Political Parties as Instrument of Deepening Good Governance in Nigeria

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Abstract
Political parties are capable of deepening good governance in Nigeria, just like in other advanced democracies of the world. Unfortunately, political parties have not made enough contributions to the process of deepening good governance in Nigeria because they are virtually lacking in ideology, enmesh in intra and inter-party crises, very corrupt and not transparent in their activities. Instead of making life easier, comfortable and satisfactory for Nigerians they have done little or nothing to deepen good governance. Political parties that should be instrumental to unity, peace, integration and development of a state irrespective of their ideology and coloration do everything possible to neutralize opposition parties and retain power once they are in government. Thus, this study assessed how political parties can be used to deepen good governance, the ideologies upon which Nigeria's political parties operate and the roles of key parties' actors in the deepening of good governance. Data was collected from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data was collected by close-ended questionnaire and quantitative technique was used to analyze it. The secondary data was sourced through journal articles, dailies, magazines, internet materials, and relevant textbooks and analyzed by content analysis.
Keywords: political parties, ideology, governance, good governance, democracy

1. Introduction
Political parties with vibrant ideologies are necessary to ensure good governance in a democratic system. They should also be pillar of democracy and channel through which effective services could be delivered. As observed by Pwanagba (2015), without ideologically-based, strong and independent political parties, good governance is not likely to be deepened. This is because, political parties should not be mere instrument of capturing political power but platform of bringing good living conditions to the people by instituting viable policies. To use the word of Ikelegbe (2013), where political parties perform their responsibilities, they regularly mediate in the affairs of the people and public office holders to ensure the public benefit from enthroning their candidates with state power. Political parties should create appropriate link between citizens and government. They should, as well, be institutionalized channel of connecting future political leaders to their constituents and serve as avenues for providing and promoting accountability, collective participation and resolve gridlocks, especially between the executive and the legislature. When voters are linked with political parties through established ideology, representation and policies; it lowers the chances of populist leaders rising to power (Morgenstern et al., 2011). Political parties also engage in debate and thereby develop in citizenry the art of political orientations as well as decision-making (Hofmeister & Grabow, 2011)

In the western world, for instance; there are strong political parties with identifiable political ideologies and this made good governance to be firmly deepened. According to Mike & Ajibola (2016), where service delivery are appropriately provided, it is because political parties have formidable ideologies that are implementable. Political parties give life to democracy and are insulators to it as well (AbdulLateef, 2016). So, it can be said that the foundation of any government in a democratic setting anchors on ideologically-based political parties (Lamidi & Bello, 2012).

Good governance can be achieved by political parties when they ensure that government is effectively, efficiently, and transparently run in line with democratic dictates. The ability of political parties to promote good governance does not only lie in the ideologies they set but the disposition of their key actors to pursuing them. Political parties have not been able to bring about good governance in third world countries, because key actors use them to actualize their selfish and primordial interest (Riegner & Stacey, 2014). Presently, political parties have not sufficiently performed their roles to ensure good governance in Nigeria. Key political parties' actors are not transparent enough because they secretly do many things without input from their members. Many times, most political parties' elites only come around during electioneering period in preparation to capture votes and wind up party activities once election is over (Momodu, 2016).

In recent times in Nigeria, political parties are dominated by elites and godfathers who use their power for personal interest (Osabiya, 2015). Political appointees divert funds meant for the public to their private coffers and give preferences and unmerited favour to sponsors, godfathers friends and families at the expense of the masses. According to (Adamu, 2015), problem of greed, corruption and absence of internal democracy among party elites in Nigeria has made party politics not to have focus and appear as avenue for indiscipline to thrive. Since 29 May, 1999, when the fourth republic took off in Nigeria, ruling political parties have not been able to

bring good governance to the country as expected. These are reflected in the poor standard of living, job opportunities, power supply, security, sustainable economy, medical facilities, education, and other social infrastructures.

