

# Local Government Administration and Service Delivery in Nigeria: Prospects and Challenges

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**Abstract:**-Effective local government administration plays a crucial role in ensuring efficient provision of public goods to vast rural dwellers. In Nigeria huge percent of the population lives in the rural areas, where it is the constitutional responsibility of the local government to provide basic social and public services. The non-performance of the 774 local governments in Nigeria has continued to generate concerns and attract reactions in the recent time. This study examines the challenges confronting local government administration in effective service delivery at the grassroots level. The study relies on secondary sources of data collection and personal observations. Data was collected through a comprehensive review of relevant literature on local government administration; descriptive qualitative technique of data analysis was adopted. The study identified lack of autonomy, mismanagement of available funds, corruption, lack of transparency and accountability and lack of competent man power among others as the challenges to effective service delivery by the local government administration in Nigeria. In view of this, the study provides some measures that could ensure effective service delivery at the local government level. Such measures include, constitution review to ensure the autonomy of local government, improve human capacity and institutional building, viable sources of revenue and leadership recruitment process that is merit driven, that will produce leaders of unquestionable character and integrity that will improve service delivery at the local government level. Local government leadership must be elected by the rural dwellers and not imposed by the higher authority. This study concludes that, if the above measures are not adopted, there will be improvement in local government service delivery among the rural dwellers in Nigeria.

**Keywords:** democracy, local government, rural dwellers, local administration, service delivery.

## I. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The need to democratize powers of government all over the world informed the establishment of local government administration at the grassroots level for meeting specific needs of the people at the grassroots level. Ezeani (2006: 253) submitted that the system of the local government is believed to exist in every nation of the world, albeit with variations in its essential features such as constitutional status, historical structures and level of autonomy. The establishment of local government administration is intended to have a major impact on the daily lives of rural dwellers, and seek a new focus on improving their standard of living and qualities of lives of people at the grassroots through local government administration by the rural dwellers. For the fulfillment of the objectives of its establishment, local government must have policies and institutional frameworks that will support and

sustain grassroots development in any system of government. In the view of Ola and Tonwe (2009: 1) "government activities when conducted from a central point and far away from the people tend to become impersonal, and against this impersonality or abstract view, there is a perpetual rebellion". The consciousness of the alienation and absence of the presence of the central government at the grassroots is capable of frustrating the rural dwellers. Also, Laski (1975: 411) cited on Ola and Tonwe (2009) observe that:

We cannot realize the full benefit of democratic government unless we begin by the admission that all problems in their incidence require decision at the place, and by the persons by whom the incidence is most deeply felt

The decentralization of government activities allows active involvement of the citizens at all levels and makes government participatory. The complexity and dynamism of the contemporary government all over the world requires decentralization of government business for efficient and effective administrative convenience and service delivery. Also, the diverse language, culture, norms, customs, population and environmental peculiarities of units makes local government a veritable level of administration to accommodate the peculiarities of each unit for peaceful co-existence of the whole. All over the world problem, needs and agitation begins from the grassroots which are part of the whole. The whole that could either be federal, national or central will have its effectiveness on its population when the source is always into consideration in policy making, implementation and evaluation.

In Nigeria, local government administration was created, mainly for administrative convenience of the colonial masters and later for service delivery among the rural dwellers that are far from the central government. The relevance and continue existence of local government as an institution is predicted among others, on the need to engender and promote local autonomy; enhance participatory democracy at the grassroots; promote the efficient utilization of local resources; provide local services; and serve as vehicle for rural socio-economic development (Ademolekun, 1983; Ola, 1984; Bello-Iman, 1996; Olowu, 2000; Ekpe, 2012. cited in Abe and Omotoso 2014:184). The philosophy of local government administration is to get the people at the grassroots involve in the administration of themselves in leadership section, by finding solutions to the challenges of their immediate environment through formulation and implementation of

policies for their wellbeing. The idea of local government involvement in democratic process is to ensure the participation of the rural dwellers in the governing process and development of the grass root which will eventually cumulates to national development.

## II. CONCEPTUAL REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

It is necessary to do a review of the concept of local government in this study to properly situate the nexus between local government administration and service delivery at the grassroots level.

Acceding to Emezi (1984:25) he conceives local government as:

Systems of local government administration under local communities that are organized to maintain law and orders, provide some limited ranges of social amenities, and encourage cooperation and participation of inhabitants towards the improvement of their conditions of living. It provides the community with formal organizational framework which enable them to conduct their affairs effectively for the general good.

