Presidential Leadership and Institutional Capability on Political Development in Nigeria 2015-2023

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Certification

This is to certify that **Julius Fola OLALEKAN** with matriculation number LCU/PG/002346 carried out this research work titled **''Presidential Leadership and Institutional Capability on Political Development in Nigeria, 2015-2023''** in the department of Politics and International Relations, Faculty of Management & Social Sciences, Lead City University, Ibadan, Nigeria for the Award of Doctor of Philosophy Degree (PhD) in Public Administration and has not been previously submitted.

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Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to the glory of the Almighty God.

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Acknowledgment

My profound gratitude goes to Lead City University for giving me the academic space to learn my desired course**.** I am also grateful to the Faculty of Management and Social Science and staff of the Department of Politics and International Relations, Lead City University, Ibadan. My acknowledgement goes to the following organisations for sharing information and answering questions that made the study a success; Lead City University Library, INEC and Ministry of Finance (IPPIS).

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Abstract

The period from 2015 to 2023 in Nigeria was marked by pivotal developments in presidential leadership, institutional capacity, and overall political progress amid complex socio-economic and security challenges. During these years, leadership styles at the presidential level significantly influenced the trajectory of national development, with different administrations emphasizing anti-corruption measures, economic reforms, and efforts to deepen democratic governance. The study adopts the Western Theory of Political Development, shaped by the works of Samuel Huntington and Lucian Pyeton; and theory of Governance shaped by thinkers and contributions of Max Weber, Karl Max, Geog Simmel, which posits that the strength of political institutions and the quality of leadership are fundamental for fostering sustainable development and political stability. Methodologically, the research employs a descriptive research design, relying on content analysis of policy documents, presidential speeches, government reports, and scholarly literature, supplemented with interviews from key informant interview, (KII), from political analysts, policy experts, and stakeholders involved in Nigeria's governance process. The demographic data were analysed using frequency counts and percentages as part of descriptive statistics. For hypothesis testing, inferential statistical methods, including Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC), ANOVA, and linear regression analyses, were utilized to assess the relationships among the key variables. Interviews with senior staff from the selected MDAs. The findings reveal that presidential leadership has played a pivotal role in shaping Nigeria's institutional landscape, with notable achievements such as strengthening anti-corruption agencies, initiating economic diversification policies, and enhancing democratic norms like electoral transparency and citizen participation. Despite these improvements, systemic weaknesses persisted, including issues of corruption, political instability, weak rule of law, and inadequate infrastructural development, which hindered the full realization of Nigeria's developmental potential. The period also saw advances in democratic consolidation, with increased civic engagement and the gradual strengthening of political institutions, although challenges of governance capacity remained. The study concludes that the synergy between presidential leadership and institutional strengthening is critical in propelling Nigeria's political development; however, enduring systemic issues necessitate comprehensive reforms, sustained political will, and inclusive governance. To foster meaningful progress, it is recommended that Nigeria prioritizes institutional reforms aimed at enhancing transparency, accountability, and rule of law, alongside fostering inclusive governance that actively involves diverse social groups. Civic education and citizen engagement should be significantly strengthened to build a participatory political culture. Furthermore, leadership development programs tailored to nurturing responsible, ethical, and development-oriented leaders are crucial for ensuring continuity in reforms and consolidating Nigeria's democratic gains. Ultimately, a holistic approach that emphasizes effective leadership, institutional resilience, and participatory governance is indispensable for Nigeria's sustained political development and socio-economic growth within this period and beyond.

