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EDITORIAL COMMENTS

We are glad to introduce to you the maiden issue of our journal for 2015. This edition is a true reflection of the central focus of the journal in that it includes articles which address critical existing and emerging issues with policy implications for administration and development. In the first article, Sat Obiyan, Dele Seteolu and James Okuneye radically probe Nigeria's international economic relations within a political economy context and end with a case for assertive state as opposed to permissive state with a view to pursuing aggressive and result-oriented external economic relations. Isiaka, S. B., Abdullah, A.S., and Abogunrin, A.P. in their article, Inculcating Values, Organizational Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility into the Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, investigate the creation of business ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in developing businesses using four successful SMEs in Kwara State, and conclude that SMEs is a complex process that is only attainable over time by a series of decisions, each of which gradually contributes to the ethical framework of the business. Next, Garuba, Rasheed Obasekore investigates Rural Development Policy in Nigeria's Fourth Republic: Problems and Prospects For Sustainable Development at Grassroot Level and contends that there is the need to adopt comprehensive integrated rural development approach in order to achieve the governmental objectives of rural development policy in Nigeria. In their article, Democracy, Insurgency and National Security in Nigeria: A Study of Boko Haram Insurgency (May, 2010 - May, 2015), Osezua Ehiyamen and Usamotu Basheer Olalere attempt an evaluation of the form and dynamics of democracy with a view to determining the extent to which it can be said to have been the platform for the gestation and control of insurgencies in Nigeria during Jonathan administration. They advocate that Nigeria should ensure good leadership and strengthen its institutions to prevent the breach of national security. Abdulkareem Abdulrazaq, Ishola Abdulrasaq and Abdullahi Muhammed engage Issues and Challenges of Power Sector in Nigeria: Addressing Policy Gap to Achieve Efficiency with focus on the challenges faced by the government in the bid to achieve optimum energy production and distribution. They addressed the current policy and institutional gap using a conceptual approach with the use of secondary data. In their article, A Content Analysis of Democracy and the Challenges of Rural Development in Northern States of Nigeria, Abdulrazak Yuguda Madu and Shehu Jafaru Salisu attempt to assess the challenges of development in rural areas in Nigeria with reference to Northern states under democratic governance from 1999 to 2015 and argue that development in the Nigerian state remains inadequate, most especially at the rural level, particularly the Northern region (comprising North-west, North-central and North-east) which is regarded as the most rural and undeveloped. Ameen Abdullateef, Muhammad Mustapha Orire and Akindele I. T. examine the Civil Service and Contemporary Challenges in Nigeria on the premise that, a considerable number of civil servants get themselves involved in politics which in turn is making the Service lose its actual essence and conclude that challenges facing the Nigerian Civil Service are poor attitude to work by civil servants, poor remuneration, indiscipline among others. In the article, A Retrospect on Monetization of Fringe Benefits in the Nigerian Civil Service, Lawal E. E., Olatunji, A.G and Muhammed, A.Y examine the diverse and numerous ideas as well as arguments and justifications concerning the introduction of, monetization policy in the Nigerian Civil Service and argue that critics have bemoaned the monetization policy seeing it as a capitalist oriented policy that is set to widen the gap between the poor and the rich. Finally, Adeleke, E. A. and Tilakasiri, S. L in their article, A Study of Farmers' Adaptation to Climate Change in Esan West Local Government Area of Edo State, Nigeria, argue that climate change is threatening not only the sustainable development of socio-economic activities of a nation but also the totality of human existence. They posit that at the moment Nigerians have started to feel the effect of climate change as frequency and intensity of extreme events like floods, rainfall and drought have increased, and therefore investigate farmers' adaptation to climate change in the case study.

We wish to express our special thanks and deep appreciation to our Vice Chancellor, Dean of the Faculty, Editorial Board, Editorial Advisory Board Members, the production crew and all who contributed to the successful production of this issue.

Osezua Ehiyamen Mediyanose, Ph.D
Editor-in-Chief

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NIGERIA IN THE EYE OF THE WORLD: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF NIGERIA'S INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS (1999-2013).

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1.

Abstract

The integration of Nigeria's political economy into the global capitalist system was a defining context of her international economic relations. The country had been integrated as a neo-colonial, dependent and peripheral formation that equally defined the pattern of its trade and economic relations. The state economic policies on domestic economic management and external economic relations are hinged on Western, neo-liberal economic agenda. This neo-liberal philosophy informs the drive for state withdrawal and ascendancy of the market in the state and economy relations. This paper is a radical political economy critique of Nigeria's international economic relations. It argues for assertive state as opposed to permissive state with a view to pursuing aggressive and result-oriented external economic relations. The paper finally posits that the state should develop other productive sectors to reduce the vulnerable nature of the economy and assert economic independence.

Keywords: Economic Reforms, Neo-liberal, Peripheral, Neo-colonial and Debt Overhang

Introduction

The political and economic turfs are not separate and and political order as dependent and unequal partners independent entities in international politics. The to the developed capitalist states. Nigeria's economic sub-structure and the political- international economic relations should be superstructure are inter-related and mutually understood in this context. The Nigerian state was reinforcing in a sense that reflects the contending integrated into the international economic and forces and power relations in international politics. political systems as peripheral and neo-colonial The structure of global economic and political formation, which defined its external economic and relations have been defined by colonial and neo- political relations.

Meanwhile, the pervasiveness nature of First and Second World Wars and the resultant globalization and its consequences especially in political structures at the global level, the economic developing states challenge the orthodoxy of inter-depression that characterized the end of the Second dependent and inter-penetrating nature of War and the formation of the Bretton Wood globalization forces. The dominance of neo-liberal institutions, collapse of the structures of cold war orthodoxy at the global level and the contradictions and increasing multi-literalism in global relations; created by the adoption of neo-liberal economic and the emergence of new centers of economic agenda in developing states raises question on power. economic inter-dependence for purposive

The international political and economic systems are development reasons. The contradictory realities of skewed in favour of the bourgeois capitalist states. foreign direct investment in hosting states and the The core capitalist states had actually defined the implementation of IMF and World Bank economic structures and regimes that define relations at the reform programmes are sign posts of the backlash of global level. The developing and under-developed globalization and its forces.

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It is noteworthy that the country's international colonial economy and susceptible to the dictates of economic relations exist within the unequal global the developed capitalist states. This neo-colonial capitalist system (Nwoke, 2000:75). The Nigerian Nigerian state is capitalist and market based and its state emerged as neo-colonial economy within the politics, economy and other institutions are orbit of global capitalism to export primary organically linked to the global capitalist system to agricultural products to the mature capitalist states. facilitate the exploitation process. The colonial and The structure of agricultural production was shifted neo-colonial economic structures are therefore the from food crop to cash crop to serve the industrial backdrop for Nigeria's international economic sites in Europe. The integration at the commodity relations.

level increased the dependence of the state and The postcolonial government of Balewa was economy in Nigeria on the colonizing state. conservative and pro-British in nature. The

As response to globalization, the Nigerian state de- successive postcolonial state structures ensured emphasized agricultural commodities and largely continued disposition to the West especially Britain. embraced crude oil as the source of foreign exchange The pro-West leaning of Balewa administration earnings (Aigbokhan, 2005:105). The agro-based ensured it least tolerated the defunct Soviet Union real sector receded as a result of the drop in and the socialist ideology. Consequently, the major agricultural production and foreign direct investment trade and economic partners of Nigeria was the West. in the oil industry gained ascendancy. The inability of The administration thus emerged within the context the Nigerian state to translate the oil resources into of the military and ideological rivalry between the capital formation and development led it into West and East bloc. The preference of Balewa external debt peonage. While the country got into the government for the West bloc, contrary to its non-debt peonage in the 1970s, the first external debt, aligned posture, ensured the deepening of dependent US\$28 million was incurred at the World Bank in capitalism and peripheral nature of the economy. To 1958 for the construction of railway and this extent, the Nigerian state lacks economic development projects. The conditionality for debt autonomy and hardly exercises the capacity for repayment in the 1970s and 1980s, however, was autonomous development. The non-autonomous harsh; thereby constraining development efforts. state became vulnerable to the manipulations of the

The paper interrogates the nature and character of the transnational oil corporations. The major oil global economic and political structures and asserts companies exploited Nigeria's inability to explore that the nature of Nigeria's international economic and expropriate its oil resource. The Nigerian state relations had been defined by these realities. It failed to define and control the context of oil examines Nigeria's international economic relations exploration thereby exposing the vulnerable nature between 1999 and 2013 and takes cognizance of the of its structures and institutions. The implications are adoption of the neo-liberal agenda in the Obasanjo, the foreign dominance of a strategic sector of the Yar'Adua, and Jonathan administrations. The economy, rentier mentality of the state actors and consequences of the shift to neo-liberal philosophy in their pre-disposition to primitive accumulation of these regimes are highlighted and discussed. state resources, and reduced capacity for assertive Nigeria's external debt, foreign direct investment, external economic relations.

and the pattern of external trade relations are equally The jumbo loan of \$1 billion secured from the Euro discussed as major aspects of the country's currency market in 1978 for the financing of projects international economic relations.

HISTORICAL BACKDROPTO NIGERIA'S INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

in Nigeria pre-disposed the economy to the control of international financial institutions through shorter repayment period, pattern of maturities of the debts, and debt service ratio (Rahman et al., The character of Nigeria's economy derived from the 2010:33; Romanus, 2014:109). The international British colonial imperial power; i.e. the colonial financial experts further persuaded the Nigerian economy as designed as the source of cash crops and government to secure more debt in order to escape market for industrial products of the metropolitan the debt trap (Olorode, 2014:44). The servicing of states. The departure of colonial powers in 1960 did debt and rescheduling of debt became a thorn in the not translate into economic independence as the flesh of the economy from 1985 when its external existing economic and commercial structures debt increased to nearly US\$19 billion and debt created by the imperial power were retained by the service was a slightly higher than \$4 billion, which indigenous governing class. The state became neo- was 33% of the total export earnings (Onoh,

1989:277-278). When the local industries shut their businesses due to the lack of raw materials, the government got under the pressure to further borrow. The creditors also exerted pressure on the state actors to implement the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) which was intended to liberalize the economy. The Babangida administration adopted SAP policy in 1986 to foster private sector-led growth, correct balance of payment disequilibrium and reduce public sector spending. Ironically, the country's external debt increased exponentially from \$ 28,718.20 billion in 1986 to \$33.1 billion in 1990 (Nwangwu & Okoye, 2014:45). It reduced, however, to \$30.3 billion in 1998 (Adejuwon & Soneye, 2010:103). The Nigerian rescheduling of the debts indicated the nature of the external debt on state resources. It is a sign post of the growing influence of the IMF/World Bank on the economies of adjustment states, socio-economic and policy directions.

The SAP policy externalized fiscal governance in the sense that the international financial institutions defined the policy content and implementing strategies for adjusting states. The capacity of the Nigerian state to articulate and pursue autonomous economic and social policies was constrained by the credit lines for Nigeria to finance her imports (On oh, 2007:277). The debt trap was exacerbated through country's international economic relations have been equally constrained by these limitations. The state and multilateral organizations without the consent of actors insist on neo-liberal policy albeit the harsh consequences of adjustment reforms on the state, economy, and society. The implementation of SAP has reduced and nearly obliterated the nature of the Nigerian state. The state was assertive and involving in production activities; the pursuit of neo-liberal reforms reduced the size and capacity of this entity. The withdrawal of the state coincided with the ascendancy of the market as the defining principle of public governance. The country's international economic relations became defined by the logic of the market, neo-liberalism, and it became amenable to the policy overtures of capitalist trading partners.

