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PLATO'S POLITICAL PHILISOPHY AS A PANACEA TO STEMMING LEADERSHIP FAILURE IN NIGERIA

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Abstract
Just like KarlMarx divided every society into two, the elite and the masses; worldwide, every nation or state comprises the leaders and the followers. Thus, any country whose avowed interest is growth, development, peace and progress requires visionary leaderships, since no nation can grow beyond the vision and capacity of its leadership. But, for Nigeria, leadership failure is the major problem confronting her. This paper examined Plato's political philosophy as panacea to leadership failure in Nigeria. It made use of secondary source in gathering data and content analysis as a method. The paper revealed that many of Nigeria's leaders did not acquire sound education as prescribed by Plato's philosophy, which led to a situation that blurred their perception of issues of governance. It argued that Nigerian leaders lack sterling leadership qualities and the magnitude of knowledge and experience required to steer the ship of leadership. It also revealed that round pegs are always put in square holes in the spectrum of leadership in country. The paper concluded that if education, training and specialization are given a considerable attention in government planning, policy formulation and implementation following Plato's philosophy, it will serves as panacea to leadership failure in Nigeria. It is therefore recommended that the government should take full control of education as espoused by Plato with a view to impressing leadership training and qualities in the would-be leaders, and formulate and implement appropriate policies to enhance leadership recruitment. Also, the culture of ensuring that political and administrative appointments should be based on merit should be instituted, specialised knowledge and competence should equally be considered in giving appointments to people so as to enhance the performance of leadership in governance.

Keywords: Education, Leadership, Leadership failure, Panacea, Plato's political philosophy.

Introduction

Nigeria is a multi-ethnic group that is bedeviled with several problems many of which stem from leadership failure. This perception in Yoruba culture is encapsulated in proverbs such as "*Ori lejati n baje*" literally implying that when the head is bad the whole body is rotten. Lack of visionary leaders is the major cause of the numerous problems confronting Nigeria today. This is because the country's leaders lack knowledge and experience about economic and development issues, hence; has not been able to achieve meaningful development (Ekene and Ugwunwanyi, 2016). There is no gainsaying the fact that Nigeria has got it wrong from independence in 1960 due to stiff struggle for power among the educated elite and the nationalist leaders. Instead of merit and competence, Nigeria has consistently elected their leaders on the basis of ethnic/religious considerations (Oboh, 2017). However, efforts to elect visionary leaders have always met with stiff opposition.

Leadership failure is the major problem facing Nigeria as a country as no nation can grow beyond the vision and capacity of its leadership. Leadership failure in Nigeria is a product of many factors, ranging from leaders' 'semi-literacy', injustice, non-professionalism/speciality of the various categories of people, military incursion into politics, among others. The resultant effects of such leadership failure include but not limited to: corruption, poverty, ethnic conflict and civil unrest. Other national challenges include political instability, secession crisis, banditry and kidnapping, Boko-Haram insurgence and socio-economic inequalities, among others.

This crisis has reached a gargantuan peak that retards Nigeria's progress and development. The situation has reached an alarming proportion that has become worrisome to the citizenry and scholars alike and equally calling for urgent resolution. Though some efforts have been made through constitutional reforms, for instance, to raise the bar of the academic qualification of people seeking political offices, while some administrative amendments have equally been affected to address the issue of experience, they seemed not to have properly addressed the challenge. Furthermore, scholars

have canvassed some ways of improving on the present situation as regards leadership failure, their tendency has always emphasised the socio-economic aspects of governance and paying little emphasis on the political aspect, which forms the foundation upon which other variables revolves. This paper therefore, explored the relevance of Plato's political philosophy as a panacea for stemming leadership failure in Nigeria.

In order to accomplish the task of this paper, the study is divided into four sections aside the introductory section. Section one discussed the conceptual and theoretical framework; section two treated the overview of leadership in Nigeria. Section three examined the adaption of Plato's political philosophy to stem leadership failure in governance while section four gave the conclusion and recommendations.

Clarification of Concepts

Political Philosophy

The American Heritage College dictionary (2016) defines 'political' as of relating to, or dealing with the structure or affairs of government, politics, or the state. Similarly, political is also defined as relating to the state, government, the body politic, public administration, policy making, etc. (Collins English dictionary, 2014).It is also defined as of, relating to, involving, or involved in politics and especially party politics (Merriam-Webster, n.d.). In addition, political is also defined as exercising or seeking power in the governmental or public affairs of a state, municipality, etc. (Random, 2016).From the array of definitions given above, one can therefore, conceive 'political' as actions and inaction that has to do with public decision taken, decision-making and execution. It could thus be regarded as something that involves who gets what, when and how.

Philosophy is the study of common and fundamental questions about existence, knowledge, values, reason, mind and language (Avijit, 2020). Philosophy addresses questions of how to think (logic, epistemology, and philosophy of mind), how to act (ethics and political philosophy), and how the world is (metaphysics and philosophy of science), among many others (Pannone, 2007).The study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence or a theory or attitude that acts as a guiding principle for behavior (Pomeroy, Burstein, & Donlan, 2019). Philosophy is a set of views or beliefs about life and the universe, which are often held uncritically. Philosophy is a process of reflecting on and criticising our most deeply held conceptions and beliefs. Philosophy is a rational attempt to look at the world as a whole (The Task of Philosophy, n.d). From the above exposition, it could thus be concluded that philosophy simply refers to the critical and systematic thinking and reflection aimed at understanding or gaining knowledge of a particular subject-matter so as to solve a particular problem.

