POLITICAL LEADERSHIP:
A DESIDERATUM FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA'S FOURTH REPUBLIC

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Abstract
This paper seeks to evaluate the impact of political leadership on national development in Nigeria's Fourth Republic. Effective and robust political leadership is germane to the actualization of government as it provides a veritable platform for the participation of the masses in governance, guarantees the survival of the polity as well as legitimacy of government. Evidence of performance of the political elites have been mixed in extant literature with some studies indicating that they have performed quite creditably in that regard, while others found the reverse to be the case. This study employs elite theoretical framework of analysis. Secondary sources of data are adopted which include: textbooks, journals, and newspapers among others. Qualitative analysis is adopted for this study. From the critical analysis of the nexus between political leadership and national development, this work provides an insight and also, identifies the militating factors to include: preponderance cases of corruption in the public service; continued petro-dollar dependency syndrome; ethnic-politics; pervasive nature of patron-client politics in Nigeria's party system; and the technological crisis, among others. Therefore, the study recommends that political leadership while in government should, among other things, ensure that there is viable anti-corruption institutions in place with the operators being insulated from partisan politics; diversification of the economy; value re-orientation to citizens on national interest; prohibition of patron-client politics in Nigeria's political landscape; and embracing of technological innovations to meet with the global trends.

Keywords: Leadership, development, political leadership, national development, and Nigeria's Fourth Republic.

Introduction
The post-colonial and contemporary Nigerian-state has witnessed political leadership of both the military and civilian rule. From independence, the military has ruled for a very long time of the 56 years of our nationhood. In 1999, with the return of a civilian rule, it marked the *Fourth Republic* of the nation's democratic experiment. The citizens celebrated this development from both at home and abroad as a landmark event under the administration of President Olusegun Obasanjo; though, amidst fears and apprehension as regards the possibility of military

intervention in political terrain of the country. This intervention is against military's traditional roles of guarding and protecting the territorial integrity of the state against external act of subversion, aggression, pillage as well as preventing incidence of internal subversion, especially in developing countries (Egbo, 2001, pp.14 & 15).

In establishing the circumstances that culminate to military incursion in political landscape, Nwosu and Ofoegbu cited in Egbo (2001, pp. 6 & 7) aver that the circumstances occur when: the military institution become preponderant in state affairs; the military's interest supersedes other interests in the state; the state's institutions structured to propagating military ideals; and, the situations where the military overtly influences the political process of the country. The military justifies their venturing into political leadership on the premise that the civilian leaders are most corrupt and bereft of political will to drive governance.

With the nation being synonymous with corruption, President Olusegun Obasanjo on assumption of office at the inception of the Fourth Republic embarked on routine shuttle diplomacy. The essence was to project Nigeria's image abroad as not being corrupt and lure foreign investors to the country. The Nigerian citizens in this democratic dispensation have high expectations on the political leaders. They yearned for political leadership that would have new philosophy; new practices of politics that is not based on narrowness and opportunism of the past, and new generation of leadership that have societal and economic agenda that would transform the lives of citizens by providing the basic material needs—electricity, accessible water, good roads, health care, education, employment among others (Bassey and Agbor, 2015, p. 144).

In a democratic setting, effective and robust political leadership is not only pivotal to the actualization of government policies, programmes or party ideologies; but, the provision of veritable platform for the participation of the masses which indispensably guarantees the survival of the polity and, of course, the legitimacy of that government. In this participatory process, the importance of political leadership that would engender national development must take into cognizance of the way and manner in which selection and appointment of cabinet members and heads of government agencies and parastatals are made (Bedeian, 1986, p. 466).

From Nigeria's post-independence experience, the country has been characterized by specter of leadership failures. This development has subjected the masses to penury—a situation where people's living conditions are unbearable. There can only be national development consequent upon the nation having leaders with resilience and political will to providing the necessary touchstones of development. A critical interrogation of this trend is posited by Kukah (2013) as:

> How do we explain the fact that after over 50 years, we are unable to generate and distribute electricity, supply water to our people, reverse the ugly and avoidably high infant mortality, set up and run an affective educational system, agree on rules of engagement for getting into power, reverse the circle of violence that attends our elections, contain corruption, instill national discipline and create a more human and caring society?

