Critical Issues Affecting Africa's Development: E-Government, Democracy and Democratic Principles, And Governance as an Alternative for Socio-Economic Development in Africa

Malang B.S. Bojang*

Sakarya University, Turkey.

Department Of Political Science and Public Administration

Abstracts

In search for answers to what is wrong and where to locate what is wrong with Africa's development, this research attempts to explore critical governance issues affecting the development of Africa. This paper argues that the achievability of Africa's development depends to a larger extend on its political development. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to critically explore and evaluate Africa's developmental challenges such as bribery and corruption, bad governance, weak political institutions, and undemocratic values. These huddles are serious, real and many but could be meet through improvement and strengthening of governance and democracy. The importance of this research cannot be over emphasized as the result could be beneficial to both policy makers and scholars alike as to ascertain the problems and policy recommendations to avert the evils that befell on the continent. A total of 150 questionnaires was drawn where respondent (bureaucrats, masters and PhD students in related fields) were asked on Africa's development challenges. The finding shows that Africa's main development challenges were not only corruption, governance, and leadership, but weak institutions to uphold political accountability. Some African countries did well with regards to governance and combating corruption, however a major institutional reform is needed to achieve sustainable development.

Keywords: Africa, corruption, democracy, governance, e-government.

*Corresponding author e-mail: malangbsbojang@gmail.com

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Introduction

The post-independent African states has undergone several political and economic reforms yet there is little development to show for it. Africa by far, one of the richest continent endowed with natural and mineral resources in the world, but among the poorest in the world. Africa faces lot of development huddles which are real and many, but could be met via vibrant civil society and strong political commitment. These among many others are serious issues lacking in Africa. Today, however, it is widely recognized

by political scientists and international development organizations that, African civil society plays a crucial role in addressing the continent's most salient development challenges, namely poverty, governance, and peace building (Elone, 2008:2). Combating corruption, good governance, effective and productive civil service, democracy and democratic principles were key critical issues that needs scholarly creativity to address the challenges Africa is facing and also offer alternative solutions to policy makers for socio-economic development.

Although some researchers have paid attention to Africa's governance problems, much less research has done with regards to exploring alternatives for Africa's development, more so in the area of electronic governance (e-Governance/Government)—as a solution to bureaucratic deficiencies and red tapism in Africa. The purpose of this research is to critically explore and evaluate Africa's developmental challenges such as bribery and corruption, bad governance, weak political institutions, and undemocratic values. This paper shall also offer alternative solutions to strengthen and enhance sustainable development in Africa. This research also seeks to ascertain the causal link between political and economic development. These two developments are interwoven and dependent. Economists often argue that economic growth and free market economy are the key to creating and consolidating democracy; while political scientists posit that without significant improvements in governance, legal, and political institutions, economic growth will not be sustainable (Elone, 2008:1). These aforementioned claims are issues which this paper seeks to address and therefore, the importance of this research cannot be over emphasized. As Jeanne Elone (2008) noted, in Africa, the issue of "economy first" argument seems to be lacking. From 2000-2005, Kenya made a significant economic progress, recording a 5% annual growth rate. However, much of this progress has since unraveled due to electoral crisis of December 2007. Kenya's development goals were not thwarted by lack of economic growth but through political failure: lack of governance, massive corruption, ethnic favoritism, and electoral malpractice (Elone, 2008:1).

International Development donors have invested a lot of resources in Africa's development and yet there is little improvement to show for it. This could be partly due to poor and unproductive public policies coupled with bad governance. Since the 1980's, key development partners such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has implemented several policies/measures in a bid to enhance Africa's development. Equally, in the 1990's, the United Nations Rio's conference in Brazil was significant as the term "Sustainable Development" was coined. Ever since, the term has become a catchword around the globe capturing the attention of world leaders, donor partners, and civil society organizations alike. This development cannot be achieved in isolation of strong political and governance systems which is inadequate in Africa. The dilemma in Africa is lack of leadership, and dormant and reactive politician especially opposition parties.

Arguably, undemocratic values, poor governance and corruption are the most important systemic factors that contribute to underdevelopment and poverty in many countries. Because of poor governance and corruption, the institutional foundations of most developing countries are weakened, public funds are misappropriated, and policies and programs aimed at reducing poverty and fostering sustainable economic development are undermined (Mudacumura & Morçöl, 2014: vii). This paper argues that without significant improvement in political structures and institutions, economic growth and sustainable development would be an illusion for Africa. Under this argument, this research seeks to find empirical answers to these research questions: (1) What does political leadership mean for African? (2) Can western democratic model provide solutions to Africa's governance woes? (3) Does significant improvement in political governance lead to socio-economic development in Africa? In this context, this research aims to ascertain the nexus between political advancement and socio-economic development.

