Critical Reflections on the Local Government System and Rural Development in Nigeria

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Abstract: The essence of local government system as one of the tiers of governments in Nigeria is predicated on the need to bring government closer to the populace at the grassroots, so as to promote their participation in governance and ensure rural development. However, the study critically reflects on the impact of local government in service delivery as well as addressing the pitfalls that have, over the years, shrunk the ability to achieve rural development among the rural dwellers. In holistic terms, it exposes the challenges that negate the attainment of rural development in various local governments in Nigeria. The study adopts secondary data, which were presented in textual form. Thus, descriptive and deductive logic was used as method of data analysis. Using System theory as a framework of analysis, the study discovered the factors that hinder the optimal performance of local government system towards attainment of rural development, namely: corruption, lack of autonomy, paucity of fund, non-periodic elections; conflict of inter-governmental relations, over-bloated workforce, high levels of partisanship, and joint-account syndrome. In addressing these pitfalls in local government system in Nigeria, the study recommends strong institutional building to fight corrupt practices in the local government system; granting of full financial autonomy; adequate funding as well as increment in the IGR’s baseline of local government system; periodic elections as democratic principle; non-determination of the structure, finance, composition and function of local government by the state governments; right-sizing of
redundant staff; insulation of the local government system from partisanship, among others.

**Keywords**: Governance, Local Government System, Populace, Rural Development

**Introduction**

The existence of local government system, among other tiers of government, is predicated on the need to bring government closer to the people at the grassroots, with a view to enhancing their participation in governance. It also tends to facilitate rural development at that level of government. Across national frontiers, local government system is practiced and patterned on the basis of external and internal inclinations. The former is historical, based on colonial influence, while the latter is based on geographical, economic, sociological and institutional factors prevalent in that country. In Nigeria, the development of local government system spans the era of the pre-colonization (a system that existed in a rudimentary order as the people administered and provided for themselves); the colonial era (an indirect rule system, which existed first in Northern Nigeria before its extension to Southern Nigeria); and the liberal democratic stage (a system introduced consequent upon the failure of colonial patterns and the demand for the people’s greater participation (Enyi, 2014, p. 147 & 148).

From the colonial era, local government system in Nigeria has undergone various forms of transformation. The reform is geared towards actualizing the essence of its establishment through the stimulation of democratic self-government, encouragement of initiative and leadership potential, and mobilization of human and material resources for development at the local level (Enyi, p. 172). The nature of changes differed among the component regions. In Southern Nigeria, reformations were made due to the criticisms of the elites against Native Authority but in northern Nigeria, the Native Authority survived and remained very strong until the collapse of the first Republic in 1966. The 1966 military coup and subsequent collapsing of the then three regions to twelve (12) states in 1967 made the system to be controlled by the federal and state governments.

The 1979 Constitution made provisions for democratization and devolution of powers or functions for local government administration in the country. The devolution of political authority in local government as prescribed by law though with controlled autonomy, guarantees democratic participation and the provision of local services and needs of the rural populace (Akpan, 1984, p. 28). The autonomy and democratic participation provided in the 1979 constitution has been shortchanged in the 1999 constitution which make the council an appendage to state government pursuant to Sections 7 & 8 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended). The local government system in Nigeria has been battling on how to enhance rural development; but, the interferences of state governments mitigate such effort. Most Local Government Areas in the country are plagued by state governments’ interferences in governance and administration. These occur in ways like delay in the issuance of receipts,
approval of bye-laws, and approval of annual estimates, remittance of statutory allocation among others. It is against this backdrop that this study is carried out with a view to critically reflect on the justification of the existence, class character, challenges, and plausible ways to enhance local government system on rural development in Nigeria. In justification of this, the paper is divided into seven parts among which are: the introduction; problem statement; conceptual expositions; methodology and theoretical framework; the nexus between local government and rural development; challenges of local government on rural development; and conclusion and recommendations.

Analysis of the Problem
Generally, the local government system exists to promote rural development within the arrays of its administrative governance. However, these expected roles in the provision of social amenities to improve the living standard of the rural dwellers in Nigeria have a cosmetic and symbolic outlook and as such, has not actually address or/and advance development in the scheme of governance for the rural populace. Due to the fact that local government establishment is of the essence for rural development, various reforms have been made by successive regimes/government with a view to finding lasting solution to sustainable development in the local government system. In spite of these reforms, a cursory look at this tier of government in Nigeria shows that they have performed abysmally low in developmental drives in recent times; particularly, in the Fourth Republic.

