

PSYCHOLOGY OF POLITICS AND POLITICIANS IN NIGERIA: THE HUMAN AND SOCIAL GOVERNANCE CONSEQUENCES

Okechukwu Dominic Nwankwo, PhD

Department Of Psychology, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University,
Igbariam Campus, P.M.B. 6059, Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria.

Olofin Funke Temidayo,

Department Of Psychology, Baze University, Abuja, Nigeria.

Victor Jideofor Okoye

Department Of Psychology, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University,
Igbariam Campus, P.M.B. 6059, Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria.

Gift Chinagozim Ohakwe, PhD

Institute Of Theology, Paul University, Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria.

ABSTRACT: *The research examined political psychology in Nigeria, characterized by political interest, godfatherism, rigging, thuggery, occultism, election litigation, and zoning politics. Participants were politicians and electorates. Information was gathered through direct observations, interviews and print sources, with analytical and descriptive designs. Findings were psychology of politics manifested as: Elitism, machination, group opportunity, business perception, godfatherism politics, socio-cultural consciousness, politics as criminal enterprise, life-time socioeconomic opportunity, including emasculating the Judiciary and Legislature. Psychology of politicians manifested as: Desperation, superiority status, extravagant lifestyle, betrayal of citizens, narcissistic personality, high selfishness/greed, deception/lying as skills/smartness, and pride/euphoria in associating with Federal Government's might. The human/social governance consequences were: Social polarization, disappointed governance, loss of confidence in electoral system, corruption, poor societal development, misguided rule of law, exponential unemployment, poor standard of living, misguided life virtue, and embarrassing Judiciary. Proffered recommendations were improved political value system, proactive Judiciary, accountable politics/politicians, and stopping irresponsible political extravagant lifestyle.*

KEYWORDS: political-psychology, politics, politicians, Nigeria, human-social, governance

INTRODUCTION

Psychology of politics and politicians in Nigeria is very complex and dynamic. The politicians are very unreliable and self-centered. Nigerian politics and politicians are terribly retrogressive and unconscionable (Gudaku, 2019). In Nigeria, politics is often perceived in relation to politicians' power, money, religion, socio-cultural perspectives, and what Weir (2019) referred to as group-based perception. "Godfatherism" plays great role and influence in the Nigerian political

phenomena (Ahmed & Ali, 2019). Conspiracy and compromise endemic in Nigeria have permeated the politics, in which betrayal of the governed, dishonesty, money-mindedness, and treachery have been imbibed as political mastery. Honesty and integrity have dwindled so much as political values and traits in Nigeria (Ayeni, 2019). In Nigeria, political leaders have brazenly and dangerously refused to be held accountable. The observation that good leadership stimulates achieving performance in people (Akhmadi, Jamaluddin & Suryadi, 2019) seems not applicable for Nigerian political leaders. Politicians construe themselves as the superiors and perceive the governed as the inferiors in a dichotomized social and economic class. Consequently, good governance is never prioritized. Holding political leaders accountable enhances good governance (Ernanda, 2019). The grandeur self-concept of Nigerian politicians has made it impossible for adequate attention to be paid to the psychological and social impacts of politics and governance on the citizens. The goal of this research is therefore to explore the psychology of politics and politicians in Nigeria, and appraise the attendant human and social governance consequences.

Political Behaviour in Nigeria

Politics is the act of exhibiting political consciousness, while expressly engaging in objectively overt political activities is political behaviour. In politics, there are three major political actors namely politicians, voters, and the governed (both those who voted or not). Political behaviour in Nigeria manifests in the following ways.

Political interest: This arises when individuals join political parties, where they participate in political fora, meetings and discussions. This is an open indicator of political consciousness. From here, people can aspire for political leadership, elected or even appointed political positions.

Godfatherism: It is the act of playing “thin god” and facilitator (sponsor) in political matters or to someone who aspires for political position. The godfather usually has economic interests (Ahmed & Ali, 2019) and determinism influence on the political aspirant. Usually, the political aspirant who submits to the godfather is enslaved, as the godfather greedily dictates for the political aspirant. Refusal to play along with the godfather generates severe (and in some cases dangerous) political conflicts.

Rigging: Rigging involves falsification of election outcomes to put a rival/opponent candidate(s) in losing and disadvantaged positions. To successfully rig an election, every machination and mechanism, such as bribery, financial inducements, use of security agencies, use of governmental (which include Federal, State, and Local governments) supports, as well as fraudulent and secret voting can be employed.

