



AN OVERVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICE DELIVERY IN EKITI STATE 1999-2009

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Abstract: The virility of a political system is measured by the overall development of rural areas and the commitment to the growth of viable democratic system. A key indicator of good governance is efficient and effective service delivery to the people at the grassroots which is one of the objectives and justification for the creation of local government. Service delivery is the working together of different groups/system effectively to provides or conveys or releases socio-economic development essential to the people. Development will be insignificant in any political system if the government does not positively affect the lives of people at the grassroots or if development eludes the grassroots dwellers, It is observed that the problem of governance and effective service delivery particularly at the local level has been in doldrums in the political history of Nigeria. In Ekiti State, service delivery is disadvantaged by some identifiable problems such as lack of strategic planning that often leads to poor implementation of policies, lack of participation, poverty, abuse of office, societal indifference, poor working environment and intergovernmental conflicts. The paper focuses on service delivery, who determines service, the recipients, and impediments to effectiveness in the delivery of quality goods to the people at the grassroots. The study employs both primary and secondary sources of data collection. There was a structured interview across different levels, the political office holders; the Bureaucrat and people at the grassroots. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive analysis. The study concludes that service delivery is a collective effort of the government and the people. Amongst others, the paper recommended that, Society satisfaction should be rated base on survey, this, can reposition the local government for a better service delivery.

Keywords: Governance, Service delivery, Development

INTRODUCTION

The constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria provided for the creation of local government, it came up as a result of 1976 local government reforms, baked by constitutional provision in 1979 and repeated in 1999 constitution. The high rate at which poverty level is increasing in Ekiti State necessitates an overview of effective service delivery in the Local government across the State, people at the grassroots have been long waiting for delivery of public goods to the society but alas! They are actually not enjoying the dividend that is expected to come with democratic system. Local Government are to be effective when it comes to delivery of service to the people, execution of developmental projects that can

improve the quality of life of people at the grassroots because of its proximity, services that are needed by the people are imbedded in the function of local government which is the third tier level of government in Nigeria, such services as; basic primary education in all the communities and villages in the local governments, basic primary health care services, agricultural services such as providing tools and machinery for farmers etc. Another major objective of local government is involving citizens at the grassroots in the management of local affairs and to provide a framework within which both human and material resources at the local level could be effectively used to enhance and promote the standard of living at the grassroots, and the speedy

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delivery of basic needs to local and community dwellers.

Statement of Problem

efficient service delivery that is germane to government at the grassroots has collapsed, people today are been deprived of their basic necessity needs of life, self-centered policy strategies has thrown the country into a culpable political turmoil and unless better implemented measure are adopted and implemented, things may not be better at the local level who are the recipient of service delivery. A lot is expected from the local government in terms of service delivery in order to attained development especially at the grass root and to improve quality of life, looking at Ekiti State generally, not much has been achieved when it comes to delivery service, do we then say local government is not performing? Who are to be blame for this the challenges? local government administration with lack of development in the local areas has contributed to the defeat of the purpose of which local government was created, Sulaiman (2011) argued that, it is a general problem of accountability, misappropriation of funds and misuse of public resources, lack of transparency, poor implementation of policies, non-participating methods of designing policies and power with lack of proper monitoring to check corruption by government. The question now is that who should be blamed? Government or the people? The problem is directed to the recipient of the service and the government at the center, the situation is becoming more pathetic on daily basis,

Research Questions

The research seeks to answer the following question:

- i. What are the expectations from the local government?
- ii. What are the challenges to effective service delivery in Ekiti State Local Government
- ii. How can local government be repositioned for a better performance?

Research Objective

The specific objective of the work are:

- i. to examine what is expected from Local government to the grassroots people.

- ii. to investigate and examine the problems and challenges to effective service delivery in Nigeria with reference to Ekiti State local government.
- iii. to make recommendations that can provide solutions that will enhance better performance at the local government level of administration in Ekiti State.