Ezeani (2005, p. 258) affirms that one of the reasons of establishing local government system is to complement the state and central government in the provision of services to grassroots population in their respective areas of authority. However, the rural people who ought to benefit from local government system as a government that is closer to them and exists to meet their needs are bereft of developmental fortunes. Why this unpleasant scenario? Is it that there are no ways to enhance optimal performance of local government system so as to leverage development in the rural areas or that the class character of the local government is the bane to rural development in Nigeria?

The rural dwellers with about 70% of the population of the country are faced with depressingly meager annual per-capita income, poor houses, and various forms of social and political isolation in their respective local governments. This punctuates the justification for the creation of local government system in Nigeria. The existing analyses on local government system and rural development in extant literature have suffered from important shortcoming because the link between local government system and rural development in Nigeria is yet to be accorded systematic scrutiny. It is based on this knowledge gap that this study seeks to critically reflect on the impact of local government system on rural development in Nigeria. Consequently, it equally evaluates the extent local government system contributes to the well-being of rural dwellers; the character of local government system as well as how these challenges inhibit its optimal performance for effective service delivery in Nigeria amongst others.
Conceptual Clarifications

In this study, an attempt is made to define the two basic concepts/variables that guide the work. These are local government system and rural development. **Local Government System**

Most concepts in social science are fluid and nebulous and thus do not have single definition. Various scholars have offered different viewpoints but in spite of these definitions, the point of congruency shows that the local government system exist to promote rural development within the arrays of its administrative governance. This is underpinned by the philosophical principle of democratic participation in governance at the grassroots level.

Local government system is a government by the grassroots level of administration that exists to meeting the peculiar needs of the grassroots people. By this, it guarantees development at the third tier levels regardless of the fact that other tiers of government exist. Unlike other tiers (state and federal), it is closer to the grassroots dwellers. The local government system accords the rural people the platform of administration since they are in tune with their community needs. They do everything possible within the resources at their disposals to develop the area (Agagu, 1997; Dagana, 2013).

Orewa and Adewumi (1992) opine that local government is a system that consists of local communities which are organized to maintain law and order, provides some limited range of social services, and exists to cooperate with the inhabitants in joint endeavors. This is geared towards improving the people’s condition of living. They further assert that local government provides the community with a formal organizational or institutional framework which enhances the conduct of their affairs effectively and regulate the actions of the members for general public. Obi (1995, cited in Ezeani, 2005, p. 260) sees the institutional framework with which the local government exists as the structure which presupposes the unit or tier system, the organizational component, population and geographical size. This could be all-purpose single-tier or multi-tier arrangement.

Local government system is the administrative cornerstone of people-centre democracy everywhere in the world. This people oriented governance is supposed to be in constant touch with the grassroots populations and may enhance or denote their aspirations. This presupposes the electing or otherwise selecting of its governing body as an entity in governance. In democratic governance, the views of the grassroots’ people are of utmost interest in determining the policy choice or action of government. It focuses on the transfer of political powers to local areas, where the inhabitants are saddled with the responsibility of providing the basic needs of their respective communities. It is vital to note that these responsibilities are done according to the political interests and policy related agenda (Uya, 2002; Kyenge, 2013). This people oriented governance and the provision of the basic needs within a democratic political system, make local government system to be the cornerstone for enhancing rural development in the country.

Section 7(1) of the 1999 Constitution observes that local government is run by democratically elected officials as guaranteed by the constitution and
accordingly, the Government of every state through Section 8 of this constitution ensure its existence under a law which provides for the establishment, structure, composition, finances and functions of such councils. Supporting this position, Lawal (2000, p. 60) opines that local government is that tier of government closest to the people with vested powers to exercise control over the affairs of people in its domain. As a tier of government, its vested powers are backed by law which exists to entrench development at the local level due to its closeness to people.

Barber (cited in Zoaka and Dauda 1998, p. 3) define Local government as: “authority to determine and execute matters within a restricted area inside and smaller than the whole state. Local Government involves the administering of services on a local basis by local bodies.” From this viewpoint, it is clear that the purpose of establishing local government is to ensure appropriate services and development activities responsible to local wishes and initiatives. Even when the other tiers of government interfere with the affairs of local government which operates at the lowest level of society, it is imperative to take into cognizance of their peculiar needs.

