



THE EFFECTS OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY ON THE SOCIO - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY, ABUJA, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This paper assessed the effects of Political Instability on the Socio- Economic Development in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja. The study adopted survey research design and descriptive statistics was used to analyze the data collected with the aid of SPSS software version 19. Three research questions guided the study and the research instrument used was a self-designed questionnaire. Random sampling techniques were used to select respondents and the Taro Yamane Sampling method was utilized in determining the sample size of 400 respondents for the study out of 800,000 populations. Accordingly, 400 copies of the questionnaire were distributed of which 392 were retrieved and analyzed. Findings from the study shows that mistrust among different ethnic/religious groups, corruption, thuggery, imposition of candidates, greed, flaws in our electoral laws and judiciary system causes political instability which affect the Socio-Economic Development of the FCT. Findings also revealed the consequences of political instability in the FCT to include mal administration, corruption, nepotism, lack of free and fair elections, general insecurity of lives and properties. The recommendations proposed in the study includes; the menace of political instability in FCT should be taken seriously; Prompt efforts should be made to tackle the challenges from its roots; War against corruption and political thuggery should be stepped up to save the society from decay; Public awareness campaign and engagement of religious and ethnic leaders on societal morals is imperative for minimal political conflict to enhance development.

Keywords: Political Instability, Effects of Political Instability, Socio-Economic Development, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

INTRODUCTION

Political instability according to David Sanders is the discontinuity of a system or the frequency of unstable events in a political system (Sanders, 1981). Political instability has become a recurrent decimal in Nigerian's socio-economic and political systems due to the heterogeneous background of its nationhood. This instability most often arises from the interactions among members of the society of different ethnicity, political, cultural and religious affiliations to mention but these few. These interactions at times lead to misunderstanding, disagreement and confrontation.

According to Professor Ango Abdullahi, in a paper presentation at the 50th anniversary of Sam Nda-Isaiah, publishers of leadership Newspaper, tribalism, ethnicity and sectionalism play the greatest part of Nigeria's political instability, most of the military interventions experienced in Nigeria from January 15th 1960 to 1998 were inspired by tribal and ethnic tendencies inherent in the country's social diversity in which Abuja, Federal Capital Territory is a component. The civil war (1967-1970), the creation of states and local governments over the years have been a response to continuing pressures arising from tribal and ethnic affiliations and loyalties. The constitution of the country has been amended several times since independence (1960) to address political instability arising from tribalism, ethnicity sectional sentiments (Ango, 2012). As Africa's most populous country, largest economy with most notable democracy, Nigeria is a bellwether for the continent. Therefore, a rising insecurity and weakening economy threaten its democratic progress. This implies that, Nigeria has significant work to do in improving national, state and local security and governance ahead of 2023 general elections (USIP, 2021).

Against this backdrop, one is not surprised that heterogeneous society like Abuja has many ethnic representations, cleavages and attachment coupled with issues of economic mismanagement, bad political leaders and socially disoriented nation faced with such gruesome and inhuman plague since independence. It is also surprising that this political instability that thrived during colonial era still thrives in Nigeria after independence thereby providing unending atmosphere for political instability.

This inherited system has aggravated the country dependence on foreign ideas and foreign technologies. The overall consequence is that the country has virtually lost control of the commanding height of its economy. S.E Okoh cited plato and Aristotle on the need for state formation, said: "State formation is to enable the

citizens to achieve happiness and good life. This interpreted in our modern day, means that it is the responsibility of government to help improve the socio-economic welfare of its citizens and quality of life of its people” (Okoh, 1986).

Some other factors observed to be responsible for Nigeria political instability includes: arrest of charismatic leaders such as Chief Obafemi Awolowo, M.K.O Abiola, imposition of candidates, violence intimidation and thuggery, ballot box snatching and rigging of elections, military coup et cetera. All these factors calls for People's protest by way of rioting, which result to strikes as seen in the unending strikes in the medical and educational sectors which disintegrated the socio-economic system of the country.

