

## Good Governance and National Value: Where Does Nigeria Stand At 53?

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### Abstract

The transformation of any country depends on the cultural, social, political and individual values of its citizenry. Undoubtedly Nigeria suffers from the absence of national values and structure relations among the political leaders. The epileptic social service, exam malpractice, ethno religious conflict, hostage taking and unequal allocation of funds due to the leadership problem left the entity in a faulty foundation. This dynamic relation is common to social diverse group motivations and political gladiators that manipulate the political process, to advance their self-interest, and the nation wallow in abject poverty. This paper explores the link between national values and good governance in tandem with leadership style in vogue. It is against this background that references were drawn from developed nations with particular national values. The paper adopts path-goal theory to analyze and generated data through document evidence and equally concludes that government should revive national values built on Nigerian concept to have a united plural society

**Keywords:** patriotism, loyalty, welfare, corruption, governance, transparent.

### Introduction

There is nothing to cheer or celebrate at the independence anniversary. Nigeria is 51, but it is still crawling. This is a country that is full of potentials. This country is blessed with abundant human and material resources. We have no excuse for this sorry state. We have not got our focus right. Political and ethnic differences on the Plateau, violence by Boko Haram, poverty, squalor and unemployment make the country to lay prostrate. We have voted for leaders who have turn round to oppress us. The lesson is that we should learn to use our votes wisely so that we can have good leaders in the future at the centre. Dr Samuel Adejare cited in Emmanuel Oladesu, 2011

The situation in Nigerian society at fifty three calls for a deep reflection for the betterment of the country. Patriotism, loyalty, honesty, lack of dedication to duty, cleanliness, obedience, self discipline, self reliance and respect for national symbols amongst other is identified as national values among citizens. Evidently in Nigeria there has been widespread of kidnapping, abduction, hostage taking, electoral malpractice, exploitation, bribery and corruption by people in the social strata of the society. Those in positions of authority have continued to relegate our national values to the background. The tribal sects under the aegis of OPC, Boko Haram, MASSOB, MEND, Arewa constitute insecurity insurgence especially to domestic and foreign investors who are afraid to come and invest. The Rebranding Programme of Yar Adua administration was a bold step to change the negative perception of the Nigerian state in local and international debut, but the motive to rebrand and make Nigerians believe on the optimal spirit of patriotism and celebrate “best theory” concept on the altar of the global community was futile. The campaign could have improved our national values to fast track our positive image as

a sovereign entity, but the unfortunate actions and inactions of few individuals pictures our image black and brown colour in the midst of “green-white-green”.

Nigeria has a post-graduate thesis in corruption, bad governance; political crisis, insecurity on the aegis of ethnic militia, sit-tight in governance, all this and more has contributed in denting our national values with uncertain political landscape. National values are qualities, principles and behaviours every nation held in high esteem for intensive desire of the nation. A national value is the behavior, conduct and aspiration of the people which the states encourage and promote from the people (Wikipedia, 2010). It is based on individual and collective qualities like the legal icon Chief Gani Fawehinmi is known for his personal values as human right activist as senior advocate of the masses (SAM) at all odds. In the same vein Prof. Chinua Achebe, a literal icon was a compendium of appraisal even when he was alive as a tested and trusted Nigerians who live up to expectation to tell government point black and white when they are wrong. The paper explores the link between good governance and national values in Nigeria at the ripe age 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The Nigerian project is configured for the interest of few individual elites, not for the populace. Philosophically, the entity wallow in a shallow, deep memory that no leader is ready to sacrifice his life to better the country instead he loots the country’s resources for self-enrichment (Odeh, 2003), coupled with parochial instinct among ethnic cleavages in Nigeria.

The ethnic identity by tribe movements and ethnic leadership at the grassroots generated heat in the political system, and Nnoli (1978) states that ethnic groups are a social formations distinguished by the communal character of their boundaries, language as the crucial variable for ethnic identity. Ethnic groups consist of those who are by virtue of their common ancestry, language and culture; it connotes the interaction among the members of the diverse groups, ethnic loyalty, feelings of attachment to one’s ethnic group. The basis of the ethnic prejudice found in a plural society of Nigeria is anchored on national disunity. These breed primordial sentiment which relegates universalism at the background and hampers national development at different point in time. The criterion for locating public industries in Nigeria is on ethnic line than the suitability on the area of development, and this excludes sharing of scarce resources (Osaghe, 2001).

