

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Public administration is an essential component of good governance and political security in Nigeria. It is a crucial mechanism for ensuring the effective delivery of public services and the efficient management of public resources. Good governance and political security are critical for Nigeria's economic growth and development. Nigeria has faced numerous challenges in achieving good governance and political stability, including corruption, poor leadership, weak institutions, and inadequate public service delivery.

Nigeria has a history of political instability and weak governance, which has resulted in poor economic performance, social unrest, and insecurity (Agbese, 2015). The country has been plagued by corruption, poor leadership, and weak institutions that have undermined public trust in government and hindered economic development (Transparency International, 2021). Public administration is critical to the effective delivery of public services and the management of public resources (Adebayo, 2019). However, Nigeria's public administration has faced numerous challenges in promoting good governance and political security, including inadequate funding, poor infrastructure, and weak institutional capacity (Olayinka, 2017). Despite these challenges, there have been efforts to improve public administration in Nigeria. For instance, the Public Service Reforms of 1999 aimed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the civil service and enhance public service delivery (Olaopa, 2006).

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the role of public administration in promoting good governance and political security in Nigeria (Oyebade, 2018). There has been a shift towards greater transparency and accountability in government, as well as efforts to enhance the capacity of public institutions to deliver services and manage resources (Oyegoke, 2020). Adebayo (2019) notes, "good governance cannot be achieved without an efficient and effective public administration." The paper will examine public administration as impetus for good governance and political security in Nigeria.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Despite the efforts of Nigerian Government and Administrator to ensure good governance and political security through the provisions of job opportunities, empowerment, regular salary, training and promotion yet Nigeria has been plagued by a range of problems that have undermined good governance and political security. These problems include weak institutional capacity, corruption, poor leadership, inadequate public service delivery, and political instability (Agbese, 2015; Adebayo, 2019; Olayinka, 2017). Nigeria's public administration has been particularly impacted by these challenges, with limited resources, poor infrastructure, and inadequate skilled human resources contributing to ineffective public service delivery (Olaopa, 2006). Corruption is a major problem in Nigeria, and it has been identified as one of the most significant barriers to good governance and political security (Transparency International, 2021). It undermines public trust in government, hinders economic growth, and diverts resources from essential public services.

Poor leadership has also contributed to weak governance and political insecurity, with a lack of accountability, transparency, and responsiveness to the needs of the population (Oyegoke, 2020). Inadequate public service delivery has contributed to social and economic inequalities, particularly in rural areas. This has further hindered Nigeria's development and contributed to political instability. Political instability has been driven by ethnic and religious tensions, weak governance, and corruption (Agbese, 2015). Many scholars have worked on public administration, good governance and political security such as Olowu, 2019, Ogbeidi, 2020, Adebayo 2020, Oyegoke, 2020, Ferdinand e tal, 2021 and Adeleke, 2021). But much have not been written on public administration as an impetus for good governance and political security in Nigeria. This study intends to fill the gap.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this are to:

- i. assess the strategies and mechanisms employed by public administrators in Nigeria to enhance good governance and political security;
- ii. analyze the impact of effective public administration on political stability and security in Nigeria; and
- iii. identify the factors and challenges affecting the implementation of good governance principles through public administration in Nigeria.

1.4 Research Questions

- i. What strategies and mechanisms are employed by public administrators in Nigeria to enhance good governance and political security?
- ii. How does effective public administration impact political stability and security in Nigeria?
- iii. What are the factors and challenges affecting the implementation of good governance principles through public administration in Nigeria?

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is significant for several reasons. Firstly, it contributes to the academic discourse on the role of public administration in achieving effective governance and political stability in developing countries, particularly Nigeria. By examining how administrative structures, policies, and institutional performance influence governance outcomes, the study sheds light on the link between a well-functioning bureaucracy and national political security. Secondly, it offers practical insights for policymakers, public administrators, and development partners seeking to reform public sector institutions for improved transparency, accountability, and service delivery. The findings will also be relevant to civil society organizations and scholars interested in governance, public policy, and democratic development. Ultimately, the study aims to identify key administrative reforms that can strengthen Nigeria's democratic institutions and enhance national cohesion and stability.

1.6 Scope and Limitations of the Study

The study focuses on Nigeria's public administration system, its institutions, policies, and administrative practices as a mechanism for promoting good governance and political security. It examines selected government agencies and ministries at the federal level, with reference to issues such as policy implementation, civil service efficiency, bureaucratic accountability, and public sector reforms. Temporal coverage spans from 2015 to 2024, a period marked by increased attention to governance reforms and security challenges in Nigeria.