Thuggery: This is an electoral aggression, in which force and physical disturbances are employed to gain electoral or political advantages. It involves violence, crime, killings, snatching of ballot boxes and papers, or even arson.

Occultism: This is the belief and consultation of the supernatural or supernormal powers to influence electoral and political ambitions (Gudaku, 2019). In some cases, godfather and his political aspirants often sign memorandum of agreement before a deity before the godfather invest

his financial power or political connection on the aspirant. Belonging to an occult group is also common.

Election litigation: It involves instituting law suits by an aggrieved candidate (party) against a rival/opponent candidate (party) who is successful or favoured in an electoral contest. This is often seen as the last institutional arbiter in resolving perceived electoral anomaly. The decision of the Court of law or tribunal empowered to do so becomes the final solution to the electoral conflict.

Zoning politics: Zoning politics is a system in which significant and electoral political positions have been delineated into social-cultural zones, so that occupation of such positions are determined on rotational basis. This is to ensure that a particular area that is psychosocially stronger does not perpetually dominate others in societal development. This is easily said but intolerable to practice. Variants of zoning politics have also been requested to be extended to religion and feminine gender.

Statement of Problem

In Nigeria, there is sensitization on political consciousness, civil society and socioeconomic engagements. The Eastern Nigeria is the home of Nnamdi Azikiwe, the first President of Nigeria, usually referred to as the Zik of Africa; Biafran quest for independence from Nigeria using the IPOB's non-violent movement led by Mazi Nnamdi Kanu; Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu (Dim Ojukwu), the first university graduate in the Nigerian military, as well as the first President of Biafra; Prof Chinua Achebe, the greatest of all times African and black race literally writer; numerous universities and learning institutions; Innocent Chukwuma, the founder and producer of Innoson Motors/vehicle, the first indigenous vehicle manufacturing company in Africa; Prof Emeagwali, the African computer expert; Onitsha cosmopolitan markets, the biggest market in Africa; Awka blacksmith, the only age-long and customary iron smelting enterprise in Africa; Nnewi markets, popularly referred to as the "Japan" of Africa for its technological advancement and ingenuity; Aba industrial and commercial cosmopolitan; beautiful tourism cities of Port Harcourt and Calabar; Igboikwu bronze, the famous Africa ornamental artifact; Mkpokiti of Umunze, the notable gymnastic and acrobatic cultural youths' dance; Osita Osadebe, and Oliver de Coque, being the two most popular highlife music artists respectively in Nigeria; region with the highest middle men entrepreneurs in Africa; region with highest literacy rate in Nigeria; richest region in Nigeria; as well as most transportation company giants in West Africa, like Chisco, GUO, Ekenedilikwu, and Peace Airliner.

The Western Nigeria has Lagos State often perceived as a mega city; Prof Wole Soyinka, the Nobel Prize winner; as well as numerous famous universities. The Northern Nigeria and Middle Belt have the modern Abuja being the capital of ECOWAS; Kaduna, Kano, as well as many emerging political capitals. There is also the perennial menace of Boko Haram and Fulani Herdsmen terrorist religio-organizations in the Northern Nigeria. Basically, each of the three regions has substantial oil and gas deposits.

Notwithstanding these human and societal manifestations, observations showed that politics in Nigeria seems very disappointing (Ayeni, 2019). This situation has adversely affected virtually all

the parameters of the human and societal structures of the nation. Struggle for power at various level and forms is one of the major political dispositions in Nigeria (Dan-Azumi, Jega, & Egwu, 2019). This could have induced retrogressive political characterizations and political leadership mindset among Nigerian politicians. Nigerian political leaders seem to be above the law once they are compliant to grand power broker or holder. The political leaders therefore cannot be held accountable, which negates the observation of Ernanda (2019) that holding political leaders accountable facilitates good governance. Unequivocally, good governance has eluded Nigerians (Isah, 2018) because the retrogressive political personality endemic in Nigeria. These types of political personality are not in tandem with modernization and therefore do not facilitate good governance (Gudaku, 2019). The current research therefore aims at examining the psychology of politics and politicians in Nigeria. The governance consequences of this psychological situations are also appraised.

Objectives/Purpose of the Research

The objectives of this research are to:

1. Project that political characterizations, and political leadership mindset are substantially the bane of backwardness in Nigeria.
2. Highlight the human and social governance consequences of political characterizations and political leadership mindset in Nigeria.
3. Proffer recommendations vis-à-vis the findings.

Research Questions

The following questions are to be answered in the research.