Agagu (1997:218) argues that “a local government is a government at the grassroots level of administration meant for the meeting peculiar grassroots need of the people”. The official handbook on local government in Nigeria defines local government as:

Government at local level exercised through representative councils established by law to exercise specific powers with define areas. These powers should give substantial control over local affairs as well as the staff and institutional and financial powers to initiate and direct the provision of services and determine and implement projects so as to complement the activities of the State and Federal Governments in their areas, and to ensure through devolution of functions to these councils and through the active participation of the people and their institutions, that local initiation and response to local needs and conditions are maximized(FRN, 1976:1)

Appadorai (1975:287) and Orewa (1991:22) define local government as the “lowest unit of administration to whose law and regulations, the communities, who live in a defined geographical area and with common social political tiers, are subject”. Agagu (2011:16) sees it as the “government by popularly elected bodies charged with administration and executive duties in matters concerning the inhabitants of a particular district or place”. The United Nations’ office for Public Administration defines local government as “a political subdivision of a nation or (in a federal system) state, which is constituted by law and has substantial control of local affairs including the power to impose taxes or to exact labour for prescribed purposes. The governing body of such an entity is elected or otherwise locally selected” quoted in Ola and Tonwe (2009:4). Also, local government is seen as a system

of government whereby the state allows the establishment of local units of government with powers and authority to make local decisions on matters that affects the local communities and to mobilize local resources for implementation or execution of the decision made by the local government authority (Eboh and Diejomaoh, 2010).

Therefore, in view of different scholars definition of local government, it is a level of government established at the grassroots level of government (state of federal government) for the provision of basic needs of the people at the grassroots level within its geographical terrain; it allows the people at its local territory to directly or indirectly participate in governance through their elected, appointed or nominated representatives; it is a level of government where the norms and values of democracy are taught, in other word, local government is a democratic training school for political leadership.

## III. ORIGIN OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN NIGERIA

Local government system and local administration have undergone three phases in Nigeria. The phases are: pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial phases. In the pre-colonial era, various ethnic groups inhabiting the geographical territories that were amalgamated and subsequently granted independence in 1960 were administered by their local rulers (head of emirate in the North or head of kingdom in the South). Ola and Tonwe, (2009:56) submit that, in Nigeria generally, the era of pre-colonial rule was a period when might was right and when law and order only existed for the strong men. They further argue that, despite this situation a great deal of administrative developments have taken place in across the country before the advent of the British colonial Government. In the submission of Okoli, [2000], different traditional system of government existed which were adequate to satisfy the political needs of different ethnic groups at that time. In a related argument, (Abe and omotoso, 2014: 189) submit that ‘before the entrenchment of British colonial enterprise on the inhabitants of the present construct that is now Nigeria, traditional political leaders had established forms of local administration conducive and suitable to the peculiarities of each societies’. They further argue that, the form of local administration adopted by each society was often influenced by the prevalent social forces, conditioned by the socio-cultural values and belief system of the people. Before the advent of the colonial Government, each ethnic group was autonomous within each society. The North and West operated a centralized form of administration, while the East operated a decentralized system of administration. Therefore, in each of the autonomous ethnic groups in the North and West, traditional political leaders ruled over the territories on the bases of established traditional norms and values. In the East, where there was no centralizes authority, decision-making powers were exercised by the council of elders, village council or aged-grades in each community. In the pre-colonial Nigeria, the administrative system among the various ethnic groups in the three and later four regions were

democratically operated. The democratization of the administration in the pre-colonial era allows majority participation in community development.

In the colonial era, local government system was known as Native Administrative System. The system in the North and West were known as Native Authority. The system was introduced by Lord Lugard owing to the administrative structure in place before the occupation of the colonial masters in the present system now known as Nigeria. The existing administrative structure the colonial occupation became a tool for the implementation of the colonial wishes. Hence, the introduction of the indirect rules system to maintain the existing structure. Omotoso (2000) cited in (ibid) opines that, the reason for the adoption of indirect rules according to Lord Lugard, "there was no desire to impose on the (Nigerian) people any theoretically suitable form of government but rather to evolve from their old institutions, based on their habit of thoughts, prestige and customs". According to (Gboyega, 1987), to effectively pursue the policies of the colonial master, Native Authority Ordinance of 1910 was established for the creation of Native Authority in both the Northern and Southern Nigeria. He further submits that Native Administrative System comprised the following independent parts:

- i. The residents who provided direction and control;
- ii. The Native Authority, usually headed by a chief who enjoyed legitimacy under the indigenous political system, often supported by a council of elders;
- iii. The Native Treasury; and
- iv. The Native Court that composed of the representatives of the native admiration.

