

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

A CONCEPTUAL PERSPECTIVE

The need to bring about a better society and improve the living standard of citizens in a country continues to dominate public discussions in the contemporary world. As a result, public administration as a field of study in the social sciences has come to

assume the role of a catalyst for an improved society. This is achieved through the understanding and application of some basic concepts, such as: bureaucracy, models of decision making, public policy and the policy process, public financial management, personnel management, leadership, communications in organisations, the civil service, local government, administrative ethics and accountability, inter-governmental relations and public administrative law. Therefore, "*Public Administration: A Conceptual Perspective*" is a *Book of Fifteen Chapters* that focus on the sub-discipline of public administration. The book is organised to give an understanding of the subject of public administration to students at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, academics, practitioners and interested members of the general public.

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DANIEL E. I. GBEREVBIE

Public Administration: **A Conceptual Perspective**

Daniel E. I. Gberevbie

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to ALMIGHTY GOD

&

*Josephine Chinyere Oguike-Gberebie, Marvellous
Aghogho Chidinma Ejiro, Rejoice Eghele Onyinye, Judah
Favour Daniel and Asher Testimony David
Also, to the memories of my parents – Mr Gabari Robinson
Gberebie and Mrs Atatigho Mary Umukoro-Gberebie*

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PREFACE

The complexity of societal problems and growing expectations of citizens for efficient and effective delivery of goods and services to improve the living standard of the people by the government have become a concern. This coupled with the inadequate resources to meet the ever-increasing day-to-day challenges facing the government and citizenry in the contemporary world have made it imperative for the understanding of the subject of public administration to be of utmost interest to everyone in the society. This is particularly true of developing countries in Africa, including Nigeria.

A proper understanding of the subject of public administration as a field of study in the social sciences and its invaluable contribution to nation-building is vital to students, academics and practitioners in the field of public administration. This is particularly relevant in the area of adequate knowledge to aid government officials in the formulation and implementation of public policies and programmes for political and economic growth in developing countries. As a result, there is need to have in one packaged textbook, the core areas of the subject of public administration for easy reference to guide students, scholars, practitioners and interested members of the general public to facilitate their understanding of the concept. This book entitled “Public Administration: A Conceptual Perspective” is, therefore, packaged to realise the above important goals.

To achieve the understanding of the subject of public administration by students, academics, practitioners and interested members of the general public, the following areas are discussed in this book: Chapter one addresses the concept of public administration, development of public administration as an academic field of study, scope and nature of public administration, differences and similarities between public and private (business) administration. Chapter two examines the approaches to the study of public administration. Chapter three discusses the relationship

between public administration and some other disciplines in the Social Sciences, Arts, Humanities and Business Management. Chapter four addresses bureaucracy and public administration. Chapter five examines models of decision making and public administration. Chapter six addresses public policy and the policy process. Chapter seven explores public financial management. Chapter eight discusses personnel management. Chapter nine examines leadership. Chapter ten discusses communications in organisations. Chapter eleven explores the civil service. Chapter twelve discusses local government. Chapter thirteen examines ethics and accountability in administration. Chapter fourteen discusses inter-governmental relations, and chapter fifteen addresses the public administrative law.

The book is, therefore, reasonably packaged with a view to giving a proper and easy understanding of what the subject of public administration is all about to students, scholars, practitioners and interested members of the general public.

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