1. What is the nature of political characterizations in Nigeria?
2. What are political leadership mindsets in Nigeria?
3. How has political characterizations and political mindset in Nigeria affected human and social governance?
4. What recommendations emanate from the findings of this research?

Significance of the Research

The research is significant on the following rationale:

1. It makes an expose of perceptions of politics in Nigeria.
2. It brings to limelight the political mindset and attitude of a typical Nigerian politician.
3. The research elucidates the human and social governance consequences of political dispositions and characterizations in Nigeria.

Operational Definition of Terms

The following meanings are associated with the variables of the research.

1. **Psychology of politics:** It is the political mindset associated with politics in Nigeria.
2. **Psychology of politicians:** It is behavioural idiosyncrasies of Nigeria politicians.
3. **Social governance:** This entails the societal and human development qualities facilitated by the government and political office holders.

LITERATURE REVIEW

THEORETICAL REVIEW

The rational choice theory and theory of reasoned action formed the theoretical background of the research.

Rational choice theory (RCT): This theory pioneered by Homans, (1961) has been a major model for the understanding of both elite and mass political behavior (Leonie, David & Jack, 2013). Successful democratic system is predicated on the citizenry being capable of handling and digesting information on the significant issues of the society to arrive at well-informed decisions (Leonie, David & Jack, 2013). Rational choice theory is built on the basic assumptions about human perception that the citizens give support for candidates' politics and policies that are most likely to improve governed economic gain and benefit them personally (Leonie, David & Jack, 2013). In Nigeria, voters' behaviour tends to change once they are induced with cash, despite the fact that they know the unimpressive antecedents and background of the candidate. In Nigerian politics, integrity does not matter. People also tend to change on who they support based on the socioeconomic gain or opportunities that they will obtain from the candidates once elected. During the voting process people tend to exchange their votes with the highest bidder. In Nigeria, political decision is made by assigning probability values to candidates who seem assured and viable options through which socioeconomic goals will be achieved.

Theory of reasoned action (TRA): This theory was developed by Fishbein and Ajzen (2010). An individual's decision to engage in a particular political behaviour is based on the perceived outcomes the individual expects from performing the behavior (Rogers, Archibald, Morrison, Wilsdon, Wells, Hoppe, Nahom, & Murowchick, 2002). The theory of reasoned action serves to understand an individual's voluntary behavior. The paradigms of the theory of reasoned action have to do with an individual's basic motivation for performing an action. This behavioral intention comes as a result of a belief that exhibiting the behavior will lead to a specific outcome. The TRA explains voter's apathy and diehard support for a particular candidate in Nigeria. Some people have the intentions of voting in an election, but because of the belief that the vote may be rigged, they decide to stay at home during election processes.

CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

This examines certain political paradigms that are necessary for the discourse of the research topic.

Perspectives of Politics Generally

There are diverse viewpoints to the understanding of political motives. They are:

Psychological perspective: Psychology is very important in politics. Psychologists examine an individuals' personality predispositions to explain the political behaviour of the citizens and politicians (Leonie, David & Jack, 2013). Personality is a person's consistent way of thinking, feeling and acting. Basic traits explain individual differences in political attitudes to an impressive degree. People who are extroverted tend to be the ones seeking leadership positions (Leonie, David & Jack, 2013). People high on conscientiousness tend to critically and objectively evaluate the

candidates to know who to vote for, while the people who are high on agreeableness tend to conform and vote who the majority are voting (Leonie, David & Jack, 2013). Individuals who are neurotic and less open to experience tend to engage in voter's apathy and avoid election processes (Leonie, David & Jack, 2013).

Socioeconomic perspective: Certain social and economic factors influence political behaviours. There is an obvious class-classifications and corresponding stereotype system. This makes the people in lower class to base their party affiliations and participation on the wealth of the party and wealthy stakeholders (upper-class). In Nigeria, voters obey and follow wealthy stakeholders because of the social and economic benefit to be gained from them. Economic interest is the major ways through which political structures are formed in Nigeria. Social and economic interests are the basic motivations for seeking political offices by the politicians in Nigeria. This same reasons are also the motivating factors behind voters' behaviours. Apart from economic interest, the need for social relevance, power and recognition are also some of the factors that influence politics, especially in Nigeria.