Conceptual Discourse

Agagu (2004) opined that local government organ has been a key feature of the Nigerian government and politics since colonial rule, although over the years, there have been variation in name, structure and composition while the organization was operated differently in diverse part of the country. The importance of local government is primarily to support democracy. If democracy is to function properly, then participation of as many citizens as possible is necessary in the decision-making process. Progress achieved on the basis of these methods is more solid and democratic than that achieved over the communist totalitarian methods. As the first Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru said in 1948 (Aijaz, 2007) "... Self-governance is and should be the basis of any truly democratic system. You cannot build a consolidated democracy, if you don't build its foundation from below ... "Secondly, the local government can create future leaders. This means that local government is a training period and effective enough to gain experience and knowledge on the art of government policy-making and governance transition to nationwide. This has happened in our country, where yesterday's mayors have used their position as a springboard to move to the party leadership or central governments. This underlines once again that the best school of democracy and the best guarantee for success is the practice in local government. Thirdly, its importance lies in the fact that manages much better and more efficiently the local affairs as it is closer to the needs of citizens. Finally, its importance lies in the fact that it serves as a communication tool and an intermediary between the central government and the people or community. Thus, requirements of citizens are transmitted to the central government by local



government bodies and on the other hand the central government policies are made known to the public through local government organs. This two-way relationship makes possible a close relationship between people and high levels of government. A Nderu (2016). Local government was created majorly to bring government closer to the people, central government cannot satisfactorily conduct administration from the central without any form of decentralization so local government is created to provide means of servicing the peculiarities and special need of local people. Therefore, local government are expected to carry out some functions that centers on; activities which require detailed local knowledge for effective and efficient performance; activities in which success depends on the responsiveness' and full participation of local communities; activities which are of personal nature requiring provisions close to where the individual affected live and in which significant use of discretion or understanding of individuals is needed (Ajayi 2003). Local government has exclusive functions and concurrent functions. Exclusive function such as; collection of rates, establishment and maintenance of commentaries, licensing functions maintenance of functions etc. they equally have concurrent functions such as provision and maintenance of Primary School Education, provision and maintenance of Primary Health Centers, Agricultural extension and natural resources, housing and industrial estates.

The Structure of Local Government

The structure of local government is divided into;

The Executive Arm which consists the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, Supervisors, Secretary, Executive Committee each of them has roles and function to perform. The Chairman is to; Monitor compliance with the described rules and regulations, He supervises accountability, to periodically conducts inspection, he makes reports on cash receipts and expenses, he directs the costs of revenues, manages the local government and dictates duties of its members etc. In the absence of the chairman the Vice-chairman performs his duties; The supervisors are appointed by local authorities. Each of them is responsible for a certain department and help in

fulfilling the goals of political leaders. Heads of Department of local government all have equal status and are involved in affairs of the executive power. The Legislative Arm consists of a leader, his deputy and councilors. Their roles are; to correct and approve the annual budget of local authorities; control implementation of projects and programs envisage in the annual budget; consult and work with the heads of local governments. There are various departments interrogating together to produce efficiency at the local government, they are; Administration unit; Community, Development unit Unit; /Finance and Supply, Agricultural Units, Works and Services Unit, Budget, Planning, Research and Statistics, Primary Health Care Unit, Environmental Unit, Procurement Unit (field Source).

In view of the sensitive nature of the functions and activities at the local government, a lot of measures are put in place to control its powers and ensures its efficiency. We have Internal control; Ministerial Control; the Commission control; Financial Control; Judicial Control; opposition parties' ad public Complaints Commission's Control.(Odanye, 2011)

Expected Functions of Local Government

Function of local Government are divided into two, the exclusive functions and the concurrent function. . (Ajayi 2000). The Exclusive functions are the duties or roles exclusively meant for local government to perform; they are: Provision of essential services at the local level, ,Maintenances of law and order, Mobilization of the people for community development, Linkage function between the people and the central government, Leadership training, Provision of simple machinery for the administration of justices at the local level, Performs legislative function, Generation of revenues Preservation local government traditions, history and culture, Concurrent Functions are functions local government can perform alongside with other higher government i.e the State and central government. Ajayi (2000) identified Such functions to include; Provision and maintenance of primary school education, Provision and maintenance of primary health centers, Provision of housing and industrial estates, Agricultural extension



