Party Politics and Democratic Practices: The Bane of Under-Development in Nigeria

Omoregie Edoghogho

Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State, Nigeria

Abstract: **This study takes a look at the activities of political parties in a democratic system and how it affects the Nigeria state of under-development in the fourth Republic. The paper takes cognizance, of parties and democratic roles in the development of the developed Democracies; on the other hand, most developing societies like Nigeria are not so lucky in charting this trajectory, rather, the advent of the new wave of Democratic experience which is decorated with multi-party configuration that emerged in 1999, has done infinitesimally, in its quest of charting the path of progress for the people. These assertions are better explained through some factors that are prominent within the political space at the period, these includes; the inability of the system to effectively integrate the ethno-cultural divide in the state, the failure of the system to enhance the living standard of the people, also, the absence of good governance play a prominent role in this regard, the inability of the political parties to encourage participation is another key factor and the consistent failure of the political leadership to perform its core webberian functions of securing lives and property as well as engendering an enabling environment that is devoid of crisis. The paper depends heavily on qualitative materials which are carefully analysed. The sustainable development theory is deployed for the study as it better x-ray the nitty-gritty of the paper. Finally, the study proffers some salient recommendations which includes; the need for political parties to be structured in a way as to integrate the divergent forces in the system, the political leadership must vigorously pursue policies that would enhance the peoples living standards, political participation must be encouraged at all levels and the issues of insecurity must be tackled and given its pride of place in the scheme of things in the system.**

Key words; **Political Party, Democracy, Security, Under-development, Fourth Republic**

I. INTRODUCTION

Political parties and its twin concept Democracy are viewed as inseparable elements by scholars and public commentators alike. They conceive parties as institutions found in all Democracies. It is therefore opined that a Democratic system and style of government is unthinkable without giving a prominent place to political parties (Omoruyi 2007:15). The implication of this assertion is that political parties assume the centrality of achieving an effective Democratic style of government in any system. The presence of political formations such as parties always make Democracy easily identifiable in an emerging Democracy, these two concepts maintains an axiomatic relationship. Also, political parties just like other political institutions plays pivotal role in enhancing Democratic culture amongst the people, these are further enhanced through the performance of the following roles; (1) encouraging political participation among the citizens, (2) parties must assume the role of a bridge between the government and the governed,

(3) Parties are assumed state institutions, where policy articulation and aggregation engages, (4) Parties are mediums through which future leaders are recruited, (5) they provide political education for the people in the system etc. The performance of the aforementioned and other roles by political parties can only be effectively articulated under a Democratic environment.

The emergence of the Nigeria fourth Republic, commenced with a call for the formation of political parties in 1998, the presence of these parties in the first place was a welcome development for the people. Three political parties initially scaled through but subsequently the number increased considerably. The point here is that the presence of these parties sent the right signal to the people that, it is the era of Democratic style of government, which will amongst others bring forth their long hopes and expectations bordering on good governance that will transform their lives positively. It is however heart breaking to note that after More than two decades down the line of the emergence of democratic style of government, the citizens are yet to reap the expected dividends of democratic governance. This forms Part of the worries of this study, hence efforts are geared towards examining the level at which the emergence of political parties and Democracy in Nigeria fourth Republic have contributed to the level of under development in the state? It is however observed that, since the re-introduction of Democratic governance in Nigeria in 1999, the ruling elites under the various political parties has evolved series of techniques for alienating the people and party members from the main stream of decision making and participation in both party and government affairs, this has become a culture overtime in the activities of party leader and barons at intra-party and inter-party level, for instance party candidates are selected by these baron rather than been elected by members of the party. Consequently, the party structures of the Nigeria fourth Republic are hijacked by theses party barons who uses various tactics ranging from imposition of candidacy on other party members to outright disqualification of prospective candidates and declaration of their choice as the rightful representative of the party in the general election, this activity has overtime affected the Democracy and political Development of the Nigeria state negatively.

