

## **Caretaker Committees and Local Government Administration in Nigeria: A Study of Isoko North and Ukwuani Local Government Councils of Delta State, Nigeria (2013-2014)**

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### **Abstract**

*It is somewhat worrisome that in spite of the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 as amended that local government councils in Nigeria shall be democratically elected local government councils, local government councils have been rubbished by state governors in Nigeria by constituting caretaker committees to administer local government councils in Nigeria immediately after they have been sworn in as state governors. With local government councils caretaker committees, the grassroots are excluded from power and benefits of power. It makes the grassroots not to see themselves as joint owners of the local polity having no hands in the election of their local political leaders. The fundamental objective of this paper is to examine the advent of caretaker committees and its effects on local government administration in Nigeria. A study of Isoko North and Ukwuani local government councils in Delta State, Nigeria, (2013 – 2014) using a qualitative research method which focused on secondary method of eliciting data from existing sources. The theoretical framework applied for this study is the structural functional theory whose proponents were Gabriel Almond, Talcot Parson, Sydney Powell et al. This paper also peruses at autonomy and accountability in local government council caretaker committee. This study finds that caretaker committees are characterized with fraud, irresponsibility and do not embark on community based development projects. The paper finally made some recommendations that would discourage appointment of caretaker committees that would administer local government council in Nigeria among others.*

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**Keywords:** *Caretaker Committee, Local Government Council, Grassroots, Socio-Economic Development, Accountability, Democratic Government, Financial autonomy*

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## 1.1 Introduction

It is somewhat worrisome that in spite the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, as amended that local government councils in Nigeria shall be democratically elected local government councils, local government administration has been hijacked, bastardized and kidnapped by state governors in Nigeria by putting in place caretaker committees to control, manage and direct the affairs of local government councils in Nigeria. This is a fundamental aberration of the Nigerian extant constitution. It is most unfortunate that instead of the state governors in Nigeria to sustain and consolidate the principle of democratically elected local government council, they undermined and rubbished the democratically elected local government council principles as enshrined in the extant constitution. The conducts and activities of the state governors grossly undermined the system of local government that is democratically elected as guaranteed by the extant constitution (Tonwe, 2012).

Mukoro (2019), posited that the year 1976 marked a watershed in the history of local government reforms in Nigeria. Democratically elected local government council was provided for in the 1976 local government reform, which was enshrined in the extant Constitution. The need for democratically elected local government councils in Nigeria cannot be overemphasized. The only way any person or group of persons could take control of the local government councils in Nigeria is entrenched in the extant constitution of Nigeria. Sovereignty or ultimate power in the local government council belongs to the grassroots discharged by them by way of the extant constitution and their votes during local government council elections.

The grassroots have political right to vote and be voted for in local government council election if they have the pre-requisite requirements. Local government council elections make the grassroots to see themselves as joint owners of the policy having hands in the election of their local leaders. The adverse effects of caretaker committees on Nigerian local government councils cannot be overemphasized against the backdrop of development, accountability, transparency, denial of the grassroots in participating in local politics among others hence this study.

## 1.2 Conceptual Review

Many researches have been carried out with regard to caretaker committees and local government administration in Nigeria by some scholars. Ogbonnaya (2012), submitted that the founding fathers of Nigerian local government system had good intensions for the people especially the grassroots. He further said that the major reason for creating local government council is to positively change the lives of the rural dwellers but it is somewhat problematic to note that the local government council had turned out to be a place where lean resources of the local government council are shared among members of the caretaker committee who control the affairs of the local government councils.

In another research study by Abbas and Ahmad (2012), titled challenges of democratization at the grassroots in Nigeria: A case study of Taraba State, they opined that the situation in local government election has gotten so embarrassing that even where election in local government councils have been conducted, state governors deliberately hurry the tenure of local government council to terminate earlier with a view to putting in place caretaker committees to manage the local government councils.

In addition, Okafor and Orijinta (2013), in a research on Constitutional democracy and caretaker committee in Nigeria local government system perused at the effects of the caretaker committees in Nigeria local government councils on the practice of constitutional democracy. They noted that the extant constitution does not expressly provide for the tenure of local government council in Nigeria and that the state governments have taken judicial notice of the lacuna used by the caretaker committee regime to control and manage local government councils in Nigeria. Ogu (2015), posited that finance is fundamental for the transformation of lives for the grassroots through the provision of social services and rural infrastructures like construction and maintenance of rural roads, markets, schools, health centres etc.