Political instability has been identified as one of the major banes of socio-economic development in Nigeria. This problem can be understood from the view point of the effects of political instability on the socioeconomic development of Abuja. There are lots of political groups with vary conflicting agenda due to their tribal and religious leaning which cause socio-economic instability in the Nation’s Capital. For Instance, in 2017 Bwari Area Council witnessed an ethnic Crisis that resulted in a fierce clash between the Gbagi and Hausa Youths leading to the loss of lives and properties such as burning down of Bwari Central Market. Also, a scenario of political crisis resulted from the All Progressives Congress, APC party primaries conducted for the FCT senate and Abuja South federal constituencies in 2019 general elections due to alleged imposition of candidates. Similarly, incidences of vote buying and violence intimidation and thuggery thrived during the February, 2022 FCT Area Councils’ elections. It is against this backdrop that this paper seeks to explicate the effects of political instability on the socio- economic development of Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Nigeria.

Abuja is the capital city of Nigeria, with an estimated population of 3.5 million (NPC, 2020). It is bordered to the north by Kaduna State, to the east by Nasarawa State, to the south-west by Kogi State and to the west by Niger State. Prior to its creation, Nigeria was administered from Lagos as its capital. The Federal Military Government, in August 1975 under Late General Murtala Muhammed convened a panel of experts to study, advice on the desirability of retaining Lagos as the Federal Capital of Nigeria, which saw the promulgation of Decree number 6 of 1976 that created the FCT, Abuja which officially became Nigeria's capital on 12th December, 1991 (Mabogunje, 2001). At present, the FCT is divided into six area councils namely Abaji, Abuja Municipal, Bwari, Gwagwalada, Kuje, and Kwali. The

indigenous groups in Abuja are the Gbagyi (also known as the Gwari), Koro, Gade, Egbura, Gwandara, Bassa and the Ganagana.

Objectives of the Study

1. To investigate the causes of political instability in Abuja, Federal Capital Territory.
2. To identify the consequences of political instability on the Socio-Economic development of Abuja, Federal Capital Territory.
3. To examine the implications and effects of Mal-administration and Corruption on the Socio economic development in Abuja, Federal Capital Territory.

Research Questions

The following research questions shall guide the study

1. What are the causes of political instability in Abuja, Federal Capital Territory Abuja?
2. What are the consequences of political instability on socio-economic development in Federal Capital Territory Abuja?
3. What are the effects of mal-administration and corruption on the socio-economic development in the Federal Capital Territory Abuja?

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Political Instability

The concept of political instability has been defined differently by scholars with each giving it different and sometimes similar definition depending largely on the perspective in which the writer views the subject matter and the circumstances that was in existence when the writer was writing.

Nwankwo (1988) explains political instability in developing countries as the use of militarism imposed by developed countries consistently betray the regressive character of non- colonialism. According to him, the almost irreversible preponderance of the armed forces in the politics of the nation and the increasing use of violence as an instrument of conflict resolution even in interpersonal relation, are some of the phenomena trends toward the neo-colonial militarization.

Accordingly, there is an increasing awareness among contemporary political scientist that violence and other forms of civil strife are always associated with the exercise of power at all level of political interaction thus, Anfowose (1982) cited Smith that

violence has always been part of political process. Protest activities of any form, effort of grammatical grievances in a fashion that will attract attention and ultimately the destruction of life and properties appear as expression of political grievances even in the stable, the ultimate ratio of political action is force. Political action below the threshold of force is normally carried on with the knowledge that an issue may escalate over violence if a party feel sufficiently aggrieved (Anifowose, 1982).

Okunade (1987) viewed political instability from the perspective of human right violation. To him, human rights violation has the propensity and capacity to prone citizens in a country to a rebellion and crisis which might become evident whether in the short or long term political instability via military coup. This correspond with Dudley Walters definition of political instability that, it's changes within a society, which does not conform to or proceed from, the rules governing organizational process in the society (Dudley, 1973). He also viewed instability as phenomenon that arises if there is inconsistency or disequilibrium in the constitutive (or structural) and “regulative (or institutional) rules” (Dudley, 1979). From the above it is evident that human rights are ordained for protection of the citizen at large against exclusive and legislative tyranny and excesses. Its violation will certainly lead to disorderliness, violation of laws, political instability et cetera. It is therefore, pertinent to say that the great force which drives society backward is conflict and violence.