and natural resources services

Governance; a tool for Administration in a modern state

The term governance was derived from an ancient Greek word, kebernon, which means to steer (Youth, 2005 cited in Savic, 2006). Fukuyama (2013:3) defines governance as “a government's ability to make and enforce rules, and to deliver services, regardless of whether that government is democratic or not”. Hence, governance implies the exercise of power in order to steer the social systems and the process by which business or government agencies exercise control over the citizens. Also, governance is regarded as a system and process of ensuring the overall direction, effectiveness, supervision and accountability of organizations (Cornforth, 2003). Again, governance can be viewed as “The sound exercises of political, economic, and administrative authority to manage a country's resources for development. It involves the institutionalization of a system through which citizens, institutions, organizations, and groups in a society articulate their interests, exercise their rights, and mediate their differences in pursuit of the collective good” (Country Governance Assessment 2005). However, governance may be defined, the aim is to achieve the same objectives with that of good governance, because governance in the context of promoting sustainable economic development should comprise of efficiency and effectiveness and a successful public sector (Savic, 2006 p.19). Thus, good governance can be viewed as an application of economic, political, and administrative authority to improve better the activities of a country at all levels (Basu, 2004 cited in Savic, (2006).

Good governance referred to as the ideal type of governance to correct societal ills, founded on structural attributes such as the rule of law, transparency, citizen participation, efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability, especially in a manner that is free from corruption (Matembe 2010). According to the Asia-Pacific MDG study series (2007:32) good governance primarily refers to the high quality of processes by which decisions affecting public affairs are reached and implemented, with due consideration of the poor and

other disadvantaged groups. This implies that the poor and the disadvantaged can influence the direction of development in particular issues that affects their lives; can make contributions to development, have these contributions recognized, and share the benefits of development in order to improve their lives and livelihoods. Kakumba (200 p. 66) states that good governance aims to achieve various objectives such as enhancement of the welfare of its citizens, promotion of economic growth, political stability of its citizens, ensuring that democracy prevails and ensuring overall accountability for actions, as well as monitoring of government actions in society.

The objective of governance is; Service to the public which is to satisfactorily fulfil the public needs and expectation and to achieve this there should be transparency, account ability, efficiency on the part of government with effective interaction with public and other agencies. Secondly, the objective of governance is efficient government i.e. to facilitate a speedy, transparent and effective proves for performing government administrative activities through effective service delivery. Government must be subjected to transformation which requires a coherent strategy. Once government makes strategies to transform the governance process, it must prepare to meet the significant challenges and opportunities that will arise during implementation process. (Rijesh 2007)

Service delivery

Service Delivery is conceptualized as the relationship between policy makers, service providers and grassroots people, it encompasses service and their supporting systems that are typically regarded as a state responsibility which include social services such as water, road network, security, education and basic health services. Attah, (1996).

This paper sees services as a system that provides something needed for the public. Service delivery is therefore, the effectiveness of systems in providing goods for the public, when systems work effectively to provide/convey or release socio-economic development essential to the people at the needed time. However, not all services provided by the political holders are needed,



when such happens, we call it ill services. Effective service delivery is an indication of good governance

Theoretical Framework

This study adopts the Efficiency Services theory. According to the proponents of this theory from the western Europe, the German School have tended to embrace the efficiency services school, particularly from Rudof Von-Gueist to Georges Langrod who argued that the existence of local government is justify on the ground that its an efficient agent for providing services that are local in character. Mackenzie (1954), one of the notable proponents, was of the belief that local government exists to provide services and it must be judged by its success in providing services up to a standard measured by national inspectorate.

Another theorist of efficiency service Sharpe (1970) argued that, if the local government did not exist, something else would have been created in its place. His view demonstrates the indispensable role the local government is expected to play at the grassroots level. This theory holds that the vital function of local government is to provide services and service is provided by local governments across the nation through its structures of departments like works, land, survey and housing; agricultural and natural resources; health, education and social services; administration, budget and statistics and treasury. Each of these departments must interact

together to keep the local government moving and effective. Members of Staff in each department must possess the requisite skills and expertise knowledge in delivering the efficient service. The staff or local government official's capability must be built and developed to meet the need of efficient service delivery in local areas. It is important to note that the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery are appraised based on how successful the services are carried out by the local government though its work forces, more so, that local government is only an institution that can act or perform through actors who must be well equipped and trained to take up the growing demand of efficient service delivery at grassroot (cited in Agba et al, 2013).