A study carried out by Chukwuemeka (2015)(Supra), on caretaker committee system in local government “A blessing or a course”. There he averred that for local government council to be efficient and effective in its functions, grassroots should elect their representatives democratically and not through appointment. Moreover, in another study by Ananti, Onyekwelu and Madubueze (2015), on caretaker committee system and democratic governance in Nigerian local government system, 2003 – 2014 in Anambra State, their aim was to find out whether the caretaker committee hindered democratic governance in the local government system in Anambra State, Nigeria between 2003 and 2014. The study showed that the use of caretaker committee to administer the activities of the local government councils in Nigeria has been the major cause of deteriorating of infrastructure in rural areas in Anambra State, Nigeria. The researchers at the end of their research recommended that a free and fair election at the local government council level should be adhered to.

Ogbonna and Ofuebe (2021), posited that as a result of public outcry of the use of caretaker committees in administering the local government councils in Nigeria and hijack of the resources of the local government, the Nigeria House of Representatives in an unanimous decision on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2012 declared the appointment of caretaker committee as illegal act which has no constitutional backings. The House of Representatives further directed the governors of the affected state to organize and conduct local government council elections and transfer power to a democratically elected chairman and councillors but most unfortunately; this was not obeyed as some state governors continued to sustain and constitute caretaker committees.

Haven conceptually reviewed the above related literature, it has been understood that many authors like Abbas and Ahmad (2012), Okafor and Orjinta (2013), Ananti, Onyekwelu and Madubueze (2015) and other scholars have done a lot of researches on caretaker committee system and democratic governance in local government councils in Nigeria. But none of them has carried out study on caretaker committee and local government administration in Nigeria : A study of Isoko North and Ukwuani Local government councils of Delta State (2013-2014). This study however intend to fill the gap.

### **1.3 Statement of the Problem**

The pursuit of a democratically elected local government in Nigeria has all along been the desires of every government. Every constitution has consistently advocated for it. It therefore becomes a misnomer when executive governors of states jettisoned this democratic requirement by putting caretaker committee in place. The caretaker committee system is anathema to democratic local government. It gives room for manipulation and abuse of power, as it distances the people from government and goes against good governance.

The appointment of local government councils' caretaker committees in Nigeria has denied the grassroots participation in local politics. This is at variance with the democratic participatory school of thought in local government. As a result of appointment of local government councils' caretaker committees in Nigeria, local government administration, democracy has been relegated to the background in local government in Nigeria. The grassroots are not given opportunities for political participation, put differently, the grassroots are not motivated and engaged in political education and participation.

Despite this beautiful provisions in the extant constitution, state governors immediately after their swearing in as state governors, the first project they usually embark upon is the dissolution of local government councils and put in place, caretaker committee for the administration of local government councils in Nigeria. The state governors action for constituting caretaker committees to run the affairs of local government council is predicated upon the lacuna created by the grundnorm wherein the tenure of elected local government council officers is not expressly stated. Caretaker committees have distorted socio-economic development in local government area, used as conduit pipes to drain lean resources meant for development in local government areas. It is not accountable to the people but to the state governors who appointed them. It is not transparent and responsive to the yearnings and aspirations of the grassroots. The administration of caretaker committee has posed threat to development, policy makers, public administrators, scholars and grassroots, but the issue of appointing caretaker committees to manage, control and administer local government council still persists, hence the reasons for this study.

### **1.4 Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical framework applied for this study is the structural functional theory. This theory originated in the studies of Rad Cliff Brown and B. Malinowski. The proponents of the theory are Gabriel Almond, Talcot Parson, Sydney Powell, Robert Merton, Marlon Levy, J.S. Coleman et al, They were sociologists. The theory was finally developed into an instrument of political analysis. The hallmark of this theory is that it observes society as a complex system whose components work collectively to achieve results. The theory also examines how to establish a principle of political order to terminate political issues, controversies, conflicts and disagreements. The query is how could order be achieved in a situation where various persons have different interests. The proponents of this theory started by observing the structures and processes that are inherent in political behaviour, like how a political system works, its abilities, the manners it manages stress and ways to sustain stability in the political system.

The proponents of the theory noted that with a view to understanding a political system, it is pertinent to know its institutions for structure and their various functions. Again, they make sure that for these institutions to be properly understood, they should be placed in a meaningful and dynamic historical context. According to Almond and Powell (1972), they stated that a political system consists of many functions. Most important among them are:

- (i) Political socialization and recruitment.
- (ii) Interest articulation.
- (iii) Interest aggregation.
- (iv) Political communication.