Development

There are numerous perspectives to the concept of development; hence it is difficult to advance a precise meaning. Some scholars viewed it from the economic perspectives, while others see it as a concept that is multidimensional, implying that development is beyond the economic domain. According to Meier (1984), development is the act of rising to the highest value of the Gross National Product (GNP) through the process of accumulating capital and industrialization. Development can also be viewed as the capacity of a nation to increase its static economy to a level where it can generate and sustain an annual increase in its GNP. He further stated that development is not limited to just the process of acquiring industries, but encompasses such processes as modernization, productivity, social and economic equalization, modern technical know-how, improved institutions, and attitudes as well as rationally coordinated policy apparatus. Development goes beyond the increase in per-capita income or economic growth, but also includes sustainable improvements in the living standard of the people, which are guaranteed

through the provision of gainful employment, coupled with the presence and availability of social and economic infrastructures (Meier, 1984).

On the other hand, Seers (1972) and Otinche (2013) defined development by posing certain questions such as; what has been happening to poverty, unemployment, inequality and illiteracy? To them, if all these indices are at a relatively high rate, there is absence of development, and vice versa. It follows therefore that for a country to be classified as developed, there are parameters to look out for which are: the state of poverty, unemployment, inequality and illiteracy. For Todaro (1992), buttressing on the multi-dimensional nature of the concept of development opines that it is the re-organization and re-orientation of the entire economic and social system. This implies that development is not about a particular aspect but it is encompassing, better still multi-dimensional depending on the point of contention. Development is not static but is a continuous improvement in the capacity of the individual and society to control and manipulate the forces of nature for the enhancement of the living standard of the people in a society (Onah, 2005).

Ahmed (2007) noted that development has to do with improving the living condition of people. He highlighted some indicators of development, which includes; a higher quality of life, higher income, better education, higher standards of health and nutrition, less poverty in society, a cleaner environment, more equal opportunities, greater individual freedom and richer cultural life amongst citizens of a given state. From the various meanings of development outlined, it can be deduced that development is not limited to economic growth or per capita income alone but is a concept that is all encompassing that analyses the economic, administrative, political, social, cultural, religious, and living standard of the people in a given society.

Consequences of Political Instability on Socio-Economic Development.

Many governments' administrations after independence in Nigeria have created legacy of corruption, lawlessness, ethnic animosities, mass poverty, sectionalism and communal violence. The consequences of political instability on the socio-economic development of Nigeria are thus: Insecurity of lives and properties; Inconsistency in execution of public policies; Mass protest and strike; and Infrastructural under development (Bullion, 2015).

Security is an all-encompassing phenomenon that is paramount to individuals, entities, communities and nations. Security implies a stable, relatively predicible environment in which an individual or group may pursue its ends without fear of

disturbance or injury. Security is viewed as the aggregation of the security interest of all individual communities, ethnic groups, political entities and institution which inhabit the territory. Its importance is attached to safety, security and the prosperity of individual and institution within the country and abroad (Ogiaga, 2015). No wonder, section 14(2) (b) of the 1999 Nigerian constitution states that “the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government,” and as highlighted by Robert McNamara, former America Secretary of Defence, ‘security is development, development is security’ (Ogiaga, 2015). This assertion has been corroborated by Friday Onuche, former Director, Department of State Services (DSS), Abia state, Nigeria, who noted that there would be no development without security; that they were interconnected (Vanguard, 2022). This means without security, there cannot be any development. Therefore, Political instability arises as a result of the inability of government to adequately address the grievances of the population which in turn leads to crisis, killing and property displacement such as the constant crisis in Jos, Niger delta militant agitations, the present banditry/Boko Haram insurgencies that has bedevilled the nation security (Ogiaga, 2015).

