A Historical Examination of Decay of Good Order in the Roman Empire and the Nigerian Nation

By

Wotogbe, Igwechi Hope
Department of Religious and Cultural Studies
Ignatius Ajuru University of Education
Rumuolumeni, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria
Phone: 08035512366; 08127069080; email: ozuzumaigwechi@gmail.com
&
Eche, Godwin Aturuchi PhD
Department of Religious and Cultural Studies
Ignatius Ajuru University of Education
Rumuolumeni, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria
Phone: 08037744939; e-mail: godwineche1@gmail.com

Abstract

Independent nations of the World exist among other things to give its citizens a sense of identity which qualifies them to ask for, and enjoy the benefits, rights and privileges that such nations bestow upon them. To a large extent the ancient Roman Empire share a lot in common with the Nigeria nation. It is most disheartening however to note that leaders of both nations can be said to have underperformed due to lack of capacity and sincerity in dealing with the contemporary complexities of governance. These no doubt resulted to decay of good order in almost all spheres of their existence and daily activities. This work examined the corrupt state of governance in both the ancient Roman Empire and the modern Nigerian nation. Factors responsible for this decay; those militating against the promotion of public good and effective service delivery; and good order were examined in this work. This historical record adopted the analyzed descriptive and phenomenological method of data collection and interpretation in arriving at our findings. Our findings reveal that the major problem of both nations is corruption. The agents of government and political leaders in both nations are driven by selfish interest and other primordial considerations which take priority

over that of the public. Security of lives and property, promotion of the rule of law, provision of visionary leadership are all lacking, hence influential citizens circumvent and manipulate the political and economic system. The result is that the system becomes unworkable thereby posing severe threat to the citizens' existence. This trend can be checked when those thrust with the responsibility of governance at whatever level will be accountable not only to man but to the Creator (God) as well. This work concludes by suggesting that there should be an attitudinal change of both the leaders and the lead.

Introduction

Education, health, water, electricity, housing, roads and other rural – urban infrastructures in addition to food constitute the basic requirements of man in human society. It is the responsibility of government to provide these basic amenities since it is government that controls the wealth of the nation. Facilities that have direct impacts on the basic needs of man are not only essential but seriously required, if life is to be meaningful to man in any respect. In his capacity as the head of God's creation, man needs adequate infrastructures that would make life worth living for him to be able to realize his God given talents and capabilities; and how best to utilize them for both personal and societal development.

In societies like the ancient Roman Empire and Nigeria nation, the decay of good order is on the rise. Public facilities established in these nations to improve the living conditions of the people of the area, have decayed with time due to several reasons which one would not be wrong to say is largely caused by the government of the day. The masses to a large extent cannot also be excused (Eke: 2011). In some cases, basic facilities are wearing out and decaying, while in some other cases, there is total collapse due to human negative controllable factors. Those in authority often seem helpless, not knowing what to do since it seems they cannot or are unable to control the circumstances they are confronted with. The attitude and response of the populace of these nations towards doing the right and acceptable societal values are not also impressive. As Ndebio (1997) puts it,

"lack of respect and compliance for constituted authorities on the part of the citizens, coupled with poor governmental attention has continued to make the nature of the society which existed in the regions to be discouraged" (p.13).

Price (1984) speaking from the historical perspective among other things said:

> the Roman society and those in authority failed in the following areas: public schools, hospitals, roads, economy, and water supply systems in the public and private sector across the nation; all faced one decay of good order which eventually led to the collapse of the Roman empire (p.54)

This may not be different from the Nigeria situation. It is observed that the government has failed the people in the provision of the amenities mentioned above and this has lead to total deterioration of societal values which has in turn led to the eruption of good order. Failure on the part of government has made minimal governmental attention, mishandling on the part of the people as well as reluctance of the authorities to come up with new strategies that will propel the society to work effectively. The continual result is the decaying nature experienced in every aspect and or area of the life of the country.

This work seeks to make a comparative study of decay of good order as observed in the ancient Roman Empire and that of the Nigerian nation. In arriving at our conclusion, we shall examine the nature of decay of good order in the Roman Empire and in Nigeria.

