
The Role of Political Science in Tackling Socio-Economic Challenges in the Face of Falling Oil Price in Nigeria

Williams A. Ahmed-Gangum (PhD) & Shadrack D.K. Baba

Consultancy Services Unit,
Taraba State Polytechnic Suntai,
Jalingo Campus
Post Code 660262
willieconsult2002@yahoo.com

Ifu Danjuma Ezekiel

Department of General Studies
Taraba State Polytechnic Suntai,
Jalingo Campus

Abstract

Political Science is concerned with studying (i) political or power struggles and relationship between socio-economic classes/strata and (ii) political or power relations between socio-economic classes/strata and the government /State. The first objective of this paper is to examine the stand of the State over the major socio-economic challenges particularly that of falling oil prices and interclass/group struggle for power which is leading to calls for restructuring, resource control and secessionist agitations. Secondly, it is to examine the complimentary role that Political Scientists have provided and would play to assist the State to provide social and economic development needs of the various groups vis-avis falling revenue so that the country does not disintegrate? Data for this study was collected from secondary sources. Findings has shown that (i) Socially, the State through its institutions, policies and decisions is still saying Nigeria must remain one social group, nation and country and continue to solve social and economic challenges together (ii) the Political Scientist has a role to play to assist the State carry out its responsibilities in the face of falling price of oil and its negative effects. This paper recommends that the Political Scientist should continue to educate Nigerians on the actual causes of domestic social and political challenges responsible for increasing economic recession, high cost of living and secessionist tendencies. Also Nigerians particularly fuel marketers and Bureau de change operators should operate with human face by stopping the hoarding and fixing of exorbitant prices and rates of their commodity outside government price and rates ceiling. While this is being adhered to Government should make Nigeria's refineries work for adequate supply of home refined fuel.

Key Words: *Falling Oil Price, Political Science, Socio-Economic Challenges,*

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

A "Challenge" is a word with two perspectives. First it describes difficulties or problems that tend to retard or prevent the achievement of desired development objective(s). Second, challenge is also a word that describes the motivation(s) for a person or group of persons to take necessary actions to solve the difficulties or problems. The issue of falling price of oil is challenging to both domestic and international communities. The facts relating to the fluctuating prices of oil indicate that in February 1948 fuel was sold at \$1.17 per barrel and

recently it reached an all time high of \$145.31 per barrel in 2008. But in January 2011 it fell to \$125 per barrel, and in March 2012 it fell to about \$123 per barrel, and further fell in April 2013 to about \$100 per barrel. In June 2014 it rose to about \$115 per barrel, but in June 2015 it nose dived to \$61.36 per barrel and to at about \$48 per barrel in August 2015. In June 2016 it appreciated to about \$52.25 per barrel (www.infomine.com/...prices/crude-oil/5-;www.tradingeconomics.com/.../crude-oil). What this means is that energy exporters like Nigeria are losing revenue while consumers like USA who import/buy are paying less for energy. The challenge to Nigeria is that it has no enough revenue to provide social and economic needs of Nigerians.

The challenge of falling oil price and revenue to the people and government of Nigeria requires turn-around interventionist strategy to stabilize the polity. This crisis has a linkage to the recent economic and financial crisis popularly called *economic meltdown* or recession which started in the United States in September 2008. Crises here, is defined as “*a sharp change in asset prices that leads to distress among financial markets participants.*” (Eichengreen and Portes 1987; Oyesola January 11, 2010). This sharp downward trend in fuel prices is a major financial crisis also called *depression* in the world economy and it occurred at an interval of 20 to 50 years (<http://en.m.wikipedia.org/.../Financial>). Other indicators of financial crisis are low foreign exchange (FX) reserve, appreciating exchange rate for Bureau de Change operators and devalued currency with inability to afford imports by individuals and other business entities. There is also deficit Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and rising unemployment with no evidence of slowing down, rising external debt, drop in export, rising taxes, bankruptcy in banks, absence of bank credits, halt in construction activities, rising discount in retail stores, malnutrition, inflation as seen in the rise in price of goods and services and reduced take home pay. The degree of occurrence of each of above indicators of crises differs from country to country (Perberg 2013; www.unicef.org/emerg/Pakistan_489842.html).