Successive regimes since 1999, has failed in its bid to effectively address the issues of policies geared towards enhancing the quality of lives of the people, for instance, through creation of jobs, provision of basic infrastructure, creation of some form of social security, like an effective national health insurance scheme and others. The resultant effect of this action has made the average Nigerian grapple in harsh realities of poverty and social deprivation. These originally are strong indices of political and economic under-development. Another area of concern is security, the inability of the state through its successive Democratic regimes to effectively manage the high incidence of insecurity in the political system has assumed a worrisome level, Development ordinarily strive in an environment of peace, ironically, under-development is projected where there is the absence of peace in the system. Nigerians suffers greatly especially in recent time, due to the surge of terrorism, banditry, high levels of other sundry crime and criminalities like kidnapping for ransom and other. These have in no small measure affected the country negatively, in terms of development.

Similarly, political parties in conventional Democracies are endowed with mechanism for managing political integration in the system. Nigeria is heterogeneous in nature, this describes the diverse coloration of ethnic groups, cultures, languages and religions, all these factors can be effectively unified under the same political consciousness by the party but the parties under the Nigeria fourth Republic lack the style to manage these factors. Consequently, most geo-political zones carved along ethnic and cultural lines are threatening to secede from the union. Their grievances steams from the cry of marginalization and the state inability to integrate satisfactorily both the larger and smaller ethnic nationalities that makes up the Nigeria state in a way that it would engender peaceful coexistence and development. Finally the absence of Good governance from the Fourth Republic Democracy in Nigeria is another key factor that has hampered development in no small measure. Simply conceptualized, there cannot be good governance or development in a system bedeviled with corruption in both public and private life of the state and a system where there is complete absence of transparency and accountability of political leadership to the citizenry.

II. CONCEPTUAL DISCOURSE POLITICAL PARTIES

This is one of those concepts in the field of political science that has floods of definitions. These definitions however, are highly dependent on the perspective in which the scholars view them. In defining any concept, there are elements inherently peculiar that are looked out for. Simon (1962:130) defined a political party as a social group that possess a system of independence activities, characterized by high degree of rational behaviour toward ends, that are object of common acknowledgement and expectations. The definition which could be said to be one of the oldest in the literature is the one offered by Marx Weber cited in Nekabari (2004:291) argued that, political party is a voluntary society of propaganda and agitation, seeking to acquire power in order to procure chances

for its active militant adherents to realize objectives, which are public, personal or both. This conceptualization goes in tandem with that provided by Coleman and Rosberg cited in Dowse and Huges (1972:340) who defined a political party as an association, formally organized for the purpose of acquiring governmental powers either solely or in coalition through electoral competition. These definitions refer to political parties as those associations that, originally seek to control governmental powers of the system through electoral competition.

On the other hand, another distinguishing, feature of political party from other association is the belief of the membership that constitutes the party. Appadorai (2004:282) conceptualized a political party as that organized group of citizens, who hold similar political opinions and work together to get control of the government in order that the policies, in which they are interested, may be carried into effect. The defining factor here is that members of a particular political party must hold same political idea and belief, usually adopted during campaigns in general elections. Another feature is that, political parties engage in electoral competitions of which if they are successful, then they control the machinery of government in the system, Hague and Harrop (2001:167) argued that, political parties are permanent organizations which contest elections, usually because they seek to occupy the decisive position of authority within the state.

III. DEMOCRACY

The concept of democracy can be said to have floods of definitions because individual and political leaders likes associating with the usage of the word. Christenson, Engel, Jacobs, Rejai and Waltzer (1981) observed that, even the Nazis Germany under Adolf Hitler claimed that its government was practicing a form of democracy He referred to as a *"centralized democracy"* Mao Tse-Tung of China and Nasser of Egypt both claimed to be practicing another form of democracy they referred to as *"party less democracies"* Sekou Toure of Guniea branded his leadership style as *"democratic dictatorship"* Ayubkluan of Pakistan and Fidel Castro of Cuba claimed their governments were another form of democracy which they christened as *"Basic Democracy"* and *"True Democracy"* Respectively.