Political philosophy is a fundamental analysis of the nature of politics, that is, the organisation, structure, and distribution of power dynamics in society (Wallace, n.d.).In addition**, t**he **Spiritual Life (n.d), posits that political philosophy**, also known as **political theory**, is the study of topics such as politics, liberty, justice, property, **rights**, law, and the enforcement of laws by authority: what they are, if they are needed and why, what makes a government legitimate, what rights and freedoms it should protect and why, what form it should take and why, what the law is, and what duties citizens owe to a legitimate government, if any, and when it may be legitimately overthrown, if ever. It further contends that **political philosophy** often refers to a general view, or specific ethic, political belief or attitude, about politics, synonymous to the term "**political ideology**".

While, Richard (n.d.) expressed **political philosophy** as branch of philosophy that is concerned, at the most abstract level, with the concepts and arguments involved in political opinion. He further contends that the central problem of political philosophy is how to deploy or limit public power so as to maintain the survival and enhance the quality of human life. Similarly, Miller, (n.d.), observed that political philosophy can be defined as philosophical reflection on how best to arrange collective life of the citizenry - its political institutions and social practices, such as the economic system and the pattern of family life.

Political philosophy is thus a concept by which an individual or group of people adopt specific viewpoints regarding the duties of a government and the way it interacts with the population of a nation, state or local region. Some of the major issues political philosophy deals with are the rights of individuals, legal concerns and property rights. Other concepts include suffrage and the overall equality of members of the society. While the basic philosophical questions relate directly to

the concept, these principles can create social upheaval in the form of revolutions or rebellions. This can stem from simple ideas addressed in literature or major events such as terrorist attacks or the martyrdom of freedom fighters (Chavis, 2022).

Political philosophy is the philosophical thought about the state, the nature of the state, its functions, values, the truth of the state experience, the philosophical inquiry into the validity of the state experience as the ultimate fulfillment of life, and the world (Avijit, 2020). More so, Mastin, (n.d), sees political philosophy as the study of fundamental questions about the state, government, politics, liberty, justice and the enforcement of a legal code by authority.

From the explications above, political philosophy is perceived as views, thinking, thought orientations of scholars or political philosophers about the nature of politics, what it is and how it ought to be, which has continuously serve as standard for measuring the performance of any government in contemporary era. Thus, political philosophy focused on academic explanations of the foundation, development, functions, nature of state and its organization, citizen's relationship with the state, civil rights and duties, etc.

Leadership Failure

The American Heritage College dictionary (2016), conceives leadership as the position or office of a leader. It also defines it as the capacity to lead. While it perceives lead as to show the way to go by going in advance or to guide or direct the behaviour or opinion of others. Leadership is the discipline of deliberate exertion of influence within a group to move it toward goals attainment for beneficial performance that fulfills the group's real needs (Haggai cited in Bill, 1997).Whereas a leader is one who guides and develops the activities of others and seeks to provide continual training and direction (Engstrom as cited in Bill, 1997).

Political leadership has also been defined as the act of exercising formal power (elected or otherwise) with a specific focus on delivering public value. There is political leadership, which involves legislators, elected executives in the policy process such as presidents, governors, and mayors, and the various stakeholders in the political process. It also includes the state administrative heads that manage the operations of the country's political system (Eneanya,2018).

Failure is a lack of success in doing or achieving something, especially in relation to a particular activity (Collins, 2022).Oxford Advances Learner's Dictionary (n.d) regards failure as the state of not working correctly or as expected. From the various definitions of leadership and failure offered above, leadership failure could be seen as inability or lack of success by political leadership, which includes the legislators, elected executives in the policy process such as presidents, governors, and chairman, and the various stakeholders in the political process, in administration and governance of the country, especially in the area of fulfilling the primary role of the government.

Theoretical Framework

This paper adopted the trait theory of leadership. The trait model of leadership is based on the characteristics of many leaders-both successful and unsuccessful – and is used to predict leadership effectiveness (Kendra, 2022). Successful leaders have interests, abilities, and personality traits that are different from those of the less effective leaders.

The trait leadership theory was propounded by **Thomas Carlyle in** the 1840**and it** opines that people are either born or are made with certain qualities that will make them excel in leadership roles. In other words, certain qualities such as intelligence, sense of responsibility, creativity and other values puts anyone in the shoes of a good leader. The trait theory of leadership focused on analysing mental, physical and social characteristics in order to gain more understanding of what is the characteristic or the combination of characteristics that are common among leaders. Leaders inherit certain leadership qualities and traits that make them stand out from the crowd. These leadership abilities propel them to leadership status. The trait theory focuses on these personality traits. For instance, commitment, integrity and confidence are characteristics that are usually associated with a great leader.