Globalization of economies, also contributes to this economic crises. Like an earthquake it negatively affected markets and economies of countries, whether developed, developing and underdeveloped. The 8 hardest hit countries are (1) Ireland (2) Pakistan (3)Brazil (4)South Africa (5)Iceland (6) Zambia (7)The United Kingdom (8) United Arab Emirate (twopennieseaned.blogspot.com/.../8-;ftp://fao.org/locrep/.../i0876e03pdf).

As a result of the crises it became an issue of political discourse. In Nigeria Government Officials in 2008 e.g. Charles Soludo the Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) tried to convince Nigerians that all was going to be well (Oyesola January 11 2010; The Punch November 21; Business Day November 24 2008; The Vanguard October 20 2008); but later Nigerian leaders began to sing a different song .For example Sanusi Lamido Sanusi the successor to Soludo came up with a new agenda when it became evident that Nigeria would not escape the negative impact of world economic crises. This was because United State whose ailing economy triggered off the financial global crises was among the main importers of Nigeria’s crude oil and any problem that affected USA was bound to negatively affect Nigeria. The same applied to other nations in varying degrees.

1.2 What is Political Science?

Shakhnazarov (1982) defined Political Science as a special academic discipline dedicated to using the method of science in investigation to *see real motive forces and springs of political mechanism that lie behind external form to see how the laws of operation and development of institutions of political power and the whole system of political relationships manifest themselves*”. It is a ‘dispassionate’ and ‘sober’ approach to political observance of the law.

The purpose of Political Science as a discipline therefore is to understand and explain politics, political life and group power in decision-making. It is to find out whether it is used wisely or foolishly, rightly or wrongly: how power is created, exercised, justified, and challenged for improvement or benefit of collective life (political-science.williams.edu). Political Science as an academic discipline has the following areas of specialization: Public Administration, International Relations/Politics, Political Economy, and Policy Analysis. Political Science thus is concerned with studying (i) political motives or struggles for power and relationship between socio-economic classes/strata and (ii) political motives or struggles for power and relations between socio-economic classes/strata and the government /State.

As to the art of politics and political life, by nature, there is no limit to the frontiers of politics hence the saying *all animals are political animals*. It is a situation where people are conscious of their rights and duties and either openly or latently disagrees and agrees with others for the purpose of authoritative allocation of resources or resolution of conflicts on issues of common interest through due process, so that politics would not be out of hand and war does not take over. Politics thus is not only a practice by political parties alone, but also by individuals, groups, societies, communities and countries engage in one type of discourse, argument or activity to persuade and convince the other stakeholders / partners to get what they want within the limits allowed to each group/ party by law (McLean and McMillan 2003). And where there is infringement of the rules judicial and disciplinary press put in place may take its course without delay.

1.2 Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

1.2.1 Global Financial crises the cause of Recession

Literature at our disposal has shown that analysts and scholars have noted the following as the causes of financial crisis globally:-

- (i) Excessive greed and corrupt practices
- (ii) Unregulated capitalism
- (iii) Massive funding of the “war on terrorism”
- (iv) The erroneous belief that “free market” principle is perfect, fair and efficient
- (v) Inconsistent monetary and fiscal policy,
- (vi) Politicians spending and borrowing excessively,
- (vii) Inconsistent and unsustainable macroeconomic policy,
- (viii) Weak financial systems and institutions
- (ix) The role of e.g. International Monetary Fund and World Bank in giving harsh conditions for “aiding” poor countries, that is, condition such as asking Nigeria to devalue Nigerian currency to give foreign buyers of Nigerian goods more profit as well as give operators of domestic Bureau-de-change more profit by fixing high exchange rate
- (x) The fact that the occurrence of economic cycle is natural or regular. The above factors affected the demand and supply of fuel and of course oil price and income to producer countries hence the crises. (The New York Times, November 20, 2008; Eichengreen 2004; Jhingan 2011)

1.2.2 Economic Demand and Supply as Cause of falling Price of Oil

Kraus (2016) in particular made us to understand that there is a fall in oil price because the economic forces of demand and supply are at work. This stems from the double increase in domestic production of oil by United State of America. Because of this Nigeria (an exporter of oil) like some countries had to look for another major consumer nation and Nigeria does this through competition with other countries by reducing the price of Nigerian fuel. Another reason is Iran’s increasing supply of oil in the market after sanctions was lifted. Also in spite

of the Libyan political crises the country still maintained production of oil. These resulted to oil glut. On the demand side there was a fall in oil prices because of

- (i) Reduced purchase/import of oil by e.g. United State of America
- (ii) Oil glut,
- (iii) The development of alternative energy sources and or
- (iv) The development of fuel efficient/economy engines.

