INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS IN QUASI-FEDERALISM: THE PLACE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION FOR EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT
Intergovernmental relation is so essential for the smooth operation of a state. Thus, the constitution of Nigeria provides for three tiers of government which include: federal, state and local government with the nature of the relationships that exist within their interaction with one another. The essence is to effectively provide services for the masses especially, the grassroots. This paper identified the impact of intergovernmental relations on grassroots service delivery in Nigeria, using some selected local government areas in Anambra State as a study focus. The research adopted Systems Theory as framework of analysis and a survey study method as its methodology. It reveals the constitutional lacuna and quagmire in intergovernmental relations which has affected the quality of services delivered by the three arms of governments especially, the local government. The paper points out that provision of effective services especially by local government requires cordial relationships among the three tiers of government as well as good legal framework to guide this relationship. To achieve this, the constitutional status of local government in Nigeria must be clearly spelt out, and the issue of joint-state-local government account must be discarded. Again, election rather than appointment should be the means of choosing leaders at the local level, while the eradication of state ministry for local government is important.

Introduction

The 1999 constitution of Nigeria as amended stipulates the functions and powers of all the tiers of government, making service delivery, a primary function at all level and encompassing in such a way that no one level of government can single handedly perform the functions of service delivery to the people. As such, cooperation becomes a nitty-gritty and prerequisite for governance (Fatile and Ejalonibu, 2015). The same constitution, further galvanized intergovernmental relations by its provisions in

section 7 and 8 which recognized local government as a third tier of government.

Intergovernmental relation in Nigeria's federalism is so essential hence, the constitution provides for three tiers of government which include; federal, state and local government. The constitution further recognizes local government as a third tier within the tripartite federal arrangement which established a relationship (interaction) between each tier and autonomy that existed within the interaction. The essence of this interaction is to effectively provide services for the masses. However, effective service delivery cannot be achieved if there is no cordial relationship among the tiers of government. In other words, intergovernmental relation is an essential ingredient for grassroots development. Notwithstanding, the constitutional recognition of local government system in Nigeria as a third tier of government and the provisions for intergovernmental relations in sections 7 and 8, governments at the higher level especially the state has continued to undermine and interfere in the affairs of this grassroots government, using the same mechanism of intergovernmental relations and the lapses orchestrated by the constitution to siphon the allocations of this grassroots government, subjecting them to appendage status of the state through the State House of Assemblies.

In view of the above, this paper seeks to identify and proffer solutions to lingering problems of Intergovernmental relations in Nigeria; and also highlight the important role of the local government in ensuring service delivery in the grassroots.

Review of Extant Literature

Intergovernmental Relations

The term "intergovernmental relations' ' is commonly used to refer to relations between federal, state and local governments, as well as governments between any one sphere (level) that facilitate the attainment of common goals through cooperation (Adewale, 2010/2011). In his own view, Obi (2010) sees intergovernmental relations to mean the complex patterns of interactions, co-operations and inter-dependence between two or more levels of government. It is further described as a plethora of formal and informal relationships and transactions that develop among levels of government within a nation-state. In Nigeria for instance, it refers to the interactions that exist among the federal (Central or National) states and local governments, state and state interactions, state and local interactions or local and local interactions. All these put together refer to the pattern of intergovernmental relations. An intergovernmental relations system therefore, consists of facilitative systems and relationships that enable the units of government to participate effectively and carry out mandate so that governmental goals are achieved. This includes executive mechanisms, coordinating mechanisms, cooperative agreements, judicial and legislative mechanisms that all facilitate delivery by government machinery. Intergovernmental relations can thus be defined as the 'glue' that holds them together. In other words, it is the interactions, relationships and the conduct of officials between governmental activities. It seeks the achievement of common goals through mutual relationships between and across vertical and horizontal governmental arrangements, alignment and cohesion across all spheres of government. The aim of governmental relations therefore, is to enable governmental activities (primarily service delivery), through synergy, effectiveness and efficiency in delivering services, to sustain democracy and strengthen delivery capacity across all spheres of government for the common good (Aibieyi, 2011).

