

Appropriating the Roles of Civil Society Groups as Stakeholders in Civil Rule Administration: A Panacea to Democracy, Good Governance and Sustainable Development Paradigm in Nigeria and Africa at Large

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Abstract

A critical evidence of Good democratic governance goes forward with the complimentary effects of relevant and imperative stakeholders import. While the element of governance machinery processes as always exist in collaboration with stakeholder as critical participant exploring and deliberate on issues paramount to the challenges and prospects of Democracy. This paper marshal the argument that place the Civil rule administration emergence particularly in Nigeria and Africa at large, as one of those Democratic Institution and governance were stakeholders are in one way need to be engage on the platform. Precisely, this paper tends to analyze the role of stakeholders such as civil society groups. Also the paper examined the concept of stakeholders theory, Civil society as flagship of contemporary stakeholders theoretical Analysis. Also the paper explores civil society and civil rule administration in Africa: A framework of analysis as while as civil rule administration and the role of civil society groups.

Keywords: Stakeholders, civil society, Development, good governance sustainable.

Introduction

One of the most striking features before the transition to civil rule in Nigeria was the deterioration in the relationship between government and stakeholders in Nigeria political processes. A situation was the horrors of government clap down on relevant stakeholders, haunted by the use of state police apparatus. The period that usher in civil rule from May 29, 1999, ended with very little optimism that the relationship that existed between the military governments at that time, caged, depressed and suppressed the life of member's stakeholders.

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In fact, there was no platform among stakeholders that their voice and what could be their contribution not subjugated by military powers. However, as Nigeria embraced democracy in 1999, the civil rule opened up a new vintage and lifeline course, by adopting the chance of stakeholder's forum and platform – a time –bound set of relationship that guarantee, greater basic human equality.

The first among the stakeholders and the transition to civil rule in Nigeria adopted by the civilian administration in 1999 is the opportunity for allowing strong existence of stakeholder and others. In order to achieve this milestone, the civilian administration under President Obasanjo sees reason for a robust relationship between the government and stakeholders in all aspect of the Nigeria Society. It is founded that so many stakeholders before the advent of civilian rule in 1999 went underground due to the oppress nature of the military government then. Thus, absent of stakeholders contribution was one great challenge facing government processes in Nigeria before 1999.

Since 1999s usher in the civil rule administration in Nigeria and other parts of Africa special efforts are being made to develop viable strategic, stakeholders-governance relationship that can guarantee effective relationship and ensure sustainable development. This tend also to create an atmosphere were voice and information will be amiolarate for able institutional Democratic values attainment.

Indeed, sustainable development cannot be achieved by the state government alone. But incidentally the experience in some state in Nigeria such that, development programmes are being initiated and implemented mainly by the state, with the stakeholder contributing little or nothing to the process. It is a common knowledge that the stakeholders constitute major components of the entire society. Certainly the stakeholder has a lot to play in the developmental agenda of civilian administration in Nigeria and Africa at large.

This paper is therefore an attempt to explore the roles that stakeholders could play in sustainable development process. The following section will provide a conceptual and theoretical framework for the paper.

Conceptualizing Stakeholders

Recently scholarly works on the concept of stakeholder theory that exemplify research and theorizing in this areas include, Donaldson and Preston (1995), Michel, Angle and Wood (1997) Friedman and Miles (2002) and Philips (2003). These different scholars have explored the complexity of the concept, showing different dimension of stakeholders such as moral, philosophy, compatible and incompatible, ethics, Normative and derivate as while as there organization and ideological stand point. Donaldson and Preston argued that the normative base of the stakeholders theory include the "identification" of Moral or Philosophical guidelines for the operation and management of corporation "is the core of the theory (1997, p.71). Mitchell, et al (1997) "derive a typology of stakeholders based on the attribute of power (the extent a party has means to impose it wills in a relationship) the legitimacy (socially accepted and expected structure or behavior) and urgency (time sensitivity or critically of the stakeholders claims). By examining the combination of these attribute in a binary manners, 8 types of stakeholders are derive along with their implication for organization. "While Friedman and Miles (2002) explore the implication of contentious relationship between stakeholders and organization by introducing compatible/incompatible interest and necessary/contingent connection as additional attributes with which to examine the configuration of these relationships.