However, there are basic elements which must be observed or present in a system before such can be termed as been a democracy. These are part of the indices expressed in Hoffman and Graham (2009), these authors acknowledged the confusion inherent in the efforts of giving an acceptable meaning to the concept. Hence, they argued that democracy entails where the people or citizens directly or indirectly consent to and are major participant in their government. The implication of this conceptualization focuses on the people, by implication the electorate as the factor with the ultimate power in democracy. In other words, the system of democracy is a self determinant concept, this is why Baber and Watson (1988) opined that, Democracy is a charming form of government, they anchored their belief on the fact that, it has the ability to improve the

quality of the system and government through citizens participation, these are part of the norms inherent in democratic regimes. Jega (2007) argued that, democracy must be deeply rooted in participation and/or representation and that government in democratic systems derive its power and legitimacy from the people. In this sense, government exercises authority within the framework or bodies of supreme law called constitution and right of the citizen to vote and be voted for in the system

Security

A system is assumed to be secured, if it is not in a situation where it loses it state sovereignty and independence which are core values, as well as its wishes to deter aggression or to be victorious in war if unavoidable. In achieving these Akpuru-Aja (2009:60) emphasized that national security presupposes the existence of a nation which shares consciousness, a people who have agreed to live and work together. Security is the direct opposite of insecurity and it refers to a situation of being insecure, unsafe and frightened with danger and the want of security or stability around the system, Nigeria's national security objectives can be itemized as consisting of the following concerns: peaceful coexistence, food security, sustainable socio-economic development; and democratic development, which involve strengthening the rule of law; creating a democratic political culture, and nurturing civility suitable for democratic sustenance (Jega, 2007:133). Robert McNamara (1968:87) noted that the security of any nation lies not solely or even primarily in its military capability, but equally in developing relatively stable patterns of economic and political growth.

Security has also been defined in terms of capacity to achieve reconciliation among diverse groups in the society (Nabon, 2012:223). Nweze (2004:85) argued that security is the preservation, protection and guarantee of the safety of life, property, wealth of the citizenry and measures to guard against threat to national sovereignty, Therefore, every aspect of the society is saddled with the responsibility to promote security. So, the nation security is the concerns of the state institutions as well as individuals, associations, political parties amongst others. The concept entails that all segments of the society are responsible in ensuring that security is achieved in the political system, though the state through its accredited institutions like the military, Para-military and police are statutorily empowered and commissioned to superintend over activities aimed at ensuring security in the system through the maintenance of law and order. Security is therefore, an all encompassing condition in which citizens can live in freedom, peace and safety; participate fully in the process of governance, enjoy the protection of fundamental human rights; have access to resources and necessities of life; and inhabit an environment which is conducive to their health and well-being. Although, total security is rarely possible anywhere, but all states desires a strong and virile security architecture that will guarantee its overall growth and development of its citizens, both politically and economically in the system.

Under-Development

In conceptualizing under-development efforts must first be geared towards giving a meaning to Development itself. Traditionally, development as a concept in social discourse is a lexicon found in Economics, to this ends, Todaro (1997:80) argued that, development takes issues such as per-capital income, capital accumulation, national income, level of unemployment, level of material resources available, standards of living of the people etc. into cognizance. Through the aforementioned conceptualization, there is the dominance of economic issues as the major focus in development. Wilber (1984:37) further view it as the widening of the ranges of alternatives, open to people as a discernable rise in total and in per- capital income which is widely diffused throughout occupational and income groups.