This work further focused on the decay of good order in the Roman Empire and Nigeria. The scope covered those societal lapses which are here referred to as decay of good order. We shall examine the history of both the Roman Empire and the Nigerian nation, and identify some of the aspects of

decay. By so doing, we shall bring to the fore those aspects of the decay that requires our attention for the good of society.

Definition of terms

- **Decay:** The online dictionary defines decay as a gradual falling into an inferior condition or progressive decline. The decay of international relations and in civilization. It simply refers to decompose, rot, putrefy, go bad, go off, spoil, fester, perish, deteriorate, degrade, break down, break up, shrivel, rotten, bad, spoiled etc. It is a state of rot or decomposing of a system. In the circumstance under discussion, it means a breaking down slowly of an acceptable societal value. Again it could also refer to a loss of strength, health and or intellect. In social context, it is the fall of a complex human society, and such disintegration may be a relatively abrupt or gradual decline of rules and orders, as in the case of the fall of the Western Roman Empire.
- **Good Order:** The term good order could be used in two senses. In the first sense it refers to a particular set or system of linked social structures, institutions, relations, customs, values and practices, which converse, maintain and enforce certain patterns of relating and behaving in a society (Varhelyi: 2010)
- **Decay of Good Order:** This is the gradual degeneration of constituted authorities set up by the government of a particular nation due to the absence of workable and effective governance in the society that provides basic amenities to her citizens for the general growth of the nation (Lenski: 2009).

The Roman Empire

The city of Rome upon which the Roman Empire was named has been a centre of Western civilization for over 2,000 years. This 'Eternal city' was the capital of the Roman Empire and is of unique religious significance as the site of the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church in the Vatican City.

This city state in present day Italy grew into a vast empire. At its height in A.D 117, it comprised most of the known Western World. The ancient Romans made great advances in the fields of law, civil engineering, and standardization in coinage, and measurement, philosophy, architecture, and literature. The region was controlled by the Etruscans until Rome established an independent republic in 500 B.C. throughout the period of the republic (500 B.C – 31 A.D), warfare was almost continuous. Under a government controlled by Consuls and the Senate, Rome overran Central and Southern Italy and defeated Carthage. The expansion of the empire continued to Greece, Asia Minor, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, Gaul and England.

From about 100 B.C., Rome began to move steadily towards disaster. Civil wars arose from conflicts between senatorial factions, and between rich and poor. The Army officers and leaders Pompey and Julius Caesar arose to form the first Triumvirate with Crassus. After the assassination of Caesar, Caesar's nephew Octavian defeated Antony and became the first Emperor of Rome, renaming himself Augustus.

For more than 200 years, (27 B.C. – A.D 180) the empire flourished. The establishment of trade routes throughout the empire led to the spread of new ideas, particularly Christianity. From about A.D 200 the period was characterized by internal strife and barbarian raids. Under Emperor Constantine 1, (A.D. 306 – 337) the capital was moved to Byzantium (renamed Constantinople), and Christianity was officially recognized as 'legal religion'. At the beginning of the fifth century, the empire was divided into East and West, and the period that followed was the period of the barbarian invasion and vandalization. Today Rome serves as the headquarters of Christianity with the Bishop of Rome (Pope) acknowledged by both Catholics and Protestants alike as the Vicar of Christ and head cum the leader of the Universal Church.

Nigeria nation

The Federal Republic of Nigeria popularly referred to as the 'Giant of Africa' is a federal republic in West Africa. It got her independence from Great Britain in 1960, and became a republic in 1963. It is the most populated black nation in the World and is made up of thirty-six (36) federating units designated as States. As the most populated country in Africa, Nigeria has a population of 200 million people, and about 250 ethnic groups. Of this population, two-thirds is made up of three major ethnic groups viz: Hausa-Fulani (who live in the Muslim dominated north); the Yoruba (who occupy the Christian dominated South-West) and the Ibo (who live in the Christian dominated South-East); leaving one-third to the other minor groups.

