



Good Governance Strategies for Sustainable Development in Nigeria: A Comparative Study

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Abstract

The study departs from the pattern of previous studies which sorely focused on the common characteristics of good governance. To this end the purpose of the study is to take a novel insight into the provisions of chapter two of the 1999 constitution of Nigeria vis-a-vis other models of good governance by drawing the similarities and dissimilarities. The study further emphasized the drawbacks to the implementation of the constitutional provisions for good governance, democratic institutions. The study found that good governance for sustainable development is well intended in the grund norm. However, certain provisions limit the enforcement of the rights of the citizens to take legal actions against acts of bad governance. This study frowned at the ouster provisions, and encourages developing society not to tolerate such hindrances whether well intended. It is therefore strongly advised that the law- being an instrument for social engineering, good governance and sustainable development must be taken seriously by the Nigerian governments. The study equally suggest that since the objectives of good governance are streamlined into annual budgets, demands “spirit and letter” implementation. The study further recommended that, challenges such as corruption and electoral malpractices which affect the implementation of the tenets of good governance should be eradicated from the system. It is only credible persons who are elected and appointed through credible and transparent electoral process can implement any model of good governance for sustainable development. Furthermore , the weak institutions have to be strengthened through training and retraining, aggressive orientation and reorientation.

Keywords: Constitutional provisions, Governance, Good governance, Nigeria , Sustainable development, Strategies.

Introduction

Globally, good governance and sustainable development are at the front burner of international and national discourses. Such interplay between good governance and national development is key to policy discourse (Salifu *et al.*, 2025). It is pertinent to know that good governance birth sustainable development, and where there are no structures and strategies for good governance in a country , the citizens will be experiencing the scorch of bad governance - poverty and malnutrition, bribery and corruption, loss of investments and high rate of unemployment oppression and degradation, environment pollution, political instability and civil unrest, protests and strikes,

breakdown of law, criminality and insecurity, pervasion of justice, and many other vices.

Sustainable development is one of the paradigms designed to address the problem of underdevelopment in third world countries. It inculcates the views of economic growth, reduction of poverty, social development, equity and sustainability (Cheema, 2007 ; Abubakar and Sanusi, 2018). Good governance is associated with “efficiency, accountability, transparency, due process, rule of law, participation, justice and control of corruption (Noor, 2008). In addition, pluralism, solidarity, partnership and provision of efficient service are instruments that ensure and institutionalize good governance (Abubakar and Sanusi, 2018). However, good governance has

been a mirage in Nigeria due to multidimensional challenges inhibiting its institutionalization - human development challenge, lack of connection between educational institutions and modern economy,

leadership challenge, bad governance and corruption (Soyemi, Hammed and Yusuff, n.d), exemplifies as fig. 1 below:

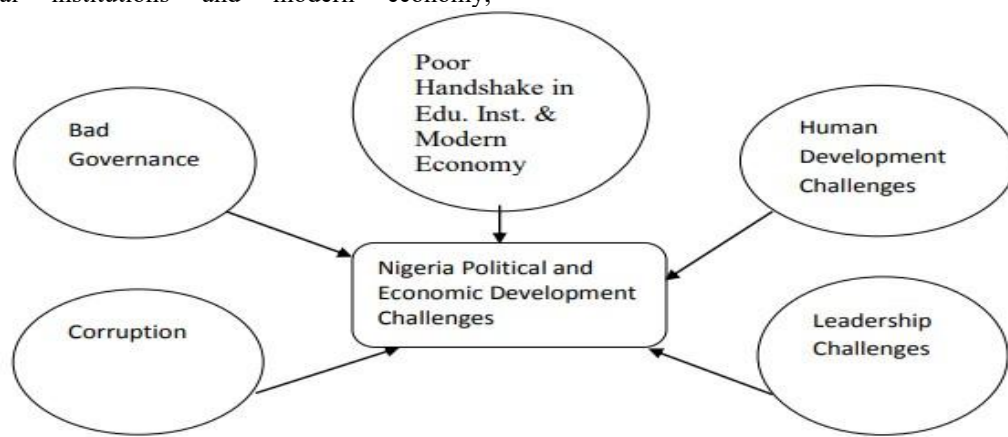


Fig .1: Challenges to Good governance and sustainable economic development

Source: Soyemi, *et al.*, n.d).

It has been observed that good governance has been solidly entrenched in the developed world. For instance, in USA- California, its robust structures for good governance yielded consistent economic growth. Her tech- economy is valued over \$3.9 trillion in 2023 (Smith and Harris, 2023). In Lindberg (2022), welfare system in Sweden ranks among the best in the world. Also, in Asia, Singapore's model for good governance transformed her economy from developing state in the 1960s to an economy with per Capita GDP of \$72.794 in 2023(Lee, 2022). The transformation of South Korea through technology and industrial development is an indication of policy-driven innovation (Park and Choi, 2021).