The indirect rule introduced by the colonial masters in the North and West was in conformity with the traditional political structure and administration that existed at their arrival. In the north the native authority system was a success because of the absolute political and administrative powers of the Emirs; In the West, the native authority did not enjoy the degree of success recorded in the North in the West because of the *Obas* in the West lack absolute political and administrative powers; in the East, owing to lack of organized leadership like North and West resulted in the appointment of warrant Chiefs. Warrant Chiefs are the colonial appointed individuals among the people of the West. The Warrant Chiefs will serve as coordinator and link between the colonial masters and the people in the West. During the colonial administration, the traditional institutions and traditional rulers were accorded a pride of place through their incorporation into the colonial administration. This development was a testimony to the existence, recognition and importance of local administration by the various autonomous ethnic groups, in the territory that later became Nigeria.

The third phase began from the Nigeria independence in 1960. This phase was a carryover of the colonial style of

administration which was determined by the peculiarities of each region. For example, the period was characterized by a multi-tiered local government structure in the Eastern and Western regions were both elected and traditional elements were accommodated in local administration (Agagu, 2004). However, the traditional administrative structure of north made it a mono-tier system of administration. In the view of Okoli (1998), the federal system of government adopted after independence confirmed the differences among regions, when it provided that each of the then four regions were responsible for the structure, legislation and operation of its local government council. Still on the differences among the local government (Abe and Omotoso, 2014) submit that, in the north, the local government was then called Local Authority, while it was called Local Government in the West, and In the east it was known as District Council. The differences in local administration in the country became a uniform system of administration with the 1976 local government reform of Olusegun Obasanjo military administration. Oдалonu, (2015:15) submits that, the 1976 local government reforms introduced a uniform system of local government administration throughout the country; recognized local government as third tier of government and granted financial and functional autonomy to local government administration in Nigeria.

On the whole, it is now evident that the local administration has been in existent long before colonial occupation for adequate security, development, inclusiveness, participation and effective service delivery to the people at the grassroots level.

#### IV. LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Before the colonial occupation in Nigeria, local administrations were the responsibilities of the traditional institutions. In the area known a Nigeria, the existing ethnic group had one form of local administration or the other at the instance of various traditional institutions with the primary goal of ensuring peaceful co-existence of all within each community. In the northern protectorate, highly centralized forms of governments were practiced by the Hausa/Fulani with the emir and their political and religious leader. The district heads the Magaji exercises emir's delegated powers on the districts that made up each of the emirates. In the western protectorate, the *Obas* exercise absolute powers over kingdoms. The *Obas* delegated their powers to the Baales that administers a town or village within the kingdom of an *Oba* and subsequently pays royalty to the *Oba* yearly. In the eastern part of Nigeria, the *Ohaneze* (the assembly of mature men) sits at the village square to take decisions on issues on behalf of their people as a result of their egalitarian nature and lack of centralized authority like north and west. The egalitarian nature of the people made it difficult for them to have a central authority that can coordinate the people like the northern and western.

The existence, importance, efficient and effectiveness of traditional institutions in local administration attracted the colonial administrators to make use of the existing traditional structures for their occupation. In view of this, (Bello-Imam, 1990) submits that, the first local administration Ordinance No4 of 1916 was designated to evolve from Nigeria's existing institutions best suited form of rule based on the people's habit of thought, prestige and custom. On the basis of the above, one can submit that, local government administration assumed a legal status with the Ordinance No4 of 1916. With this Ordinance, local governments became recognized as part of the political and administrative set up of the country. The importance of local administration in the socio-economic and political development of rural area and the country in general has made it difficult to eradicate local government system of administration in spite of its numerous challenges over the years. Considering the importance of local government administration before and during colonial era, the Macpherson constitution of 1948 initiated changes and reforms that give local administrators power to collect rates, levy pools and control of taxes to improve performance. As an improvement on the 1948 Macpherson Constitution, the 1976 constitutional reform accorded local governments' proper constitutional recognition. Through this reform a single tier structure of local government council replaced the different structures in the various states. Also, the statutory allocation of revenue to the local government from the federation account was instituted for local government to enjoy financial base for its operations. According to Awotokun, (2005) the reforms institutes statutory allocation of revenue from the federation account with the intention of giving local government councils fixed proportions of both the federation account and each state's revenue.