Stogdill (1974, cited in Bolden et'al, 2003) put forward the leadership skills and traits. Traits includes adaptable to situations, alert to social environment, ambitious and achievement-orientated, assertive, cooperative, decisive, dependable, dominant (desire to influence others), energetic (high activity level), persistent, self-confident, tolerant of stress, willingness to assume responsibility. Skills includes clever (intelligent), conceptually skilled, creative, diplomatic and tactful, fluent in speaking,

knowledgeable about group task, organised (administrative ability), persuasive, socially skilled. While, an Anonymous (n.d) identified leadership drive to include the desire to lead, honesty and integrity, self-confidence, intelligence, job-relevant knowledge. Consequently, the import of this reveals that the Nigeria nation has continuously violated the recommendation of Plato's political philosophy for an ideal ruler of an ideal state. Consequently, it has been confronted with mirage of seemingly intractable crises of unemployment, poverty, religious radicalism, ethnic wars, political violence, insecurity, secession, among others, demanding urgent attention for the country to move forward.

Overview of Leadership in Nigeria

Every society has its unique form and style of leadership that is often in accordance with its culture, political ideas and historical development though the social stratification of such society has a lot to do with the nature and recruitment process of such leadership. Nigeria, being a multi-ethnic nation has diverse perspectives of leadership. Traditionally, the nature and characteristics of leadership in the North, among the Hausa-Fulani people, which exhibits a highly centralised and autocratic political system because their traditional rulers (emirs) exercised absolute executive, legislative and judicial functions which is quite distinct from that of the Yoruba people of the Southwest that appears to be democratic in nature in view of the checks and balances that characterise its political administration (Dipo, 2020). Among the Igbo people of the Southeast however, the political system is acephalous and republican in outlook (Nnonyelu, 2020).

The amalgamation of these different traditional societies, constituting the Northern and Southern protectorates together in 1914 by Lord Fredrick Lugard brought these traditional societies under a single leadership that appeared alien to all existing traditional societies in Nigeria. This is the commencement of formal British colonial administration of united Nigeria. The leadership of the British colonial administration essentially demonstrated sterling qualities that facilitated the success of the colonial administration. As time went by, Nigerians began to agitate for the involvement of the people in the government of their fatherland. This agitation for the political participation of the indigenous people led to the constitutional development in the history of Nigeria's political process (Olasupo, Olajide & Ijeoma, 2017).

The constitutional development, which began with the granting of 1922 Clifford Constitution of Nigeria, started to initiate leadership roles and responsibilities to Nigerians, at least at the political party level. It was widened with the introduction of Richard Constitution of 1946, when politicians started to hold leadership positions in the regional legislature of the Northern, Western and Eastern regions. With the introduction of Macpherson Constitution of 1951, Nigerians have gradually begun to hold prominent positions in the executive capacity. By 1954, when Lyttleton Constitution was introduced and the federal structure firmly in place, the issue of national leadership has arisen thus expanding the horizon of political participation at the centre. When political independence was to be granted in 1960, the 1954 Constitution had to be jettisoned because it could no longer cope with the administrative complexities that were to evolve. In 1963, another constitution called Republican Constitution was granted to grant full autonomy and removal of the Queen of England's influence from the political affairs of Nigeria (Osamudiamen, 2020).

The series of elections that accompanied these constitutional changes started to bring to the political limelight various personalities and the emergence of leaders in political parties and government at both the three regional levels and the national; level. Personalities like Sir Ahmadu Bello of Northern region, Obafemi Awolowo of Western region and Nnamdi Azikwe of the Eastern region came on board directing the affairs of their political parties namely the Northern People's Congress (NPC), the Action Group (AG) and the National Congress of the Nigerian Citizens (NCNC). Later, Sir Tafawa Balewa of the NPC emerged as the first Nigeria's Prime Minister while Azikwe served as the President though in a ceremonial capacity (Okafor, 2023). Collectively, they were all involved in leadership. In comparison with what obtains in contemporary Nigeria, these set of leaders could be said to be more committed and responsible. They seemed to have the interest of their people at heart. Hence they still delivered better to their people than the present crop of leaders who are more interested in their purses. Thus, the performance of the leadership could be said to be better and they performed creditably well Obafemi Awolowo government performance remains enduring and an evergreen in terms of governance till date. The western region of Nigeria under the leadership of Awolowo recorded milestone achievements such as free education, the first television station in

Africa, the cocoa house in Ibadan, infrastructural development such as roads, water supply, agricultural development, and brilliant performance as the finance minister during the Nigeria's civil war that was fought between 1967 to 1970 (Olukoju, 2019; The Guardian, 2015).

However, leadership began to weaken by the Second Republic, when Alhaji Shehu Shagari assumed the mantle of leadership. The terrible incursion of the military destroyed the culture and ethos of politics and administration (Campbell, 2019). The Fourth Republic democratic dispensation of 1999 to date has exhibited a lot for scholars to analyse in terms of leadership failure. With the regime of President Olusegun Obasanjo, President Umaru Musa Yar Adua, Goodluck Jonathan and Muhammadu Buhari, leadership failure has been degenerating terribly. Government performance has been at abysmal level. Corruption and self-interest have dominated government policies and businesses (Sumah, 2018).

