic interests, failure to regulate Multinational Corporations and permitting the shelter of stolen assets in banks and non-cooperative offshore financial centres, some of them in developed countries. It is estimated that the value of stolen assets held by banks in developed countries is within \$20 billion-\$40 billion per year-a figure equivalent to 20-40% of flows of development assistance(<http://www.one.org/c/internal/issuebrief/1029>). It follows that the manifest effect of corruption and the marginalization of the people is the forensic feeling of disenchantment and deep sense of alienation and discrimination. Often times, these feelings degenerate to conflict. This accounts for the spate of conflict in Africa. The cost implications of these conflicts are alarming. For example, the cost of armed conflict in 23 Sub-Saharan African countries between 1990 and 2005 has been placed at \$284 billion. This is an average of \$18 billion per year and represents an average annual loss of 15% of GDP, which is one-and-a-half times the average of African spending on health and education combined.

Compared with peaceful countries, Sub-Saharan African countries in conflict have, on average 50% more infant deaths; 15% more undernourished people; 20% more adult illiteracy; and 2.5 fewer doctors per person (<http://www.one.org/c/internal/issuebrief/1029>). The obvious implication of these conflicts is that government spending which could otherwise have been directed to social sectors to provide social services, goes into security and military spending during times of conflict. Nigeria is a classic example when in the 2012 budget estimates, security took the greatest chunk of the budgetary allocations. This is in reaction to the enormous security challenges posed by the Boko Haram sect, the envisaging of the re-emergence of militancy in the Niger Delta Region and the increasing cases of Kidnapping, assassination, armed robbery, community conflicts and other social vices.

Ancillary to the issue of corruption in African States is the issue of government secrecy. The implication is that transparency which is a vital ingredient of democracy is disregarded. In Equatorial Guinea, for example, Multinational Corporations do not publish the payment they make to the government for the right to extract oil. This has given rise to corrupt practices to the extent that inspite of having the highest per-capita income in Africa due to vast reserves of oil, extreme inequality blights Equatorial Guinea. Consequently, billions of pounds have been spent on construction projects aimed at impressing foreign visitors and entertaining a small class of local elites, while most of the population live without access to basic services like safe drinking

water, quality education or affordable health care. Nearly one out of every eight children dies before reaching their fifth birthday.

It has also been observed that government secrecy in Equatorial Guinea allows officials to misplace priority by spending money according to their whims. The government spent 580 million Euros on Sipopo, a luxury resort with a private golf course. At least 13 presidential palaces have been or are being constructed in ten cities across the country, a rate of one palace for every 54,000 people in the country. This shows a shocking disregard for the needs of the people in Equatorial Guinea. This insensitivity to the social services needs of the people accounts for the poor rating of Equatorial Guinea at 2.2% GDP on Health Expenditure.

The implication of this poor rating is that very little is done to provide adequate health services for the people. This is in contrast to the high health expenditure rating of countries like Malta-16.5, United State 16.2, Mexico 13.8, Niue 13.5 and even some African countries like Lesotho 13.2; Burundi 13.2 and Sierra Leone 13.1. It should be noted that the above rating tend to reflect the degree of commitment of the political elites in providing social services to the people. This degree of commitment should also consider the finesse with which the rate of population growth is managed. On the part of Nigeria, corruption is endemic in the society. The corruption rate in Nigeria is high at the rate of 2.4. Obayelu (2007) noted that corruption in Nigeria devalues the quality of human life, robs schools, agricultural sector, hospitals and welfare services of funds. He also noted that it exacerbates inequality, desecrates the rule of law and undermines the legitimacy and stability of democratic regimes. This led to the establishment of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