They also discerned three output functions. The output functions are

- (i) Rule making
- (ii) Rule execution
- (iii) Rule adjudication

It is interesting to note that the output functions tally with the three functions of government that is the three organs of government, Viz legislature, rule making, Executive, rule execution and judiciary, rule adjudication. Almond and his associates paid serious attention to input functions. These input functions are discharged by non-governmental structures or institution. Regardless of the fact that all the structures are multifunctional, some structure are designed for particular functions. The relationship of this theory with this study is that the structural functional theory gives more rooms in understanding the nature and character of the political system and how demands from the environment made by person and group of persons are made on the political system for action to satisfy interest and how the different structures of the political system discharge particular functions which will promote political development.

Local government system in Nigeria is a structure created by the extant constitution to perform certain functions which is grassroots and rural development. The functions of local government council are provided for in the fourth schedule, Section 7 of the extant constitution. Reviewing the performance of local government, structures are put in place to ensure service delivery of the state functions, that is also reviewing the structure as well as the functions which local government performs. In this study, caretaker committees are the structures created and adopted by the state government to local government council administration.

### **1.5 Autonomy and Accountability in Local Government Council Caretaker Committees**

The introduction of caretaker committee in local government council in Nigeria is an aberration of the extant constitution, it is a conduit pipe for the State Governors to drain the lean purse of the local government councils and it is done with the intention of the State governors to dismantle the autonomy of local government councils in Nigeria. During the periods of caretaker committee in Nigeria, rural areas are not developed and caretaker committees do not have enough resource because the State Governors are in charge of local government council funds. The state Governors lack financial discipline. They do not stick to the due process of sending the ten percent (10%) of their internally generated revenue to the local governments as expressly stated in the extant constitution. This is as against the backdrop of the joint state-local governments account. During

the period of local government council caretaker committee, local government concillors do not prepare and execute annual budgets for the local government council.

The local government funds have been bastardized through the establishment of Joint Account and Allocation Committee (JAAC) Chaired by the state Government representative. The Joint Account and Allocation Committee (JAAC) is detrimental to local government councils because it stops the local government councils from managing and controlling their monies. It is pertinent to note that local governments through the powers and authority of Joint Account and Allocation Committee, local government councils are deprived of their funds to discharge their democratic obligations. To this extent, local government councils are subservient to the state government's controls and this has effects on local government councils objectives to the grassroots.

In Nigeria federalism, all the states created local government Service Commission. It recruits, disciplines and promotes local government staff and this Local Government Service Commission is used to oppress the entire local government structure in the state. Idada and Isiraojie (2010), averred that local government administration in Nigeria has undergone many changes in which the 1976 local government reforms and the extant constitution are the bedrock of local government administration in Nigeria.

Imuetinyan, (2002) and Adeyemo (2005), adumbrated that the fight for local government autonomy in Nigeria has been a sustainable fight. In the 1950's different reforms such as the Northern Nigeria Local Government Law of 1954, the Western and Eastern Nigeria local government laws of 1954 designed at democratizing local government administration were started by different regional governments. The hijack of local government functions and revenue base by state government is another fundamental area of dismantling the autonomy of the local government (Adeyemo, Supra).

Again, conflictual revenue boards, by the state government stop and disturb the revenue base of the local government councils. Parallel boards set up by the state government are market, motor parks, building (plan Approvals) and forest royalty collection fund etc. Against all these backdrops, the problems of local government autonomy are so cumbersome to resolve. Local government autonomy seems weakest in the country in the sphere of personnel administration and it is one area which is not given consideration in terms of coverage constitutionally, but rather administrative provision. This may be the reason why the state government through their local government service commission in Nigeria affirms monopoly of personnel matters in local government administration.

It is pertinent to state that the 1976 local government reforms had only asserted weakly that local government shall have fundamental control over local and staff affairs. What happens in one state is also applicable in all other states with respect to local government personnel especially by virtue of the meetings of Local Government Service Commissions over the country. The Local Government Service Commission exchange their annual reports to make them have an idea of what others are doing. The conspiracy between the Local Government Service Commissions and state government has put personnel administration full under their control. Despite the advantages of this option, encompassing uniformity and reduced politicization in personnel administration, local government autonomy in the matter is limited and can disturb their development in rural areas in Nigeria.