As a result of this situation, scholars, political analysts and even the public have began to ask questions about the role of leadership in governance. Why is it that the citizens are no longer benefiting from government policies, programmes and projects? Why is corruption becoming more endemic and pervasive in governance? Why are the culprits more emboldened with impunity? This is the reason why the paper is interested in proffering the adaptation of Plato's political philosophy as a panacea for stemming leadership failure in Nigeria.

Adapting Plato's Political Philosophy to Stem Leadership Failure in Governance in Nigeria

One of the problem of Nigeria as a country is lack of knowledgeable, visionary, selfless, administratively and politically competent leaders. No wonder Plato opined that an ideal state should be governed by a philosopher king. Plato opined that until the philosophers become kings and rulers in their countries or those who are kings and rulers become philosophers equipped with sufficient wisdom, there can be no rest from troubles from states nor yet for all mankind (Davis, 1999).

Plato recommends that a ruler/leader should possess the following characteristics among others: knowledge, wisdom, selfless, non-sentimental, and non-power hungry and should always after the welfare of the state (Plato's Republic, as cited in Buckingham & Peter, 2011). The implication of the above is that Nigeria has got it wrong right from the inception of independence in 1960 because none of our leaders either former or current is qualified to rule/govern this country in view of the fact that the qualities and requisite of leadership espoused by Plato are found wanting in them. Almost all our leaders/rulers are either not educated or at best a half-baked literates. Since independence in 1960 none of the Nigeria leaders is/was a philosopher king, many of the Nigeria military leaders had limited education before ascending to leadership of the country, whereas, those of the military rulers only had military trainings, and by their training, the military are not trained in the art of political administration (Okafor, 2023).

Also, besides Nnamdi Azikwe, who was a ceremonial President, Ernest Shonekan, who was a civilian interim President that ruled for 83days in office before he was overthrown, Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, the 13th president, who also died barely two years in office, and Goodluck Jonathan; majority of other rulers/leaders such as Sheu Shagari, Sanni Abacha, AbdulSalam Abubakar, Olusegun Obasanjo, Muhammadu Buhari among others were not well grounded educationally in tune with Plato's tradition (Obiajulu, Obi & Iwuoha, 2017). It was only Goodluck Jonathan, who was the 14th president of the country after about fifty years of independence that was well educated before attaining the position of the president of the country. Meanwhile, the role of education cannot be over-emphasised in the governance of any nation. Those who are well educated or that can be best described as philosopher king were and have not been given the opportunity to rule the country and that is possibly why we are still where we are today in Nigeria. This is remarkably the reason why Tukur, (2004) observed that:

> Action group in 1954 justifies the formations of their political party on the reasons: to avert the danger of enthroning ignorant and unprincipled demagogues peddling nationalism for the sake of their stomachs; and arresting the purposelessness which ensured that the country drifted on aimlessly (p.243).

Therefore, the solution to the socio-economic and political problems of Nigeria lies in Plato's political philosophy and that there is need for a leader who is knowledgeable, honest, and hungry for progress, liberation, development and modernisation of the country. Awolowo who was well educated in Platonic political tradition was not given the chance to rule. Had it being that Awolowo was given

the opportunity to rule the country when it attained independence in 1960 and especially in 1979 and or in 1983 when he contested the presidential election and was purportedly rigged out and a semi-literate Shehu Shagari was controversially elected as the president of the country, governance could have been solidly anchored on good leadership required for sustaining success (Edeh, 2021; Awofeso2013).

The import of the foregoing is that Nigeria would have moved forward than what it is now. Besides, in this 21st century, Nigeria is a country where the president still possesses controversial O' Level certificate. In view of this reality, how can a country have a president who possesses critical thinking and capability to diagnose and analyse the country problems, proffer and meticulously apply appropriate policies. Since independence, none of Nigeria leaders/rulers studied political administration, local government, public administration, public policy, philosophy, sociology or law, among others, which could have assisted them in governance as directed by Plato (Gwunireama & Omah, 2021).

To Plato the most intelligent people should be given the responsibility of rulership. This is buttressed in Hosea 4:6ESV (English Standard Version of the Holy Bible) which posits that "my people perish for the lack of knowledge"; and Proverbs 29:18"where there is no prophetic vision, the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law."How can one explain the case of Sabo BakinZuwo while he was a gubernatorial aspirant of Kano State during the Second Republic politics, when he was interviewed by journalists to talk about the natural solid minerals in his state, he responded by saying "In my state, we get am for Panta (Fanta), we get am for milinda (Mirinda), we get am for Fanta cola, sina cola, we get am for coke (Coca-Cola)" (Akintude, 2017). As if that was not enough the situation still persists till today, where we continue to have Toronto certified senators. The National Assembly is flooded with semi-literate representatives (The Nation, 2012). Many of the ministerial nominees under Muhammadu Buhari were not screened by Farouk Lawal and Gbajabiamila led national assembly but obnoxiously cleared on the pretext of party loyalty (Iroanusi, 2019).

Plato might be right when he said that all are not competent to rule because governance requires knowledge of administration, politics and competence, as well as sound background knowledge in sociology, philosophy and psychology. Education, it is acknowledged liberates and exposes mind of individual (Jaypee Brothers, n.d.). One of the benefits of research is to unearth the causes of failure of an event and to be able to proffer appropriate solution to such a problem. While, Nigeria has got a lot of problems, which include but not limited to security problems, power failure, recurrent debts, corruption, among others, requiring a knowledgeable ruler/leader to proffer solutions, it had never bothered on advancing its education or allowing educated men with profound knowledge to handle its political affairs (Campbell, n.d.).