In his remark, Kew (2006) described Nigeria as an “unfinished state” with truculent tragedy in the midst of abundant human and material resources which are propelled in the vicious circle of poverty and autocracy. Policies and national projects are executed half way during the military administrations, and in the present civilian government, the heads of state and presidents brings up their own policies abandoning their predecessors unfinished projects. Nigeria has had several socio-economic and political policies which range from; vision 20/20, 7-point agenda, etc, none of these policies had execution to the fullest (Kew, 2006).

Ayittey (2006) argues that governance issues in Nigeria have produced baneful structures in an environment that engenders instability in the political system as Nigeria citizens yearn for the elusive dividends of good governance. Therefore, with the presence of political instability, economic growth and development will be adversely affected accounting for the high level of poverty, bad roads, epileptic power supply, low standard of living etc. which are characteristic of infrastructural under development.

Economic Development

Economic development is the sustained, concerted action of policy makers and communities that promote the standard of living and economic health of a specific area. It is also the quantitative and the qualitative changes in the economy, such

changes can involve multiple areas including development of human capital, critical infrastructure, regional competitiveness, environmental sustainability, social inclusion, health safety, literacy and other initiatives. Economic development differs from economic growth. Whereas economic development is a policy intervention endeavoured with the aims of economic and social well-being of peoples, economic growth is a phenomenon of market productivity and rise in Gross Domestic Product (Todaro & Smith, 2009).

All economy policies geared towards the betterment of an economy are for the betterment of human existence. Economic development viewed from the human perspective focuses attention on how the economic growth is managed and wealth in the society distributed for the benefit of majority of the people in the society. This broadens people's choices, having long life through well planned economic development in terms of the quality of foods, health care, having access to quality education and varied resources for decent standard of living, the degree of political freedom, guaranteed human right and personal self-respect (UNDP, 2012). Nigeria as a nation has made some progress towards attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. However, there is a high need to diversify the Nigerian economy into non- oil sector. This would help expand the sources of economic growth and development and make it broad based thereby creating employment and reducing poverty (MDG, 2015).

Challenges of Development in Nigeria

Studies have shown that there are numerous factors that challenge development in Nigeria (UNDP, 2014; Gberevbie, Shodipo & Oviasogie, 2013). For United Nations Development Programme, UNDP, the imposition of policies on citizens, lack of adequate human resources or capital to implement these policies, corruption and lack of credible leadership are the major challenges to Nigeria's development (UNDP, 2014).

The UNDP report further maintained that most policies of developing nations are imposed on the masses. The policies are made by the government without considering the target population; as such the masses are not given the opportunity to contribute in the formulation of policies that concern their wellbeing. This report reveals that Nigeria ranked number 152 out of 187 countries in Human development, which is average quality of life and standard of living. The report puts Nigeria's Human Development Index at 0.381 which is below the prescribed level. Although, corruption is a global issue but Nigeria as a country is caught in the web of corruption

(UNDP, 2014). Often times, funds which are set aside for implementing policies are usually siphoned to the detriment of the entire nation. Alexandra (2010) also stressed the fact that leadership has become a bane to development in Nigeria. To him, most of the so-called leaders do not actually understand that leadership entails assuming responsibilities for certain important issues. As such, politics is seen as a “do or die” affair, while ethical politics is relegating to the background (Alexandra, 2010).

Implications of Political Instability in Nigeria

The implications and costs of political instability across the country are overwhelming. The occurrence of violent conflicts which always led to political instability for over five decades leaves much to be desired in Nigeria. First, there is the insufficient use of natural and human resources that is endowed the Nigerian state. Hence, Nigeria has been glued to poverty, hunger and other indices of economic crunch. Secondly, political instability always leads to loss of lives. Violent crises in Nigeria have resulted in a number of causalities. For instance, the Nigerian Civil War of 1967 to 1970 had led to the death of almost two million citizens (O’Neil, 2020). Other crises in the country such as Niger Delta violent conflicts, Boko Haram insurgency, banditry, kidnapping herders-farmers clashes have also recorded loss of lives and properties with its implications for the nation’s economy as the killings have effects on the energetic workforce (O’Neil, 2020).

