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Assessment of Bukola Saraki Administration In Kwara State Of Nigeria (2003-2011)

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Abstract

The paper examines the assessment of the Bukola Saraki Administration 2003-2011. The administration is an act of getting things achieved through the people; it requires leadership quality, ideology, and value. The historical analysis of Kwara State administrations in the fourth republic is not complete without considering the political dynastic transfer of Olusola Saraki to a biological son Bukola Saraki in the political process of Kwara State as a governor. The objective of this paper is to assess the success and failure of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Kwara State during the Abubakar Bukola Saraki administrations. The theory employed in this paper is the Stakeholders theory, which is relevant to this work. The research methodology is a secondary source and analytical. The findings of the paper identify the successes and limitations of PDP administrations from 2003-2011. The paper recommends democratic lifestyle leadership with transparency and accountability government to the citizen as the best set of administration to be practiced in any polity.

Keywords: Administration, Policy, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), and Kwara State

I. INTRODUCTION

The determinant of any given state's development lies in responsible government, which is the bedrock of a polity. The development administration in modern dispensation is the core value of meeting the aspirations of the citizens in a state. Policy development and implementation determine the quality and effectiveness of government both at the national and local levels.

In Nigeria State and its component units, the PDP administration within the inception of the fourth republic to the tail end of its ruling dynasty, the party was referred to as an oligarchy class with no political ideology serving the purpose of exploiting the general masses in the state.¹ From the antagonist's perspective, PDP under Abubakar Bukola Saraki Administration was a process of squandering public funds to enrich the private oligarchies structure (Ishaq, 2011).² However, the supporters and the protagonist's viewers were of optimism that the PDP administration in Kwara State lay a new foundation of modernization and a digital environment for the Kwara State government as one of the component units in Nigeria.³ The assessment of

¹ A Olaniyan, Pressure and Political Party Lecture Note (Ado Ekiti: Ekiti State University, 2007).

² MK Is'haq, "The Bukola Saraki Years in Kwara State," *Vanguard* (2011), daring: www.vanguardngr.com>.

³ A Ibiwoye, My Thought on Bukola at 52 (The Nation, 2014).

Saraki's administration in Kwara State will pave the way for evaluating his leadership quality as a politician eying a better political position in Nigeria politics.

The assessment of a leader cannot be justified from a political statement of supporters or opponents but from the critical value of quantifying the economic, political, technological, and social impacts on the human security and livelihood of the citizens. From the utilitarian perspective, a government that ensures the happiness of a majority number of people is good. It is invisible to see a political administration in the world that performance, effectiveness, and efficiency will be 100% accurate from the citizens' perspectives, which is attached to many factors such as ideology, political, socioeconomic, religious, and cultural factors just to mention but few. However, this paper aims to assess the PDP administrations (2003-2011) under Abubakar Bukola Saraki's political leadership as the governor of Kwara State, from all facets of protagonists elevation, antagonists criticism, content analysis and practical infrastructural and human development in Kwara State.

II. CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

The assessment of the Bukola Saraki Administration is of important value to the political lineage and democracy of Kwara State as a component unit. The historical analysis of Kwara State administrations in the fourth republic is not complete without considering the political dynastic transfer of Olusola Saraki to a biological son Bukola Saraki in the political process of Kwara State as a governor. This is an image of power inheritance for the first time in the history of Saraki's family, evidence of compensating Olusola Saraki for his political leadership in Kwara State. The literature review is given cognizant attention to the assessment of the Bukola Saraki Administration, 2003-2011. Reviewing all literature on the subject matter is impossible for this research. Therefore, all relevant literature on the PDP administration of Bukola Saraki's government in Kwara State that is beneficial to this study will be discussed.