It appears that Africa's failure could be largely attributed to frequent leadership change through military intervention, unclear ideology, and weakened political institution. A call for a focus on leadership and governance is timely, important and no doubt topical, reflecting the worldwide thrust toward political and economic liberalization (Afegbua & Adejuwon, 2012:141). This shows that many assumed to leadership position without prior knowledge of it. This is the trend in most African countries and as such seriously hinders the socio-economic development of many states. The challenges generated by political, social, and economic stability in the continent of Africa could bedeviled largely to leadership and governance problems.

It appears that while African states are lock in political deadlock, poverty, and massive corruption, the Asian tigers, Europe and North America, has forged ahead politically and economically. The long years of political misrule and of course bad governance exemplified by personalized political regimes and ruthless dictatorships left most African States politically demobilized and economically decapacitated with an immiserised population ravaged by poverty, illiteracy and disease. Regrettably, Africa harbors the highest stock of the world's poorest people (Adejumobi, 2000:2). This precarious situation has left citizens with little option but to rebel against many constitutionally elected government in Africa. The 2014 rebellion in Burkina Faso was a clear testimony of the aforementioned claim where the longtime President Blaise Compaore wants to extend his 27 year rule. This has led to massive riot in the capital and other cities.

Another vital issue that bedeviled the continent of Africa is corruption. It appears to many political leaders in Africa that corruption is a way of life and this bizarre situation has further worsened the woes in Africa. Transparency International (TI) estimates that corruption in Africa siphons off 20 to 30 percent of funding from basic service provision. Additionally, many foreign newspapers and studies have reported that African leaders extract billions of dollars every year from their economically strapped countries (Oyedoyin, 2012).

Against this background, the objective of this paper is not only exploring the root causes of Africa's development huddles, but also solutions and alternatives to meet these challenges. E-governance, vibrant civil society, institutional reforms, political leaderships etc, were all what Africa needed to develop. This paper is developed in to three stages and the researcher uses qualitative methodology (survey) where a structured questionnaire was draw from bureaucrats and academic scholars. The first part deals with critical issues such as

corruption, ineffective political institutions, massive democratic deficiencies etc, as hindrance to Africa's socio-economic development. The second section of this paper shall explore alternatives to meet these development challenges. This research is concluded with some recommendations to enhance and strengthen sustainable development in Africa.

Bad Governance, Corruption, Undemocratic Values, And Political Challenges That Hinders Africa's Development.

Bribery and Corruption

According to Kraus (2007), corruption is worse than prostitution. The latter might endanger the morals of an individual; the former invariably endangers the morals of an entire country (Kraus, 2007). One of the biggest challenges of contemporary world is corruption. The term has a multi-faceted phenomenon and the concept contains too many connotations, thus difficult to define. Over the past two decades, there has been substantial amount of theories and empirical research on a wide array of explanation, types, and solutions to corruption. It is therefore important to note that, corruption exist everywhere but mostly entrenched in developing countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

Corruption is a disease, a cancer that eats into the cultural, political and economic fabric of society, and destroys the functioning of vital organs. In the words of Transparency International, "Corruption is one of the greatest challenges of the contemporary world. It undermines good government, fundamentally distorts public policy, leads to the misallocation of resources, harms the private sector and private sector development and particularly hurts the poor" (Amundsen, 1999:1; Transparency International). This cancer (corruption) retards development efforts, hinders administrative development in the bureaucracy and undermines political institutions by weakening the legitimacy of accountability of governments. According to Nduku (2014), corruption affects the proper running of governments, distorts the correct functioning of economic and political institutions and hampers transparency, exploits the human person for selfish interests, renders respect for rules obsolete and is a manifestation of structural sin. It is worthwhile to confront this disease more so in the public sectors.