Population and Social Services in Nigeria

Population can be defined as the total number of people living in a given geographical area. Population can be influenced by birth rate, death rate, emigration and immigration. These influences determine the rate of population growth. Population growth rate is the average annual percent change in the population, resulting from a surplus (or deficit) of births over deaths and the balance of migrants entering and leaving a country. The growth rate is a factor in determining how great a burden would be imposed on a country by the changing needs of its people for infrastructure (e.g. schools, hospitals, housing, roads), resources (e.g. food, water, electricity), and jobs. The rate may be positive or negative. The rate becomes negative when there is noticeable increase in the population. This means more pressure will be exerted on the available resources and this may have debilitating and disastrous consequences on the environment and by extension on man. Another effect is that initially, there will be increase in production (i.e. assuming there is more and active labour force), but overtime, given the finite nature of resources, total production decreases leading to reduction in Gross Domestic Product and which ultimately reduces per capita income. The per capita income is derived when National Income is divided by the population;

$$\text{i.e. per capita income} = \frac{\text{National Income}}{\text{Population}}$$

The reduction in per capita income leads to reduction in the purchasing power of the people and this adversely affects the standard of living of the people. On the other hand, when the growth rate is positive, it means there is reduction in the population. The implication, it has been argued, is that there may not be enough labour force to fully exploit the resources. Although advancement in science and technology has vitiated this argument because mechanized farming, for instance has led to increase in food production. Nevertheless, industrialization arising from advancement in science and technology also has catastrophic impact on the environment and man. It is not the focus of this paper to have a detailed analysis of population, especially in terms of sex, age, occupational distribution of population, but suffice it to say that a sustained positive population growth rate will render inconsequential the available resources needed to provide social services to the people.

Nigeria is a populous state. Nigeria is rated as the 8th most populated country of the world with population of about 155,215,568. The growth rate is 1.935% (2011 est). It is projected that in 2050 the population will be 285,100,00 Nigeria has a high fertility rate (the average number of children born by woman over her life time) of 5.7. This fertility rate is substantially higher than the global average (2.5). Obviously, this high fertility rate accounts for increase in population growth rate.

In 2009, Nigeria was rated among the top ten failed states. It should be noted that high population growth rate may make it more difficult for failing states to provide adequate schooling, nutrition, immunization, and other essential services. To corroborate the effect of rising population on the provision of social services, Onokerhoraye (1995) noted that rising population is a major setback in the adequate provision of social services in Nigeria. For example, Onokerhoraye (1995:87) observed that in spite of the fact that some achievements were made in terms of improving the supply of housing in Nigeria between 1976 and 1981 when the Nigerian economy was relatively prosperous, there was remarkable decline in the supply of housing as a result of rising population.

However, China has the highest population of 1,336,717,952; India 1,189,172,864, United States 313,232,032. But electricity production in China is 3,451, United States 4,110 and India 723.8 while electricity production in Nigeria is 21.92, Chad 0.1 and Equatorial Guinea 0.03. The point of emphasis here is that while rising population can lead to inadequate provision of social services, it may not be the sole factor in this regard. But also to be considered is the availability of resources, how the resources are harnessed, mobilized and distributed to serve the interest of the people. It follows that political, social and economic policies must be pro-poor (i.e. broad based and inclusive) in order to promote the welfare of the people. Consequently, social services in Nigeria are ridiculed by not only rising population growth rate but also the decadent social forces exemplified by infidelity of the political elites which is couched in undemocratic culture. This is demonstrated in the provision of social services in Nigeria.

Social Services in Nigeria

It should be reiterated that Nigeria has made frantic efforts in the provision of social services for the promotion of the welfare of Nigerians. But it appears such efforts have not satisfied the

yearnings and aspirations of Nigerians. We shall now consider some of the social services like education, employment services and social infrastructure.

Education

Aside from the development of the intellectual capability of individuals to understand and appreciate their local and external environments, education is also a veritable instrument for national development. It provides the required manpower needed for national development. Development is not just seen only from the purview of increase in Gross Domestic Product (as it appears to be the indicator/index of development). But it is essentially the creative ingenuity of man to transform nature in order to derive benefit for man's survival. Thus, man must acquire skills through the process of capacity building for economic empowerment and self reliance. Man therefore becomes the fulcrum around which revolves development. It follows that for every society that is desirous of development, it must provide qualitative education for the people.