A. The Concept Administration

Administration is a keyword in the governance process of any given society. It is an act of getting things done in the public and private spheres. The concept of administration with its uniqueness as a theory and practice has no specific definition. Despite the long time history of its

development, a consensus has not been reached about its concept and scope. According to Follet,⁴ it is the act of getting things done through people. This definition emphasizes the role of the human in administration but is not sufficient to capture the whole concept of administration. Administration involves monetary, machinery, material, and human being to get things done effectively and efficiently. It is a strategic way of planning in the governmental process. The system of administration is a process of planning, analysis, and synthesis, which makes its operation systematic, that is administration is the organization of men and materials to achieve the goals of government.⁵ Balogun⁶ asserted that administration is concerned with policy analysis, identification of options, program implementation, and a constant preoccupation with the efficient allocation of resources. The administration is a cooperative human effort that has a solid degree of rationality and is characterized by organization and management.⁷ These scholastic definitions do not capture the view of administration in a two-dimensional operation, the rational action involves two elements namely the cooperative element and the bureaucratic element. The cooperative element emphasizes the cooperation among individual, departments, and ministry to achieve a certain goal or objective and the bureaucratic element ensure well define position and task in the hierarchy arranged according to rank and priority. Politics and administration have their connection despite their dichotomy. Politics has to do with policies or expressions of the state will while the administration has to do with the execution of these policies. 8 The connection between politics and administration is that all policies formulated must be implemented through an administrative pattern. The administration is the pattern or strategy used by political leaders in carryout their policies, programs, and agenda in a state or component unit. Therefore, the administration is the combination of different governmental inputs (rational elements) to ensure better output (policy, agenda, and program) in a way political leaders will be able to achieve their goals for the state effectively and efficiently, which comprises of non-human and human resources development in the realization of its goals and objectives.

B. Kwara State in Perspective

⁴ MP Follet, Bureau of Personnel Administration (USA: Harvard Universitu, 1981).

⁵ OO Adedayo, Fundamentals of Public Administration (Lagos: YPPS Publishers, 2006).

⁶ MJ Balogun, Public Administration in Nigeria: Development Approach (London: Macmillan Publishers Limited, 1983).

⁷ S Mohammed, Elements of Public Administration and Management Studies (Ilorin: Olad Publishers, 2007).

⁸ EO Olaoye, *Public Administration in Nigeria* (Ondo: Adeyemo Publishing House, 2011).

Kwara State is a state in the north-central region of Nigeria with Ilorin as the state capital, banded to the east of Kogi State, to the north by Niger State, to the south by Ekiti State, Osun State, and Oyo State. While the western boundary share border with part of the Benin Republic. Kwara State as a component unit was created on the 27th of May, 1967. It was one of the first twelve states created out of the old existing four regions in Nigeria.⁹

The largest ethnic group in Kwara State is Yoruba, with some Nupe, Busa, Baatonun, and Fulani minorities. The state was first name West Central State, later change to Kwara the local name for River Niger. Three Igala east divisions of River Niger were carved out of Kwara State in 1976 to align with the part of Benue/Plateau to form Benue State. In 1991 five local government areas Oyi, Yagba, Okene, Okehi, and Kogi were carved from Kwara State to be part of Kogi State, and Borgu local government of Kwara State was merged with Niger State in 1991. The state comprises sixteen local government areas which are Asa, Barutin, Edu, Ekiti, Ifelodun, Ilorin East, Ilorin South, Ilorin west, and others include Irepodun, Isin, Kaima, Moro, Offa, Oke Ero, Oyun, Pategi local government area. The sixteen local government areas capture the three senatorial districts of the state, namely Kwara Central, Kwara North, and Kwara South senatorial districts respectively. For this research work, Kwara State is a component unit that is full of potential in agriculture but has yet to actualize its potential for disposition, which limits the state from a component unit to a civil servant state.

III. EMPIRICAL LITERATURE REVIEW

A. The Failure and Success of Bukola Saraki's Administration

The political ruling empire of Bukola Saraki was inherited from the political philanthropist of his father Olusola Saraki. In all of the Saraki political dynasty's and his electoral battles since 2003, it has never worked against the government at the center except in 2015, in 2003 his father Olusola Saraki supported him under the platform of PDP the ruling party, the young Saraki sought reelection in 2007 of which he won and installed his candidate Mr. Abdulfatai Ahmed in 2011 under the platform of the ruling party. The mark reigning of Saraki in the political history of Nigeria cannot be attributed to his charismatic quality but to the federal might. The departing from noticeable might can be interpreted to be the source of his fall in the 2019 general election.