Contrastingly, in Africa, there are very poor reports on good governance, national and sustainable development. Rwanda may have changed this narrative by achieving an economic growth rate of over 7% yearly from 2019 to 2023 basically on strengthened anti-corruption crusade and measures and provided investment friendly policies (Nkurunziza, 2022). With respect to Nigeria, it has been all about challenges or excuses (Salifu *et al.*, 2025). The country is faced with persistent governance deficit which hinders growth and sustainable development. Nigeria was ranked as 154th out of 180 countries in 2023 by the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index (Transparency International, 2023). The results from failure of governance are economic stagnation and poverty standing at 63% in 2023 (NBS, 2023).

Indeed, political and economic governance in Nigeria are plagued with many challenges. Insecurity is one the

prevalent critical challenge to governance. It is on record that the Boko Haram insurgents, and separatist agitations have displaced over 3.2 million people in 2024 (UNHCR, 2024). Other challenges are infrastructure deficit, poor road networks, power (electricity) failure, etc. The slow pace of administration of justice by the court system has been identified as a problem (Adigun, 2022).

There are literature on good governance and other connected concepts. Abubakar and Sanusi (2018) examined good governance and local government administration in Nigeria with emphasis on sustainable development and Soyemi *et al.*, (n.d) investigated good governance and sustainable economic development with reference to information technology as a platform. Salifu *et al.*, (2025) emphasized the challenges and prospects of good governance and Anthony (2024) focused on good governance and sustainable democracy, challenges and solutions. The impact of government institutions on good governance was done by Nwafor (2023), and Bukar, Hindatu and Umar (2025) analyzed the connection between good governance, sustainable development, peace, and security in Nigeria. Abdulganiyi, Gbate, and Kaita (2019) worked on good leadership and good governance in Nigeria.

The review of previous studies revealed that the nexus between chapter two of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and other Models for good governance and sustainable development has remained uninvestigated. This is the knowledge gap that the study has tried to cover.

Governance and Good Governance

Meaning of Governance

There are several perspectives to defining governance however with a resolve to achieving a predetermined goal. Etymologically, governance is defined as “a system of administration and rule, practices and processes by which an organization, society or institution is organized, directed and controlled” (Chinnah, 2025). Lukman (2022) defines governance “as the process of governing societies where no single actor holds absolute dominance. Chartered Governance Institute (2022) describes governance as “the framework by which organizations are directed and controlled, encompassing decision-making authority, accountability and ethical conduct”. Also, Siyal and Hobbs (2023) defines “governance as the formation of policies and continuous monitoring to implement them properly by the governing body, highlighting the decision-making process and execution”. Governance has been defined as “the manner in which vested authority uses its powers to achieve institutional objectives including design, implementation, and stakeholders engagement, emphasizing accountability, transparency and predictability” (International Social Security, 2022).

The version of Institute of Directors (2023) is that “governance is characterized by structures and processes that ensure accountability, transparency, responsiveness, rule of law, stability, equity, inclusiveness, empowerment and broad-based participation, reflecting norms, values, and rules of public affairs management. Authors like Skinn (2023) sees governance as “the way rules, norms, and actions structured, and sustained, regulated and held accountable, likening it to the enforcement of law within an organization” and Ribeiro *et al.*, (2023) define governance from the aspect of artificial intelligence (AI) as “the practice of establishing frameworks, policies, and procedures to ensure a responsible, ethical, and safe development and deployment of artificial intelligence systems to promote transparency and accountability”. Edih (2020) considers governance as a function of leadership with respect to community development. He juxtapositioned the concept of governance, good governance, and communal participation. The author further drew the meaning of Governance from the Oxford Dictionary, which states that “governance is managing resources of a country and the process of governing a nation”. Ogali (2014) cited the definition of governance as defined by the Commission of Global Governance (1995) as “the sum of the many ways individuals and institutions, public and private manage their common affairs”. In contrast, Hanatu (2014) posits that

governance is the major problem in Africa. This calls for a thorough understanding of the ideology of governance by the so-called “Leaders’ in the continent of Africa.

It is observed that the series of definitions proffered by scholars are geared towards achieving predetermined objectives - short-term, medium-term, and/or long-term. Some considered governance as the function of a state while others see it from organizational or corporate ideology. The whole essence of governance is to achieve a collective, organizational or state objectives and goals. However, corrupt and wicked leaders disregard the purpose of governance to their shame. To their shame because there is “karma” if not now, it's not too long.

