CONTEMPORARY PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND CHALLENGES OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Rural development in Nigeria has been characterized by persistent challenges that reflect the neglect of the majority of the population. Although both successive and present governments have demonstrated interest in fixing them by providing the needed infrastructure,, extant literature still shows a dearth of socioeconomic conditions in the rural areas. This was due to the non-existence of development infrastructures, pushing the rural dwellers into abnormal frustration, suffering, hardship, poverty and poor status of livelihoods. Bearing in mind that public administration frameworks play an important role in providing the necessary institutional basis for achieving rural developmental needs, this paper examined the effects of the current public administration system on rural development in Nigeria. Primary and secondary methods were used to source data. While primary data consisted of a structured questionnaire, published materials were used to collect secondary information. Adopting the Felt Needs Theory as theoretical framework, participation, responsiveness and capacity building were identified as factors for curbing rural development challenges. The paper found that rural infrastructure development provisions, such as healthcare, socioeconomic empowerment, education, portable water and employment opportunities, which were lacking have positive effects on addressing rural development challenges. The paper concluded that the contemporary public administration system in Nigeria has been characterized by bureaucratic delays, governance deficits and limited community engagement that have significant effects on rural development efforts. It recommended, among others,

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administrative reforms to strengthen the institutional capacities of the current public administration to foster active community engagement that will focus on rural development governance in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Rural Development; Rural Dwellers; Public Administration; Governance; Community Participation*

1. Introduction

For a very long time, rural areas have been confronted with development challenges in Nigeria (Otti and Ukoh, 2017). Even though both successive and the current governments in Nigeria have expressed a strong desire to fix the trend through provision of electricity, portable water, basic education, healthcare, modern farming tools, a marketing system and a road network, among others, the deteriorating state of development in these rural areas has not improved. Instead, the steady decay of development infrastructures has continued to push the vast population of these rural dwellers into not just suffering more from socioeconomic problems than ever before. But the new trend they face now is insecurity in which farmers can not go to farm due to the problem of herdsmen attacking them. Hence, the rural men, women and children have been traumatized by a dearth of insecurity and its attendant hardship, making living conditions risky, very hard and unbearable just to mention one aspect of their problem. According to the literature, the upsurge of insecurity, food hardship, poor healthcare system, lack of basic education, bad road network, unavailable job opportunities, portable water and electricity, among others, have made it difficult for the rural dwellers to cope and have rather resolved on deserting the rural areas to urban areas at all costs (Anthony & Oikhala, 2025).

From available literature, public administration is a tick-tank and sensitive institution of the state that translates government policies, programs, and projects into development results. In developing nations like Nigeria, administrative performance is a feature that determines whether development initiatives succeed or fail. Overtime, Nigeria has engaged in and implemented several governance reforms that aimed at improving efficiency, transparency, accountability, and service delivery. Yet, rural communities have continued to experience widespread poverty, infrastructural deficits and limited access to social welfare services (Azelama, 2024). As noted in Adebayo & Yusuf (2021), over 230 million estimated Nigerians reside in rural areas and their common occupation is agriculture, which is the mainstay of the economy. Despite the significant contribution of rural communities to national food security and economic sustenance, these areas face

formidable challenges including poverty, poor infrastructure, limited access to education and healthcare, and environmental degradation. The persistence of these challenges has significant implications for Nigeria's overall socio-economic development and attainment of the ongoing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially the aspects which are related to poverty eradication, hunger reduction, and inclusive governance.

Drawing from the foregoing, the role of public administration in rural development is pivotal. Public administration refers to the implementation of government policy and the management of public programs, which includes the formulation of policies, service delivery, resource allocation, and ensuring accountability (Nwankwo & Okeke, 2020). Contemporary public administration emphasizes innovative governance mechanisms such as decentralization, participatory governance, digitalization, and inter-agency collaboration. These mechanisms are designed to improve efficiency, transparency, and inclusivity in governance, especially in rural settings where administrative challenges are often more pronounced.