As originally detailed by Edward R. Freeman (1984) "Stakeholders theory identifies and models the groups which are stakeholder of corporation, and both described and recommends methods by which management can give due regard to the interest of those groups". In short, it attempts to address the "principle of who or what really count". In the traditional view of the firm, the shareholders or stakeholders are the owner of the owner of the company, the firm had a binding judiciary duty to put there need first to increase value for them. In order in-put –output model of the corporation, the firm converts the input of investors employees, and suppliers into usable, (salable, output which customers buy, there by returning some capital benefits to the firm. By this model, firm only address the need and wishes of those four parties; investors, employees, suppliers and customers.

However, stakeholders theory argued that there are other parties involves, including governmental bodies, political groups, trade association, trade union, community association, professional bodies, civil society, religion bodies and prospective customers and the public at large, sometimes even competitors are counted as stakeholders. The stakeholder's view of strategy is an instrumental theory of the corporation integrity both the resources – based view as well as the market based and abiding socio political level. This above view of the firm is used to define the specific stakeholders of a corporation the normative theory by Donaldson, (1995) of stakeholders' identification as well as to examine the condition under which these parties should be treated (the descriptive theory of stakeholders salience) these two question make modern treatment of stakeholders theory.

Freeman (1984) defines a stakeholder in broad terms as any group or individual who can affect or is affected by the achievement of an organization institution or private individual's purpose. Stakeholder theory is an approach to both organization institutional management and governance that emphasis the importance of considering stakeholders when making leadership decision by calling on organization corporation (private or government) institution, schools, university, service providers, health sectors to give attention to those affected by organizational or institutional actions (government or private). A stakeholder makes explicitly moral claims (Philip Freeman & Wicks 2003). Stakeholders theory is far more, however, than simply a call for organizational ethic. If we consider what Freeman (1983) argument as stated this way "the attention to stakeholders is essential to affective strategic management in an increasing complex world characterized by multiple groups and individuals that affect and are affected by organizational actions. This argument as is more profound to the definition of what stakeholder is all about, not generally an organizational thing, both more encompassing to affect a change in our body politics and social fiber.

A major issue in stakeholders' strategic management is how to balance interest of stakeholders when deciding on the distribution of organization or institutional output. While stakeholder theory does not provide clear guidance on these issues, it does provide some tools. For example, Philip (2003) makes a clear distinction between what he calls "Normative" stakeholders those whom moral obligation is due and "Derivate" stakeholders who warrant attention on the basis of their ability to affect the organization or institutions. This destruction can be helpful when weighing competing stakeholders claiming an organizational or institutional output.

In addition to focusing in the Distribution of an organization or institutional output, stakeholders' theory calls attention to there process. That is, as important as what a stakeholder groups received from organization in the process by which key organizational decision are made (Philip, Freeman & Wicks 2003). For example, do major stakeholders have voice in decision making process, are they provided essential information about the decision making being made and do they judge the decision making process to be fair. Another typical example is the last fuel price increased in Nigeria, on January 2012; while the Nigeria Government took a final decision on increasing fuel price that the stakeholders (NLC, TUC) claimed they were engaging the government on platform of meeting and discussing the issue. Contrary to this the government of Nigeria made bold to announce fuel price increase from N65 to N140. As Philip et al. (2003) asserted "while organizational output are inherently a zero – sum game (one group gain is another lost) voice in decision making is limited in this way. And the more voice and information that is given to stakeholders, the fairer stakeholders tend to find the process."

Stakeholders theory as seems being an explicitly domain of knowledge for appropriate collective actions and voice on issues. One can not rule out the essence and imperative nature of what stakeholders provide for in society engineering toward sustainable development. The theorist of the subject had made profound analysis and analytic expression that stakeholders encompasses the whole body of human organization out, that reflect on decisions making and counting voices of whom this decision affect – stakeholders.

Civil Society as Flagship of Contemporary Stakeholders Theoretical Analysis

Different writers have explored the complexity of the concept showing different dimensions of civil society such as material, organization, and ideology. Attempts to define civil society have been made by scholars in the Greek, Roman, liberal and Marxist Paradigm (Ibeanu 2000). For instance in the Greek Paradigm (Ibeanu 2000). For instance in the Greek Paradigm, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle made the most notable contributions. They maintained that 'civil' form of the society is born when men erect a super structure of political authority as a means of checking the excesses of the state and obtaining security and protection for all. This explanation of what civil is, entails an early understanding of the form of instituted authority arranged for governance of the state.