In the Fourth Republic, Nigerian nation-states with over 250 ethnic

nationalities have been in undaunted with preponderant cases of the political leadership's inability of developing the nation. As a democratic state under federal arrangement, the system provides for multi-party politics that stands to provide alternative leadership where ideals and democratic ethos are prioritized consequent upon a failed political party that controls state power.

Situating the Problematique

The political leadership is expected to demonstrate political doggedness that would culminate to national development within the arrays of its corporate responsibility. This is pertinent because, the leaders who Nigerians entrust their will to lead them on a *social contract* basis ought to live up to expectations. Nigeria has had various kinds of leadership—colonial, military, and civilian. Each of these regimes had its economic reformations that could bring about development. However, consequent upon the inception of civil rule, the nation has introduced series of economic policies that is meant for national development. Some of the Fourth Republic reforms are: National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), Vision 20: 2020, and Transformation Agenda among others as against the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), Privatization programme, and Indigenization policy of the past.

In spite of these well articulated reforms, a cursory look at development indices still show that development is elusive in Nigeria. Different people have occupied leadership position in the country but, it is worrisome to note that appreciable developmental fortunes elude most state of the federation. The leaders have not proportionately harnessed the nation's endowments—human and natural in most appropriate manner. Why this ugly scenario? Could it be that Nigeria lacks good leaders with political will that can bring about national development? It is against the backdrop of this truism that this paper attempts to find out the impact of the political leadership on national development in Nigeria's Fourth Republic.

The study is important based on the role the political leaders are obliged to play on assumption of office which is, among other things to work for national development. Their roles are very crucial one for nation building and development in all the tiers of government. Political leadership has a link between the political and economic life of any nation. Their roles call for solving any problem(s) that militate(s) against national development (Nnoli, 2003, p. 255). This study will, therefore, help to open up the failures of the political leadership in Nigeria and then provide workable ways to stem such trend so as to have national development in Nigeria.

Objectives and Assumptions of the Study

The pervasiveness of political leadership failures have subjected the state to development challenges, extreme poverty and crises which culminate to loss of lives and property. This makes or raises questions on the role of the political leaders in advancing national development. For this reason, the study seeks to achieve the understated objectives:

i. To examine the role of the political leadership in the delivery of developmental fortunes in Nigeria.
ii. To identify the challenges of the political leadership in entrenching development in Nigeria.
iii. To suggest ways of enhancing the political leadership's capacity for development in Nigeria.

Pursuant to the afore-stated objectives, the study makes the understated assumptions:
i. The political leadership has great role to entrenching developmental fortunes in Nigeria.
ii. Failures of political leadership inhibit development in Nigeria.
iii. The political leadership can be enhanced in their capacity for development in Nigeria.

Methodology and Theoretical Framework

This research employs qualitative approach. Data generated through secondary sources are from textbooks, journals, and newspapers among others which help to elicit useful information for the study. Analysis is made from the inferences drawn from the extant literature. The mode of analytical presentation appears in themes which are designed to address the objectives of this paper.

The use of theory in any political discourse or research work in general is very crucial. This is because, as a set of interrelated constructs/concepts, definitions and propositions, it represents the systematic view of phenomena as it specifies relationship among variables in order to explain or predict the observed phenomena (Ugwu, 2006, p. 81). This study employs elite framework which will guide and aid our relevant perspective in the analyses of the collected data.

Elite theory is most germane in the understanding of how the society works. It is popularized by scholars like: Vilfred Pareto, Gaetano Mosca, Roberto Michels, and C. Wright Mills. This presupposes the pluralist view on how power is distributed in the society. It assumes that political power is concentrated in the hands of a minority group which in the view of Mosca (1939, p. 50), asserts that two classes of people appear in any given society—a class that rules and a class that is ruled. The first *"performs all political functions, monopolies power and enjoys the advantages that power brings, whereas the second, the more numerous class, is directed and controlled by the first…."* The thrust of this thesis is that every society is consisted of two sets of people that are broadly classified as: the selected few that are capable and have the right to lead, and the vast majority of people that are destined to be ruled (Varma, 1975, p. 144). By this, it means that the functions of the political leadership of any society are encompassing and thereby, determines the political, economic, and socio-cultural among other matters in its activities. The assumptions of the elite theory are as follows:
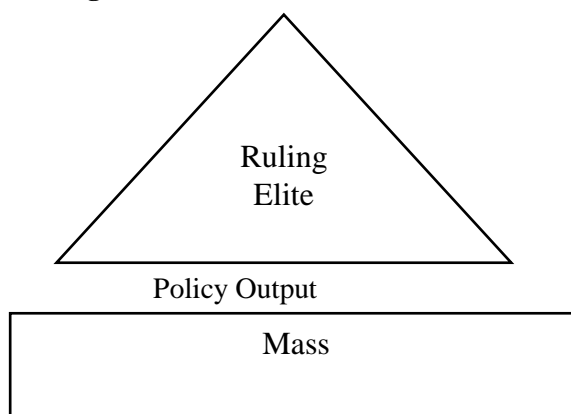i. Division of society into two unequal parts—a few who have power and many who do not;