Although Nigeria has implemented numerous rural development policies and administrative reforms, an appreciable improvement of them in the life of rural dwellers has remained infinitesimal. Development policies, programs and projects usually suffer from poor implementation, corruption, political interference, and weak institutional coordination. Besides, existing studies tend to have focussed more on economic policies, poverty programs, or agricultural modernization, with insufficient attention to how contemporary public administration practices influence rural development. This poor stance of empirical research connecting governance quality to rural development in Nigeria has created a gap in knowledge that must be filled. So, understanding such relationship is essential for proper public sector reforms capable of producing development in Nigeria's rural areas. Therefore, this paper is conceived to look at the effects of the contemporary public administration system on rural development in Nigeria. In achieving this, the paper was meant to interrogate the administrative capacity of rural development and determine how the participation of rural citizens impacted on rural development in the country.

2. Conceptual Clarifications

2.1 Rural Development

In the opinion of Okonkwo (2024), rural development is the process of improving the socioeconomic, political and infrastructural conditions of rural communities with a view of ensuring the standard of living of rural residents. Thus, it is a deliberate effort by the government, rural communities and non-governmental organizations to provide infrastructural development which includes, healthcare, education, electricity, potable water, roads, agricultural support services and employment opportunities in the rural areas (Azelama 2023; Anthony & Oikhala, 2025).

Besides, Oikhala (2022) described rural development as encompassing policies, programs and projects that are aimed at reducing poverty, improving infrastructure, and promoting socio-economic transformation in rural communities through community engagement and participatory governance. Rural development is also viewed as a multidimensional process involving the mobilization of human and material resources for improving the welfare of people residing at the grassroots.

From the foregoing within the dimension of this paper, rural development is a government and community-driven process at transforming rural communities in Nigeria through efficient and effective policies to provide better socio-economic order, community engagement, healthcare and educational services to improve poor health conditions of the rural people as well as illiteracy, employment opportunities, political and empowerment programs to make conditions of life meaningful to people in rural areas within the Nigeria context and make the present public administration system in Nigeria efficient. But till today, rural areas have continued to suffer development deficits. This is where the usefulness of rural development is rooted.

2.2 Rural Areas

Available literature on rural areas in Nigeria has revealed that the population is one of the major characteristics that differentiate the rural sector from the urban residence, especially as it is concerned with developed countries (Otti and Ukoh, 2017). From this angle, a single feature that can seamlessly define rural areas in Nigeria is not just poverty resulting from inadequate provision of basic conditions of life, but using the 2006 census figure of 140 million people, over 112 million people, from the results, which represented about 80% of the population in Nigeria were revealed to have resided in rural areas. Going by this, the features of the rural

areas include depression, degradation, deprivation, hardship and poverty. According to Anthony & Oikhala (2025), rural areas are geographical locations outside urban centers, which are characterized by low population density, limited infrastructure, poor agrarian-based system, poor access to social services informing of healthcare, education, roads, and economic opportunities to generate income, saving and investment for productivity. With this clarification, rural areas are marked by poor road networks, inadequate healthcare facilities, low industrialization, high levels of poverty and unhealthy conditions of living. Similarly, Akinola (2017) explained that rural areas in Nigeria are communities that have deficits of adequate socio-economic facilities, such as electricity, good roads, a functional healthcare system, limited educational facilities and potable water, among others, resulting in devastating development problems when it is compared to urban centers. For Aroh (2024), rural areas constitute a significant portion of Nigeria's population that plays a significant role in agriculture and cultural preservation despite suffering from neglect and underdevelopment.

In regard to this paper, rural areas in Nigeria are characterized by inadequate infrastructure and limited public services, making them vulnerable to underdevelopment and marginalization. So, this paper is meant to examine how contemporary public administration responds to the developmental needs of people living in rural areas. It then, facilitates the understanding of the nature and characteristics of rural areas, which is necessary for analyzing the efficiency and effectiveness of government policies and rural development programs in transforming them. However, rural areas are not supposed to be marred by low infrastructural facilities as witnessed in Nigeria today. Hence, the need for urgent redress to make the areas more attractive for people to live, like the urban sector.

2.3 Contemporary Public Administration

The term contemporary public administration within the context of this article is used to refer to the modern system of implementing public policies, programs, projects and styles of managing present public institutions in such a way that enhances responsiveness, inclusiveness, effectiveness, efficiency, accountability, openness, participation and institutional productivity in governance (Oikhala, 2024). Contrary to the traditional public administration that principally euphuized the bureaucratic methods of rigid administrative procedures, the emphasis of contemporary public administration is on democratization of governance to focus on citizen participation, decentralization and responsiveness that will meet what society needs. As observed in Okafor & Ojo (2021), contemporary public

administration is central to a governance process that focused on teamwork among government institutions, civil society organizations, and local communities in addressing developmental constraints. Besides, present-day public administration encourages digital governance, policy innovation and participatory decision-making as ways for improving public service delivery and development.

