

The Place of Public Sector Management in Developing Countries: The Case of Nigeria

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Abstract:

This paper examines the public sector management in developing countries with special focus on Nigerian economy. It elucidates the nature, scope and the roles of public sector management in developing countries. A content analysis adopted to analyze the topic under study in brevity of all circumstances surrounding public sector management. The paper therefore differentiates public sector from that of the private sector; which also embodies the various authorities over the public sectors in Nigeria. It also encapsulates the effects of COVID-19 in Nigeria public sectors and financial institutions. Thus, the researchers therefore recommended that all heads of public sectors in Nigeria should strictly adhere to the public rules, regulations and other relevant extant circulars in discharging their official responsibilities so as to boost development in midst of complex situations.

Keywords: Public Sector, Public Sector Management, Federal Ministries, State Ministries and Parastatals, Local Governments.

Introduction

The focus of this paper is to examine the nature, scope and the roles of Public Sector Management. Governments at various levels of the World today are facing a lot of problems in the management of affairs in the Public Sectors. Thus, the ultimate aim of Public Sector is the provision of basic services and the required products in order to maximally satisfy the needs of the Public. A wide range of public affairs are ineffectively and inefficiently managed in respect of personnel, finance etc by such public administrators or managers.

In the Public Sectors or Organizations in Nigeria today, those who are entrusted with authority and responsibility (i.e political heads and chairman, Permanent secretaries, Directors and Heads of Government Ministries, Departments, Parastatals and Agencies) to make such public policy and implement so as to provide the required services and product to satisfy the Public needs are abysmally mishandled and mismanaged at times. Generally, this discipline is important to every nation of the world because effectiveness, efficiency and economy of the Public Sectors or Organizations requires prudent management of the personnel, finances, capital assets, the economy and security which lies on the Public Administrators or Managers.

The place of Public Sectors in the Public Management in a developing economy is numerous. There are basic services that rendered by Public sectors which includes Local Transport Services, Rail and Airports, Gazettes, Catering/Bar, Hospitals, Electricity, Schools, Road networks, Car parks, libraries, and Cemeteries provision etc. for the smooth running of day-to-day activities of the nations.

Precisely, the term “Management” implies the organ of the nation which connotes the effective mobilization and utilization of both human and material resources towards achievement of development goals of the nations in the world. In essence, the Public Administrators or Managers will administer and manages the affairs of such Public Sectors or Organizations with an attitude called “Public Interest” in order to provide Public utility (i.e Public Satisfaction).

Public Sector Management: A conceptual clarification:

Several scholars and authorities have provided various definitions of “Public Sector Management” is that type of management involved in effective planning, coordination, utilization, and controlling of both human and materials resources to achieve the development goals of public organizations of nation. It is otherwise known as Public management of affairs or Public Administration. Hartzell (2006) also defined Public Sector Management as that type of Management responsible for controlling the mixed economy of the State.

United Nations (1971) also defined public sector management as the art of managing the public affairs in the interest of the Public or the masses. MacRae and Pitt (1980) also see Public Sector Management as a system of management of an organization concerned with achieving state purposes. Another school of thought also posits that Public Sector Management is the management of Public activities or affairs, so as to protect the Public interest in a systematic manner. Benemone (2014) also defined Public Sector Management as that management by the Government administrators or managers who are entrusted with the authority and responsibility to formulate and implement policies to provide essential services and basic products to satisfy the needs of the public.

Generally, Public Sector Management is the type of management that deals with Public affairs. Those who manage the public affairs are called “Public Mangers or Administrators”. They work towards Public Satisfaction (i.e Public utility). It is otherwise called Public Management or Public Administration.

Public Sector Management is constituted in these organizations, including Federal Government Ministries and Extra Ministerial Departments, State Government Ministries and Extra Ministerial Departments, Local Governments, Parastatals, Government Committees, Task Forces, Commissions etc

The Public Sector Management system like any other management is a design to accomplish pre-selected mission and objectives. For the Public Manger or Administrator these preselected missions and objectives are in the broadest sense with the concern for a fair and equitable distribution of Public goods and services, the goal and aspirations of the society-the five national objectives in Nigeria as Specified in section 17, Chapter 11 of the ideals of freedom, equality and justice including:

- a. Every Citizen shall have equality of rights, obligations and opportunities before the law,
- b. The sanctity of human person shall be recognized and human dignity shall be maintained and enhanced
- c. Government actions shall be humane
- d. Exploitation of human and natural resources in any form whatever for reasons other than the good of the community shall be prevented and
- e. The independence, impartially and integrity of the courts of law, and easy accessibility therefore shall be secured and maintained.