In a bid to defined corruption and bribery for conceptual clarification, one could say that the two concept are too close to call. Corruption is conventionally understood, and referred to, as the private wealth-seeking behavior of someone who represents the state and the public authority, or as the misuse of public goods by public officials for private ends. The working definition of the World Bank is that, corruption is the abuse of public power for private benefit (Amundsen, 1999:2). The classical and most widely used definition of corruption is "behavior which deviates from the formal duties of a public role because of private regarding (personal, close family, private clique) pecuniary or status gains; or violates rules against the exercise of certain types of private-regarding influence" (Amundsen, 1999:3). The bribery is the payment (in money or kind) given to or taken by the state official in a corrupt relationship. In both concepts, one could say that there is a state—society relationship. The paper acknowledged that there are various type of corruption ranging from political, economic, judicial etc, however, this paper advances the opinion that political corruption is the most rampant in Africa. Political corruption is one the issues that African governments are facing and it has retarded growth in many African nations. Corruption is injustice and a threat to sustainable development. Political corruption is any transaction between private

and public sector actors through which collective goods are illegitimately converted into private-regarding payoffs (Heidenheimer et. al.1993:6). Corruption is a failure of governance and also an instrument used by African tyrants and dictators to enrich and over stayed in power.

Political corruption has not only undermined bureaucratic institutions in Africa but also administrative and economic development. For example, "since independence in 1960 to 2010, Nigeria has reportedly lost $500 billion" to corruption (Adeola, 2015, Sahara News). Again, the ex-petroleum minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, between 2010 and 2015 Mrs. Alison-Madueke was involved in a bribery and money laundering scandal. It was alleged that $20 billion of oil money had gone missing when she was in office. The argument of this paper is that, corruption is one of the causes of Africa's underdevelopment. There has been reports of substantial cases of embezzlement of public funds and capital flight by some African president and politician alike.

Besides, a research survey was carried out using selected samples drawn from a cross section of bureaucrats and scholars (mostly bureaucrats, masters and PhD students) from Africa. A total of 150 structured questionnaires were administered to participants, out of which 94% were successfully retrieved. The analysis involves the use of non-parametric tests utilizing binomial methods.

Table: 1

Variable options	Frequency	%
Political Leadership	36	25.5
Bribery and Corruption	31	22
Both	74	52.5
Total	141	100

Q3. What are the greatest challenge(s) facing the continent of Africa in the 21st century? (n=141)

Table 1 shows that, 22% and 52.5% of the respondents believe that corruption and bribery, and both corruption and political leadership are Africa's most pressing issues of the 21st century. Political corruption does not only lead to misallocation of resources, but it also affects the manner in which decisions are made. Political corruption is the manipulation of the political institutions and the rules of procedure, and therefore it influences the institutions of government and the political system, and it frequently leads to institutional decay as the ones in Africa. It also weakens the legitimacy of accountability of many African governments. According to Robinson (1998), the practice of corruption breeds wastage, aggravates budget deficit problems, reduces resources available for infrastructure, public services and anti-poverty programs. Corruption has also created unsuitable social environment for talented African elites, making them to seek better paid jobs abroad.

Africa is one of the richest continent in terms of natural and human resource, and yet the poorest of the poor. Over three hundred million people in Africa still live on less than US $1 per day (Anassi, 2004:19).

Governance Issues

The term "Good Governance" has been a buzzword capturing the attention of development experts and international community at large. In Africa, the governance debate came from the observation that structural adjustment polices/programs (SAPs) had not led to the expected economic growth. In 1989 report, the World Bank identified governance as the main cause of Africa's sustained economic crisis and pointed to corruption, nepotism, and bad policies as the factors that hampered development (Mudacumura & Morçöl 2014; A.M Kjaer 2014:20). The structural adjustment programs in Africa were woeful partly due to leadership challenges coupled with high rate of bureaucratic corruption. The high rate of corruption is a manifestation of institutional deficiencies in Africa. Again, the other explanation why the prescription of economic policy reforms had failed to cure the patient (Africa), the World Bank report pointed to "bad governance" in terms of corruption, inefficiency, and lack of accountability as the problem (World Bank, 1989: 60). To quote the Bank:

> Underlying the litany of Africa's development problems is a crisis of good governance. By governance is meant the exercise of political power to manage a nation's affairs. Because countervailing power has been lacking, state officials in many countries have served their own interest without fear of being called to account. In self-defense, individuals have built up personal networks of influence rather than hold the all-powerful state accountable for its systemic failure. In this way, politics becomes personalized and patronage becomes essential to maintain power. The leadership assumes broad discretionary authority and loses its legitimacy, information is controlled, and voluntary associations are co-opted or disbanded. The environment cannot readily support a dynamic economy (World Bank, 1989: 60-61).