### **Conceptual Framework**

**Good Governance:** According to Doornbos (2001:94) state good governance as used to invite judgment about how the country concerned was being governed, it enabled the raising of evaluative question about proper procedures, transparency, quality and process of decision making, and other such matters". In fact, it helps to differentiate the actual self-understanding of the ruling groups from their real causal contribution to the prosperity or misery of their subjects (Chabal & Simbine, 2000).

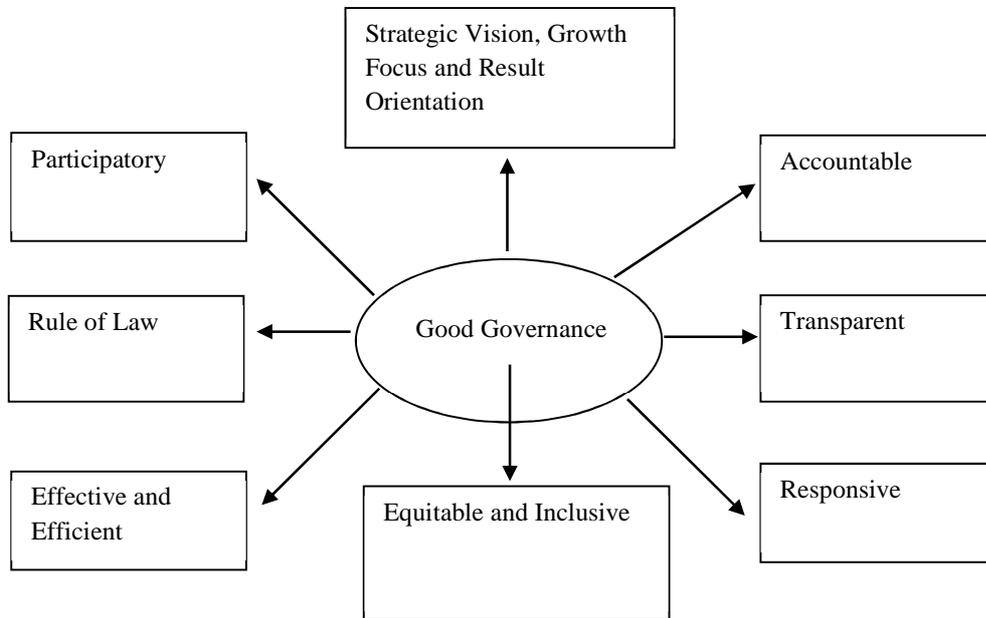
Actually, for Eyinla (2000:22), good governance means accountability, security of human rights and civil liberties, devolution of powers and respect for local autonomy, which all constitute a challenge to democratic regimes. Moreover, good governance has been linked to 'the extent which a government is perceived and accepted as legitimate, committed to improving the public welfare and responsive to the needs of its citizens, competent to assure law and order

and deliver public services, able to create an enabling policy environment for productive activities, and equitable in its conduct (Landell-Mill and Seragelden, 2000:17). The World Bank defines 'governance' as "the means by which power is exercised in the management of the country's economic and social resources for development" and 'good governance' as synonymous with sound development management (Potter, 2000: 379). It encompasses a sphere of public sector management; accountability and legal framework for reforms; information and technology; legitimacy of government; competence of governments to formulate appropriate policies, make timely decisions; execute them effectively and deliver social services to the people (Potter 2000:379).

Good governance is pivotal to a successful democratization and development. The presumption is that, for an enduring democratization, the basic tenets of good governance must be well institutionalized and internalized. The sound management of resources, the goal of development is considered assured. Davis (2003:1) asserts an exercise for the management of countries economic and social development in an environment devoid of rancor, ill will, strife, struggle and disdain." It is a sine qua non to achieve oriented goal with an overriding need to the frontier on the welfare of government to the governed. Good governance in Nigeria needs democratic stability as the propensity for political and economic plurality to enhance the electorates' choice.