⁹ All Africa, "Nigeria: Banking in Agriculture in Kwara State," All Africa (2019).

¹⁰ O Oladeinde, "Analysis: 13 Factors that Trigerred Saraki's Fall in Kwara," Prem Times (2019) 4.

The asserted statement of the citizens Against Corrupt Leaders (CACCOL) disclose how Saraki is using legal tactics to frustrate the effort of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to make him convert the Kwara State Properties to himself such as Songha Farm, Kwara Metro Park and Kwara Cargo Terminal. This view may not be justified because its origin may be from the anti-Saraki dynasty. This opposing view is what is referred to as the antagonist perspective. However, the anti-Saraki dynasty electoral battles in Kwara State have been defeated from 2003-2015, because they were mostly championed by people outside Ilorin, the state capital such personalities as John Dara, Lai Mohammed, Simeon Ajibola who cannot beat ethnoreligious formation solidarity. The politics of within among the backbone resulted in the struggle for liberating Kwarans, as Saraki's loyalists kicked against him including Ibrahim Oloriegbe, Yinka Aluko, Cook Olododo, Moshood Mustapha, Yamaha Seriki, Abdulyekeen Alajagusi and the host of others see to the falling of Saraki's in 2019 general elections. It was a political war against Saraki as a state man than the liberation of Kwarans from bad governance, which was captured in the political slogan "Otoge as against Otunya factors".

The success of the PDP administration from 2003-2011 can be attributed to the potential positive manifestation of Bukola Saraki with the qualities of a banker, administrator, politician, and philanthropist. He brought many innovations and development to Kwara State such as education, agriculture, aviation, and digitalization of government activities which is better-termed e-governance. ¹⁴ The two-term governor of Kwara State 2003-2011 and one-term chairman of Nigeria Governor Forum (NGF) will remain indelible in the political history of Nigeria, under whose watch the association became an effective political instrument for Nigeria's path to development. ¹⁵ However, from the positive perspective and protagonist thought of scholars and supporters of Saraki's political image believe that he is the brain behind the development of Kwara State, which qualifies him to be a political leader in Kwara State upholding the legacy of the family in a political palace.

The present administration of President Muhammadu Buhari has derived a positive education structure from Abubakar Bukola Saraki Administration when he was governor of

O Ikenna, "Bukola Saraki Profile of An Ambitious Political Gate Keeper," Guard.

YD Ogundare, An Assessment of The Performance of Anti-Corruption Instituion and Policies: A Study of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Kano: Faculty of Humanities Yusuf Maitama Sule University, 2021).

¹³ Oladeinde, supra note 10.

¹⁴ Ibiwoye, *supra* note 3.

¹⁵ A Fagbemi, "Bukola Saraki: Sustaining a Family's Political Heritage," Guardian (2015), daring: \(\squardian.ng \).

Kwara State's 'Every child count' which was Kwara 10 years old policy. ¹⁶ This is to say, the cognitive domain of Saraki's administration is relevant to Nigeria's development. From the content analysis of Saraki's political speech, it can be deduced that creativity and dynamism for economic development depend on youth. And the success of small and medium enterprises is the key to the unlucky long-term sustainability of economic growth and development. ¹⁷

The All Progressive Congress party (APC) from 2003-2011 listed what is called Sarski's long list of corruption cases among cases listed were allegations of fraud which led to the collapse of Societe Generale Bank, misappropriation of Kwara State funds, alleged illegal receipt of a salary from Kwara State treasury after leaving office and various revelations from the Panama and Paradise papers investigation among other. What is important to Saraki as an ordinate ambitious personality from 2003 beginning of his political image was not idealism, principle, or patriotic exertions far from his goals but what is constant to him is the achievement of personal ambition. During the eight years of Bukola Saraki's administration, we experience what is known as arrogance and a dictated administration by his interest centered on an individual on one person's decisions in his eight years. The demarche and prognosis reveal mostly graphically the essential political character of Bukola Saraki who has taken Nigeria's politics in a pitiless show of self-interest expediency, lack of defined realistic principles with an incredible focus on inordinate ambitions. Description of the collapse of the col