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF NIGERIA'S EXTERNAL DEBT: ITS NATURE AND EFFECTS

The country's external debts are rooted in its integration into the global capitalist system; the resultant debt portfolio hinges on the interests of external forces. The structure of imperialism organized the neo-colonial state to specialize in export of raw materials to service the core capitalist

stability (Akhaine, 2006:230). The foreign trips of President Olusegun Obasanjoto secure debt relief rarely altered the country's debt status as the external debt stock increased from three percent interest from the Chinese government \$28.347 billion in 2001 to \$30.99 billion and \$32.91 billion in 2002 and 2003 respectively (DMO, 2004). The decline in the value of the US dollar against other currencies and the interest component of payment arrears that accumulated in 2002 caused an increase of 9.33%—with penalty interest of \$0.049 billion (DMO, 2004). Meanwhile, the Paris Club demanded \$3 billion annual debt service in 2003, which nearly wrecked the economy with huge external burden constituting obstacle to economic recovery process. The size of Nigeria's external debt in 2004 was nearly \$36 billion of which \$31 billion was owed the Paris Club (85.82%).

The creation of the Debt Management Office, DMO, in October 2000 with debt relief plan placed the country at a level where her burden was to be lightened (Sachs, 2003 cited in Olorode, 2008:14). The Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative, HIPC, was adopted to ensure the outright cancellation or forgiveness for the poorest nations, which met the prescribed criteria. The Nigerian state did not meet the criteria, but government officials pleaded within the “Evian Approach” when it was dropped from the group of HIPC qualified to receive a minimum of 67.0 percent reduction in debt stocks (DMO, 2005). Based on negotiations within the framework of the Policy Support Instrument, PSI, the Paris Club agreed to 60 percent debt relief provided the country paid \$6 billion upfront and \$6 billion six months later (DMO, 2005; Rahmanet al., 2005:36). The PSI initiated for exiting the debt trap (which required and allowed for prolongation of the exit) was implemented with the advice of the IMF thereby alluding to the initiative as window to plunder the Nigerian economy (Daily Independent August 7, 2005: B2).

The Paris Club granted Nigeria a debt relief in May 2005 through the cancellation of \$18 billion (about 60%) of the \$36 billion and \$12.4 billion payment of arrears and buyback (about 40%) to be made later 2012, 2013, and 2014 respectively (Vanguard, DMO, 2005; The Punch July 25, 2005:25; Olorode, August 20, 2014; Vanguard, July 2, 2015; DMO, 2014). The Paris debt forgiveness is perceived by Muhtar (2005:55) as a “second declaration of independence”. This assertion was due to the external debt from 1999 to 2014 perception of external debt and its conditionality as instruments of imperialism.

The external debt relief in 2005 that freed the economy from the annual \$2.3 billion debt service

burden did not avert the recurrence of debt burden. The Nigerian government secured new credit facilities in 2006 and incurred debt of \$2.5 billion at three percent interest from the Chinese government for social infrastructural development (Akintunde & Akpe, 2006). Nigeria's external debt portfolio in 2006 was \$3,544.49 million and debt service payment stood at \$6,729.20 million. It is noteworthy that 9.2% (\$326.08 million) of the external debt was owed to the non-Paris Club (DMO, 2008). The anticipated benefits expected to accrue from the partial debt cancellation were soon truncated by the global financial and economic crisis in 2009. The crisis led to the drop in the price of oil from \$147 per barrel in July 2007 to \$45 per barrel in December 2008 thereby reflecting on the rate of exchange of the Naira to the USD. The Naira dropped from N120/\$ in the last quarter of 2007 to N150/\$ in the third quarter of 2009 (CBN, 2008). The exchange rate volatility has worsened with the decline in the price of oil, reduced national earning and dwindling foreign reserve. The subsisting debate on devaluation is not new; it gained currency with the implementation of SAP policy and its devaluation instrument. The devaluation approach is, however, suited for national economies with export oriented character. The Nigerian economy is not export based but heavily import dependent. The Nigerian state should protect her national currency against severe erosion. The challenge to the Nigerian state is the restructuring of her national economy to strengthen economic sovereignty and reduce vulnerability to internal and external manipulations.

The administrations of Presidents Yar'dua and Jonathan relied on external borrowings, which created the debt burden. The stock of external debt, therefore, increased to \$3,654, \$3,720, and \$3,947 million in 2007, 2008, 2009 respectively (DMO, 2013). The foreign loans were not appropriated for developmental purposes and those that were partially allocated for development were mismanaged and misappropriated. The external debt figures increased to \$6.5 billion, \$8.821 billion, and \$9.711 billion in 2012, 2013, and 2014 respectively (Vanguard, 2015). The table below gives a summary of Nigeria's External Debt Outstanding (\$ million dollars), 1999 to 2014

Year	FDI (US \$m)
1999	1,250
2000	N/A
2001	3,125
2002	3,478
2003	5,298
2004	N/A
2005	6,326
2006	7,842
2007	6,348
2008	6,812
2009	8,649
2010	6,078
2011	8,914
2012	7,316
2013	6,845
2014	6,308

Sources: Romanus, 2014.

Nigeria's GDP has increased through FDI and the domestic economy has attracted foreign technology transfer to a less extent. Foreign capital has created job opportunities, to some extent, particularly in telecommunications, farming, fishing, iron and steel. In contradistinction to the gains discussed above, FDI in Nigeria has been linked to colossal disasters in the Niger-Delta (Onyekpe, 2004:333). The Niger Delta question emerged within the context of the role of transnational oil corporations in Nigeria and theren tier mentality of Nigeria's governing class. The neo-liberal reforms led to the decline of the Nigerian state and the ascendancy of the market. The Nigerian state has been receding amid the growing influence of the market in the allocation of resources.

The state is less equipped to play supervisory role in the operations of foreign firms. It is less interested in the nature of ownership and control of the critical sectors of the national economy and pre-occupied with rent collection in the guise of deregulation and privatization. The minimalist state role has deepened under development and structural distortions to the extent the political economy in Nigeria requires a superintendent role for the state as opposed to state withdrawal. The state actors in Nigeria would better engage foreign firms on local production activities through a stronger presence of the state in a sense that reflects and responds to the country's strategic political and economic interests.

NIGERIA'S TRADE RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES

The frosty relations that characterized the Nigeria and U.S relations during military dictatorship did not

substantially affect trade relations. While the political aspect of the relations suffered setbacks when Nigeria was declared a pariah state, there was increased demand by the United States for Nigeria's crude oil (Ate, 1986:201; Saliu & Aremu, 2006:137). Nigeria's return to democratic rule in 1999 enhanced trade and investment relations with the U.S. The Joint Economic Policy Council (JEPC) launched in Washington to reinforce bilateral relations on economic transformation, debt relief, investment and aids emerged within this context (Saliu & Aremu, 2006:139). Similarly, the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) signed between the United States and Nigeria in 2000 cohered on trade policies (Dickson, 2010:213).

The status of Nigeria as traditional exporter of primary products especially crude oil and oil products enhanced its relations with the United States. The United States sought Nigeria's crude oil and Nigeria canvassed for U.S. investments in Nigeria. Nigeria was viewed by the United States as essential trading partner and it is the second largest beneficiary of U.S. investment in Africa (Blanchard & Husted, 2016:18). Nigeria was ranked the largest oil supplier to the U.S with over 40% of its total crude oil export till 2012(Ibid, 19). Chevron, Exxon/Mobil and Western Geo-physical are the major US investors in the Nigerian oil sector (Atte, 2000: 142). The United States has discontinued the purchase of Nigeria's crude oil thereby posing major worry to the Nigerian government. The country's capacity to implement its national budget and pursue development goals are constrained by the slump in

oil price.The discomfort among the Nigerian government (Blanchard & Husted, 2016:19). The governing class is heightened by the collapse of Nigerian government and the U.S. had total trade crude oil price in the international oil market. The figures of\$38.6 billion in 2011; Nigeria's export to lifting of economic sanctions on Iran by the United the U.S was worth \$33.7b and imports totaled \$4.8 States further dims the prospect of probable billion(Dickson, ibid:208). The U.S export of cereals substantial increase in the price of crude oil. to Nigeria was nearly \$1.2 billion; vehicles, \$1.1 billion; machinery, \$720 million; mineral fuel, \$597 million; and plastic, \$187 million. The U.S. imports banking sector of the Nigerian economy. Nigeria's from Nigeria accounted for 1.5% of total U.S. export products to the U.S in the non-oil sector imports with oil constituting the largest imported include agricultural goods such as cashew, cocoa, products in 2011. The balance of trade favours Nigeria considering the products and local foods (Nwangwu & Okoye, statistics for 1999 till 2012 and this is linked to the ibid:38). The 2000 African Growth and Opportunity centrality of oil in Nigeria and United States trade Act enabled African states including Nigeria to relations. The agricultural trade figures for Nigeria export into the United States duty-free and quota-free are not impressive despite the window offered by market preferences for approximately 6400 products AGOA. Ironically, the Nigerian government relies to from Sub-Saharan Africa to United States markets some extent on America's aids and it is rated as the highest recipient of U.S foreign assistance in Africa. There were plans to secure U.S. exports of goods and The U.S.is the highest bilateral donor to Nigeria and services worth \$1.5b to support power generation in provides \$600 to \$700 million annually (Blanchard & Husted, 2016:21).

U.S Export-Import Bank and the Nigerian

The table below shows the summary of trade between the U.S and Nigeria from 1999 to 2012 U.S-Nigeria's trade relations (\$ million dollars), 1999 to 2012

Year	Exports	Imports
1999	627.9	4,385.1
2000	721.9	10,537.6
2001	955.1	8,774.9
2002	1,057.7	5,5945.3
2003	1,016.9	10,393.6
2004	1,554.3	16,248.5
2005	1,619.8	24,239.4
2006	2,233.5	27,863.1
2007	2,777.9	32,770.2
2008	4,102.4	38,086.0
2009	3,687.1	19,128.2
2010	4,060.5	30,515.9
2011	4,911.6	33,854.2
2012	5,028.6	19,014.2

Source: U.S Census Bureau, Foreign Trade, 'Trade in goods with Nigeria'. Adapted from Alao (2012:13)

NIGERIA'S TRADE RELATIONS WITH BRITAIN

Nigeria, Britain trade relations should be understood within the context of colonial ties between these states. Nigeria became a colony of Britain as a result of the conquest of Lagos and the amalgamation of the North and South protectorates in 1914 (Kehinde, 2007:129). The long standing historical relations that Nigeria shared with Britain constitute the backdrops for current relationships especially in trade and investment.

The colonial linkage gave the United Kingdom the leverage to penetrate the Nigerian market (Obi, 2000:125). More so, the United Kingdom is still relevant to Nigeria's international economic relations albeit the ascendancy of the U.S and the European Union in trade and investment relations with Nigeria (Nwangwu&Okoye, *ibid*: 38). The formation of the Nigerian British Chamber of Commerce, NBCC, signaled a deliberate attempt to deepen trade order relations and attract more investors into the Nigerian economy. Nigeria is a major trading partner to UK in Africa and the UK became the third major exporter of goods to Nigeria in 2012 (The Guardian, March 11, 2015). Nigeria-U.K trade relations are hinged on oil and gas, agricultural products, and financial services(Obi, *ibid*:127).

The UK trade volume to Nigeria in 2008 totalled nearly GBP 1.27 billion and exports from Nigeria to the UK in 2009 stood at nearly GBP 600 million(Alao, *ibid*:13).The balance of trade has been in favour of the UK and the exports from Nigeria to the UK that hit GBP 600 million, which according to Alao(*ibid*:13), was substantially derived from oil exports. Nigeria had earned GBP 12 million from non-oil export. There was increase in U.K exports to Nigeria from GBP 1.235 billion in 2008 to GBP 1.3b in 2009; while exports from Nigeria to the UK remained at GBP 600 million, the large part of which was derived from oil and gas (Alao, *ibid*: 13).

The trade volume between Nigeria and Britain was \$6.3 billion in 2010 and it increased to \$8.5 billion in 2011. The British Prime Minister, David Cameron visited Nigeria in 2011 and he expected the government would diversify the Nigerian economy from the traditional oil and gas sector to other state productive sectors. Similarly, the British Deputy High Commissioner, Peter Carter visited Nigeria in 2013 and he posited trade figures between Nigeria and the UK was \$6.1 billion in 2012 (N920 billion). He envisaged the figures will hit \$12.2 billion in 2014 (N1.920 trillion)(Ventures Africa, February 16, 2013).