ii.   Only a small number of persons allocate values for society and not the masses;

iii.   The governing elites are drawn inappropriately from the upper socio-economic strata of the society and not, the masses;

iv.   Non-elites movement to the elite position must be slow and continuous so as to maintain stability and avoid resolution. Only non-elites who have acquired and accepted basic elite consensus can be enlisted into governing aides;

v.   Elites share a consensus on the basic values of the social system and the preservation of the system;

vi.   Public policy does not reflect demands of the masses but rather the prevailing values and references of the elite. Changes in society are usually incremental rather than revolutionary in order not to alter the status quo; and

vii.   Active elites are subject to relatively little direct influence from apathetic masses influence them (Dye and Zeigher, 1996, p.294).

Implicit in the above assumptions of the elite theory is that changes and innovations in public policy that translate into national development are dependent on what the elites consider as their own values and not, the values of the masses. For Okereke cited in Ugwu (op cit, p. 94), utilization of the elite theoretical framework is not in doubt. This can be underscored on the premise that the elites often dominate and determine the course and direction of national development. The masses are just helpless, powerless and voiceless since, policy choices are defined and determined by the elites who are made up of the middle and upper class people in societies as well as having the skills and qualities required for leadership.

The masses directly or indirectly play significant roles in the emergence of the elite's class in the society through electoral process. For Bottomore (1966), the masses cannot be said to be governing in essence through their participation in popular elections and party competition. He opines that policy problems which the people (masses) rarely decide through periodic election are shortchanged. This is because, elections are only important for the elites' symbolic values. The masses are only incorporated into the system by ascribing a role for them to play on the election's day and the political party to identify with.

While the forces (in-puts) generated in the environment affect the political system as outputs in system's perspective, public policy or policy outputs constitute the preferences and values of the ruling in the society by the supposition of the elites' perspective. The masses are seen as being largely passive, apathetic and ill-informed; then, mass sentiments are more often manipulated by the elites instead of their sentiments eliciting sympathy from the elites. Communication between the elites and the masses is always *top-down flows* as illustrated below.

Figure 1: **The Political Elite Diagram**

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                /  Elite  \
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              Policy Output
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Source: Henry in Ugwu (ibid).
Source: Henry (2002, p. 295**)**

Perspectives on Leadership
       Good leadership is pivotal as it brings the necessary changes that help the country to progress through the establishment of well-articulated focus on development for all. In every institution, someone must assume leadership capacity while others follow his directives to accomplishing any set goals. As a leader, he demonstrates humility in pursuance of their objectives. For this, Mgbeke (2000, p. 71) sees a servant leader as one whose character embraces the core values of integrity, honour, duty country, self-less services and loyalty to the citizens they serve.
       A robust leadership is predicated on the core of good governance. In policy form, as observes by Boeinger cited in Bassey and Agbor (2015, p. 134) as "the capacity for exercising authority, solving problems, resolving conflicts, and implementing programs and policies." Implicit in this hinges on the point that leaders especially, political leadership in their capacities, should be able to lead well and provide the entire veritable platform for national development.
       Nwabufo (2013) in an article titled: In "Padding our symptoms in the name of Patriotism" notes that:

> Defenders of our failure are quick to say that the problems Nigeria face, are not unusual for a developing country, yet some countries attained very impressive development from mid-20th century to the present day… Nigeria has a lot to learn from countries ahead of which she once was. Discovery of oil in Dubai did not liberate the emirate from poverty. Judicious spending, wise investment and visionary leadership did.

       This calls for rectitude among the ruling class as any leadership that does not consider the total well-being of its citizens by making good investment and provision

of robust leadership is bound to fail at all times. The manner at which they spend public funds undermines national development.