A divergent ideas span from the liberal philosophers around late 18th century as they distinguish a discrete form of civil society with a quite different rationale. According to Kean (1988) "they defined civil society as a means of defense against potential abuse of power by political leaders especially given the unprecedented concentration of power at the apex of the modern polity". The perception of the liberal philosophers assumed that the best way to counter the corruption influences of power and wealth and to revive a sense of public spirit was to encourage the creation and strengthening of citizen associations (Orji 2005).

According to De Tocqueville (Bretton, 1994:54) the state should be overseen and checked by the "Independent eye society" made up of "a plurality of interacting, self-organized and constantly vigilant civil association" whose functions were to nurture basic rights to advocate popular claims, and to educate citizens in the democratic art of tolerance and accommodation. Alexis de Tocqueville is perhaps a leading voice force, who articulated exponent of civil society in the liberal era Democracy in America attract attention to new types of state deposition implicit in democratic rule.

Considering this account by Ibeanu, (2000) that according to the liberal conceptualization of civil society was arguably disputed by G.W.F Hegel (1868), who interprets civil society from a historicist approach. Hegel clearly differentiated civil society from the state, but assumes that civil society is a creation of the state. He argued that civil society was created by the state essentially for the interest of attaining purely moral purposes such as private property ownership, provision of public services and administering of the law. While one can perceived the rationale for the definition put formed by Hegel as entailing a relationship between quality and quantity or in the word of Orji (2005) "superiority and inferiority". This relationship exists between the state and civil society, a situation whereby one created the other for collective purpose of co-operation.

In furtherance of the dispute argument enacted by Hegel, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels draw a conclusion by concerning civil society as rooted and embued in the material condition of life. Bratton (1994) said "Marx and Engels saw civil society as a sect of commodity production and exchange Intuitions that title contractual relations in favour of capitalist entrepreneurs. While Keane (1988) stated that "as the realm of economic relations, Marx and Engels believe that civil society in coterminous with socio – economic base, as opposed to the state, which was mere political and juridical superstructure.

However, Marx and Engels reversed Hegel's earlier depiction of state society relations, seems the state as subordinate in its relations with civil society especially as the interests of dominant class condition its performance. We can deduce from the analysis put forward by Marx and Engel position the basic attribute or characteristics outline of Civil Society in the state, there relationship exist on the platform of the oppressed and oppressor, where economic interest shape there eventual recognition by the state.

The account given by Bobbio (1988) expose "Antonio Gramsci, a leading civil society theorist in the twentieth century, used Marxist Framework to interpret civil society but he incidentally arrived at quite a different between the state and civil society mirrored that between political and economic life, nor did he consign civil society to the base, instead Gramsci located the civil society in the super-structure. Gramsci formulated a scheme in which the superstructure is divided between two major entities: the state which rules directly through the coercive and judicial instruments, of domination, and the civil society, which promote ethical values among the populace through the exercise of ideology and cultural hegemony. The state embodies force, while the civil society main features consent.

Orji (2005) noted "Gramsci directed attention to the superstructure, especially in the non state activities, which he broadly conceived to occur not only within explicitly politic institutions (such as interest groups and political parties) but also within socio – cultural institutions that disseminate values in the society and nurture public opinion (such as families, schools, churches and mass media). As opposed to Marx and Engel, Gramsci granted primacy to ideology factors capable of disrupting and redistributing power itself. In this sense, civil society is at the height of ideology realm and potentially forms the sources of hegemonic or counter hegemonic. This viewed caption the existing knowledge appreciation that have shaped and re-shaped the attributing factors mostly expressed by theorist of civil society, most especially the conceived perception of Gramsci laying emphasis on outside the explicit political institution and even the economic direction that Marx and Engel Marshal there argument on. Rather than vividly accept, Gramsci pointed to the facts that ideas and values are tantamous about equivalently responsible to initiate power force beyond. Civil society in broad is at the fortunate ideas emancipation, for survival.

