Service Delivery in Benue State: Focus on Water and Sanitary Services

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Abstract

This paper examines the role of Benue State House of Assembly on service delivery with emphasis on water and sanitation services in Benue State. The paper uses the structural functionalism theory to support the arguments. Exploratory and descriptive surveys were used alongside the inductive approach to generate data. It was found that the inability of the State Legislature to sanction agencies and ministries were responsible for poor service delivery. The study further discovered that, majority especially the poor lack adequate safe drinking water, only about a small fraction of the population practice safe sanitation. The resultant effect was found to be that majority of the population fall back to self-efforts to sustain their daily demands. The paper recommends sanctions to ensure compliance with legislative resolution. Also, the government should make adequate budgetary allocation to the ministries and agencies charged with the responsibility of water and sanitary services in the state. If these challenges are not urgently addressed by the legislature, the problem will persist.

Keywords: Legislation, Policies, Sanitation, Service delivery and Water

Introduction

Access to safe water and basic sanitation is considered as basic human need and a justified human right for all people. It is a basic and important factor in the measurement of human development. The historical development of water and sanitation can be traced through to the colonial era. The administration engaged in domestic water supply as one of their overall programme to improve the level of personal hygiene and environmental sanitation throughout the country. Some governmental policies and legislations relating to water supply and sanitation were implemented. And these included by: Water Works Acts of 1915, The Mineral’s Act of 1917, Public Health Act of 1917, the River Basin’s Act of 1976, 19 87, Total Impact Assessment Decrees/Acts of 1992, 2004. (MDGS, 2015).

Others include National Standard for Drinking Water quality 2007, (NEST, 1991). The institutional rationale for water supply and sanitation services in the country arises from the following: To protect available sources of water, ensure a wider urban and rural water supply and sanitation coverage, to respond to and fit in with a wider global initiatives and goals, an emergency responsible to water and health needs of the growing population, to regulate activities in the sector among others. The need to protect the available sources of water guided the various colonial and post colonial policies and regulations in the water and sanitation sector (Nwankwo, 2011).

According to World Health Organisation (WHO, 2010), Nigeria is one of the countries in Sub-Sahara Africa whose record on general access to water supply and sanitation facilities is still below average. It was further explained that Nigerian cities in particular are fraught with inexorable rise of squatter settlements, overcrowding dwellings, breakdown of waste disposal arrangements, air and water pollution and inadequate as well as inadequate water and sanitation services. Many problems of mortality, morbidity, and poverty are been
reported in literature as consequences of lack of safe drinking water and sanitation coverage.

In today’s democratic Nigeria, democracy is to ensure popular participation and control of the process of government since all the people cannot participate individually and control their government at the same time, they entrust these rights and duties to an elected few including the legislature and the executive. The law making process is an interesting chain of activities, which involves passing of motions into resolutions and bills into laws which depending on certain circumstances contribute in one way or the other to socio-economic development (Edet & Attai, 2014). Other functions of the legislature include: representation and oversight functions. The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) recognizes the centrality of the legislature in promoting good governance.

By good governance, it implies the delivery of goods and services to the people. It also entails the maintenance of law and order in the society. Compared to the experience of other types of government (Military regimes, for instance) goods and services are better delivered under a democratic dispensation in which checks and balances between the different arms of government are ensured. In a democratic government where leaders are representative of the people, elected periodically, try to ensure the real benefits of democracy (both material and moral) are readily and consistently accruable to the citizenry. In Benue State for instance, it is contended that the processes of development through the provision of social services have been better enhanced under a democratic dispensation (Ukpoju, 2002).

Against this backdrop, Nigerians were enthusiastic when in May 1999 a democratically elected government was enthroned in the state, there was a total or near absence of basic amenities in most communities (Omenka, 2008). Schools and health care delivery system were in a very dilapidated state. Most communities were not properly linked by good roads networks. Electricity and portable (pipe- borne) water were not available. In communities where these amenities were available, the supply is epileptic. These conditions, expectedly pose a great challenge to the leadership of the state, particularly the state legislators who are not only the people’s closest representative in the government, but leaders who secured their mandate on the promise to address the poor conditions of living by providing essential services like water and sanitation, health care and other necessary infrastructure to its people.