Considering the importance of leadership, Tinubu (2013, p. 50) opines that "leadership and national development are twin engines. You need good leadership to conceive dynamic policies levels…." This means that the path to national development dependence on the leaders' conception and implementation of dynamic policies. These policies must be devoid of any interest that negates national interest. This is the price for good leadership.

Overtime, most Nigerian leaders have abuse their offices. This overtly manifests through deprivation of the citizens the right to choose who their leader becomes and human right abuses. President Musa Yar'Adua on assumption of office admitted that the process that brought him to power was faulty blamed on leadership problem that relegated the people's wish. The Odi and Zaki-Biam massacre in Bayelsa and Benue States exemplify cases of human right violations in Nigeria. The onslaught perpetuation traumatized Nigerian's people that are helpless. Ogar (2011, p. 44) maintains that the leadership of Abdulsalam Abubakar made an indelible mark in the annals of history for relinquishing power to democratic governance but, ended his transition programme in the enthronement of a dictator, General Olusegun Obasanjo; whose administration from 1999 to 2007 allowed for numerous constitutional and financial misdemeanours. He further posits that the non-abuse of power by the political leaders is tantamount to entrenching changes that would be geared towards massive transformation in the nation's socio-economic and political structures.

However, empirical evidences have shown that the perception that leaders have not been performing creditably is not always the truth. Some leaders have distinguished themselves in their areas of callings. For instance, in the health sector, the pioneer director of NAFDAC, Prof. Dora Akunyili had demonstrated an active and uncompromising leadership role in combating the menace of fake and adulterated drugs in the country. This was even when such deportment nearly caused her life by the drug barons who often times, tries to assassinate her as well as setting ablaze most installations of NAFDAC. The federal ministry of health also helped in the fight against polio eradication with the collaboration of the GAVI initiative and EU. In preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS, the government provided Anti-Retroviral drugs for the people living with the infectious diseases. The government supported the anti-AIDS Global Fund with $10 million (Akpan, 2005, pp. 39, 41 & 42).

According to Obikeze, Obi and Abonyi (2005, p. 254) what distinguishes effective leaders are the core competent attributes which include *empowerment* (where leaders monopolize powers but shares it with their followers); *intuition*(the ability to scan situations, anticipate changes, takes risks and build truest); *self-understanding* (recognition of one's strengths and weaknesses); *vision* (the ability to imagine different and better conditions and ways to achieve them); and *value congruence* (the ability to understand the organizations guiding principles and values of the employees so as to reconcile them).Political leaders with these attributes are bound to entrench national development.

Perspectives on Development

Human's habitation in the society needs development. This would be achieved through the demonstration of man's ingenuity to overcome and control the harsh realities of his physical and social environment. Development as a concept in Social Science has elicited divergent viewpoints by scholars.

From the liberal perspective, Meider cited in Okereke and Ekpe (2002, p. 3) sees development as not just the acquisition of industries but, ideals of modernization, increased productivity, social and economic equality, modern technical know-how, improved institutions and attitudes. It also hinges on the maximization of the growth of the Gross National Product (GNP) through capital accumulation and industrialization. While economic progress is pivotal to development, it goes beyond financial and material aspects of people's lives. This can be gleaned from the point of instrumental process of overcoming persistent poverty. This means there can be no development if poverty is not eliminated.

On their parts, the Marxists do not subscribe to the liberal views on the mitigating factors of development in developing countries. Corroborating the Marxist expositions on development Rodney (1972, pp. 9 & 10), observes that:

> Development in human society is many-sided process. At the individual, it implies increased skill and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and material well-being. At the level of social groups, it implies an increasing capacity to regulate both internal and external relations. In the past, development has always meant the increase in the ability to guard the independence of the social group.

Implicit in the above citation is that national development can only occur given the Marxists' conception of three cognate levels of development—individual, social group and mode of production respectively are taken into cognizance. From the first conception (individual), development viewed from the dialectical materialist binoculars, is not anchored on macroeconomic variables alone but, focuses on man and the entirety of his well-being. There can be no real development without man that constitutes the swivel and epicenter being developed. This individual development must cut across his mental sophistication, moral rectitude as well as material well-being. The acquisition of these indicators to a large extent, would lead to national development as man with his ingenuity and potential, contribute to increase productivity through the harnessing of forces of nature.