Similarly, another cause of leadership failure in Nigeria is the non-observance of Plato's philosophy of division of labour/specialisation/professionalism. Plato classified an ideal state into three categories of: the ruling class, his military class and the economic class (Mukherjee & Ramaswamy, 2011). An in-depth understanding of the above indicates that there should be no usurpation of function in an ideal state and that everyone should specialise in his/her profession/career, because this practice will ensure effective and efficient performance of individual responsibility; just as David Ricardo recommends comparative advantage for an ideal society in the area of production of goods and services when it comes to economy. Anything contrary to the above will amount to jack of all trade masters of none that will lead to nowhere in terms of national development (Caito, 2021).

The provision of Section 217 sub-section (2) (a - c) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria specifies roles of the armed forces of the federation as to:

> Protect the country against external aggression; maintain its territorial integrity and secure its borders from violation on land, sea or air; suppressing insurrection and acting in aid of civil authorities to restore order when called upon to do so by the president.

But the military in Nigeria has greatly violated Plato's political philosophy, which recommends that every class of the society should specialise in his profession and should not usurpate or interfere with the functions of others. This is why he remarked that the work of a carpenter should

not be given to a tailor otherwise he or she will be displaying both administrative and political incompetence (Caito, 2021).

There had been several cases of military intervention in politics in Nigeria neglecting its primary duties to the active involvement in politics and administration of the country. Meanwhile scholars of political science agreed that the military men are not trained in the art of political administration; no wonder since the first military coup of January 15, 1966 till the last military regime of General Abdul Salam, there had been loss of lives and properties, violation of fundamental human rights, maladministration, misappropriation of funds, favoritism/nepotism, marginalisation and secession crisis and the worst being the institutionalisation of corruption in the various facets of Nigeria's national life (Adebayo, 2022).

The military that are supposed to be under the control of the civilians which is the ruling class according to Plato have ruled Nigeria for almost 29years out of about 62years of independence. Consequently, the military today cannot perform it primary role of defending the country against external aggression and not capable of maintain internal peace and security any longer because of politics. There are currently security problems ranging from inability of the military to get rid the Boko-Harram in the North-Eastern part of the country, banditry in the North-West, Kidnapping in and ritual killing in the West and South, among others; whereas the effect is enormous ranging from investors running away from the country, underdevelopment, loss of live and properties among others (Okoli, 2019).

Another digression from the Plato's political philosophy for an ideal state by the Nigeria is also seen in both administrative and political appointments in the country. For instance, during the tenure office of Senator Ibikunle Amosun of Ogun State, a lawyer was appointed as the commissioner of education; similarly, The Nation, (2012) reported that Ike Ekeremadu, the then Deputy Senate President at the occasion of 2012 Zik lecture in Anambra observed that some legislators can barely write their names and advised the people to stop sending semi illiterates to the legislative houses; again, Musa, (2009) submits that most of Nigeria legislators are bench warmers who cannot read and understand bills nor understand debates on the floor of the house, no single bill or motion sponsored, whereas a member of house of representative was remove for primary school certificate forgery (Odogwu, 2023; Salisu, 2020; The Nation, 2012; Musa, 2009). Therefore, one can understand why good policies and laws are not being made by the representatives at both state and national levels. Rather many of them are mere onlookers or I concur or I support the motion members. At the federal level, we have seen cases where a lawyer was appointed as a minister of aviation, a medical doctor becoming minister of transport just to mention but few (Tolu-Kolawole, 2023). To worsen the situation, the authenticity of the O' level certificate of our immediate past president is still controversial (Fabiyi, 2018). Nigeria is a country where round pegs were being put in square holes. In a situation of this nature, how does one expect good performance in governance?

Since Nigeria's independence in 1960, none of the country's presidents is known to have studied political science, public administration, local government philosophy, sociology, economics law and or other administrative and political courses before becoming the president of the country. What this means is that many of our leaders both the past and the present lack the requisite knowledge in administration and politics to govern the country whenever they got power. No wonder many of them resorted to the use of naked force, intimidation of opposition as well as trial and error system as a defence mechanism of their administrative incompetence (Bailey, & Picco, 2023). In advanced countries like the United States of America both the president and his cabinet members are not only well educated but appointment are often given to the most qualified, experienced, competent and in most cases according to area of specialisation. For instance, table I presents the list of the political appointees of W. J. Clinton's second term in office.