Very importantly definition of civil society guided by earlier interpretations, while this has afforded us the analysis in perception. Modern civil society theorist that include eminent like Whaites, 2000; Kasfir, 1988; Jorgensen; 1996; Harbeson, 1996; Singh, 1993; Wood, 1991; Keane, 1988; Bobbio, 1988; Bayart, 1986; Stephen, 1978; Ekeh, 1975 and Orji, 2005 all draw substantially from the works of earlier political theorists. These eminent scholars have tried to articulate and approved diverse attribute of intellectual traditions and approved diverse attribute of intellectual traditions of the past into a coherent definitional notion of civil society. As a result, there profound score definition of civil society were developed.

The first uses civil society to demote a certain degree of common awareness and consciousness which unites society. The broad message of there definition depict a collection society having an instituted authority calls 'civil'. While the second sees civil society as an arena where manifold social movement and civil organization from all classes attempt to mobilize them and advance their interest. At this point a collective force of human recognition for greater impact connotes civil society platform here. Lastly, the third conceive civil society as all. Voluntarily constituted social relation institutions and organization that are not reduce to the administrative grasp of the state. In practical civil society at this level of definition is redefined in much more a detach of instituted authority arm-beat to that of encompassing masses platform.

Civil Society and Civil Rule Administration in Africa: A Framework of Analysis

Generally, the role of the civil society in the Africa's civil rule administration can be hinged on the theory of civil society. Civil society covers all voluntarily constituted social relations, institution and organization that are not reducible to the administration grasp of the state (Singh 1993:23). It also depicts organized activities by groups and or individuals either performing certain services or trying to influence and improve the whole society (Jorgensen 1996:36). The pioneers that are responsible for modern civil society such as Hegel, de Tocqueville, and Gramsci like their predecessors Plato and Aristotle believe that the society is constituted by three spheres, the state, the civil society and the market (Ibeanu 2000). Accordingly by this different sphere differ from the others in terms of their social functions, types of Organization, financial resources, responsibility and response to issues, composition of members, as while as their rules, guides and sanctions.

In categorical, their fundamental functions are for the state to make, enforce laws and policy; for the market in the platform, providing avenue for exchange of goods, service and maintenance; and for the civil society to be the focal meeting – place for debate, deliberation, discussion, Agenda, mobilization, acting for common Endeavour. In each of the three sectors, it may be said that organization forms have evolved fitting into the specific conditions of the sectors. In other word each spheres takes care of the peculiar certain responsibility to is calling. For instance, the government and it agencies are the organizational sphere in form of the state. The business firm or corporation in the organizational firm or sector of the market arena. On the other hand, the corresponding Organization form of the civil society is the non – government organization, (NGO's) community base organization (UBO's) one expression of NGO's offer citizen in the opportunity to take part in the affair of the society or even to change, improve and impact the society as a whole or at least a part of it. In the course of their form of their activities, NGO's CBO's interact with the state and the market. Thus, the activities of the three spheres of state (government), civil society, and market are sometimes overlapping and infringement. In a well functioning society, the three supplements, complement and tolerance each other, working together and not against each other any arising issues.

Considering what is experience Africa on the essence of civil society. Jorgensen (1996:37) said "It has been widely argued that more legitimate and effective state is more likely to allow the development of strong civil society. However, even though civil society are given minute opportunity to operate, their development as expected are in the reverse case. The high headedness, authoritarian and autocratic nature case. Nature of most civilian administration in many parts of Africa countries, posed weakness, retreat or even collapse as challenges to development of civil society organization in the continent. As Pillay (1998:8) have this to say "The informal economy has grown live dramatically throughout Africa, and it has become the major sources of income for urban and rural dwellers alike, since the formal economy absorb only a fraction of the employable population". We can deduce from this position that economy responsibility of the market sector and the state spheres have corresponding ensure economic fortune positively to the people, the informed economic fractional both in the rural and urban dwellers are beneficiary as well as benefactors.

The concern here in the failure of the formed economy sectors mostly entails at the urban city only absorbing fraction of employable population: the argument now arise on the efficacy of civil society organization, that will initiate and act to forestall a deliberate agenda of unbridling them upside down scenario of employment challenges. Civil society organizations are embodiment of reverend opportunity that through their functions strive to balance and guarantee formidable wellbeing of people. The situation in African countries for several reasons are birthed by the political class, in charge of the state, and market, while civil society that is third in spheres are left in the cold, hijack for political patronage's.