2. Research Questions
This study is guided by the following research questions:
(i)   What are the roles of political parties in ensuring good governance?
(ii)   What are the relationships of political parties' ideologies to good governance in Nigeria?
(iii)   What roles do political parties' key actors play, if any, in deepening good governance in the study area?

3. Research Objectives
The objectives of this study are to:
(i)   assess the roles of political parties in deepening good governance;
(ii)   examine the ideology of Nigerian political parties and its connectedness to good governance; and
(iii)   examine the role of key political parties' actors in the deepening of good governance in Nigeria.

4. Research Assumptions
The study is predicated on the assumptions that:
   (i)   The roles of political parties have not deepened good governance in Nigeria.
   (ii)   Absence of political ideology by Nigerian political parties derails good governance in   the study area.
  (iii)   The roles play by key political parties' actors do not engender good governance in   Nigeria.

5. Methodology
This study is a survey research and made use of both primary and secondary data. The primary data was collected through close-ended questionnaires. The questionnaire contained four sections. Its section A was designed to collect personal data of the respondents, section B ascertained the roles of political parties in deepening good governance in Nigeria while section C examined ideologies of major political parties and its connectedness in deepening good governance, and section D investigated the roles of key actors of major political parties' in ensuring good governance in the study area. Four likert-scales of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Strongly Disagree (SD) and Disagree (D) were used from which respondents were to choose option that represented their opinion on the statements raised. Simple random sampling technique was used to select 240 respondents altogether; who were purposively selected at the state level in Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Osun, Ekiti and Ondo; from major political parties, civil servants, academics, media practitioners, human rights activists, artisans, and electoral body in Southwestern, Nigeria. In each group, executive and members were chosen given their understanding of the subject matter. For the academics, senior ones were chosen because of their expertise on the subject matter. For each of the group, four respondents were selected in each state to make 24. They were: political parties (Peoples Democratic Party (24); All Progressive Congress (24); Nigeria Union of Teachers (24); National Union of Local Government Employee (24); Ministries (24); Media (24); Human Rights Groups (24); Artisans (24); Senior Academics (24); Nigerian Bar Association (24) and the Independent National Electoral Commission (24). Secondary data was collected from journals, media publications, textbooks, and internet materials. Primary data was analyzed by descriptive statistics such as frequencies and percentages while content analysis was used to analyze secondary data.

6. Conceptualizing the Key Terms
Political party is a group of people of like minds whose major focus is to hold power. Thus, a political party is an association of people with similar political idea or belief whose aim is to capture the machinery of government and influence the making of governmental policies by getting their member elected into power. Political party, in the view Adigun (1999) is a group of persons bonded in policy and opinion in support of a general political cause which essentially is the pursuit, capture and retention for as long as democratically feasible, of government and its offices. Political parties fulfil a number of vital functions that include aggregating citizen interests, forming governments, developing and promoting policy positions and programmes, and grooming and selecting political leadership (Carothers, 2006 and Deme, 2013).

     Ideology is derived from the Greek word "eidos" which means what is seen or imagined. Ideology is a system of values and beliefs regarding the various institutions and processes of society that is accepted as fact or truth by a group of people (Virgemarie, 2014). From a political angle, it is a set of ideas about politics, all of which are related to one another, modify, and support each other (Omotola, 2009). Political ideology is a set of ethical ideas, doctrines, and symbols of a social movement, institution, and/or a large group of people that explains how a society should work and offers some political and cultural blueprint for a certain social order (Wikipedia, 2017). A political party without an ideology can endanger democracy when it is in power. If

political parties have no ideologies, it is difficult for voters to make informed political decisions as regards elections, whereas getting the masses involved in the political process is the best way to good governance.