The introduction of this paper is very weak because it lack focus and is unorganized, raising questionable issue that are unnecessary, so please address

**Water and Sanitation in Benue State**

Human welfare and economic development generally depend on the use of water. In Nigeria, water resources management and utilization is crucial to the country’s efforts to reduce poverty, grow the economy, ensure food security and maintain the ecological systems (Gbadejesin & Olorunfemi, 2007). Access to water is measured by the number of people who have reasonable means of getting an adequate amount of water that is safe for drinking, washing and essential household activities expressed as a percentage of the total population. It reflects the health of a country’s people and the country’s capacity to collect, clean and distribute water to consumers. Safe water includes treated surface water, as well as untreated but uncontaminated water from source such as natural springs and sanitary wells, protected boreholes among others. On average, a person needs about 20 liters of safe water each day to meet his or her daily metabolic, hygiene and domestic needs (WHO, 2016). In urban areas the source may be public standpipe located not more than 200 meters away, while in rural areas the definition do not imply the reality (Nwachukwu, 2008).
A report by international bodies like the United Nations (UN), World Health Organization (WHO) and other non-governmental organizations have indicated that water supply and sanitation is not always commensurate with demand worldwide. According to WHO (2018) only 32% of rural population in developing countries have access to safe drinking water. A large percentage of the rural population in developing countries continues to live without adequate access to safe and convenient water supply and sanitation, water supply is still unreliable. In Nigeria, more than 90% of rural areas and 60% of urban areas face water related problems (UNICEF, 2017).

Benue state is faced with this challenge especially in the rural areas, some studies have been carried out to assess the water supply situation in different parts of Benue State and examine the explanatory factors and implications on the people. Water scarcity and poor sanitation remain the recurrent situation in rural areas of Benue State. (Ifan 2002).

The rural communities of Mbatia, Mbatierev districts in Gboko Local Government Area of Benue State are faced with cases of typhoid, cholera, bilharzias, dysentery and guinea-worm to mention a few as a result of poor sources and sanitary conditions of water in their areas. The challenges of water supply and sanitation in Benue State is directed on the systems, the representative of the Benue people (Benue State House of Assembly), the constitutional mechanism of law making and oversight instruments put in place to enhance service delivery in the State, How effective and efficient are these instruments employed by the State House of Assembly to enforce sufficient and affordable water and sanitation services by service providers.

Conceptual Foundations: The Legislature

To Ukase (2007, p.3) the epistemology of the word ‘Legislature’ is a derivative of a Latin word ‘Legis’ which means law. Therefore, a legislature could be defined as elected representatives of the people that have the constitutional responsibility to make laws. It is also defined as a body of persons vested with the powers of law-making within a given society.

To him, the legislature still faces complex definitional problems. It is only the legislature that has at least the formal and exclusive powers to enact laws. It is in recognition of this position that the legislature is defined “as a predominantly elected body of people that act collegially with at least the formal but not necessarily the exclusive powers, to enact laws binding on all members of a specific geopolitical entity” (Ukase, 2013, p. 4).

The above definition debunks the supremacy or exclusiveness of the law making functions to the legislature alone. This submission is anchored on the premise that some laws enacted by the legislature are in truly professional sense delegated unarguably. However, the legislature plays a dominant role in the law making process but their role is rapidly vitiated as laws are made more and more by agencies and institutions that are not part of the legislature; hence their dominance in the law making process is fast declining in some democracies.

Omenka, (2011, p. 12), sees legislatures as ‘assemblies of elected representatives from geographically defined constituencies, with lawmaking functions in the governmental process”. In the same vein, Ndoma-Egba (2012) identified two features that distinguish legislatures from other branches of government. He opines that legislatures have formal authority to pass laws, which are implemented and interpreted by the executive and judicial branches and their members normally are elected to represent various elements in the population. It is significant to note that legislatures vary in terms of composition, structure and role, from one democracy to the other.

Ukase (2013) maintains that the legislature is a kind of deliberative assembly with the power to pass, amend and repeal laws. The law created by a legislature is called legislation or statutory law. In addition to enacting laws, legislatures usually have exclusive authority to raise or lower taxes and adopt the budget and other monetary bills. Legislatures are known by many names, the most common being parliament and congress. In a presidential system however, according to the doctrine of separation of powers the legislature is considered an
independent and co-equal branch of government along with both the judiciary and the executive.