Service Delivery

Service Delivery is a concept that is traceable to the Social Contract of Hobbes (1651) where the pact between the people and the government was created. The government at that point assumed the duty of ensuring the protection of lives, property and liberty of the people and ensuring their welfare is taken care of while the people have to obey the government. Today, the public service which represents the wheel of government implementing the policies of government and ensuring that the intentions of government are translated into action, has therefore become a bridge linking the government and the general public (citizens) through policy implementation and service delivery. Thus, Ogunna (2004) avers that government's desire to implement public policies, enforce laws, and realize public welfare in order to satisfy its citizens amounts to effective service delivery. Public service delivery then becomes an important instrument for nation-building, and a bond between the state and citizens (Walle and Scott 2009).

Furthermore, Al-Ghazali (2008) has put together a checklist for measuring service delivery by the public service in a political system. These include:

- Effective delivery of services and goods at a low cost and timely manner.
- Equitable, fair and transparent distribution of goods and services to the people.
- Citizens' convictions that public service and state institutions respect the rights of the citizens and laws of the land.
- Use of legitimate power to command submission by the public service.
- Conducive environment for citizens to carry out their daily activities without fear or hindrance.
- Equal treatment and dispensation of justice for all citizens devoid of any bias.

Quasi-Federalism

Quasi-Federalism refers simply to a type of federalism that also adopts some features of the unitary system of government. Generally, Federalism describes a government system where the government powers and responsibilities in a state are shared between the national (central government) and the states (sub-national governments). Wheare (1963) conceptualizes federalism as a constitutional division of power between two levels of government which are independent and coordinating in their respective spheres of influence. In this form of power sharing, each level of government is guaranteed some level of autonomy in a way that none interferes with the powers of the other and each level of government sovereign in its sphere of jurisdiction (Bradat, 2006). The federal or central government takes care of all those things that unite the whole country while the other levels of government (sub-national) have jurisdiction over those things that are local concern (Belanga, 2000).

However, there exists another version of federalism where there are two or more levels of government in a country but the national government exercises most of the powers in the state thereby usurping the powers of other levels of the government. This form of government system reflects some form of federalism and some form of unitary system of government. This is referred to as quasi-federalism. Nigeria is a good example of a country that practices this system of government in the contemporary periods. There exist the federal, state and local governments in Nigeria. However, the federal government exercises most of the powers in the country through the legislative list and the state governments also do not allow the local governments to exercise the powers in the residual list. Even the powers in the concurrent list are mostly being exercised by the federal or central government. In the end, the local government which is the government closest to the people suffers most.

Empirical Review

Intergovernmental Relations and Service Delivery

The essentials of intergovernmental relations in the Nigerian system of government cannot be over emphasized. The constitution provides for three tiers of government which include; federal, state and local government. It (constitution) also recognized local government as a third tier within our tripartite federal arrangement which established the relationship (interaction) between each tier and autonomy that existed within the interaction. The essence of this interaction is to effectively provide services for the masses. In doing this, the role of local government cannot be undermined hence, local government is primarily established for efficient and effective services delivery and also to bring government closer to the people. In other words, these tiers of government must relate effectively for service delivery and welfare of the people which is the fundamental business of every government. However, care must be taken not to interfere with the constitutional jurisdiction of each tier of government hence it undermines service delivery. The constitutional relationships of these tiers of government can be traced to the first republican constitution that allowed for superior-subordinate relationships among the regional or state and their local authorities. Federal government was excluded in the affairs of local government because it fell within the constitutional jurisdiction of the regional government. The federal constitution provides and deals with federal matters in relation to that of the regional government which has its own constitution. The underlying factors and powers

allowed the regional/state government for establishment, composition, functions, personnel and finance of the local government (Agbani et'al, 2014). Attempts were made to democratize local government and make it more responsive to the country's economic and social development. In the North (Hausas/Fulani) due to the monarchical system of government already in practice before the colonial administration, it was difficult to achieve the democratic result. In the south, the process was accepted though with little difficulties as it required subjugating the influence of the traditional institutions.