Governance is from a Greek word "kubernaein" which means to steer (Tamayao, 2014). Governance according to Dozie (1999) is the totality of processes entailed in the exercise and management of the collective will of a people or group under a defined authority or constitution. The World Bank (1989) defined governance as the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources. In summary, governance is the sum total of ways by which public affairs are managed in the best interest of all. Good governance describes how public institutions conduct public affairs and manage public resources. Good governance, according to Oni (2015) centers on the responsibility of governments and governing bodies to meet the desired needs of the masses as opposed to a selected group in the society. Few characteristics of good governance as enunciated by UNDP (2015) are participatory, consensus oriented, accountability, transparent, responsiveness, effectiveness and efficiency, equitability, inclusiveness and the rule of law. The purpose of good governance is to minimize corruption, ensures the minority are taken care of and that the voices of the most vulnerable are heard in decision making. The essence of good governance is to eradicate poverty and promote welfare of the people. Good governance is about the processes for making and implementing decisions. It's not about making correct decisions, but about the best possible process for making those decisions (Good Governance Guide, 2016). This can be done by setting a good example, by strengthening accountability, by encouraging public debate, and by nurturing a free press. It also means fostering grassroots and civil society groups.

Democracy is from two Greek words "demos" and "kratos" which mean "the people" and "to rule" respectively. Democracy is defined as the system of government in which members of the community participate directly in the making of decision which affects all Karl - Cohen (1971). Democracy is equally a system of government in which every adult citizen is free to express his views and desires upon all subjects in whatever way he wishes and to influence the majority of his fellow citizens to decide according to those views and to influence those desires (Mahajan, 1988). Democracy should be able to create conducive environment for political parties to thrive. By extension, good governance is also expected to be a product of democratic rule and ideologically based political parties.

7. Theoretical Framework
This study adopted group theory as its theoretical framework. A group according to Bentley (1980) is a pattern of process involving mass of activities and not a collection of individual. The group emerges from frequent interaction among its individual members which is directed by their shared interest. There is role for individuals as well as rule that govern each member of the group. Bentley argued that politics is a group affair and that governance or election matter is a competition among various units against one another for power. Group theory has other adherents like David Truman, Robert Daniel, Grant McConnell, Theodora .J. Lewis, Earl Lathans among others who contended that power is a diffused instrument among many interest groups competing against each other. Earl Lathans described a society as a simple universe of groups which combine, break and form coalitions and castellation of power in a restless alternation. The adoption of this theory as a basis for the examination of the role of political parties in deepening good governance is simply as a result of the interplay of forces and struggle for power among various political parties in Nigeria. In other words, the theory was adopted because institutional approach cannot be used for political analysis because they are static as against institution of political parties which is dynamic and full of activities. The adoption of group theory, therefore, would help us to properly examine the roles of political parties on good governance in Nigeria.

8. Presentation of Data and Discussion
This section presents data collected from questionnaires as well as relevant secondary sources to discuss germane issues relating to the research questions, objectives and assumptions of the study.

8.1 Roles of Political Parties in Deepening Good Governance in Nigeria
Political parties are integral parts of good governance in political systems. They remain important institutions that link citizens and the government (Thomas, 2001). Indeed, political parties provide enviable platform for the people to present themselves for political positions and win elections (Omotola, 2010). Essentially, political parties are instruments for political recruitment as well as providing opportunities for articulating group interests. Good governance demands effective political leadership that is committed to the promotion of social and economic well-being of the citizens (Rotberg, 2014). Thus, effective political leadership is mandatory for the promotion of good governance.

Just as some functions of political parties help to improve the quality of governance, having clear rules and obeying them are also essential to improve the quality of governance. Political parties have to comply with the rules set for the game and lead by example. Political parties equally need to deploy appropriate mechanisms to

ensure transparency and accountability and prevent members from circumventing the set rules (Patz, 2013). Presently, in Nigeria, obedience to party rules and discipline is based more on principle rather than practice. The foregoing discussion predisposes that political parties have valuable roles to play in governance, and the extent to which they understand this fact and do the needful determines the extent to which quality governance would be deepened in Nigeria.