With more than 31% of arable land, more than half of Nigerians are farmers and herders. The country is one of Africa's most urbanized with Abuja as administrative capital, Lagos, Kano and Port Harcourt as the economic hub of the nation. English is the official language in Nigeria, while Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba are also spoken. Oil has been the leading export since independence in 1960, until recently when the Federal government has thought of diversifying to agricultural produce for export.

The Nok, an advanced Iron Age culture (800 B.C. – A.D. 200) is the earliest known in Nigeria. From about A.D. 1000, small city-states arose. The sacred Yoruba city of Ife in the South-West developed its great culture during the 12th century and during the 14th century; Islam became predominant in the North, where several cities were trans-Saharan trade centres. In the South, the ancient city-state of Benin was a flourishing centre when the Portuguese (1483) and the British (1553) arrived and began the trade in Nigeria for slaves to Europe and Americas. By the 19th century, the slave trade was abolished and their attention shifted to palm products, with Lagos, Grand Bonny and Calabar as the epicenter and chief ports. Subsequently Lagos

was ceded to Britain in 1861 thereby making it the outpost to fight the slave trade, and then a colony in 1886.

Soon the entire country was under the control of the British who made it a protectorate in 1914. After the World War 11, the British increased self-government and Nigerians from the 3 major ethnic groups took over by democratic means when the country became a federation of regions in 1954; an independent country in 1960, and a republic in 1963.

Rival ethnic military factions battling for control tore Nigeria apart which led to the thousand of Ibos being massacred and many fleeing their homeland, Biafra. When the military government reorganized Nigeria into ethnic states in 1967, Biafra seceded leading to a protracted war which ended in 1970; but at the cost of perhaps over a million Ibo dead from starvation and genocide.

With a new constitution in 1976, Nigeria returned to civilian government in 1979, but was ousted in 1983 by a military junta led by Major General Muhammadu Buhari. Promises of restoring the country by General Ibrahim B. Babangida and General Sani Abacha respectively, to civilian rule were not kept. Elections were held in 1992, but the military leadership under Sani Abacha remained in power. In 1998, General Abdusallam Abubakar succeeded Sani Abacha and presided over the election that produced Olusegun Obasanjo (a retired army general and former military head of state: 1976 - 1979) as civilian President in 1999. Since 1999 till date, Nigeria has been under civilian rule.

It is worthy of note that the greatest problem Nigeria has had these years is corruption. Successive governments have all attempted to fight the hydra-headed pandemic with little or no success at all. The civilian government under General Olusegun Obasanjo set up anti-corruption institutions – the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and

Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) which had always met a brick wall while prosecuting those accused of corruption. However upon the second coming of General Muhammadu Buhari this time as civilian President in 2015, the war against corruption has been given new teeth. The agencies charged with the responsibility of prosecuting suspected corrupt people have secured convictions with many of them cooling off in correctional centre's (prison) where they are serving various prison terms on corruption. The Acting Chairman of EFCC (the anti-graft agency) CP. Ibrahim Magu is currently being interrogated on charges of alleged corruption by the panel set up by the Presidency.

Decay of Good Order in the Roman Empire

In the Roman Empire, there are various dimensions or levels of decay of good order deduced from the way they conducted themselves in their affairs. Tracing from the political organization of the Roman Empire, one of the most difficult problem was choosing a new Emperor. The Romans never created an effective system to determine how new Emperors would be selected and enthroned. Generals used private armies to take control of the government.

For 50 years following A.D. 235, Rome went through 22 different Emperors. Many of these were removed by assassination (Price: 1984). Many government officials took bribes making talented people refuse to work in the government for fear of being caught in the web of their corruption. This led to the weakening of the government, and as the government apparatus weakened, law and order broke down. As Price (1984) puts it, "the law is the art of the good and the just" (p.6). The law was the tool used by the greedy and corrupt to turn the public against their rulers.