In relation to this article, contemporary public administration is key because it represents the institutional framework through which government policies and its development programs are formulated and implemented. Therefore, the paper looks at the extant administrative practices such as accountability, transparency, decentralization, citizen-participation, and effective service delivery that have contributed to fixing the challenges facing rural communities in Nigeria. Because contemporary public administration canvasses democratic governance and people-oriented policy implementation, the concept helps explain how public institutions can encourage rural development in Nigeria. As already noted in this paper, the present public administration system has failed to maintain rural areas in Nigeria. If the public administration system had not been deficient, the trademarks of poverty and hardship that characterized our rural areas would have been reduced.

2.4 Governance

As described in Oikhala & Tobi (2023), governance is a process of policy formulation, implementation, evaluation and decision-making functions by all institutions of government through transparency and accountability to guarantee proper management of public affairs for the general well-being of citizens. In other words, governance is all about the work of government. It is what the government does to achieve the purpose of the state, which includes provision of educational and healthcare services, among others. To put it differently, governance is a process through which political authority and administrative functions are carried within the context of managing public affairs (Azelama, 2023).

Lamidi & Etebom (2022) saw governance as institutional and administrative arrangements for managing public affairs to achieve the security and welfare needs of people. According to Aroh (2024), governance is the interaction between state institutions, civil society, and communities through policy formulation and implementation for societal development. In all, governance is critical to this paper, because rural development depends mainly on how government institutions manage public resources, formulate policies, and implement development programs that would promote rural development in Nigeria. Relying from the foregoing, can we say that governance has been good in Nigeria?

2.5 Community Participation

According to section 14 (2) (c) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended in 2023, the people shall participate in their own affairs. In line with the foregoing, community participation is used to mean the active involvement of local people in identifying, planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating development projects and policies that affect their lives. It emphasizes grassroots involvement in decision-making processes to ensure that development programs reflect the actual needs of the people. It is essential for successful rural development because it is not just encouraging local people to contribute to the policy formulation, implementation and evaluation of projects within their communities. Also, Aroh (2024) and Azelama (2023) shared equal views that effective community participation promotes lasting rural development by giving the local populations control over decisions and resources that directly affect their welfare. Ezeani & Okafor (2021) also asserted that community participation improves project ownership, accountability and sustainability in rural development initiatives.

As it relates to this paper, community participation is vital because the success or failure of rural development programs often depends on the involvement of rural people in decision-making and implementation processes. This is why Aroh (2024) argued that it is a bottom-up process which builds development through the community to foster sustainable development in any country.

3. Theoretical Framework of Analysis

This paper adopted the Felt Need Theory propounded by Jonathan Bradshaw in 1972 to explain the relationship between contemporary public administration and challenges of rural development in Nigeria. As identified by Bradshaw (1972), from the perspective of the theory, development becomes meaningful and realistic when it addresses exactly what the people actually need. In all ramifications, it recognizes the people and what they need themselves rather than those needs imposed externally by government authorities or policy-makers on the people. So, one of the basic assumptions of the Felt Need Theory is that people are in the best position to identify the problems affecting them and the kind of development they require. The theory also assumed that development policies, programs and projects are likely to succeed when the target beneficiaries actively participate in identifying their needs and in the implementation of development projects. In other words, any

development policy formulated without rural community input usually fails because it may not reflect the exact interests and priorities of the people.

The essence of Felt Need Theory to the present public administration practices, lies in its emphasis on inclusiveness, responsiveness, accountability and community-based governance. In this sense, the contemporary public administration system in Nigeria is expected to have shifted its operative paradigm beyond traditional bureaucratic practices to those aspects of governance, focused on citizen-interest service through inclusive policy formulation and implementation. In the case of Nigeria, however, most rural development policies, programs, or projects have failed because those public administrators that formulated and implemented them did not make them to reflect the genuine needs of the rural communities. It is from the foregoing that the Felt Need Theory provides a suitable analytical lens for understanding the tenacious challenges of rural development in Nigeria. As noted in Oikhala & Tobi (2023), the Felt Need Theory offered a realistic explanation of how public administration can better address the present rural development challenges through participatory governance and need-based policy formulation and implementation in Nigeria to tame the country's development challenges.