Incessant violent conflicts in Nigeria have also retarded foreign investment in flow and growth. No foreign investor will be encouraged to invest in an unstable economy like Nigeria. The atmosphere of relative peace, security and stability will attract foreigners to the country while insecurity and political instability will discourage foreign investors (Ajayi, 2004).

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study is anchored on Theory of structural functionalism: this theory is a concept adopted in political science and specifically in the field of comparative politics. The concept sees political instability as a system that needs maintenance that brought about the stability of socioeconomic development, in order words, where the system fails to function it results to the instability of the economy.

According to Ofoegbu (2009), functions as generally used by scholars in political science refer to the contribution of an activity or partners of behaviour to the maintenance of stability in a given society. He went forwarder to State that, it is the observable effects of an activity that are necessary to the maintenance of political

stability. Function implies a positive contribution towards socio-economic development in political instability, while dysfunction is used to refer to negative contributions, which lead to socio-economic breakdown of the political instability. To Olaniyi (2015), Structural functionalism when related to political instability on implementation of Nigeria policy on Socio-economic development can be described as a means of explaining basic function of the political structure in political system and it is a tool of investigation. He further stated that it explains the relationship between the parts (structures); the relationship is explained in line with the basic functions of each. This is because it is the contribution of each structure (parts) that help to sustain the political stability of the economy and vice versa.

So, the theory is of the view that the implementation of the Nigeria policy on Socio-economic development gave rise to stability of the political system which entails the structural arrangement of economic policy or policies in Nigeria system. But if it fails to function, will result to political instability which does not favour the system.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopts a survey research design and used both primary and secondary data. The primary data were obtained via the questionnaire administered to the respondents, while the secondary data was collected from INEC, National Population Commission official websites, Textbooks, Newspapers, Journals etc.

The study was carried out in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) of the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria. The Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) was created on 1st October 1984. It is located on the Eastern wing of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). It is bounded on the East by Nasarawa State, on the West by Kuje Area Council, North-West by Gwagwalada and on the North by Bwari Area Council. The population of the study was the 800,000 registered Voters resident in the Abuja Municipal Area Council, those who are politically exposed and relevant to this study (Leadership Newspaper, 2016). Given the population of 800, 000, the population sample was determined using the Taro Yamane (1967) method, with the formula thus: $n = N / 1 + N (e)^2$

n = sample size

N = the population under study = 800,000

e = margin error, in this research I have adopted $e = 0.5$ (one of the figures recommended in Taro Yamane method.

$n = N / 1 + N (e)^2$ will translate to:

$n = 800,000 / 1 + 800,000 (0.5)^2$

$$n = 800,000 / (1 + 800,000) (0.0025)$$

$$n = 800,000 / (1 + 2000)$$

$$n = 800,000 / 2001$$

$$n = 399.80$$

$$n = \text{approximately } 400 \text{ (as the sample size).}$$

The data collected was analyzed descriptively with the help of Ms Excel and SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) Software version 19. The result was presented in frequency tables with explanation. The mean scores were employed to answer the research questions. A mean percentage above 50 (3.0) was accepted, while below is rejected.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Personal Information of Respondents

Table 1: Gender

| Gender | Frequency | Percentage |
|--------|-----------|------------|
| Female | 96 | 24 |
| Male | 296 | 76 |
| Total | 392 | 100% |

Source: Survey, 2022

From Table 1 above the respondents were classified into two groups according to their gender. The female formed 24%, while the males formed 76% of the total respondents. The gender analysis shows that both males and females were represented in the study.