### **1.6 Denial of Grassroots in Participating in Local Government Politics**

The advent of caretaker committees in local government councils in Delta State, Nigeria has denied the grassroots participation in the local politics in Delta State. Chukwuemeka (2015) (Supra) adumbrated that for local government councils to be effective in the discharge of their duties, grassroots should be allowed to participate in local politics and or the grassroots should be allowed to elect their leaders democratically and should not be selected. Despite the fact that the extant constitution provides for democratically elected local government council, the grassroots in Delta State have been denied grassroots participation in the local politics in Delta State. Some state governors in Nigeria setup caretaker committees to manage local government councils in Nigeria. Caretaker committees in local government councils in Delta State have dismantled the democratic participatory school. The democratic participatory school holds that local governments function to bring about democracy and to give rooms for political participation to the grassroots, educate and socialize them politically. Central to this school is that democracy is a way of life that demands that one another's point of view and one another's interest be mutually appreciated.

The democratic participatory school is a concept premised on fair play, tolerance, responsibility and respect for the right of others. Local politics like politics at all other levels deals with conflicts, issues, controversies and disagreements on the one hand and order, consensus, reconciliation and agreement on the other hand, hence at the local level, grassroots are called upon and learn to make choices, to tolerate the views of minorities and to respect others' opinions, be they in favour of or contrary to their own. These functions of local government that democratic school holds to be most important school than other school. It motivates the grassroots by engaging them in political education and participation. Local government councils are solid recruiting grounds for upper level of governments and hence a source for greater participation. Local government serves as a training ground for higher level of government. In many democracies in the world, a good number of parliamentarians whether at state or federal level have benefited from a political apprenticeship at local government level.

Caretaker committees have failed in their functions, because they are created and controlled by the state governors who appointed them. With local government council caretaker committees, the grassroots are excluded from power and benefits of power. It makes the grassroots not to see themselves as joint owners of the local polity having no hands in the elections of their local leaders. As a result of the caretaker committees, the grassroots have no political right to vote and be voted for in local government council election even if they have what it takes to vote and be voted for in local government council elections, the effects of caretaker committees in Nigeria local government councils cannot be overemphasized in terms of denial of participation in local politics, environmental degradation, deteriorating public school buildings, poor market facilities and lack of health centre among others. The caretaker committees regime between the 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2012 and 14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2014 in Isoko North and Ukwuani Local Government Councils show that nothing was achieved during the period under review. Local government council resource are siphoned through budget for Administrative sector in the local government council. The monies meant to discharge local government responsibilities are misappropriated and embezzled. Caretaker committees are characterized with fraud and irresponsibility and do not embark on community based development projects.

State governors in Nigeria siphoned local government funds through the establishment of the Joint Account and Allocation Committee chaired by the state government representatives. Caretaker committees are not accountable to the grassroots because the grassroots did not vote for them. They are not answerable to the people but to the state governors who put them in place. It is proper for government to display her score card for the electorates. If the local government performs below expectation she might be voted out by the electorates in the next election. Non accountability is dangerous to the caretaker committee in Nigeria. The caretaker committee in Delta State took instructions from their appointors, the state governors. Caretaker committees are not accountable to the grassroots. Against this backdrop, their performance is nothing to write home about in Nigeria.

### 1.7 Socio-Economic Development in Isoko North and Ukwuani Local Government Councils under Caretaker Committee Regime, (2013-2014).

**Table 1:** Isoko North Local Government, Ozoro, Annual Financial State 2013.

#### Statement No. 6

#### Statement of capital development fund for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2013

#### Less: Capital Expenditure

#### Economic Sector

	Budget 2013 ₦	Actual 2013 ₦
Agriculture	6,980,000.00	-
Livestock	4,100,000.00	-
Forestry	8,000,000.00	-
Fisheries	3,500,000.00	-
Manufacturing and Craft	10e	-
Rural Electrification	40,000,000.00	-
Commerce and Finance	140,000,000.00	7,501,060.00
Transportation, Roads and Bridges	195,000,000.00	2,423,200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>396,000,000.00</b>	<b>9,924,260.00</b>

#### Social Service Sector

Education	978,767,341.49	978,767,341.49
Health	80,000,000.00	-
Information & Culture	48,000,000.00	-
Social Development youths & Sports	45,000,000.00	-
Fire Services	3,000,000.00	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,154,767,341.49</b>	<b>978,767,341.49</b>