CONCLUSION

The Nigerian economy became peripheral through the global economic and financial architecture that defined international economic relations. Nigeria's international economic relations emerged within the context of the lopsided global economic and political order. Furthermore, the Nigerian state is rentier in nature and the state actors possess rentier mentality.

The oil based economy, therefore, had increased the vulnerability of the Nigerian state to fluctuations in the global oil pricing. It also became a victim of the recurring crisis of dependent capitalism and underdevelopment. The neo-colony is a satellite of the metropolitan economy, which questions its economic equality within the global economy. The pro-western policies of the IMF and World Bank in Nigeria are financial baits to ensure the country remains in economic quagmire of external debt trap to sustain her subjugation in the global capitalist

The strategy of de-link to escape exploitative capitalism is problematic in the light of the increasing interpenetration and interdependence in global economic and financial relations. The state actors should rather rethink economic policies that weaken the state and reduces its capacity to play crucial role in the development process. Nigeria's political economy requires assertive and superintendent state to mediate development and play greater role in regional and global relations. Nigeria's international economic relations will likely be more concrete when the domestic economy is robust, resilient, and relatively autonomous.

The FDI should not be substitute for strategic development of the national economy. The Nigerian government should develop local capital as a basis to improve the production sector of the economy. The state should respond to the current fall out of foreign capital in a sense that protects the country's economic autonomy and responds to the logic of endogenous economic development. The oil crisis and the decline in Nigeria-U.S trade relations buttress the vulnerable nature of the Nigerian economy. The oil price decline has affected Nigeria's capacity to appropriate resources for development and further exposes the state as a 'beggarly' country. The state actors are globe-trotting to search for loans and development assistance amid the prevalent debt accumulation. The challenge for the Nigerian state is to reduce dependence on crude oil export, develop local capital formation and restructure the national economy.

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INCULCATING VALUES, ORGANIZATIONAL ETHICS AND CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY INTO THE SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED ENTERPRISES

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Abstract

The current economic situation in Nigeria has facilitated an increasing clamour for the creation and proliferation of the small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). The importance of the SMEs cannot be overemphasized in any given economy. Therefore, the need to bring the awareness of existing SMEs owners as well as prospective business individuals to the pertinence of establishing ethical standards in their businesses is much relevant. This research investigates the creation of business ethics and corporate social responsibility (CSR) in developing businesses using four successful SMEs in Kwara State. Both the 'integrity strategy' and the 'legal compliance strategy' have been utilized by these businesses to protect their policies with respect to the stakeholders of the business. The values of the head in each of these SMEs have been entrenched into the firm through written policies and by the patterns of ethical behaviour created and modelled by the business leaderships. The study employed the qualitative research methodology as the frame for both data collection and analysis. Findings of the study showed that most SMEs owners are aware of ethical standards but in most cases, decide to find a way round for profit purposes. The paper concludes that SMEs is a complex process that is only attainable over time by a series of decisions, each of which gradually contributes to the ethical framework of the business. Identifying and describing the most crucial of these incremental decisions may give the key to the backgrounds of ethical businesses. It therefore recommends that when prospective entrepreneurs are starting business, organizational values should always reflect founder's values. This will further spur a strict awareness of responsible business entrenched with values and ethics.

KEYWORDS: Corporate Social Responsibility, Ethics, SMEs, Values

INTRODUCTION

use in running their businesses (Stodder, 2011). The clamour for the creation and proliferation of SMEs in Nigeria has been on the increase due to larger organization's conformity to ethical business awareness of the sector's value of high economic standards, little of such has been conducted on the generation as well as the need for job creation in ways that SMEs establish and maintain their ethical order to prevent the growing rate of unemployment standards as they grow in most countries especially within the country and to reduce the rate at which in Nigeria. graduates source for employment in 'white collared' jobs and other government owned organizations. Meanwhile, the contribution that a business makes to Importantly, the SMEs contribution to the economy the context within which it operates is viewed by can only be better seen through the proliferation of many to be as pertinent as the 'gains' it derives. the sector. However, there is the need to also take into According to Stodder (2011: 118), "many statistics consideration the level of ethical standards the SMEs support the premise that, discussions about ethics,

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values, integrity and responsibility is not only dealing especially with ethical dilemmas arising in becoming acceptable in the business community, it's the context of doing business. Examples of other practically required." If, in fact, the behaviour of a such fields include medical ethics, engineering ethics business with respect to its ethics and social and legal ethics. Business ethics however, combines responsibility is pertinent to society in general, it core business values known to be held by many behaves academics and practitioners alike to delve companies in the developed nations (i.e. United deeper into how organizations develop their ethical States and United Kingdom) such as pragmatism, stances and the values that are the 'building-blocks' of efficiency and freedom (DeGeorge, 1999). their decision-making frameworks. How do business Velasquez (1999: 13) perceived business ethics to be proprietors actually inculcate values, business ethics, "a specialized study of moral right and wrong. It and corporate social responsibility into their SMEs? concentrates on moral standards as they apply Little research has been done so far on how the SMEs particularly to business policies, institutions, and become socially responsible and how they actually behaviours."

maintain their ethical standards as they develop. *Corporate social responsibility (CSR)* is defined as Research on currently growing SMEs may present a categories of legal, economic, discretionary and picture of the early decisions that start firms on the ethical actions or activities of a firm as made more road to ethical behavior over time. Of particular fitted to the expectations and values of a society interest with upcoming businesses is the role of the (Andrews, 1987; Joyner et al, 2002). In another leader (often a founding entrepreneur) who guides definition, Costin (1999) perceived CSR as the basic the process. Because it often takes time to build a expectations of the firm regarding ideas that takes the management team, founding entrepreneurs may hold shape of protection of the public well-being, safety, the key to the inculcation of ethical decision-making and the environment. He linked corporate leadership in such businesses. This research was conducted to with CSR, taking into cognizance leadership and identify ways in which business leaders instil values support of publicly pertinent issues such as and ethics into their firms and make these businesses community services, sharing of non-proprietary socially responsible to the wider community around quality-related information, education, resource them.

CONCEPT DEFINITION

There have been discussions and debates in recent in some ways interdependent but they are not times regarding the meaning of the terms, values, mutually exclusive. This is because; values influence ethics and corporate social responsibility (Joyner, the extent of a corporation's perceived social Payne & Raiborn, 2012; Stodder, 2011). For the responsibilities and are also directed by community purpose of consistency, and developing on past study activities and the accepted standards and norms of into social management topics, the following such society. A part of CSR is a business's ethical definitions are used in this paper. *Values* are defined responsibility, which is also influenced by the values as the deep set of beliefs and principles deemed to be of society (Carrol, 1991). Conversely, ethical or acceptable (by groups) of persons (Andrews, 1987; unethical activities of business can influence the Mason, 1992). Values are derived from one's values held by inhabitants of the society where such affiliation or membership in a culture or community. business exists. The intertwining of culture, wherein Linked with attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours, values culture influences values which influences beliefs add-up to form a continuous spiral of society culture and in turn influences attitudes; which influences (Adler, 1999). They portray what individuals think is behaviours; and which shapes culture, continues to pertinent or worthy in decision-making. evolve.

Ethics are defined as the conception of what is right,

acceptable or appropriate and fair conduct or LITERATURE REVIEW

behaviour (Carrol, 1991; Freeman and Gilbert, Researchers have shown relatively little interest in 1998). Ethics can also be equated with the concept of entrepreneurial values and ethics; including the morals (an individual's ability to decide between ethical factors that guide business owners to act the right and wrong, good and bad, acceptable and way they do until recently (Joyner et al, 2010; unacceptable). DeGeorge (1999) gave a brilliant McKinney & Moore 2012). A lot of academics note definition to what business ethics should mean. He the little attention given to ethical challenges of defined business ethics as a field of "special" ethics, SMEs (Joyner, et al., 2010; Humphreys et al., 1993;

Payne & Duhon, 1990). A lot of the available (2012), SMEs owners perceived themselves as less researches have included comparisons of attitudes likely to partake in exploitative power behavior for and behaviours between large and small firms. the purpose of meeting personal based or Wilson (1980) compared a number of elements of organizational based objectives. This further argued CSR in SMEs and large firms. In their study, 541 would only take place where the business owner is statements were used, however only seventy-three ethically unaware of the implications of his actions statements referred specifically to ethics, and none on the business. However, where a business owner is was actually linked to business or entrepreneurial duly conscious of the repercussion of an unethical discussions (Joyner et al., 2010). In another behavior which brings profits to the business at the comparison of small and large firms by Chrisman and expense of the community where they do business, Fry (2011), it was revealed that the smaller firms such then they should be prepared to face the as the SMEs are quite more averse of the issues of consequences of their actions.

CSR than their larger counterparts. According to Several other researchers have approached the issue Brown and King (2011), different internal and of business ethics and values in a more normative external factors usually cause differences in the manner. These were primarily extracts from write-ethical behaviour of these organizations. A further ups by entrepreneurs or those gotten from interviews investigation by Longenecker, McKinney and Moore with them that strive to proffer guidance to upcoming (2012) contrasted the perceptions of managers from entrepreneurs as to how to navigate through the small and large firms regarding ethical practices, 'turbulent waves' of business ethics. Such guidance using a scale against which participants responded. most times took the form of recounting experiences The survey conducted in the U.S by John Case in through storytelling (Joyner et al., 2012; Foote, 1990 of some selected small and large firms, where 2001; Haney, 1996; Stodder, 2011). Similarly, he provided brief literary description concerning various observers have come up with what amounted ethical issues that usually come up in new business to guidelines for acceptable behavior, canvassing growth and development, revealed that while ethical strongly for the application of ethics in business problems seem difficult, in the end, the ethically activities (Joyner et al., 2010; Murphy, 2013; agreeable choice would be made. There are however Stodder, 2011).

three limitations to his survey. First, the participants A. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORKS FOR MANAGING ETHICS

in his survey were mostly self-selected group. Second, the participants may have very high ethical Several opinions have been proffered to show why standards due to the fact that were business owners ethics matters to businesses (See Table 1). According who had no choice but to respond to the survey due to to Friedman (1962), a company's fiduciary their believe in high ethical standards. Third, the responsibility is solely to its stakeholders and not to participants knew the survey focused on ethical any other group. The perception of pursuing issues. This therefore shows that it is only human for shareholder interest alone is not the approach most respondents to believe they would make the right ethicists or most business people would normally ethical choice in any given situation. The fact that take (Foote, 2001). Organizations tend to realize that they know that their ethical responses were being they must participate in society in an ethically agreed judged may have made their answers lopsided in the manner. The tendency is to engage in ethical business path of more ethical, rather than less ethical practices for one or two reasons, one ethical in nature and one more Machiavellian.

In a later study by Smith and Oakley (1994) where The ethical motivation guiding business is related to the ethical values SMEs proprietors were assessed, it a desire to do the right thing, not because there are was revealed that the size of the context in which the external pressures or governmental hindrance. As the SMEs owner do business was a determining factor in research evidence presented later in this article their ethical decision-making process, coupled with illustrates, and as many researchers have proposed, other demographic factors which may include age, firms often chose this approach willingly. Lowry education and the SMEs owner's previous or early (2006), a popular business ethicist, argued that many environment. Their findings showed that the ethical believe businesses are amoral, when in fact values of SMEs owners in non-urban areas were businesses generally embrace the values of ethics in higher than in urban areas and that formal education practising their trade. He further cites several factors is beneficial, if not totally required, in driving legal that serve to validate his position; among such factors and ethical behaviour. According to Welsh and Birch are society, which expects moral behavior of its firms

when it revolted against immoral employment or labour practices, environmental unaware practices and other environmental policies. Firms today are seen to be taking proactive steps to ethics, one only to see the amount of corporate codes of conduct that have been provided and respected over the past two decades or more (Joyner, et al., 2010).