It is often argued that the state in Africa has proved to be increasingly ineffective as while as bereft of ideas at talking a number of issues, such as in dealing with governance, social – economic development election violence, poverty, crime and security matters. As Pillay (1998) said "In Chad, Liberia and Sudan, there are no longer single national authorities, but competing powers, divided along religious, ethnics, and others lines. In Uganda, although the state has increased its popularity, it has been reported that large sections of the society have no reel contact with the state. "What this connotes is an alienation of the people from the government, a situation that expresses a wide gap of interaction between the citizenry and their leaders. The absent of functioning civil society organization will definitely permit the above situation. Entire communities exist outside the ambit of the state. A situation were they have built their own houses organized there own sanitation, and operate their own informal economy. They pay little or no taxes and received little or nothing in return.

Orji (2005) "the Uganda adoption of neo-liberalism, with it emphasis on the free market with minimal state intervention, the state has hands off provision of social welfare services to the people. Also, it is unlikely that it will have such communities in its development vision at least not in the foreseeable future". Many Africa countries are capable in the adoption of the neo-liberal path. The civil society is therefore a voice and very prominent in Africa because of the adequate representation it gives to the poor, neglected and marginalized. The Weakness of the state in Africa has left vacuums of power, which are readily and easily filled by the dominant social or political groups. These groups have therefore tended to use the state power they have capture to pursuit their interest, most times at the expense of other groups in the society. The civil society in many cases assumes the responsibility of providing solace to the disadvantaged social groups who suffer neglect in the hand of the state (government). For there group the civil society serves as a buffer against the state's (government) insensitive, and neglect and abandonment.

Orji (2005) "civil society organization have therefore, tried to mobilized the people to engage in self help service in various field throughout the continent, especially where government or business has failed".

Eventually, in recent times, civil society groups have been very significant in many African countries, because their effort to act necessary in corresponding to the activity of the state and market as while as to fill the gap created by he state's weakness, retract or collapse. The civil society in most African countries has taken advantages of the shrinkage of the state's social and welfare services to engage in the provision of services that include such as; health care and reproductive facilitation, political mobilization, micro-credit, child care and elderly helps, legal aid, educational facilitation and infrastructural provisions. Africa civil society groups, for instance in Nigeria are strongly promoting the issue of participation, engagement and capacity building as the major issues that involved, electioneering, party politics, election violence and socio – economic emancipation of the people as while as fundamental human rights that government at all levels in the continent should address.

The democratic dispensation presently enjoyed in Nigeria and other part of Africa would have been possible with out civil society, organization tenacity and vigorous pursued of the goal of democratization of governance on the continent. Even though the forces hold tight to power, it is on record that civil society organization stood their ground and remained adamant to there course for change. Even after actually their course, civil society organization do not see democratic governance as an in itself. Rather, they explicitly link democracy good governance, sustainable development with the overall good target of equality, fundamental human rights, eradicating poverty and peaceful continent, through effective poverty and peaceful continent, through effective development policy initiative that build the capacity of beneficiaries to participate, engage and contribute in the formulation and implementation of public programmes. We are delighting to that fact of effective and admirable impacts of civil society effective and admirable impacts of civil society organization on the continent through strategic advocacy of the group civil rule administration have not being the same on the continent.

In concluding this section, the foregoing points can not be overemphasis alluring to the facts that the civil societies as stakeholders in Africa are embodiment with enormous resources, good will, attribute and tenacity.

These resources and corresponding opportunities need to be identified recognized and utilized in the exercise to ensure Democracy, good governance and sustain development paradigm in Nigeria and Africa in general. It is acknowledge that civil rule administration in Africa as come to stay, the responsibility to guarantee citizenry, especially the masses and other social groups, as while disadvantaged elements, that the stakeholders as represented by the civil society stand as alternative platform for engagement with the state. This therefore calls for important reorganization, incorporation and support for the civil society stakeholders as a vital and pivotal ingredient to society engagement lacking in civil rule administration a panacea paradigm in Nigeria and Africa in general.

