

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: ASSESSMENT OF RURAL COMMUNITIES
IN DELTA STATE, 2005-2015**

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Abstract

Local government administration was alien to Nigeria prior to the colonization of Africa. However, there was Africa traditional administrative system that recognized, the cultural value, the norms and the believe system as an integral part of administration and development. The organizational structure of the pre-colonial administration recognizes the village head, council of elders, youths and women groups as the effective administrative organs of the rural community. The function of the administration is to mobilize the people for development and service delivery. But with the introduction of colonialism and subsequent adoption of indirect rule, has greatly altered the pre-colonial system infavour of the modern local government administration. This change has result to ineffective service delivery in the rural communities. Since 1960, all attempts to correct the inefficiency in local government administration in Nigeria have failed, resulting to unemployment, extreme poverty and rural-urban migration in Delta State, Nigeria. This study is an attempt to examine the impact of local government administration on rural development in Delta State, Nigeria. The study deployed content analysis. It observed that there is general decay on infrastructure in most rural communities, resulting to rural-urban migration. The study recommended among others, the integration of the culture, norms and values of the people into the administrative system and to ensure that agriculture act as the instrument for rural development.

Keywords: Administration, Development, Services, Migration, Infrastructure.

Introduction

The effort of the local grass root level should be well articulated through well-organized institutional arrangement which will help to stimulate sustainable development (Aruma, 20011:32).

Aruma's sentiment laid credence to the desire of man to make life meaningful and enjoyable through effective administration. Although, this desire since the creation of man has always been a challenging one. Man longed to live in a well-organized community, seeking self-fulfilment and development. Yet this desire seems illogical and impossible to achieve in most organized society, especially in

developing economy like Nigeria. From the era of the early men to the Greek city-states, man has always sought to live together peacefully in communities in order to develop their God given potentials. Nanda (1993) observed that man by nature is a social being, who choose to live in organized society with well-defined code of conduct. Sometimes this code of conduct only serves the interest of the ruling class. Nnoli (2002) opined that the ruling class often manipulates the weak, the poor and the vulnerable, through the enforcement of rules and regulations. These laws are code of conducts imposed and enforced by the ruling elites, in order to maintain their status-quo. He noted that this can only take place in a well-defined territory with governmental institutions. Amandan, (2009) believe that a well-defined territory and institutions of government can also be referred to as a nation. He therefore defines a nation-state as any society or community of persons occupying a defined territory with independence and having an organised government. The point of emphasis in this study is the acknowledgement of the role of government in the decentralization of the institutions of governance so as to effectively integrate all sectors of society into the developmental agenda of government. It was this integration agenda of government that led to the creation of Local Government Administration in Nigeria.

Obi (2005) noted that, local government administration in Nigeria dates back to pre-colonial era when each community was administered as a separate entity with simple administrative system devoids of bureaucracy. He argued that when the imperialist invaded Nigeria, they introduced indirect rule system of administration that was incompatible with Africa traditional administrative system. Although this system was alien to Nigeria, it was incorporated and accepted in some part of Nigeria. This unholy marriage between traditional administrative system and Western administrative system was obfuscating. Dreze, and Sen, (2011) noted that this system was accepted in some parts of Nigeria, especially in Northern Nigeria. While in the West, it was a partial failure, because the Yoruba people of South west Nigeria had a structure that accommodated the indirect rule system. This cannot be said of the eastern part of Nigeria. They noted that it was a total failure in Eastern Nigeria, because the people are more republican than democrats. The introduction of indirect rule led to the famous Aba women riot in 1929. This riot was a protest against the exploitation and exclusion of Nigerians by the imperialist from governance especially at the rural areas (Obi, 2005). Some scholars like Tonwe (2007) and Ezeani (2007) believed that the indirect rule altered the traditional administrative system in Nigeria. They based their argument on the fact that the structure and function of the traditional administrative system have been adjusted to accommodate new actors in the new administrative system. This new system also brought with it all manner of people unknown to the system. For instance the introduction of the District Head, to replace the Village Head, the Warrant Chiefs, replaced the Elders Council while the youths were replaced by administrative staff of the district. It was observed that the Warrant Chiefs were corrupt and oppressive (Akpan, 1998). For example, they collected double taxes thereby fraudulently enriching themselves. The gradual introduction of new actors into the pre-colonial administrative system finally, gave birth to this

modern local government administration. This system not only excluded the rural dwellers from self-governance but also denied them the right to development.