Table 2: Age Distribution

| Age | Frequency | Percentage |
|----------|-----------|------------|
| 18-20yrs | 78 | 20 |
| 21-30yrs | 84 | 21 |
| 31-40yrs | 86 | 22 |
| 41-50yrs | 74 | 19 |
| Above 50 | 70 | 18 |
| Total | 392 | 100% |

Source: Survey, 2022

Table 2 above shows that the age structure of the respondents was classified into five groups. Only 20% of the respondents fell into the 18-20 years category. The

second category of ages 21 to 30 recorded 21% which reveals strong matured youth participation. The third group of ages 31-40 recorded the highest participation of 22%% of total respondents. The 41-50 age cohorts recorded 19% of the total respondents. The last group of over 50 years recorded a paltry 18% of the total respondents. The age structure analysis shows that most of the respondents are of youth and middle age adults who are capable of playing key role in shaping the politics of our nation.

Table 3: Educational Analysis

| Educational Qualification | Frequency | Percentage | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------|
| OND/NCE | 96 | | 24 |
| HND/BSC/BA | 98 | | 25 |
| PGD/MSC | 60 | | 15 |
| PhD | 30 | | 8 |
| Others (below OND) | 108 | | 28 |
| Total | 392 | | 100% |

Source: Survey, 2022

Table 3 above shows the educational qualifications of the respondents, which establish that greater percentage of the respondents is well educated and politically informed with a total of 72% having OND to PhD, while below OND recorded only 28%.

Table 4: Marital Status

| Marital Status | Frequency | Percentage | |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|------|
| Single | 94 | | 24 |
| Married | 120 | | 31 |
| Divorced | 86 | | 22 |
| Widowed | 92 | | 23 |
| Total | 392 | | 100% |

Source: Survey, 2022

Table 4 reveals that the greater percentage of the respondents was made up of married persons who had families and the attendant responsibilities. The marital

status of the respondents was considered under four categories, with the singles recording 24% of the total respondents. The married group records 31%, the divorcees 22%, most of whom were single parents. The widowed category recorded 23% and they also have their own share of family responsibilities. The presumption here is that the married persons show greater commitment to the political situation around them to protect the socio-economic welfare of their families.

Table 5: Causes of Political Instability in Abuja, Federal Capital Territory

| A | STATEMENTS | SA | A | U | D | SD | N | Σfx | Mean | (%) | Decisio |
|---|--|-----|-----|----|----|----|-----|------|------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Imposition of candidates with attendant lack of free, fair and credible elections and proper representation by the people causes political instability in FCT. | 182 | 90 | 0 | 70 | 50 | 392 | 1460 | 3.7 | 18 | Accepted |
| 2 | Crisis and mistrust among different ethnic/religious groups cause Political Instability in the FCT | 200 | 180 | 2 | 10 | 0 | 392 | 1746 | 4.5 | 22 | Accepted |
| 3 | Flaws in our Electoral laws and Judicial system being exploited by desperate politicians result in political instability. | 80 | 180 | 40 | 52 | 40 | 392 | 1384 | 3.5 | 17 | Accepted |
| 4 | Intolerance among Leaders of various Political Parties and their members contribute to | 140 | 200 | 22 | 30 | 0 | 392 | 1626 | 4.1 | 20 | Accepted |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|-----|-----|----|---|---|-----|------|-----|-----|----------|--|
| 5 | political instability. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Greed, corruption, injustice and compromises among Politicians, Electoral and Judicial officers cause political instability. | 250 | 112 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 392 | 1788 | 4.6 | 23 | Accepted | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | Accepted | |
| | Sectional Mean | | | | | | | | 4.1 | 100 | | |

Source: Survey, 2022

Table 5 vividly shows the mean responses on the research statement on the causes of political instability in Abuja, FCT. The respondents agree that imposition of candidates with attendant lack of free, fair and credible elections and proper representation by the people causes political instability in FCT with a mean score of 3.7; Crisis and mistrust among different ethnic/religious groups cause Political Instability with a mean score of 4.5; Flaws in our Electoral laws and Judicial system being exploited by desperate politicians result in political instability with a mean score of 3.5; Intolerance among Leaders of various Political Parties and their members contribute to political instability with a mean score of 4.1; and that greed, corruption, injustice and compromises among Politicians, Electoral and Judicial officers cause political instability with a mean score of 4.6. The Sectional mean is 4.1 confirming all the factors cause political instability in the FCT.