Several other researchers (Carrol, 1996; Valesquez, in the third world countries. She further noted that the Andre, Shanks and Meyer, 1996; Hanania, 1997) have also asserted that good ethics is good business. The more Machiavellian view as to why firms follow a more ethical path has its foundations in a desire to convince consumers and loyalist alike that business is doing the acceptable thing. The end here is either to (a) avoid litigation consequences of its actions or (b) persuade stakeholders that they seek to serve their interests rather than that of the firm solely (Joyner, et al., 2010). Additionally, it is worthwhile to hinge on the argument of Valesquez et al., (1996) that the cost of unethical behavior is high; therefore, not being ethical may be detrimental. According to Paine (1994), if managers fail to identify their responsibilities in molding firm's ethics and go after opportunities to provide climates that

Table 1: Rationale to Engage in Ethical Practices

Author	Rationale for Ethical Decision
Friedman (1962)	
DeGeorge (1999)	Society expects moral behavior and demands
Machavelli	Avert legal altercations Persuade stakeholders that company serves their interests
Nash (1995)	Entice consumer favor and loyalty
Paine (1994)	Legal compliance Integrity- does not exploit potential loopholes in law

Source: Joyner et al., (2012).

Paine's second strategy is closely related to obligations and shared organizational commitments adherence with the 'spirit of the law'. Appropriately (Joyner, et al., 2010). The entirety of the staff must 'christened' the Integrity Strategy, the 'spirit of the law, is a more difficult standard than the letter of the law. This strategy contains five features. First, the Second, management itself must exhibit personal guiding values and commitments of the organization interests to the values and commitments and should must be elaborately communicated to the employees. These values mirror the important business

Table 2: Paine Ethical Framework

Strategy type	Rationale for Strategy	Activities within Strategy
Legal Compliance Strategy	Following the letter of the law. Desire to avert societal outrage, loss of public trust and destruction of image.	(a) Adhere to the letter of the law
Integrity Strategy	Following the spirit of the law. Desire to avert exploitation of loopholes within the law.	(a) Communicate values and commitments (b) Personally committed management (c) Integration of values into strategic decision-making (d) Structure supports and reinforces principles (e) Managers trained to use values and commitments

Source: Joyner et al., (2012).

Business leaders must be ready to assess and review firm (Joyner et al., 2010). Lastly, it is worthy to note their own behavior. Consistency in the process of that managers within the business should be well decision-making is important to avert staff cynicism informed through training in decision-making skills and rejection of the ethics program. Additionally, that imbibes the core values and commitments of the when ethical obligations conflict, managers must be organization. This feature of integrity strategy take responsibility for the decisions they made requires that managers have required know-how and (Foote, 2001). Another element according to Foote (2001) responsible for the achievement of the decision made using the business's core values and integrity strategy is the integration of values as commitments.

identified above into the identified channels of strategic decision-making.

METHODOLOGY

Most times and for all decisions, these commitments and values ought to be taken into consideration in the insights on how entrepreneurs in the SMEs build business key activities. Such activities among others values, ethics and CSR into their growing business, may include the establishment of goals, the this current research attempts to approach this distribution of resources, generation of plans, the shortcoming in the literature, based on the strategic exploration of opportunities, the calculation of framework outlined above. Due to the differences in performance, the collection and distribution of each framework, the results of analysis will vary as a information and the training and development of result of the adopted framework. The Paine staff. Another characteristic of the integrity strategy framework was adopted for this study due to its borders on the fact that the organization's structure quality of being specific and not general (Joyner et al., 2010). Specific activities within each strategy guiding rules or principles (Foote, 2010). Measures should be put in place to determine if adherence to the strategy, thereby enabling a quicker data analysis guiding principles has really taken place within the process. Four research questions were used to direct firm. The organization should at all times make sure the analysis. First, do business owners follow a legal the guiding values and commitments have been compliance strategy? If so, what actions do they take developed in consonance to how the firm conducts its to do so? Third, do business owners follow an business, both outside and inside the context of the integrity strategy? Fourth, if so, what actions do they

engage in to do so?

A key concern in this study is the necessity to gather data without leading the participants in their responses. Most of the participants want to appear ethical in their countenance and to be seen by others as possessing strong values. This desire might influence responses to questions if participants know that they were being studied in those areas. Therefore, the interview questions were shrouded with underlying sub-questions which will avoid leading the respondents in the responses they give.

The study utilized a semi-structured interview format with the long interview technique to seek responses about the conception and development of a new SME over time. The business owners themselves freely expressed their perceptions about ethics without the stimulant of a prompt or the ability that they would be specially analyzed with regards to their ethical positions or underlying values. The respondents were however, informed that all the data in their responses would be analyzed to give a three-dimensional view of the SMEs creation and development process. Therefore ethical issues were embedded within the realm of the data collection even though they were not specifically shown as such to the respondents.

This methodology has some merits as it: (a) does not introduce the researchers' biases with respect to what areas of business might require ethical choices, (b) does not lead the respondents to provide information on only those individual areas of choice probed by the researcher, (c) does not ask for discussion of decisions without regard to the environment within owners during the interview.

which those decisions were taken, (d) does not lead the respondents to individually select areas for discussion where they feel they have acted more ethically than others, and (e) does not allow the respondents to identify and discuss those areas of ethical concern they found to be more pertinent throughout the SMEs development process. This methodology also looked into the concerns of many major limitations of this research design. One, the researchers in the field of ethics for a degree of contextual sensitivity.

The sample selected and utilized for this research consisted of four founding business owners who had established and develop successful, high potential of SMEs within Kwara State. Each business owner was required to meet the following criteria: (a) had been involved with the business for a period of at least 3 years; (b) had steered the business towards growth rather than income replacement; and (c) had been recognized as a successful founding business owner within the industry they operate as well as the

public they serve. The age of the business owners in the research ranged from a low of 25 years to a high of 59 years with the mean of 38 years. The age of the business at the period of interviews ranged from 3 to 15 years with mean of 7.3 years. Annual sales revenue of all the SMEs exceeded N1 million.

Data from the past activities of the businesses as well as the history of the venture creation was also utilized for crystallization and elaboration of interview data. An interview guide was utilized to ensure that each of the interviews covered all relevant areas with respect to building and development of the SMEs in the study. Each interview was recorded using an audio tape and transcription of responses was made verbatim. Copies of the written text were then used for coding the data. Once the interviews had been transcribed, the data pertaining to ethical issues confronted by the business owners were coded and analyzed using content analysis. The content analysis enabled the researchers to identify wide categories where the business owners made ethical decisions. Additionally, statements with explicit or implicit business owner values embedded in them were also aggregated. All data with relevance to ethical decisions and embedded values were coded in comparison with the Paine's ethical concepts framework (see Table 3) to ascertain whether the business owners had used either the legal compliance or integrity strategy in making decisions or not.

Decisions were coded to one or the other strategy when activities identified by Paine were within description of business building supplied by business

Issues relating to reproducibility (the extent to which the discussion text is coded by more than a single coder) which is the most pertinent reliability scope in this research was addressed by developing and using a dictionary of words, concepts, categories and relationships in the qualitative data. There is however two major limitations of this research design. One, the sample size was small making generalisability of the study's findings to the larger population of SMEs in Nigeria difficult. The other important issue in sample size is the need for depth versus breadth. In the case of larger samples, the investigator has more chance at understanding differences. With smaller, data-rich samples however, the investigator is more likely to achieve an in depth understanding. In this research, the authors decided to investigate for depth of understanding with the hope that future researches may be carried out on a larger scale to achieve greater generalisability and understanding of differences

FINDINGS

a. Legal Compliance Strategy

While there are responsibilities enforced by laws, the temptation to ignore these responsibilities is often present, especially when the chances of getting caught are very little. All four of the SMEs investigated here adhere to the legal compliance strategy. One SME went to great lengths to instill respect for legal responsibilities in the business.

Respondent A explained thus:

We decided to articulate our value system and we've come up with an eight point deal about all the things that we value....and one of our eight value system stuff is that we will obey the law. An incident once happened when we had a staff meeting where one of our colleagues from the marketing department called our attention to some of the practices that our marketers have been doing which might not align with our ethical standards. We found out that they have actually been doing that and there and then we called the parties involved and warn them to stop.

The articulation of the value system for this business also portrayed the use of integrity strategy, as the guiding values and commitments of the firm are reviewed and communicated. The use of the phrase "our" shows the third and fourth elements of the integrity strategy: the company's staff themselves feel committed to the core values and use them in decision making. An example of the willingness to comply with promulgated legal standards was exhibited by another organization's actions. The need for safety in the workplace led this firm to institute programs to test for physical wellness of our staff. One of the respondents (respondent B) has this to say:

This organization has made it compulsory for any staff to be employed here to bring a medical fitness test certificate due to nature of our operations. When a member of staff goes on a scaffold for instance, you will know the person who erected the scaffold is well and at the right frame of mind, because we want to assure staff that their place of work is as safe as possible.

This portion of the report is included to exemplify the business is telling its employees that doing a quality job will in fact be rewarded since it is one the most pertinent values the firm holds.

From all the findings above, it is evident that SMEs who erects the scaffold, the potential labourer (fellow owners who adhere to ethical standards and

staff), and others who may be injured.

b. Integrity strategy

All of the four SMEs in the research went beyond legal compliance and portrayed evidence of integrity strategy, although, two of them showed evidence of going beyond legal compliance. The other two all had gone far beyond just legal compliance. Each of these businesses had internal records containing the values of the firm. However, the implementation of those values could not be pointed out through the written documents. It was only in the business owner's discussion of the various actions of each firm that the application of stated values could be found. One of the values explicitly detailed in the internal documents of a construction firm was quality. The proprietor spoke of how he was able to communicate the necessity for quality to his workers:

I remembered that I had gone to supervise about two to three of our recent works in town and I was back at the office and it struck me that I just was not satisfied with them. So I got to thinking and doing a little study on what you do about it. Do I need to employ different workers? Why is it that some builders do good jobs and some don't? I realized that the same individuals that build it well also build it crooked. The difference is my expectations of what they are doing. So we brought up what we called the Proprietor's Award for Excellence... it's a workmanship award that is given to supervisors attending to job who has the responsibility for ensuring adherence to quality. This step greatly helped in improving the quality of subsequent jobs.

Implementation of Paine's integrity strategy is clearly evidenced in the above quotation. The Proprietor's Award for Excellence exemplifies the first element in the strategy: the clear and complete communication of the company's core value and commitment. The business evidently committed to quality work and the communication of this commitment is in the form of this award. The

communicate same to their employees would consciously encouraged awareness of the corporate culture regarding how organizations should act in light of its moral responsibility to communities in which they exist and operate. All of these implications can be drawn from the very telling statement of “who we are.”

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

This study has shown the presence and implication of those with them positively. Keeping down dust and values, business ethics and CSR actions within the four organizations investigated. Both the legal compliance strategy and the integrity strategy were utilized in creating the values of the proprietor and throughout the SME. The actions taken by the business owners studied in this research can serve as examples to potential SME owners as they start their own businesses. The pertinence of supporting, and rewarding ethical actions during the growth of new SMEs cannot be overemphasized. Those SMEs, whose proprietors steered them by making ethical decisions shaped by well-articulated values, were able to grow and develop well grounded cultures. The countenance of the proprietors employed to guide employees for a long time in the process of its growth.

While the researchers expected to discover that business owners were indeed complying with legal requirements, it is easy to perceive that non-compliance can come up more easily than expected. Making sure a firm maintained compliant in even the minutest issues can be time-consuming and costly. It needs vigilance and dedication but pays off in the message it disperses to workers. Those SMEs that created and articulated policies to assure legal compliance, set in place the mechanisms as well as the cultural framework to assure that all staff knew that legal compliance was not an option. Rather, it was an important and required component of “doing business” in their firms. It is pertinent to note that proprietors who made the required, and at times when expensive, decisions to assure legal compliance in their organizations were the key in guiding the countenance of the staff in their respective businesses. A decision to “cover up” or “boycott” any period might have been seen by other organizations as a green light to indulge in illegal or “sharp” practices.