Harold Whetstone Johnson (1932) in his work "The private life of the Romans", noted:

> During the republic, politics must have been profitable only for those who played the game to the end. No salaries were attached to the offices and the indirect gains from one of the lower magistracies would hardly pay the expenses necessary to secure the next office. Spending huge sums of money on the public games had been an obvious way to win popularity so long as the people voted at elections; it continued to be a heavy obligation even under the Empire when this right to vote was taken from the people (p.145)

Before the rise to prominence of Julius Caesar, Roman politics in many ways was very brutal and highly corrupt; wasn't all that different from the kind of politics practiced in many developing countries. By the second century, so many ordinary people had the right to vote, buttressing the fact that a lively political system arose with parties, campaigns, negative advertising, billboards, and rich contributors as it were existed. Roman politicians often sponsored sporting events before an election, making it very clear that it was their show, creating public awareness and sometimes pulled out all the stops by hiring big name gladiators who through their staged fights kill various opponents for the victory of the contestants. Consular hopefuls behaved as politicians always have and forever will. They made themselves as visible as possible and were charming to all potential voters and promised everything to everybody.

This gesture portrayed by politicians in Rome is same occurrences in most modern democratic settings, before, during and after the election; contestants use all resources at their disposal to get as many votes they can acquire in other to get the desired position and once the election periods are over there is drift distance between the elected officials and the masses. The word "candidate" comes from ancient Rome. Originally candidates meant a person in white clothes. Later it was used to describe people running for public office who often dressed in white togas to express their pure and

incorrupt character. According to Karibo (2020), when a Roman candidate seeking an elective position is asked if he was going to run for the elective position, he would typically reply; "maybe I would …and maybe I wouldn't" or "if it is in the interest of the city, I will seek office" (p.18).

One of the most powerful politicians during the corruption era in Rome was Licinius Crassus (115 – 153 B.C). During this era, Rome became lawless; and surprisingly Licinius was one of the richest in the history of Rome. Licinius was born into a wealthy family, acquired his riches according to Plutarch through 'fire and rapine'. Crassus became so powerful that he financed the army that put down the slave revolt led by Spartacus. To celebrate Spartacus's crucifixion, Crassus hosted a banquet which lasted several days for the entire Roman public numbering over 10,000 people. Everyone that attended the party was given an allowance of three months of grain. His ostentatious displays gave us the word "crass".

Crassus made a fortune in real estate by controlling Rome's only fire department acquiring the land from property owners victimized by fire which is an act of oppression and intimidation to the entire Roman citizens. When there was a fire outbreak, a horse drown water tank was dispatched to the site; but before the fire is put out, Crassus or one of his representatives haggled over the price of his services while the house was burning down before their very presence. To save the property, Crassus often required the owner to hand over the title of the property and then pay rent to him. In many cases, the desperate victim will not have any option rather than to concur to the demands of Crassus. From the foregoing experience, it can be argued that some of the fire outbreak in Rome would have been staged by Crassus and his men as a business venture. This act also reminds us of some of the illegal business taking place in the oil and other governmental sectors in Nigeria and other African countries today.

Crassus was most likely the largest property owner in Rome. He also purchased a property with money obtained through underhanded methods. While serving as a lieutenant in the civil war of 88 – 82 B.C, he was able to buy land formally held by the enemy at bargain prices, sometimes by murdering its owners. Crassus also opened a profitable training centre for slaves. He purchased unskilled bondsmen, trained them as slaves for a handsome profit.

Crassus was not unlike successful modern businessmen who contribute large sums of money to a political party in return for favours or high-level government positions. He gave loans to nearly every Senator to pursue their political ambition; and hosted lavish parties for the influential and powerful. Through shrewd use of his money to gain political influence and position, he reached the position of the '***Triumvir***' - one of the three people responsible for controlling the apparatus of the state.

After attaining riches and political power the only thing left for Crassus to do was lead a Roman army in a great military victory. He purchased an army and sent it to Syria by Caesar to battle the Parthians. In 53 B.C Crassus lost the Battle of Carrhae, one of the Roman Empires worst defeats. He was captured by the Parthians who according to legend poured molten gold down his throat when they realized he was the richest man in Role. The act reasoned that his lifelong thirst for gold should be quenched in death.