Local government however, should be seen as the system of government established for effective service delivery and to bring governance nearer to the people. Orewa and Adewumi (1983) in Edoyugbo (2012), argued that local government "is to entrust political responsibility to where it is most crucial and beneficial, that is to the people". In view of this, local government can be seen as a legal entity, a system of government established by law which attracts the influence of the higher tier of government for grassroots development. The influence of the higher tiers of government should not be regarded as interference by central or state government hence, it undermines the autonomy of this tier of government and determines its functions including the quality and level of services delivered to the grassroots. If this tier of government is recognized as a separate tier, it means the people will be involved in electing the principal actors among themselves. If as an appendage of the higher tier of government, it means, the people would not be part of decision making. On this note, its effectiveness is determined by the level of autonomy granted to it as an essential tool for service delivery at the grassroots. However, effective service delivery cannot be achieved if there is no cordial relationship with the higher tiers of government. In other words, intergovernmental relation is an essential ingredient for grassroots development hence, local government remain an integral part of the entire political system

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework adopted in the discussion of Intergovernmental Relations and Service Delivery is the Systems Theory. Scholars of wide repute, attempted discussing what a system is, some of whom are Easton (1965); Adamolekun (1983) in Offiong (1996). These scholars affirmed that a system is a "phenomenon of whatever type, including physical, biological, social, political, etc., which is an organized whole with identifiable, interrelated structures delineating it from the environment (supra system) in which it is located and with which it interacts, processing the inputs from it into outputs for it." In furtherance, systems theorists seek to postulate that "every system, including political system, has subsystems which make up the entire system." Both systems have some constitutionally assigned responsibilities with empowerment or resources to enable them discharge the said responsibilities optimally. In a political system where the constitutionally assigned responsibilities and empowerment or resources are practicable and respected, the system is said to be stable (homeostasis). On the other hand, instability reigns in the political system where the reverse is the case and the subsystems and entire system are also unable to perform effectively. In line with Easton (1965), the input and output of a political system is very essential. A political system obtains its inputs such as demands, support, criticisms, resources, information from the environment and a subsystem anchors on the said inputs to discharge its responsibilities, which in turn enables the political system to send its outputs into the environment and obtain further inputs for its functions.

Relevance of the Theory

Systems approach is a management tool that allows individuals to examine all aspects of the organization, to inter relate the effects of one set of decisions to another and to optimally use all the resources at hand to solve the problem. ... This modification places stress on the entire system. It emphasizes the constructive power of the observer, who controls/constructs models of the systems with which the observer interacts.

The major relevance of systems theory are the followings

- It concentrates on end results rather than the means.
- It provides an orderly and efficient plan of action. advertisements:
- It develops coordination of the specialized activities.
- It provides a good basis of control.

- It frees management from many daily details of operations management.
- To develop unifying principles by the integration of intergovernmental relations of local government with higher tier of government and service delivery.

The fact that systems theory recognizes the relativity of perception, may in itself, serve to expand our understanding of our role in the intergovernmental relations of local government in service delivery. It provides a framework for us to examine and understand our environment. A systems approach provides a common method for the study of societal and organizational patterns.

Application of the Theory

The application of "systems theory" in intergovernmental relations and service delivery enables us see local government as a sub system, which must be judiciously and essentially handled with adequate inputs, so that they can contribute appropriately to the efficient and effective services to the locality. If local governments fail in the required inputs, the tendency for instability and discontent amongst the citizenry are certain. It is therefore very essential to realize the crucial nature of the systems theory in intergovernmental relations of local government with higher tier of government and service delivery. Local government which is considered as a subsystem is an integral part of the overall political system. It has constitutional assigned responsibilities that will enable the betterment and wellbeing of the grassroots, if given its pride of place as a third of government, not as appendages of the state governments. Failure to recognize local government as a third tier government and its constitutional position could undermine its efficiency and thereby send frustration, disenchantment, dissatisfaction and discontentment amongst the grassroots.