Table 1: Respondents' views on the Role of Political Parties on Good Governance in Nigeria

S/N	Statements	SA	A	SD	D
1	Political parties have not contributed much to good governance in Nigeria	130 (54.2%)	73 (30.4%)	28 (11.7%)	09 (3.8%)
2	Political parties have impacted on good governance	28 (11.7%)	120 (50%)	84 (35%)	08 (3.3%)
3	It is impossible to have good governance without political parties	138 (57.5%)	72 (30%)	20 (8.3%)	10 (4.2%)
4	Capturing of power is the main motive of political parties.	120 (50%)	100 (42%)	13 (6%)	07 (3%)
5	Crises of governance are caused by political parties	105 (43.8%)	98 (40.8%)	20 (8.3%)	17 (7.1%)
6	Political parties are the pillar of good governance in modern democracies	96 (40%)	125 (52.1%)	14 (5.8%)	05 (2.1%)
7	Political parties lack internal democracy and not transparent in Nigeria	114 (47.5%)	94 (39.2%)	20 (8.3%)	12 (5%)
8	There will be good governance if political parties are alive to their functions	96 (40%)	128 (53%)	10 (4.2%)	06 (2.5%)

Source: Fieldwork, April 2017.

Table 1 shows the frequency level and percentage of the respondents' views on the roles of political parties on good governance in Nigeria. Hence, 54.2% strongly agreed that political parties have not contributed much to good governance in Nigeria, 30.4% agreed, 11.7% strongly disagreed and 3.8% disagreed. Thus, majority of the respondents in this study strongly agreed that political parties have not contributed much to good governance in Nigeria. Also, 11.7% strongly agreed that political parties have impacted on good governance, 50% agreed, 35% strongly disagreed and 3.3% disagreed. Thus, majority of the respondents agreed that political parties have not impacted on good governance. In addition, 57.5% strongly agreed that there cannot be good governance without political parties, 30% agreed, 8.3% strongly disagreed and 4.2% disagreed. Thus, the contention of majority of the respondents is that that no society can attain good governance without political parties. In the same vein, 43.8% strongly agreed that crises of governance are caused by political parties, 40. 8% agreed, 8.3% strongly disagreed and 7.1% disagreed. Thus, majority of the respondents agreed that developed countries such the United States of America, Britain, France and others that are firmly rooted in good governance are partly related to the ways their political parties are organized. The above is also supported by 40% strongly agreed and 52.1% agreed, who saw political parties as pillar of good governance while 5.8% strongly disagreed and 2.1% disagreed. Thus, majority strongly agreed that political parties are the pillar of good governance in modern democracies. On the issue of internal democracy and transparency of political parties in Nigeria, 47.5% strongly agreed that political parties lack internal democracy and not transparent, 39.2% agreed, 8.3% strongly disagreed and 5% disagreed. Nevertheless, majority of the respondents agreed that political parties in Nigeria are lacking in internal democracy and not transparent in their decisions and programmes. Majority of the respondents, 40% strongly agreed, 53% agreed with the view that there will be good governance if political parties are alive to their functions; except 4.2% that strongly disagreed and 2.5% disagreed. Thus, it is required that political parties in Nigeria to rise up to their roles in order to be real instrument of good governance.

8.2 Political Parties Ideologies and their Connectedness to Good Governance

Ideology is a very crucial guide to public office holders that emerge from a party platform (Dosumu, 2015). Ideology is also an important instrument of conflict management. Indeed, ideology is an engine room of political party. The success of a political party is at times determined by the beauty of its ideology (Dilly, 2005). Ideology is central to the activities of political party so as to be durable and hold party members together and determine the natural attitude of a party towards every public question (Iyare, 2004).

In Nigeria, it is unfortunate that electorate is deprived of the opportunity of voting based on party ideology, rather citizens' vote based on personality (Olanrewaju, 2015). In Nigeria, as well, mobilization for voting has been largely driven by ethnicity, religion, and monetary influence. These forces, to a large extent, determine the pattern of electoral victory of the parties. As a result, political parties have descended to the level of using personal and sectional interests to promote party image rather than their ideologies (Omotola, 2009).