What is Good Governance?

Edih (2023) opines that good governance is the desire of all nations especially in the 21st century. This is evident as shown in the social media, recently it was NEPALI's revolution led by the youths, Bunkina Faso's radical transformation by Ibrahim Troare, EndSars protest championed by courageous youths at Lekki Toll, Lagos, Nigeria and so forth. These are examples of clamours for good governance in Africa. According to Peters *et al.*, (2022), good governance is seen from several dimensions, such as, one, as the rule of law and fair enforcement of inclusive and collaborative governance structures, two, as the control of corruption to prevent resource wastage, eradicate bribery and corruption (the twin devils), and efficient services and three, ensuring legal integrity and independence. The study of Khosrowyerdi (2022) which compared 117 countries arrived at the indices of good governance to include; democracy in real term, economic management, and public administration. These socioeconomic and sociopolitical indices are sound predictors of a transparent and accountable government. In the words of Lasky(2024), “good governance is an effective framework for how states, organizations, or businesses are governed in line with ethical representations.

The adjective “good” is deliberately attached to ‘governance’ to enrich its meaning and essence in the 1990s (Mohammed and Petri, 2016). Good governance is the “exercise of economic, political, and administrative authority to manage affairs of a country at all levels - the mechanisms, processes and institutions for articulating the interest of the state and satisfying the popular wish of the people (Edih, 2020 ; Ogali, 2014). Salih (2003) notes that good governance is all about economic liberation policies and reforms as well as reducing the influence of government in regulating the economy -deregulation programmes are essentials of good governance. In a similar postulation, Waziri(2009 as cited in Edih , 2020) states that good

governance is standing on three pillars, namely; economic, political and administrative. Good governance has been surmised as the ultimate dimension of governance, meaning there diverse levels of governance (Edih, 2020). The contrast of good governance is bad governance and literature is painted with features of bad governance in Africa (Edih, 2022, p. 60 ; Hanatu, 2014). Good governance encourages inclusion by removing avoidable dichotomy while bad governance establishes gaps between the leaders and the led. Chapter two of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria as amended is a template for good governance (Edih, 2022). Good governance is an exercise of biblical statement paraphrased as " ... and God saw that it was good..." positing that every intended action should yield and end with good results.

Strategies for Institutionalizing Good Governance and Sustainable Development

Strategies for institutionalization of good governance and sustainable development are the elements, tenets, characteristics of good governance. Literature (Chinnah, 2025; Edih, 2022, 2020) highlighted some of them which are harmonized as follows;

1. **Existence of the Rule of Law :** The rule of law is the foundation of government whether democratic or military. Some may contest the existence of the rule law in a military regime (however, decrees and edicts are the laws in military era). Yes, some , not all, may be draconian hence you may experience continuous overthrow when consciousnesses and consciences are deadened. The constitution must be upheld by the government in a constitutional democracy. Rule of law promote equality, fairness and justice according to Professor A.V. Dicey - a British jurist and philosopher. There is striking connection between or among constitutional democracy, good governance and sustainable development. The law is regarded as supreme, government and the people are accountable to law, the judicial arm is independent and impartial, individual's rights are protected, openness in government (Freedom of Information Act), absence of corruption and constitutional separation of powers and other measures that engender good governance.
2. **Citizens' inclusion and participation:** good governance accommodates the participation of the majority, if not all the citizens in a country. Through credible democratic and electoral processes collective participation is encouraged either directly or through proxy (representation). Babangida (2010) acknowledges the participation of people in

making policy and building consensus as pillars of good governance and sustainable development.

3. **Transparency, Accountability and Responsiveness:** In a constitutional democracy, the government is elected on the basis of credible and transparent electoral process. He is therefore accountable to the people by demonstrating transparency and responsiveness. The three co-equal arms of government are separated, though not a water-tight separation of power advocated by the french scholar, Montesquieu in his book entitled "the Spirit of the Law" in 1748. However, they perform some distinct functions while checking on one another to curtail excesses or abuses. Moderate separation of powers and checks and balances promote transparency, accountability and responsiveness and other ethical conduct in governance. The results of the application of democratic governance is sustainable development. Abubakar and Sanusi (2018) argue that the foremost driver of good governance is accountability. We may differ at juncture because law should have been seen as the basic foundation for good governance and sustainable development. However, Mohammad (2003) classified accountability into; financial, political, administrative, social and ethical accountability.
4. **Vision and Governance structures and Service Delivery :** The import of good governance is to distribute the dividends of a democratic arrangement to the majority of the population. It amounts to efficient service delivery. This can only be achieved by governance structures coded in a template called the vision of our founding fathers. It is stated as; "*... to live in unity and harmony as one indivisible and indissoluble sovereign nation under God dedicated to the promotion of inter-African solidarity, world peace, international cooperation and understanding...*" being the vision of the Nigerian State (see Preamble LL18, Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 as amended).
5. **Consensus Orientation :** Good governance promotes representation at different levels of government or governance. The purpose of election and appointment of officials are to ensure sufficient representation at the points , fora, and hierarchies of making decisions in the interest of the people. Consensus is usually