Table: 1. List of Political appointees under President Bill Clinton's Administration in U.S

Designation of Office	Age	Residence	Occupation	Previous Experience	Education
President William J. Clinton	50	Arkansas	Lawyer	Governor of Arkansas	A.B., Georgetown; Rhodes Scholar, Oxford; J.D., Yale

Vice-President Albert A. Gore Jr.	48	Tennessee	Journalist	U.S. Senator, U.S. representative	A.B., Harvard
Secretary of State Madeleine CorbelAlbet	59	Maryland	Political Scientist	Ambassador to United Nations	A.B., Wellesley; M.A., Ph.D., Columbia
Secretary of Treasury Robert E. Rubin	58	New York	Investment Banker	Chair, National Economic Council	A.B., Harvard; LL.B., Yale
Secretary of Defense Williams S. Cohen	56	Maine	Lawyer, Novelist	U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative	A.B., Bowdoin; J.D., Boston University
Attorney-General Janet Reno	58	Florida	Lawyer	State Attorney, Miami, Florida	A.B., Cornell; J.D., Harvard
Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt	58	Arizona	Lawyer	Governor of Arizona	B.S., Notre Dame; M. Phil., New-castle; J.D., Harvard
Secretary of Agriculture Daniel R. Glickman	52	Kansas	Lawyer	U.S. Representative	A.B., Michigan; J.D., George Washington
Secretary of Commerce William M. Daley	48	Illinois	Lawyer, Banker	CEO, Amalgamated Bank of Chicago	A.B., Loyola; LL.B., John Marshall Law School
Secretary of Labour Alexis M. Herman	49	Alabama	Employment Manager	Director, women's bureau; Director, White house Office of public liaison	A.B., Xavier
Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna E. Shalala	55	Wisconsin	Political Scientist	Chancellor, U. of Wisconsin	A.B., Western College for women; Ph.D., Syracuse
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Andrew M. Cuomo	39	New York	Lawyer	Assistant Secretary; Chair, New York City Committee on Homeless	A.B., Fordham; J.D., Albany
Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater	41	Arkansas	Lawyer	Federal Highway Administrator; Chair, Arkansas state highway commission	B.S., Eastern Michigan; J.D., Arkansas
Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley	63	South Carolina	Lawyer	Governor of South Carolina	A.B., Furman; J.D., University South Carolina
Secretary of Energy Frederico F.	49	Colorado	Lawyer	Secretary of Transportation; Mayor, Denver	A.B., LL.B., University of Texas, Austin

Pena					
Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown	52	District of Colombia	Administrator	Director, Disabled American veterans	Chicago City College
White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles	51	North Carolina	Banker	Small Business; Deputy chief of staff	A.B., North Carolina; M.B.A., Columbia
Director of the Budget Franklin D Raines	48	Washington, Banker D.C.	Banker	Deputy Director of Budget; Vice-Chair, Federal National Mortgage Association	A.B., J.D., Harvard
Director of Central Intelligence W. Anthony Lake	57	Massachusetts	Political Scientist	National security adviser	B.A., Harvard; Ph.D., Princeton
Ambassador to the United Nations William B. Richardson	49	New Mexico	Politics Diplomacy	U.S. REPRESENTATION	A,B, Tufts; M.A., Fletcher School
National Security Adviser Samuel R. Berger	51	Washington, D.C.	Lawyer	Deputy national security adviser	A.B., Cornell; J.D., Harvard
Chair, National Economic Council Gene Sperling	37	Massachusetts	Public Policy Administration	Deputy Director	A.B., Minnesota; J.D., Yale
Administrator, E.P.A. Carol M. Browner	41	Florida	Lawyer	Florida secretary of environment	A.B., J.D., University of Florida
U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky	47	Illinois	Lawyer	Deputy Representative	A.B., Wisconsin; JD., Catholic University

Source: Gerald, M. P et al (1997).

Table: 2. List of Political appointees under President Muhammadu Buhari's Administration in Nigeria as at May 29, 2019.

Designation of Office	Age	State	Occupation	Previous Experience	Education
President Muhammed Buhari	77	Katsina State.	Politician military officer	Military head of state. Federal minister of Petroleum resources. Federal commissioner of	West African Certificate Katsina Provincial Secondary School, Katsina State. Nigerian Military Training College. Mons Officer Cadet

				petroleum and natural resources. Governor of Borno State. Governor of the North-Eastern state.	School. U.S. Army War College.
Vice-President Yemi Osibajo	62	Ogun State	Lawyer Lecturer Politician Pastor	Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice Lagos State.	University of Lagos (LL.B.). Nigerian Law School. London School of Economics (LLM).
Minister of education Adamu Adamu	65	Bauchi State.	Politician accountant journalist	Special Assistant to General Muhammadu Buhari, then Chairman of the Petroleum Trust Fund, PTF	Bachelor's Degree in accounting Ahmadu Bello University. Master's Degree in journalism Columbia University.
Goddy Jedy Agba Minister (State) of Power	61	Cross Rivers State.	Public servant bureaucrat, politician, farmer,	General manager, Crude Oil Marketing Division, Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC).	First degree in International Studies Ahmadu Bello University. Master's degree in International Law and Diplomacy University of Lagos.
Mustapha Baba Shehuri Minister (State) of Agriculture & Rural Development	58	Borno State	Politician	Councilor representing the Lamisula/Jabbamari Ward of Maiduguri Metropolitan. Council Chairman of Maiduguri Metropolitan Council. Member of the State House of Assembly representing the Maiduguri Metropolitan. Member of the House of Representatives. Honourable Minister of State for Power, Works and Housing	Advanced diploma in public administration. Sociology and anthropology. University of Maiduguri.
Minister of Labour&Employment Chris Nwabueze Ngige	67	Anambra State.	Medical doctor	Governor of Anambra State. Senator for Anambra Central. Deputy director in	First degree medicine (MBBS) University of Nigeria-Nsukka.