### The Elements of Good Governance

The conceptual framework of 'good governance is characterized by participation, rule of law, transparency, responsiveness, equity, inclusiveness, effectiveness, efficiency and accountability as represented in figure 1'



Source: Lakshminarayanan and Sharma, 2006

**National Value:** National value is consistent ethics and ideological integrity applied on individual or collective will of the people. "A value is a conception, explicit or implicit, distinctive of an individual or characteristic of a desirable group, which influences the selection from available modes, means and ends of action. These definitions focus on the potential of both action and reward because it covers individuals and groups. Lesthaeghe & Moors (2000) argued that values are cultural imperatives that lead to certain actions. It is the belief the conduct personally or socially preferable to an opposite mode of conduct or end-state of existence (Rokeach 1973:5).

Summarily, Bilsky (1987:51) states five features of values as concepts or beliefs, desirable end states or behaviors, transcend specific situations, selection guide and evaluation of behavior ordered by relative importance. Schwartz (1992) emphasizes value as cognitive representations of three universal human requirements: biologically based organism needs, social interaction requirements for interpersonal coordination, and social institution demands for group welfare and survival. Values are evaluative beliefs that synthesize affective and cognitive elements to orient people to the world in which they live (Marini 2000:28). National values are treated as static mental structures, with little emphasis placed within the action, it is leading by example that is doing the right thing for right reasons not compromising core principles, it is moral, political or economic motivated type of behaviors (Dean, 2008: 16).

#### **Elements of national values**

**Patriotism** is the love, devotion to one's country which might or might not be the native land of the patriot. It believes in nationalism which is devoted to the national interest of a nation. It is a sense of unity among the country's inhabitants, particularly the natives of the land with a firm will to remain a sovereign government. It is necessary for protecting citizens and their way of life, freedom and participation in international organizations for major decision-making (Wise, 2003). Patriotism has to do with a person's support for his country by showing feelings and qualities of patriotism.

**Loyalty** is allegiance to the sovereign government of one's country, personal reverence to the sovereign and the royal family. It traces the word "loyalty" to the 15th century, as fidelity in service, love to an oath taken. Britannica gives meaning as one who is loyal in the feudal sense of fealty, lawful as opposed to outlaw, full legal rights as a consequence of faithful allegiance to a feudal lord (Wright, 2011).

**Honesty** is a facet of moral character and denotes positive, virtuous attributes such as integrity, truthfulness, and straightforwardness with the absence of lying, cheating or theft. It comes from active resistance of temptation and links to the controlled cognitive processes that delay regards to reward ([www.blurit.com](http://www.blurit.com)). It is a variety of communication both verbal and non-verbal which implies the lack of deceit. It involves complete truthfulness, not telling lies nor cheating, being straight forward in whatever you do and always contentious.

**Dedication to duty** is the act of binding intellectual or emotional to a course of action; total commitment to public service" allegiance , loyalty. It concerns attending your work regularly, going in time and dismissing at proper time, above all carrying out the best of your ability The big question remains does Nigerians recognize these afro-mention national values? The answer

to this question is “no” because there are a lot of evils pervading our society right from peasant to the bourgeoisie.

### **Theoretical Perspectives:**

The paper adopts “Path-Goal-Theory Leadership” as its framework as propounded by House and Mitchell (1974). The theory contends that all organizational activities are oriented and directed towards the achievement of set goals premised on national value, which serve as input to decisions; goals as essential elements of the organization. The organizations clearly spell out its goals, objectives and strategies (Mullins, 1996: 292). The theory possesses several appealing national values and one of such striking values is the basis for standard performance and judgment on the effectiveness of organization. It provides guides for decision making and justification for actions taken, this aid commitment of individuals and groups to the activities of the organization. The attention is directed on purposeful behaviour as basis for motivation and reward systems. However, the theory comprehends the nature, character and behaviour in Nigeria by the bourgeois at the expense of the proliferates, and the extent it succeeds in meeting the qualities of national values through the control of government institutions (Mullins, 1996: 292).

### **The Content of National Value and Good Governance in Nigeria**

The corruption mess in the realm of affairs has isolated the country from the western world and scared off investors for upward economic progression, given the country a negative image in the media of the western world. Mbanefo (1999: 11) states: the possibility of destroying our national value system within the space of less than twenty years and the sad corollary shows that we have no respect as people who can be trusted in the business globally.