Also, the legislature is an assemblage of the representatives of the people elected under a legal framework to make laws for the good health of the society. It is also defined as “the institutional body responsible for making laws for a nation and one through which the collective will of the people or part of it is articulated, expressed and implemented” (Okoosi-Simbine 2010, p. 1).

Sanitation

Sanitation is the hygienic means of promoting health through prevention of human contact with the hazard of wastes. Mosleh, & Sudhir (2005) pointed that hazard can be physical, microbiological, biological or chemical agents of disease. The key to man’s health lies largely in his environment. Safe sanitation promotes health, improves the quality of the environment and thus, the quality of life in a community. Grey (2002) viewed sanitation as the hygienic disposal or recycling of waste materials, particularly human excreta. He further maintained that sanitation is an important public health measure, which is essential for the prevention of disease. International Water and Sanitation (2004) posits that sanitation refers to the facilities and hygienic principles and practices related to the safe collection, reuse and or disposal of human excreta and domestic waste water. To Ogbuji (2003), it also refers to the maintenance of hygienic conditions, through services such as garbage collection and waste disposal.

Basic means what is necessary and important to all people including basic human rights to every individual. Basic sanitation therefore refers to the management of human faeces and wastes of all kind at the household level.

Basic sanitation addresses the issue of solid waste disposal, sewage disposal and water sanitation. Waste as the term implies is any solid, liquid or gaseous substances or materials which being a scalp or being super flows, refuse or eject is disposed of or required to be disposed as unwanted.

Service Delivery

Joseph O. (2014) defines service as the service of goods and social output in a community wish is obtained for the common good, such as a livable environment, clean water, good education, health care, security among others. These services to him includes water supply, sewage collection and disposal, refuse disposal, electricity and gas supply, municipal health services municipal storm water drainage, street lights, municipal parks and recreation. In this regard, these services to be provided by the Nigerian local governments are enshrined in the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Services therefore have a direct and immediate effect on the quality of the lives of the people in a community. For example, if water provided is of a poor quality, or refuse has not been collected regularly as supposed to by agencies responsible, it will constitute an unhealthy and unsafe living environment. Poor services will also render an environment less attractive for establishment of businesses, industries and as well limit job opportunities for the inhabitants.

Theoretical Framework

The paper is anchored on the theory of structural functionalism. Structural functionalism is an important off-shoot of general systems theories and it was popularised by Radcliffe-Brown. Structural functionalism has been found useful in the comparison of political systems. Almond, (1960) one of the chief proponents of the approach submits that every political system performs certain functions. Using Easton’s system analysis, as a starting point, Almond searches for the functions which could be included among the input and output functions. He identifies four characteristics of political systems. His claim was that the functions represent concepts common to both western and non-western systems, therefore, are useful for comparison between the two types of systems. The following are the major assumptions of structural functionalism by Varma (2006):

i. Modern systems are more efficient in coping with the political problems in a state.
ii. Political change can be seen in terms of development, that there is ‘Logic to the process of development’.
iii. Systems have property of order and an interdependence of parts.
iv. Systems tend toward self-maintaining order, or equilibrium.
v. The system may be involved in an ordered process of change.
vi. The nature of one part of the system has an impact on the form that the other parts can take.
vii. Systems maintain boundaries within their environments.
viii. Allocation and integration are two fundamental processes necessary for a given state of equilibrium within a system.
ix. Systems tend to rely towards self-maintenance to change the system as a whole.

Almond further submits that, all political systems have political structures and the structures at different kinds, performs same functions (Varma, 2006). He further states that, for the system to remain in existence and in order to remain in equilibrium, it performs specific tasks. He therefore, identifies eight functions which the system performs and the functions are divided into two, the input and the output functions. His classification is in relation to the political system developed by Easton. Almond maintains that, the “INPUT” and the “OUTPUT” recognized by Easton can be understood as “functions” or “functional requisites” of political system. As a result, he redefine these inputs and output with deeper understanding of the political process and go ahead to identify various structures that perform these functions in order to evolve what is today known in contemporary political analysis as; structural functionalism.