The governance debate has been evolving for the past two decades in to the traditional view of governance, which focuses on state power steering the affairs of the government and the new governance concept which emphasize on network and partnership with stakeholder to initiate workable policy and making decision for societal good. The United Nations, Commonwealth, and some other non-state actors has begun to incorporated democracy, human rights, and governance in their programs and activities. Africa's development would not be sustainable without strong and committed political leadership, and accountability mechanism to fight against bureaucratic corruption.

The manifestation of civil unrest, long rule of dictators, corruption, undemocratic election, and monopolies media, were the root causes of bad governance in Africa. It appears that in the early post-independent, African countries performed well in the area of governance. The survey carried out reaffirmed the above stated claim.

Table: 2

Options	Frequency	%
Strongly agree	103	73.1
Agree	27	19.1
Strongly disagree	3	2.1
Disagree	8	5.7
Total	141	100

Q11. The first post-independent African leaders of Samori Toure, Nkrumah, Lumumba, etc initially had issues with western democratic model, but they impacted on national development of their respective countries.

Table 2 shows that, 73.1 % of the respondent strongly agreed that Africa's post independent leaders did well with regards to national development (and thus governance and democracy), 19.1% agreed, while 5.7% disagreed. It appears that post independent leaders of Africa had issues with western democratic model at the initial stage but had registered success stories in meeting the development needs of their respective countries. According to Jespersen (1992), Africa performed well in the early years of its independence, but failed its performance tests post 1973 as the region is now characterized by low growth rates, declining agricultural production, stagnating manufacturing, rising imports, and rapidly expanding external debts. Leadership and governance structure has undergone series of transformation since independence. However, contemporary African leaders are characterized with military and dictatorial rule, undemocratic and massive bureaucratic corruption. These challenges are real and serious and thus should be a concern for policy makers.

According to Calderisi's (2006) encyclopedic coverage of the persistent problems of inept leadership, institutional failure, and pandemic corruption in Africa, these problems intensified with the incursion of several thuggish dictatorial leaders upon gaining independence. In the words of Calderisi (2006), "the simplest way to explain Africa's problems is that, it has never known good government" and that "no other continent has experienced such prolonged dictatorships." Ayittey (2012) also argues that corruption epidemic in African countries owes its existence to the long term tenure of their dictators. Examples of past dictators with long tenure include Ethiopia's Emperor Haile Selassie (44 years), Gabon's Omar Odimba Bongo (42 years), Libya's Moammar Gaddafi (42 years), Togo's Gnassingbé Eyadéma (37 years), and Egypt's Hosni Mubarak (31 years).

Weak Leadership and Ineffective Political Institutions

For the past four decades, the crisis of leadership has bedeviled Africa due to unclear ideology, frequent changes of government, and civil wars. The issue of leadership had and has been the greatest challenge Africa is facing in the 21st century. Political commitment is lacking in Africa, and the leader's inability to understand the responsibilities and challenges that comes with governing developing society. As Afegbua and Adejuwon (2012) noted, leadership is one of the most observed and least understood phenomena on earth. The aforementioned claim is a clear evident in Africa where people rise to power without understanding of what governance is all about and hence leads to failed and autocratic leaders in Africa. The staggering wave of violence, insecurity, increasing crime wave, economic recession, coupled with the break in law and order are the attributes to the problem of leadership and governance in Africa. Therefore, the quest for good leadership is a sine-qua-non for governance and sustainable development (Afegbua and Adejuwon, 2012:141-2). The point to note here is that, good leadership is indispensable for governance and sustainable growth. In other words, they complement each other and one cannot be achieved without the other. Thus, it would be safe to say that there is a nexus between political leadership and sustainable growth.

The World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and development donors has recognized that Africa's inability to meet its development huddles are partly due to weak leadership and poor institutional structures to hold political officials accountable for their actions. The numerous problems which have been bedeviling African states vis-à-vis ethnic and communal clashes, increasing crime wave, drug trafficking, advanced fee fraud etc, have been blamed on ineffective leadership (Afegbua and Adejuwon, 2012:142). The Rwandan genocide, civil wars in Sierra Leone, Liberia etc, is a clear testimony of the aforementioned claim. As a result of leadership woes, abject poverty, corruption, civil wars, etc, Africa is being describe as the 'dark continent'.