From the protagonist's point of view, Bukola Saraki's personality and potential in 2003-2011, had brought many innovations and development in the area of education, agriculture, tourism, and sports development. Saraki enhances the economy for direct foreign investment and commercialization. He attracted young aid dynamic minds to boost the economy, bringing in many Kwarans in the diaspora to contribute to the development of the Kwara State economy. Saraki has done well in the private and government sector after departing from office.²² The two-term Kwara governor and one-term chairman of the Nigeria Governor Forum (NGF) under him

¹⁶ The Vanguard, "Buhari Government Copied Saraki Education Policy," Vanguard (2018).

Entrepreneurs, "Biography, Political History of Abubakar Bukola Saraki," *Entrepreneurs* (2020), daring: entrepreneurs.ng.

¹⁸ APC Listed What is Called Mr. Saraki's Long List of Corruption Cases, by A Abdulhakeem (2015).

¹⁹ The Premium Times, "Bukola Saraki: Demarche and Prognosis," *Prem Times* (2015).

²⁰ Is'haq, supra note 2.

²¹ The Premium Times, *supra* note 19.

²² Ibiwoye, supra note 3.

the association became the political instrument for the survival of the country.²³ For better continuation in Kwara State, it takes a progressive leader such as Saraki, to sustain a vision by identifying and assembling a formidable team.²⁴

In the statement Dele Momodu²⁵ said Bukola Saraki is a Nigerian politician figure in Nigeria. Saraki believed that the creativity and dynamism of our youth can pave the way for the nation's economic development. Paul Erokoro²⁶ asserted 22 million, 2.6 million Euro, and 4 billion in Cash movable and landed assets before becoming governor of Kwara State in 2003, Erokoro (SAN) told the code of conduct Tribunal. The government of Bukola Saraki eight years administration hosted Goodluck Jonathan to commission projects: the state university at Malate, Aviation College, a Water plant in Ilorin, and a rural flag-off of a train service.²⁷ These contributed to the development of Kwara State. However, the assessment of Bukola Saraki's administration can be evaluated from content analysis of the protagonists and antagonists of his government from 2003-2011. This paperwork will justify the assessment with facts and empirical analysis.

B. Theoretical Framework: Stakeholder Theory

The stakeholder theory was posited in the early 20 century by the economist Milton Friedman, which is designed for strategic management, it involves anyone in a key position or affected employees in the organization, governmental agencies, environmentalists, and the general public. This theory emphasizes how individual projects may have an impact on a variety of types of stakeholders. The stakeholders are component units without whose support the organizations cease to exist. These groups are political action groups, media, local communities, financial institutions, and governmental groups. All these groups are relevant to be considered and satisfied to keep the organization successful in the long term. Stakeholder theory describes the company or owner never losing sight of everyone involved in its success. If the stakeholders are not satisfied and feel let down, the organization cannot survive.

The relevance of this theory to this paperwork is that Kwara State is an organization run by an individual, body, or political actors to meet the needs of different stakeholders such as political

²³ Fagbemi, *supra* note 15.

²⁴ Ibiwoye, supra note 3.

²⁵ The Trial of the Senate Presudenr Dr. Bukola Saraki Exposed the Nature of the Nation, by M Dele (2018).

²⁶ Lawyers Reveal Saraki's Within 2003-2011, by E Paul (2016).

²⁷ Is'haq, supra note 2.

opponents of the ruling party, pressure or interest group, press, and media, the rich and the general masses. The PDP administrations in 2003-2011 of Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki invented policies to meet the needs of different component groups in Kwara State to project development, which involves every stakeholder (citizens) that form different groups in the state. This paper is given attention to the assessment of the policies of Saraki's administration on the Kwarans who form the stakeholders in Kwara State, of which their desire must be considered for the better of Kwara State. The evaluation of the PDP government policies of Saraki as a political leader toward the development of the citizenry and Kwara State at large is given cognisant value in this paper. The limitation of this theory is the inability of the organization to understand the desire of the stakeholders and how to meet them, knowing that some people or groups are in opposition to the ruling party with inventions of destructive criticisms. However, this paper will militate against this, of which the assessment of the PDP administrations of Bukola Saraki will be a critical analysis of content analysis, protagonist and antagonist perspectives, and the achievement of the administrations.