The most important discovery in this research was that during the growth of their enterprises, none of the SMEs was satisfied to simply meet the legal requirements of the challenging situations they are

confronted with. They reiteratively went beyond the specific requirements of the law in their activities with stakeholders. Though they varied in extent to which they moved beyond legal compliance, it was glaring that the majority of business owners felt a need to “pay back” their communities, workers, consumers or clients, and other stakeholders. In so doing, they were not only responsible corporate citizens and workers. They also impacted the lives of those with them positively. Keeping down dust and values, business ethics and CSR actions within the four organizations investigated. Both the legal compliance strategy and the integrity strategy were utilized in creating the values of the proprietor and throughout the SME. The actions taken by the business owners studied in this research can serve as examples to potential SME owners as they start their own businesses. The pertinence of supporting, and rewarding ethical actions during the growth of new SMEs cannot be overemphasized. Those SMEs, whose proprietors steered them by making ethical decisions shaped by well-articulated values, were able to grow and develop well grounded cultures. The countenance of the proprietors employed to guide employees for a long time in the process of its growth.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

It is therefore recommended that SMEs should take into consideration ethical values in their bid to register their image in the minds of their stakeholders who made the required, and at times when expensive, decisions to assure legal compliance in their organizations were the key in guiding the countenance of the staff in their respective businesses. A decision to “cover up” or “boycott” any period might have been seen by other organizations as a green light to indulge in illegal or “sharp” practices.

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RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY IN NIGERIA'S FOURTH REPUBLIC: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT GRASSROOT LEVEL

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Abstract

The development of the grassroots in developing nations has remained a challenge to government across levels. In Nigeria, the policies on rural development have spanned from independence and have not met the needs and aspirations of rural dwellers because of some inconsistencies in government policies towards rural transformation. This and associated issues are hurdles to effective implementation of the policy in the country. It is in the light of these challenges that this paper attempts a comprehensive approach at examining those fundamental issues and suggesting some possible means of working towards full attainment of rural development objectives in the current democratic dispensation. The paper adopted qualitative method and contends that there is the need to adopt comprehensive integrated rural development approach in order to achieve the governmental objectives of rural development policy in Nigeria.

Keywords: Rural Development, Sustainable Development, Grassroot Level

INTRODUCTION

Rural development programme of any government at all levels cannot be overemphasized. It is used to denote the process of improving the quality of life and economic wellbeing of people living in relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas. These communities can be exemplified with a low ratio of inhabitants to open space for rural transformation. According to Mabogunje (1981), for sustainable rural development policy in Africa, agricultural activities must play prominent roles. It relates to the understanding of rural development policies among primary sector of economy, production of food and raw materials. It is one of the fundamental programmes that any serious government invests in. He argues further that agriculture has traditionally been left entirely in the hands of local centred on the exploitation of land-intensive natural resources and forestry. Meanwhile, the changes in sustainability in rural areas (Robert, 2009).

global production networks and increased urbanization have changed the character of rural areas. Increasingly, tourism, manufacturing, and recreational activities have replaced extraction and agriculture as dominant economic drivers in recent times. However, the need for rural development from a wider perspective has created more focus on a broad range of development goals rather than merely creating incentives for agriculture or resources based on regime in 1999.

businesses, education, entrepreneurship, physical and social infrastructure which all play an important

With inauguration of Obasanjo's administration in

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1999, many Nigerians living in rural communities entertained romantic hopes that most of the challenges confronting sustainable rural livelihood in the rural areas to demand and control development would disappear immediately under the new dispensation. The failure of the administration to successfully resolve rural development issues led to the criticism of the performances of government at various levels for life of rural people, especially the poor.

their inability to develop policy frameworks towards

the growth and development of rural areas in Nigeria. **Rural Development as a Policy and Process**

It is in the light of this observation that this paper examines critically the associated challenges confronting rural and grassroot development in Nigeria as well as suggest some possible ways of rectifying all identified issues in order to have a positive prospect for sustainable grassroot level in Nigeria.

Conceptual Issues Rural Development

The concept of rural development has no universally accepted definition. According to George (2014), the concept is used in different ways in vastly divergent contexts. As a term, it connotes an overall development of rural people. As a phenomenon, it is the result of various physical, technological, economical, socio-cultural and institutional factors that are responsible for activated transformation of rural community in the state. This definition implies that rural development is a process that aims at improving the standard of living of the people residing in the rural communities.

According to Martins (2010), rural development is the overall development of rural areas in order to improve the quality of life of the people at the village level. It is an integrated process which includes social, economic, political and spiritual development of the poorer sections of the society. It involves the adoption of socio-political and economic approaches in order to develop the grassroot level where majority people of the members of society is residing and setting the priorities of the communities through effective and efficient service delivery by enhancing local capacity or a project that seeks to tackle the problem through provision of basic infrastructure, social services, justice and equity in dealing with the injustice of the rural population, especially for the women and children living in such communities.

To Robert (2009), rural development is a strategy to enable a specific group of people, poor rural women and men to progress in the course of attaining their

According to Harris (1982), rural development emerged as a distinctive field of policy, practice and of research. It refers to a distinct approach to interventions by the state in the economies of underdeveloped countries and one with broader and more specific goals than agricultural development. It is broader because it entails much more than development of agricultural production. It is also a distinct approach to the development of the economy as a whole. It focuses on eradication of poverty and inequality associated with the rural dwellers.

To Ostrum (2003), rural development is a policy and process when it refers to processes of change in rural societies, not acts which involve actions by governments. According to him, it becomes a policy because of state intervention which needs to be considered simply as one of the forces engendering rural integration. He concurred with the argument of Harris (1982) that rural development policy can be viewed as a state-led activity and a focus for development policy in the rural areas. It can also be viewed as a broader process of change in rural societies which may or may not involve state interventions.

In another development, Oakley and Garforth (1983) contended that rural development is a process integrated with economic and societal objectives which must seek to transform rural society and provide better and more secure livelihood for rural people. This assists in a process of analysis, problem identification and the proposal of relevant solutions which are usually encompassed within a programme that seeks to tackle the problem through provision of basic infrastructure, social services, justice and equity in dealing with the that the problems which rural development policies attempt to solve are not only agricultural but also inclusive of other basic needs of the people which need urgent state intervention. It also aims to tackle social or institutional problems peculiar to rural areas.

Theoretical Framework

Key Settlement Theory

The key settlement theory was propounded by Cloke (2013) in the book, *Key Settlement in Rural Areas*.

The major assumption of the theory is the need for a focal policy of developing rural areas through the concentration of all rural development resources in the settlement in which it will provide the required services to other regions through its network of roads and communications. From this theory, it is observed that there is the need for coherent planning framework for rural transformation policy by the present administration in Nigeria because the policy can serve as a basis for founding a well developed urban structures by supporting diverse rural projects and protecting rural environment which will in the long-run promote a more sustainable living-working condition for the rural diverse thereby reducing the high rate of rural-urban migration among the people of rural community across the states in the Federation.

Assessment of Pre-Fourth Republic Rural Development Policy in Nigeria

The implementation of rural development policy in Nigeria is the major responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture at all levels of government in the country.

According to Dye (1972), the relationships between the administrative structures, policy formulation and implementation are intractable and complex which need to be respected in the implementation of government policies and programmes. Therefore, some of the government policies towards rural development before emergence of fourth republic include:

The National Accelerated Food Products Programme (NAFPP)

This programme was launched by the Federal government in 1972. To Sule, Alinno and Ikwegbe (2013), the programme was the first major strategy toward rural development in Nigeria. It was a joint programme among the federal, states and the farmers. The programme centered on the development of improved crop varieties by research institutes and their trial on farm fields in small plots. The programme was later beset with innumerable constraints which did not allow the attainment of its fundamental objectives. Those constraints include inadequate finance, poorly motivated and non-committed extension staff, lack of feedback from the farmers and inability to

replicate the mini-trial before the commencement of the programme (Adeyinka, 2014).

Operation Feed the Nation (OFN)

This policy came as a result of deteriorating food situation in Nigeria in early 1970s which came as a result of neglect of agriculture by the then government. Emphasis was placed on oil revenue because of its boom and that resulted into the migration of potential farmers to the cities. In order to increase food production, the then regimes of Muritala/Obasanjo introduced this policy with the aim of boosting the nation's food production and improving the living conditions of the masses especially the rural dwellers. The programme stimulated interest in agriculture among Nigerian but it failed to achieve its major objectives because it was poorly executed (Offorah, 1988).

The Green Revolution

The Operation Feed the Nation programme of Muritala/Obasanjo regimes of 1976-1979 was replaced with Green Revolution by the civilian government of Shehu Sagari in 1980. The programme was designed to improve the lots of rural farmers and expand the rural development policy of the administration. Unfortunately, the programme also failed to achieve the set objective because it lacked the relevant strategies towards effective rural transformation (Onibokun, 1987).

The Agricultural Development Project (ADP)

This project is an integrated and rural development programme designed to give an impetus to agriculture and rural transformation. The programme was launched in 1975 with the belief that if small scale farmers are able to increase their agricultural production capacity, it could help to meet the food needs of the nation (Offorah, 1988). The programme was designed to stimulate and motivate the rural farmers. But the programme failed to achieve its aim because of lack of basic infrastructures in rural areas which discouraged people from migrating to rural areas. Inadequate feedback from the farmers about the success of the programme also contributed to the failure of the policy in Nigeria (Azikwe, 1992).

Directorate for Food, Roads and Rural Development (DFRRI)

The directorate was one of the numerous programmes that were instituted by Babangida's administration in 1985. It was a kind of home grown

social dimensions of adjustment project for Nigeria. According to Eboh (1995), the programme was aimed at improved the quality of life and standard of living of the majority of the people in the rural areas. Also, it was intended to utilize the enormous resources of the rural areas to lay a solid foundation for security, socio-cultural, political and economic growth and development activities of the rural areas (Abdulrazak, 2013).

The Better Life Programme for Rural Dwellers (BLPRD)

This programme was initiated by Late (Mrs.) Maryam Babangida in 1987 in attempt to improve the living conditions of rural women and stimulate them towards achieving better living conditions and sensitize the rest of Nigerians to their challenges so that they would be able to seek and achieve leadership roles in all spheres of society and inculcate the spirit of self development, particularly in agriculture and crafts. The non-attainment of the programme's objectives was its elitist nature which prompted the programme being hijacked by urban women through the office of first ladies across all the three tiers of government in the country (Paudel, 2007).

Rural Development Policy Implementation in Nigeria's Fourth Republic: An Appraisal

Nigeria returned to democratically elected administration in 1999 after decades of military government and dictatorship, with short intervals of civil rule since independence in 1960. This was accompanied by hopes, aspirations and expectations due to the fact that the country's development remains paramount most especially at the rural level which is regarded as the most deprived and undeveloped. The Obasanjo's administration at its inception in 1999 put in place some programmes aimed at alleviating the poor living conditions of Nigerians. According to Simeon, Judith and Esther (2014), the directorate of Poverty Alleviation Program in the Obasanjo's administration in 1999 was designed to tackle the problem of unemployment especially among the youth and rural dwellers in Nigeria. The specific objective of the programme was set in motion for economic empowerment of the citizens in urban and rural communities. The needed funds were pumped into the programme. The programme was promising on changing the fortune of rural dwellers in particular and Nigeria in general. Unfortunately, in spite of the billions of naira that was put into the programme, it failed to achieve its

main objective as poverty figure released by the Central Bank of Nigeria (2008), showed that 66% of Nigerians were living below poverty line. It has therefore been argued by scholars that the policy thrust of Obasanjo's administration towards eradication of unemployment and poverty, if doggedly and seriously pursued, could have changed the fortune of Nigerians (Njoku, 2000).