Absence of political ideology has enveloped Nigerian parties over the years with crisis of contradiction, attendant effect on national rebirth, integration and development (Olanrewaju, 2015). Right from independence, the country has had political parties with ill-defined ideology that cannot make the expectations of the people for better Nigeria realizable. A state that has ideological political parties is capable of unifying different regions and suppresses regionalism and ethnicity.

Table II: Respondents' opinions on the extent to which Nigerian Political Parties are guided by Ideologies

S/N	Statements	SA	A	SD	D
1	Political parties should be grounded on ideology	120 (50%)	80 (33.3%)	30 (12.5%)	10 (4.2%)
2	Political parties do not have ideology in Nigeria	110 (45.8%)	85 (35.4%)	25 (10.4%)	20 (8.3%)
3	Absence of ideology is dangerous to good governance	92 (38.3%)	88 (36.7%)	30 (12.5%)	30 (12.5%)
4	Absence of ideology is responsible for several crises in the polity	110 (45.8%)	90 (37.5%)	25 (10.4%)	15 (6.3%)
5	Political parties in Nigeria are more influenced by tribe, religion and language rather than ideology in their formation	120 (50%)	85 (35.4%)	15 (6.3%)	20 (8.3%)
6	Absence of ideology allows carpet crossing	122 (50.8%)	78 (32.5%)	18 (7.5%)	22 (9.2%)
7	Political parties are failing because of no ideology to work with	86 (35.8%)	89 (37.3%)	35 (14.6%)	30 (12.5%)
8	Good governance cannot be seen except political ideology abounds	105 (43.8%)	95 (39.5%)	25 (10.4%)	15 (6.3%)

Source: Fieldwork, April 2017.

Table II shows the frequency level and percentage of the respondents' views on the extent to which political parties are guided by ideology in Nigeria. When asked if political parties should be grounded on ideology, majority of the respondents (50%) strongly agreed and 33.3% agreed to this fact while 12.5% strongly disagreed and 4.2.5% disagreed. Thus, majority of the respondents still agreed that political parties should be grounded on ideology to be able to deliver its roles. Similarly, 45.8% strongly agreed that political parties do not have ideology in Nigeria; 35.4% agreed, 10.4% strongly disagreed and 8.3% disagreed. Thus, majority of the respondents agreed that frequent internal party crisis bedeviling political parties and party switching can be attributed to the lack of political ideology among Nigerian political parties. As a result, 38.3% strongly agreed, 36.7% agreed, 12.5% strongly disagreed and 12.5% disagreed that absence of ideology is dangerous to good governance. Thus, majority of the respondents strongly affirmed the assertion that there cannot be good governance in the absence of political part ideology.

Asking if the absence of ideology is responsible for several crises in the polity, 45.8% strongly agreed, 37.5% agreed, 10.4 % strongly disagreed and 6.3% disagreed. Thus, majority of the respondents strongly agreed that Nigeria`s political parties are not built on any ideology and this can account for frequent crisis, especially between political parties. Also, it is the contention of the majority that political parties in Nigeria are more influenced by tribe, religion and language rather than ideology in their formation, with (50%) strongly agreed; (35.4%) agreed; (6.3%) strongly disagreed and (8.3%) disagree. Thus, ethno-regional, religious, social and cultural affiliations are more of the basis of forming political party rather than ideology in Nigeria. It can be inferred that primordial loyalties, ethnic sensitivity, selfish political tendencies of the political class are simply the narration of the foundation upon which Nigeria's political parties are formed. Absence of ideology allows carpet crossing is also sufficiently upheld. Majority (50.8%) strongly agreed; (32.5%) agreed; (7.5%) strongly disagreed and (9.2%) disagreed. The absence of ideology and vision has turned political parties in Nigeria to be explored by opportunists who see them as platform to express ambitions and this account for frequent change over from one political party to another on the slightest opportunity. Majority (35.8%) strongly agreed; (37.3%) agreed that political parties are failing because of no ideology to work with; while (14.6%) strongly disagreed and (12.5%) disagreed. Thus, it is implied that political parties are not likely to be coordinated and indirectly not perform or deliver on their responsibilities when they have no ideology. They are likely to fail in their expectations. On whether good governance cannot be seen except political ideology abounds, majority (43.8%) strongly agreed and (39.5%) agreed. On the other hand, (10.4%) strongly disagreed and (6.3%) disagreed. Thus, the widely held view is that good governance will elude a political system whose political parties are not grounded on ideology. Hence, political ideology is a sine – qua – non to good governance in all democracies.