#### Regional Development Sector

Water Resources and Water Supply	101,000,000.00	11,503,002.00
Environmental Sewage & Drainage	64,000,000.00	9,525,000.00
Town and Country Planning	20,000,000.00	-



Community Development	53,000,000.00	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>238,000,000.00</b>	<b>21,028,002.00</b>

**Administrative Sector**

General Administration (Office Building)	498,178,809.13	258,574,983.13
Staff Housing	94,000,000.00	905,000.00
Workshop	25,000,000.00	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,407,526,150.62</b>	<b>1,269,199,586.62</b>

**Source: Isoko North Local Government, Ozoro Annual Finance Statement, 2013**

The above table shows statement of capital development fund for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2013

**Less Capital Expenditure**

From table 1 above, it is observed that the greater amount of money was spent on Administration which gulped the sum of ₦1,269,199,586.62 (One Billion, Two Hundred and Sixty Nine Million, One Hundred and Ninety Nine Thousand, Five Hundred and Eighty Six Naira, Sixty two Kobo) out of ₦2,407,526,150.62 (Two Billion, Four Hundred and Seven Million, Five Hundred and Twenty Six Thousand, One Hundred and Fifty Naira, Sixty two Kobo) that was budgeted for it.

This situation shows that the caretaker committee toed that same line in the way it spent the council revenue against the Model Financial Memoranda of 1991 which was designed to ensure transparency, accountability and probity. To this extent, Economic, Social Service and Regional Development Sector which were expected to be developed were abandoned.

**Table 2: Isoko North Local Government Council, Ozoro Annual Financial Statements 2014  
 Financial Summaries  
 Capital Expenditure Summary**

Head	Head Description	Approved Estimate 2014 ₦	Actual Expenditure 2014 ₦
	<b>Economic Sector</b>		
	Agriculture and Rural Department	27,200,000.00	294,000.00
	Livestock	6,500,000.00	-
	Forestry	1,200,000.00	980,000.00
	Fisheries	700,000.00	-
	Manufacturing & Craft	5,500,000.00	-
	Rural Electrification	39,000,000.00	-
	Co-operation, Supply, Commerce, Finance	137,000,000.00	500,000.00
	Transportation, Roads and Bridges	273,000,000.00	400,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>490,100,000.00</b>	<b>2,174,000.00</b>
	<b>Social Sector</b>		
	Education	24,920,000.00	893,330,520.09
	Health	128,000,000.00	1,000,000.00
	Information & Culture	4,700,000.00	-

	Social Development, Youth & Sport	99,600,000.00	-
	Fire Service	1,000,000.00	-
		14,800,000.00	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>273,020,020.00</b>	<b>894,330,520.00</b>
	<b>Water Resources</b>		
	Water & Supply	10,500,000.00	2,200,000.00
	Environment Sewage and Drainage	84,000,000.00	180,000.00
	Town and Country Planning	25,000,000.00	-
	Community Development	7,000,000.00	-
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>126,500,000.00</b>	<b>2,380,000.00</b>
	<b>Administration</b>		
	General Administration (Office Building)	455,260,000.00	311,129,852.75
	Staff Housing	25,500,000.00	3,750,000.00
	Workshop	3,600,000.00	-
	Total	484,360,000.00	314,879,852.75
	Payment of Loans & Interest	10,000,000.00	-
	Security	14,800,000.00	-
	<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>1,398,780,020.00</b>	<b>1,213,764,372.84</b>

Source: Isoko North Local Government Council, Ozoro Annual Finance Statement, 2014

The above table shows Isoko North Local Government Council, Ozoro, Annual Financial Statement, 2014 Capital Expenditure Summary.

From table 2 above, it is observed that the greater amount of money was spent on Administration (Building) which gulped the sum of ₦1,213,764,372.84 (One Billion, Two Hundred and Thirteen Million, Seven Hundred and Sixty Four Thousand, Three Hundred and Seventy Two Naira, Eighty Four Kobo) out of ₦1,398,780,020.00 (One Billion, Three Hundred and Ninety Eight Million, Seven Hundred and Eighty Thousand, Twenty Naira) that was budgeted for it.