Another predicament of the continent of Africa is poor institutional structures which is often blame on bureaucracy. The principle of checks and balance remains an abstract idea which left leaders to treat their nations as their own property. This has further weakened bureaucratic institutions for proper accountability and hence massive corruption at top level.

Bureaucracy is blame for Africa's institutional weaknesses. Bureaucracy has been largely criticized throughout much organization theory and management literature, having been seen as inefficient and incapable of being able to respond to external changes. Instead, a variety of more fluid and flexible organization forms, capable of responding to new challenges and new human demands and expectations are advocated. Bureaucracy is, for its detractors, one of the predicaments of modern life and must be examined as what is, at best, a functional solution to administrative problems and, at worst, an immediate and living threat to the open society. As Gormley and Balla (2013) noted, contemporary government addresses issues that are not only wide ranging but often complex. Bureaucracies are also valuable to government actors pursuing specific, self-interested goals (Gormley & Balla, 2013:76-7). "Bureaucracy is a term so loaded with negative meaning for most people that, it is mainly used as a negative rhetorical resource and it is difficult to make an explicit ideological case for bureaucracy" (Thompson and Alvesson, 2005: 105). Bureaucracy has many detractors and few friends. Bureaucratic institutions in Africa are used as scapegoat for administrative challenges the continent is facing. A number of authors criticized and exaggerate the problems and do not acknowledge that governments and organizations are capable of working quite well (Goodsell, 2004:19). This paper advances the opinion that, the problem is not bureaucracy *per se*, but rather the institutions within which bureaucracy operates is the problem. However, Africa needs institutional and bureaucratic reforms to attain sustainable development.

Democracy And Democratic Principles, E-Government and Good Governance as an Alternative for Africa's Development.

Democracy and Democratic Principles

One of the daunting challenge of contemporary African states is democracy. Many see it as a foreign concept that contradicts the African traditional beliefs and principles. However, this claims are baseless and politically motivated. It has been empirically proven that significant improvement in democracy would lead to socio-economic development. The developed countries such as America, England, and France etc, is a clear testimony of the above stated claim. Democracy has expanded over the past few decades with challenges and misconceptions. As Larry Diamond (2005,b) observed in the opening statement of his report

on *Promoting Democracy in Post-Conflict and Failed States: Lessons and Challenges* that, 'as the number of democracies has increased—from about 40 in 1974 to around 120 today (slightly over 60 percent of all independent states)—the task of promoting democratic transitions and consolidation has become more difficult, because the countries with the economic, social, historical and geographic conditions most conducive to democracy have already installed (and in many cases, largely consolidated) democracy' (Diamond,2005 b:1). Here, it is vital to note that democracy has a greater tendency to succeed in countries where the economic, political, and social conditions are favorable.

For any meaningful development in Africa, political institutions need a massive reform that exercise authority over a state, initiate and execute policies, extract and distribute revenue, produce public goods and services, and maintain order by wielding an effective monopoly over the means of violence in a state. African nations that have established a set of political institutions has recorded massive growth rates. As Jeanne Elone (2008) pointed, from 2000-2005, Kenya made a significant economic progress, recording a 5% annual growth rate (Elone, 2008:1)—which was attributed to the strong political institutions established in Nairobi. Democracy and democratic principles are key in creating and consolidating economic growth and free market in Africa. The same is true for Ghana as they have consolidated democratic institutions. According to Larry Diamond (2005, a), 'after four increasingly competitive, transparent, free, fair and well monitored national elections under the 1992 constitution, we can now say that electoral democracy is becoming, or perhaps has become, institutionalized in Ghana'. This is a very important and for Africa hopeful achievement.

Democratic principles such as rule of law, freedom of speech, human rights, periodic free and fair elections etc, are key elements for Africa in meeting its contemporary development challenges. Some African states has made significant strive in strengthening democratic principles yet the issue of rule of law and human rights still pose a threat. Electoral democracy in Africa has improved in some countries such as Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal, while in some countries it remains stagnant and bad/poor. Electoral democracy is important because it enables the people, at periodic intervals, to hold their rulers accountable, and to replace the government of the day if it does not perform. Further, it enables people to elect representatives who will respond to their developmental needs and concerns and—one hopes—monitor government and hold it to account on an ongoing basis (Diamond, 2005a:2). The point here is that, election is a tool or means which the citizen could use to effect change in government and it also makes leaders accountable for their actions. This could enhance sustainable development in Africa.