Civil Rule Administration And: The Role of Civil Society Groups

The contribution of civil society groups to civil rule administration in Nigeria and Africa at large cannot be over emphasized, as there focal deal for the inhabitant of the continent. Vividly we can summarized there contribution as follows, though its could more than the discuss below;

Peer Review Mechanism

The concept of peer review is the notion of understanding who is a peer, once this is knows the process of peer review mechanism can be evaluated. Peer reviews connote that government at all, global regional, national or local are peer of another and their conduct can be reviewed by mechanism setup for such purpose. From this notion is derived the policy, that the government which score the highest in the virtue that are uphold as the idea becomes the standard that government which scores less are to emulate civil society group in Africa can put to use the process of peer review mechanism in there various countries with these three (3) procedure issues to be noted (1) who sets up the standard and the scale for measuring relative adherence to the standard? Who determine the score for full compliance, adequate compliance and inadequate compliance by government? (2) Who constitute the auditors of government conduct? (3) How are audits report utilized by government? Are these reports enforceable by an Agency? Are they recommendation to government, recommendation that they are obliged to take notice of or that are at liberty to reject in part or in there entity? From the above rendition of peer review, civil society group are sole responsible take action and fin tune the issues raised so as to properly play their role in civil rule administration in Africa countries.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Monitoring and Evaluation ideally understand as dialogue on development and its progress between all stakeholders. Monitoring is the systematic and routine collection of information from project and progress for main purpose of monitory are (1) to learn from experience in improving practices and activities in the future (2) To have internal and external accountability of the resources used aid the result obtain (3) To take informed decision in the future of the initiative (4) To promote empowerment of beneficiaries of the initiative. Monitory is a periodically recurring task already begin in the planning stage of a project or program. Monitoring allows result, processes and experience to be documented and used as a basis to steer decision – making and learning process. Monitoring is used for evaluation. Evaluation is assessing systematically and objectivity as possible, a completed project or program. Evaluations appraise progress in the future. Monitoring and evaluation role of civil society groups in Africa should help to draw conclusion about five main aspects of civil rule administration intervention (1) Relevance (2) efficiency (3) effectiveness (4) impact (5) sustainability. Information gather in relation to these aspect play significant basis for their existence in Africa.

Cohesion: Every society is not determined in terms of number of participant of their geographical spread. However, for them to interact fully and co-exist harmoniously, civil society groups must play the role of cohesion agent in there respective counting in Africa. Cohesion of the entire society refers to the resistance to division.

According to Cohen (1969), cohesion maybe due to (1) allegiance to the larger unit (2) gold overall coordination (3) mutual interest or inter-dependence (4) intersection of ties (5) the quality and strength of ties. It falls within the preview of civil society groups to ensure that cohesion exist in the course to regulate behavior. Cohesion is very important for the survival of the society.

Conformity: As earlier discussed and mention, peer review, monitoring and evaluation and cohesion are significant objective roles that civil society group must undertake in order for civil rule administration to succeed in Africa countries. Conformity ensures continued participation of every individual and interested party. There are mores and regulatory condition to which all members must conform for harmony in the society. There are modes of enforcing these rules and regulation as stipulated by constitutions and laws.

Civil society groups have the role of ensuring the conformity to the laws and constituted regulations which civil rule administration in there own interest must abide with.

Cooperation: Cooperation within the society is a deliberate and voluntary effort to facilitate the performance of tasks of others in return for similar services. The civil society groups may have to make collective service in favour of the common good of the society. There is a clear division of labour in the society of which one of it is the role civil society groups play as the united front for social consciousness and interest advancement. Civil society groups does in cooperation with others playing there role toward the attainment of societal expectation. Cooperation is an essential ingredient of a civil society group manifest.

Participation and Interaction: A civil Society group is composed of individual members that exist in society. There expectation from members in order to fulfill the aspiration of the society. Collective and individual participation of the members of the society groups in necessary for the survival of the society as while as there impact in the civil rule administration in Africa. Interaction of civil society groups as stakeholders in civil rule administration in Africa consist of a number of interrelated feature such as:

1. Purposefulness: It should be directed towards the achievement or clear recognized and generally accepted goal of the society.
2. It is collective as members are conscious of the existence for collective survival.
3. It is reflective and group often develop the consequence of their belonging to a group that can affect, influence or alter their goal, aim and attitude to themselves and to larger society.
4. Interaction is often historical in that the consequence of past or recent happening often interferes with the interaction in the present.

It is expected that civil society groups must take these various forms of interaction, these include communication, competition, conflict and accommodation tolerance and others as route of engagement in civil rule administration.

Representation: It will be difficult for socially disadvantage groups and unorganized persons to express their position toward public policy not to talk of trying to influence resource allocation.