Interestingly, the Yar'dua and Jonathan's administrations continued with the poverty alleviation programme with more financial allocation for the sustenance of the programme across the federation. However, the emergence of militancy in the Niger Delta region and the Boko Haram crisis in the North Eastern Nigeria coupled with limited financial resources thwarted implementation of the programme. Attention and efforts were focused on finding solution to the problem of militancy in order to improve the revenue profile of government from oil sales. It is thus argued that it would be very difficult to pin down Jonathan's administration to any specific rural development programme, although some schools of thought believed that his government made concerted efforts in the area of agricultural development, but the issues of corruption and the lack of political will to tackle it impacted negatively on this very important policy in the country (Simeon et al., 2014).

Reasons for The Failure of Previous Rural Development Policies in Nigeria

There are series of reasons for the failure of rural development policies in Nigeria since independence. The prominent among them include:

- **Bureaucratic Bottleneck:** The nature and methods of bureaucratic process in Nigeria is one of the major hurdles to policy implementation on rural development in Nigeria. According to Chigbu (2012), there is no convincing and clear cut line of duty among public workers. The cold war between the heads of department or government organization and political appointees who supervised the programme led to the filtration which hampered the policy implementation.
- **Disposition of Policy Executor:** According to Njoku (2000), the feelings and orientation of those who implement the policies and programmes at any given point in time affect the policy implementation because the state of mind of policy implementators is vital

towards realization of policy objectives; especially when the workers are not adequately motivated, the desire to implement the policies effectively may not be accomplished. In Nigeria, the inability of the government to meet the workers' demand most times hindered their commitment to their official responsibility thereby resulting to non-commitment to policy implementation.

Unrealistic Goals: This is one of the basic and empirical reasons for non-attainment of policy objectives in Nigeria. Although the rural development programmes is attractive towards emancipation of the people of rural communities, the policy and programmes suffered from both instrumental and normative failures which made it not to receive the needed support from the rural dwellers (Ering, 2011).

Nature of the Nation's Economy: The general state of the nation's economy was an impediment to the success of the government programmes on rural transformation. For instance, non-stability of the nation's economy prompted the government policies to fail and hampered effective rural development implementation in Nigeria (Jhingan, 2010).

Communication Lag: Lack of adequate information on the nature and philosophy of the policy between the government and rural dwellers on the importance of the programmes and its objectives also affected the success of the implementation in the country. To Nyaba (2009), the channels of communication in various levels of government are inadequate. It has encouraged misinformation and faulty implementation of rural development policy in the country. From this development, it has been noted that inadequate information about the usefulness of the programme by the people of the grassroots seriously affected its effective implementation in Nigeria.

Prospects for Sustainable Rural Development Policy Implementation in Nigeria

For sustainable rural development policy implementation in Nigeria, there is need for effective collaboration between the government and the people of the rural areas through the followings ways as postulated by Abdulrazak (2013).

Provision of Basic Amenities: Provision of basic infrastructural facilities such as motorable roads, health facilities and recreational centres across the rural areas improve the life and wellbeing of rural dwellers. These amenities can also enhance the conditions of the cities and their inhabitants through adequate food supply for household consumption and industrial use.

Public and Community Awareness: Public and community awareness is an ingredient towards sustainable policy development at grassroot level. This can be done through community based organizations which can orientate individuals and groups towards their participation in decision making at their community level because it can have impact on showing leader's attention to them by bringing the needed development to the rural areas.

Transparency and Accountability in Governance: This method can effectively facilitate rural development agenda implementation of the government in Nigeria. With this principle, it can serve as indicators for good governance with enactment of law to checkmate abuses in governance that can prevent transformation of rural community in Nigeria.

Human Capacity Development: The human capacity development policy of rural dwellers, if well implemented, can enhance effective rural development transformation in Nigeria. With this model, policy makers across all levels need to improve the quality of life of the people in order to enjoy desired wants which can encourage them to see farming as a sustainable means of livelihood and curb off rural-urban migration.

Environmental Protection Programme: This is a strategy for sustainable rural development in Nigeria. According to Eboh (1995), protecting the rural environment can be achieved if the government can generate and facilitate appropriate resources management system for rural development because unhealthy environment prevents the actualization of objectives.

Provision of Small and Medium Scale Industries: Government across the levels should stimulate rural industries. This will turn out goods that will feed the urban and sub-urban based industries. The industries should focus on labour intensive approach rather than capital intensive since the required manpower can create large empowerment opportunity for rural youth. In doing so, the economic sector will be improved and the young generation would like to stay and develop their rural communities (Adeyinka, 2014).

Suggested Approaches for Effective Rural Development Policy in Implementation in Nigeria
For effective rural development policy implementation, the following approaches can aid the policy makers at all levels towards smooth rural development policy implementation in Nigeria.

The Sectoral Approach: This approach according to Ntukidem (1991) involves an annual budget plan drawn up in sectoral form on the basis of ministerial and departmental reports and projects. It entails a comprehensive plan broken down into workable time-table and takes into account rural development programmes and strategies for smooth implementation across rural areas in Nigeria.

The Structural Approach: To Charles (2010), the contention of this approach is based on the transformation of major coupled with present conditions of the nation's institutions and structures of the government economy which hinder their commitments towards for effective policy implementations. For sustainable rural development policy rural development policy implementation, implementation in Nigeria. this approach can ensure proper restructuring of existing government institutions in order to meet the needs of the objective by the government, the paper therefore people at grassroot level and help in recommends the commitment of the governments to transforming their condition of living for the rural development agenda by demonstrating the

better thereby discouraging rural-urban migration in Nigeria.

Integrated Rural Development Approach: The emergence of this approach was as a result of effect of the past efforts which contributed little to improve the well-being of rural dwellers. According to Simeon et al., (2014), the approach emphasized broadening of rural economy through mobilization and utilization of human and natural resources by providing services, creating motivation and purchasing power through efficiency distribution of income and employment opportunities by establishing closer link among agricultural, industrial and service sectors in the rural areas in order to improve the living conditions of rural dwellers through a comfortable housing scheme, water supply, good road network and educational institutions.

Humanistic Approach: This approach according to Ntukidem (1991) entails the improvement of the society's capacity to understand, manage and control its environment. It involves improving individual and group consciousness towards meaningful cooperation with other human groups for rural transformation with aim of changing people's attitude, perceptions and their behaviors in order to achieve the needed development of the rural areas.

CONCLUSION

In all ramifications, it has been established that the rural dwellers constitute larger percentage of Nigeria's population and require greater attention from the government across all levels in order to meet their needs and aspirations (George, 2014). From this study, it has been observed that all the efforts of successive governments since independence to implement sustainable rural development policy remained abysmal because the identified reasons economy which hinder their commitments towards for effective policy implementations. For sustainable rural development policy rural development policy implementation, implementation in Nigeria.

However, for prompt realization of the policy the paper therefore recommends the commitment of the governments to transforming their condition of living for the rural development agenda by demonstrating the

needed political will and showing the necessary leadership in matching words with actions involving workable rural development approaches for sustainable growth and development of the areas.

The needed technical assistance to the farmers should also be prioritized by the government in order to improve productive capacities of the farmers and raise their level of income which will, in the long run, improve their living conditions and make them feel comfortable to contribute their quota to the nation's growth and development as witnessed in some advanced countries of the world.

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DEMOCRACY, INSURGENCY AND NATIONAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA: A STUDY OF BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY (MAY, 2010 - MAY, 2015)

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Abstract

Democracy is beneficial to people provided its basic principles are followed to the letter. Despite the recurring threat to national security since the return to democracy in 1999, insurgency, as it relates to democratic rules, has seldom been a subject of intellectual inquiry. While the existing studies take aggregate view of democratic practice in Nigeria, this paper attempts an evaluation of the form and dynamics of democracy with a view to determining the extent to which it can be said to have been the platform for the gestation and control of insurgencies in Nigeria. Historically, it explores the origins of Boko Haram in Nigeria and evaluates the concerted efforts of the Jonathan administration in dealing with the insurgents. Highlighting the core issues that have dominated the discourse on Boko Haram across West African States generally and Nigeria in particular, it advocates that Nigeria should ensure good leadership and strengthen its institutions to prevent the breach of national security.

KEYWORDS: Democracy, Insurgency, Boko Haram.

INTRODUCTION

For some decades ago, democracy has been a generally acceptable system of government which is widely adopted by not only American-European countries but also Asian and African countries. This general acceptability of democracy is not unconnected with its basic principles which provide fairness for the governed populace. The principles like rule of law, periodic elections, constitutionalism etc., have ensured not only popular participation in governance but also encouraged humanitarianism and mitigation of conflicts. Thus, several countries in Africa adopted democracy after several decades of military dictatorship.

Similar to the experience of many countries in Africa, Nigeria returned to civilian rule in May 1999 after three decades of military governments, interrupted only by the 1999 – 83 second Republic. This return to civil rule was accompanied with fresh hopes and latent optimism. Nigerians were optimistic that democracy would guarantee freedom and equity as well as sustenance of security of life and property. Regrettably, as Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013: 285) observe, this optimism seems to be a mirage. Democracy did not only disappoint Nigerians in the area of economic development but also jeopardised the security level of the state.

Since 1999, Nigerians had felt pains than relief as life expectancy goes down every day while standard of living also decreases by the day. “Majority of the population seem to lack access to pipe borne water, health care facilities, electricity and affordable quality education” (Nwanegbo & Odigbo, Ibid: 285). In the area of security, however, democracy has not fulfilled its promises in providing adequate security of life and property of Nigerians. Unfortunately, the security situation in the country deteriorated drastically so much so that it even threatens the unity and existence of the nation. In fact, the post-civilian and democratic period had seen different forms of criminal, communal, ethno-religious and political crises ravage the country. Instances of these crises are widespread cases of armed robbery and kidnapping, ethno-religious upheavals particularly in Jos, Kaduna, and Ife – Modakeke, militancy in the Niger Delta region as well as insurgency in the Northern part of Nigeria.

Instructively, among these security challenges, the threat put on the Nigerian state by insurgency is conspicuous, especially the activities of the callous group, Boko Haram. Historically, the Boko Haram is an acclaimed Islamic sect which was established by Muhammad Yusuf in 2002. The group became violent in 2009 when a serious clash

ensued between the group and some Nigerian government for the majority. The authors represent security officers. This crisis led to the death of the the Lincoln definition as “a government comes that founding leader, Muhammadu Yusuf. After the 2009 *from the people; it is exercised by the people and for uprising, the activities of the group were weakened the purpose of the people's own interests.*”

but violence re-emerged in 2010 which has ceased to stop till date. The major concern of Nigerians and neighbour countries is the disappointment that democracy has offered the Nigerian state for gestating crisis that the democracy itself could hardly be able to mitigate. Previous administrations of President Olusegun Obasanjo and Late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, to some extent, put the security challenges under control. However, the escalation of Boko Haram attacks on Nigerians since its re-emergence in 2010 during the administration of President Goodluck Jonathan becomes a source of concern.

Against this backdrop, the main focus of this paper is to examine the extent to which democracy has been a trigger and mitigation of conflicts in Nigeria. It also aims at x-raying the concerted efforts of President Jonathan in bringing the insurgency of Boko Haram under control. After this introduction, the conceptual and theoretical clarifications follow. The next discourse dwells on the historical explanation of Boko Haram in Nigeria. Another segment analyses the President Jonathan's anti-insurgency policies or efforts and also draws the line of correlation, while summary, conclusion and recommendation constitute final sections of the paper.

Conceptual and Theoretical Clarifications

In this section, concepts which are central to the discourse such as democracy, insurgency and national security are briefly discussed.

Democracy

As any other concepts in social sciences, there is no generally agreed definition for democracy. However, some definitions are famous to the concept of democracy than others. Interestingly, that of Abraham Lincoln is quite held by many. He defined democracy as the government of the people by the people and for the people. According to Appadorai (1975), democracy is a system of government through which the people exercise the governing power directly or indirectly through the representatives periodically elected by them.