The study may face certain limitations. First, access to relevant government data and official reports may be restricted or incomplete, potentially affecting the depth of the analysis. Second, bureaucratic and political resistance to transparency may limit the availability of candid responses from key informants. Third, the scope of the study does not extend to all 36 states, which means its findings may not be generalizable across every region of Nigeria. Finally, while the study highlights the interplay between public administration and political security, other contributing factors such as ethnic tensions, economic inequalities, and external influences are not examined in depth.

1.7 Definition of Terms

- i. *Public Administration*: The organization and management of public institutions and resources aimed at implementing government policies and delivering public services efficiently and effectively.
- ii. *Good Governance*: The process of decision-making and implementation that is accountable, transparent, responsive, equitable, inclusive, and adheres to the rule of law.
- iii. *Political Security*: The protection and stability of a nation's political system and institutions from threats such as political violence, instability, insurgency, or authoritarianism.
- iv. *Bureaucracy*: A structured system of administration composed of departments and agencies staffed by civil servants, responsible for implementing government decisions and services.
- v. *Civil Service*: The permanent professional branches of a government's administration, excluding military and judicial branches, tasked with policy execution and service delivery.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Introduction

This chapter reviews various works of Scholars on Public Administration, good governance and political security. The chapter consists of three sections, namely; conceptual and empirical reviews and the theoretical framework.

2.2 Conceptual Clarification

i. Public Administration

Public administration refers to the systematic implementation of government policies and the management of public programs through a structured bureaucracy aimed at delivering services efficiently and promoting societal welfare (Adebayo, 2020). Public administration is the combination of theory and practice in the planning, organizing, directing, coordinating, and controlling of government operations with a focus on accountability, transparency, and responsiveness (Rosenbloom, Kravchuk & Clerkin, 2018).

ii. Good Governance

Good governance involves the traditions and institutions by which authority in a country is exercised, particularly in the selection of governments, the capacity to formulate and implement sound policies, and the respect of citizens and the state for institutions that govern economic and social interactions (Kaufmann & Kraay, 2020). Good governance is characterized by transparency, accountability, rule of law, participatory decision-making, and efficient public service delivery, all of which are essential for achieving sustainable development and political legitimacy in democratic systems (Osaghae & Ojo, 2021).

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 1997) defines good governance as the exercise of economic, political, and administrative authority to manage a country's affairs at all levels. The World Bank (1992) identifies key dimensions of good governance, including voice and accountability, political stability, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law, and control of corruption. Scholars highlight the significance of good governance in promoting economic growth, social cohesion, and sustainable development. It enhances public trust, legitimacy, and social capital (Gupta, 2010), facilitates effective service delivery, and protects human rights (Iqbal et al., 2019). Principles such as transparency, accountability, participation, and the rule of law underpin good governance.

iii. Political Security

Political security refers to the protection of a state's political institutions, processes, and sovereignty from internal and external threats, including political violence, insurgency, and the breakdown of rule-based governance (Okoli & Iortyer, 2022). Political security encompasses the safeguarding of civil liberties, political rights, and the integrity of democratic institutions, ensuring that individuals and groups can participate in governance without fear of coercion or repression (UNDP, 2019).

Political security refers to the measures and conditions that ensure the safety and well-being of a political system. Buzan (1991) defines political security as the absence of threats to the core values of a political entity, including its institutions, leadership, and decision-making processes. It encompasses dimensions such as regime stability, democratic governance, human rights protection, and social cohesion. Political security plays a significant role in promoting stability, peace, and social progress by providing the necessary conditions for democratic governance and the protection of individual rights (Baldwin, 1997).

Furthermore, political security is closely intertwined with national security, as the stability of the political system affects a country's ability to address internal and external threats effectively (Kaldor, 2007). However, political security faces challenges from both internal factors like political instability, weak governance structures, social unrest, and ethnic tensions (Hauge & Ellingsen, 1998), as well as external factors such as regional conflicts, transnational terrorism, and interference in domestic political affairs by other states or non-state actors (Buzan et al., 1998).