**Political instability:** the image of Nigerian state is the failure of the political class to adhere to the tenets of democracy and constitutionalism (Kew, 2006). In the previous year’s Nigeria have zero sum value lapses behind south-Africa and Ghana on social service development in the midst of African giants. In the current political arena, the value of our political actors has put our nascent democracy in a quack mire, this evil has reached a climax that the alarming pace in which ‘Naira quine’ Ghana-must-go, billions of currency is dragged on the floor of parliament as bribes when decisions on the impeachment of parliament officials or other crucial state decision is on core. The April 2007 general elections in Nigeria, apart is marred with violence and this suffered setbacks due to large-scale electoral malpractices that thrived on bribing the electorate and the officials of the electoral body. It is interesting to note that European Union election monitoring group for the April 2007 general elections has been officially presented to the Nigerian government. Apparently, the incidents of hijacking ballot boxes, widespread irregularities, under-age voting and fraud during the collation process lacks transparency due to non display of results at polling station nationwide (Guardian, 2007:7) .The worst of it all is that parliamentary debates have degenerated into scuffles characterized with throwing dangerous weapons like chairs, exchange of blows, display of arms and fetish objects, the scramble and seizure of parliamentary authority mace among parliamentarians. Kesselman (2006) state that weak legitimacy and patron-client politics “political godfather”. Surprisingly, the level of rascality and hunger for raw power among politicians; their excuse has been

insecurity of lives and properties anytime there is military take-over, the internal structure of government suffer internal cohesion of Nigeria state.

**Embezzlement of public funds** has become a way of life for those in the position of authority. Despite various internal and external measures employed to curb or checkmate the menace it remains an abysmal failure. What reason has a bank official to falsify and manipulate figure to steal money entrusted to his care for custody. The anti-graft agency is a toothless bulldog that barks but cannot bite, their investigation report end up in a dusty shelve, unless an underdog who cannot sort out his way law will catch up with the law.

**The Bribery and Corruption** of “give and take syndrome” bribery and corruption issue have occupied the lips of even the daily culprit in our communities. It is disgusting to read from pages of national dailies that Nigeria is a corrupt nation globally; can we in any way re-establish honest, trustworthy image outside? This is a country where people do some unnatural things and get away with it, in fact, honest people don’t even know where to begin and to find their solution. Evidently, People demand “greasing of their palms” before they could discharge their normal duties for which they earn salaries. It is no longer work for the joy of the working conditions; in fact this twin evil has murdered the integrity of Nigeria. Some sick people are sent to their untimely graves because they have no money to bribe their way from the medical personnel. Brilliant students are denied admissions just because they afford not to go by “long leg” or “ima-mmadu” syndrome in the society. The Obasanjo administration came up with anti-graft agency like Independent corrupt practices commission (ICPC) and Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), this has been criticized for its competence on their mode of arrest and prosecution of public officers, the failure recorded by the agency in curbing financial discipline (<http://www.efccnigeria.org/>), engendered Nigeria’s upward review on the corruption perceptions index (CPI) by transparency international. Recently, Nigeria efforts in fighting corruption received a tremendous boost on June 28, 2007, as a memorable day in the history of the fourth republic in Nigeria when President Yar’Adua publicly declared his assets and liabilities to the code of conduct Bureau.

**Examination Malpractice:** It is worthy to note that offering and taking bribes by candidates and examination officials in internal and external examinations have aided examination malpractice. Some candidates contribute huge amount of money for invigilators at examination centers to have their way. Thus, the conduct of examinations is replete with cases of examination leakage, especially in external examinations conducted by West African Examination Council (WAEC), National Examination Council (NECO) and Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB). In 2005, the Vanguard newspaper captions as follows ‘Exams Leakage Scandal Rocks WAEC’ with a rider: ‘students procure each question paper with N5, 000’ ‘Bromide of alleged CRK paper’ appeared on the front page. Reacting to this development (Tell Magazine 2005) in its cover page ‘exam scams: Why Nigerian certificates are worthless, capturing the state of Nigeria’s educational system with title piece: ‘The reign of empty heads’ in the tertiary institutions, some disgruntled male lecturers unduly favour students of the opposite sex and receive gratifications from the male students or both sexes so that the students could pass well even when they have not worked for such ( <http://www.docstoc.com/docs/51727048/Corruption-of-Language-and-Nigerias-Debased->



[Value-System br](#)). Bugaje (1995: 4) states that you need not be qualified to gain admission, nor do you need to pass the exams to get a degree, for so many ways of going round all these are perfected and gain ascendancy in the atmosphere of the campuses. Presently, the certificates by Nigeria's institutions no longer command respect in the labour market within and outside the country.