It is in tandem with the importance of education for national development that Nigeria is committed to providing qualitative education for the people. In this regard, there are about 48,242 primary schools with 16,796,078 students in public schools and 1,965,517 in private schools in Nigeria. In addition, Nigeria has 7,104 secondary schools with 4,448,981 students (Dike, 2010). In 1976, Nigeria launched the Universal Primary Education (UPE). Later, the Nation launched the Universal Basic Education (UBE). The establishment of public and private tertiary institutions is on the increase. However, these efforts have not made greater appreciable impact on the provision of qualitative education for a greater number of Nigerians. This accounts for the low literacy rate of 68 in Nigeria as compared with Sao Tome and Principe 84.9, Namibia 85, Kenya 85.1 Botswana 81.2, United States 99, South Africa 84.6, Finland 100 and France 99. Onokerhoraye (1995:130) noted that declining resources and rapid population growth rate reduce the quality and accessibility of primary and secondary education to the people. Another point is that corruption which is based on "settle me, I settle you" seems to be the order of the day and has eaten deep into the fabrics of Nigerian society.

A situation where pupils in nursery, primary and even students in secondary schools hardly repeat a class when they fail simply explains the mess in tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Again is the fact that most parents arrange for 'mercenaries' and pay them money to write examinations for their children. The implication is that you have students who are not prepared to face the rigours of higher education. They simply look for short cuts to pass their examinations. Thus, 'sorting'-payment of money to lecturers for the upgrading of students scores, examination malpractice, intimidation and sexual harassment of lecturers, cultism and other social vices can be found in most tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Furthermore, is the lack of commitment on the part of the government to improve on the working conditions of teachers and lecturers. This has led to incessant strikes by lecturers which not only truncates the educational system but also diverts the attention of the teachers or lecturers to some other 'business' in order to make ends meet. This ugly trend allows teaching and researching to suffer a great deal. Apparently, most of the products (graduates) from these decadent educational institutions cannot provide the needed

manpower for national development. However, it should be noted that the inability to employ graduates and young school leavers is a great disservice to education and national development.

Employment

This is the engagement of the creative and critical hand with the right skill in product ventures for economic empowerment and self reliance. Nigeria has made efforts to provide job for her citizens. The import substitution, nationalization, and indigenization policies were designed to give Nigerians control of the commanding height of the economy and expand the productive base of the economy. This will lead to the springing up of industries which would fast track Nigerian's match to industrialization. The provision of conducive atmosphere for investment in the various sectors of the economy would ultimately lead to a diversified, virile and self-reliant economy. Another fact is that in recognition of the role the informal sector plays in fostering national development, Nigerian government established the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) to create jobs and empower Nigerians through skill acquisition. One of the measures adopted in 2010 recently by the federal government was the bailout fund of N200 billion by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) for the manufacturing sector for cheap capital.

Nevertheless, the mono-cultural economy of Nigeria which is dependent on crude oil and the unfortunate importation of refined petroleum products not only reduce employment opportunities for Nigerians but also expose the economy to erratic fluctuations of price of oil in the international market and external inflationary trend. In this regard, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said that 33 Million Nigerians are jobless (<http://joblistnigeria.com/33-million-nigerians-jobless-national-bureau..>). The unemployment rate is 21%. As part of the effort to create jobs for Nigerians, the federal government in 2010 through the former Minister of Finance, Dr. Olusegun Aganga assured foreign investors that the government was also committed to providing conducive environment for business operations. This informed the unveiling of the power sector road map in September, 2010 by President Goodluck Jonathan and the CBN's bailout of N600 billion for power sector projects. It is unfortunate that inspite of the huge amount invested in the manufacturing sector, Nigerians are yet to notice any appreciable increase in the manufacturing sector. Considering the importance of power sector in powering the manufacturing sector-(it was observed that in this first months of 2010, production was below 5% due to poor power supply), coupled with epileptic power supply and total darkness in some parts of the country merely explains the paradox of social services in Nigeria against the backdrop of the efforts made and huge investments on the provision of these social services. This is justified by the low electricity production rate of 21.92 in Nigeria.