8.3 Roles of Key Political Parties' Actors in Deepening Good Governance
A set of pivotal actor in the activities of political parties is the elite. Political elites comprise of the people who

exercise a disproportionately large amount of influence, authority and power, including force within the political system. This set of people exercise actual or potential influence on decision making and the distribution of spoils and patronage more than other members (Zartman, 1974). This therefore translates that the choices of the elites determine the democratic breakdown as well as process of governance. In developing countries, such as Nigeria, the concept of vested interest rather than national interest is the yardstick for involvement in political process. Thus, their attachment to pecuniary goals induces instability without any hope of transformation and in the long run, manipulation of rules to achieve personal objectives (Fagbadebo, Odeyemi & Agunyai, 2014).

Ordinarily, governance is good when it is not discriminatory and tends to treat every member of society according to the established norms; laws should be applied to both the haves and the have-nots in the society. Citizens regardless of social status, ethnic origin or sex, should be given unrestrained access to justice and that judiciary, as an arbiter, should be independent and neutral in the interpretation of law and efficient manner (Arowolo & Aluko, 2012). Arising from the incompatibility of interests inherent in political and power relations, behaviour of actors needs to be regulated, coordinated, shaped and made to be in line with the existing rules in order to ensure fairness, equity, justice and transparency which, in turn, guarantee peace and harmonious relationship among the political actors (Arowolo & Lawal, 2010).

In Nigeria, poverty of politics and politics of poverty is a factor which poses a threat to good governance. The rich political actors in Nigeria target the already feeble and disenchanted mind of the poor to secure their election victory. Politics has been so monetized to the extent that an average, credible Nigerian cannot afford its exorbitance. Politics, therefore, becomes avenue to create and sustain poverty through looting of funds meant for developmental purposes. Leadership ineptitude and promotion of personal aggrandizement at the expense of national interests grievously affect democracy in Nigeria and makes the dream of attaining good governance impossible (Arowolo & Aluko, 2012).

The deteriorating trends in Nigeria's governance from military to democratic dispensation has been the most daunting challenge creating a depressed economy, high poverty and unemployment rates, infrastructure decay, endemic corruption, human rights abuses and several manifestations of a failing state. This informed the need for reforms to redress these ills which should be targeted towards stimulating economic growth, reducing poverty and unemployment, improving government accountability and transparency, re-orienting values and rebuilding the national integrity. Beneath these multiple developmental problems of Nigeria is a fundamental crisis of leadership (Yusuf, 2010).

The challenge of service delivery, infrastructural deficits and qualitative life for citizenry among others demonstrate that the expected democratic benefits have not been delivered (Ibietan & Ajayi, 2015). The governing elite in Nigeria may have become decadent and ineffective due to pleasures of easy living and privileges of power (African Network for Environment and Economic Justice, 2004).

Those in positions of authority have remained indifferent to the plight of the poor, the hungry and unemployed. Instead, they are obsessed with siphoning the fortunes of the country, hence social injustice, corruption; poverty and insecurity have brought untold hardship to the people. The desired national transformation of the country is still a mirage in spite of the abundance of human and material resources, which should have ordinarily translated into a buoyant life for the citizenry. The greatest threat to democracy and good governance in Nigeria has thus been poor leadership, which breeds hostile political environment for national development (Odo, 2015).