**Ethno-Religious Conflicts :**Iyiogwe (2010: 11) rightly states that it is common to see members of one ethnic group killing themselves over land matters, or the location of new local council headquarters. Religious and Political conflicts are frequently used to ignite conflagrations." Since the inception of democracy since 1999 there has been incessant conflicts role call are as follows Yoruba- Hausa communal clash in Shagamu, Ogun State; Ijaw- Ilaje war in Ondo State; the Basa- Egbura crisis in Nassarawa State; the gruesome Aguleri- Umuleri lethal war in Anambra State that drew tears from then visiting President Olusegun Obasanjo, a retired general who had fought several wars himself. There were the Hausa- Yoruba conflicts in Idi- Araba, Lagos State; Itsekiri- Ijaw Urhobo wars in Delta State; the Ogoni- Adoni conflicts in River State; the Jukun- Tiv war in Wukari Taraba State; the Odi massacre of November 1999; the Zango- Kataf war in Kaduna State, Ezza-Ezillo war in Ebonyi State and the worst of it is the Almighty Boko Haram in Boronu State

There are other cases or crises which seriously question the unity and oneness of Nigeria as a country. After all, Ojukwu (2000:19) aptly depicts the uncompromising mood of the many ethnic nationalities that make up the country when he says: "If the price of nationhood is regular bloodletting, then let us not be a nation." That notwithstanding, we may borrow the words of Obama (2009) states that "for everywhere we look, there is work to be done, the state of the economy calls for action and we will create new jobs, but to lay a new foundation for growth." Truly, Nigeria needs a new foundation for growth into that dream nation bound with freedom, love, peace and unity. For the fact, that we have failed in many ways to understand ourselves as one country due to our value system. The worrisome element is the gradual re-militarization of the state against the desired goal of demilitarization, government response to the intransigence of ethnic militia groups particularly the Boko Haram is a form of militarization in the state.

**Epileptic Social Service Delivery:** The viability of any country depends critically on the adequacy of its social service delivery to the populace. The security and development of any country depends critically on the adequacy of its social service delivery to the populace. Social service delivery in Nigeria's Fourth Republic focused essentially though not exclusively on education, health, water resources and housing. Meanwhile, government mechanism for successful implementation of these programs is not sufficient in Nigeria. Meanwhile, government mechanism for successful implementation of these programs is not sufficient in Nigeria. Public resources is poorly managed but characterized with frivolous activities, leaving little for essential services. Private sector services is increasingly available mostly in the affluent areas and the quality of services delivery is highly variable, cost recovery within the public sector is increasing and individuals that pay for such services are poor ([http://www.arabianjbmr.com/pdfs/OM\\_VOL\\_2\\_\(4\)/2.pdf\\_br](http://www.arabianjbmr.com/pdfs/OM_VOL_2_(4)/2.pdf_br)). Table 1 below shows the distribution of

Federal Allocation to various tiers of government from 1999 to 2007.