Politicians' vote seeking behaviours: Nigerian society is characterized with money politics which has taken a worrisome dimension and equally the centre-stage of its political activities, (Abdulrahman; Danladi & Sani, 2016). There are also promises made to the voters which often times are captured in the political party's manifesto. Political godfatherism usually leads to unfulfilled political promises and non-performance. The frustration from the unmet promises affected the integrity of candidates contesting for political offices, resulting to the preference of the voters to sell their votes to the highest bidder (Abdulrahman; Danladi & Sani, 2016). Consequently, the politician's awareness of the voters' mind-set and money consciousness have compelled politicians to seek for rich political godfathers. The politicians usually end up signing enslaved political agreement with their godfathers. Eventually the victorious political candidate surrenders the nation helplessly to the greed, exploitation and control of political godfathers. Hence, all the nation's psychological, institutional, and governmental decisions for the social, economic, and human development are regulated by the political godfather. Furthermore, once the successful (notwithstanding how the so-called success was secured) politicians were sworn into office, they start playing thin god. They segregate themselves from the populace and start living highly ostensible and extravagant life. The politicians also build the perception that they are above the society and law.

Voters' behaviours: Voting is the action of formally indicating one's choice of candidate or political party at an election (Erdmann, 2004). Voting behavior is an act of aggregating individual preferences into collective decision in an election (Linberg & Morrison, 2007). Bartel (2008) analysis of voting behavior focuses on the determinants of why people vote as they do and how they arrive at the decisions they make. This implies that the behavior of a voter is influenced by several factors. Banski, Kowalski and Mazur (2012) identified a combination of attitudinal, social and psychological factors as responsible for determining individuals' voting behavior. Hence, in Nigeria, politics, politicians and political behaviours are determined based on parochial psychosocial arrangements like ethnicity, religion, and regional interests, rather than national interests.

METHOD

Participants: The participants for the research were politicians and electorates in Nigeria. The participants must be Nigerians and domicile in Nigeria. They must be politically sensitive or active.

Instruments: The research instruments and information gathering methods are from secondary sources such as political discourse, journals, print and electronic media. The secondary sources were also corroborated with primary sources of information such as direct observations and interviews.

Procedures: The research was carried out in Nigeria as its focus. The participants were reached through incidental (participants' availability and willingness to respond to interviews) and respondents-driven (using the participants/respondents and those connected to them to reach other participants/respondents - networking) sampling techniques. Some of the authors were politicians themselves, and helped to reach and interview their colleagues. The participants were assured of the anonymity and confidentiality of their information. In order to answer the research questions, results/findings were deduced from the review of literature, direct observations of the political scenario of Nigerian politics, as well as corroborated evidence from Nigerian politicians and citizens.

Research Design: The research designs were analytical design and descriptive design. Analytical design does a critical evaluations of a case scenario of an incident. Again, it explores behavioural phenomenon of an event so as to generate insights into the event (Nwankwo, Ike, Officha, Obi & Peters, 2019). The descriptive design was derived from Fenno's (1986) explanation that a researcher may choose this research design when s/he has in-depth local knowledge of the subject matter. Or researchers has firsthand information and the idea of the subject-matter that s/he can offer reasoned line of explanation based on this rich knowledge of setting and circumstances. Some of the authors are politicians. Consequently, they are directly involved, have direct experience and firsthand information of psychology of politics and politician in Nigeria.

RESULTS/FINDINGS

The following findings have been made from the research. The findings were made from the perspectives of psychology of politics, and psychology of politicians in Nigeria.

Psychology of Politics

1. Elitism
2. Machination
3. Group opportunity
4. Business perception
5. Godfatherism politics
6. Socio-cultural consciousness
7. Politics being a criminal enterprise

8. Life time socioeconomic opportunity
9. Emasculating the Judiciary and Legislature

Psychology of Politicians

1. Desperation
2. Superiority status
3. Extravagant lifestyle
4. Betrayal of the citizens
5. Narcissistic personality
6. High selfishness and greed
7. Deception and lying as skills/smartness
8. Pride and euphoria in associating with the Federal Government's might

DISCUSSIONS

Brief discussions of the findings are made below. They are followed by critical examinations of the social governance consequences of psychology of politics and politicians in Nigeria.