Research Methodology

This research adopted a case-study method as its methodology, involving both qualitative and quantitative research techniques. The qualitative technique involved the use of documents like textbooks, journals, magazines, newspapers, government publications, NGO publications, internet materials and other documents. The quantitative technique involved visiting the selected local governments of study, collecting data using questionnaires and interviews analyzing such data using quantitative tools and methods.

Research Design

A research design is a conceptual structure within which the research would be conducted. The research design demonstrates the practical procedure for implementation of the methodology chosen in any research. In this research, the survey research design was adopted in order to establish, using the data that was extracted from the local government employees, to unearth the challenges facing local governments in Anambra state in their efforts to deliver services effectively to the citizens and how these challenges can be overcome.

Area of the Study

The study is on Intergovernmental relations: A study of Anambra state local government system. The researcher selected six local governments from the three senatorial zones in Anambra state, one urban and one rural to accommodate the interest of both rural and urban people within the state. These local governments include; Aguata (urban), Orumba south (rural), Awka south (urban), Awka north (rural), Onitsha south (urban) and Anambra east (rural) local government areas.

Aguata and Orumba south were selected from the south senatorial zone, Awka south and Awka north from the central while Onitsha south and Anambra East were selected from the North senatorial zone.

Population of the Study

The population was the entire employees of Aguata and Orumba south, Awka south, Awka north, Onitsha south and Anambra East local government areas. The six local governments have staff strength of one thousand seven hundred and forty-five personnel (1745).

The aforementioned local governments and their staff strength were presented on the table below

Table 1:

Population table of selected local governments

Aguata	302
Orumba south	300
Awka south	293
Awka north	287
Onitsha south	285
Anambra East	278
Total	1745

***Source**: Field Research by the Authors (2023)*

However, each of the local governments comprises the following departments: Personnel management, Finance, Supplies, Planning, Research and Statistics, Department of Education, Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Department of Works, Housing, Land and Survey and Department of Medical and Primary Health.

The researchers further presented the departments with staff attached to each, per local government in the table below.

Table 2:
Population Distribution table per department

S/No	**Departments**	**Aguata**	**Orumba south**	**Awka south**	**Awka north**	**Onitsha south**	**Anambra East**
1.	**Personnel**	27	25	26	26	26	25
2.	**Finance**	25	26	24	25	25	23
3.	**Supplies**	24	25	26	27	27	25
4.	**Planning**	28	24	26	25	25	26
5.	**Research & statistics**	27	25	27	24	24	25
6.	**Education**	32	32	28	29	27	26
7.	**Agriculture & natural resources**	34	34	29	30	30	28
8.	**Works**	28	27	26	25	25	24
9.	**Housing**	24	25	28	26	26	25
10.	**Land & survey**	26	30	27	24	24	26
11.	**Medical & health**	27	27	26	26	26	25
	Total	302	300	293	287	285	278

***Source**: Field Research by the Authors (2023)*

We further divided this population into two categories, the senior staff and the junior staff. Face to face interviews were conducted with the senior staff while structured questionnaires were distributed among the junior staff of the local governments.

Sample Size

A population of one thousand seven hundred and forty-five (1745) staff of the six local governments, were randomly selected two hundred each from the six local governments, making a total number of one thousand two (1200) staff. Among the one thousand two hundred (1200), one hundred and eighty seven (187) members of the executive staff were engaged in unstructured interviews. These one hundred and eighty seven executive staffs were selected thirty one (31) per a local government except in Aguata local government in which the researchers selected thirty two (32) in order to balance the number. The remaining one thousand and thirteen (1013) staff members were issued with structured questionnaires. The one thousand two hundred (1200) respondents represent 75% of the total population of workers in the six local governments. It is believed by the researchers that this number was a good representation of the total population of the workers in the six local governments.