William Machenzie (1954)(the leading advocate of the efficiency services school, quoted in Adeyemo (2010) notes that service delivery to the local people is expected to pre-occupy the resources power and time of the local government. Kafle and Karkee(2003) notes that the core argument of the efficient service delivery school is that local government exists to help to ensure efficient service delivery. The advocates of efficiency service theory find this need so important that they argue that it should override other functions of the local government and contend that the need or functions of encouraging democratic participation is not as crucial as the need for efficient service delivery. For this, the proponents of the efficient service school argue that all is well even if there is less democratic participation in the governance process as long as the local or grassroots people get efficient services from the local government. Shape (1970 p. 168.) The theory also stipulates that local government exist to articulate and aggregate the interests and aspirations of the people for better and more efficient service (Lawal 2000).

Generally, the argument by the efficiency service school is that local government because of its proximity i.e closeness to an area can provide certain service far more efficiently than the state or the central government. Local government also forms a good base for effective mobilization of the support and resources of the people towards government projects and programmes. For instance, local government can generate revenue internally and use it alongside the funds made available to it by the state and national government to improve on the lives of the people within their areas of operation. A community where roads are bad, where there is no market stall, no functional motor park, no health centers, no portable water, no drugs in local dispensaries and where refuse littered around the places the local government administration in such areas is to be blamed However, the theory has been criticized by some scholars, notwithstanding, the efficiency service theory is adopted in this study as the best to describe the primary purpose of local government systems in providing effective social services that give quality life to the people at the grassroots



Local Government Administration in Ekiti State

On creation of Ekiti State in October 1996, there were 16 local government areas which are divided into three senatorial; Ekiti Central Senatorial district; Ekiti North Senatorial District and Ekiti South Senatorial District for administrative convenience. However, in Ekiti State it is observed that political participation that should have given rise to effective service delivery has been sacrificed. Democracy at the local level has been thwarted, electorate no longer exercise their democratic right to elect their local leaders, in fact there was an administration in which for the period of that four years, there was no election at the local government what we had was caretaker which is aberration to democracy. What has been invoked is imposition of caretaker or sole administrator which has not enhance development. Lack of transparency and problems of corruption remain the factors for inefficiency and retarded growth in local government in Ekiti state. Accountability at the local government is relatively poor, leaders were never called to give account of their stewardship they are only loyal to the government that appointed them. Local government in Ekiti State is confronted with a lot of hurdles just like every other state in the country such as poor implementation of policies, corruption and mismanagement, lack of adequate manpower, lack of

autonomy, intergovernmental conflict, high level of external influence and intrusion in local affair by high level of government. The bureaucrats also have a way of slowing down development in the local government due to Lack of developmental and strategic planning in the local government; leaders at the local government do not have intellectual base for administration which lead to bad policies with fire brigade approach to issues and results, Poverty; No questioning or criticizing because of the fear of being denied the little that flow from the masters table. Corruption and Abuse of office; most local government leaders are seeking opportunity for wealth acquisition rather than service(complain about lack of funds and do not utilize the little been given); Bureaucratic and political corruption, civil servant are not only collaborator they originate corrupt practices and know how to cover the tracks; Arrogance of power; Local government leaders instead of been a leader who is to serve, made themselves ruler instead of motivating others to achieve desire goals; the legislative arm who are supposed to act as check and balance often compromises through money inducement. There is no External monitoring body to regularly assess the performance of local government (Kunle 2000).

16 local governments across three senatorial districts in Ekiti State as indicated below: Fasuan (2010)

Ekiti Central Senatorial District	Ekiti North Senatorial District	Ekiti South Senatorial District
Ado Local Government	Ido-Osi Local Government	Ekiti East Local Government
Efon Local Government	Ikole Local Government	Ekiti South West Local Government
Ekiti West Local Government	Ilelemeje Local Government	Gboyin Local Government
Ijero Local Government	Moba Local Government	Ikere Local Local Government
Irepodun/Ifelodun	Oye Local Government	Ise/Orun Local Government

Local Government administration under democratic elected government in Ekiti State between 1999 and 2009