Structural functionalism has been criticized on several grounds. First and foremost it has been criticized that it does not conform to criteria for a sound classification; it fails to recognize that one structure may perform several functions. It has also been criticized that the identification of functions is allege to rest on the interpretation that the analysis places on observed development, meaning that there cannot be complete objectivity. That is the number of the identified functions can be more or less than the eight listed by Almond. Another criticism of Almonds analysis is that it can no longer cope with explaining the difference in the changing world.

Despite the criticism against structural functionalism, the model is useful to the study. Thus the relevance of this theory to the study is that, it reveals the legislature as one of the structures of the political system. It is among the trinity of democratic governance as such, it has its role/functions it performs as can be seen under the output classification. The legislature is seen performing the function of rule-making which is generally referred to as its primary function. Also, the legislature as a structure of government saddled with the responsibility of overseeing, supervising and investigating of public activities of the executive arm of government and in some cases the private sector inter-alia is in tandem with the theory. All these are geared toward effective provision of services that will enhance the welfare of the majority of the people. This can be achieved through oversight of the service providers.

Describing the Methodology Adopted for the Research Work

The research follows both exploratory, descriptive survey research designs. The justification is built on the fact that both methods deal with determination, evaluation and explanation of past events essentially for the purpose of gaining a better and clearer understanding of the present and making a more reliable prediction of the future especially as it relates to the study under investigation. Using an inductive approach through which secondary sources of data are drawn, an appropriate theory is also adopted to guide the analysis. The secondary sources of data are drawn from reports of the Benue State House of Assembly, text books, journals, official
publications, conference papers, internet sources and documentaries. The data for this paper were analyzed using the discourse analytic method. This study adopts textual or documentary analysis which involves rigorous and systematic analysis of the contents of documents appropriate in the analytical methodological requirements.

The discussion above under this heading “Benue State House of Assembly: A historical perspective” is not relevant because all what have been discussed here does not have any bearing to the topic, so delete that section or discuss what are relevant to the topic.

Findings

In Benue State, due to political reasons, the responsibility for keeping the service (of water supply and sanitation) going is placed with a remote authority and accountability is never manifest. In 2016 alone it has been revealed that majority of the state citizens were living without access to safe water supply and sanitation. This was further estimated that over two thousand million people in the area did not have adequate water supply services and about 2.1 million did not have the basic level of sanitation. The department of Water Affairs and Environment was said to have acknowledged the plight of the citizen and has made it a government responsibility to ensure that everyone is entitled to basic water supply and sanitation. (Benue State Official Gazette, 2007, Act no. 108, section 3).

According to the white paper on water and sanitation (2997), basic water supply can be defined as 25 litres per person per day for direct consumption within 200 metres of the home and of acceptable condition quality. Water is therefore essential to life and should be available for all domestic activities as stated in the white paper of Benue State Government.

Not only to life but essential nature of water is beyond measure as it contribute to the development and productions in manufacturing industries, power generation, mining and agriculture to mention a few, and also sustains the natural environment.

Generally, the activities of the legislature are conducted at committee level. The study is to assess the role of the Benue State House of Assembly in the provision of water and sanitation services in Benue State and activities of House Committee on Water Resources and Environment. (Section 128 and 129 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), empowers the legislature to conduct investigation on matters relating to governance. Standing Committees conduct investigations and hold public hearings to establish facts and report their findings to the House for further action. Another instrument used by the legislature is power of appropriation.

The activities of the Fourth Assembly of the Benue State Legislature covered a period of Four years (May 31st, 1999-May, 2003). During this period, several Resolutions were taken on the floor of the House while about 28 (twenty eight) Bills were passed into law. In the same period, three (3) Bills were killed; seven (7) expired and two (2) were withdrawn by the sponsors (Omenka, 2008). However, none of these bills were on the provision of water and sanitation services in Benue State. The two bills that relate to water and sanitation, “Bill for the Maintenance of clean environment in Benue State” and a Bill for the control of Water Vending and Vendors in Benue State only passed through the first reading (Report of the Business and Rules Committee, 1999-2003). Also, in terms of constituency projects during the Fourth Assembly, Tarka, Gboko and Kastina-Ala had boreholes drilled.