Sampling Method/Procedure

The sampling method involves taking a representative selection of the population and using the data that were collected as research information. A sample is a "subgroup of a population" (Frey et al., 2000). The sample should be "representative in the sense that each sampled unit will represent the characteristics of a known number of units in the population" (Lohr, 1999).

In order to effectively capture the diversity in the population of our study area and produce the desired result, a probability sampling method was adopted. Under the random sampling method, the stratified random sampling technique was further adopted in order to enable us to divide the total population of our study into two strata: the upper strata and the lower strata. The upper strata represent the higher or executive staff of the six local governments while the lower strata represent the lower or non-executive staff of the six local governments.

Having divided the population into strata, we adopted the random sampling technique in selecting both the interview population and the population on which the questionnaires were administered. In this method, every member of the population has the chance of being selected and this allows for reduction of bias in the selection process. This technique was also adopted on the assumption that every member of the population has the ability to offer the needed information as all the staff members of the six local governments are in one way or the other involved in service delivery. In the overall, the researcher has ensured that at least 70% of each of the population strata is captured in the sample.

Hence, a uniform department existed in all the six local governments, the researcher decided to present the staff strength per department, number of senior staff per department, sample taken from the senior staff, number of junior staff per department and sample taken from junior staff. Don't forget, that these samples were drawn from the various local governments and presented here as total.

Table 3:

Staff strength per department, population and sample size

S/No	Departments	Number of staff	Number of Senior staff	Sample taken	Number of Junior staff	Sample t aken
1.	**Personnel**	155	30	20	125	92
2.	**Finance**	148	25	14	123	90
3.	**Supplies**	154	24	17	130	88
4.	**Planning**	154	28	18	126	92
5.	**Education**	174	26	16	148	94
6.	**Agriculture and Natural resource**	185	30	20	155	96
7.	**Works**	155	27	17	128	92
8.	**Housing**	154	28	18	126	92
9.	**Land and Survey**	157	27	17	130	90
10.	**Medical and primary health**	157	26	16	131	94
11	**Research and statistics**	152	24	14	128	93

	Total	1745	295	187	1450	1013

***Source**: Field Research by the Authors (2023)*

In view of the above, one thousand and thirteen (1013) questionnaires were distributed while eight hundred (800) of the distributed questionnaires were retrieved back for analysis. Hence, we adopted the random sampling technique in selecting both the interview population and the population on which the questionnaires were administered. The other two hundred and thirteen (213) questionnaires were not retrieved due to the fact that some of the respondents could not be reached at the point of retrieval and some questionnaires were lost by the respondents.

Reliability of the Instruments

The researcher made use of a test reset method and also conducted a pilot test of the questionnaire before administering, just to confirm the reliability of the instruments. The process was carried out by giving out similar questionnaires to a similar group of people. This enables determination and appropriateness of the questionnaire.

Validity of the Instruments

The principal instrument used for this research work was a questionnaire administered to the staff of the said six selected local governments (Aguata, Orumba south, Awka South, Awka north, Onitsha south and Anambra East) of Anambra state. Validation of the instruments (questionnaire) was carried out by the some senior staff of the University in Anambra state, who took a perusal of the questionnaire before administration to ensure that the questionnaires were in line with the objectives of the study. Secondly, the opinions of experts were also sort, to enable effective validation of the instruments.

Distribution and Retrieval of the Questionnaire

Direct delivery technique was employed by the researcher in the distribution of the instrument (questionnaire). This implies that the researcher personally administered the questionnaires to the respondents. A total number of one thousand and thirteen (1013) questionnaires were distributed while eight hundred (800) of the distributed questionnaires were retrieved back for analysis. Hence, we adopted the random sampling technique in selecting both the interview population and the population on which the questionnaires were administered. The other two hundred and thirteen (213) questionnaires were not retrieved due to the fact that some of the respondents could not be reached at the point of retrieval and some questionnaires were lost by the respondents.