The existence of local government is predicated on the services of local importance being run by the local bodies in the provision of citizenship education, training ground for political leadership, documentation of information and data for the central government in meeting the needs of the localities, and minimization of concentration of political power in governance. Its functions seek to decongest government at the centre thereby freeing national leaders from various details and unnecessary involvement in local issues (Gboyega, 1987; Egonmwan, 2002). This implies that without the establishment of local government, there would be high level of political apathy in the country. When local matters are run by the local people, it augments the stimulus for local participation of the people; giving room for rapid development at the rural level. Also, other tiers of government would be relieved of the hectic nature of governance since the rural people with over 70% population handle local matter themselves.

From the foregoing, the concept can be viewed as a political organization aimed at uplifting the standard of living and advancement of the political, economic, socio-cultural and democratic participation of the rural populace. By this, though the local government council with relative autonomy is expected to provide needed necessary machineries that would actualized the above four component that had been capture at the grass root level, being the lowest unit of political organization that is nearer to the people.

**Rural Development**

The concept of rural development has generated much debate and little agreement on the meaning. Its definition varies from one point of view to the other. Some view the concept from the economic, political or sociological template in addressing the problem of rural poverty. For instance, from the sociological stance, it is the concept in which the rural poor represents a reservoir of untapped talent; a target group that should be given the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of development through improved education, health and
nutrition that could provide the catalyst for rural areas’ transformation.

Rural development is any effort that is geared towards the improvement and/or enhancement rural livelihoods in the social and economic domains. It involves both the transformation of lives and landscape to ensure a significant improvement in the quality of life of the rural folk. The rural poor (who represent a latent productive potential) need to be provided with an appropriate policy and institutional framework, resource and technology support, and an enabling market environment that can guarantee their productivity on land, and raise their income without necessarily depending on farm income generating activities (Eyong, 2007; Thorbecke et al, 1992). Exploring of other avenues and other activities is of essence for rural development.

Olatunbosun (1976) submits that rural development is based on the need to balance the pattern and direction of government for the benefit of both the urban and rural sectors and provide technical requirements for speeding up economic growth in the development. Implicit in this is that governments are stakeholders in the provision of technical know-how geared towards economic development. This should not be limited to the rural people but, to the urban dwellers as well.

Mabogunje (1980, p. 30) succinctly puts it:

Rural development is concerned with the improvement of the living rural standards of the low-income people living in the rural area on a self-sustaining basis through transforming the socio-spatial structures of their productive activities. It implies a broad based reorganization and mobilization of the rural masses and resources, so as to enhance the capacity of the rural populace to cope effectively with the daily tasks of their lives and with the changes consequent upon this.

The inference drawn from the above position is that rural development improves living conditions of the populace on subsistence basis through mobilization and allocation of resources to achieve desirable welfare and productive services available to the rural people. This implies that investment in basic infrastructure and social services, justice, equity and security among others would go a long way in enhancing their capacity.

Okoli and Onah, (2002, p. 162) posit that rural development borders or concerns with the improvement and transformation of social, mental, economic, institutional and environmental conditions of the low income rural dwellers. They further assert that by mobilizing and rational utilizing of human, natural and institutional resources at the rural areas, it would enhance their capacities to cope with the daily tasks of life and the demands of contemporary times. By this, rural communities cannot be said to be developed in absence of human capacity building.

Denga (2003, p. 95) posits that rural development in essence involves programmes that are capable of eliminating the problems of poverty, ignorance, disease, and the provision of a conducive environment for people. This would able the rural populace to earn a living that can sustain their standard of living in a reasonable manner. Eyong (op: cit) support this position by saying that rural development is the ability of the local government or any agency to give a
better lease of life to the local population who may be remote to political decisions but are affected by the decisions. By this, whenever people’s living condition capacity is improved, rural development is said to be effective.

Rural development can be seen as the strategic efforts committed to improving the standard of living of the rural dwellers. The areas of improvement cut across social, cultural, political, religious, and economic development. When the touchline of development tows along these aspects, the rural populace lives’ would appreciate and the issue of rural-urban migration would reduce.