IV. THE ASSESSMENT OF PDP ADMINISTRATIONS IN KWARA STATE, 2003-2011

It is not gain saying positive things had happening in all sectors of the economy in Bukola Saraki's led administration in Kwara State. Saraki has a quality of a good leader with the ability to read the future, from his policies and agenda he has demonstrated that he understands the challenges of his people and how he can solve them. Kwara State is not rich; therefore the administrations of Saraki identified a few strategic sectors that attracted priority attention with operation mechanisms. These sectors are infrastructure, employment for women and youth through agroallied industry, and education.²⁸ The administration in 2003-2007 promoted innovative approaches to education, health, agriculture, fiscal policy, and environmental reform.²⁹ The program during the PDP government of Saraki has been emulated within and outside Nigeria such as a community health insurance scheme, environmental cleaning and green scheme, and agriculture program that changed KwaraState from a net importer to a net exporter of food. Bukola Saraki's asserted in his speech at Corporate Council on Africa's annual meeting in Washington that the Kwara State government has created facilities to produce schools, and

²⁸ A Olasunkanmi, "Saraki's Grand Operation Feed the Nation in Kwara," Vanguard (2010).

²⁹ 2003-2007 Kwara Reform, by Cleaning Cooking Alliance (2007).

health centers and to transform farming into a lucrative occupation for the educated young Nigerians.³⁰

The PDP-led administration in Kwara State during Abubakar Bukola Saraki's administration has a sound education reform in 2003-2011, "every child count" that encourage the less privileged to attend school. This educational system introduced ten years ago in Kwara State was adopted in President muhammadu Buhari's administration. The educational initiative privileges children's enrolment in schools reducing the population of out-of-school children in Kwara State. The establishment of Kwara State University, Malete, Aviation College, and Water Plant in Ilorin, all to the credit of Saraki's administrations in the State.

PDP political administrations have had access to a quality healthcare system from urban to rural settlements from 2007-2016, which also enhances international organization aid. Bukola Saraki's administrations have done both wells in the private and public sectors during his stay in office as governor of Kwara State.³² The PDP administrations in 2003 -2011 promoted public-private ownership, this project is more of a Limited Liability Company Such as Shonga Farm Holding (SFH). This enhances the claim of Saraki's administration on innovative approaches to agriculture, health, education, and empowerment.

In 2004 the governor of Kwara State Bukola Saraki started a project plan for an agrarian revolution in the state. He is convinced that hunger is adequately addressed with this plan.³³ the agenda of the plan reduce the poverty level in Kwara State to negligible and infinitesimal, which transform the state into a food production state through the initiative of administrator machinery set up for people to go back into farming and make use of the abundant endowment which was tagged Back-to-farm-agricultural scheme.³⁴ Kwara State has received international attention for its action to welcome the white farmers in Zimbabwe to come to Nigeria. Shonga farm holding was a quest for food security in Nigeria. Andrew³⁵ highlighted the success of the Shonga project initiated by Bukola Saraki when he was governor of Kwara State, as an example to ensure food security. The Saraki-led administration invited 13 of the rejected white farmers from Zimbabwe

³⁰ Corporate Council on Africa's, Nigeria: Banking on Agriculture in Kwarac (2009).

³¹ The Punch, "FG's New Policy on Education COpied Saraki Education Policy," *The Punch* (2018).

³² Ibiwoye, supra note 3.

³³ D Omotosho, "Nigeria: Saraki Agrarian Revolution in Kwara," *Vanguard* (2004).

³⁴ Ibid

E Andrew, "Shonga and Nigeria's Quest for Food Security," (2017), daring: https://www.ilorininfo//fullnessphpid=20829>.

under the leadership of Robert Mugabe, to come to Kwara and start farming. They were each given 1000 hectares of land under a 25-year renewable lease for commercial farming purposes. The cassava from this was a supply farm to Nigerian Starch Mills Limited, which is the biggest of its kind in West Africa, the farm supplies fresh milk to WAMCO to produce peak and crown milk.