Shah (2013) defined Local Government Administration as a specific institution or entity created by National state Constitutions to fast track rural development. For instance in Brazil, Denmark, France, India, Italy, Japan and Sweden where local government administration are in practice, they are the creation of a regional government unlike in Nigeria where local government administration is the creation of the Federal government. These creations were to bring government closer to the people and to render such services that the Federal and State government could not render. But this responsibility seems to be an impossible task for local government to fulfil in most developing countries especially in Nigeria. This is why Lockard (1968), Blair (1997), Akpan (1998) and Vashnoo & Vidya (2005) agreed that local government administration in Nigeria have not performed well as a third tier of government, but noted that they can still be seen as an institution through which the rural populist can be mobilized for effective development.

Akpan (1998) explained that local government in Nigeria has failed in the past; this failure is attributed to the disconnection that existed between the people and the institutions of governance in the rural community. Many scholars like Blair (1997) and Shah (2013) have observed that the disconnection between the Local Government Administration and rural development can be traced to a number of factors, for instance, the introduction of indirect rule and the prolonged military rule in Nigeria. He also accused the various local government reforms and the lopsided State and Local government relations as responsible for their failure. Although some scholars mentioned above agreed that, the various local government reforms introduced by the military are responsible for the abysmal performance of the local government council in Nigeria, some however disagreed. Those who disagreed argued that poor service delivery in the rural communities and inefficient management of public goods are bye product of development. They noted that as society becomes complex so is the administration. It is important to state that, local government administration is the smallest unit of governance and the simplest with the aim of bringing development closer to the people through integration into governance. However, the failure of local government to effectively perform these roles as assigned by the constitution has been a source of great concern to many scholars. According to the Fourth Schedule of the Nigerian 1999 Constitution, the main functions of Local Government among others are to make recommendations to a State Commission on Economic Planning or any similar body on economic development of the council area. Empirical evidence from the World Bank report 2010 shows that, in the past two decades, rural development have been neglected by government at all levels. They based their assessment on some key indicators, such as unemployment, poverty ratio, access to education, health care services, portable water and electricity. They observed that these facilities are none existence in most rural communities in Nigeria. To further buttress the World Bank report, most local government council cannot perform the simplest assigned function, For instance, in most local government areas in Delta State, cemeteries and home for the destitute are

non-existence, in places where they exist, they are not maintained according to Centre For Local Government Studies,(CLGS, 2012). In addition to the above, they also noted that no local government council have embarked on the construction of new primary or vocational institution in most local government councils in Delta state (CLGS, 2012). Neither have they attempted to renovate the old infrastructures built many years ago. Agbokoba and Ogbonna (2004) observe that agriculture that was the main occupation of rural communities in Nigeria could not been supported by the local government councils in Nigeria but have since been neglected and abandoned for oil money.

This is why the study wants to ascertain the extent to which local government administration in Nigeria has enhanced rural development in Nigeria, using Delta State as a case study. The objective of this study is to determine whether local government administration in Nigeria has enhanced rural development in Delta State, Nigeria. The study deployed the content analysis of data collection and analysis.

Local Government Administration and Development in Nigeria

Diejemaoh (1973) sees rural development as a process of not only increasing the level of per capita income in the rural areas, but also as a means of improving the quality of life of the people in rural communities, through certain indicators such as food sufficiency and high nutritional level, good health care, standard education, sustainable recreational facility and effective security. Olajide (2004) reveals that development is multi-faceted and it involves radical changes in institutional, political, social, economic and administrative structures as well as popular attitudes, custom and belief of the people. Therefore, development is all encompassing, involving the people, their skills and the environment. The local government administration is designed to harness the skills and natural resource to the benefit of the local people. This is what local government councils are created to do. Besides, defining rural development within the contest of modern society is not an easy task, but scholars have invented some indices to measure societal development. Fagbohun (2009) (cited in Dudley), believed that poverty, unemployment, inequalities and lack of modern infrastructure are some of the indices to measure development. He is convinced that, in any society where there is reduction in poverty, un-employment, provision modern infrastructures and a relative equality among the people, such society can be said to be experiencing development. This cannot be said of most rural communities in Nigeria, where there are countless unemployed youths, poverty stricken people and high level of infrastructural decay (CLGS, 2012). The World Bank in their 2012 report noted that, any community where the ratio of unemployment, poverty, inequality insecurity and rural/urban migration is high, such society is experiencing underdevelopment. They are underdeveloped because the administrative structure has failed to utilise the human and the natural resource at their disposal for the benefit of the people.