Additionally, economic inequalities, corruption, and lack of access to basic services can undermine political security (Østby, 2008). To enhance political security, strategies such as inclusive governance, strengthening democratic institutions, fostering social cohesion, and addressing underlying causes of conflicts are recommended (Paris, 2004). Furthermore, the establishment of regional and international cooperation frameworks can contribute to political stability and security by facilitating dialogue, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding efforts (Buzan et al., 1998). By understanding the dimensions and significance of political security, policymakers and scholars can work towards creating resilient and secure political systems that promote peace, development, and the well-being of individuals and societies.

2.3 Review of Relevant Literature

Public administration plays a vital role in the effective functioning of governments and the delivery of public services. Public administration is a dynamic field that continues to evolve in response to changing societal needs, technological advancements, and governance challenges. Contemporary public administration practices focus on improving efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability in the delivery of public services. Administrative reforms, such as performance management systems, strategic planning, and evidence-based decision-making, have gained traction (Pollitt & Bouckaert, 2017).

Additionally, the adoption of digital technologies and e-government initiatives has transformed service delivery, citizen engagement, and administrative processes, enabling greater transparency, accessibility, and efficiency (UN DESA, 2018). Public-private partnerships and collaborative approaches are also increasingly used to leverage expertise, resources, and innovation in addressing complex societal challenges (Bryson et al., 2015). One key trend is the focus on public sector innovation, which involves exploring new approaches, technologies, and practices to improve service delivery and governance. This includes embracing data-driven decision-making, agile methodologies, and experimentation to drive innovation (Osborne et al., 2020).

Another emerging trend is the growing emphasis on evidence-informed policymaking, which seeks to bridge the gap between research and policy practice. Policymakers are increasingly recognizing the value of utilizing rigorous research and evaluation to inform policy decisions (Cairney et al., 2019). Moreover, there is a heightened recognition of the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in public administration. Efforts are being made to ensure fair and inclusive decision-making processes, foster diverse representation, and address systemic biases (Ferdinand et al., 2021).

2.4 Theoretical Framework

The study adopts Public Management (NPM) by proposed by Christopher Hood in 1991 because of its relevant. NPM emphasizes on performance-based management, results-oriented approaches, and market-like reforms in public administration. Equally, leveraging market mechanisms, and ensuring transparency and accountability, public administration contribute to a more effective and secure political system in Nigeria. The applicability of theory is that NPM provides valuable insights and principles that can guide Nigerian public administrators in their efforts to promote good governance and political security Nigerian public administrators can prioritize efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability in the delivery of public services. They can implement performance management systems, strategic planning, and evidence-based decision-making processes.

By emphasizing performance and outcomes, public administrators can ensure that resources are allocated effectively and that government actions align with the needs and aspirations of the Nigerian people. Furthermore, NPM can help address issues of corruption, bureaucracy, and inefficiency that often hinder good governance and political security. By introducing market-oriented mechanisms, such as privatization, contracting out, and competition, NPM aims to improve service delivery and reduce opportunities for corruption. These measures can enhance the transparency, accountability, and responsiveness of public

administration in Nigeria. However, the critic of this theory is that some scholars argue that NPM has narrow focus on efficiency and performance therefore, it may neglect broader societal goals, equity considerations, and the needs of marginalized populations.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This study adopts a qualitative research design with a descriptive and analytical approach. The focus is on analyzing existing literature, policy documents, and official reports to explore the role of public administration in promoting good governance and political security in Nigeria. This design is appropriate for examining patterns, evaluating institutional frameworks, and identifying gaps in current public administration practices.

3.2 Method of Data Collection

The study relies exclusively on secondary data. Data were sourced from peer-reviewed journal articles, government publications, policy documents, international organization reports (such as those from the UN, World Bank, and African Union), as well as books, academic theses, and credible online databases (e.g., JSTOR, Google Scholar, Scopus). Key themes examined include civil service reforms, governance indicators, political stability metrics, and public sector performance in Nigeria.

3.3 Method of Data Analysis

Data were analyzed using thematic content analysis. This involved systematically reviewing the collected literature to identify recurring themes, patterns, and arguments related to public administration, good governance, and political security. The analysis also included comparative evaluation of Nigeria's public administrative performance against international governance benchmarks. Key frameworks such as the World Governance Indicators (WGI) and Afrobarometer surveys were used to support the analysis.

3.4 Reliability and Validity of Data

To ensure the credibility of the findings, only authoritative and up-to-date sources (published between 2015 and 2024) were included. Data triangulation was employed by comparing multiple sources on the same issues to strengthen validity. In addition, peer-reviewed and institutionally verified sources were prioritized to minimize bias and ensure accuracy.

