

ACCOUNTABILITY IMPERATIVES AND NATION BUILDING: EVIDENCE FROM NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines accountability imperatives and nation building in Nigeria. Underpinning this general aim is a strategic view that leadership transparency and proper accountability by the political class and public office holders are sine qua non for good leadership and governance and nation building. The study adopted a cross-sectional survey and Likert 5-point scale measure and structured questionnaire to generate data from statistically selected respondents, within South–South and South–East geopolitical zones of Nigeria. Validity test and consistency test value of 0.857 were achieved. Out of 230 copies of the questionnaire distributed, 203 were found fit for use in analysis after data cleaning. The hypotheses were tested using Pearson’s Correlation and multiple regression techniques, at 0.01 level of significance, with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Science software. Findings from the study indicate that strong positive and significant relationship exist between accountability imperatives and nation building. The study arrived at the fact that, leadership transparency and proper accountability by the political and public office holders will enhance poverty minimization and nation building in Nigeria. These in effect are fundamental cornerstone to leveraging Nigeria out of the underdevelopment quagmire and achieve effective nation buildings. We recommended that unrestricted authority should be given to anti-graft agencies to prosecute corrupt politicians and public officers, and cost of governance reduction, amongst others.

KEYWORDS: *Proper Accountability, Leadership Transparency, Nation Building, Political Class, Public Office holders, Cost of Governance, Nigeria*

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