Psychology of Politics

1. **Elitism:** Politics in Nigeria is perceived to be a restricted venture for the individuals considered to be "societal heavy weights". Such individuals are considered to belong to the high echelon of the society. This creates a sort of caste system in the society between the very wealthy (or the well-connected) and the poor.
2. **Machination:** Very high scheming and manoeuvring also characterize politics in Nigeria. All instruments of cheating, sidelining, rigging and fraud can be employed. Whoever that has better connections and better favoured by formidable forces in the country becomes a winner. Even the Judiciary can be compromised, which make them to watch lamely helpless in this game of political intrigue.
3. **Group opportunity:** Politics in Nigeria is seen as group opportunity. Various groups such as the religion, socio-cultural area, zones, regions and clandestine groups struggle to produce a political leader. Each group believes that it will be better off when its member win the political post. In some cases, members of a perceived rival group are neglected when the other party wins.
4. **Business perception:** Politicians in Nigeria perceive politics as a business. That is why if someone that engages in politics is asked what is his/her profession, the person replies politics. Again, that is why the individual keeps on vying for several electoral posts one after the other, or wants to be attached to the "corridor of power" endlessly.
5. **Godfatherism politics:** This involves sponsoring and supporting a candidate in politics. It is not done for free. Sponsored candidate (godson) usually enters into an agreement to make certain political concessions/compromise, as well as concede certain political juicy positions and finances to the godfather if the godson wins. The godfather is usually a political and financial heavy weight in the society, who is very capable of disrupting the government for the godson should the godson refuse to abide by the agreement (Ahmed & Ali, 2019).

6. **Socio-cultural consciousness:** Politics in Nigeria instils socio-cultural consciousness in the citizens. The citizens think of politics and governance in terms of their geopolitical zones. That is why the citizens can wait for their geopolitical zone rulership. The citizens are therefore very complacent, naïve, and inept in challenging the habitual wrongs of the government. Hence, politicians in the nation play thin gods and behave as they like without being held accountable.
7. **Politics being a criminal enterprise:** Politics especially top politics is often braved by persons who can commit atrocities, so as to attain or maintain political positions. Such individuals can go to any length and do anything for politics and political quest.
8. **Life time socioeconomic opportunity:** Politics in Nigeria is perceived as life time socioeconomic opportunity. Whoever that occupies political positions goes to the church for thanksgiving that God has blessed the person. The person and his/her generations after are expected never to be poor again. Even the kindred will continue to make mockery of the individual if s/he did not use of the rare opportunity to siphon the public treasury, as his/her part of the “national and common” cake.
9. **Emasculating the Judiciary and Legislature:** It is a sign of strong political prowess when the Judiciary and Legislature are subverted and enfeebled. Consequently, the two arms of government are used as political tools for instrumental purposes.

Psychology of Politicians

1. **Desperation:** The politicians act like desperados. They can do anything to gain power, occupy positions, and retain or remain in power.
2. **Superiority status:** One of the commonest behaviours of politicians in Nigeria is the perception of self-supremacy. They assume that they are superior to their contemporaries. There is also the perceptions that they are above the law, can buy the law in their favour, and are the law themselves. Even the church, and law enforcement institutions oblige to them.
3. **Extravagant lifestyle:** The politicians are very wasteful and unreasonably exorbitant in their lifestyle. They engage in congenital and prodigal looting of the government treasury at the expense of societal, social and human development. The aim is to maintain lifestyle of grandeur they have established.
4. **Betrayal of the citizens:** Betrayal of the citizens is a common behaviour of politics in Nigeria. Politicians do not execute community, social and governmental projects. They embezzle public funds, and sell off public facilities to themselves and associates. Even the citizens can also be killed if they challenge the politicians or government.
5. **Narcissistic personality:** Politicians in Nigeria are highly self-absorbed, egocentric, self-centered and self-regarding. Their self-mindedness and inconsiderate life-styles make them misappropriate public funds for their personal and future generations use.
6. **High selfishness and greed:** The politicians are only interested in what benefits them maximally. They can compromise the welfare and lives of the citizens in order to gain or protect political interest. Their greed for power and looted funds are very unlimited.
7. **Deception and lying as skills/smartness:** Deceiving and lying to the citizens are among the commonest behaviour of politicians in Nigeria. A politician that has failed in this is regarded as not being skillful. Deception and lying are regarded as political smartness.

Hence, politicians make promises while campaigning for votes which they abandon once they secure power.

8. **Pride and euphoria in associating with the Federal Government's might:** Politicians derive pride and joy that they have Federal government of Nigeria connections. Consequently, a politician can freely commit atrocities believing that the Federal government is readily available as an instrument of oppression and subjugation to the perceived enemy.

Human/Social Governance Consequences of Psychology of Politics and Politicians in Nigeria

The political behaviour of Nigerian politicians has so much implications on how the citizens are governed. Human and social governance entails the proactive actions taken by the government and other leadership actors to facilitate maximum human and societal developments. Governance is a creative venture taken by political actors to improve upon the systems that inhibit the actualizations of human potential. Governance has been referred to as structures and processes that are designed to ensure accountability, transparency, responsiveness, rule of law, stability, equity and inclusiveness, empowerment, and broad-based participation (UNESCO, 2019). Social governance can be good or bad, but in Nigeria, it is substantially bad on these grounds.