3.5 Ethical Considerations

Since the study is based on secondary data, there was no direct contact with human subjects. Nonetheless, all sources used were duly acknowledged in compliance with academic standards to avoid plagiarism and uphold intellectual property rights.

CHAPTER FOUR DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents and analyzes the secondary data collected in alignment with the objectives of the study. The aim is to evaluate how public administration influences good governance and political security in Nigeria through evidence drawn from existing literature, government reports, policy documents, and international governance indicators. The data are organized thematically around key variables such as administrative effectiveness, accountability mechanisms, institutional capacity, and political stability. The analysis draws on established governance frameworks and indices including the World Governance Indicators (WGI), Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), and reports from institutions such as the UNDP, World Bank, and Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

4.2 Results and Discussion

i. STRATEGIES AND MECHANISMS EMPLOYED BY PUBLIC ADMINISTRATORS IN NIGERIA TO ENHANCE GOOD GOVERNANCE AND POLITICAL SECURITY

Public administrators in Nigeria employ a range of strategies and mechanisms to enhance good governance and political security. These approaches include promoting transparency, accountability, citizen participation, institutional reforms, and leveraging technology (Awotedu, 2019; Ajayi, 2018). To ensure transparency and accountability, public administrators focus on open budgeting, procurement processes, financial management systems, and access to information laws. Citizen participation is encouraged through mechanisms such as public consultations, citizen feedback, and participatory budgeting. Institutional reforms target recruitment, training, performance management, and administrative procedures. Leveraging technology, public administrators implement e-governance platforms, digital systems, and online citizen engagement tools. Additionally, anti-corruption measures, including anti-corruption agencies and whistleblower protection mechanisms, are implemented to address corruption (Awotedu, 2019; Ajayi, 2018). These strategies and mechanisms collectively aim to enhance governance processes, citizen engagement, and accountability, ultimately contributing to good governance and political security in Nigeria.

In addition to the strategies and mechanisms mentioned above, public administrators in Nigeria also focus on capacity building and professional development to enhance good governance and political security. They prioritize training programs, workshops, and seminars for public officials to improve their knowledge, skills, and competencies in areas such as leadership, public policy analysis, and decision-making (Adebayo, 2020). By investing in human capital development, public administrators strengthen the capacity of government institutions to effectively address governance challenges and ensure political security. Furthermore, public administrators actively engage in collaborative partnerships and international cooperation to enhance good governance and political security in Nigeria. They participate in regional and international forums, exchange best practices, and learn from the experiences of other countries (Okafor, 2017). These collaborations enable public administrators to gain insights into effective governance strategies, adapt relevant approaches to the Nigerian context, and foster mutual understanding and cooperation among nations.

Public administrators also place a strong emphasis on ethical conduct and integrity in governance. They promote ethical standards, codes of conduct, and anti-corruption initiatives to foster a culture of integrity within government institutions (Adebayo, 2020). By upholding high ethical standards, public administrators set an example for other public officials, promote public trust, and contribute to political security by ensuring fair and just governance processes. Public administrators in Nigeria also focus on fostering effective intergovernmental relations and coordination to enhance good governance and political security. They recognize the importance of collaboration among different levels of government and work towards improving communication channels and coordination mechanisms (Okafor, 2017). By promoting intergovernmental cooperation, public administrators can address regional disparities, manage conflicts, and ensure consistent policy implementation across various jurisdictions, thus contributing to political stability and security. Public administrators in Nigeria also prioritize the promotion of social justice and inclusivity as part of their efforts to enhance good governance and political security. They work towards addressing social inequalities, reducing marginalization, and ensuring equitable access to public services and resources (Adebayo, 2020). By implementing policies and programs that promote social justice, public administrators mitigate social tensions and foster a sense of fairness and inclusiveness in society, thereby contributing to political stability and security.