	Beneficiary	State Govt =N=	Local Govt =N=	Total =N=
1	Abia	113,956,322,728.62	66,957,033,320.83	180,913,356,049.45
2	Adamawa	111,973,469,608.66	88,385,118,660.50	200,358,588,269.16
3	Akwa Ibom	384,370,238,540.34	110,896,366,303.24	495,266,604,843.58
4	Anambra	97,592,169,763.11	85,847,453,591.19	183,439,623,354.30
5	Bauchi	128,248,345,518.84	98,833,751,081.01	227,082,096,536.85
6	Bayelsa	414,158,710,867.12	38,101,830,075.82	452,260,540,942.94
7	Benue	120,963,431,284.39	100,676,342,004.41	221,639,773,288.79
8	Borno	127,814,189,455.35	114,329,322,081.28	242,143,511,536.62
9	Cross River	115,403,682,833.25	74,990,493,054.89	190,394,175,888.13
10	Delta	463,459,893,918.76	97,961,571,804.08	561,421,465,722.84
11	Ebonyi	97,825,886,665.52	51,780,333,382.06	149,606,220,047.59
12	Edo	119,085,051,909.31	77,565,785,400.62	196,650,837,309.93
13	Ekiti	92,732,057,109.79	60,134,219,325.71	152,866,276,435.50
14	Enugu	103,979,483,787.19	68,964,491,966.13	172,943,975,753.31
15	Gombe	96,583,878,576.74	49,916,381,357.36	146,500,259,934.10
16	Imo	132,104,455,243.39	99,280,101,362.71	231,384,556,606.10
17	Jigawa	117,009,316,440.23	108,615,763,243.89	225,625,079,684.13
18	Kaduna	138,928,609,161.09	117,182,125,094.69	256,110,734,225.77
19	Kano	179,437,799,067.94	191,497,373,448.88	370,935,172,516.81
20	Katsina	140,721,433,816.83	139,822,729,992.43	280,544,163,809.26
21	Kebbi	109,325,901,797.25	86,787,009,340.22	196,139,911,137.47
22	Kogi	108,937,683,153.98	86,187,515,182.33	195,125,198,336.31
23	Kwara	99,576,991,214.56	66,011,107,696.79	165,588,098,911.35
24	Lagos	182,535,977,642.02	149,392,517,393.59	331,928,495,035.61
25	Nassarawa	90,518,301,030.98	54,487,876,090.81	145,006,177,121.79
26	Niger	126,254,889,591.23	111,114,801,956.06	237,369,691,547.30
27	Ogun	114,180,594,528.10	81,197,512,355.95	195,378,106,884.06
28	Ondo	183,313,507,542.89	74,082,244,267.18	257,395,751,810.07
29	Osun	107,476,926,982.08	102,574,611,292.67	210,051,538,274.76
30	Oyo	135,928,952,381.15	127,369,093,326.38	263,298,045,707.53
31	Platueau	81,759,592,808.53	73,434,508,057.07	155,194,100,865.61
32	Rivers	517,682,993,860.57	104,313,280,579.65	621,996,274,440.22
33	Sokoto	118,067,536,171.07	96,232,809,149.69	214,300,345,320.76
34	Taraba	103,462,234,004.51	72,869,810,839.60	176,332,044,844.11
35	Yobe	104,904,723,192.25	72,326,009,351.84	177,230,732,544.09
36	Zamfara	112,898,217,046.50	70,091,324,490.36	182,989,541,536.86
37	FCT	149,703,394,069.21	43,324,238,682.88	193,027,632,752.09
	Total	5,742,903,843,313.33	3,313,534,856,541.80	9,056,438,699,855.13
38	Fed Govt			7,390,688,951,768.72
	Grand Total			16,447,127,651,623.80

Source: Federal Ministry of Finance 2007

Despite that the federal government kept about ₦7,390,688, 951,768.72, the state received ₦5,742,903843313.33 and local government received ₦3,313,534,541.80 from the Federation

Account within the periods from 1999 to 2007 financial years to provide for social services to Nigerians, their performance remain poor. Table 1 indicates that fund accruing to the oil-producing states of South-South excluding derivation fund have been constant and relatively small, compared to other geo-political zones of North West and North Central. The distributional inequality is attributed to allocation formula based on land mass. Again, it is pertinent to review the performance of social service delivery since the inception of democratic dispensation.

The performance and non-financial indicators used for such assessment are contained in table 1. The paradox emanating from the indicators in table 1 shows that states from the oil-rich areas are worst than other states in the area of social service delivery. States in South-South and South-East zones that benefit from derivation fund are relatively poor in their performance ([http://www.arabianjbm.com/pdfs/OM\\_VOL\\_2\\_\(4\)/2.pdf\\_br](http://www.arabianjbm.com/pdfs/OM_VOL_2_(4)/2.pdf_br)). Public sector resources allocated to the social sectors have been mainly erratic because of the fluctuation in government revenues due to changes in oil prices. Although government expenditures in social sectors declined in real terms in recent years and grossly inadequate to maintain and expand services at acceptable standards. The share of federal, state and local government budget for social sectors is less than 15% in 1990 and low compared to other developing countries (World Bank 1995).

### **Conclusion**

Conclusively, good governance depends on the socio-economic, political and culture of individuals and collective national value system, this has virtually affected all spheres of Nigerian society negatively. The failure of Nigerian leaders to address issues confronting the society will continue to fail because our national value system is in chaos. Thus,

- There is need to improve the welfare of its citizen, most persons are poor and this has promoted corruptive inklings.
- Parochial interest anchored on fanatics' picture bad image to Nigeria.
- Nigerian should cultivate democratic values for winner and loser in any election, void of malpractices and imposition of candidates.
- Political leaders should emphasis on good governance while societal values for worshipping money need to be de-emphasized.

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