The system of local government by democratic elected government council is guaranteed by the 1999 constitution with certain functions to be performed. Ekiti state was created on 1st October, 1996, bringing in

Mohamed Bawa a Military man as an Administrator October 1996- 1998. In May 1999 Navy captain Atanda Yusuf came in as the sole Administrator, during this period the pace of development at the local government was very slow being a newly created state, local government workers are very few and salaries were paid regularly. On May 2003, Otunba Niya Adebayo took



over as the first Civilian Governor of the state during this period, local government experienced zero allocation there was no development at the local government, salaries were owed, little or no project was executed because of paucity of fund, there were high level of indiscipline among staff, In 2003-2006 Ayo Fayose came as the second civilian governor and the situation at the local government then improved a bit as salaries were paid, He conducted local government election, that same year, In 2006, a sole administrator was appointed for the state Olatunji Olurin, during his regime, he appointed administrator at the local government in the state, during this period there was no reasonably growth and development in any of the local government no tangible project was executed because of the emergency rule. This regime was short and in 2007- 2010 Engr. Segun Oni emerged as the Governor of the state, election was conducted at the local government during his regime, there was employment, different projects were commissioned all over the local governments claims were paid, pensions and gratuity was paid and life was a bit better, in 2010-2014, Dr. Kayode Fayemi emerged as the governor of the state, he constructed 5km road in each of the local government, throughout his tenure, there was no elected chairman at the local government, he appointed a caretaker committee which is an aberration to democracy, findings shows that during this regime claims, salaries were always in arrears, in 2014-2018 Ayo Fayose came back as the governor of the state, he conducted election at the local government, not much could be done at the local government because of paucity of fund. Dr. Kayode Fayemi also came back in 2018 as the governor, immediately he emerged, he sacks all the local government chairmen and reinstated few of them,

there has not been any noticeable development at the local government because the administration just begins.

The Study Area and Research Methods

The study area is the Local governments within Ekiti State and the period covers 1999 to 2009, the justification for this period is that the State was newly created at this time and the study is to examine the activities at the local government for a decade, so the target population was Ekiti State Local government sampled from three senatorial districts within the State. A case study method was employed in the study. Data collection instruments used was interview schedules and documentary review. Structured interview was conducted across some possessively selected local governments in Ekiti state, there are 16 local government across the three senatorial districts in Ekiti State and three local government were possessively selected from each of the three senatorial districts and the group of people (Community leaders, Political leaders, the Bureaucrats, the Local Government Union Leaders and the Community dwellers) who were presumed important to the study were sampled. Simple random sampling was used to draw the population sample for the study, descriptive statistical method was used for the qualitative data. 80 respondents from each of the senatorial districts were selected purposefully for the study. The data was obtained collated and presented in discussions.

The study used in-depth interview as the survey instrument and primary source of data collection, in-depth interviews were conducted with selected groups including the Community leaders, Political leaders, the Bureaucrats, the Local Government Union Leaders and the Community dwellers, these people were purposively selected because they constitute the major stakeholders and key informant who will provide reliable and relevant information that actually helped the study.



Presentation and analysis of data

Three local governments were purposively selected from each of the three senatorial districts in Ekiti state and, the group of people who were presumed important to the study were sampled as presented in the table below:

S/N	Group of interviewees	Sampled Senatorial District		
		Ekiti Central Ado-Ekiti	Ekiti North Ikole-Ekiti	Ekiti South Ikere-Ekiti
1	Community Leaders	10	10	10
2	Local Political Leaders	10	10	10
3	Local Government Bureaucrats	20	20	20
4	Local Government Head/Chairmen	5	5	5
5	Local Government Union Leaders	10	10	10
6	Community Local Dwellers	30	30	30

Findings and Discuss

Essential information based on the research questions was from these sampled populations. The interviews information was analyzed and the analysis was descriptive and explanatory. The findings collected from the views of a different categories of people interviewed on service delivery are summarized and described as follows:

The problems of service delivery to the grassroots people.

