
The Bureaucratic Failure: A Critical Analysis of the Nigerian Government Bureaucracy

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ABSTRACT This paper is set out to evaluate the Nigerian public bureaucracy using a developmental approach. This has become necessary in view of sharp criticisms levelled against the Nigerian bureaucracy as a corrupt public enterprise. Most of these criticisms are in the areas of socio-economic development of its environment. The paper therefore, looks at the performance of the bureaucratic organisations in Nigeria since pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial era. We found out that the bureaucracy contributed minimally to socio-economic development of Nigeria in accordance with the goals set by the colonial masters. The post-independence bureaucracy could have performed better but it was confronted with internal and external environmental factors militating against its performance. Such factors, include military incursion into the political administration in 1966, unsettled political order between 1960 to 1966, unprocedural civil servants purge of 1975, inadequate motivation and the absence of national philosophy. It is also noticed that the tendency of bureaucratic failure and corruption was much more pronounced during the military administrations. The paper concluded by identifying possible solutions to the bureaucratic corruption and failures. Among the solutions proffered include provision of adequate motivation, professionalisation of the government bureaucracy, and depoliticisation of the

[Home](#)

[Back](#)