sought in the making and approving and passing as well as assenting to the law by the governor or president, whichever level of government is been considered. Budgets which represents projects to be done is processed through several stages before assenting it into law, and every law is an instrument for social, political and economic engineering and integration and good of the majority- the postulation of Roscoe Pound.

Development and Sustainable Development

Definitions of Development

We intend to consider cross-section of perspectives to defining the socioeconomic and sociopolitical and sociocultural concept known as “development “. In the words of Chatterjee (2024) the concept “development is a contested phenomenon that has not been accurately defined by scholars rather it is better to fine an indigenous version of development. Chinnah (2025) states that development is centered on improving the lives of people, and measured with clear indices of assessment. Goldin (2023) defines development as “ the process of promoting the quality of human lives and capabilities by raising the level of living, self-esteem, and freedom “. Development in Levine and Michele (2023) is seen as “a multi-dimensional process that creates economic, technological, social and institutional changes and push for increased wealth for the nation and well-being of the people”

Now, how do you see sustainable development?

Sustainable development is intertwined with governance or good governance. In fact, sustainable development is at the front burner when discussing issues on good governance (Chinnah, 2025). Chinnah emphasized that governance without sustainability of development leads to myriad of challenges - endemic poverty, unabated unemployment, excruciating hunger and malnutrition, systemic institutionalization of corruption, weak institutions, pervasive civil unrest, unimaginable rate of criminality and so on. From this perspective it's inferable that good governance inculcates pillars of sustainable development. According to her, sustainable development has been a serious topic for policy formulators at both national, and international stages, at organizational level, especially with developing countries and NGOs. Swiss Federal Council (2024) describes development as the provision of the basic needs of the people and ensuring good quality life at all times. According to the United Nations (2023), Sustainable development is explained to mean how we must live today if we desire a better life tomorrow.

We can deduce that sustainable development is a progression that is evolving from the current state to a future better state. It touches the lives of people by improving their standard of living. It is that form of improvement that all round transformation of the human life - political, technological social, cultural as well as economic growth. That is why one can argue that development is broad while economic growth is singular and part of the development processes. Leonard (2000) provides a detailed and comprehensive definition or explanations of development and economic growth. The question is how do government sustain growth and development? We added growth because economic growth leads to development.

Theories on Good Governance and Sustainable Development

The study is hinged on two theories: good governance theory and collective stewardship theory of sustainable development.

Good governance theory

In line with Chinnah (2025), good governance theory is use to buttress issues on government and administration of the state. It is well entrenched in the field of political science, public administration and governance, policy and development studies and related areas. Good governance theory typifies a comprehensive framework or template that guides and directs policies and programmes of government. The theory explains the principles, characteristics, institutions, structures, strategies and practices that propel and promote services delivery in effective and efficient manner. It provides institutions and structures that accommodate popular participation, responses, accountable and transparent decision-making process, due diligence and judicious spending of financial resources. In fact, good governance theory ensures that the laws are upheld and the court system are working to enhance justice. It upholds ethical and democratic principles by instituting constitutional democracy. These structures and institutions, strategies and practices are to promote sustainable development for the improvement of citizens' lives. Therefore, the end result of good governance is sustainability of the human life.

Collective stewardship theory of sustainable development

Collective stewardship theory of development states that everyone is a steward of all the resources on the earth or planet. Thus, It is expected that everyone will act in such a way to promote the good of everyone in the best interest of the earth or planet (Ozili, 2024). It is believed by some scholars that the resources of the earth or planet belong to everyone (Rosen, 2000; Dietz

et al., 2013). Other school of thought is of the view that the resources of the earth should be collectively protected, managed, and preserved for the benefit of all persons (Robinson, 2006; McAfee, 2019).

According to Ozili (2024), collective stewardship theory of sustainable development has some merits. First, all human beings are caretakers of the resources deposited on the earth or planet and they will strive to protect and manage them and second, the theory upholds ethical standards. So, it is believed that people will not be selfish because of their inbuilt moral and ethical behaviour expected of them. This is the area of weakness in the assumptions conceived by the collective stewardship theory of sustainable development. It has been observed that people especially in a plural, secular country like Nigeria, are bound to demonstrate different interests, preferences, and priorities. This is what is prevalent in a democratic arrangement where people on ideal ground vote for the candidates of his or her choice. There is freedom of association, and freedom of speech, freedom of information and the rest as guaranteed by the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended. The assumption some persons might be selfish is manifesting through the corrupt politicians in government. It is obvious that bad governance initiates obnoxious reforms against popular wish.