This low electricity production rate in Nigeria contrasts sharply with the high electricity production rate of 4,110 in the United States and 3,451 in China. In terms of employment in United States, there has been rising rate of employment with the corresponding rate of unemployment for all categories of workers. For instance, United States Bureau of Labour Statistics reported that the rate decreased to 8.3 percent. From the Household Survey Data, the number of unemployed persons declined to 12.8 million in January.

The question that boggles the mind is –why is it that there is disparity in the provision of social services in Nigeria and other countries like United States, China, Malta, and United Kingdom etc? In trying to answer this question, one should know that the provision of social services is a function of the degree of responsiveness and responsibility of the state via the political elites in promoting the welfare of the people. This responsiveness and responsibility must be rooted in sound democratic culture that upholds the values of transparency, accountability, fair play, rule of law and participation of the people in decision-making and implementation. In Nigeria, it appears this is lacking as in most cases the leaders that emerge from the so-called free, fair and credible elections are not the popular choice of the people. This is characterized by election fraud which is reinforced by the concept of “Godfatherism and loyalty”. The concept of political Godfatherism means that a group of economically powerful and politically influential individuals determine who become leaders and the leaders must be seen and proven to be “loyal” to them. The implication is that rather than become responsive and responsible to the yearnings and aspirations of the people, the political elites satisfy their selfish interest and the interests of their “Godfathers”. The attendant effect is that corruption becomes the order of the day and policies and programmes formulated for the provision of social services merely end up on paper without substantial and concrete achievements to better the lives of the people. To substantiate this comparison between Nigeria and United States is the different degrees of transparency in these countries. This has also influenced the rate of corruption not only in these two countries but also in other countries of the world. Thus, the more transparent a country is in the public sector, the less corruption and of course the provision of more social services. For instance, in Nigeria the corruption rate is high at the rate of 2.4 while in United States, corruption rate is low at the rate of 7.1.

Comparatively, while developed countries like United Kingdom, Finland, Switzerland, Norway, New Zealand just to mention but a few have low corruption rate such as 7.8; 9.4; 8.8; 9 and 9.5 respectively, developing countries in Africa have high corruption rate. For example, Equatorial guinea-1.9; Chad-2; Kenya-22, Cote d’Ivoire-2.2 just to mention but a few. (Transparency International). The implication of high corruption index in African countries is an indication of low or absence of transparency. This means that huge resources that would have been used to provide adequate social services and promote good governance will be lost to corruption. On the contrary, in United States for example, the democratic culture permeates the cloak of the society. Thus, leaders that emerge reflect the popular choice of the people. This promotes transparency and good governance which reflects the effective provision of social services and the promotion of the welfare of the people.

The Way Forward

From the foregoing, it is evident that democracy must be institutionalized and entrenched in any political system. It is not just enough to have democratic institutions put in place, but also important is the internalization must be a way of life of culture/values by the people. This means that democracy must be a way of life of the people (Wonah 2010:107). The political elites and the so-called “Godfathers” must return the “stolen” political mandate of the people. This means that the electoral system must be orchestrated in such a way that the people in a free, fair and credible election determine who their leader becomes. The leader therefore, becomes transparent

in the discharge of his leadership role and becomes answerable to the people. Transparency promotes good governance by reducing the chances of corrupt practices on the part of the political elites. If political elites are free from corruption, the available resources will be channeled into the provision of social services and there will be avoidance of misplacement of priority as the leaders are accountable to the people.