Civil society groups can promote local involvement in decision making which have generally being the focal point of Democratic decentralization and institutional innovation creativity. Quality representation by civil society groups would engender such innovation in the pursuance of social movement and articulation of peoples demands both at local and high level.

Mobilization: Civil society groups evidently can play a paramount role in mobilizing the people, poor or rich to participate more fully in the democratic rule agenda of there respective society. We can attest to the fact that wealthy and socially dominant groups along side with the local and, by the virtue of superior resources, social status and determination are able to exert considerable influence over public policy. Civil society groups, have the worthwhile advantage to mobilize the people to form support that will entirely engender influences on civil rule administration.

Transparency and Information: The need for accountability and informed society can also be the core duty of civil society groups. Civil Society groups make immense contribution effective civil rule administration in Africa by improving transparency and increasing the availability of information about the programmes, project, policy and funds. Activities from the civil society groups to promote this goal include the discovery, publication and dissemination of information about items of legislation, legal provisions, electoral process, public expenditure allocations, the implementation of policy and programmes, special enquires, government contracts, welfare packages, multilateral and bilateral relating with others countries. Such information may be directly published and circulated by groups within civil society, or distributed through new channels or existing media outlets or networks. Civil society groups may also seek to mobilize citizens to pressure government into implementary existing legislation and by taking action to induct public officials who are involved in malfeasance effort to enhance and improving transparency would contribute to voters apathy, passive and reluctance attitude of citizens. Rather citizens are ready to monitor the delivery of development resource and check the appropriation of resources by bureaucrat and local elites. This suggests a more activist role for civil society activities with mobilization and public advocacy.

Enhancing State Performance: The quality and effectiveness of public service and expenditure and central to successful democratic dividends.

Civil Society groups can contribute here by working directly with government in shaping, financing, monitoring, evaluating, and researching and delivering public services in a variety of ways. These can take the form of state-civil society partnership in which civil society groups work closely with state institutions in designing and providing monitoring and evaluation services, research and development, think/tank, health and education, services, by mobilizing funds from among client groups and other sources, by providing services directly, and by ensuring quality and coverage. In some cases this can create the basis for synergy, cooperation and cohesion, in which state institutions acquire greater legitimacy and improve their performance by developing responsive working relationships with civil society groups that draw on the reservoirs of social capital built up in the entire society. Effective state-civil society partnerships in Africa arise in the context of not compromising to short change the people's desire for selfish interest by political interest.

Summary and Conclusion

The Paper so far, focuses on appropriating the roles of civil society groups as stakeholders in civil Rule Administration. A Panacea to Democracy, good governance and sustainable development paradigm in Nigeria and Africa at large. This paper is positing that for any successful outcomes in civil rule administration in Africa must consider the roles of civil society groups as critical stakeholders forming parts of strategy of process. Civil rule administration in Africa countries requires a strong and focused stakeholders emphasis on peer review mechanism, monitoring and evaluation, cohesion, conformity, cooperation, participation and interaction representation, mobilization, transparency and information and enhancing state performance with the role played by civil society groups, impact on economic growth, better access for the poor to social services and adequate infrastructure, as well as targeted intervention to protect electoral mandate, voter apathy, violence and safe guarding the most vulnerable in the society. These are germane areas the civil society groups can make salient enormous contribution. To achieve economic growth and empower the people, there must be prudent fiscal and monetary policies with encouraging people, there must be prudent fiscal and monetary policies with encouraging incentive to create more and under sources of growth and to support the development of the larger society.

Civil rule administration in Africa needs to mildly focus efforts on policy aspects of improving the access to government through the quality of human resources, information dissemination open door with transparency.

It is expected that various groups of people in the society must benefit from situation that allowed access to governance; this will help the government to avoid spreading public resource into unpopular projects and programmes. In delivery significant services and projects and resources to all parts of the society, the government could rely on the leverage access platform created by civil society groups to ensure enormous effectiveness and sustainability of people – government – civil society relations.

There is absolute ever growing demand that civil society as stakeholder in democratic dispensation all over Africa is a resourceful paradigm approach that must be sustained. Even as there are urgent need to tackle poverty, disease and underdevelopment in Africa. So too is essential stakeholders participation like civil society groups will ensure fair play. Their roles in maximizing participation in planning and implementation of governance programmes can be widened and deepened with the support of critical stakeholders in democracy, good governance and sustainable develop.

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