Financial Authorities/Controls over Public Sectors in Nigeria:

There are several financial authorities and controlling measures over Public Sectors in Nigeria and these include:

- 1.**Financial (Control and Management) Act 1958:** This Act was to provide for the control and management of Public Finances of the Federation.
- 2.**Audit Act 1956:** This Act states the accounts to be signed and presented by Accountant General for the Federation in controlling the receipts and payments.
- 3.**Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999:** The constitutional financial provisions consolidate enactments which set the general framework for financial management as well as accounting financial accounting.
- 4.**The Annual Appropriation Act:** The Annual Appropriation Act authorizes and controls receipts and payments of Public funds.
- 5.**Financial Regulations:** Government financial regulations are meant to ensure that Government businesses are conducted according to the Principles established management. At the Federal Level such Federal Regulations while at State/Local Government Levels called financial instruction
- 6.Treasury and Finance Circulars
- 7.Others such as Pension Act of 2004, Local Government

Public Sector and Development in Nigeria during COVID-19 Period.

Nigeria is one of the largest African economies in which the Corona Virus Pandemic ravaged her National economies drastically just as the price for one barrel of oil in the World Oil Market highly reduced. Both the Public and Private Sectors meaningful developments are mostly truncated in the period of COVID-19 since March till date.

Public Sector Administrators in Nigeria rely only on the crusade to eradicate the Corona Virus, though, the administrators of Nigeria were confused in the manifestation of COVID-19 cases where some of them (Governors) spent huge sum of money in providing quarantine and testing laboratories. Under this period, Crimes are pervading in places as well as people are kidnapped for ransom. The development tool of the National Budgets benchmark is adversely reduced as well as the various sectoral allocations are also affected. This COVID-19 period, no development, all financial resources are employed to fight the Virus. The Public Sector administrators' e.g Governors, Commissioners, and Medical Officers in the COVID-19 period do

not managed such palliative measures. The COVID-19 Pandemic ravages Nigeria in such ugly situations as about 5,500 cases, but 1,167 deaths and others discharged.

Public Sector and Development in the Nigeria Banking Institutions During COVID-19:

During COVID-19 Period, the operations of the Nigeria Banking Institutions are strictly controlled by the Apex Bank (i.e Central Bank of Nigeria) such directive from CBN to other Commercial Banks to attend to one Customer at a time during the COVID-19 Period. This situation has affected several customers in withdrawing and depositing Money in their various bank accounts.

The banking sector is drastically affected in the day-to-day operations during COVID-19 Pneumonia. The POS operations during the COVID-19 were highly enhanced and encouraged; such Operators have made a lot of high turnover during the Period of COVID-19 Pandemic.

In general confirmation, the Financial Institutions in Nigeria during the COVID-19 Period really affected Financial Institutions Operations

Conclusion and Recommendations:

Public Sector Management is one of the most important challenges of modern developing and developed nations in the world today. The socio-economic and political potentialities of the present and future generations of various nations will depend on the success of the efforts of Public Managers or Administrators of such Public Sectors or Organizations in Nigeria. The technological and industrial developments and that of the nations vision 20:20:20 is adversely affected in the COVID-19 Pandemic which ravages Administrators interest so as to maintain the fullest adoption of the three (3Es) elements such as Effectiveness, Efficiency and Economy would be prudently managed in Nigeria, in order to face the challenges of reaching sustainable national development.

Finally, Public Sector Management with high standard of operations will ensure transparency, accountability and sustainable development while good governance requirements be maintained by Public Sectors Managers and Administrators, this will thus avoid Corruption, Tribalism, Nepotism, Favoritism, etc. and all aspects of Public Sector Management be seen to work in practice.

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