These theories will guide us in x-raying the tenets of good governance vis-a-vis the constitutional template for good governance enshrined in chapter two, and also, sought out the elements of bad governance in order to achieve sustainable development in the long run.

Examples of Frameworks for Good Governance and Sustainable Development

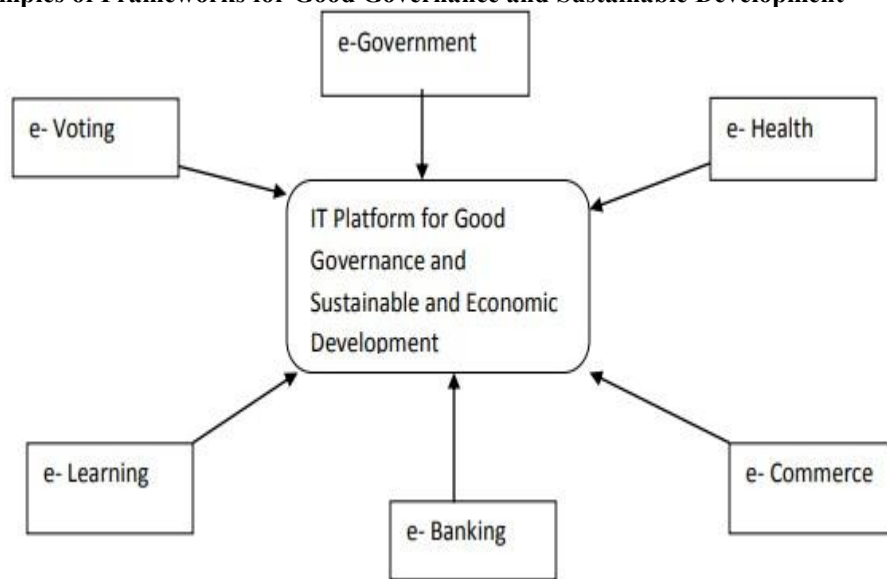


Figure 2a: good governance model using IT as a pillar. Soyemi et al.,(n.d)

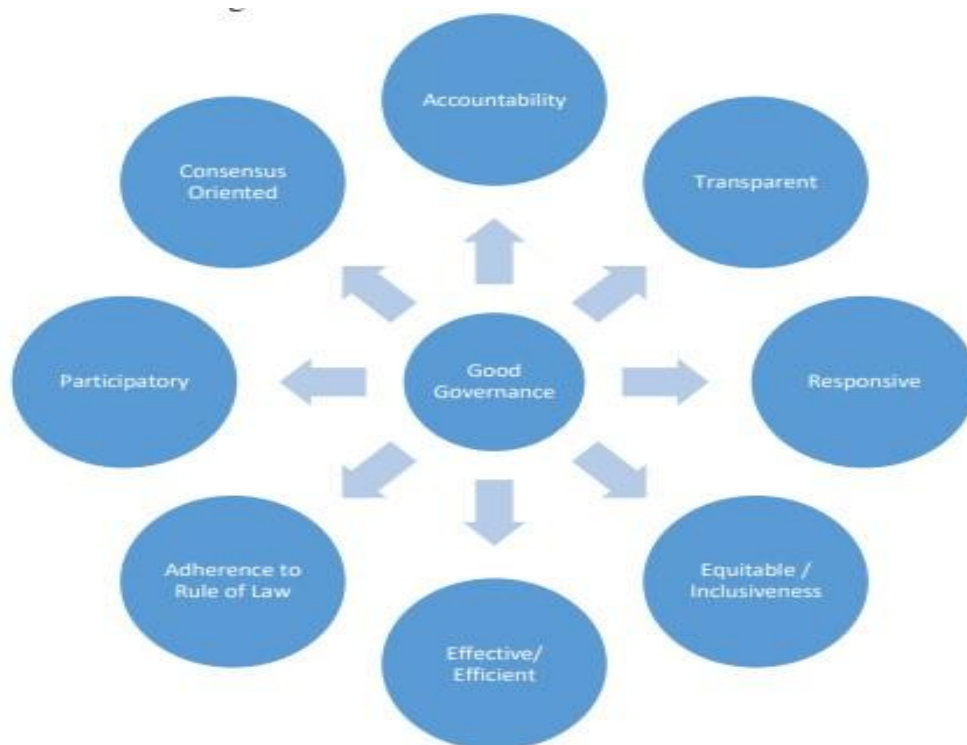


Fig 2b: Framework for Good governance connecting the various strategies. Nwafor, 2023