Methodology and Theoretical Framework of Analysis
This research employs qualitative approach; using descriptive and deductive logic method of data analysis. Data are generated from the secondary sources to include: textbooks, journals, and internet materials among other sources. This helps in generating relevant information in addressing the subject matter. Analysis is made from the inferences drawn from the extant literature. The mode of analytical presentation appears in themes which are designed to address the objectives of this paper.

The paper adopts the system theoretical framework of analysis in justifying the link between local government system and rural development. This is so germane in understanding the political matrix of local government system in Nigeria. Popularized by David Easton in 1965, the systems models relies on concepts of information theory like feedback, input, output and conceives as being essentially cyclical. Easton (1965a) sees a political system as a system of interaction in any society through which binding and authoritative allocations are made. He analyzed political activity by employing the paradigm of the biological system. This is also replicated in the social and political system where local government system exist with causal effect on the rural populace which exist alongside the system as an organized whole with identifiable and interrelated structures.

The ideological underpinning of this theory is that every system including political system, has subsystems which makes up the entire system and public policy is the output of the political system. Forces generated in the environment which affect the political system is seen as the inputs. The environment in any condition is defined as external to the boundary of the political system. On the other hand, outputs of the political system are authoritative value allocation of the system, and then allocations constitute public policy.

The input and output analysis of any political system is of the essence. Therefore, a political system is said to obtain its inputs (demands, supports, liberty or autonomy, cooperation, criticisms, resources, information, direct labour, et cetera) from the environment. These inputs are what the subsystems employ to discharge their responsibilities, so that the political system can send out its outputs into the environment and obtain further inputs for its operations. Going by the concept of the feedback mechanism, Anderson (1975) maintains that public policies (outputs) can sometimes alter the environment and the demand generated therein as well as the character of the political system itself.
In applying this theory, the local government system being the third tier of government in the country constitutes the sub-system with environmental influences and owes a lot on rural development in Nigeria, particularly in the Fourth Republic that has been eluded of development fortunes. This framework presupposes proper handling of local government system in terms of being fed with adequate inputs, so that they can contribute meaningfully to the entire political system. The political system consists of two elements: input (made up of demand support) and output (made up of authoritative decisions) the input constitutes the factors that emanate from the environment and go into decision making. They are those demands that emanate from societal pressure. Outputs are results that emanates from the demand and support made at the level of input.

The local government system performs these functions by receiving inputs from the people for onward conversion to output. The citizens’ demands on the system comes through appeal to the council authority for the provision of basic amenities such as accessible road network, portable water, health facilities, schools, etc. On the other hand, support could be the people’s participation in decision making process in local government so as to have effect in their lives. Consequent upon this, the environment of the system is influenced and continues to generate demand which with the in-built feedback and the whole process continues recycling.

**Local Government System and Rural Development: The Nexus**

There is a correlation between these concepts or variables—local government system and rural development. As a result of this link, there is a critical discourse in government among the three tiers of governments—local, state, and federal government. Among these tiers of governments, local government is at the bottom of a pyramid of government institution; with the central government at the top, and the state governments occupying the middle range.

For being the government nearest to the rural populace, it has been one of the best institutions that contribute to rural development through wider participation of the people. Most elected or appointed officials of the local government are residents of the rural settlements. The rural populace (officials and non-officials) in their collective decisions determines the policy actions of the council.

Local government is a developmental tool for good governance and without mincing words, when the culture of probity and accountability are fully entrenched and adhere to in a holistic manner, the leadership at this level of governance would leave indelible marks in the annals of history. This is underscored on the premise that probity and accountability is the brain child of good governance. And as developmental tool for good governance, this would translate to rural development.

**Challenges of Local Government System on Rural Development**

The composition of democratically elected local government councils which is guaranteed under the 1999 Nigerian Constitution, section 7, makes provisions for the functions of this council under its Fourth Schedule. In carrying out these functions, Local government system is recognized as an
important institution that promotes development at the grassroots levels. Like any other institution, it is not insulated from challenges that affect its operations. These inhibiting factors against rural development are discussed below. They include:

**Corrupt Practices in Governance**

Corruption is a phenomenal development of global concern and has remained one of the fundamental problems of contemporary Nigerian state. Corruption is considered as pervasion or change from good to bad, in terms of human conduct. It is a behavioural attitude that deviates from the norm actually prevalent in a given context where private gain is secured at public expense (Friedrich, 1989, p. 15). Corruption has thrived in the Nigerian local government system and has become institutionalized to the point of being synonymous to the system. This has inhibited development and good governance at the third tier level of government in Nigeria. At the grassroots level, corrupt individuals are celebrated and given prestigious title at will by the traditional institutions. The manifestations of this cancerous phenomenon are: inflation of prices of bought items; over estimation of cost of projects; the ghost worker syndrome; award of contracts that are executed half-way or subsequent abandonment; patron-client syndrome; and misappropriation of funds among others.