Additionally, public administrators in Nigeria engage in proactive risk management and crisis response strategies to maintain political security. They develop contingency plans, establish early warning systems, and coordinate emergency response efforts to address potential threats to political stability, such as conflicts, natural disasters, or public health emergencies (Okafor, 2017). By being prepared and proactive in their approach, public administrators can effectively manage crises, prevent escalation, and ensure the safety and security of the population.

ii. IMPACT OF EFFECTIVE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION ON POLITICAL

STABILITY AND SECURITY IN NIGERIA

The impact of effective public administration on political stability and security in Nigeria is significant, with several key factors contributing to this relationship. First, the strengthening of institutional capacity through efficient public administration enhances the competence and functionality of government institutions, promoting political stability (Olowu, 2019). This is supported by the notion that strong institutions build public confidence and trust in the government, ensuring a stable political environment. Second, the enforcement of the rule of law by effective public administration ensures that laws are implemented impartially, promoting a predictable and orderly political system that enhances security (Adeleke, 2021). The rule of law fosters political stability by providing a framework for resolving disputes and protecting citizens' rights. Third, transparency and accountability within public administration contribute to political stability by minimizing corruption and increasing public trust (Olowu, 2019). When public officials are held accountable for their actions and decision-making processes are transparent, it reduces the potential for malfeasance and fosters a sense of security. Additionally, effective public administration plays a crucial role in conflict resolution and peacebuilding by providing mechanisms for dialogue and mediation (Amuwo, 2017). By addressing societal tensions and managing conflicts, public administrators can prevent violence and contribute to political stability. Finally, promoting inclusive governance through citizen engagement and addressing the needs of marginalized groups fosters social cohesion and reduces the potential for political conflicts (Adeleke, 2021). Inclusive governance creates a sense of belonging and strengthens political stability and security in Nigeria.

Furthermore, effective public administration in Nigeria has a positive impact on political stability and security by promoting economic development and social welfare. Through sound economic policies, effective public administration encourages investment, stimulates economic growth, and reduces poverty and inequality (Olowu, 2019). A thriving economy and improved living conditions contribute to political stability as they reduce social discontent and the potential for civil unrest. Additionally, effective public administration plays a crucial role in providing essential public services such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure, which are fundamental for societal well-being and security (Adeleke, 2021). By ensuring the efficient delivery of these services, public administrators contribute to social stability and mitigate potential sources of conflict.

Moreover, effective public administration fosters international cooperation and diplomatic relations, which have implications for political stability and security. Through skilled diplomacy, public administrators can establish positive relationships with other nations, promote regional peace, and address transnational challenges such as terrorism, organized crime, and migration (Amuwo, 2017). These efforts contribute to political stability by reducing external threats and fostering a favorable international environment for Nigeria.

iii. IDENTIFY FACTORS AND CHALLENGES AFFECTING THE

IMPLEMENTATION OF GOOD GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES THROUGH PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN NIGERIA

The implementation of good governance principles through public administration in Nigeria is influenced by various key factors and faces significant challenges. The commitment of political leaders and the presence of political will are crucial factors in driving the successful implementation of good governance (Onyishi, 2018). However, challenges arise due to corruption and a lack of accountability, which undermine governance efforts (Uwazie, 2018). Bureaucratic bottlenecks and inefficiencies within public administration hinder effective governance practices (Ezeani & Uche, 2018). Insufficient capacity in terms of resources and skilled personnel also poses challenges (Uwazie, 2018). Additionally, limited citizen participation and inadequate mechanisms for engagement hinder transparency and accountability (Ezeani & Uche, 2018). Furthermore, socioeconomic factors such as poverty, inequality, and unemployment impact governance implementation (Onyishi, 2018). Overcoming these challenges requires sustained efforts, institutional reforms, anti-corruption measures, citizen engagement, capacity-building initiatives, and addressing socioeconomic issues.

The implementation of good governance principles through public administration in Nigeria faces several factors and challenges that impact its effectiveness. Political instability and frequent changes in leadership can disrupt the continuity of governance reforms (Olowu, 2019). Ethnic and regional dynamics create additional complexities in ensuring uniform governance practices across the country (Olowu, 2019). Furthermore, a lack of coordination and interagency collaboration hinders the cohesive implementation of good governance principles (Adeleke, 2021). Political interference in public administration compromises merit-based decision-making and professionalism (Adeleke, 2021). Limited financial resources and infrastructure constrain the delivery of effective public services (Ezeani & Uche, 2018). Overcoming these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach that includes political will, institutional reforms, anti-corruption measures, capacity-building, interagency collaboration, and resource management (Ezeani & Uche, 2018).