4. Methodology

The paper employed survey research. It collected all data through the use of primary and secondary sources. The primary source was a questionnaire while the secondary method was sourced through relevant published materials. The questionnaire was divided into two parts. The first part contained socio-demographic features of respondents, while the second part contained four contemporary public administration and governance issues as in Section A: Contemporary Public Administration and Management of Rural Affairs in Nigeria; Section B: Governance and Present Community Participation in Rural Affairs in Nigeria; Section C: Development Challenges and Rural Relationship in Nigeria; and Section D: Fixing of Rural Development Challenges in Nigeria to answer the questions of the effect of contemporary public administration on challenges of rural development in Nigeria. Furthermore, two governance statements were raised in each of the four issues. Also, the questionnaire was structured in line with Likert's 4-point rating scales (strongly agree =4, agree =3, disagree =2 and strongly disagree -1). The paper covered the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria where two states each were purposively selected from each of the six geopolitical zones as North Central (Benue and Nasarawa), Northeast (Taraba and Gombe), Northwest (Zamfara and Kebbi), Southeast (Abia and Ebony),

South-South (Bayelsa and Cross-River) and Southwest (Ekiti and Osun). The sample size was 30 purposively selected from each of the 12 states, making a total of 360. What informed the choice of selection of these states was due to their deepening history of rural challenges. A descriptive method was adopted to analyse the data.

5. Discussion of Findings

5.1 The effect of Contemporary Public Administration on Challenges of Rural Development in Nigeria

This section is used to present data for results and discussion with a view of achieving the goals set for this paper. Towards this end, tables 1 and 2 were used to present data of socio-demographic characteristics of respondents and questionnaire administration.

Table 1. Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents for Results and Discussion

***Source**: Fieldwork Survey, 2026*

Features	Category	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	182	51
	Female	178	49
	Total	360	100
Age (years)	30-39	69	19
	40-49	195	54
	50 and above	96	27
	Total	360	100
Marital Status	Single	35	10
	Married	325	90
	Total	360	100
Educational Qualifications	OND/NCE	162	45
	B.Sc/HND Equivalent	119	33
	M.Sc and Above	79	22
	Total	360	100
Length Status of Residence in years	Below 3	57	16
	Above 4 and below10	109	30
	Above 11	194	54
	Total	360	100

The table above, presented information about the demographic status of the respondents used in this paper. In the gender cadre, 182 out of the 360 showed male.

This represented 51% of the respondents. The remaining 178, which represented 49% were female. The results showed a slight domination of male for the survey. Concerning the age of respondents, those with age bracket of 40–49 were 195 respondents which represented 54%. Second to the above were 96 (27%) respondents who were within the age bracket of 50 years and above, followed by those within 96, which represented 27%. The least of the respondents fell within the 30–39 age bracket. The results revealed that all the respondents are mature and are in a good frame of mind to respond to the issue under study. Analysis of marital status showed that most of the respondents, 325 (90%) were married while only 35 (10%) of the respondents were single. From the data presented in the table above, all the respondents are educated. 162 (45%) of those who dominated the survey are holders of National Diploma (ND) and National Certificate of Education (NCE). 119 (33%) of them hold Bachelor Degrees and Higher National Diploma equivalent and the remaining 79 (22%) holds Master's degree and above. According to the table, the survey was dominated by 194 (54%) who reside in the study are from 11years and above. Next to this category of respondents were 109 (30%) who resided in the area from 4 to 10 years and those who were in the sturdy are for below 3 years were 57 (16%). From the results shown in this paper, it is crystal clear that all the respondents have what it takes to respond reliably to the subject under study.

