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FILM AND GOOD GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA: AN ANALYSIS OF PRAISE ABRAHAM'S TARTOR WASE

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ABSTRACT

Nigerian politicians have not been able to deliver to the masses the dividend of democracy as expected. This is traceable to the rotten political culture they have enthroned since the country's return to democratic rule in 1999. Film, however, has potentials that can be harnessed and deployed towards correcting the political anomalies that have prevented good fruits to come out of the 18 years democratic experiment. This can be achieved through utilization of the medium for massive enlightenment, sensitization and mobilization of the people on the need to evolve a decent political culture that will be beneficial to everyone. It is against this background that this study explores the thematic embodiment of the film- Tartor Wase to see how it projects the realities of contemporary Nigerian politics. Dwelling on the wisdom of Hermeneutic Theory, five themes have been identified from the film and discussed, namely: politics of godfatherism, electoral malpractice, economic corruption and embezzlement of public funds, gross abuse of power by associates and family members of politicians; and “buying” the consent of religious leaders by politicians seeking favor/endorsement. Of particular concern to the study is the purification effect which these themes are perceived to have on the audience. We argue that continuous portrayal of political reality in the country in this fashion by the film industry will go a long way to correct the negative political culture and orient viewers for a more rewarding democracy.

Keywords: *film, Tartor Wase, good governance, corruption, godfatherism and Nigeria.*

Tartor Wase (translated in English language “our kingdom”), a Tiv language movie that satirizes Nigerian politics