According to the 1999 constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria, section 7(1) "the system of local government by democratically elected local councils is under this constitution guaranteed; and accordingly, the government of every state shall subject to section 8 of this constitution, finance and functions of each council". The constitutional provision above conferred the legal status of existence and to large extent autonomy for self-determination on local governments. In the Nigerian federal system of government, at the federal level the President exercise executive powers which may be delegated to the Vice-President; at the state level, the Governors exercise executive powers which may be delegated to the Deputy Governor; while at the local government level, the Chairman exercise executive powers that may be exercised through the Vice-Chairman or supervisory councilors. Supporting this, is section 5(3) of Nigerian constitution which states that "the executive of a local government shall be vested in the Chairman of that local government council and may be exercised by him either directly or through the Vice-Chairman or supervisory councilors of the local government".

The legislative arm of local government council make bye-laws that guild the operations of local governments in their

areas of jurisdiction. By the constitutional provisions, the Chairman of a local government is empowered to control the available resources with its jurisdiction. However, any power, authority or action taken outside the provisions of the constitution may be declare as *ultra virse* by the court of law, and rendering such action as unconstitutional and illegal. *Ultra vires* is a check on the powers and authorities of local governments in that it makes them operates within the provisions of laws of its establishment and operations. In addition, it gives citizens the opportunity to legally hold local government authority accountable for its actions and inactions. This serves as a control and regulatory measures for local government Chairman's powers.

## V. FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In the contemporary word, local government shoulders the responsibility of providing essential basic social services; bringing the presence government closer to the rural dwellers and undertaking development activities in accordance with the constitution provisions. In Nigeria, the seven hundred and seventy four (774) local government councils are constitutionally required to perform the following basic functions according to the fourth schedule of the 1999 constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria.

The first is the consideration and making of recommendations to a state commission on economic planning or any similar body on (i) the economic development of the state, particularly in so far as the areas of authority of the council and of the state are affected, and (ii) proposals made by the said commission or body.

Second is the collection of rate, radio and television licenses.

Third is establishment and maintenance of cemeteries, buries grounds and home for the destitute.

Fourth is licensing of bicycles, trucks (other than mechanical propelled trucks), canoes, wheel barrows and carts.

Fifth, are the establishment, maintenance and regulation of slaughter houses, slaughter slab, markets, motor parks and public conveniences.

Sixth, is the construction and maintenance of roads, streets, street lightings, drains and other public high ways, parks, gardens, open spaces, or such public facilities as may be prescribed from time to time by the house of assembly of the state.

Seventh, is naming of roads and streets and numbering of houses.

Eight, is provision and maintenance of public conveniences, sewage and refuse disposal.

Ninth, is registration of all birth, death and marriages?

Tenth, assessment of privately owned house or tenement for the purpose of levying such rate as may be prescribed by the House of Assembly of the State.

Eleventh, control and regulation of (i) out-door advertising (ii) movement and keeping of pets of all description (iii) shops and kiosk (iv) restaurants, bakeries and other places for sale of food to the public (v) laundries (vi) licensing, regulation and control of the sales of liquor.

Also, the fourth schedule of the constitution further states that the functions of a local government council, shall include participation of such council in the government of a state as respect to the following matters (a) the provision and maintenance of primary, adult and vocational education. (b) the development of agriculture and natural resources, other than the exploitation of minerals. (c) the provision and maintenance of health services and (d) such other functions as may be conferred on a local government council by the house of assembly of the state.

All the above enumerated functions of local governments in the fourth schedule of the 1999 constitution defined the roles and assist the local government authority in the efficient and effective service delivery to the rural dwellers. The constitution provisions were necessitated in empowering local government authority to perform some basic functions with the consciousness that, the central government cannot effectively meet the needs of the rural dwellers on. As a result of the population and far distance between the rural dwellers and the central government, it will be difficult if not impossible for the central government to identify the needs of the rural dwellers and make adequate provisions for such without local government council in place.