The second conception (social group) presupposes an increasing capacity to regulate both internal and external relationships; and, ability to safeguard the independence of the social group. The political leadership should accord independence to social group irrespective of their political, religious, and cultural leanings. This invariably, would enable them to exercise freedom and the ability to harness their natural environments, is dependent on how best they understand and apply the law of nature (science). Real development also anchors on the collectivity of social groups' efforts in exploring and utilizing nature.

The third conception (socialist mode of production) holds that development

can be real under the socialist mode of production as against what capitalist mode of production offers. Under capitalism, inequality, exploitation and crises are so pervasive. Nkrumah adduces foreign capital as exploitative rather than development of less developed countries (LDCs) of the world. Socialism is the dynamic force in development process as it protects workers' interests against surplus value expropriated by the bourgeoisie in production processes.

Okeke and Idahosa (2009, p. 51) consider development as tri-dimensional concept. It has utilitarian or consummation dimension which connotes increase in the quantity of usable items available to man in society; it has a behavioural or relational dimension which defines the nature of the relationship among men in society and among societies; and, there is the institutional and structural dimension which defines the institutional and legal framework which circumscribe the behaviours of men and streamline their relationship while they individually and collectively seek to gain greater access to material things of value in society. By this position, development must be seen from the point of articulated progress meant for individual, collectivity of individuals and institutional wise.

Knowledge Gap in the Literature
Scholars' positions on the discourse of political leadership and national development failed to actually address the challenges confronting leadership and development in this Fourth Republic. That is why this study is carried out with a view to fill in the gap in knowledge. This gap has underscored the need to establish the implications of political leadership to national development as quintessential to governance. There are understated and discussed accordingly.

Political Leadership and National Development: The Nexus
Political leadership though as an elusive concept, underlies that which is fundamental to understanding of the political processes and its outcomes. On the other hand, national development presupposes the ability of a nation in the improvement of the lives of its citizenries. The outcomes of leadership may be measured on the material well-being, such as an increase in the gross domestic product; or social, such as literacy rates; and availability of healthcare, such as hospitals among others. The link between these concepts in governance cannot be over-emphasized as it guarantees national progress and development. Political leadership and national development are intertwined at the conception of dynamic policies levels (ibid). On this premise, political leadership that is viable enhances developmental status of a nation across all tiers of government—local, state, and national levels. The nexus between political leadership and national development can be expressed based on how the political leadership can enhance development which among other things includes:

Human Security: The cardinal focuses of this concept is primarily on protecting people while promoting peace that could enhance sustainable development. Threat to human life has become a global issue which calls for the intervention of the political

leadership. The security of the individual has direct impacts on the security of the state and vice versa. The protection of individual's life regardless of one's ethnic, religious, political background is an obligation to the political leadership. The killings perpetuated by the Fulani herdsmen, the Boko-Haram sects, the Militants among others reveal the weakness of the political leadership. Development will continue to elude Nigerian state if these trends remain unabated.

Job Opportunities: The level of development of a country can be adjudged by the employable citizens. The number of graduates that are unemployed in the country is so high that one can easily conclude we have a failed state. There is no plan by government to absorb people on graduation. This undermines good governance which the political actors use to promote the health and well-being of its citizenry in a manner that is equitable. The appalling nature of unemployment has culminated to brain flight where capable hands seek solace overseas where there are efficient and effective leadership. The government is planned in a way that the collection of its revenues is efficiently managed and budgets plans and expenditures are not abused.

Access to Quality Education: Education is quintessential for human and economic development. Educated people are aware of the socio-economic scenario of the country and can help in the progress of the country. This can only be influenced by the environment within which it exists. Education in the twenty first century demands novelty, creativity, and integration of knowledge at global level, research, critical and analytical thoughts. How has the government been responsive to achieving these demands? The National Education Policies are built on enabling the learners to learn knowledge, develop conceptual and intellectual skills, attitudes, among others. These are values and aptitudes conducive for all round development of people's personalities.

Regrettably, public schools which ought to serve as the links for the transfer of these values are in deplorable state as against what was tenable in the 1970s and 1980s. Nigerians cannot afford paying fees for their children/wards in private schools due to financial involvement and resort to public schools that are plagued with dilapidated structures, unskilled teachers, wrong postings, and non-payment of salaries as at when due among others. The effect of this is that people would hardly become better Citizens since they are not bequeathed with the cognate latitude which education provides. This could be the reason why illiteracy remains the bane to our development as a nation.