Again, civil, economic and political freedom is a fundamental element to achieve sustainable growth. As Larry Diamond highlighted;

> "Liberal democracy requires extensive public freedoms of speech, press, information, association, assembly, movement, and so on. This is simply fundamental. Only in a free society with a vigorous public space can we realize all of the other aspects of liberal democracy and good governance I am going to enumerate here. Only if people are free to organize, protest, and petition, only if groups can assert their interests and values, only if the media can report, investigate, and expose government policies and actions without fear or favor, can there be meaningful competition, participation, responsiveness, transparency, and accountability. Only in a climate of true political

and civil freedom can a country achieve the absolute fundamental condition for development: responsible government—that is government that is committed to the advancement of the public good, rather than the private interests of its own officials and their families and their cronies" (Diamond, 2005a:2-3).

Democracy also calls for general participation which could be a catalyst for competition and thus effective government. In the words of Abraham Lincoln, 'our nation was one conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal". And our civil war was to ensure the survival of government "of the people, by the people, for the people" (Mosher, 1982:4). The point to note here is that, democratic government should be responsive to the needs and aspirations of its people. People in all sectors of the society should be involved in decisions that affects their lives. Minority groups, and marginalized groups should be involved in public policy decision making process as this will increase a sense of ownership in government projects.

Studies have shown that, the level of corruption tends to decrease with increasing levels of economic prosperity and democratic rule. Democratic institutions need to be strengthen in order to fight against corruption. Bureaucratic and political accountability can only be effective in a democratic state. Institutions such as judiciary, court and other watchdog bodies needs to be free from political control of the executive. Corruption is eating the fabric of African society and has degraded the continent to poverty, inequality, and underdevelopment. This cancer (corruption) needs to be eradicated by improving and strengthening our democratic institutions. In a nutshell, democracy will not only help eradicate corruption, but it would enhance political equality and also hold African rulers accountable for their actions and decisions.

Good Governance

The World Bank, IMF, and other international development donors view Africa's inability to attain high level development partly due to it records of bad governance. Good governance is a means to achieve socio-economic development especially in Africa where there is high influx of foreign aid with little result to show for it. The World Bank indicators of good governance encompassing democracy, transparency and accountability, it may be said that, the whole idea of good governance is that of a participative system in which those who are called upon to govern on behalf of the people are motivated with a will to giving their best, serving and doing good to the people, solving their problems and making their lives more liveable, satisfying and enjoyable (Subbarao & Kumar, 2015:89). Governance is development oriented and aims at improving the living standard of people.

According to Larry Diamond (2005, a), good governance consists of several dimensions. One is the *capacity* of the state to function in the service of the public good. Effective functioning requires knowledge of the policies and rules that best serve the public good, and hence training of state officials in their various professional realms. Productive and resourceful civil services is all that Africa needs to develop. Another principle of effective governance is commitment to public good. This requires effective leadership which is lacking in some African countries. Commitment to public good is a viable option for Africa's socio-economic development. A third dimension of good governance is *transparency*, the openness of state business and conduct to the scrutiny of other state actors and of the public. Transparency requires freedom of information, including an act to

ensure that citizens can acquire information about how government makes decisions, conducts business, and spends public money (Diamond, 2005a:5). Effective political and economic governance in Africa will not only make rulers accountable for their actions and decisions, but it would also enhance and promote rule of law in the continent. This will breed political legitimacy and stability in Africa. This is vital because development can only be meaningful and sustainable in a peaceful and conducive environment.

E-Governance

Bureaucracy is often blame for Africa's institutional and administrative deficiencies. Bureaucracy is often associated with waste and inefficiency and such is the case for Africa. As Charles T. Goodsell (2004) observed in his book *'the case for bureaucracy'* that, only the devil himself would make a case for devil. Only a lunatic would come to the defense of the indefensible (bureaucracy). However, e-Government could defend or provide alternative to Africa's bureaucratic challenges. E-Government could be the solution to Africa's administrative huddles. Many scholars give different names as digital governance, e-Government/Governance, internet government etc. The term e-Government emerged in the late 1990s, but the history of computing in government organizations can be traced back to the beginning of computer history. A literature on "information technology (IT) in government" goes back at least to the 1970s. The term e-Governance is born out of internet boom.