				the Federal Ministry of Health. Assistant National Secretary and Zonal Secretary of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the South East region of Nigeria.	
Minister (State) of Industry, Trade and Investment. Mariam YalwajiKatagum	65	Bauchi State.	Public servant	Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Nigeria to UNESCO. Senior Education Officer at the Federal Government College, Azare. Director for Special Projects at the National Primary Education Commission Abuja. Secretary General of the Nigerian National Commission for UNESCO. supervisor the National and International Partnership Division of the Federal Ministry of Education	Bachelor of Arts in English and a Graduate Certificate in Education Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Master in Administration and Planning University of Lagos. Certificate in Social Development Policy, Planning and Practice. University College, London.
Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment Adeniyi Adebayo	61	Ekiti State	Politician lawyer	Governor Ekiti State	University of Lagos (LL.B.).
Minister (State) of Education Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba	52	Imo State	politician lawyer	Member of the House Representatives. House of Representatives committee chairman on Land, Housing and works. Chairman of TETFund Board of Trustees	Bachelor of Laws (LLB). Imo State University. Master of Laws (LLM) University of Lagos. Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)in Law University of Jos.
Minister of	73	Kano State	Lecturer,	Clerk in central	Bachelor's Degree in

Agriculture & Rural Development Sabo Nanono			banker	bank of Nigeria in Kano state. Planning officer in Kano State Government. University lecturer. Senior Investment Executive New Nigeria Development Company. Managing Director and Chief Executive of the Kano State Investment and Properties Limited. Managing Director and Chief Executive of African International Bank Limited.	Business Administration. Ahmadu Bello University. Master's Degree in Public Policy and Administration University of Wisconsin-Madison. Advanced Management course Harvard Business School.
Minister of Information and Culture Layiwola "Lai" Mohammed	68	Kwara State	Politician lawyer	Chairman of Optmedia Limited, a subsidiary of Afromedia PLC. Director of Afromedia. Public Relations Officer the Nigerian Airport Authority, now Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN)	Bachelor's degree in French Obafemi Awolowo University. law degree University of Lagos. And Nigerian Law School.
Minister (State) of Transportation Sen. Gbemisola Saraki	54	Kwara State	Insurance, Politician	Senator. Member house of representative. The Head of Money Markets and later as Head of Domiciliary Accounts SocieteGenerale Bank (Nigeria). Executive director of Ashmount Insurance Brokers, Lagos	Bachelor degree in Economics University of Sussex in the United Kingdom
Minister of Transportation Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi	54	Rivers State	Politician lawyer	President of the National Union of Rivers State Students (NURSS). Director West	Bachelor of Art degree in English and literature from the University of Port Harcourt

				Africa Glass Industry Limited and Risonpalm Nigeria Limited. Secretary of the National Republican Convention in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State. Special assistant to the deputy governor of Rivers State, Peter Odili. Rivers State's secretary of the Democratic Party of Nigeria (DPN) caretaker committee during the transition programme of General Sanni Abacha. Member River State house of assembly. Speaker River State house of assembly. Elected chairman of Nigeria's Conference of Speakers of State Assemblies. Rivers State Governor. Federal minister of transportation	

***** Muhammadu Buhari's Administration was chosen as sample for discussion because it is the most recent past administration in Nigeria.**

Source: Author's compilation.

The two tables above are at variance in respect to putting round pegs in round hole, in that in the first table the United States put first and as a matter of priority in their political appointment by considering specialties. The table one which represent the United States of America indicates that the political appointees were well educated and experts in their respective designated portfolio and this no doubt contributed immensely to their performance in office and in the overall governance of the U S which has been a model to many government all over the world. Whereas, in Nigeria, which is represented in the second table political appointments were mostly given based on political patronage and or political influence (Toral, 2021).

What then does one expect from a country where an accountant was made commissioner for education, ministers of transportation read literature, minister of power (State) read international studies, minister of labour and employment read medicine, minister industry, trade and investment (State) read English among others? Interestingly, none of political leaders read either of Political

Science, Public Administration, Legislative studies/courses, and other administrative course before they became leaders or rulers leading the nation. Alas, the works of carpenter have been given to tailors in Nigeria or what effective and efficient policy can an accountant proffer to solve the educational problems in the country. Though some critics will say that some political appointees in the past were appointed base on their areas of speciality but they did not perform, albeit that should not undermine the importance of training/skill and competence in political appointments/leadership.

In addition, to the violation of the Plato's political philosophy of professionalism is the influx of the rent-seeking individuals, businessmen/entrepreneur workers/peasants into politics. From our knowledge of economics, it should be pointed out that the aim of every businessman/entrepreneur or investor is to make profit even at the expense of humanity; the higher the risk of investment the higher the gain. Nigeria politics is now politics of money, where the highest bidder or investor goes homes with all the profits/gains. The politicians/rulers/leaders now see politics as business venture where they invest their looted money for more opportunities to loot and gain more (Toral, 2021). Consequently, the so-called political entrepreneur employs any means to get their hard-looted and invested money back at any cost. It further re-institutes god-fatherism and the said god-fathers now use their money to impose candidate on electorate; the consequence of which include but not limited to non-responsive and irresponsible leaders/rulers or representatives. The patron-clientilism nature of Nigerian politics breeds corruption, which hinders performance in governance (Syromitros & Panagiotidis, 2021).