Handelman (2017:145) argued that development studies are basically anchored on all the aforementioned indices which no doubt are germane in the definition of economic development, but are also emphasized in the conceptualization of other areas of development. Dudley Sear cited in Todaro and Smith (2009; 323) opined that development makes sense if the human factor is the core concern. In their view, Development must be treated in relations to universally accepted aim which are the realization of human potentials and personality. Thus, it is summarized in these questions: What has been happening to poverty, unemployment and inequality? To sums up this argument. Under-development therefore, represents low levels of per-capital income, low level of employment. Low level standard of living, low industrialization, primitive accumulation, high dependency rate on imports etc. these in one way or the other affects the human factor in the society negatively both economically, socially and politically.

IV. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This discourse deploys the sustainable development perspective to explain the trajectory of Nigeria under-development under party politics in a Democratic environment. The sustainable development theory reflects efforts in striking a balance between economic growth and environmental sustainability. Jhingan (2009:22(ii) argued that, sustainable development is meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the need of the future generation, This implies that the economy in the system must as a matter of necessity keep growing and in the process of growth, the quality of life for the people must be the pivot of all developmental policies. Accordingly, the sustainable development theory has the following objectives; increasing economic growth and meeting basic needs of the people, considerably increasing the standard of living of the people, improvement in the people's health, an expanded educational opportunity for the people, expanding the frontiers for more participation of the people in public life, the theory is Also a drum-majorette of a clean environment and the promotion of inter-generational equity among others. The theory emphasized that meeting the needs of the people of the present generation is essential but care must be taken to

ensure that the needs of the future generation is not compromised. Todaro and Smith (2009:485) emphasized that future growth and overall quality of life are critically dependent on the quality of the environment. This refers to natural endowment of a country and the quality of its air, water and land. These represents the common heritage for all generations. This theory further stressed that, the overall capital asset includes, manufactured capital like; machines, factories, roads etc. human capital in form of knowledge, experience, skills etc. and environmental capital which includes forest, soil quality, rangeland etc. by this conceptualization, sustainable development entail that, these overall capital assets should not be diminished in an attempt to carter for the present needs of the people to the extent that it compromises the needs of the future generation.

V. FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR NIGERIA UNDER-DEVELOPMENT IN THE ENVIRONMENT OF PARTY POLITICS/ DEMOCRACY

Absence of Political Integration

Nigeria is one of those states that are mosaic and diverse in terms of ethnic, religious, language and culture. Such a system requires a systematic approach to unify people from these divergent fronts. Mohammed (2007; 16) argued that Nigeria is a state that represents extraordinary diverse characters, in terms of multiplicity of languages, cultures and religious groupings whose coming together under a single political authority, owe its origin to colonial arrangement. The ethnic groupings are estimated to be between 250 and 400. Also, it has multiplicity of religious groups, notably and dominant among which are Christianity and the Islamic faiths, interestingly, these religious groups closely coincide with ethnic and geographical boundaries.

Coleman and Roseberg cited in Omotola (2009:33) conceptualized integration as the progressive reduction of cultural and religious tensions and discontinuities in the process of creating a homogenous political community. However while rational integration do not presuppose the displacement of existing cultural ties and loyalties, efforts must be made to ensure that they are less consequential in affecting behaviours especially those that affects national unity negatively. From the foregoing, one of the fundamental role of political parties as a state institution is to evolve efforts in engendering national cohesion. This imply therefore, that political parties are naturally endowed with the mechanism of using its ideological belief to unify individuals from diverse background, also political parties ordinarily are perceived to have diverse social base and organizational arrangement that link people of divergent backgrounds.

Paradoxically, political parties in Nigeria fourth Republic since 1999, which marks the beginning of the current democratic dispensation, is seen not to effectively contribute to building of state structure and the consolidation of democratic values, which includes engendering political integration. Omoregie and Malasowe (2019:316) argued that, the Fourth Republic Democratic experience in Nigeria is characterized with political party and leadership that promote sectionalism, opportunism and dominance of certain section of the country over others. The consequence of this is shown in the agitations all over the countries geo-political zones demanding for secession from the whole. Handelman (2011:94) argued that Political integration promotes development in political systems. This also implies that, the absence of this factor in a system can dwarf the developmental potentials of the state, thereby making such to be under-developed as witnessed in contemporary Nigeria.