According to Munyoka & Manzira (2014), e-Government (e-Gov) 'refers to the use by government agencies of information technologies (such as Wide Area Networks, the Internet, and mobile computing) that have the ability to transform relations with citizens, businesses, and other arms of government (Munyoka & Manzira, 2014:86). The U.S Congress (2002) e-Government Act, define e-Government as "the use by the government of web-based Internet applications and other information technologies, combined with processes that implement these technologies, to

a) enhance the access to and delivery of government information and services to the public, other agencies, and other government entities or

b) bring about improvements in government operations that may include effectiveness, efficiency, service quality, or transformation;" [U.S. Congress, 2002].

Successful implementation of e-Governance in Africa would lead to better delivery of government services to citizens, improved interactions with businesses and industries, citizen empowerment through access to information, or more efficient government management. The resulting benefits can be less corruption, increased transparency, greater convenience, revenue growth, and/or cost reductions of government funds. The reason for the sudden rise in e-Government practices in the contemporary world is due to the fact that e-Government systems have the capability of promoting better governance (OECD, 2003). E-Government helps in achieving greater efficiency in government performance by raising service performance, and service delivery, by eliminating inefficient processes and reducing bottlenecks and red tape in the service delivery process as much as possible (see, Mutula, 2008; Nkohkwo & M.S. Islam 2013:253). It is however important to note that, e-Government initiatives also seek at improving government service delivery and citizen participation in the government. Citizen's participation in African governments is

inadequate if not lacking in most countries. E-Government will help breach this gap and hence increase transparency and accountability in the system of government.

However, despite the above stated benefits of e-Governance, it still faces a daunting challenge at the implementation level especially in Africa where most of the basic facilities are lacking. These challenges are real and it hinders the successful execution of e-Governance in Africa. As reported by Heeks (2003), 35% of e-Government projects in developing countries are total failures, 50% are partial failures, while the remaining 15% are successes (Nkohkwo & M.S. Islam 2013:254). These failures show that a further research is needed in the implementation level of e-Government in Africa which requires scholarly exploration. In a nutshell, e-Government could prove to be a solution to Africa's governance woes, and corruption. It could increase government accountability and transparency, and also a greater participation of citizen in government.

Conclusion

It appears that Africa faces numerous challenges ranging from governance, leadership, corruption and issues of democracy. Africa's slow motion of development could be partly blame due to these challenges. These hindrances are many and real, but can be met. Some countries did well in governance but still there is a need for improvement and more commitment if Africa is to succeed. Africa needs vibrant, dynamic and committed leaders to steer the affairs of the state. The success of one's country to a greater extent depends on the quality of leadership ones has. Africa needs rulers that are committed to the improvement of the welfare of their citizens. Leadership as an institution in Africa needs a major reform. This paper advances the opinion of term limits if Africa is to avoid or eradicate dictators. Long tenure in office breeds dictatorial leaders. However, it is important to note that despite Africa's leadership problems, this research opines and has recognized that Africa has few quite good leaders whom has development of Africa at heart.

Africa needs to improve its democratization; this is a loaded term, by it I mean giving citizens the right to express their views, and this will give the government the chance to know the problems and the ways they may be solved. Also it encourages scrutiny of leaders and the way public wealth is distributed. Vibrant economic policies alongside with democratic policies that are based on African norms and values could lead to socio-economic development in Africa. There are too many state deficiencies in Africa and therefore civil society needs to develop in order to fill the void created by government. Civil society organization plays a vital role in addressing Africa's most pressing development challenges. This argument is summed up in Larry Diamond's 2005 Democracy and Governance Lecture, "Without a strong, vigilant, transparent, and resourceful civil society, Africa cannot achieve development or sustain and improve democracy" (Elone, 2008:2). These organizations must be empowered in order to tackle Africa's development huddles.

Further, institutional reform is necessary if Africa is to eradicate corruption. Institutional bodies should be independent from government control if corruption is to be combated and defeated in Africa. This would increase transparency and accountability. Strong political institutions will aid measures against corruption, open up the political and economic system to competition and have appropriate macroeconomic policies for development.

This paper recommends that, Africa to take a lead role in solving its problems rather than seeking outside assistance. This could be done via the promotion of trade between African

countries. African Union (AU) should initiate and implement a two term limit for all member states through dialogue, and that no president should rule more than two terms. Again, the A.U member countries must put resources together in order to improve the continent's energy sector, without which e-Governance would be an illusion. Further, African government's needs to invest more into education especially in the fields of science and technology. Studies have proven that democracy and e-Government are likely to succeed in countries with high level of literacy. Above all, the development of the educational system is the surest path to Africa's development.

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