## VI. CHALLENGES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN NIGERIA

The challenges confronting local government as the third tier of government varies from country to country. In Nigeria, the challenges of local governments are peculiar and numerous. Since the origin of local government in Nigeria, many challenges have confronted and are still confronting local government in the attainment of its goal-value of effective service delivery to the rural dwellers. For the purpose of this study, ten of such problems are identified and discussed.

First is lack of autonomy by local government. In order for local government to achieve the essence of its establishment, which is principally effective service delivery to the rural dwellers that are far from the central government, there is need for local government autonomy. There is no way effective service delivery can be attained unless there is administrative, financial and political autonomy for local government administration. It is sad in Nigeria that for the better part of local government existence its leadership across the country has been mostly appointed by the higher levels of government (state governments). The direct appointment is in form of caretaker, or indirectly through imposition in an election where the presented candidates are the only available option in an election. These are done in violation of the provisions of the constitution and principles of democracy.

Second is lack of development and strategic planning for local government administration in the country. In order to make local government realize its purpose of effective and efficient service delivery, there is need for development and strategic planning that will give direction to its activities. As compass give direction to sailor, so development and strategic planning to government administration at all levels and departments. It is unfortunate that the local government officials, either democratically elected or appointed caretakers lacks the capacity required to engineer such plan (blue print) that will give the required direction to the attainment of the purpose of local government administration. The leadership in variance to the provisions of the constitution pledged their loyalty to the government that appoints them rather to the people of the grassroots level.

The third factor is leadership imposition by the superior powers. Both elected and appointed local government leaders are mostly imposed on the rural dwellers. As a result of this the local government administrators do not always see themselves as product of their community and serving the people of their local government, instead they see themselves as appointee of their godfather whose interest they need to serve at the expense of the people in their local government. Based on local government leadership imposition, the administrators behave arrogantly and act like a ruler instead of a leaders to the rural dwellers within their territory.

Fourth factor is absence of security of tenure of local government officials. According to Abe and Omotosho (2014:209), local government as a tier of government has been hampered by the instruments of the state in the determination of the tenure of their political officers. In most of the states in the country, appointments of democratically elected local government officials were terminated and replaced with caretaker committees that are always members of the ruling political party in the state. In state like Ekiti, Ondo, Osun, Edo, Rivers among others, between 2010 and 2014, these state governments determined the appointment of their democratically elected local government officials, and subsequently resolved not to conduct elections into the local councils and make use of caretaker throughout the administration lasted. This unchecked practice of state governments had eroded the autonomy of local government in leadership selection, therefore aiding corruption as a result of instability. However, the effectiveness, survival and relevance of local governments are dependent on the state governments in Nigeria.

Fifth is lack of adequate funding. The limited resources of local government revenue and financial encroachment of state governments on local governments have hampered the revenue base of local government to effectively perform its responsibilities to the rural dwellers. The state governments have explore the provisions of the 1999 constitution to further encroach on the local government revenue through the establishment of joint account and allocation committee (JAAC) headed by the appointee of the state government.

JAAC deprives local government financial autonomy and initiative in project execution at the various local government areas. Agagu (2011) views this problem from limited tax jurisdiction conceded to the local government. In his view, lack of adequate revenue at the local government is a product of limited tax jurisdiction for the local government. In addition, allocation from the federation account is too meager when compared to the responsibilities of the local government to the rural dwellers. Therefore, local governments are financially constrained to perform their constructional responsibilities which amount to a car without tyre to move.

The sixth factor is lack of check and balance. The legislative arm of local government which supposed to check the executive is in most cases not informed of their duties. Hence, the legislature plays the role of subordinate officer of their chairmen. Mode of leadership selection which is by imposition, and absence of official forum for stewardship of local government officials have not been making them to account for their actions and inactions while in office to the people they are representing in positions of authority.

Seventh is corruption and abuse of office. It is often alleged that local government career officers collaborates in institutionalizing corruption they initiated. Most of the political office holders at different levels of administration in Nigeria are always seeking for wealth acquisition, rather than providing service to the people they are representing in government. The culture of wealth acquisition in Nigeria politics has become institutionalized in such that any act contrary to this is considered as a deviation from norms of Nigeria politics. However, there has always been astronomical increase in the cost of governance that is currently making Nigeria democracy one of the most expensive in world.

