

**Appraising Prophetic Paradigm of Good Governance:
Lessons for Contemporary Political Leaders in Nigeria**

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Abstract

The religion of Islam is unique among other religions in many respects. A very prominent feature in its uniqueness is a comprehensive regulation of religious and mundane activities of its adherents where both realms are complementary. Thus, the leadership of the two realms is to be assumed by an individual with requisite qualities as it was the case with the Prophet (SAW) and his successors, the four rightly guided leaders. Just as Islam tasks religious leaders (Imams) are expected to coordinate religious activities in proper manners, it also mandates political leaders to manage the affairs of the people in the society as to realize the good governance. In the contemporary time, the realization of good governance has remained a jinx especially in Africa, Nigeria inclusive. Despite abundant natural and human resources, poverty and insecurity remain the constant indices for lack of good governance in Nigeria. While the country is neither an Islamic state nor a Christian nation, it is not also a secular entity nor an idol worshipping state. As well as Christian leaders, there are a good number of Muslims in the helms of affairs who have failed to provide quality leadership that ensures good governance. Therefore, this paper explores the Islamic political heritage and highlights the prophetic paradigm of good governance with a view to inspiring the current crop of political leaders in the country. Historical method shall be employed to achieve this objective. The paper concludes that the Islamic political heritage is replete with examples of good governance that can be emulated by contemporary political leaders in Nigeria.

Keywords: Africa, Good Governance, Prophetic Paradigm, Leadership, Nigeria.