

THE ROLES OF THE CHURCH IN THE QUEST FOR SOCIO-POLITICAL
AND ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING OF NIGERIA.

BY

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APPROVAL PAGE

This dissertation has been approved, having satisfied the conditions for the award of a Doctor of Philosophy Degree (Ph.D) in Church Government and Administration of Dynamic Theological Seminary, Kwale, Delta State, Nigeria, Affiliated to Harvest Bible University, Los Angeles, California, United States of America.

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DEDICATION

This thesis is wholeheartedly dedicated to the Almighty God, the Author and Finisher of my faith, the Source of all wisdom, and the Giver of life. Without His divine guidance, grace, and mercy, this work would never have been accomplished.

Through every challenge, He strengthened me; in times of uncertainty, He gave me clarity; and in moments of weakness, His power sustained me. This research is a testimony of His faithfulness, goodness, and unending love.

I return all glory, honor, and praise to Him alone, for this work is not just an academic achievement but a fulfillment of His purpose in my life. May this contribution serve as a channel to glorify His name and advance His kingdom.

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ABSTRACT

The dissertation used historical narration analysis to address the roles of the church in the quest for socio-political and economic restructuring of Nigeria. The work first analyzed the Concept of the Church, Concept of National Transformation, Challenges of Socio-Political and Economic Restructuring of Nigeria towards National Transformation. Nigeria and Political Structure, The need for Socio-Political Restructuring of Nigeria, Nigerian overheated religious conflicts and threat to disintegration: its effects on socio-political restructuring of Nigeria. The work also explored the Need for Peaceful Co-Existence towards Socio-Economic and Political Development of Nigeria. Muslims Vis-À-Vis Christians Conflicts and how it hinders Socio-Economic and Political Development of Nigeria Implications of the Nigeria Insecurity Situation (Boko Haram) towards sustainable socio-economic development. The conclusion of the study is that the center of Nigeria's socioeconomic problem is the failure of leadership and as such any effort to liberate the country from its present condition must be political in nature. However, maintaining the ecclesiastical paradigm that the Church as a body should not get herself involved in partisan political activism, the paper outlined some possible functions by which the Church in Nigeria can contribute immensely towards the desired liberation. These included prophetic denunciation of the oppressive mechanism; promoting programs of raising social consciousness among the masses; practical alleviation of the conditions of the oppressed masses; peace building through positive reconciliation of the oppressed and oppressive members; and personal conversion of the ordinary man. The Church along with direct spiritual vocation should be committed to the process of justice, human freedom, social development and a well-organized system of governance by fulfilling the following responsibilities: rejection of marginalization and creation of awareness.

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