Agayere (1997) noted that in some parts of the world, especially in Africa, development is not only seen from the point of view of poverty reduction and provision of modern infrastructure, but rather from the point of view of the people's

culture, norms, and expectations. This, he believed, if the human and natural resource are effectively and efficiently harness, it can equally bring about development. In other words, the tradition, the norms, the believe system and other cultural practises must be integrated into the administrative system in order to reduce poverty and unemployment. For instance, in Rwanda, the local administrative structure recognises the culture, the norms and the expectations of the people. Scholars like Obi (2008) believed that Rwanda have one of the most successful local government administrative system in Africa. This success is anchored on the fact that, the country is administratively divided into smaller units for easy administration. For instance the country is divided into Provinces, Districts, Sectors, Cells and Villages. The Cells and Village serve as constituencies within Districts and hence provide an important vehicle for the citizens' mobilization and participation. One major advantage the Rwanda structure has over the Nigeria system is the integration of the Cells and Villages into governance and the recognition of the people's culture, norms and tradition as an integral part of rural development. This, Obo (2008) believe has afforded the people the opportunity to be part of governance for sustainable development.

Ofoeze (2003) noted that, local government administration in Nigeria have not been able to perform some of its assigned roles as a result of the over centralization and over bearing influence of the Federal and State government on local government administration. He explained that the Federal government in Nigeria created local government councils without recourse to the culture and the peculiarity of the people. This is why, he believe that the people's culture, norms and governance are inseparable. He further argued that because of the gap that exist between the people and governance, roles assigned to local government councils are increasingly difficult to achieve. For instance, one major function of the local government councils in Nigeria is rural development among others. Critical observation show that since 1960 till date, most local government administrations in Nigeria have not been able to provide effective social services delivery to the people in the rural communities, sure as rural road maintenance, primary health care, primary education and host of other services to the people (Akpanyi 2013). It is pertinent to note that the rural dwellers in Nigeria are the most neglected in terms of governance and development. Scholars like Tonwe, (2007) and Obi (200) contended that, the over centralization and the unification of local government administration in Nigeria are some of the reasons why local government administration in Nigeria have failed to effectively integrate rural communities. Their assertion is anchored on the fact that, local development is not tied to the human and material resource available for development. They believed that, no community have the same human and natural resource and therefore cannot develop at the same pace. They further contended that a unified and centralized local administrative system will inhibit rural development in Nigeria.

Nanda (2009) sees political structures as the institutions of government, through which the functions of the state are carried out. He further observes that local government administration is a political sub-division, which is created within a state

for the exercise of duties and responsibilities granted by constitutional provisions or legislative enactments. For instance, they are created to provide the services which the Federal and State governments cannot easily undertake due to their remoteness from the local communities. Aryee (2003) observed that, Local governments are the primary level of government that imparts services to the people. They are easily accessible by the people and easy for them to effectively participate in governance and provide services promptly and transparently. For instance, the Constitution empowered the local government councils to manage and plan for development so as to eradicate poverty, boost local economic development, job creation, and carry forward the process of reconstruction and development. Although these provisions are found in Nigeria statutory books, no concerted effort has been made to implement them. Drez & Sen (2011) gave a simple explanation why most third world countries may not be able to implement such lofty policy that addresses rural development and poverty reduction. He noted among others the weak institutional framework, corruption, cultural impediment, lack of political will and poor funding. These they articulated as responsible for local government failure in most developing economies.

In addition to the above reasons for the failure of local government council in Nigeria, scholar like Bashir and Muhammed (2012) noted that the survival of local government councils in Nigeria greatly depends on the state government. For instance, the 1999 constitution, as amended in 2011, stated that “the government of every state shall subject to provisions of section 8 of this constitution, ensure the existence of local government council under a law which provides for establishment, structure, composition, financing and functions of such councils” In other words, the survival of the local government administration in Nigeria largely depends on the benevolence of the state government. But in practise, local government administrations are the creation of the Federal government, with structure, composition and financing centralized. For instance, the state and local government joint account is another area where the independence of local government administration is seriously compromised.