Poverty

Poverty can be conceptualized as an element that shares strong inter-relationship with other problems of under-development. Poverty is arguably the end result of all other indices like unemployment, lack of good governance, insecurity, absence of basic social needs among others. Omoregie, Aisedion and Imokhai (2018:79) argued that poverty shares the highest portion in the cause of under-development in the third world states like Nigeria. This is because, contemporary discourse on development, emphasizes on the human factor as the core element of the development matrix. This school of thought expresses its belief of the notion that, growth in the economy and infrastructural or basic needs like good roads, constant power supply, good and functional educational system, effective and affordable health system should cater for the ever increasing population in the system. Notably, these are essentials that should make the people in the system live better and more fulfilling lives.

Development should be measured on the basis of all aforementioned social needs and more on the people or citizenry. Omoregie and Malasowe (2019: 309) argued that, the fourth republic in Nigeria at its inception in 1999 was heralded with high expectation from the Nigerian citizens believing strongly that the advent of party politics and democratic style of government will usher in economic, political and social prosperity. More than two decade along the line, it is obvious that their hopes and expectation has remains dashed by successive administrations in the state. Consequently, there is high level of poverty in the system, occasioned by numerous factors which includes alarming rate of unemployment, insecurity, inadequate infrastructure, corruption, weak state institutions and others. The resultant effects of these are under-development

Absence of Good Governance

Governance entails a structured culture and institution through which the leadership of a state exercises' its authority. These consist of even the process through which government is selected, monitored and replaced. Governance reflects the capacity of government to effectively formulate and implement policies and programmes. Ogege (2013;35) conceptualized governance as the capacity of the political leadership to effectively formulate and implement sound policies and the respect of citizens and the state including the institutions that governs the economy and social interaction amongst others. While this conceptualization captures to a large extent the

major functions of government in a system, it also paves the way to a large extent the definition of good governance.

Odock (2006:126) refers to Good governance as a system of government based on good leadership, respect for rule of law and due process, accountability/ transparency of the state leadership to the citizens. The implication of the aforementioned definition connotes that good governance entails numerous factors, but our major focus are on the ability of the political leadership of the state, to project happiness and good living condition for its citizens, this entails the provision of infrastructure, being transparent and accountable to the citizens, creation of job opportunity to curb the high level of unemployment in the system, the ability of the state through it leadership to perform its core webberian functions of providing security of lives and property to its citizens, amongst others.

Good governance therefore can also be viewed as the use of Democratic culture and principles by the political leadership of a state in the effective performance of state and governmental functions to its citizens. The basic assumption here is the capacity of the political leadership in using the machinery and resources within its disposal to create and implement policies and programmes that reflects the overall interest of majority of its citizens, through an institutionalized structure. The political leadership under the Fourth Republic in Nigeria has fallen below the required mark in generating greater happiness for the greater majority through the provision of the aforementioned functions which can only explain why there is absence of good governance in Nigeria. For instance, there are absence of transparency / accountability at all level of government in Nigeria; there are obvious ever increasing levels of unemployment, there are inadequate or non provisions of basic amenities that will improve the quality of the people's lives, among others. The inability of the ruling elites to live up to its statutory biding of providing the desired good governance in the system has contributed to the under-development of the system.