The present writers agree that while demand and supply factors are responsible, there was also a deliberate political motive behind it. There was manipulation of the demand and supply factors by international countries who wish Nigeria to be perpetually dependent on them e.g. United State of America or collapse for some other reasons. Another perspective of manipulation is that whereas some members of Organization of Oil Producing Countries (OPEC) e.g. Nigeria have wished that there be cut in oil production to make oil scarce to jack up prices and income to countries but some OPEC member-countries like Iran are not in support because they are already producing enough refined oil; On the other hand most Nigerian refineries are down and Nigeria is not producing enough refined fuel at home. This has made Nigerian government to spend a lot on importation of refined fuel; have less income amidst mounting demand for better services from citizens. And whereas the fall in price of oil in international market should mean cheaper oil within Nigeria, but private sector corruption has refused to make domestic fuel cost to be cheap for Nigerians. Precisely, while oil marketers demand for fuel subsidies, and even when government regulates fuels prices, the independent marketers still make domestic oil supply scarce. Under this situation they use to hoard and sale a litre of fuel as high as N400per litre, and also do not deliver the quantity of litre of fuel paid for by buyers.

1.2.3 The change in Attitude by Political Scientist

The nationalistic and /or revolutionary spirit of Nigerians during colonial period and the period immediately after Nigerian independence up to the 1980s was mostly engineered by Karl Marx's theory on the State, which asserts that in future capitalism would be replaced by socialism: a progressive national society where producers would freely associate under their own conscious and purposive control (MaziMbah 2006). But Erinsho (2008) has shown that since Nigeria gained independence Nigerian intellectuals have "*gradually lost their nationalistic and /or revolutionary spirit as military rule progressed*" and they have become tools in the hands of the ruling elites (civilian regimes inclusive). The present writers wish to expatiate that, as from the 20th century, there was indeed a shift from pursuing the type of change-approach as prescribed by Karl Marx, that capitalism would be replaced by socialism. For example, the practical experience shown by the collapse of socialist regimes and the disintegration of socialist countries in a world dominated by capitalism; and the end of the cold war brought stronger globalization of capitalism.

These made Marxists to come to believe that:-

- (a) There are inherent contradictions in the social, economic and political systems.
- (b) There is no blueprint on how to introduce change and sustain it.
- (c) There is bound to be some failure of government change policies. As a result of these there was a gradual tendency to conservatism by Nigerian political scientist. And generally, Nigerian intellectuals no longer recommend the adoption of socialism as alternative economic system for solving Nigeria's social and economic challenges.

The various Nigerian leadership regimes military and civilian have engaged political Scientist in government activities. However, we have seen increasing number of political scientist participate in governance and have done so with commitment to make our laws work. The

prominent in recent time is Professor Attahiru Jega who served as the Chairman of Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

1.2.4 Theoretical Framework

Marxian Analysis is used here for explaining causes of the social and economic challenges in Nigeria. Marxian Analysis is rooted in the works of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels and later Lenin (Ake 1981, Anthony 2005, Mazi Mbah 2006, Jhingan 2011). Here there is a belief that the capitalist society is structured into classes of the rich and the poor, the haves and have not's and all forms of human relations are a product of material conditions and circumstances rather than of ideas, thought, or consciousness alone. In capitalist world of the few rich, private institutions are the means for exploitation of workers who depend on the privileged few property owners. This situation has shaped and continues to shape issues of power, class domination and the process of historical change and the complex process under which capitalism enters economic crises. It is this crises, difficulties and challenges that eventually would lead to social and political revolution where the masses would overthrow the few rich to introduce socialist change. It is this perspective that helped in encouraging nationalist movements, the establishment of welfare State, pursuit of knowledge and demands for social justice by the working class.