The Challenges of Rural Development in Delta State

Delta State was established on 27th August 1991 from the defunct Bendel State of Nigeria by the then military government of General Ibrahim Babangida (DSG, 2006, August 17). The Delta State Local Government Councils were inherited from the defunct Bendel state. The Delta State Local Government Councils are saddled with the responsibility of fast-tracking rural development among others. The public servants in the Local Government are saddle with the responsibility of implementing the policies of the local government on infrastructural development and social service delivery to the rural communities. Delta State has twenty five Local Government Councils with over 500 rural communities spread across the state. It is safe to say that Delta State is made up of more rural areas than urban areas. Delta State has an estimated population of over 4.5 million people (www.deltastate.gov.ng). The demography of the State is shared between the urban and the rural communities. The National Bureau of Statistic (NBS) shows that, over 80% of the population dwell

in the rural areas between 1960 and 1970. These figures have however changed since early 1974 due to lack of social infrastructural development in most rural communities. In addition, the oil boom of the 1970s created new cities, such as Warri, Ughelli, Sapele, Abraka and Agbor where most oil companies operate. These emerging cities became attractive to young job seekers. Some scholars explained that the rate of unemployed youths in those new cities have increased drastically with the emergent of urban slums. Tonwe (2014) observed that since 1974, the rate of rural-urban migration in Delta State has been on the increase, resulting to over population in the urban areas while under population in the rural areas. Some scholars have blamed this scenario on bad local government administration in Nigeria. Tonwe (2014) has accused the Federal government who created the local government of non-integration of African traditional value, norms and pattern of development of the people into local government administration. This, he noted have resulted to the underdevelopment of the rural communities in Delta State.

Adegunmi (2009) noted with dismay the oppressive relationship that between the State and Local Government Councils in Nigeria. He observed that this relationship is that of master/servant relationship, with the State being the master and Local government as the servant. This observation stream from the fact that the state government has an over bearing influence on the local government administration in Nigeria. He explained that the Constitution has been blamed for the woes of the local government, because the Constitution permits a joint account between the State and Local Government Council. This, scholars observed the State government have abused. For instance, the State Government often refuses to remit the statutory 10% collectable revenue allocation to Local Government as enshrined in the 1999 Constitution. Ola and Tonwe (2007) noted that although the Constitution provided that 10% of the total revenue of the State should be disbursed to their Local Government Councils, the State Government had in most cases paid only a small fraction (less than 10%) to their local government councils. And in some cases, nothing at all is paid. It is shameful to note that most council chairmen go through hell to get their statutory allocation from the State Government. It was alleged by some media houses, like Vanguard that, local government councils They are made to part with huge amount of money every month as *loyalty* fees to the State Governor who may have facilitated their election or their appointment as the case maybe (Idama, 2010). He contended that, local government administration is supposed to be that level of government that is easily accessible to the rural communities, yet money meant for rural development are been shared. Scholars believed that local government administration ought to make life easier for people to effectively participate in governance and to enjoy services the Federal and the State government could not provide easily, promptly and transparently.

The fourth schedule of the Nigerian Constitution (1999) clearly stated the main functions of Local Government, among others, are to make recommendations to a State Commission on Economic Planning or any similar body on economic development of the Council Area. Empirical evidence from the (CLGS, 2014) shows that, in past two decade no such recommendation has been made by any local

government council. In other words, Ministry of Economic Planning ought to plan the developmental strategy for each local government, taking into account their peculiar need. In the same vein, the World Bank also noted that rural communities in Nigeria are neglected and denied of basic social infrastructure, such as portable water, electricity, education, health care centres and host of others. The National Bureau of Statistics also echoes the same sentiment of lack of basic social infrastructure in most rural communities in Nigeria. They noted that the ratio of infant mortality between rural and urban in Nigeria is 10:1.

