

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA: RECONCILING THE STATE AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Peace A. Jiboku and Joseph. O. Jiboku

Department of Political Science, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State, Nigeria
Department of Industrial Relations and Personnel Management, Olabisi Onabanjo University,
Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State, Nigeria

Corresponding Author's email: jibokujoe@yahoo.com



Abstract

The anticipated social transformation and political development that was expected after independence was achieved in many African countries still remains unrealised. Independence was expected to bring about defining and qualitative improvements in the lives of the people in African countries. However, these countries continue to be bedevilled with several social, political and economic challenges while the continent has remained slow in its development trajectory. Scholars agree on the urgent need to develop effective governance structures and institutions in African countries towards achieving much needed socio-economic development in Africa. Drawing from the explanations of the Social Contract Theory of the state, this paper advances the case of civil society empowerment for effective participation in governance and development processes in Africa. This would entail deliberate efforts aimed at addressing human security and human capital development issues towards reconciling the state and civil society without which good governance and socio-economic development will remain a defining challenge in Africa.

Keywords: African States, Civil Society, Good Governance, Social Contract Theory, Socio-Economic Development