Paula and Jean-Aime (2008: 4) submit that the word democracy is a term that comes from Greek and it is made up of two words *demos* (“people”) and *kratos* (“rule”). Democracy sometimes literally translated to mean Government of the people or

Indeed, democracy according to Diamond quoted by Yusuf (n.d: 2) is “that form of government in which the sovereign power resides in and is exercised by the whole body of free citizens directly or indirectly through a system of representation, as distinguished from monarchy, aristocracy or oligarchy”. One thing that can be noticed is that these scholars' definitions stress the popular participation aspect of democracy. It should be noted that there are other features and ingredients of democracy.

Democracy cannot yet be called true-democracy unless there are absolute rule of law, liberty, right of dissention, fraud proof electoral system and ability to

abide by the rule of the game. Yusuf's view is corroborated by Ununu and quoted by Igwe (2010: 118) that there are five basic elements without which a community cannot be regarded as “true of democracy.” These elements are equality, sovereignty of the people, respect for human life, the rule of law and liberty of the individual. Going by the historical explanation of these criteria, it is doubtful if there is the practice of “true democracy” in Africa especially in Nigeria.

From the above discussion so far, the components of democracy can be regrouped into three (i) popular participation (ii) constitutionalism and (iii) liberalism. First, popular participation entails the rule by the people through free, fair, frequent and credible elections. It is under this political equality of all citizens are found. It also means that powers of government are based upon the approval of the governed. Second, constitutionalism consists of the use of constitutions to limit the government by law. The implication is that people do not just give power to the sovereign as claimed by Hobbes but rather to protect their fundamental rights, interest and welfare. Thus, people limit the power of government by constitutionalism otherwise called rule of law. The constitution is mostly written and expected to state what government should do and how to do it. The constitutionalism also stresses the roles of judiciary and its independence. Third, liberalism depicts freedom, equality and dignity of individual. It is believed that all persons have certain fundamental rights and that the main focus of democracy is to protect these rights. Under this content, the freedoms of religion, press and expression, right to life, privacy association as well as political freedom are discussed. Any country which is found wanting in

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any one of these principles of democracy is considered undemocratic.

Insurgency

Another concept central to this paper is insurgency. It is quite an ambiguous word. It literarily means uprising or rebellion which connotes embarking on anti-state campaign by the use of violent means. Insurgency is defined by the United

States Department of Defence (2007) quoted by Folarin and Oviasogie (n.d: 2) as “an organised movement that has the aim of overthrowing a constituted government through subversion and armed conflict.” The word is used interchangeably with terrorism by some authors. However, there is still a line of demarcation between the two. For terrorism, it is defined literarily as the deliberate commission of an act of violence to create an emotional response through the suffering occasioned by conflicts in the furtherance of a political or social agenda. Terrorists mostly embark on violence against civilians in order to achieve their military, religious or political objectives. In this paper, however, insurgency is chosen and preferred to terrorism despite the fact that referring to Boko Haram as a terrorist group is not a gainsaying.

National Security

The concept consists of two words: National and Security. The national is used here to mean state or country. Therefore our concern is nation-state. The second word is security which means safety and protection. It is a situation of not being threatened in which any form be it physically, psychologically, emotionally or financially. The Macmillan Dictionary online defines national security as “the protection or the safety of a country's secrets and its citizens” (Encyclopaedia, 2015). It is pertinent to quote the definitions of some renowned scholars. Harold Lasswell distinctively defines national security as “freedom from foreign dictation”. For Arnold Wolfers (1960), national security means “the absence of threats to acquired values and subjectively, the absence of fear that such values will be attacked” (www.wikipedia.org). According to Prebhakaran (2015), national security is the measurable state of the capability of a nation to overcome the multi-dimensional threats to the apparent well-being of its people and its survival as a nation-state at any given time...” (Wikipedia).

Insurgency in Nigeria: Historical Background

Different scholars have written extensively among the insurgent groups in Nigeria.

on the historical antecedent of recent insurgency in Nigeria. Each of these scholars has identified several insurgent groups since the attainment of independence in 1960 (Oluwaseun, 2012; Danjibo, n.d; Sunday, 2011; Alao & Atere, 2012; Folarin & Oviasogie, n.d; Abiodun, 2012; Salawu & Adeoti, 2015). Following the attainment of independence in 1960, the first republic was not fully free of crisis but still devoid of any form of insurgency. The tail end of second republic, however, witnessed the first insurgency in Nigeria popularly known as Maitatsine. Muhammad Marwa was said to be the founder and leader of that ferocious group.

Muhammad Marwa was said to have migrated from the town of Marwa in Northern Cameroon to the city of Kano in 1945. Due to his provocative preaching and wrong interpretation of Islamic texts, he was expelled from Kano several times and even sometimes detained in prison. Consequently, Muhammad Marwa's activities led to “the Maitatsine uprisings of 1980 in Kano, 1982 in Kaduna and Bulumkutu, 1984 in Yola and 1985 in Bauchi” (Abimbola, 2010: 96). Nigeria had a sigh of relief after the Maitatsine insurgency. However, this does not mean that there were no more series of uprisings and security threats but they cannot be referred to as insurgency. These upheavals are captured in the literature and include Kafanchan/Kaduna, Zaria/Futua religious riots of March 1987, the Zangon-kataf riot of May 1992 and the Jos crisis of April 1994 to mention but a few.

Moreover, there are equally some groups posed threats to Nigerian national security but could not be termed insurgent groups. These groups are adequately mentioned by Folarin and Oviasogie (n.d: 5) as follows: “...the Bakassi Boys, Odua People Congress (OPC), the Egbesu Boys, the Ijaw People Congress (IYC), the Arewa People's Congress (APC), the Igbo People Congress (IPC) and Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), among others”. Another notable Delta Militant group popularly known as Movement for Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND). The insurgent group that is worthy of mention is a Niger Delta Militant group popularly known as Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), among others”. Another notable Delta Militant group popularly known as Movement for Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND). The group built its justification of violent means to achieve better socio-economic and political gains on frustration-aggression theory. The theory contends that one is likely to be aggressive when there is a frustration. Put differently, a frustrated person is likely to be fiercely angry and aggressive unless the wound is healed. By and large, the group's actions have made scholars and analysts to categorize it

The belligerents of MEND are Alhaji Asari Haram became known to the populace. The source Dokubo, Henry Okah, Ateke Tom to mention but a of funding of the group is not yet clear although there are few. The underlining issues of contention by the are allegations that it raises funds from within and armed militant groups were the greater control of the outside the country. It is also reported that the group oil resources, fair allocation of the revenue from oil also robs banks, cash-in-transit convoys and exploration, ending the oil spills and gas flaring, successful business men in Maiduguri and Bauchi. compensation for the several years of ecocide The group majorly recruited its members from improvement of the physical and infrastructural refugees in chad and the out of school and jobless development of the Nigeria Delta region (Folarin & Nigerians popularly known as “Al-Majiri”. On the Oviasogie, n.d: 6). The insurgencies adopted diverse eve of the 2007 elections, the first nefarious act ways in their attacks which include kidnapping, committed by the group under the leadership of killing, bombing, hostage taking, demolition of oil Muhammad Yusuf was the killing of Sheikh Ja'afar and gas facilities, vandalism of pipelines, illegal oil Muhammad Adam, a prominent scholar who was bunkering, among others. The attacks of these groups said to have intermittently argued with the group and are majorly targeted toward government officials and seriously criticized it for its hard-line-ideology government properties as well as multinationals. (Ibid).

These attacks are mostly trailed with reprisal attacks from the Nigerian government. However, in the recent past, there has been a change in federal government's approach; from military option to peaceful option. Thus, since the adoption of amnesty policy, there has been a drastic reduction in the level of insurgency and threats to national security from this angle.

Boko Haram

As the nation is heaving a sigh of relief from MEND's insurgency, the menace of Boko Haram surfaced spontaneously. Boko Haram colloquially means “western education is a sin”. The real name of the group is *Jama'atu Ahlus-Sunna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad*. The report of Andrew (2012: 3) traces the origin of Boko Haram to Alhaji Muhammadu Ndimi Mosque in Maiduguri a decade ago. In 2002, an offshoot of the group relocated to the boarder of Nigeria and Niger where they declared Islamic state. The leader of this group, Muhammad Alli often lured the other Muslims to join the group as he believed to be better practising Islam. In 2003, there was a communal conflict and the group got into conflict with the police. The group was dealt with by the military men while many of them were killed including their leaders. The few survivors returned to Maiduguri to join Muhammad Yusuf's group. This group is also known for its extremism and misinterpretation of Islamic texts.

Andrew (2012: 3) gives account of Boko Haram further that the leader of this Maiduguri Maiduguri in March 2012 which forced 10,000 pupils out of education ; and the kidnapping of over 200 Chibok school girls in April, 2014. Other attacks achieved and named 'Ibn Taymiyah' mosque. It is from this point that the ideology of the group as Boko

In Maiduguri, it all began on 25th July, 2009 when there was a clash between the group and some police officers. The attack attracted one of the heaviest and ruthless security crackdowns in Nigerian history (Oluwaseun, 2012:35). The standoff between the group and the security men lasted for five days. During the attack, some fled, others were arrested and over 1000 people were killed with more than 700 killed in Borno state (Salisu, Mohd & Abdullahi, 2015: 258). The leader of the group was reportedly arrested by the military and handed over to the police. Muhammad Yusuf was extra-judicially killed in the police custody though the police denied the allegation. Andrew (2012:4) submits that “police officials denied that he had been executed, saying he had been shot while trying to escape. Video clearly showing the execution of young boys and other alleged Boko Haram members by the police, including Buji Foia former commissioner for religious affairs in the state government has been posted on YouTube.”

One would expect that the attack would put an end to Boko Haram menace; unfortunately, the attacks only re-energized the group and transformed it from ordinary Islamic group to an insurgent sect. Oluwaseun (2012:36) called it most ferocious and deadliest terrorist group. The group first reacted and “orchestrated a large prison break in Bauchi in 2010” where it freed more than 700 inmates including the sect members. The group major attacks include the attack on police headquarters in Abuja in August 2011; burning down of twelve schools in Maiduguri in March 2012 which forced 10,000 pupils out of education ; and the kidnapping of over 200 Chibok school girls in April, 2014. Other attacks were made on churches, mosques, dignitaries, helpless civilians, security officials to mention but a

few. The response of the government and the security Jonathan were also attacked. The Police gave the officers will be discussed later.

The group was known for clamouring for the men who died in Kaduna and Niger states. In establishment of Sharia in the North in particular and addition, 157 churches, 46 mosques, 1,435 houses, Nigeria in general. However, after the crackdown on 437 vehicles and 219 motorcycles were destroyed the group, the major contention focused on revenge (Ibid).

for the killing of its leader and loved ones, as well as plans to release captured members and still create an Islamic state in the Northern part of Nigeria.

President Jonathan Administration and Boko Haram

President Goodluck Jonathan was once the Vice President to Musa Yar'Adua who was sworn in as President in 2007 but later died in May 2010. In other words, the demise of Yar'Adua gave Jonathan total control of the Nigerian polity as he assumed office. This circumstance that brought President Jonathan into power was not very pleasing to the northerners who expected that President Yar'Adua (from the northern part) would have ruled Nigeria for two terms as President Olusegun Obasanjo, a southerner, had the opportunity to do. This displeasure was compounded more by the massive supports that some notable southern leaders, like Obasanjo gave to President Jonathan to run for presidency in 2011 general elections.