Constitutional Provisions and Model For Good Governance in Nigeria

The 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended, specifically in Chapter two provided a template or model for the purposes of good governance for sustainable development in Nigeria. The chapter is boldly entitled as “ **Fundamental Objectives and Directives Principles of State policy**”. This chapter consist of 12 sections, commencing from 13 to 24. We will endeavour to state these provisions in seriatim as follows;

Section 13

“It shall be the duty and responsibility of all organs of government, and of all authorities and persons exercising legislative, executive or judicial powers to conform to, observe and apply the provisions of this chapter of the constitution”.

Section 14

1. The federal republic of Nigeria shall be a state based on the principle of democracy and social justice
2. It is hereby accordingly declared that
 - a) Sovereignty belongs to the people of Nigeria from whom the government through this constitution derives all its powers and authority
 - b) The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government
 - c) The participation by the people in their government shall be ensured in accordance with the provisions of this constitution.

Section 15

1. The “motto” of the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be unity, peace and progress.
2. Accordingly, national integration shall be actively encouraged whilst discrimination on the grounds of place of origin, sex, status, ethnic, or linguistic association or ties shall be prohibited....
3. The state shall abolish all corrupt practices and abuse of powers

Section 16

1. The state shall within the context of the ideals and objectives for which provisions are made in this constitution
 - a) Harness the resources of the nation and promote national prosperity, an efficient, a dynamic and self-reliant economy

- b) Control the national economy in such a manner as to secure the maximum welfare, freedom and happiness of every citizen on the basis of social justice, equality and opportunity

2a. The promotion of a planned and balanced economic development....

2d. That suitable and adequate shelter, suitable and adequate food, reasonable national minimum living wage, old age care and pensions and unemployment, sick benefits and welfare of the disabled are provided for all citizens...

Section 17

1. The state social order is founded on ideals of freedom, equality and justice
2. In furtherance of the social orders ;
 - a) Every citizen shall have equality of rights, obligations and opportunities before the law
 - b) The sanctity of the human person shall be recognized and human dignity shall be maintained and enhanced...
 - c) The independence, impartiality and integrity of courts of law and easy accessibility thereto shall be secured and maintained.

Section 18

1. Government shall direct its policy towards ensuring that there are equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels
2. Government shall strive to promote science and technology
3. Government shall strive to eradicate illiteracy and to this end government shall as and when practicable provide
 - a). Free, compulsory and universal primary education
 - b). Free secondary education
 - c). Free University education, and
 - d). Free adult literacy program

Section 19

The foreign policy objectives shall be

- a) Promotion and protection of national interest
 - b) Promotion of African integration and support for African unity...
 - d) Respect for International Law and treaty, obligations...
 - e) promotion of a just world economic order

Section 20

“The state shall protect and improve the environment and safeguard the water, air and land, forest, and wildlife”

Section 21

“The state shall

- a) Protect, preserve and promote the Nigerian cultures which enhance human dignity and are consistent with the fundamental objectives as provided in this chapter*
- b) Encourage development of technological and scientific studies which enhances cultural values “*

Section 22

“The Press, Radio, Television and other agencies of the mass media shall at all times be free to uphold the fundamental objectives contained in this chapter and uphold the responsibility and accountability of the government to the people”.

Section 23

“The national ethics shall be Discipline, Integrity, Dignity of Labour, Social justice, Religious tolerance, Self-reliance and Patriotism “, and

Section 24

“It shall be duty every citizen to;

- a) Abide by this constitution, respect it's ideals and its institutions, the national flag, the national anthem, the national pledge and legitimate authorities*
- b) Help to enhance the powers, prestige and good name of Nigeria, defend Nigeria and render such national services as may be required...*
- c) Declare his income honestly to appropriate and lawful agencies and pay his tax promptly.*

Limitations To the Enforcement of Constitutional Model for Good governance

It has been identified that the two ouster clauses in the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended hinder the enforcement of the fundamental objectives and derivative principles of state policy (Edih, 2022). The two ouster clauses are sections 6(6) and 308. Accordingly, they are provisions that guarantee the non-justiciability of chapter two in a competent law court.

Section 6(6)

“provides that the judicial powers vested in accordance with the foregoing provisions of this section shall not except as otherwise provided by this constitution extend to any issue or question

as to whether any act of omission by any authority or person or as to whether any law or any judicial decision is in conformity with the fundamental objectives and directive principles of state policy set out in chapter two of this constitution.