Some of the respondents among the community leaders that were interviewed across the selected area of study revealed that, they were not satisfied with the precarious situation of the local government administration alongside with the way service is being delivered at the local government level. The study found out that most of the political leaders at the local government level administration are wasteful, selfish, corrupt with uncared attitudes, they are not developers. This action has perpetually led to poor provision and improper management for essential services needed at the grassroots such as management of roads, healthcare services, the scholarship to students, erosion control, good drainage system and, assistance for farmers were not always available. Most of the people who responded

to the interview were unpleasant in this regard that the impact of government was not felt at the grass roost.

The groups of Local Political Leader said that in Ekiti State between 2010 and 2014, there was no local government election in the state. The state government appointed caretaker chairmen throughout the period, which is a direct violation of section 1(2) & 8 CFRN 1999 and an aberration to democracy. And, since he who pays the piper dictates the tune; the system gives the state governors unrestricted access to local government allocations/funds. Most of the local political/executive leaders who comments on this, said, the organizational organogram at the local governments are not being adhere to, They equally observed that, the flow of information and due process were poorly designed, flow of information were poorly managed, no proper feedback from workers and this eventually affects better service delivery.

Findings from the Local Government Administrators and Directors on the above question revealed that maladministration was common at the local governments especially among the bureaucrats at the local governments' councils. Majority of workers are incompetent, not skillful nor creative some got there as a result of favoritism and godfatherism in politics, their



inexperience and inability to coordinate for achievement of objectives, does not only slow down productivity but jeopardizes effective service delivery. The inability to put the round peg in the round hole has caused a serious setback in the provision of social service delivery.

The Local Government Heads/Chairmen that were interviewed admitted that the way leaders were elected at the local government are major contributors to ill-service delivery. Many of them pointed out that most of the time, the election that put the leaders in the positions were being manipulated, it does not often reflect the interest of the majority, hence poor leadership that would eventually leads to poor service delivery. With bitterness of heart, some complained about finance which is the life wire of an organization, that allocation coming to the local government for developmental purpose are often diverted by the state government therefore, make them handicap when it comes to service delivery to the masses.

Furthermore, Union Leaders that were interviewed pointed out the precarious situation of the local government and proper service delivery to the local communities, they reveal that, the rate at which the state governments run the local governments and make it handicap especially, their supposed allocation which the state government hold at will and even most often dictates to local governments on how to use their allocation in a way that suited the interest of the state governments. Most people who spoke on this affirmed that the chairmen at the local government ruled at the mercy of the state government who appointed them. They complained about electoral process and the way political leaders are being appointed that it does not show a reflection of true democracy.

Many of the community dwellers interviewed were aggrieved, because, they did not feel the impact of the government in their communities, they were being

denied the basic necessities of life that should make life comfortable for them which should naturally come from government, they complained that the cost incurred during election by queuing for hours inside sun to vote is more than the benefit, they see government as a traitor that breaches the agreement they made during election process. It is believed that electorate were not given the opportunity to elect good leaders for themselves, No voters education, people were been induced to sell their conscience for money and, as a result of this, incredible leaders do emerge who does not have something worthwhile to offer to the public.

Findings from the above revealed some impediments to effective Service delivery at the local government, as discussed below;

Lack of developmental and strategic planning in the local government; leaders at the local government do not have intellectual base for administration which lead to bad policies with fire brigade approach to issues and results. Ganduje (2008) observed that there are school dropouts serving as Councilors' or Chairmen at the local government, such people will not be able to formulate policies that bring about development.

Poverty; Community people because of poverty will not be able to questioning or criticize government's deficiency because of the fear of being denied the little that flow from the ruler's table.

Corruption and Abuse of office; Most local government leaders are seeking opportunity for wealth acquisition rather than service, they complain about lack of funds and do not utilize the little been given, what characterize their finances are misappropriation, falsification of document, diversion of funds and misplaced priorities.

Bureaucratic and political corruption; Civil Servant are not only collaborator they originate corruption and know how to cover the tracks. They award inflated projects which may not even be executed, there are dubious expenses in form of different claims.

Arrogance of power; Local government leaders instead of been a leader who is to serve and give room to participatory decision making, made themselves ruler instead of motivating others to achieve desire goals.



Failure of checks and balances mechanism; Legislative arm who are supposed to act as a check on the activities of the executives at the local administrative level compromises through money inducement.