Methods of Data Analysis

We adopted the content analysis method in analyzing the secondary data and inductive reasoning method to analyze the result of the interview. For the data collected with the questionnaire tool, we adopted simple statistical tools like tables, percentages and charts in analyzing them. The frequency of each response was obtained and divided by the total number of responses. It was multiplied by hundred, i.e:

$$\frac{\text{Frequency of each response}}{\text{Total number of responses}} X\ 100$$

Presentation of data, analysis and discussion of findings

This chapter deals with the analysis of data collected during the course of the study. Hence the frequency of each response varied, the total number of responses is constant.

Table 4:
Categorization of the respondents

DATA	OPTIONS	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Sex	Male	340	41.2
	Female	460	58.8
Marital status	Married	580	72.5
	Single	220	27.5
Age	18-55	540	67.6

	56 & above	260	32.4
Academic Qualification	O' level	380	47.1
	ND	280	27.5
	Degree	140	25.4
Total		**800**	**100**

***Source**: Field Research by the Authors (2023)*

From the above table, it can be deduced that 340 of the respondents were male represented by 41.2% while 460 were female represented by 58.8%. On the issue of marital status, 580 respondents representing72.5% were married while 220 respondents representing 27.5% were single. It can easily be ascertained that the bulk number of the respondents were within the age bracket of 18-55 years which has 540 respondents with 67.6% while the ages of 56 and above has 260 respondents represented 32.4%. On the issue of qualification, 380 respondents with the percentage level of 47.1 had O' level certificate, 280 of the respondents with another percentage level of 27.5 possessed ND Certificate while 140 of respondents with the percentage level of 25.4 were degree or its equivalent holders.

Analysis of the research questions

The presentation and analysis of the findings regarding to the research question were treated below.

Research Question 1

Question 1: Do you think that cordial intergovernmental relations of local government with Anambra state government can lead to effective service delivery?

Table 5: Respondent's opinion on whether harmonious intergovernmental relations of local government with Anambra state government can lead to effective service delivery

Responses	No of respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	640	80
No	160	20
Total	800	100

Source: field survey, 2023

The table 1 above shows that 640 of the respondents representing (80%) of the respondents answered yes, they agreed that cordial intergovernmental relations of local government with Anambra state government can lead to effective service delivery while, 160 respondents representing (20%) of the respondents disagreed with the idea and according to them, whether cordial intergovernmental relations of local government with Anambra state government or not local government ought to effectively render services to the grassroots. Seventeen (17) members of the executive staff which were engaged in unstructured interview aligned with the ideas of the 160 respondents while, the remaining one hundred and seventy (170) members of the executive staff were of the view that cordial intergovernmental relations of local government with Anambra state government can lead to effective service delivery.

In view of the above, the researcher concludes that cordial intergovernmental relations of local government with Anambra state government can lead to effective service delivery.

Research Question 2

Question 2: Does local government's inability to exercise her constitutional freedom in intergovernmental relations with Anambra state government constitute an impediment on service delivery?

Table 5: Respondent's opinion on whether local government inability to exercise her constitutional freedom in intergovernmental relations with Anambra state government constitute an impediment on service delivery.

Responses	No of respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	560	70
No	200	25
No opinion	40	5
Total	800	100

***Source**: field survey, 2023*

The aforementioned Table 4 shows that 560 respondents representing (70%) of the respondents answered yes, they were of the view that local government inability to exercise her constitutional freedom in intergovernmental relations with Anambra state government constitute an impediment on service delivery while, 200 respondents representing (25%) of the respondents answered 'No'. Their ideas contradicted that of the above respondents. Forty (40) of the respondents (5%) said that they have no idea on the question. However, one hundred and fifty-two members of the executive staff (upper strata) which were engaged in unstructured interview support the idea that local government inability to exercise her constitutional freedom in intergovernmental relations with Anambra state government constitute an impediment on service delivery. The remaining thirty-five members of the executive staff (upper strata) aligned themselves with those respondents that contradict the assertion of those one hundred and fifty-two members of the executive staff.