1.3 Methodology

1.3.1 Data Collection

To understand how political science contributed and would continue to contribute its quota in explaining and solving the arrays of Nigeria's socio-economic challenges, data for this paper is collected from secondary sources as referenced in this paper.

2.0 Political Science's Perception of the Fundamental Causes of Socio-Economic Challenges

2.1 Nigeria's Economic System and Challenges

2.1.1 Economic System

Officially Nigeria like many developing Nations has its barrage of destabilizing problems, which goes as far as challenging the corporate existence of the country (Mike, 2016). The need to socially and economically stabilized, Nigerians chose to operate a mixed economic system, which is defined as follows:-

Mixed economy is a compromise between the two economic system capitalism and socialism. It is a system which is free from the evils of both capitalism and socialism but integrates the good features of both. It is through planning that the merits of a socialist economy are imparted and the defects of capitalism are sought to be removed in a mixed economy (Jhingan2011).

However, from the reforms carried out under Obasanjo regime as from 1999 particularly the privatization of public companies, it entails that Nigeria was gradually dropping its pro socialist dispositions for a full blown capitalist behaviour. It also entails individual Nigerians must work to produce for themselves most of their basic needs within Nigeria because most public utilities were left to decay and collapse. The challenge here is that while Nigerians claim they cherish independence in reality Nigerians like dependence on the advanced capitalist economies. Consequently, Nigerian leaders go about themselves looking for foreign investors/multinational companies to come into the country, which is just as saying a return to pre-independence Nigeria where foreign investors dominated the economy.

2.1.2 Dominance of Oil sector

Nigeria inherited a pro-capitalist economic culture from British colonial government (Olaloku, Fajana, Tomori and Ukpong 1980). The system was sustained by activities in the agriculture sector. The sector contributed to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) more than oil sector. But in the post-colonial era oil overthrew agriculture.

The contribution of oil to the GDP in Nigeria increased steadily over the years, "Oil accounted for just 3.43 per cent of the GDP in 1965. The share of oil in the GDP increased from 9.27 per cent in 1970 to 19.37 per cent in 1975. The figure increased to 38.87 per cent in 2005. The share of oil in the GDP decreased marginally to 37.44 per cent in 2009...Two main reasons can be offered for the increasing share of oil in GDP. The first is the discovery of oil in large quantity since early 70s which led to massive oil production and export. The huge revenues from oil led to massive rural urban migration and the neglect of agriculture (Akinlo, 2012).

The implication is that over reliance on oil revenue brought its challenges too. There was insufficient production of cash crops in favour of oil business because :-

- (i) Youths received a new orientation that the pursuit of higher educational qualification and working in public service office was more profitable. This lured youths out of agricultural activities.
- (ii) Also the campaign by government to see increased food stuff production and supply led to cheap farm produce consequently low income from farming. This discouraged youths from going into agro business, except when there was scarcity and price of food stuff goes up.
- (iii) Another factor is that the income from agriculture could not match the desire for ostentatious life style, or has not been enough to give aged parents upkeep money.
- (iv) Modern technologies and agro chemicals to facilitate large scale farming that would bring more income are getting more expensive. This makes more youths to run away from agricultural activities to seek other means of income in the cities.

2.1.3 Increasing Unemployment

In the cities the lack of manufacturing industries creates unemployment. And unemployment has grown from 2006 low rate to 2016 higher rate. In the period under review, the average unemployment rate for 2006 was 9.04. The lowest average rate of unemployment was 6% in 2012, the highest was 23.9% in 2011, in 2015 it was down to 9.9% and in the second quarter of 2016 it rose to 12.1% (National Bureau of Statistics of Nigeria; www.tradingeconomics.com; www.economywatch.com). Nigeria has an estimated population of 150 million in 1999 out of which 70% were in Agriculture, industry has 10% and services had 20%. (www.economywatch.com). In respect to public sector which most youths wish to be employed there are only 2,602,000 million employees of which Federal is 1,107,000 employees, States 856,000 employees, and local governments have 620,000 employees. Yet the public service is regarded as over bloated and down-sizing was recommended to compound the unemployment rate (Public Service Reform Team–(PSRT) 2005; El-Rufai). The rise in unemployment rate makes some youths to engage in generation of insecurity, like kidnapping to make huge money and insurgency to create opportunity for looting and destroying lives and property to discredit government as incapable to rule and the chance to rule be given to their sponsors. As for the employed their income is no longer a living wage. Consequently, all previous and present Federal Government regimes in Nigeria witnessed political actions like protests or appeals by organized labour unions and the media

for palliative measures.