In order to enhance good governance, transparency must be upheld. The Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) which are primarily concerned about transparency and good governance must not only be sermonized but must be seen as part of the governing process. The Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative is yet to make appreciable impact in Nigeria as oil companies and other Multinational Companies are yet to publish what they pay. There is the need for extensive and intensive enlightenment campaign to create awareness among the people on the need for transparency and accountability on the part of the political elites. The African Union Anticorruption Advisory Board must not only advise but also compel African countries to adopt and implement anti-corruption measures. There is the need for effective population growth management by reorienting the people through extensive and intensive awareness campaign.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Social services are products of the social coexistence of man in society. The social existence is consummated in the formation of a state. The state therefore through the political elites provides social services for the people. The Nigerian state has made efforts to provide social services. But the efforts have been rendered inconsequential by the poor democratic culture and rising population growth. Social services are meant to promote the welfare of the people. But if social services are provided without the corresponding welfare of the people, it becomes paradoxical and ridiculous. There is therefore, the need to entrench and imbibe democratic culture and effectively manage the rising population growth rate in Nigeria.

REFERENCES

- Ake, C. (1996). *Democracy and Development in Africa*. Ibadan. Spectrum Books Limited.
- Alapiki, H. (2008). *The State, Oil Resources Conflicts and the Niger Delta Question in Nigeria: The Options to Peace and Development*. SSSG Monograph Series No. 12, 2008. Social Science Study Group, Uniport, Port Harcourt. Amethyst & Colleagues Publishers, 23, Bathurst Street, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.
- Bureau of Labour Statistics-The Employment US Department of Labour Situation-January 2012. Country Comparison to the world-Unemployment Rate (%) Retrieved from <http://www.cca.gov/...ok/fields/2129.html>
- Dike, V. –The State of Education in Nigeria and the Health of the Nation (Africa Economic Analysis). Retrieved from <http://www.afbis.com/analysis/education10204234737htm>.
- Efemini, A. O. (2002). “Ake’s Philosophy of Development for Africa”. In A. Efemini (ed), *Ake and African Development, Selected Issues*, (Port Harcourt. Paragraphics), (p.99-100).

- Government Corruption Casts Shadow Over International Football Tournament-Published 23rd Jan. 2012. Retrieved from <http://www.cca.gov/...ok/fields/2129.html>
- Guaba, O. P. (1981). *An Introduction to Political Theory*. New Delhi. Ragivberi for Macmillan Indian Ltd, Daryagan;.
- Ibiyemi, S. (2010). Unemployment Rate Hits 19.7% in Nigeria –FG retrieved from (<http://www.tribune.com.ng/index.php/news/2223-unemploymentrate-hits-19.7inngrgia-fg.html>).
- Joblist Nigeria-33 Million Nigeria Jobless National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Nigeria Millennium Development Goals-Report 2010 retrieved from (www.mdgs.gov.ng).
- Oddih, M. (2007). 'Electoral Fraud and the Democratic Process: Lessons from the 2003 elections' in A. Jega and O. Ibeanu (eds), *Elections and the Future of Democracy in Nigeria*. A Publication of the Nigerian Political Science Association.
- Onokerrhoraye, A. G. (1995). *Population Growth and the Provision of Social Services in Nigeria*. (University of Benin, Nigeria: The Benin Social Science Series for Africa).
- Population Institute (2009). *Population and failing State-Nigeria* retrieved from (NHDR-Summary-2008-2009-1.pdf-adobe reader).
- Populating Ranking Ranking of Health Expenditure (% of FDP) See retrieved from <http://www.one.org/c/internal/issuebrief/1029>.
- Transparency International Corruption Index <http://www.cpi.transparency.org/cpi2011/results>.
- Wonah, E. I. (2010). 'Part ideology, campaign and consolidation of democracy in Nigeria', G.B. Okon and A. Udoudo (eds), *Political Communication and Nigeria Democracy: A Book of Reading*.