Absence of Political Participation

One of the assumptions in politics and democratic studies is that political parties provide clearer opportunity to encourage political participation both at the internal and external levels. Agbaje, Akande, and Ojo (2009: 12) argued that political parties are fundamental requirements of democracy that seeks to generate and encourage citizens' participation in political actions and governance in the system. In addition, Christenson, Engel, Jacobs, Rejai and Waltzer (1981:235) further strengthen the above position that, democracy is practiced in a system where people are major participants in their government. From the above analysis, it can be said that, political parties that gives pride of place to encourage citizens' participation can be viewed as being effective and strong, compared to that, which do not. The Fourth Republic political parties in Nigeria are notorious in terms of evolving techniques for discouraging mass participation in political activities both within the political parties and at general levels. (Omoregie and Malasowe (2019: 309). These political parties

alienates it citizen and party member from effectively participating politically, thereby making certain few individuals claim ownership of these parties, these few individuals assumes the positions financial Barons and Baroness because they finances the parties, they directs and makes decisions on issues concerning the party with total disregards to the ordinary members of the parties (Ibrahim, Okoye and Adambra 2006).

Consequent on the aforementioned, party members and electorate takes to general display of political apathy. This is shown at various general elections in Nigeria. For instance, the 2015 and 2019 general elections (presidential), reflects consistent high level of political docility on the part of the electorate, especially towards elections. Wikipedia (2015) argued that a total of 67,422,005 (sixty –seven million, four hundred and twenty two thousand and five) of Nigeria citizens registered and are qualified to vote in the election. But, a minimal 29,432,083 (twenty-nine million, four hundred and thirty two thousand and eighty three) participated in the election. This shows that only 43.65% of electorate participation. Also in the 2019 general election, Wikipedia (2019) aptly shows that, of the 82,344,107 (eighty- two million, three hundred and forty- four thousand, one hundred and seven) registered and qualified voters for the election, only 28,610,190 (twenty-eight million, six hundred and ten thousand, one hundred and ninety) voters turned out to participate. This representing only about 34.74% of the total registered voters. A situation of this nature, do not reflect effective political participation which will ordinarily, enhance political development, rather, it further strengthens reason for the political under- development of the Nigeria state. Part of the factor responsible for this form of behavioural traits, is not unconnected to the manner of selection rather than elections into political party positions, adopted by political parties' in their primaries and conventions; these are done, against the choice of the majority of party members. Without mincing words, it is often noticed that such selections are done to serve the personal interest of those who claim to be the party masters or Barons, who are also described in many quarters as rent seekers, using political parties as an expansion of their business empires and in other to consistently protect these selfish interest they hijack the various political parties structures and leadership (Omoruyi (2007:11) These further shows the obvious nature of the Fourth Republic Nigeria political parties weakness and fragility in all sense and purpose.

Development conceptualization is people oriented, that is, an attempt to separate people's participation from developmental trajectory is bound to end up in under-development. The human factor is the pivotal element of development. Also, Omoregie and Aisedion (2019) further opined that, citizenship is best defined in relations to right of participation in the political process. This therefore implies that, for development in the area of politics and economy to be achieved, the people's participation must be seriously looked into and considerably enhanced. To achieve this, political parties in the

system must evolve an effective mechanism for a vibrant, political enlightenment and ensure that, the political parties and its structures are members driven.

The Absence of Security

Security can be classified as consisting of the following concerns; peaceful co-existence, food security, sustainable socio-economic development, and domestic development. These involve strengthening the rule of law, creating a democratic political culture and nurturing civility, suitable for democratic sustenance. (Jega 2007:133). Security stands therefore, as an inevitable element of development and good governance which are guaranteed more under a democratic dispensation. Nabon (2012:223) captured security as the capacity to achieve reconciliation among diverse groups in the society. This conceptualization takes into consideration, the mosaic nature of some states as been made up of multiple ethnic groups that are constantly in conflict over state resources, like the case in Nigeria (Omoregie, Itakpe and Agazuma (2019:56), Groups by nature involve themselves in conflicts over many issues, prominent amongst these are conflicts arising from power acquisition, benefits of state resources and public goods. The ability of the state, to put machinery in place in ensuring reconciliation among these groups, shows how effective the leadership is, in making the people enjoy good governance in the system.