Societal indifference engendered by lack of education; Lack of basic formal education has subjected the community dwellers to political apathy, they are not sensitive to what goes on around them, they don't have the knowledge of political system, no feeling of attachment, involvement or rejection of political objects, they do not feel concern about government affairs, they are parochial which often led to lack of evaluative orientation.

Lack of former stewardship forum; there are no forum where public office holders will be made to account for their performance what will normally see is stage managed type.

Lack of External monitoring body to regularly assess the performance of local government; There are no monitoring body either from the community or from the government to actually assess the performance of the local administration in view of development, no established punishment or sanction for erred political leaders.

How can local government be repositioned for a better performance?

The enquiry made with the several stakeholders at various sampled local governments on the above revealed that local communities remain underdeveloped, arising from the responses gotten from people through interview on the above across the study area, the essential information derived are discuss as follows:

Many people that talked about repositioning local government for better performance said officials at local government should always be elected and not appointed, people should be allowed to choose their leaders/representative who will be accountable from among themselves, that a mechanism should be put in place to promote transparency and accountability at the

local level administration, high premium should be placed on participation of people in governance.

Different categories of people talked about upward improvement of the internally generated revenue for self-reliance, prompt release of allocation that comes from the Federal government, local dwellers should also look for ways of attracting industries to their areas which will propel economic development and increase their revenue base, there should be autonomy when it comes to finance, begetting and spending at the local government, Local government should be left alone for creative projects at the grassroots, State government can only supervise the activities at the local level not interfering.

Others talked about appointment of qualified, competent and professionals with high skill who are visionary, and developers to the local government administration, people who really know what delivery to the people means, not selfish and self-centered people, that workers should be educated and enlightened of the danger inherent in money politics and corruption, corruption destroy the future of any nation. Some of the interviewer said workers' salary at the local level should be reviewed and the condition of service should be improved so as to increase efficiency and productivity at the grassroots administration

The community people that spoke said government should endeavour to be faithful to their promises, should always put the love of the masses at heart particularly the rural dwellers.

Conclusions and Recommendation

This research work reveals the constitutional roles of local government to be for development and effective service delivery for the betterment of the people at the grassroots. It reveals the challenges and problem of service delivery to the development of local government in Ekiti State. Local government are expected to be an agent of effective service delivery at the grassroots but reverse is the case. Local government administration are faced with considerable difficulties arising from poor leadership, low fiscal capacity in spite of monthly allocations, mismanagement and corrupt practices that are manifesting in different ways, lack of developmental



and strategic plan at the local government due to the ways leaders are chosen, arrogance of power, failure of checks and balances mechanism from the high level, corruption and abuse of office and societal indifference engendered by lack of education and many more. The paper also examines service delivery at the local government level, its challenges, and the way forward, it therefore noted that to enhance effective service delivery, growth and development at the grassroots, the role and functions of local government should be revisited by the higher level of government. Local government can perform effectively in Ekiti State with the following recommendations:

- The practice of choosing caretaker committee to oversee the affairs of the local government should be avoided at all cost, it's an aberration to democracy.
- Government should endeavor that political leaders at the local government have intellectual base for administration, people with vision and mission.
- Resources that will promote development should readily be made available with proper monitoring
- There should be avenue where the officials at the local government level will be called upon for accountability and stewardship, and appropriate discipline should be accorded the erring ones so as to discourage or put a stop to corrupt practices, embezzlement and misappropriation of funds
- State Government should reduce or minimize its interference in the affairs of local government and local government also should not wholly depend on Federal allocation but be creative and look for way to improve their IGR.
- There should be regular training programmes in form of seminars and workshops that could widen the knowledge of the political leaders on development.
- Community dwellers should know that development is a collective effort from the government and the people, they should not be

indifferent and expect government to do all for them.

- The concept of efficient service delivery such as political will and commitment to excellence, properly designed concept, good governance, innovative and resilient implementation of plans, evolutionary approach, citizen oriented, consistent capacity development and public feedback should be upheld by government and all sundry
- There should also be thorough investigation of all misconduct and complaints from political holders and the bureaucrats by government, necessary administrative measure as a result of investigation should be taken, issuance of warning binding recommendations.
- Society satisfaction should be rated base on survey.

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