Keywords: Presidential Leadership, Institutional Capability, Political Development, Nigeria

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Table of Contents

Content	Page
Title Page	i
Certification	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Abstract	v
Table of Contents	vi
List of Tables	ix
List of Figures	x
List of Acronyms	ix
Chapter One: Introduction	
1.1 Background to the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	7
1.3 Aim and Objectives of the Study	8
1.4 Research Questions	9
1.5 Hypotheses	9
1.6 Significance of the Study	10
1.7 Scope of the Study	11
1.8 Limitation of the Study	12
1.9 Operational Definitions of Terms	13
Endnotes	14

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Chapter Two: Literature Review

2.1 Conceptual Review 15

2.2 Theoretical Framework 131

2.3 Review of Empirical Studies 140

2.4 Conceptual Model 151

2.5 Summary of Gap in Literature Reviewed 153

Endnotes 157

Chapter Three: Methodology

3.1 Research Design 170

3.2 Population of the Study 170

3.3 Sample and Sampling Technique 171

3.4 Description of the Research Instrument 172

3.5 Validity of the Research Instrument 173

3.6 Reliability of the Research Instruments 173

3.7 Administration of the Research Instrument 174

3.8 Method of Data Collection 174

3.8 Method of Data Analysis 174

3.9 Ethical Consideration 175

Endnotes 177

Chapter Four: Results and Discussion of Findings

4.1 Demographic Data Analysis 178

4.2 Presentation of Data 182

4.3 Discussion of Findings 201

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Endnotes 212

Chapter Five: Conclusion

5.1 Summary of Findings 213

5.2 Conclusion 214

5.3 Recommendations 215

5.4 Contribution to Knowledge 216

5.5 Suggestions for Further Studies 216

Bibliography 218

Appendix 232

Bio-data 240

The University Compliance Certification 242

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List of Tables

Table	Title	Page
2.1	Huntington's Classification of Political Development and Political Decay	96
4.1	Distributed Questionnaire	178
4.2	Demographic Data Analysis	179
4.3	Age Distribution	179
4.4	Marital Distribution	179
4.5	Educational Qualification Distribution	180
4.6	Years of Service Distribution	180
4.7	Position Held Distribution	180
4.8	Religion Affiliation Distribution	181
4.9	Accountability and Sustainable political Development in Nigeria	183
4.10	Rule of Law and Political Stability under President Buhari	185
4.11	Functionality of Formal Institutions under President Muhammadu Buhari	187
4.12	Internal and External Pressures under President Muhammadu Buhari	190
4.13	Institutional Complementarities and Political Development	192
4.14	Muhammed Buhari's Leadership Style on political Development	195

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List of Figures

Figure	Title	Page
2.1	Linkage between Institutional Qualities and Key Governance Principles	88
2.2	Relationship between Presidential Leadership, Institutional Capacity and Political Development	152
4.1	Bar Chat of President Buhari Leadership Style from 2015-2023	182

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List of Acronyms

Abbreviation	Meaning
ACN	Action Congress of Nigeria
ANPP	Nigerian People's Party
APGA	All-Progressives Grand Alliance
BMCDA	Buhoma Mukono Community Development Association
CAN	Christian Association of Nigeria
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
CPC	Congress for Progressive Change
DPR	Department of Petroleum Resources
EFCC	Economic and Financial Crimes Commission
FIRS	Federal Inland Revenue Service
GFI	Global Financial Integrity
GNPP	Great Nigerian People's Party
ICPC	Independent Corrupt Practices Commission
INEC	Independent National Electoral Commission
IPOB	Indigenous People of Biafra
IPPIS	Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System
LED	Local Economic Development
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LP	Labour Party
LPC	Least Preferred Coworker
MDAs	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
MDGs	Millenium Development Goals
NBC	National Broadcasting Corporation
NCC	Nigerian Communications Commission
NCNC	National Council of Nigerian Citizens
NMTC	Nigerian Military Training College
NNDP	Nigerian National Democratic Party
NPC	Northern People's Congress

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NPN	National Party of Nigeria
NRC	National Republican Convention
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
PDP	People' Democratic Party
PFM	Public Financial Management
PRP	People's Redemption Party
PTF	Petroleum Trust Fund
SDP	Social Democratic Party
SSS	State Security Service
UNDP	United Nations Development Programmes
UPN	Unity Party of Nigeria

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