Table III: Views of Respondents on the Role of Key Political Parties' Actors in Deepening Good Governance

S/N	Statements	SA	A	SD	D
1	Party contenders do not care for the masses after election	89 (37.1%)	92 (38.3%)	25 (10.4%)	34 (14.2%)
2	Multi – party system are only to control the machinery of government and not for good governance	110 (45.8%)	85 (35.4%)	26 (10.8%)	19 (7. 9%)
3	Political parties lack disciplinary powers to sanction whoever fail to deliver on campaign promises	88 (36.7%)	96 (40%)	28 (11.7%)	28 (11.7%)
4	Nigerian political parties need restructuring	124 (51.7)	100 (41.7%)	08 (3.3%)	08 (3.3%)
5	Political parties need to embrace the fundamentals of good governance to be relevant	90 (37.5%)	88 (36.7%)	30 (12.5%)	32 (13.3%)
6	Failing public office holders must be recalled to ensure elected representatives keep to their electoral promises	104 (43.3%)	98 (40.8%)	22 (9.2%)	16 (6.7%)
7	Political parties can advance stability, economic growth and democratic advancement	120 (50%)	110 (45.8%)	06 (2.5%)	04 (1.7%)

Source: Fieldwork, April 2017.

The above table shows the frequency level and percentage of the respondents` views on the roles of key political parties' actors in ensuring good governance in Nigeria. Therefore, 37.1% strongly agreed that party

contenders do not care for the masses after election, 38.3% agreed, 10.4% strongly disagreed and 14.2% disagreed. Thus, majority of the respondents agreed that party representatives do not have interests of the masses in mind in governance. As a result, the multi - party system are only to control the machinery of government, 45.8% strongly agreed, 35.4% agreed, 10.8% strongly disagreed and 7.9% disagreed. Thus, majority of the respondents agreed that the multiple political parties are only to control the machinery of government and gain power. Although, there are mechanisms through which the excessiveness of party actors can be checked but 36.7% of the respondents strongly agreed that political parties lack disciplinary power to sanction whoever fails to deliver on campaign promises, 40% agreed, 11.7% strongly disagreed and 11.7% disagreed. Thus, majority of the respondents strongly agreed that political parties do not sanction their elected public office holders that fail to deliver on campaign promises, and this is part of the reasons why politicians feel comfortable not to deliver on electoral manifestos. To move ahead, 51.7% strongly agreed that political parties need to be restructured in Nigeria, 41.7% agreed, 3.3% strongly disagreed and 3.3% disagreed. Hence, majority of the respondents agreed that it is germane that political parties in Nigeria be restructured on the essence of good governance and consolidate the democratic process. In the same vein, 37.5% strongly agreed; 36.7% agreed that political parties need to embrace the fundamentals of good governance in order to be relevant, while 12.5% strongly disagreed and 13.3% disagreed. Thus, it is implied that majority of the respondents are of the view that political parties must be well monitored to embrace the fundamentals of good governance first before they can pursue it. Also, 43.3% of the respondents strongly agreed that failing elected public office holders are recalled to ensure that elected representatives keep to their electoral promises;   40.8% agreed, 9.2% strongly disagreed and 6.7% disagreed. Thus, majority of the respondents agreed that it is high time power of recall as enshrined in 1999 constitution (as amended) be applied on any failing elected representatives. On a final note, as revealed in this study, political party can advance stability, economic growth, and democratic advancement with majority of the respondents (50%) strongly agreed, (45.8) agreed, (2.5%) strongly disagreed and (1.7%) agreed. No doubt, political can spur stability in the polity, bring economic growth and consolidate democracy if well coordinated.

9. Findings

Arising from the results presented above, political parties have not impacted significantly on good governance in Nigeria. Thus, the role of Nigerian political parties in deepening good governance is appalling when compare with developed countries of the world. Furthermore, the study found that political parties in Nigeria have not aided good governance.