Eight is absence of qualified personnel. The structure, environment, motivation and remuneration are poor at the local government level of administration. These identified challenges are not making local government attractive to qualified personnel. Recruitment into local government council is down on the basis of political patronage and political compensation. This leads to sacrifice of merit on the altar of politics. According to Oviasuyi et.al (2010), "recruitments into local government council's employment are often carried out, not on the possession of requisite knowledge and experience, but rather on political considerations and patronage". This perhaps explains lack of discipline and poor attitude to work by local government council employees. The lack of discipline, efficient and effectiveness of local government employees is a product of the process of their recruitment.

Ninth factor is poor inter-governmental relations. Local governments have not been allowed to function as an autonomous tier of government by both federal and state governments; rather it has been treated as one of the ministries, departments or units of the higher governments. In spite of the tripartite provision of the 1999 constitution on the

sharing of the nation's revenue, the 10 percent of the amount accruing to the federal account that was prescribed for local government council is not disbursed directly to the local governments; instead it is disbursed through the state governments. Also, in the same manner, the state governments have persistently failed to meet the constitution provision that 10 percent of the total revenue of the state should be disbursed to their local councils. Most state governments in Nigeria paid only small fraction of the 10 percent, determines which project it will be expended on and execute such for their local government without disturbing the prescribed 10 percent directly to the local government councils.

The tenth factor is that, local government creation is born out of political influence and compensation as against the constitutional provisions. This therefore explains reasons for violent conflicts after the creation and locating of local government headquarters in Ogbe-Ijoh, in delta state, Igbaroke in ondo state, Ode-Ekiti in state among others. However, some of the criteria needed for the creation of local governments are: population, internally generated revenue, land mass, request by the people in the area and others. To guide against the ripple effect of the usual violent conflict after the creation of local government councils, constitutional measure should be put in place to ensure that creation of local government councils are strictly done out of the necessity to meeting the needs of the rural dwellers as stipulated by the constitution.

## VII. PROSPECTS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN NIGERIA

The importance of local government administration cannot be over emphasized in meeting the needs of the people by providing efficient and effective social services to the rural dwellers in the country. Also, the fact remains that it is impossible for the central government to identify the peculiar needs of the rural dwellers and adequately make provisions for such based on the population and distance between the central government and the grassroots people.

For the local government to achieve the purpose of their creation, there is urgent need by the government to ensure local government autonomy through constitutional review that will subsequently leads to local government reform generally in the country. This should be accomplished by the establishment of independent monitoring body that will be strictly saddled with periodic auditing and evaluation of local government administration over the country. The monitoring body will not interfere with the autonomy and general administration of local government councils rather; it will be statutorily performing periodic and regular evaluation of all the local government councils in the country. The establishment of this body will make the officials held accountable for their duties while in official capacity at the local council. This will directly or indirectly enforce compliance with code of conduct, transparency and

accountability in the administration of local government council areas in the country. To make this monitoring body effective, it should be financially autonomous and therefore not hampered in any form to carry out its duties in ensuring that local government is alive to its responsibilities all over the country.

A restructured local government will improve local government performance through rural dwellers participation and commitment to the administration of their councils. With the present structure and composition of local government, local government autonomy remains the only option that can guarantee institutionalization of participatory democratic system that will allow for development and equal opportunities to all in political participation, both at the local, state and federal level of government.

### VIII. CONCLUDING REMARKS

In spite of its numerous challenges, local government remains the best means of meeting the needs of the rural dwellers through efficient and effective service delivery. To achieve its objectives, there is need for patriotic local government reform. The present state of local government in Nigeria is not adequately structured and equipped for service delivery in meeting the needs of the rural dwellers. Therefore, for local governments in Nigeria not to outlive their usefulness and purpose of creation, there is need for construction review that will ensure administrative, economic, political and financial autonomy of the local government administration. This will allow and encourage healthy inter-governmental relations among the three tiers of government; subsequently it will aid development and sustenance of democratic government at local, state and national levels.

True democratization and autonomy of local government administration in Nigeria will be instrument and agent of poverty reduction, sustainable development, and healthy competition among the rural dwellers through judicious management of available resources. This will be to the benefits of the society in whose interest the local government is created. Also, local government autonomy will make it serve as a training ground for leadership; hence it would avert the current leadership challenge which is the major challenge of the current democratic experience in the country.

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