2.1.4 Rising Debt profile without corresponding benefits

Nigeria Foreign Debt is rising and there is inability to service Nigeria's debt promptly. This has led to accumulation of penalties, interests and arrears. These have resulted in increase in the amount of debts for Nigeria. In 2005 domestic debt profile was said to have risen to N11 trillion. According to the Director-General, Debt Management Office, Dr. Abraham Nwankwo Nigeria's external debt profile has risen to \$11 billion as at October 2015 as against the \$ 9.4 billion recorded in March 2015(www.thebreakingtimes.com/nigerias-debt ...28 Mar 2016; Debt Management Office- www.dmo.gov.ng/; Anthony 2005; Ikudayosi, Akin—Olagunju, Babatunde, Irhivben and Okuruwa 2015; articlesg.com/external-debt-management). To worsen the situation the negative attitude of law enforcement agencies as well as that of some judicial officers in support of crime contradicts the intent and purposes of Nigerian laws.

2.1.5 Corruption

Nigerian economy is enjoying increase in deregulation of business activities, it is characteristics of economic democracy, which is allowing market forces to determine price of commodities. This has also given rise to pervasive corruption, disrespect for rule of law and worsened conditions of living of Nigerian by 2013. While on one hand Nigerian's upper class (ruling elites and business community) was making surplus income/profits, on the other hand Nigerian's lower and middle class experienced stagnation or loses in income. There was no upward review of minimum wage and no implementation of promotion and annual increment policy. The secret behind surplus income for the upper class is associated with financial corruption. This was substantiated by International Consortium of Investigative Journalist (ICIJ) in the Pana papers. They indicated the names of prominent Nigerian former public officers who secretly operated several accounts, and have companies in offshore jurisdictions to keep their monies contrary to the law of the land, which prohibits money laundering (https://Panapapers.icij.org/https/en.m.wikioedia.org/.../panapapers_...; www.nigeriamonitor.com/list-prominent). Also Transparency International ranked Nigeria as No.144 out of 177 countries. And Nigeria was No. 33 among the most corrupt countries. In 2014 Nigeria was No.136 out of 174 countries and among the most corrupt countries Nigeria was No.38 in the world

In the public sector government had to borrow to carry infrastructural and industrial development projects. But most contractors do substandard jobs or ran away with money for the jobs (buildingcontractors.ecres.com/.../causes.o...). The ruling elites who use and protect them squandered Nigeria oil wealth and borrowed money for political trips, campaigns and leisure trips (Oyesola January 11 2010; The International Herald Tribune July 21 2008). Most Politicians operate foreign accounts and do not invest in businesses for job creation in Nigeria except where they would further exploit surplus profit against the law. The pressure for lack of job and working materials also creates mental stress among Nigerians. In the private sector corruption in business comes in form of hoarding of fuel which leads to insufficient domestic fuel supply, followed by higher domestic fuel price, inflation in costs of other goods and services, leading too inflation and devaluation of the Naira, all for the purpose of gaining surplus profit. As such the Middle and Lower class (ordinary Nigerians) tend to have insufficient money at their disposal.

2.2 Nigeria's Social and Political Challenges

Social problems or challenges in Nigeria are questionable national identity or unity in the

form of coming together to carry out terrorist activities, vandalisation of public utilities, sabotaging poverty alleviation programmes by way of corruption. Other social challenges include high level of child mortality, unemployment, poor education, tribalism, home violence (www.naij.com/culture/).