This study also established that political party`s ideology is a driving force for service delivery. It is discovered that where political parties are formed along ideological line, political crisis and carpet crossing will be minimal. However, this study found that the reverse is the case in Nigeria, because Nigeria's political parties lack clearly defined ideology in which a particular political party can be known with. Rather, individuals are guided by their primordial interests.

Finally, despite the failure of political parties and politicians in Nigeria to engender good governance, this study found out that mechanism should be deployed by appropriate management bodies to ensure political parties are alive to their functions. Among the mechanisms include, sanctioning of elected public officials who do not deliver on their electoral promises. This can be done by recalling any representative who fails in his mandates. Finally, there is a need for political parties to be re-structured to ensure good governance and the quest for democratic consolidation.

It is time they change from being mere institutions used for the acquisition of power to effective institutions that can mediate, and reconcile societal interests and conflicts. As a result, issues of organizational capacity, effective leadership, internal democracy, discipline, and linkage to civil society have to be tackled. It is a necessity for political parties to practice internal democracy to make them strong, effective and efficient through consistent observation of principles of transparency, accountability, consultation and consensus building in policies and decision making.

10. Gaps Filled in Literature

Extant literature reviewed in this study affirmed the relevance of political parties to deepening of good governance. Most of the reviewed works equally agreed that political parties are the fulcrum of democracy because of the functions performed by them. It is a general fact that ideologies are the heartbeat of political parties, thus making it impossible for a political party to function as it ought to be when it lacks ideology. So, a political party without well-grounded ideologies will not have vision and focus. The reviewed works are also of the opinion that political parties are capable of bridging the gap between the government and the governed, thus deepening good governance in the process. Previous studies have equally reiterated that funds are very critical to the proper and effective functioning of political parties. Unfortunately, most of the works on party funding have not sufficiently clamor on how to erode the power of key actors who feed fat on levies from contestants during electioneering periods.

However, this paper is of the opinion that it is not enough for political parties to have ideologies just for the sake of it, but to translate them into policies that will bring improved living conditions to the life of the people. This paper is of the opinion that it is not to say Nigerian political parties never had an ideology which they formulate, but are failing in the process of translating them into service delivery after election. Few political parties with ideologies do not insist in enforcing them on their elected candidates. The inability of key actors to insist in seeing that their elected public office holders implement the party ideologies is responsible for failure of political party to deepen good governance in Nigeria.

The study is also of the opinion that it is difficult to implement the law on the minimum amount that could be spent on an election. A good number of political parties and candidates spend above the set expenditure and cannot be tracked because of the power of incumbency which this study thinks need to be addressed. Due to the inability of the required bodies to check the finances of political parties, some people have taken advantage of this to see politics as an investment. The rich few invest in the candidate of their choice for various elections and when their candidates wins, they find a way of siphoning tax payers' money as well as a percentage accrued to their godfather who sponsored their election or to the cohorts whom they have to obey. Due to this fact, there is need for proper auditing of political party's finances as well as the need to enforce punishment on those who go above the spending benchmark for any election. Every individual or company who donates more than the stipulated amount set by the Electoral Act to a political party needs to be properly investigated.

11. Concluding Remarks

No doubt, political parties are viable institution that are capable of promoting accountability, transparency, inclusiveness, rule of law, and bridge the gap between the governed and the government if they perform their functions creditably and well grounded in ideology. Political parties are failing in their expected function of deepening good governance in Nigeria because they are weak, corrupt, engulfed in crises, lack clear ideology and hijacked by elites for realization of personal ambitions. All these made good governance to be shallow and bad governance being the outcome. It is therefore necessary to insulate Nigerian political parties with appropriate qualities that are capable of spurring them to pursue policies that can bring improved standard of living to the people. All hopes should not be lost; Nigerians should be committed to realization of ideal political parties till the desired benefits are given to the citizenry.

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