Exemplary Leadership: Leadership is the art of leading others to achieve a goal that wouldn't have easily been achieved. Exemplary Leadership presupposes certain practices which include modeling the way, inspiring a shared vision, enabling others to act among others. How has our leaders demonstrated any of these qualities? Within the political spectrum, Nelson Mandela is one of few African leaders to have demonstrated these practices. His role in fighting and struggling for the downtrodden and espousing the principles of nation-building and co-operative governance around

the world is commendable. Leaders, who model the way, clarify their Values and become exemplary for others to emulate.

Nigeria's leadership is built on individualism against the collective will of others. Apart from this, leaders are beclouded with ethnic or sectional primordial's sentiments. This overtly manifests in the way and manner admission, recruitment, appointments and employments is done thereby, negating the essence of federal character and depriving the competent ones from occupying leadership positions in governance.

Accountability/Transparency: Leaders are expected to be accountable and transparent in governance. This calls for public officials to be responsible in the discharge of their duties and becomes imperative for them to be responsive to the needs of the citizenry. Mismanagement of public funds is so common among the political leaders. While in governance, statecraft suffers a great deal as leaders engage in shady transactions in order to enrich themselves and sustain the patronage of their political benefactors thereby, inhibiting development in Nigeria. Accountable/transparent leadership is of essence in leadership as it prevents corrupt practices and mismanagement.

The political leadership can be judged of being committed to development when the above elucidated points manifest in governance. When leaders enhance and consolidate these yardsticks of development, the nation would be developed. Regrettably, the leaders cannot be said to have performed creditably in this respect due to some constraints confronting leadership.

Challenges of Political Leadership in Nigeria: Implications for National Development

In every aspect of human's endeavours, leadership role is essential as it entails the ability or capacity of influencing the behaviours of people towards achieving a particular end. Especially at the political level, decisions and actions affect the entire members of a nation. With this, effective leadership presupposes development at all levels. These variables are intricately related as development depends on leadership and vice-versa. The political leadership of the Fourth Republic is confronted with gamut of challenges which inhibits national development. Among other things, the constraints to national development include:

Corruption: With the return of Nigeria to civilian rule in 1999, corruption has been the institutional problem to the political leadership on national development. Under the administration of President Olusegun Obasanjo, the government tried to redeem Nigeria's image in the international community by tackling corruption through the establishments of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC). Tribunals were also established for prosecuting offenders but, these have not been able to rid the country of corruption. The country has witnessed the preponderance cases of mismanagement by public officials across the tier levels of government—local, state and federal.

The 2006 Global Corruption Ranking by the Transparency International rated Nigeria 142 out of 163 in the rankings (Shehu, 2015). In the view of Klitgaard cited in Igwe (2012, pp. 82 & 83), there are three dimensions of institutional structure as causal to corruption. These include: "the monopoly of power of officials; the degree of discretion that officials are permitted to exercise; and the degree to which there are systems of accountability and transparency in an institution." Resultantly, this leads to embezzlement, kick-backs, rent-seeking, capturing of state power and host of others. No country can develop where the corrupt leaders are celebrated instead of being indicted.

Petro-Dollar Dependency: Petro-dollar dependency syndrome of the Nigerian-state has negatively affected national development. Consequent upon the discovery of oil in commercial quantity in Oloibiri in Bayelsa State in 1956, other sectors of the economy has been relegated to the background especially, agriculture which was hitherto, been the mainstay of the nation's economy. With the persistent fall in oil prices in the global market, it becomes problematic for the leadership to cope with quality service-delivery that is geared towards enhancing national development. Diversification of the economy through investment in other sectors is the sure-bet to national development. Apart from the appreciable increase in the GDP and GNP, diversified economy promotes *linkage effect* or *complimentary relationship* with other sectors. The effects of non-diversification subject the country to problems of balance of payment, hyper-inflation and poverty.

Ethnic Politics: Ethnic politics constitutes an inhibiting factor on progressive political leadership and national development. There is nothing wrong with ethnicity or ethnic consciousness because it depicts cultural identities of people in any given society. Even the foisting of different ethnic cleavages by the British government to be one state cannot kill the people's consciousness of their background. Azeez (2004) sees ethnicity as a sense of people-hood that has its foundation in the combined remembrance of past experience and common aspirations. However, this has been a contending phenomenon that confronts the political leadership in Nigeria as politics is premised on ethnic sentiment.