Table 6: Consequences of Political Instability on the Socio-Economic Development of Abuja Capital Territory.

| B | Statements | SA | A | U | D | S | N | Σfx | Mean | (%) | Decision |
|---|--|-----|-----|----|----|----|-----|------|------|-----|----------|
| 6 | Mal-administration, corruption and mediocrity in governance. | 100 | 232 | 0 | 50 | 10 | 392 | 1592 | 4.1 | 19 | Accepted |
| 7 | Nepotism, marginalization and disaffection | 80 | 250 | 10 | 30 | 22 | 392 | 1512 | 3.9 | 18 | Accepted |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----|-----|---|----|----|-----|------|-----|-----|----------|
| | among the citizens of FCT. | | | | | | | | | | |
| g | Inequitable distribution of amenities and underdevelopment of infrastructures and services in the FCT. | 180 | 190 | 0 | 20 | 2 | 392 | 1702 | 4.3 | 20 | Accepted |
| g | Many political office holders plunder the treasury corruptly thereby depleting the financial resources available for development. | 300 | 50 | 1 | 21 | 20 | 392 | 1765 | 4.5 | 21 | Accepted |
| / | General insecurity of lives and properties | 280 | 100 | 0 | 7 | 5 | 392 | 1819 | 4.6 | 22 | Accepted |
| | Sectional Mean | | | | | | | | 4.3 | 100 | Accepted |

Source: Survey, 2022

Table: 6 shows the responses to the research statement on consequences of political instability in Abuja, Federal Capital Territory. The respondents agree that it gives rise to mal-administration, corruption and mediocrity in governance with a mean score of 4.1; It results in nepotism, marginalization and disaffection among the citizens of the FCT with a mean score of 3.9; It causes inequitable distribution of amenities and underdevelopment of infrastructures and services in the FCT with a mean score of 4.3; it leads to political office holders plundering the treasury corruptly thereby depleting the financial resources available for development with a mean score of 4.5; and It gives rise to general insecurity of lives and properties, thereby threatening the socio-economic growth with a mean score of 4.6. The sectional mean stands at 4.3 which affirms the consequences of Political Instability in Abuja,

Table 7: Effects of Mal-Administration and Corruption on the Socio-Economic Development in Abuja, Federal Capital Territory

| | Statement | SA | A | U | D | SD | N | Σfx | Mean | (%) | Decision |
|----|--|-----|-----|---|----|----|-----|------|------|-----|----------|
| // | Sets back the socio-economic and infrastructural development of FCT and her inhabitants. | 119 | 192 | 1 | 45 | 35 | 392 | 1491 | 3.8 | 22 | Accepted |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|------|-----|----|--------------|
| 12 | Derailment of Abuja development from the envisioned Model City as contained in the Abuja Master plan. | 88 | 100 | 80 | 74 | 50 | 392 | 1278 | 3.3 | 19 | Accepted |
| 13 | Disrupts negatively the "ease of doing business" initiative in the FCT which discourages investors. | 0 | 178 | 150 | 40 | 24 | 392 | 712 | 1.8 | 11 | Not accepted |
| 14 | The natural resources in the FCT are untapped, the Potentials unharnessed, resulting in poor Internally Generated Revenues (IGR). | 161 | 201 | 0 | 2 | 28 | 392 | 1641 | 4.2 | 24 | Accepted |
| 15 | It increases conflicts among different ethnic and religious groups resident in the FCT. | 199 | 132 | 2 | 30 | 29 | 392 | 1618 | 4.1 | 24 | Accepted |
| Sectional Mean | | | | | | | | | 3.4 | | Accepted |