Since the inception of democracy in 1999, the Benue State House of Assembly has appropriated sum amount of monies for the Ministry of Water Resources and Environment. For instance, in 2013, the State House of Assembly appropriated the sum of ₦9,989,555,426 to the Ministry of Water Resources and Environment in a bid to enhance water and sanitation services, some members of the State Assembly embark on their constituency projects in the area of water and sanitation. Below are some constituency projects in water and sanitation in Benue State. (Benue State House of Assembly Proposed Constituency Projects 2012)
Table 1: Water and Sanitation constituency projects in some selected LGSs Benue State, 2012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LGC</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Estimated cost</th>
<th>Min/Agency</th>
<th>Contractor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Oju 1</td>
<td>Drilling of six bore-holes</td>
<td>₦20m</td>
<td>Min. of Water Resources and Environment</td>
<td>Dekwus Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Gboko East</td>
<td>Drilling of boreholes at 12 council wards</td>
<td>₦30m</td>
<td>Min. of Rural Dev.and cooperatives</td>
<td>Fase Global Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Kwande (East)</td>
<td>Provision of potable water at Shangev-ya</td>
<td>₦20m</td>
<td>Ministry of Water Resources and Environment</td>
<td>Fase Global Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Kastina Ala West</td>
<td>10 Nos. of boreholes in Kastina-Ala</td>
<td>₦20m</td>
<td>Ministry for Water Resources and Environment</td>
<td>Fase Global Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Kastina Ala East</td>
<td>Water project at Tse-Konogo</td>
<td>₦10m</td>
<td>Ministry for Water Resources and Environment</td>
<td>Carols K. Business World Nig. Ltd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Gboko West</td>
<td>Renovation of water works at Ikpa-Mbatierev</td>
<td>₦8m</td>
<td>Ministry for Water Resources and Environment</td>
<td>Kwadam Nigeria Ltd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>₦108m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Benue State House of Assembly Proposed Constituency Projects 2012.

Table 2: Proportion of water supply sources, i.e. treated, untreated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source/ Technology</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Treated, Untreated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open wells</td>
<td>Ikpa-Mbatierev, Gboko LGA</td>
<td>Untreated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open wells</td>
<td>Shangev-ya Kwande LGA</td>
<td>Untreated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protected wells</td>
<td>Gboko-East</td>
<td>Untreated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protected wells</td>
<td>Katsina-Ala</td>
<td>Untreated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bore-Hole</td>
<td>Oju township</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rivers/ Streams</td>
<td>Agagbe, Gwer-west LGA</td>
<td>Untreated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipe</td>
<td>Makurdi township</td>
<td>Treated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author, July, 2020

Table 3: Current Sanitation in the above LGCs in the state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type/ Technology</th>
<th>Urban/Rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improved pit, Ikpa-Mbatierev, Gboko LGA</td>
<td>Improved pits</td>
<td>Rural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shangev-ya, Kwande LGA</td>
<td>Open defecations</td>
<td>Rural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gboko-East, K/Ala-East</td>
<td>Improved pits</td>
<td>Urban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gwer-west</td>
<td>Open defecation</td>
<td>Rural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makurdi township</td>
<td>WC</td>
<td>Urban</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Table 1 above, shows that in 2012 alone a total of One Hundred and Eight Million Naira (₦108,000,000) was appropriated for various constituency projects relating to water and sanitation across the state. However, the financial commitment has not transcended to improve water and sanitation services in the state. For instance, the major towns in Benue State; Makurdi, Gboko, Otukpo, Kastina-Ala, Adikpo, Oju, Gwer-West among others still suffers from water scarcity and poor sanitary conditions. Makurdi, the capital of Benue State has available water resources. It is situated on the banks of River Benue which is one of the two largest rivers in Nigeria. It is expected that with the availability of the river, there would be
adequate water supply but only a small fraction
of residents boast of a skeletal access to the
zoning system of pipe born water sometimes in
three months thereby compelling households
to settle on unsafe alternative sources from the
shallow hand dug wells, broken pipes and even
fetch directly from river which are highly
polluted from physical, chemical and
bacteriological sources.