Socially, the upper class come together to become the political godfathers that (i) disobey electoral laws to impose their candidates on the lower class people (ii) they come together to dominate as independent marketers and make the Government incapable of implementing their change and rescue agenda contained in development plans and annual government budgets. The State thus has become an apparatus where one political group use it to subordinate other groups (Premium Times January 13th 2015; Premium Times January 19th 2015). For example this approach was used by the opposition parties in 2011-2015 to campaign against re-election of the party in power (PDP) and is also being used by the current main opposition party (PDP) as from 2015 against the party in power (APC). The current became manifest when Buhari in 2016 reduced the pump price by only N2 from N87 to N85, commentators and supporters of change who claim to have voted for Buhari applauded Buhari. But PDP supporters quickly reacted negatively. That “*Buhari’s fuel Price reduction is an insult to Nigerians*”(Ojate S. S. *African Spotlight* 27 December 2015; m.guardian.ng/.../fuel-price-reduction-an...). This was justified on the grounds that Buhari criticised Jonathan regime in the same manner. As such they said the *change mantra* of Buhari regime would only be useful if the fuel price is reduced by N50 per-litre. The opposition expects that since Buhari’s pre-election image was that of a messiah and now that he is President and Doubles as Minister of Petroleum there would have been quick answers to Nigeria’s predicaments not excuses.

Another social challenge affects Nigeria integration. This is depicted by “hate speeches” and campaigns for secession in Nigeria, the prominent being the call for Biafra State out of Nigeria, the threat of attack by Northern Youths on Igbos; the attack on oil facilities by Niger Delta region youth groups, Boko Haram anti-education violent campaigns and a host of other inter community and religious group conflicts. (Adebayo and Farouk 2009; National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies 2003). That of Boko Haram greatly worsened the social and economic condition of Nigerians especially in the North East zone of Nigeria. Also from the way fundamental human right groups supported these anti-one and peaceful Nigeria groups is another dimension of the challenges. Some postures of Human Rights groups contradict the principles of equity which says *no one should profit from the proceeds of his fraud*. The support given by human rights to those against one and peaceful Nigeria, who no doubt are law breakers is encouraging them to continue to benefit from their illegal activities, such as killing innocent citizens and rendering thousands of Nigerians homeless in the name of freedom of expression. This at some point made the State especially under Jonathan to no longer fight insurgents physically. The effect was that some private businesses and government agencies in areas under the influence of terrorists have to close down or have their assets destroyed or because of increasing cost of production they have to downsize their work force to remain in business; And till date there is fear, distrust and discontinuation of sincere formation of joint activities between Christians and Muslims and between northern and southern Nigerians. Other problems are that abducted/kidnapped girls by terrorist are denied the freedom of getting husbands and to procreate in accordance with normal religious and community traditions. As these politically motivated social and economic challenges occurred, it made poor Nigerians traumatized and suffered lack of good education, health, power supply, and good road networks e.t.c. The worst hit group is the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP).

The international dimension of the social and political challenges of late came from the USA

president Trump where he is reported to destroy Nigeria voting against Americas declaration that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. (sundiatapost/2017/12/25/Jerusalem-vote-i-will-destroy-nigeria-vows-calls-buhari-senseless-man/). If democracy recognises freedom of expression and voting as a means of conflict resolution, and recalling that there is no law that says those who vote should be punished, the question now is what is the moral and legal justification for the position expressed by trump on sovereign states like Nigeria for expressing her opinion on issues formerly brought before UN member states If the choice by Nigeria is not palatable legal avenues like the security council is there for persuasion and corrective measures to be taken. This stick approach by Trump is similar to the call by human rights activist that terrorist and insurgents should be rewarded for their wrongs. These and many other contradictions no doubt is a threat to democracy and peace in Nigeria which the west has for long forced Africans to embrace. The threat from Trump is a vote for a return to dictatorship of African kings, chiefs and modern ruling elites that after all political suppression and intimidation is good. This is a call to duty, to our political scientist to address this contradiction for a peaceful world and Nigeria in particular.