Nweze (2004:85) emphasized that security entails the preservation, protection and guarantee of the safety of life, property, wealth of the citizenry and measure of guard against threat to national security. The vital nature of security in contemporary states cannot be over-emphasized; this is sequel to the fact that, it is the foundation on which development is laid. That is, development is practically impossible in an unsecured environment. It goes with the popular maxim which state that; no meaningful development can be achieved in a state of rancor and acrimony. Though, Omoregie, Aideloje and Anetekhai (2020; 378) argued that, total security may be a mirage in contemporary states, yet, they advocated that, it is the responsibility of states through it relevant agencies to show commitments in achieving its core state function of protecting the lives and property of its citizens. This is one of the means to show-case Good governance and development in a democratic system. The inability of the state to put adequate security measures in place to curtail terror, insurgency, banditry and other sundry crime in the Nigeria state has hindered all efforts at development. It is a statement of fact that, development cannot strive in an environment of violence, crises, volatile and general insecurity. This factor shares a major part of why there is under-development in Nigeria fourth Republic even while party politics and democracy are the major games in town. Needless to recount the daily loss of lives and property occasioned by the activities of terrorists and bandits, particularly the activities of the sect, Boko- Haram in the north-east part of Nigeria and Bandits across all geo-political zones of the country, their activities have resulted in high loss of human lives and unquantifiable loss in economic terms. The inability of the ruling elites in the Nigeria system,

to curtail the menace coursed by these agents of insecurity even in a democratic regime, has further deepened its hope for development.

V. CONCLUSION

Development in its whole essence can be achieved through significant growth and improvement in infrastructures and it's positively impacts to better the human life in the society. Development can easily be achieved in an atmosphere of civility, where the liberty and freedoms of the citizens are naturally guaranteed and where high premium are placed on fundamental human rights. These aforementioned analogies aptly describe a system, where party politics and Democratic style of government strive. The major expectation of the people, under a democratic dispensation is summarily nothing short of Development. This explains why Nigeria fourth republic was greeted and heralded with high expectation by its citizens at its inception, in 1999.

It is a paradox however to observe that, after more than twenty years down the line, under democratic trajectory, no meaningful development can be achieved. This has dashed the people earlier expectation to the extent that they no longer trust or legitimize regimes under this dispensation. As clearly observed, available indices shows lack of integration amongst the various ethnic, religious and geo-political configurations in the system, thereby translating into clamour for secession from various groups. Also, the Nigeria state under the present dispensation has not shown any meaningful impact in the living condition of its citizenry; this is evident in the high level of poverty that pervades the system, as a result of lack of job opportunities, social infrastructures and lack of good and affordable health facilities amongst others. Insecurity in the system has contributes in no small measure to the level of under-development in the country in contemporary times, what triggers this factor are, the activities of the dreaded terrorist sect Boko-Haram, the Fulani Herdsmen, and others engaged in banditry, cattle rustling and other sundry criminalities. It is observed that the system also suffers good governance in the time under review to the extent that corruption among public official at the centre, states and local government levels are alarming. The aforementioned put together and others have resulted in the high level of under-development seen in Nigeria in spite of the age of its Democracy.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is the urgent need to restructure the fourth Republic political parties in line the modern day realities, to reflect the ability to integrate and harmonize the heterogeneous elements in the Nigerian state
- Government at all levels, that is, the centre, state and local governments should begin to evolve policies and programmes aimed at improving the living conditions of it citizenry

- Political parties in the present Democratic dispensation in Nigeria should re-strategize on how to encourage citizens participation in political activities both at the intra-party and inter-party levels
- Political leadership in the fourth Republic must begin to exhibit the ethics of transparency and Accountability which are the basic or hallmark of Good Governance in any Democratic system.
- Security is one of the webberian functions of any Democratic government. Also, an efficacious security system in a state can engender rapid development. Therefore, the Nigeria leadership must re-examine its security architecture and put in place modern security programmes to curb terror and other criminalities that hinders development in the system

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