In Makurdi, the capital of Benue State, only
about 25-30% of the population is served. In
2008 the construction of a water treatment
plant was left unfinished and officials were
unable to account for USD 6 million. As of
2012, a water treatment plant was under
construction as part of the Greater Makurdi
Waterworks Project. According to an
independent water consultant, lack of a
modern distribution network will lead pipes to
burst and the capacity of the plant is at risk of
not being fully utilized.

In terms of oversight, the Seventh Assembly’s
Four-man Committee on Water and
Environment chaired by Hon. Godwin Akaan,
The committee conducted several oversights
functions on the various agencies under its
jurisdiction. According its report (2014) on
Benue State Water Board (BSWB), Benue State
Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency
(BERWASSA), Ministry of Water Resources
and Environment (MWRE), it observed the
agency’s understaffing as well as adequate
facilities for evacuation of refuse across the
local government areas. The report also
Identified 65% of waterworks in the state are
not functional due to poor maintenance. The
findings of the Committee collaborated the
dirty environment in most of the cities in the
state.

The Benue State House of Assembly has faced
stiff challenges in supervising or conducting
oversight functions on services providers
especially water and sanitation. Below are some
of the challenges as captured by Ukase (2010,
p.21) thus:

The legislature is given a lot of powers in the
constitution to perform oversight functions
and act as the watchdog of the executive, to
screen and approve certain appointees of the
executive. It is however disheartening to say

that the exercise of the above function to
ensure good governance for the benefit of all
and sundry is often interfered with by the
executive. Most times, heads of agencies
demonstrate high level of uncooperative
attitudes like accountability, reluctant to
provide the legislature with adequate financial
records to ascertain expenditure and execution
of projects. Willful refusal to adhere to
recommendations of honourable members
because of too much attachment to the
executive. Coupled with the administrative
and technical challenges such as skilled manpower,
modern technology etc makes impossible the
way forward of honourable members to
enforce its resolutions. These factors militate
against committee’s capacity to implement
their oversight functions that will enhance
effective service delivery in the course of water
and sanitation.

The legislature is very crucial in enforcing
accountability and responsibility in any
democratic setting. Oversight function is also a
very important role of the modern legislature.
Oversight function particularly appears to
preoccupy modern legislatures. The watchdog
function is perhaps more important for a
legislative assembly than that of law-making.
The legislature provides the institutional
mechanism for ensuring accountability and
good governance. Such oversight functions
include scrutinizing and authorizing revenues
and expenditures of the government and
ensuring that the national budget is properly
implemented.

The bogus claims made above should be
sourced, also since the paper quoted Section
128 and 129 of the 1999 Constitution of the
Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended),
empowers the legislature to conduct
investigation on matters relating to governance,
the thinking is that the discussion of findings
should have been based on this or were the
assembly members themselves carrying the
projects which is not their constitutional
responsibility, rework

Conclusion and Recommendations

Adequate and safe drinking water supply and
appropriate sanitation facilities form part of a
sound basis for improvement in community
health. This is because maximum health benefits can only be achieved if water and sanitary facilities are simultaneously put in place and operate in full capacity with the acceptable standard. The Benue State House of Assembly has made modest efforts towards appropriation and oversight of service providers. All these measures are geared towards effective service delivery especially water and sanitation. In addition, some members of the Benue State House of Assembly embark on various water and sanitation projects as their constituency projects. Despite these measures, the provisions of water and sanitation services are still epileptic in the state. Major cities in the state do not have access to potable water and proper sanitation services. In light of the above findings:

i. Sanctions or enforcement of compliance with legislative resolution on sensitive national issues: Resolution is important in that it serve as countervailing structures to monitor government activities and to stem inherent disposition toward abuse of powers by the arms of government.

ii. Adequate budgetary allocation should be given to the Ministry and agencies charged with the responsibility of providing water and sanitation services in the state. The increase in budgetary allocation will enable these agencies to acquire the necessary machines and equipment for effective service delivery.

iii. There is a need to address the many administrative challenges relating to office accommodation, utility vehicles, computers, internet facilities.

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in Political Economy and Development Studies of the University of Jos.