Table 2. Questionnaire Administration of Respondents for Results and Discussion

Statements	**SA %**	**A %**	**D %**	**SD %**
Section A: Contemporary Public Administration and Management of Rural Affairs in Nigeria				
Public officials are presently dedicated, responsive and transparent in dealings with the needs of rural areas	86 (24%)	44 (12%)	140 (39%)	90 (25%)
Contemporary public administration responds promptly to rural development needs in Nigeria	75 (21%)	51 (14%)	112 (31%)	122 (34%)
Section B: Governance and Present Community Participation in Rural Affairs in Nigeria				
Rural governance present public administration promote participation in my community	89 (25%)	81 (23%)	96 (27%)	94 (26%)
Traditional leaders have been key participants in rural development governance.	79 (22%)	48 (13%)	92 (26%)	141 (39%)
Section C: Development Challenges and Rural Relationship in Nigeria				
Availability of healthcare, basic education and job opportunities cannot improve rural development	108 (30%)	146 (41%)	41 (11%)	65 (18%)
Provision of development supports by government via local needs cannot change rural development problems	64 (18%)	59 (16%)	127 (35%)	110 (31%)
Section D: Fixing Rural Development Challenges in Nigeria				

Statements	**SA %**	**A %**	**D %**	**SD %**
Implementation of the rural electrification, boreholes and feeder-roads policies of government across Nigeria have greatly improved rural development challenges	60 (17%)	66 (18%)	119 (33%)	115 (32%)
The recently introduced rural development and cooperative empowerment schemes to curb rural development challenges in Nigeria have lessened rural-urban exodus.	73 (20%)	40 (11%)	118 (33%)	129 (36%)

Source: Fieldwork 2026

Section A: Contemporary Public Administration and Management of Rural Affairs in Nigeria

The first issue is that: "Public officials are presently dedicated, responsive and transparent in dealings with the needs of rural areas. Data presented in table 2 showed that 86 (24%) of respondents strongly agreed with the statement. Similarly, 44 (12%) respondents equally agreed with the statement. However, 140 (39%) respondents disagreed with the statement. Also, 90 (25%) of the respondents strongly disagreed with the statement. In all, those respondents that showed disagreement were 230, representing 64%. This implies that the governance deficit has not improved in rural areas. This result supported Anthony & Oikhala (2025) that the dilapidating nature of rural development in Nigeria has not been given adequate attention. Hence, this has paved the way for conflicts of development decay to cause the present living conditions of rural dwellers harder in Nigeria. The second statement is that "Contemporary public administration responds promptly to rural development needs in Nigeria. The outcome showed that 75 (21%) of respondents strongly agreed with the statement, while 51 (14%) respondents also agreed with the statement. But 112 (31%) disagreed with the statement, while 122 (34%) of the respondents strongly disagreed. So, the results revealed that 234 (65%) respondents claimed that governance is still poor in rural areas in Nigeria. Section B: Governance and Present Community Participation in Rural Affairs in Nigeria

Respondents were asked whether the present governance system has promoted rural participation and the overall responses indicated that community collaboration in governance in the rural area is still not unimpressive. According to the data presented in table 2, 89 (25%) respondents strongly agreed and 81 (23%) respondents agreed with the statement. Nevertheless, 96 (27%) respondents disagreed, while 94 (26%) of them strongly disagreed. By implication, the deficit of rural governance in making people participate in governing their rural areas is yet to improve. This finding is against the thought of modern public governance, which

expands the public administration beyond hierarchy to include teamwork and a people-oriented governing process in which rural development will significantly rely on community engagement to drive home their developmental needs (Nwankwo & Okeke, 2020). On the statement that traditional leaders have been key participants in rural development governance, the results showed that most respondents did not agree with the statement. As shown from table 2, 79 (22%) respondents strongly agreed; 48 (13%) of the respondents agreed with the statement. But 92 (26%) disagreed and 141 (39%) strongly disagreed. If traditional leaders were not included in local governance, how would the needs of the rural areas be met? It is from this, that Chambers (1994) cited in Oikhala (2024) argued for active involvement of local people in governance and development decision-making.