Another demonstration of leadership failure in Nigeria is the decaying state of education and the dilapidated state of its facilities in Nigeria due to the leadership non-conformity with Plato's philosophy which expects that education should be under the state control and by extension be well funded. The inability of the Nigerian leadership to perform this onerous responsibility has continually led to the re-current Academic Staff Union of Nigerian universities (ASUU) prolonged crisis with the government (Ochei, 2022). In spite of the fact that Chapter II, section 18, sub-section1 3 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria clearly states the educational objective of the country, the non-compliance with the said provision by successive Nigeria governments/leaders makes the provision non-existent. For there to be development, there must be unity and harmony in educational policies and adequate funding for it to become the driving force of development (Ochei, 2022).

Sadly, education in Nigeria is in shamble because the government has not responsibly and adequately funded it while it has been irresponsive to the plight of the teachers. Sadly, education in Nigeria is in shamble because the government has not responsibly and adequately funded it while it has been irresponsive to the plight of the teachers, and just as Ubogu and Veronica (2018) submitted that, Nigeria has experienced loss of facilities, deterioration of equipment and plants and uncompleted projects as a result of the financial crisis facing the system. Adewale et al(2006, as cited in Ubogu, & Veronica, 2018) observed that large variances exist between budgetary provisions and actual expenditure because budgetary pronouncement is not backed by fund releases. And even when the tiny fraction of funds were provided by the government, at the end of the day, the said allocation will eventually be diverted and siphoned by the corrupt leaders. And the worst is the inconsistent in the educational policies in the country.

Similarly, there has been inconsistent in the educational policies in the country. The regulation and monitoring of the various educational institutions at various levels, for instance, is bedeviled with corruption, which makes the regulation uncoordinated, ineffective, inefficient and consequently unproductive. There are too many private universities in Nigeria none of which can compete internationally in all ramifications starting from infrastructure, staffing, and regulation. The academic standard, welfare of the staff, organisation and management, among others are not properly addressed. The National Universities Commissions, which is supposed to regulate these institutions, have been compromised. The resultant effect is the production of semi-literates/ half-baked graduates by many of these universities (Enyiazu, 2022).

The point being made here is that it is only government that can handle education very well and ensure its quality because many private owners are interested in making profits and are therefore less concerned about the quality of education given. Again, due to leadership failure in the country, which affects the funding and supervision of educational institutions, many students in public primary and secondary levels sit on the floor in the classrooms while those in tertiary institutions either sit on the window or remain standing while receiving lectures (Olere, 2022). Some schools do not even have

qualified and adequate teachers for many of their subjects and where there are teachers, the government will not pay the salaries of the teachers/lectures as at when due. The situation results in incessant ASUU strike which usually affect the students, bringing about disruption in the academic calendar of the schools and careers of the students. Had the leadership of the country observed and adapted Plato's recommendation for state control of education, it would have progressively impacted on leadership training and recruitment, propelling Nigeria to have moved forward than where it is presently (Gwunireama & Omah, 2021).

Failure of the leadership in the country led to the loss of control over education thus impacting on the moral character of the youth. Plato opined that the existing literature of every society determines the moral value of the people, thus implying that the state should put restriction over arts and literature for the youth to be able to develop strong character (Niddhi, 2018). What this means is that immoral and corrupt publications both in music/audio, video/visual, print or soft copy should be censured and banned in an ideal society. But in the case of Nigeria, nowadays, there are too many corrupt music and video out there of which government is not doing anything, they seem not concerned. For instance, there are some insane music from Naira Marley and other musicians and some home videos that promote smoking of India-hemp, that promote non-observance of rules and regulations, that promote sexual irresponsibility and yet government is not doing anything to such (*Vanguard*, September 24, 2021). This recklessness has become prevalent in Nigeria today and they tend to corrupt the youth and destroy Nigeria's cultural values.

Conclusion and Recommendations

It is important to restate that the survival of the governance of any nation state rests on the ruling class. Therefore, in order to ensure its success, round pegs should be put in round holes to avoid administrative and political incompetence, which are the bane of progress in our country. The solutions to the socio-economic and political problems of Nigeria lies in the adoption and adaptation of Plato's philosophy and that Nigeria needs a leader who is knowledgeable, visionary, honest, and hungry for progress, liberation, development and modernization of the country. It is equally important to note that unhealthy and immoral publications either audio or audio-visual or in print and in social media form should not be allowed in the country. This does not necessarily imply press censorship but there should be a caution and decorum in the way the media operates so as not to ruin our collective values.

Government should take full control of the education in the country. Organisation and supervision of schools, recruitment and payment of teachers, provision of educational infrastructure and teaching-learning facilities/material should be done by the government. By doing these, the government would be able to ensure quality education because many private owners are interested in profit-making and not the quality of education given. Above all, the government should in line with the sustainable development goal 4 should be treat education as public good not as a business or market. Finally, the principle of professionalism of Plato's philosophy if observed by the Nigeria state in all sectors, arms and organs, Nigeria will development to its maximum capacity and will be a better place for all to live.

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