The Shonga dairy farm has the strength of producing up to, 50,000 liters of milk per day. The cheers exporting plant in the diary section were set up in a way to satisfy the entire West African region with their product. Shonga farm also exports cassava chips and is probably the only company to have done five shipments of chips to countries such as Australia, Isreal, and Hong Kong. The farm has a 2000 capacity of poultry sections during the administration of Bukola Saraki to expand to 10,000 poultry sections. 4500-6000 off-peak power plant, all these operations were carried out in the Shonga farm in Kwara State. Financial institutions such as Guarantee Trust Bank, Intercontinental Bank, Fin Bank, Unity Bank, and PHB were the initial investors of 75% equity and the state 25%, Shonga Farm Holding 60% equity in each of 13 Shonga farms and the farmers with 40%.³⁶ The great achievement in Kwara State transcends the economy in Kwara State for direct foreign investment and commercialization to attract the youth minds in boasting the economy.³⁷

However, the assessment of PDP administrations from a critical antagonism perspective has revealed the weakness of Bukola Saraki's administration. The most central issue was the Zimbabwe farm project that gives the Kwarans food for thought than food for the stomach. Ishaq³⁸ asserted Bukola spent billions belonging to Kwara State on this project; he turned around to say it is owned by the Private Sector. Bukola Saraki was able to build on the foundation of his father Olusola Saraki's political life, but cannot continue with politics of food infrastructure and everybody count which is the legacy that upholds Saraki's dynastic. This is because of self-interest and inordinate leadership character which serve as the remote cause of his failure in the 2019 general election as a senator for Kwara Central Senatorial District. What is constant to Bukola Saraki is the achievement of his ambition irrespective aspirations of the citizens.³⁹ Abdulhakim⁴⁰ reacted that Kwara State during Bukola Saraki was full of misappropriation of Kwara State funds and allegations of fraud that led to the collapse of the Societe of Generale Bank. The installation

³⁶ *Ibid*.

³⁷ Ibiwoye, supra note 3.

³⁸ Is'haq, supra note 2.

The Premium Times, supra note 19.

⁴⁰ Abdulhakeem, supra note 18.

of his commissioner for finance Fatai Ahmed as a successor and immediate governor after him was to cover his indecent acts. H Kwara North the most underdeveloped in Kwara State has been politically marginalized to some extent during the PDP administration in terms of appointment, sensitive political position, and infrastructural development. This is a picture of Bukola Saraki from opposing views.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECCOMENDATIONS

The assessment of the Bukola Saraki administrations in Kwara State, 2003-2011 was neither a complete success nor a failure. The government gives prospects to the successor in terms of educational policy which is the best legacy a parent and state can give the children who are the future of tomorrow, the administrations open Kwara State to agriculture development and foreign direct investment and empowerment program for the youth. However, the PDP administrations under Saraki were exposed to a lot of challenges such as the self-centredness of political leaders at the expense of the citizens' interest, and the mismanagement of funds. However, this has been the order of the day among our politicians who had been denying the fundamental human right of the citizens and livelihood in Kwara State and Nigeria at Large.

In this regard, here are the recommendations for the failures of the PDP administrations, 2003-2011. The enhancement of democratic lifestyle leadership with transparency and accountability of government to the citizens. Public opinion of the citizens should supersede political leadership opinion in terms of interest aggregation and articulation.

There should be a genuine blueprint of empowerment programs, agricultural development programs, and industrial investment to reduce the rate of poverty and unemployment among the useful population in Kwara State and Nigeria at large.

The citizens should include in habit of reformation by enduring hardship by avoiding vote buying in the name of poverty. The mind of voting for credible leaders out of prejudices irrespective of ethnicity, religion, social solidarity, and political; attachment should be embraced. This will go a long way in producing good representatives and credible leaders that will be able to serve the people in the state, to enhance a reliant component unit and Nigeria State.

⁴¹ Oladeinde, supra note 10.

⁴² *Ibid.*

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