Section C: Development Challenges and Rural Relationship in Nigeria

Respondents were asked if availability of healthcare, basic education and job opportunities have the potential to improve rural development challenges. Their responses as presented in table 2, revealed that most of the respondents agreed with the statement. According to the results, 108 (30%) respondents strongly agreed with the statement; 146 (41%) respondents also agreed. However, 41 (11%) disagreed with the statement, while 65 (18%) strongly disagreed. This finding shows that rural development challenges will become history if government, through an integrated governance process, provides adequate infrastructural development programs to rural Nigeria as it always does to its urban sector. On the fact that provision of development supported by the government via local needs cannot change rural development problems in Nigeria, the majority of respondents disagreed with the statement. Results from table 2, revealed that 64 (18%) of respondents strongly agreed, 59 (16%) agreed with the statement. Then, 127 (35%) respondents disagreed; the remaining 110 (31%) strongly disagreed with the statement. This stance, supported Azelama (2023) that in African traditional society, everybody is a worker. Hence, if the government has provided the needed support to the rural dwellers, there is no reason for them to suffer any development problem.

Section D: Fixing Rural Development Challenges in Nigeria

Respondents were asked if the implementation of recent rural electrification, boreholes and feeder roads policies of government across Nigeria has reduced rural development challenges in Nigeria. The results presented in table 2 showed overwhelming disagreement by most of the respondents to the statement. As presented in the table, 60 (17%) respondents strongly agreed, while 66 (18%) respondents agreed to the statement. On the contrary, 119 (33%) of the total

respondents of 360 disagreed and 115 (32%) strongly disagreed with the statement. This implies that the policies are not working either due to poor implementation or governance deficits in terms of corruption or project abandonment (Egugbo & Oikhala 2022). Besides, respondents were asked to respond whether the recent rural development and cooperative empowerment to curb rural development challenges in Nigeria have reduced rural-urban exodus. The majority of respondents disagreed with the statement. Results of the analysis in table 2, showed that 73 (20%) respondents strongly agreed and 40 (11%) agreed with the statement. Then, 118 (33%) respondents disagreed, while the remaining 129 (36%) strongly disagreed with the statement.

6. Conclusion

Nothing that rural development in Nigeria has long been marred by insistent constraints, which reflect the neglect of the country's larger population. Despite the efforts of the government to fix it and the continuous deepening level of hardship confronting rural dwellers, the paper examined the effects of contemporary public administration on rural development in Nigeria. Data for the paper were collected through primary and secondary sources. 360 respondents participated, and the study covered Nigeria, where two states were each selected from each of the six geopolitical zones. The Felt-Need theory that emphasized community-based governance concerned with inclusiveness, responsiveness, accountability and transparency, was used as a theoretical framework. The paper found that government efforts towards solving rural development challenges have not yielded the desired results. It found that contemporary public administration still operated the traditional bureaucratic practices of governance which focused less on rural felt-need and peculiarities. Hence, community engagement was poor. In all, it was found that provisions for rural development infrastructure like a good feeder-road network, empowerment, healthcare, basic education, water supply system, electricity, job opportunities and capacity-building processes that should have reduced the scourge of rural development constraints were short-supplied while the few ones that were provided were not maintained. In view of the findings, the paper concluded that the contemporary public administration system in Nigeria, which has failed to shift its operative paradigm beyond traditional bureaucratic practices with lots of governance deficits and limited community engagement, has significant effects on rural development in Nigeria. Based on the conclusion, the following recommendations were made.

1. To guarantee that rural development policies and programs accomplish their goals, the government should strengthen accountability, transparency, and monitoring systems. To monitor impact and quickly address problems, regular evaluation and feedback systems should be implemented.
2. Development programs should actively incorporate rural populations in their design, execution, and assessment. Trust, local ownership, and the sustainability of development projects will all be improved by participatory governance.
3. Rather than imposing projects that do not reflect community values, public administrators and the government should give priority to the real requirements of rural residents. Policy decisions should be guided by needs assessment and grassroots consultation.
4. To improve administrative effectiveness, creativity, and service delivery, public employees, local leaders, and community people should participate in ongoing training and empowerment initiatives. To lessen governance deficiencies, good governance practices must to be promoted.
5. Modern public governance practices that prioritize responsiveness, inclusivity, cooperation, and citizen involvement should replace inflexible bureaucratic institutions in Nigerian public administration today. This would boost democratic government at the local level and enhance service delivery.
6. To mobilize resources, knowledge, and creativity for rural development, the government should work with non-governmental organizations, business sector players, and community-based groups.
7. To raise living conditions and boost economic activity in rural regions, investments in roads, energy, healthcare, education, water supply, and digital connection should be given first priority.

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