Section 308

“ provides as follows

- 1. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this constitution, but subject to subsection 2 of this section*
- 2. a) no civil or criminal proceedings shall be instituted or continued against a person during his period of office*
- 3. b) a person to whom this section applies shall not arrested or imprisoned or imprisoned during that period either on pursuance of the processes of any court or otherwise and*
- 4. c) no process of any court requiring or compelling the appearance of a person to when this section applies shall be applied for or issued.*

Challenges of Good Governance and Sustainable Development in Nigeria

Good governance is a mirage in Nigeria. It's likened to the statement “ the more you look the less you see”. The actions of governance, whether during civilian government or military regime, in reality do not conform to the template for good governance as adumbrated in literature and chapter two of the 1999 constitution. There are multiple challenges frustrating the envisioned good governance framework squarely enshrined as Chapter two of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria as amended.

- 1. Weak Institutions :** Institutions of are structures or agencies, ministries, parastatals, or organizations that deliver services to the people. Government set up institutions like the Judiciary, the legislature, the military, police, EFCC, ICPC, INEC, CBN, Educational bodies, NYSC , to mention but a few to execute its plans and programmes for the nation. These institutions are manned by both the public and civil servants. They are empowered to enforce the rules and regulations impartially. The problem of these institutions is weakness because of unabating corruption, and inefficiency. When an organization lacks the capacity, legitimacy and resources to deliver public services it is regarded as weak Institution (Cambridge University Press, 2022). According to Mthwakazi (2022), a weak institution is characterized by

inability to enforce the rules, abuse of discretionary grace, and abrupt changes in the rules and regulations to suit personal gain.

2. **Flawed Electoral Processes :** The common statement in Nigeria during period of electoral transition is “go to court”. The basis of a credible and transparent election is credible and transparent electoral process. A corrupt system must necessarily produce corrupt results. It affirms the latin maxim , “ *Nemo dat non qua habeat*” translated as you cannot give what you don't have. Therefore, a flawed electoral process is a disaster to good governance and sustainable development.
3. **Military incursion into politics for too long a time :** The political odyssey of Nigeria is not complete without talking about the incursion of the military into politics. In fact, we can say that the shortlived administration of Tafawa Balewa/Nnamdi Azikiwe, 1960-64 ; Yar’adua/Jonathan, 2007-2011; Jonathan/Sambo, 2011-2015; and Tinubu/Shettima, 2023-2025 were the civilian governments that ruled Nigeria for about 15 years which the military junta ruled for about 40 years. The invasion by the military is a breach to constitutional democracy. The Nigerian polity is suffering from the woes of military regime because the constitution is suspended and the country is ruled by the Supreme Military Council through decrees and edicts.
4. **Endemic and systemic bribery and corruption :** Bribery and corruption are unnecessary evil. They are the twin devils that wrecked and weakened the sound institutions handed over to us by the former colonial master. The Judiciary which ought to be the hope of the common is no longer common. Election cases/petitions are won by the highest bidder. Their judgements cannot be predicted any longer because the order or sequence of precedence is never followed. The supreme court had overruled itself on several occasions. Conflicting judgements everywhere and it is worst with courts of coordinate jurisdiction issuing contrasting injunctions. The compromise of INEC is another terror during the conduct of elections in the country. Their officials are not neutral as expected but do their master’s bidding and results are declared before completion of the voting process. It is a misnomer and great disservice to the Nigerian State.
5. **Failure of the Judiciary :** Good governance is established through an independent and impartial judiciary. Its absence contrast the principles of good governance and sustainable development.
6. **Compromise of the legislature :** The legislature makes and amend laws, performs oversight functions and weeps the executive if need be by impeachment. The legislature also approves the suspension of an elected state government where the conditions warranting it are obvious. Governor Sim Fubara of River State was suspended for six months and reinstated after its expiration on 18 September, 2025 for the breakdown of governance, law and order in the state. Where the legislature fails to carry out its constitutional functions and translates to a “rubber-stamp” chamber, good governance and sustainable development will only be seen on paper - budget and the constitution.
7. **Excesses of Executive Powers and rascality :** Scholars are canvassing for constitutional restructuring so as to wittle down the overbearing powers of the Executive Arm of the government. The President of Nigeria and the Governors of the 36 states are too powerful to safeguard the independence and impartiality of the Judiciary. In practice, the three arms of governments are not co-equal but mere theoretical and academic ideology. There is that tendency to abuse the office at the expense of good governance and sustainable development.
8. **Poverty and Hunger in the Land :** Poverty and hunger have been weaponized by those in government to subjugate the vast population in the country. They are easily manipulated with crumbs by officials in power. Especially at election time, vote buying becomes the norm and the people no longer look at credible candidates but the “green envelope” that can only sustain a person for a day.
9. **Ethnic rivalry and religious inclinations:** Disunity due to entrenched ethnic rivalries and diverse religious inclinations are the major bane of good governance in Nigeria. The five

major ethnic nationalities - Ijaw, Fulani, Hausa, Yoruba, and Ibo, are always at loggerhead base on political differences, religious beliefs and practices. The minority groups are crying wolf-marginalization and undevelopment.