There was also decline in morals and values: During the Pax-Romana (a long period from Augustus to Marcus Aurelius when the Roman Empire was stable and relatively peaceful), there were 32,000 prostitutes in Rome. Emperors like Caligula and Nero became infamous for wasting money on lavish lifestyle and parties where guests drank and ate until they became sick and sometimes even died. The most popular amusement was watching the gladiatorial combats in the Coliseum which encouraged more killings

as a form of sports in the time of some Emperors especially during the time of Nero.

There were many public health and environment problems that exposed the perpetual degeneration of good order. Many of the wealthy had water brought to their homes through pipes. Previously the aqueducts had even purified water but at the end this project that benefited the generality of the people was abandoned to rot away by those in authority; replacing it with rusty lead pipes which posed great threat to the citizenry resulting to high death rate among the wealthy. The continuous interaction of people at the Coliseum (the theater where gladiators fight death in the form of sports), the blood and death probably spread disease which the people in authority fail to curb rather they were given absolute concentration on the amusement and financial gains of the gladiators fight. Those who lived on the streets in continuous contact allowed for an uninterrupted strain of disease much like the homeless in the poorer run shelters of today. Alcohol intake increased thereby producing uncoordinated human beings.

Another area to be considered is the corruption in the electoral process in the Roman Empire. One of the most difficult problems was choosing a new Emperor. The Romans never created an effective system to determine how new Emperors would be selected. The choice was always open to debate between the old Emperor, the Senate, the Praetorian Guard (Emperor's private army), and the Army. Gradually the Praetorian Guard gained complete authority to choose the new Emperor, who rewarded the guard making them influential and perpetuating the circle (Varhelyi: 2010). After 186 A.D. the army strangled the new Emperor and the throne was offered to the highest bidder, and in turn promoted more corrupt practices and degenerated good order in the empire. In the next 100 years that followed, Rome had 37 different Emperors: 25 of whom were removed from office by assassination. This contributed to the overall weakness, decline and fall of the empire.

During the later years of the empire, farming was done on large estate called ***"latifundia"*** that were owned by wealthy men who used slave labor. Because the farmers pay workmen, they couldn't sell cheap and as such can't compete with those who large produced leading them to sell their farmlands. This not only undermined the citizen farmer who passed his values to his family but also filled the cities with unemployed people. At one time, the Emperor was importing grain to feed more than 100,000 people in Rome alone. These people were not only a burden but also had little to do but cause trouble and contribute to an ever increasing crime rate.

The Roman economy suffered from inflation just as the case of the Nigerian economy (increase in prices) beginning after the reign of Marcus Aurelius. Once the Romans stopped conquering new lands, the flow of gold into the Roman economy decreased. Yet much gold was being spent by the Romans to pay for luxury items. This meant that there was less gold to use in coins. As the amount of gold used in coins decreased, the coins became less valuable. To make up for this loss in value, merchants raised the prices on the goods they sold. Many people stopped using coins and began to barter to get what they needed. Eventually, salaries had to be paid in food and clothing, and taxes were collected in fruits and vegetables.

Again the government of Rome was unable to control the house plan and renting procedures for the indigenes thus leaving it in the hands of cruel wealthy individuals as Romans lived in a Domus, or house with marble walls, floors with intricate colored tiles and windows made of small panes of glass. Most Romans however were not rich; living in small smelly rooms in apartment houses with six or more stories called islands. Each island covered an entire block. At one time there were 44,000 apartment houses within the city walls of Rome. First floor apartments were not occupied by the poor since these living quarters rented for about some few dollars a year. The more shaky wooden stairs a family had to climb, the cheaper the rent became. The upper apartments that the poor rented for a small amount

per year were hot, dirty, crowded and dangerous. Anyone who could not pay the rent was forced out. Because of these, cities began to decay because there was no house insurance from the government to the unemployed and or even the employed (Frede: 1999).