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary of Findings

The study examined the role of public administration in promoting good governance and political security in Nigeria, using secondary data from scholarly sources and policy reports. The findings reveal that public administrators in Nigeria have adopted various strategies and mechanisms to enhance governance outcomes and ensure political stability. These include efforts to improve transparency and accountability through open budgeting, financial control systems, and anti-corruption measures such as the establishment of agencies like the EFCC and ICPC. Citizen engagement is also prioritized through participatory budgeting, public consultations, and feedback mechanisms, enabling inclusive decision-making. Institutional reforms such as merit-based recruitment, performance management, and administrative efficiency have also been undertaken to strengthen public sector effectiveness. The integration of technology, particularly e-governance platforms, has further improved service delivery, transparency, and citizen-government interaction. Additionally, capacity-building initiatives like training programs and international collaboration have been employed to enhance professional development among public officials. Ethical standards, intergovernmental cooperation, and proactive crisis management strategies also play a significant role in promoting political security and stability.

The study also finds that effective public administration significantly contributes to political stability and security in Nigeria. Strengthened institutions enhance the credibility and functionality of government, fostering public trust and confidence in state structures. The enforcement of the rule of law creates a predictable and secure political environment by ensuring fairness and justice in governance processes. Public administrators also facilitate conflict resolution and peacebuilding through dialogue and mediation mechanisms, which help prevent violent unrest and political instability. Furthermore, good governance practices that promote inclusive participation and equitable access to services foster national cohesion and reduce socio-political tensions. Effective public administration also supports economic development by implementing sound policies that encourage investment and reduce poverty. Improved access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure contributes to social welfare and reinforces political stability. In addition, the active participation of public administrators in international diplomacy and regional cooperation strengthens Nigeria's ability to address external threats and transnational challenges.

However, the study identifies several challenges that hinder the effective implementation of good governance principles through public administration in Nigeria. Corruption and weak accountability remain major obstacles, undermining public trust and administrative integrity. Political interference often compromises merit-based appointments and decision-making, leading to inefficiencies and patronage. Bureaucratic bottlenecks, limited financial resources, and infrastructural deficiencies further constrain the capacity of government institutions to deliver services effectively. Inadequate citizen participation and weak engagement mechanisms also reduce transparency and limit public oversight. Furthermore, the study highlights that ethnic and regional divisions, political instability, and leadership turnover disrupt policy continuity and governance reforms. Interagency coordination is often poor, leading to fragmented policy implementation, while the lack of skilled personnel and technical expertise hampers institutional performance.

5.2 Conclusion

The study examined the role of public administration as an impetus for good governance and political security in Nigeria. It has established that public administration is critical in shaping governance processes, delivering public services, and ensuring political stability. Through strategies such as transparency, accountability, citizen participation, institutional reforms, and digital transformation, public administrators have made concerted efforts to improve governance outcomes. The impact of these efforts is evident in areas such as conflict resolution, institutional strengthening, and social service delivery, all of which contribute to political stability and national development. However, the study also finds that the effectiveness of public administration in Nigeria is significantly hindered by persistent challenges, including corruption, weak institutional capacity, political interference, poor coordination, and inadequate resource allocation. These issues limit the realization of good governance principles and threaten the country's political security and development objectives.

5.3 Recommendations

There is a need for strong political will and leadership commitment especially from the Presidency, National Assembly, and State Governors to drive governance reforms and uphold accountability across all levels of public administration. Anti-corruption agencies such as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), and Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) should be further empowered and insulated from political influence to ensure transparency and restore public trust. Institutional capacity should be strengthened through continuous training and development of public servants, which should be spearheaded by the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, the Bureau of Public Service Reforms (BPSR), and the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS). Modernization of administrative systems should be championed by the Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, and the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA).

Public participation in governance should be institutionalized by the Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation, National Orientation Agency (NOA), and civil society organizations through the creation of inclusive platforms for dialogue, consultation, and oversight. Fourth, interagency collaboration and federal-state coordination mechanisms should be improved under the oversight of the National Council on Development Planning and the Nigeria Governors' Forum to promote policy coherence and eliminate duplication. Fifth, adequate budgetary allocations should be made by the Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning, with legislative backing from the National Assembly, to key governance and service delivery sectors, while the use of technology for monitoring and evaluation should be led by NITDA and the Office of the Auditor-General.

for the Federation. Public administration should prioritize inclusive policies that promote equity, social justice, and national unity. This responsibility lies with institutions such as the Federal Character Commission, National Human Rights Commission, and relevant ministries including those of Women Affairs, Youth and Social Development, to foster long-term political stability and security in Nigeria.

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