Ethnic politics has affected national development as leaders place premium on development along ethnic considerations. This trend continues to play latent role in Nigeria's body politics; thereby, creating a platform for conflicts among these ethnic groupings. This also determines voting patterns in Nigeria. According to Crowder (1973, p. 23), socio-political conflict is rooted in ethnic politics as a result of the artificial creation of Nigeria which the inhabitants often doubt the likelihood of them remaining as a political entity.

Patron-Client Politics: Patron-client politics as a trend has become a practice in the nation's party politics. A person contesting elective position mostly depends on political godfather to succeed. These powerful individuals are not only financiers of political campaigns but, they use wealth to deploy violence and corruption to

manipulate national, state, and local political systems in support of the protégés they sponsor. According to Edigin (2010), this trend is the cause of conflict and violence which have permeated the political landscape in Nigeria.

Under this trend, national development cannot be achieved. This continues to account for human right abuses. The cases of godfather/godson face-off that suffocate governance are that of Nwaobodo vs Nnamani quagmire, Saraki vs Lawal face-off, Adedibu vs Ladoja, Uba vs Ngige, saga among others. This does not only portend great dangers to our democratic experiments, but the very essence and validity of our existence as a state. The huge amount of monies expended by godfathers for their godsons' elections have totally monetized the electoral process and also, disqualifies men of integrity and honor from holding any elective offices.

Technological Crisis: Considering leadership inertia in the development of Nigerian-state, it has been observed with utmost dismay that the country which is endowed with material and human resources still suffocates with technological crisis. The innovations in technology help countries to curb sharp practices in the admission, appointment, recruitment, promotion in the public sector. This is not the case in Nigeria. For instance, the card reader machine used in the 2015 election was not configured properly to achieve positive results hence, its manipulation by politicians. The level of technology determines to a large extent the level of socio-economic development in any country. It also has direct link to the people's standard of living but, the political leadership in Nigeria seems not to appreciate the fact that technology is necessary for development at all levels. Oyebode cited in Bassey and Agbor (2015, p. 136) attributes this to "endemic poverty in the midst of phenomenal wealth, suffocating squalor, incredible ignorance and supervision, as well as ravaging disease."

Technology contributes to national development as the totality of means that enhance the provision of objects for human sustenance and comfort. It requires the application of knowledge that is systematic-base in the investigation of natural environment. Mode of production that is technological based tends to be productive. This in turn, leads to greater output. Greater production is the way out for prosperity, peace and progress as observed by a one-time president of America, Harry S. Truman.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This paper has attempted to illuminate on the place of political leadership in Nigeria's development in the Fourth Republic. It has equally elucidated on the nexus between political leadership and national development in Nigeria therefore, the importance of political leadership cannot be underestimated. Hence, the occupants of leadership's position consequent upon the masses entrusting their will to be led on a 'social contract' basis are obliged to demonstrate political doggedness that would elicit the masses confidence regardless of the composition of the Nigerian-state that toes along religious, ethnic, and political divides. Leaders are expected to attach premium to developmental issues at all levels and states in the country. The Nigerian

citizens on this democratic dispensation have high expectations on the political leaders. They yearned for political leadership that would have new philosophy, new practices of politics that is not orchestrated on narrowness and opportunism of the past, and new generation of leadership that have societal and economic agenda of reformation that would transform the lives of citizens by providing the basic material needs.

The trouble with Nigeria is squarely on leadership failure. The leaders are not willing to rise to the responsibility of their callings. As a result, within the arrays of its corporate responsibility, government has been caught in the web of leadership quagmire. This to a large extent has inhibited national development in Nigeria and as such, poverty, hardship, loss of lives and property among others becomes so pervasive in the country. Ultimately, the militating factors against political leadership on national development among other things include: corruption; continued petro-dollar dependency syndrome; ethnic-politics; patron-client politics, and technological crisis

In line with the above submission from the findings of the study, the researcher makes the following specific recommendations:

i.   There should be strong anti-corruption institutions where the actors would be insulated from partisan politics;
ii.   The political leadership should diversify the economy against the continued petrol-dollar dependence syndrome especially now that the oil sector is not booming as before;
iii. Government should have value re-orientation for citizens where national interest is   placed above ethnic cleavages;
iv.   Government should prohibit patron-client politics in nation's political landscape. This would invariably, accords men of honour and integrity the latitude to hold public offices for national development; and
v.   As a matter of necessity, government should embrace the innovation of technology in all sectors of the economy as a global trend.

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