Another factor to be pointed out here that contributed to the decline and fall of good order in the Roman Empire were the events of the last 400 years of the existence of the empire. The scientific achievements of the Romans were limited almost entirely to engineering and the organization of public services. They built marvelous roads, bridges and aqueducts. They established the first system of medicine for the benefit of thee poor and vulnerable in the society. Problem however was that since the Romans relied so much on human and animal lobor, they failed to invent new machines or find new technology which would have aided efficient and mass production. The result of this failure was that they rather than conquer or even maintain the vast empire, they were losing territories

Lastly, maintaining an army to defend the borders of the empire from Barbarians attacks was a constant drain on the government. Military spending left few resources for other vital activities, such as providing public housing and maintaining quality roads and aqueducts. Frustrated Romans lost their desire to defend the empire, making the Emperor begin to hire solders recruited from unemployed city mob and foreigners. Such an army was not only unreliable but expensive to maintain. The Emperors were forced to raise taxes frequently which in turn led to inflation that crippled the economy and destabilized good order in the empire.

Decay of good order in Nigeria

There are examples of decay of good order in Nigeria especially by elected and appointed government officials. They use uniformed personnel to achieve this. Countless Nigerians in an attempt to make precarious ends, self-employ themselves as taxi drivers, traders, shopkeepers, hustlers etc;

but are daily accosted and sometimes assaulted by those who are paid with tax payers' money to protect them. These uniformed personnel demand bribes and commit human rights abuses against them as a means of extorting money. Those who fail to comply with them are often threatened with arrest and physical harm. Too often these threats are carried out.

It a known fact that citizens accused of one crime or the other are obliged to pay the police from the moment they enter a police station to file a complaint until the day their case is brought before a court for trial. In the shadows, high-level police officials are accused of embezzling staggering sums of public funds meant to cover basic police operations. Senior police officers also are said to enforce a perverse system in which rank-and-file officers are compelled to pay up the chain of command, a share of the money they extort from the helpless public (Eke: 2011). Currently, those charged with police oversight, discipline, and reform have for years failed to take effective actions to punish offenders, thereby re-enforcing impunity among the officers who are regularly perpetrating crimes against the citizens they are paid to protect.

In recent times due to the outbreak of COVID 19 that is rampaging, the entire world, the Rivers State Government imposed total lockdown in two Local Government Areas (Port Harcourt and Obio/Akpor); and closed down all the borders with neighboring states, with exception to food caravans and trucks on essential services. This order was flouted to the letter by those paid to enforce the same law, due to decayed system of governance as showcased by the military and police force personnel. Traders that were bringing in food (yam, beans, garri, cow, goat etc) were extorted by security personnel posted to enforce compliance, before they could be allowed to come into the state, thereby making these items expensive in the market (Rhythm FM report, at 8:45am: 16/04/2020). The high cost of these essential goods being as a result of what the law enforcement agents have created. In spite of the lamentation of the Rivers

State Governor Nyesom Ezenwo Wike, that this exploitation must stop, it is yet to abate.

Another misrule and decay of good order as recorded in Nigeria is the issue of the lockdown as announced by the Executive Governor of Rivers State on Monday 30th March, 2020. He said that there will be total lockdown from dusk to down on some parts of Rivers State with effect from Tuesday 31st March, 2020. However early on Tuesday some residents of the areas alleged that they were harassed by policemen and other security agencies that prevented them from leaving their homes as early as 7:00hrs for work, when the curfew restriction was to take effect from the evening. Security agents were out on the streets arresting and clamping people down in detention centres. These only regained their freedom upon payment of ten thousand naira and above as bail from police custody before they are then charged to court where they are convicted and fined one hundred naira as the case may be. This act of the government is not only wicked, but anti-people. There is no one arraigned that is not found guilty and convicted. As if that is not bad enough, the fines collected as in the case of the bail charged by the police end in individual pocket and are never accounted for.