**Table 3: Ukwuani Local Government, Approved Estimate of Capital Expenditure, 2013**  
**Summary of Capital Expenditure**

Head Subhead	Details of Expenditure	Approved Estimate ₦ 2013
	<b>Economic Sector</b>	
4001	Agriculture and Rural Department	27,200,000.00
4002	Livestock	6,500,000.00
4003	Forestry	1,200,000.00
4004	Fisheries	700,000.00
4005	Horticulture	5,500,000.00
4006	Rural Electrification	39,000,000.00
4007	Commerce, Finance, Co-operation	137,000,000.00

4008	Transportation (Roads and Bridges)	273,000,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>490,100,000.00</b>
	<b>Social Sector</b>	
5001	Education	44,900,000.00
5002	Health	128,000,000.00
5003	Information	4,700,000.00
5004	Social Development, Sport and Culture	86,100,020.00
5005	Fire Service	1,000,000.00
5006	Legal Services	14,800,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,259,700,020.00</b>
	<b>Sector: Area Development</b>	
6001	Water Resources and Water Supply	10,500,000.00
6002	Environment Development	84,000,000.00
6003	Town and Country Planning	25,000,000.00
6004	Community Development	7,000,000.00
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>126,500,000.00</b>
	<b>Sector: Administration</b>	
7001	General Administration (Office Building)	455,260,000.00
7002	Staff Housing	25,500,000.00
7003	Workshop	3,600,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>484,360,000.00</b>
8001	Payment of Loans	10,000,000.00
9001	Security	14,800,000.00

**Source: Ukwuani Local Government, Approved Estimate of Capital Expenditure 2013,**

The above table shows Ukwuani Local Government, Approved Estimate of Capital Expenditure, 2013. From table 3 above, it is noted that the greater amount of money was spent on Administration which gulped the sum of ₦14,800,000.00 (Fourteen Million, Eight Hundred Thousand Naira). Other sectors which were expected to be improved were jettisoned.

**Table 4: Ukwuani Local Government Council, Obiaruku Draft Estimates 2014  
 Financial Summaries  
 Capital Expenditure Summary, 2014**

Head	Head Description	Approved Estimate 2014 ₦
	<b>Economic Sector</b>	
	Agriculture and Rural Department	27,200,000.00
	Livestock	6,500,000.00
	Forestry	1,200,000.00
	Fisheries	700,000.00
	Manufacturing & Craft	5,500,000.00

	Rural Electrification	39,000,000.00
	Commerce, Finance, Co-operative & Supply	137,000,000.00
	Transportation, Roads and Bridges	273,000,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>490,100,000.00</b>
	<b>Social Sector</b>	
	Education	24,920,000.00
	Health	128,000,000.00
	Information & Culture	4,700,000.00
	Social Development, Youth & Sport	99,600,000.00
	Fire Service	1,000,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>273,020,020.00</b>
	<b>Water Resources</b>	
	Water & Supply	10,500,000.00
	Environment Sewage and Drainage	84,000,000.00
	Town and Country Planning	25,000,000.00
	Community Development	7,000,000.00
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>126,500,000.00</b>
	<b>Administration</b>	
7001	General Administration Office Building	455,260,000.00
7002	Staff Housing	25,500,000.00
7003	Workshop	3,600,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>484,360,000.00</b>
8001	Payment of Loans & Interest	10,000,000.00
9001	Security	14,800,000.00
	<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>1,398,780,020.00</b>

**Source: Ukwuani Local Government Council, Obiaruku Draft Estimate, 2014**

From table 4 above, it is noted that the greater amount of money was spent on Administration which gulped the sum of ₦1,398,780,020.00 (One Billion, Three Hundred and Ninety Eight Million, Seven Hundred and Eighty Thousand, Twenty Naira) other sectors were not developed.

### 1.8 Conclusion

This study shows that caretaker committee regimes in Nigeria is unconstitutional, they have failed in their constitutional responsibilities. Caretaker committees are conduct pipes used by the state governors in Nigeria to drain the resources of the local government councils in Nigeria. Caretaker committees in Nigeria have denied the grassroots participation in local politics and caretaker committees are to be accountable to the local people.

## 1.9 Recommendations

Haven carried out a careful and exhaustive analysis on caretaker committees in Nigeria, we put forward the following recommendations which we believe will go a long way in solving the issues that characterized caretaker committees in Nigeria.

- i. The political space should be opened for the grassroots with the view to participating in their own local government council elections in Nigeria.
- ii. The joint Account and Allocation Committee Chaired by the state government representatives should be dismantled. Local government councils should get their allocations from source called Anuba
- iii. Local government council in Nigeria should focus on socio-economic development of their local government areas. Caretaker committees should be accountable to the grassroots and be answerable to the local people. Local government should display their score card for the local elections.

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