The authors observed that the level of infrastructural decay in most rural communities in Delta State is unimaginable. From their critical observation and visit to most rural communities in Delta State shows that the Ministry of Economic Planning responsible for the planning of development in local government, have no plan. Neither do the local government council themselves. They explained that local government councils are left with discretionary powers on what to do. In other words, in the absence of any long term planning arrangement for local government, they are left with only ad hoc arrangement. This is why Idama (2010) believe that, any funds to the councils in Nigeria are shared after a recurrent expenditure. He also alleged that, principal officers of the councils also device means to share funds meant for capital projects. For example, frivolous expenses are brought forward for claim. In addition, fraudulent training programmes are organized; fraudulent contracts are issued and other services not render are paid for. Critical observation by some stakeholders in Isoko North Local government council like Isoko Youth Movement (IYM) shows that there was a fraudulent procurement made by the Chairman of the Local Government Council to the tune of over N300 million. They explained that the Chairman claims to have spent over N40 million for the purchase of 2 units of Tractor, N90 million for the purchase 105 units of Lawn mower, 4 units of Grader Caterpillar at N170 million. They noted that when these purchases were investigated, none of those items were purchased, yet money was disbursed (IYM, 2014).

In a petition written by one Mr Ovie Osiebe against the Chairman of Udu Local Government Council, shows that the Local Government Chairman in 2009 awarded contract for the construction of 2 Motor Parks in Aladja and Egini, none was built but money was paid for contract not executed. In a similar development, the Oghara Youth for Change also alleged that in 2010 the chairman of Ethiope West, awarded a contract for the construction of Water Tanks and water distribution network to two rural communities of Ovade and Ejomi money collected and project not executed. Yet, local government Chairmen and Councillors are busy building mansions and buying expensive cars to the detriment of rural communities. Many social and public commentators believed that fraudulent contracts are awarded in all the local government councils in Delta State. They also noted that frivolous claims are some of the means through which fraudulent practises are perpetuated by the Council's principal officers. They wonder whether local government councils in Delta State can ever meet up with their primary responsibility of rural development, considering the level of fraud in the local government councils in Nigeria.

In response to critics of local government administration in Nigeria, some scholars such as Agbakoba and Ogbonna (2004) believed that local government reform is imperative, considering the level of infrastructural decay in most rural communities in Nigeria. They explained that for local government councils to perform their duties effectively, they must intensify on their effort in internally generated revenue. For instance the collection of tenement rates, radio and television licenses is a sine qua-non for their survival. Some other scholars explained that, the more money in council the more corruption. He therefore advised the civil servants at the local government level to have a change of attitude towards public service. While scholars like Idama (2013) and Tonwe (2009) believed that the problem of local government inefficiency and under performance, can be situated in the structural defect of Nigeria federal system. This they believed is responsible for the inability of local government administration to effectively develop the rural communities. They anchor their argument on the fact that many Local Government Councils in Nigeria do not have the financial and human resource to undertake the assigned responsibility. This is because the funds, the manpower and the political environment for local government to effectively operate have been hijacked by the Federal and State Government.

In order to develop the rural communities, local government councils in Nigeria are expected to establish agricultural centres, build rural roads and primary health care centres. In addition, they are expected to establish and maintain cemeteries, home for the destitute among others. However, observations have shown that, in most local government areas in Delta State, cemeteries and home for the destitute are non-existence. In places where they exist, they are not maintained. Agbokoba and Ogbonna (2004) believed that agriculture was a major occupation for rural communities in Nigeria, but have since been neglected as a result of oil boom in the 1970s. It has been observed by some scholars that local government administration was better off between 1950 and 1970 when agriculture was the main income earner. They observed that, within that period local government councils in Nigeria paid special attention to rural development. For instance, Primary Health Care Centres, Primary schools, Community Markets were built in many rural areas in Delta State. But a visit to some rural communities in Delta State where such infrastructure hitherto exist, clearly show the aging infrastructures and the date they were built. Some of them have over grown weeds, this goes to show the level of infrastructural decay in most rural communities visited.

A survey on rural urban migration in Delta State by Centre for Rural Development CRD in 2013 shows that, between 1970 and 1999 only two (2) Primary schools, three (3) Health care centres and one (1) Market were built in over 700 rural communities in Delta North. In Delta south the story was not different, in the two Isoko local government councils, seven (7) Primary health centres, (14) lockup shops, (3) rural markets, 4 primary schools and 1 feeder road in over 43 rural communities were constructed. The report indicated that, these infrastructures were built by the multinational oil companies operation in that region. The story is not different in the Ijaw and Itsekere area of Delta South. There is no evidence of any Primary school,

Health care centre or Market built by the Federal, State or Local government council in the area. The report suggested the absence of rural development in the Ijaw and Itsekere areas. This, some scholars argued maybe due to the bad terrain of the area. Besides, strong accusing finger have been pointed at the Multinational Oil Companies operating in the region for not supporting rural development effort of the local government.