In Nigeria, the law of the country seems to be made for the poor, while politicians and the rich portray themselves as being above the law. The COVID 19 pandemic that has ravaged the world exposed the Nigerian elite. Speaking at a forum organized by the News Agency of Nigeria in Abuja on April, 3, 2020, Nigeria's Honorable Minister of Information, Lai Muhammed said among other things that:

> The corpses of corona virus victims would be buried by the Ministry of Health because they are contagious. Corona virus is very dangerous and contagious; there is no medicine for it yet and it is not just capable to kill, overwhelm the healthcare system, but also will destroy the economy. In some countries,

> they are putting dead bodies in the refrigerators because the morgues are filled up. Nigerians should not forget that these are not the type of corpses that can be claimed for burial because they must be handled by the Ministry of Health (Linda Ikeji Blogspot)

Not long after the Honorable Ministers statement, the Chief of Staff of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria - Abba Kyari died of COVID 19. Rather than handing his body to the relevant authority – the Ministry of Health and National Centre of Disease Control (NCDC) – for burial as pronounced by the extant laws, his body was released to his family members and Islamic religious burial rites observed. Over a hundred persons attended without social distance being observed. In all ramifications, this is wrong and unacceptable. This goes further to buttress the fact that in Nigeria, the law is not for everyone. Some are seen to be above the law. What more can be decay of good order? The government has failed the citizenry by going against their own rules and order, by setting aside the NCDC safety guidelines by the burial of the Chief of Staff to the President to be publicly buried. This action of government implies the 'decay of good order' in the Nigerian society.

The rule of law and good order in Nigeria has degenerated to its lowest ebb as leaders do not have regard to the laws of the land (country), and this has been the albatross of our legal system. The consistency of the legal system is not yet in actuality in Nigeria, with the politicians still undermining the freedom of law through support arrangements thereby making legal organizations to be portrayed by feeble implementation limits.

This can be observed in the case of Col. Sambo Dasuki, Omoyele Sowore, Ibrahim Zakzaky, who respectively had financial, treasonable and religious issues with the federal government and were granted bail in the court of law, but the decision to release them was withheld by the powers that be,

until civil society groups and foreign bodies intervened before Omoyele Sowore and Col. Sambo Dasuki were released. These and other happenings have made people lose hope in the judicial system as the last hope of the oppressed.

Accountability and transparency is absent in government agencies. The COVID 19 pandemic revealed many ways by which government agencies are irresponsible with the national resources as reported in various news outlets. Well-to-do Nigerians, corporate bodies and international bodies donated money running into billions of naira to the Federal government to help in curbing the pandemic and to support the less privileged in the provision of palliatives; but what we saw was a total departure from the expected. Nigerian governments at the national, state and local levels have not shown any major impact in curbing the spread of the virus. There is not enough testing equipments and provision of basic personal protective equipments (PPE) for use by frontline health and social workers. "A government is said to be accountable when its leaders (elected and appointed) are responsive to the demands of the governed" (Aliyu: 2013). These include respect for the rule of law by the government and respect for rule of law and an independent judiciary which constitutes the key mechanism for enforcement of accountability.

The truth is that in Nigeria today, those in positions of authority flagrantly abuse their offices and power; while the led hardly obey simple rules put in place for order to be maintained in society. Mismanagement in governance has a relationship with deficiency of service performance, failure of rule of law, accountability, transparency, etc; which has become the lot of the Nigerian public sector. Mismanagement in governance is a cause of governance failure and of course the problem is leadership.

Conclusion

The decay of good order in any given society affects the standards of values and moral character formation of individuals in that environment. These manifests in so many anti-social vices, just as anti-social behaviors exhibit corruption, dishonesty, greed, violent crimes, lack of responsibility, indiscipline, disrespect to constituted authorities, laziness, low moral courage, etc. These constituted serious moral problems for the Roman Empire same way it does for present day Nigerian nation. This has resulted to a decay of good order which has frustrated every effort made to achieve national development.

This paper recommends the re-engineering of values in the world. It is the view of this work that the pursuit of national development is first attitudinal and as such the citizenry should be given necessary orientation that goes to ensure the overhauling and reconstruction of the total value system in the society for obvious national development to be guaranteed. As a matter of necessity, the development and introduction of a national policy on value education as a reference instrument that will be used as a realistic paradigm for behavioral transformation and ethical re-orientation must be encouraged. Most of the agitations in the Niger Delta, the Yoruba (Oduduwa), Northern Nigeria (Boko Haram), the Igbo (Biafra) and many others are as a result of decay of good order in Nigeria. When the government of the day does what is expected of her, the country will be a good place to live in and the people will be happy for it.

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