1. **Social polarization:** Politics and its political behaviour by politicians have created a dichotomized perceptions and society between the rich and poor, as well as among the various religions and regions in Nigeria.
2. **Disappointed governance:** The citizens are highly disappointed on the political leaders who are extremely greedy, congenitally corrupt, killers of their own people, and very unproductive yet extremely extravagant.
3. **Loss of confidence in electoral system:** The citizens have lost confidence in the electoral systems (Ayeni, 2019). Elections are no longer won on merit through voting but bribery, corruption, gangsterism, as well as connection with the Federal might.
4. **Corruption:** This is very endemic in the Nigerian system. It is also very contagious and congenital. Even the citizens have been terribly infested. Money for the societal and human developments are embezzled.
5. **Very poor leadership:** The political leaders have neglected the citizens. The lives of the citizens are toyed with for political gains. Greed and lies are the cardinal and central personality of the political leaders.
6. **Very poor societal development:** Very bad leadership and corruption of the politicians deprive the society the much needed development. Infrastructures are lacking with its concomitant unemployment. The citizens are therefore going outside the country to seek developmental facilities.
7. **Misguided rule of law:** There is the perception that might is right. There is also the perception that being in politics entail living above the law. Hence, those connected to politics exhibit lawlessness.
8. **Exponential unemployment:** Unemployment has become overwhelming. Nigerian politicians are very indifferent about it and continue to live in maximum affluence. The politician even deprive the society employment opportunities as they siphon the resources for infrastructural development that creates employment.

9. **Very poor standard of living:** The standard of living in the country is very poor and costly. Both the poor standard of living and soaring unemployment exacerbate crime wave.
10. **Misguided life virtue:** Life values and value systems have been debased. Life quantity has been prioritized over life qualities.
11. **Embarrassing Judiciary:** The Judiciary is no longer “the hope of the common person”. The Judiciary is bullied. As observed by Nyako (2019) “Nigeria is NOT safe for anyone, including judges. Even judges are being abducted in the country. So prison is the only safest place” (Nyako, 2019). The dispensers of justice are afraid of being killed, or their appointments being terminated, or even not paid or promoted. Hence, justice truncated, delayed or denied is no longer outrageous.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations as arising from the research are proffered.

1. Political value system in Nigeria needs to be improved upon. Political leadership must no longer be perceived as socioeconomic and other business opportunities. This will reduce godfatherism, desperation, greed, and selfishness in Nigerian politics and politicians.
2. The Judiciary must be proactive to protect itself and be functionally effective. With this, politics in Nigeria will be sanitized from its current characteristics of criminal enterprise perception. The Judiciary must be very bold and courageous in promoting the rule of law, so as to bring all political players in Nigeria within the ambit of law.
3. The irresponsible extravagant lifestyle of politicians in Nigeria needs to be curtailed. This will help check the politicians’ betrayal of the citizens and the superiority obsession of Nigerian politicians.
9. Nigerian politicians must be held accountable whether on or off the office/leadership positions. It will help tremendously in reducing deceptions and lying as skills/smartness in politics. Again, it will reduce Nigerian politicians’ desperate and pathological desires to surrender to the Federal Government’s might, and any Federal euphoria.

Implications of the Research and its Findings

The implications of the research are premised on the following:

1. Political characterizations and political leadership mindset in Nigeria are retrogressive.
2. Political values are wrongly prioritized in Nigeria.
3. Political characterizations and political leadership mindset in Nigeria are not in tandem with modernization, and therefore major impediments to good governance.
4. By way of extrapolation, the societal backwardness of Africa is substantially contributed by poor cognition of politics, irresponsible and unaccountable political leadership, notwithstanding the enormous human and mineral resources the continent is endowed with.
5. The research will serve as a clarion call reference for political reorientation in the African continent.

CONCLUSION

The psychology of Nigerian politics and politicians is very dynamic and multifaceted. Substantially, the psychology of politics and politicians in Nigeria is for personal gain. Good governance benefits are very tangential in the political endeavours in Nigeria.

Suggestions for Future Research

1. It is suggested that future researches on this subject-matter should be empirical.
2. The empirical study may embrace meta-study involving cross-cultural analyses of more than one African country.

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