Scholars like Idama (2013) believe that local government councils in Nigeria are saddled with too many responsibilities that they cannot effectively cope with. He opined that, most local government councils focus more attention on revenue generation to the detriment of rural development. But also believe that money is the life wire of any administration and without money services will be neglected and relegated. He contended that, the major challenge of the local government council in Nigeria is corruption. He wonders why the Economic and Financial Crime Commission EFCC has not beamed their searchlights on the local government Councils, since local government councils play a vital role in rural development. There are empirical evidences to show that Local Government Councils in Nigeria are some of the most corrupt tier of government in the world. For instance, out of the 774 local government councils in Nigeria, over 75% of them have been indicted for corruption (*Thisday*, June 10, 2013).

As some scholars have noted before, agriculture played a pivotal role in rural development in the pre-colonial era. This vital sector of the economy was abandoned due to the oil boom of the 1970s. Some analyst believed that the discovery of oil in Nigeria was responsible for the rural-urban drift. They also contended that not only the discovery of oil but lack of political will to modernize agricultural operation in the rural community was responsible for the rural-urban migration. In the pre-colonial and colonial era, the agricultural sector accounted for 95% employment in the rural areas in Delta State. Marketing Boards were established to buy off produce from the rural areas. In addition, soft loan were given to rural farmers by the local government council. But as of today, local government council collect all forms of taxes from the rural farmers. They equally collect taxes from middlemen who trade on farm produce. This double tax regime has further impoverished the people. Many social commentators such as Barr Omorabor, a TV presenter in Delta Rainbow Television, have echoed the same sentiment, whether to what extent has the introduction of local government administration in Nigeria enhanced or influenced rural development, considering all the problems associated with local government administration in Nigeria. In their view, local government administration in Nigeria has not enhanced, neither has it influenced rural development, therefore it should be scrapped.

A survey carried out by Beall (2000) on rural development in Nigeria shows that, rural dwellers in Nigeria live below the required standard set by the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. The report shows that, most rural dweller in Nigeria live below one dollar a day. Other indicators show that, the average life expectancy in rural area in Nigeria is 42.55, adult literacy (30.1%), and per capita income per day is less than one dollar. Against all these problems confronting rural communities in Nigeria, local government council whose constitutional responsibility

is to address rural development, are neck deep in colonial politics of exploitation and corruption. It is another tragedy that the local government administration that was supposed to address rural development has been structural destroyed, through government interference. Many analysts believed that the present administrative structure in local government Councils in Delta state do not have the capacity to reduce the level of poverty, unemployment, inequalities and improve on infrastructural development in most rural communities in Delta State Nigeria. The underpinning of their argument is that, the local government council lack the supporting structure for development. This is because; most rural dwellers are politically, culturally and economically alienated from local governance. Their alienation is based on administrative defect that failed to recognized and integrate the tradition and cultural norms into the present local government administrative system.

Conclusion

Scholars have observed that since the colonial era, local government administration in Nigeria has been problematic. And all attempts to reform, restructure and reengineer local government administration in Nigeria have failed to yield the required results. One critical area where local government administration has failed woefully in Nigeria is in rural development. The local government administration in Nigeria today is the up-shoot of colonial administration. And within that period, efforts were geared towards the institutionalization of local government administration in rural communities as a means of fast tracking development. However, government intervention in local government administration has resulted to more alienation of the people from self-governance. To further alienate the people, was the introduction of the unification Decree by the then military junta in the 1970s. This system further altered the developmental pattern of the people by failing to recognizing the cultural diversity in Nigeria. This unification created more problems such as unequal revenue allocation to the local government council, fiscal indiscipline and corruption. The retrogressive effects of local government administration are evident in the rate of rural-urban migration.

Recommendations

The study recommends among others that: local government administration must take into account the cultural values of the people and integrate them into the administrative structure. The government must ensure that the present local government structure is broken into smaller units for effective rural development. The federal and state government must ensure that the rural dwellers are mobilized for agricultural revolution in Delta state. Finally, the government must ensure that basic social infrastructure such functional health care and educational facilities are provided to stem the rural-urban migration in Delta state.

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