10. **Illiteracy :** The population of Nigeria is summed to be about 120million people and over 70% is illiterate. Good governance is hardly practiced in a society that is majorly illiterate.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study provided a novel insight into good governance and sustainable development by comparing chapter two of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and other models or frameworks for good governance. It is posited that chapter two of the 1999 constitution is a model for good governance and that there are no dissimilarities except for inclusion of the good governance framework into the constitution of Nigeria. The study reaffirm that law is an instrument for social engineering, political restructuring and administration of justice in the society. Drawing the analogy between good governance and sustainable development, it is obvious that both ideologies can be achieved by tenaciously enforcing the tested theories, models and tenets of good governance in a modern state. Also, the study revealed that based on the impediments, institutionalization of good governance and sustainable development in Nigeria are mountainous and that the usual political jamboree and rhetorics during campaigns for change of government are mere political charades.

Thus, the study recommends the following as strategies for good governance and sustainable development ;

1. **The Law should be held supreme:** The institutions that enforce the laws, rules and regulations, policy and programmes of the government should be strengthened to uphold the law. The constitution is supreme and no government, and its officials are above the law. Chapter two of the 1999 constitution and the annual budget are part of the law(constitution) should be respected and implemented to the "spirit and letter".
2. **Independence of the Judiciary is not negotiable :** The role of the Judiciary is to adjudicate on disputes between the federal government and state government, government and institutions and private persons, institutions and private persons, private person versus private person. Independence and impartiality of the Judiciary will guarantee the exercise of these sacred roles played to enhance social rejuvenation, peace and order in the society. In that respect, the independence and impartiality of the Judiciary is not negotiable.
3. **Credible and transparent election :** The foundation for credible and responsible government is a credible and transparent electoral process. Government should ensure that Independent Electoral Commission is truly independent and impartial and neutral in the discharge of her mandate. The provisions of the Electoral Act and the Constitution must be procedurally followed. This will restore the trust and reliance on the process and reduce election petitions after declaration of results. INEC personnel should undergo regular training and orientation on free and fair elections and anyone found culpable should be sanctioned according to the law.
4. **Responsible Electoral Umpires :** The institutions are the personnel that manned the process and executive policies and programmes, not the physical structures. There electoral umpires should play safe by being neutral before, during and after the elections. Any measure that will ensure their neutrality and regain public trust should be put in place.
5. **Neutrality of Law Enforcement Agencies :** The Army, Navy, Air force and Police should be manifestly neutral before, during and after election. Ordinarily, the military should not be part of elections because elections are not war time. The police should be trained and drafted and assisted by local vigilantee where there is shortage of manpower.
6. **Credible candidates :** Political parties INEC , the government should ensure that candidates running for both elective or to be appointed must have clean records. Every necessary step should be taken to check and ascertain the credibility of the candidates featured by the parties.
7. **Demolition of the Ouster provisions' mountain in the constitution :** The two ouster provisions in the constitution should be expunged to allow citizens whose rights are infringed by the

government for failing to uphold chapter two of the constitution can seek for redress. The type of sanction to be meted on the culpable government officials should not be that of conviction but a moderated one like giving an award to the victim in this circumstances. This will make the government to be accountable and more responsible to good governance

8. **Strengthened Institutions** : Institutions are the frameworks for delivery of public services and executing projects to the people. A strong and virile institutions are pillars for good governance and sustainable development. This could be achieved by training and retraining, aggressive orientation and reorientation, and a better living wage and allowances as remuneration to motivate workers.
9. **Mass Education** : Education is a tool for governance. Policies and programmes are easily communicated in an enlightened society because literacy is the bedrock for sustainable development in advanced countries.
10. **Punishment of Persons involved in Electoral malpractices** : Punishment of criminal elements is part of the law. Every offence committed has corresponding punishment in the law that created the offence. Apart from electoral malpractices, those who perpetrate insecurity in the country should be dealt with according to law.
11. **Implementation of Budget** : Implementation of budgets will create job opportunities for the teeming unemployed population of youths in country. Constitutionally, security and welfare of the people is the primary function of government.

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