Based on the foregoing the researcher states that local government inability to exercise her constitutional freedom in intergovernmental relations with Anambra state government constitute an impediment on service delivery.

Summary of Findings

This research work identifies that intergovernmental relation of local governments with Anambra state government is uncordial and as such affect effective service delivery at the grassroots. This uncordial relationship was orchestrated by complexity, lapses, inadequacies, and confusion that exist in our constitution. The 1999 constitution under section 7 (1) stated that, "the system of local government by democratically elected local government councils is under this constitution guaranteed and accordingly the government of every state shall ensure their existence under a law which provides for the establishment, structures, composition, finance and factors of such councils". In the fourth schedule of the constitution, the functions of local government were also stated. The constitution empowers the state to scrutinize and approve local government budgets and expenditure through the state house of assembly. The state government was also allowed to create the state ministry for local government therefore, making local government appendages of the state government whereas, this same constitution recognized local government as a third tier of government.

Secondly, allocation of resources is a major factor militating against intergovernmental relations in Nigeria. Nigeria needs to diversify her economy and allow individual states to develop their locality with the resources available at their disposal. The over-concentration of the Nigerian economy on oil alone poses a problem to intergovernmental relations too hence, the three tiers of government depend on one source for their revenue, the struggle for sharing formula cannot cease.

Thirdly, this paper identifies the interventions of the military in Nigerian politics as a strong militating factor that constrain the success of intergovernmental relations. The military administrations moved from the constitution that provide and established the rights of the three tiers of government to edicts that allowed them the freedom of doing their wish. For instance, Adewumi (1980), argued that, the process of appointing the local government chairman during the military administration has ill-feelings because, in a number of councils, people with highest votes were not appointed

Conclusion

Intergovernmental relations have been proven as a vital tool for grass root development. The constitution provides for three tiers of government which include; federal, state and local government. It (constitution) also recognized local government as a third tier within our tripartite federal arrangement which established relationship (interaction) between each tier and autonomy that existed within the interaction. The essence of this interaction is to

effectively provide services for the masses. In doing this, the role of local government cannot be undermined hence, local government is primarily established for efficient and effective services delivery and also to bring government closer to the people. In other words, these tiers of government must relate effectively for service delivery and welfare of the people which is the major business of the government. However, care must be taken not to interfere with the constitutional jurisdiction of each tier of government hence it undermines service delivery.

Recommendations

The essential of local government is to bring services and development effectively and nearer to the grassroots. To achieve this aim, this study recommends as follows:

1. There should be cordial relationship between Anambra state government and the local governments in the state, giving local government a pride of place, without any form of interference and as such facilitate the developmental processes which it set to achieve. The state cum federal government should not misconstrue intergovernmental relation as interference in the affairs of the third tier of government as that undermines service delivery. Thus, it should hands off and stop interfering in the affairs of local governments especially as it concerns elections hence, the objectives of local government include political participation. The grassroots should be allowed to elect who represents them politically at the local level.

2. The state/local government joint account system should be abolished hence the 1999 constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria recognizes local government as a third tier of government. It should be allowed to access its allocation directly from the federation account for effective financing of developmental projects at its locality.

3. It is imperative to call for amendment of the 1999 constitution to guarantee local government its freedom from the state kingship and facilitate the activities as mass mobilization agent and increase political participation, developmental projects and so on.

4. The ministry of local government created by the state government should be abolished. As this will enable local government with the freedom necessary for the performance of their duties and be free from domineering tendencies of the state government, thereby increase its efficiency in service delivery.

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