**Lack of Autonomy in the Scheme Governance**

The concept of autonomy refers to freedom, independent, and being free from external influence. Local government system in Nigeria cannot be said to be autonomous. This is underscored on the premise that the federal and state governments stifles the finances of the local government and the state in particular, is not willing to devolve authority to the grassroots level. The 1999 constitution section 7 (1) that:

The system of local government by democratically elected local government councils is under this constitution guaranteed, and accordingly the government of every state ensures their existence under the law which provides for the establishment, structure, composition, finance and functions of such councils.

This interaction would always make the local government an appendage of state governments. This has equally affected local government administration and rural development overtime in terms of financial relationship of local government and other tiers of government. The state government often dominates the council through the offices of local government affairs, the ministry of local government, and the local government service commission. The state government’s encroachment on the legitimate revenue sources of local government limits its powers and responsibilities (Davey, 1983 cited in Enyi, 2014, p. 100).

**Paucity of Funds for Administrative Convenience**

With the monthly allocation from the Federation Account (20.6%) and Statutory (10%) and Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) contribution by the state governments, the local government system is faced with a gamut of problems. With state governments being in charge of the allocation from the Federation Account (20.6%) and with the 10% of the IGR for the local government, the local government’s financial challenges
remain unsolved. This has been problematic to the local government system in the discharge its duties or realization of its objective. Ostrom (1988 cited in Enyi, 2014, p. 89) advocated on the need for the local government not to rely more on external sources or revenue generation; but, to rely on their own sources of revenue—taxes and user charges which would accord greater incentives to elected officials in balancing service benefits to the people. The strong financial base is plausible for proper functioning of local government. This nourished and bolstered strong financial base offers high executive capacity and effective leadership with a high sense of mission (Ogunna, 1996, p. 277).

**Non-Periodic Conduct of Council Election**

The syndrome of unwillingness to conduct the council election by state governors in various local government systems in Nigeria has gradually come to stay. Many state governors in Nigeria have converted the conduct of local council election into their personal belonging. Instead of conducting the council elections and allowing the local government to carry out their constitutional responsibilities accordingly, they resort to the appointment of caretaker committee which they use to reward their political allies and the loyalists thereby, perpetuating patron-clientism in governance. For instance, the past administrations of Dr. Chris Nwabueze Ngige and Mr. Peter Obi refused to conduct local government elections. They rather resorted to the appointment of caretaker committee, which they can manipulate easily to their personal advantage. This has really hampered the attainment of rural development among the rural dwellers in local governments in Nigeria.

**Conflicts of Inter-Governmental Relations among Tiers of Government**

The incessant cases of states’ interference in local governments’ affairs through the Ministry of Local Government affect inter-governmental relations between state and local government in Nigeria. Inter-governmental relations are a planned system where complex relationships are managed among layers of government in any given state whether in a federal or unitary state (Nwosu, 1980). The local government ought to be on its own under real federal arrangement but in Nigeria, this arrangement is more of unitary state where local government is under the beck and call of state governments which determine its structure, finance, composition, function as encapsulated in Nigerian 1999 constitution (Section 7 & 8). The federal and state governments from time to time display the attitude of superiority over local government council in many aspects like delay in the issuance of receipts, approval of bye-laws, and approval of annual estimates among others. State governments’ attitude in its various policy circulars and regulations and the behaviour of its field staff towards local government determines to a large extent local-central relations in world (Oladosu, 1980, p. 142).