2.3 The Challenges of Political Ideology

Recalling that Nigeria intellectuals are no longer advocates of socialism, the change among the intellectuals from being open socialist to passive capitalist has become contagious. Nigerians in government have also changed from being agents of positive, and community development to agents of personal wealth development through a new found group called political parties. Thus contrary to the view that Nigerian political parties have no ideology we assert here that Nigerian political parties have ideology. They are pro capitalist economic system and democratic political system. Their focus is to make Nigeria a capitalist and democratic society even if it is a fake capitalist and democratic practice, which makes Nigeria a dependent capitalist country. This is a great political challenge to all Nigerians because of the inherent contradictions in the practice of the economic and political systems. For instance, while some Nigerians call for a deregulated economy being a push to capitalist economy, those for socialism are not calling for a socialist State but make calls for a regulated economy. And when some deviants are arrested to go and defend themselves before the courts, and the courts are yet to finish their work some vocal Nigerians who are related to the accused rise to say no. They say No, because they feel its witch-hunting of their tribal, religious or party member; as such the accused should be released without further investigation and trial. This raises the question do Nigerians actually need fundamental/ radical ideological change of attitude that tends towards more observance of the laws of the land, or Nigerians need only change of decamping from one capitalist political party to another; as well as forceful change of leaders on the bases of religious and regional preferences. A change that comes without stopping deviant behaviours and goes further to assert that deviants must not be seen punished is the sustenance of the same social economic and political system that creates most difficulties. These suggest that the slogan of “*change the change*” is a change where ruling elites exercise freedoms and rights without limit. Their right has no respect for the freedoms and rights of others. Their right is to see only those in one political camp recycled in positions of authority either as elected and appointed public office holders. It is a change where ruling elites prefer to exhibit deviant behaviour without regret. Thus it is not only juvenile delinquency but we also have adult delinquency. Adults are more and more demonstrating that they are above the law and no one can punish their deviant acts. Rather they as deviants are to be seen harassing and punishing law abiding citizens.

3.0 Conclusion

The perception and role of political science is that first it makes us to understand that the fundamental causes of socio-economic challenges and absent of quick positive change as promised by ruling elites and expected by the masses. The reason is the practice of saying “Yes” whereas they mean “No” and vice versa. The culture of contradictions for securing individual interest is one of the features of capitalist system. It is inherited from the colonial regime. This culture was blended with socialist welfare principles to have *mix economic system*. Secondly, Political Science makes us to understand that Nigeria often made disarticulated *development plans*, which are characterized by over reliance on oil revenue among other factors. Third, Political Science makes us to understand that there is the absence of viable manufacturing industries to domestically convert the abundant crude oil, solid minerals, and agricultural raw material in Nigeria into other products for export to gain more income. Fourth, Political Science makes us to understand that the vigorous pursuit of economic policy of deregulation, privatization and commercialization as from the 1980s pushed Nigeria into practicing more aggressive capitalist economy culture like corruption as way of survival of the fittest. This has made government not to save income during period of high oil income for use during falling price of oil.

But what seems unresolved is whether Nigeria should change from going deeper into free capitalist / unregulated economy or get back into a more regulated economy of a welfarist State with government also competing in producing and providing goods and services. Be that as it may, from the demands by Nigerians especially workers for palliatives measures to cushion the effects of domestic inflation and devaluation of the Naira rather than the overthrow of capitalism and enthronement of socialism, it is concluded that Nigerians love capitalism because it affords primitive accumulation of wealth. And the ruling elites give room for public palliatives as a strategy to calm-down the non-ruling elites from feeling pushed to the wall and over react.

4.0 Recommendations

To further consolidate the role of Political Science in solving Nigeria’s social and economic challenges the following recommendations are recommended:-

4.1 There should be continuous training of youths as political scientist: This has and would continue to enrich Nigeria’s political history and to keep younger generation alive of past developments to socially make them see themselves as one group or entity in spite of diversities and challenges within and outside Nigeria

4.2 Participation in Governance: More political scientist should participate in government to directly influence decision making and ensure standard implementation of programmes and projects.

4.3 Encourage the practice of democratic Culture: Political Science should continue to encourage Nigerians at all levels to be actually seen participating in decision making and engagement in legally allowed peaceful protest.

4.4 More Nigerians should belong to God’s righteous group: It is the group of the righteous that has focus to practice God’s love. The focus makes one live in obedience to God’s word and laws of the land. It is this approach that can reduce corruption.

4.5 Diversify income generation sources: Nigerian State like other advance capitalist

countries should intervene in the economy by encouraging diversification of income generation sources, as against the present constitutional stand which restricts workers to only farming.

4.6 Establish tools and machine manufacturing and oil refineries industries: Government as well as private business concerns should invest in local production of industries technologies and refined fuel for domestic and international trader.

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