Source: Survey, 2022

Table 7: shows the responses to research statement on effects of political instability on the Socio- Economic development in the FCT. The respondents agree that it sets backwards the socio-economic and infrastructural development of FCT and her inhabitants with a mean score of 3.8; that it causes the derailment of Abuja Physical development from the envisioned Model City as contained in the Abuja Master plan with a mean score of 3.3; that it disrupts negatively the "ease of doing business" initiative in the FCT which discourages investors with a mean score of 1.8; that it hampers the tapping of the natural resources in the FCT, with the Potentials unharnessed, resulting in poor Internally Generated Revenues (IGR) with a mean score of 4.2; and that it increases the conflicts among different ethnic and religious groups resident in the FCT with a mean score of 4.1. This brings the Sectional mean to 3.4 confirming the effects of political instability to the socio-economic development and infrastructural development of Abuja.

Discussion of Findings

Analysis of the data from the study's respondents (Table 5) revealed the mean responses on the causes of political instability in Abuja, FCT, with the first item (imposition of candidates) having the mean score of 3.7, thus, establishing imposition of candidates as one of the major causes of political instability in FCT.

Also, crisis and mistrust among different ethnic/religious groups is one of the causes of political instability. This is revealed in the mean score of 4.5 on table 5. This is in consistent with the reports and studies of UNDP (2014), Daily Trust (2015), Punch (2017), Anifowose (1982), (Rodney, 2003) that explained the nature of the elites and politicians in encouraging the culture of ethnic based competition for resources, inter-ethnic vilification and stereotyping in their pursuit for power and relevance.

The study also revealed flaws in our electoral laws and judicial system, intolerance among Leaders of various Political Parties and their members, electoral and Judicial officers; and greed, corruption, injustice and compromises among Politicians results in political instability. This is shown in the mean score of 3.5 and 4.4 in table 5. This again is substantiated in the report of Punch (2017), CPPA (2015), which reported the magnitude and level of corruption in Nigeria. In 2014 and 2015 alone recorded embezzlement of the highest order unprecedented in the history of the country took place particularly during the 2015 General Elections.

The study unraveled the consequences of political instability on the socioeconomic development to include corruption, nepotism, marginalization and disaffection, inequitable distribution of amenities and under-development of infrastructures, plundering of the treasury, insecurity of lives and properties which threaten the socio-economic development in Abuja with a mean score of 4.4 and 3.9. This corroborates the studies of Bullion (2015), Ogiaga (2015), which states that corruption, nepotism, marginalization and disaffection, inequitable distribution of amenities and under- development of infrastructural services, plundering of the treasury, insecurity of lives and properties as some of the consequences of political instability on a nation's development.

The study has also shown the setbacks of political instability on infrastructural development of FCT especially in the derailment of Abuja Physical development from the envisioned Model City as contained in the Abuja Master plan, disrupting the "ease of doing business" initiative which discourages investors, and tapping of natural resources resulting in poor Internally Generated Revenues (IGR) and increasing the conflicts among different ethnic and religious groups resident in the FCT with a mean score of 3.4 in Table 7. This finding explains Ogiaga (2015), Ayittey (2006) studies which noted the backwardness in the Socio-economic development as a result of political instability.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conflict Resolution Agencies and mechanisms should be established to foster peace and harmony in the political space of FCT, is some of the ways forward in political

stability for the socio-economic development of the Federal Capital Territory. Most importantly, there should be 'Special Tribunals' in place always to hear pre-elections' cases within two months to avert their inherent implications on the system. Base on the study findings, the following recommendations were proposed:

1. The menace of political instability in FCT should not be taken for granted; efforts should be made to tackle the challenges from its roots.
2. Sound Electoral and Judicial reforms are imperative in tackling the challenges. For example, establishment of Special Election Tribunals to expedite actions on elections cases.
3. War against Corruption and Indiscipline should be stepped up to save our society from decay.
4. Public awareness campaign on the evils of Political Instability and Corruption is critical
5. Establishing Conflict Resolution Agencies and mechanisms to foster peace and harmony in the Political space of FCT.
6. Engaging Religious and Ethnic leaders and other stakeholders on societal morals is imperative for the development of FCT and the Country.

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