**Over-bloated Workforce in Local Government System**

Without recourse to its budgetary provisions, most local governments have more workforce than they can carry in its administrative capacity. In terms of personnel development at the council levels, much money have spent in this regard due to surplus staff whose
their services are duplicated. It is ideal to recruit or promote staff in line with felt need of government and budgetary provisions to the council. Contrary to this, staff are recruited or promoted not necessarily as result of the need but, to settle political thugs that worked for the emergence of some council chairmen in elections. This has equally affected the payment of staff salaries as at when due. The Handbook on Local Government Administration (1992) provides among others that “recruitment in Local Government shall only be undertaken into critical areas after necessary due process must have been observed.” This rule has been flawed severally.

**High Level of Politicization in the Councils**

Local government system is marred with preponderant cases of partisanship. This is a situation where politicians or political elites interfere and control bureaucratic process of the council through the manipulation of recruitment, education, training and promotions to imbue bureaucracies with overt commitments to the political goals of the government of the day (Charlton, 1985, p. 147). Aside from these, postings are highly politicized especially, in local government top management level where Directors/Permanent secretaries, Head of Service, or Head of Personnel Management are posted on the basis of clear loyalty to the government in power. This trend portends a great danger to the civil service rule since civil servants are mandated on partisanship which makes them to be card carrying members of political party that controls the seat of power in order to elicit patronage. The elites in controlling government machineries play to the gallery in their own interest against the populace.

**Joint Account Syndrome**

This practice has made local government to remain an appendage to the state hence, suffers the paucity of fund for rural development in Nigeria. Most state governments make local government to receive inadequate fund from the so-called joint account through the deliberate cut-offs of budgetary allocation. Poor budgetary allocation affects development fortunes in most of the critical areas in the rural areas. This can be either for political reasons or absolute corruption tendencies by state governors. The inability of the rural people of making ends meet due to the abused joint account system also contribute to high mortality rate, criminality, and rural-urban drift among others in the rural communities. This has great implication for rural development in Nigeria.

From the challenges observed above, the roles of local government have been undermined; considering the essence of its establishment. A wide gap exists between the political leadership and the followership and that is why today, most rural areas are eluded with development fortunes.

**Conclusion and Recommendation**

The creation of local government system is supposedly for the purpose of bringing government closer to the people, with a view to enhancing their participation in governance for rural development. However, there have been cases of underdevelopment pervading most communities due to inherent challenges. After a critical reflection on local government system and rural development in Nigeria, this paper posits that the importance of the local government system in service delivery
to rural communities cannot be underestimated. As a government that is closer to the grassroots level of governance, it tends to attend to the immediate need(s) of the rural dwellers. In spite of all this, development has been elusive in the rural communities in Nigeria. This is not unconnected to the factors that explicitly manifest in the form of corruption, lack of autonomy, paucity of fund, conflicts of inter-governmental relations, irregular conduct of council elections, over-bloated workforce, high level of politicization, among other problems identified.

It suffices to say that there would be no rural development in Nigeria’s political landscape if the inhibiting factors are not contained. There would be no development in all ramifications if the local government system as a sub-unit of the society (based on Easton’s thesis) is bereft of political resilience to promote developmental fortunes within the socio-cultural, political, and economic matrix of the system. It is on this premise that the following recommendations are made:

i. Corruption inhibits development and good governance at the third-tier level of government in Nigeria and so, strong institution building to fight corrupt practices in the local government system is advocated;

ii. The federal and state governments stifle the finances of the local government and deprive them full financial autonomy. The local governments should be granted full financial autonomy to enhance its optimal performance;

iii. There should be adequate funding as well as increment in the IGR’s baseline of local government system as a grassroots government;

iv. The conduct of local council elections in Nigeria should be institutionalized and ingrained in the constitution, so that it will no longer be left at the mercy of state governors; rather it should be a periodic and mandatory issue for elections to be conducted at every local government level at the expiration each tenure in line with democratic ethos;

v. In terms of inter-governmental relations, the local government as third-tier of government should not be under the beck and call of state governments in the determination of its structure, finance, composition, and function;

vi. Right-sizing of local government’s workforce is advocated to reduce redundant staff;

vii. Local government system is marred by preponderant cases of partisanship which mars or interferes with bureaucratic process of the council. Therefore, appointment, recruitment, training, and promotions of career or tenured staff should be devoid of political patronage; and

viii. The joint account practice has perpetuated underdevelopment in local government system in Nigeria as they remain appendages to the state. Therefore, local government should be insulated from a joint account system in which the state government is the senior and ultimate shareholder.

References


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