Hakeem (2012: 55) asserts that the event of attacks. These bombardments took different dimensions. *First*, the Police joined by the military the northerners to look for an alternative northern men strengthened efforts to restore peace in three candidate outside the People's Democratic Party states (Yobe, Bauchi and Maiduguri) where the (PDP). Their choice was General Muhammad effects of Boko Haram were mostly felt. Soldiers Buhari, a former Head of State notable for political were also deployed to other Northern states where discipline and zero tolerance for corruption in the the group intermittently strikes. The forces under the nation. He further added that the declaration of leadership of Olukolade made concerted efforts to President Jonathan as the winner of 2011 did not keep peace and tagged it "*Operation lafia*" meaning only attract allegations and counter allegations of 'operation struggle for peace.' *Second*, for hitch free massive rigging but also followed by mayhem in peacekeeping operation, in December 2011 and May Northern part of the country especially Kaduna 2013, the administration declared state of emergency State. According to him, "*in what seems in these three most affected states. Though this kind unprecedented in the history of revolts in the North, of state of emergency did not oust the elected the traditional rulers who hitherto enjoyed absolute governors of the concerned states, it put the states loyalty from the people were one of the major victims under the siege of military men. Third*, the Task of the crisis" (Hakeem, Ibid :59). The rioters Forces made massive arrests in areas of Boko Haram touched the properties of first class emirs like Alhaji attacks. The Forces also used this strategy to get Sa'ad Abubakar, the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Ado necessary information.

Bayero, Emir of Kano and Alhaji Sheu Idris, Emir of Zazzau. It was also reported that some people at the descending on hideouts. Such places are attacked to office of electoral commissions were killed as well as filter out the belligerent group members and their corps members who were perceived to be cohorts. Moreover, as the operation seemed slow, Dr. collaborators in the rigging. Christians, Muslims and Jonathan decided to change his security adviser, police officers who were alleged to have contributed Major Andrew Azazi, replacing him with Colonel in one way or the other to the victory of President Dasuki, a retired military man from North. The

rationale behind this change, perhaps, is to accrue more legitimacy for his anti-insurgency crusade. This is so, because an ordinary man would reason along with Mr. President by expecting more externalization of Boko Haram saga.

commitment from the new security Adviser as he is from the crisis zone. As these military options were ongoing, the second approach was also set in motion, which was the 'peace option.' How was this option done and what was the outcome of the approach?

Peace Option: President Jonathan realized that no war was ever worn on the battle field. There must be a need for 'Jaw-jaw'. It must be submitted here that, it is difficult to see how there can be meaningful dialogue between the government and Boko Haram. This assertion is a truism based on the following facts: *first*, the group did not have a coherent structure. So, if a faction is ready for negotiation the others may not. *Second*, the group used to eliminate any faction of the group who proved to be moderate and accommodate negotiation. *Third*, the demands of the group are practically impossible to realize and are often contradictory. For Instance, Boko Haram demands the division of Nigeria into two; Islamization of the whole Nigeria; President Jonathan should convert to Islam; to mention but few. These demands are not realistic. Other demands which were politically motivated and pushed for negotiation are: release of its senior members in government prisons; restoration of all its vandalized property; lawful prosecution and punishment of the security men responsible for the killing of its leader, Muhammadu Yusuf; among others.

Despite this reality on ground, government have also offered to assist with counter-terrorism still went ahead and made several attempts to training." *Third*, as concentric cycle suggests, negotiate with the group. The first attempt was in Nigeria's neighbours are very significant for September 2011, when the democracy activist Shehu sustenance and maintenance of her national security. Sani attempted to broker explanatory talks between Therefore, Dr. Jonathan's administration held series Muhammad Yusuf's brother-in-law, Baba Kura of meetings with the governments of Chad, Fugu. (Andrew, 2012: 11). Shortly after the meeting Cameroon and Niger.

Baba Kura Fugu was assassinated by unknown men. Despite all these tactics employed by Another attempt was in March 2012. Dr. Ibrahim government to subdue Boko Haram, the sect seemed Ahmad Datti, president of the supreme Council for more powerful day by day. The group extended its Sharia in Nigeria was the chairman of the peace scope and base and even conquered some local negotiation committee. This attempt also failed as he governments. (Salisu, Mohd & Abdullahi, 2015: quickly pulled out. He accused the government of 259) sadly remark that "*the group captured many leakage of their discussion and subsequent local governments in the affected states of Borno, publication in Daily Newspaper of 16 March, 2012 Yobe and Adamawa. And about 500 Nigerian (Paul 2012:2). He then lamented thus "this soldiers and refugees were also taken captives by the development has embarrassed us very much and has Boko Haram to Cameroon." What could have led to created strong doubts in our minds about the this pathetic situation? The following points have sincerity of the government's side in our discussion been identified as problems militating against the as the discussion is supposed to be very confidential government's efforts in achieving total success in its to achieve any success"* (Andrew, 2012: 12). As counter insurgency operations.

To start with, President Jonathan's lukewarm *Nigerian security system, where billions of Naira* attitude towards nipping the group in the bud did *was allocated to defense ministry for the fight against* more than harm for its operations. This problem was *terrorism, but the outcome has not yielded any* as a result of the fact that the insurgency had many *achievement*" (Salisu, Mohd & Abdullahi, 2015: 259). The implication of this scenario is that the attacks were just reactions towards and against Nigerian government are not ready to fight Boko Haram. What success are we then expecting from the Buhari (rtld.) was even quoted to have vowed that he administration under study?

would make the country ungovernable for him. It was too late before President was considerably convinced that Boko Haram was neither the making of a Buhari and his cohorts nor their tool to disturb and destabilized his government. Samuel (2013: 3) presents this scenario better by calling it stakeholders' discordance. He contends that *"at the domestic level, history of stakeholders' discordance on vital national issues has reduced the state's viability"* He argues further that *"Because, no matter the limitation of the Nigerian state in executing those goods that only justifies its existence, stakeholders' discordance is an ever present limitation."*

The author's premise really affected Jonathan's anti-insurgent crusade. There discord between North and South; between PDP and CPC later APC; between Northerners and Southerners; between Muslims and Christians; between Federal Government and State Governments. Heartbreaking enough, these frictions and mutual suspicion did not only take place between these stakeholders but also within each group.

President Jonathan was even reported to have lamented that *"Boko Haram are in all arms of Nigerians governments, including his cabinet"* (Samuel, 2013: 9). The point we are making here is fully in support of the scholar's argument that accorded to it by the President made government to lose focus on Boko Haram and sought more precious time to balance or reconcile suspicious stakeholders (Ibid:14).

Furthermore, corruption which has become endemic in Nigeria grossly affected the administration's counter-insurgency fight. Scholars are yet to come into consensus whether President Jonathan's administration is the most corrupt of government in Nigeria or not. Be that as it may, there is no doubt that corruption has pervaded almost all sectors during his tenure. Based on this background, it is not surprising that soldiers had one time refused to go to the battle field and expressed frustration that *"the insurgents outgun them as a result of more sophisticated weapons used by the sect members."* between the two groups as the Boko Haram

Democracy, Boko Haram and National Security
This problem shows endemic corruption within the

other hand, it is also argued here that inability of the factors that have been identified by scholars as Nigerian government to follow democratic principle responsible for the menace of Boko Haram like to the latter begat the Boko Haram insurgency which problems of mass unemployment, poverty and illiteracy, yet inability of the government to strictly in turn led to national insecurity.

Put differently, Boko Haram menace and national follow democratic principles remains a significant insecurity can only be averted if and only if the factor. The paper further assessed the President democratic principles are duly applied. The Jonathan administration's counter-insurgency policy. manifestation of the above premise was noted in this The administration adopted military option, peace study. Some of the basic principles of democracy as option and international cooperation option. It is discussed above are the rule of law and quite unfortunate that these efforts were futile due to constitutionalism which are fundamentals of human stakeholders' discordance, corruption and president's rights. In democracy, every accused person is idiosyncrasy.

considered a suspect until such individual is tried in the law court and found guilty or otherwise. If Nigeria should Jettison the politicisation of security Muhammad Yusuf had been taken to court and tried as democracy requires, there might not be Boko Haram to be controlled. In other words, the incarnation of Boko Haram from religions interest stakeholders must work hand-in-hand, especially the group to insurgent group today. Andrew (2012:4) Northern elites, to be able to get rid of Boko Haram in testifies that *"Muhammad Yusuf's killing at the hand of the police as well as the death of hundreds of Boko Haram members were a crucial driver in the current wave of assassinations attacks carried out by the Boko Haram sect against security personnel and the likes of Boko Haram in future. More so, there is infrastructure."* More so, it was said that the group went to court to seek redress from what it considered as violation of one of his fundamental human rights. It was consequently reported that the court ruled that the family of Muhammad Yusuf be compensated but the judgement fell on the Federal Government's deaf ears. Indeed, this development does not align with hope of the common man. To prevent this kind of democracy.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The return to democratic rule in 1999 in Nigeria was accomplished with onerous hopes of economic development, adequate security of lives and property and respect for human rights. These hopes are not yet realized or achieved. What amazes the concerned Nigerians and the friends of Nigeria is the level to which these basic needs have deteriorating especially national security. Abiodun (2012:135) laments that *"the Nigerian governments have failed in engendering the utilitarian essence of the state with the expectation that accomplishing democracy in 1999."*

In this paper, an attempt has been made to draw a line of correlation among democracy, Boko Haram and national security. It is argued that Boko Haram is a product of inability of Nigerian State to follow democratic principles to the letter. This scenario, in turn, transforms Boko Haram to insurgent group which of course led to national insecurity. It is not a gainsaying that there are other

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ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF POWER SECTOR IN NIGERIA: ADDRESSING POLICY GAP TO ACHIEVE EFFICIENCY

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Abstract

A nation's economic growth and development relies heavily on a robust energy production, distribution and consumption. Electricity is a key infrastructure which plays crucial role in the advancement of the critical sectors of the economy. However, the peak electricity generation for Nigeria has been 4500 megawatts for a population of 160 million people. The demand for electricity in Nigeria is high and costly; hence, only about 60% have access to it. This lack of access has degenerated into low investments which consequently has reduced the pace of socio-economic development of the country; and on the individual level, it has abysmally increased the rate of poverty and unemployment among the citizens. Several government actions such as legal and institutional reforms, huge resources and policies such as privatization and commercialization have been directed towards reforming the power sector in the past without tangible results. This paper therefore accounts for the challenges faced by the government in the bid to achieve optimum energy production and distribution, address the current policy and institutional gap using a conceptual approach with the use of secondary data. This study found some challenges that have inhibited the success of the government actions which are not limited to the fault of the government in terms of corruption, political challenge, and lack of modern facilities but some unpatriotic citizens who always sabotage the efforts of the government. This study therefore recommends a holistic approach to tackle the problem by carrying out a comprehensive policy for the sector. The government should also tackle corruption in the sector as well as educate the consumers on ways they can conserve electricity.

Keywords: Energy, power, electricity, efficiency, policy reform

INTRODUCTION

A nation's economic growth and development relies heavily on a robust energy production, distribution and consumption. Electricity is a key infrastructure which plays crucial role in the advancement of the critical sectors of the economy (Yusuf, 2014). Nigeria has been the most populous country in Africa but to provide a steady power supply. Self power coincidentally belongs to one of the countries with the lowest energy production and consumption in the world. With over N16 trillion spent on power between 1999- 2014, the all-time peak energy generation in the country has never crossed the boundary of 4,500 MW and all-time low of about 50 MW for a population of over 160 million (Daily Independent, 2015). Electricity demand in Nigeria is high and costly; hence, only about 60% have access to it. This lack of access has degenerated into low investments which consequently have reduced the pace of socio-economic development of the country; and on the individual level, it has abysmally increased the rate of poverty and unemployment among Nigerians. Citizens and businesses have always expressed gross dissatisfaction, and almost taking it as a normal way of life as the government continues to battle with how to provide a steady power supply. Self power generation is a norm in the country as about 130 million out of estimated 160 million representing 81% generate their own electricity through alternative source of energy (Vanguard, January 28, 2014). In addition, industrial consumers also use self powered generating plants (generators) to carry out their daily businesses accompanied by high cost of fueling and maintenance which amount to N1.6 trillion

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annually (ThisDay Live, November 5, 2013). As **Electricity Generation and Distribution in Nigeria: Policy and Institutional Reforms** such, more often than not, both private and public service providers cast blame on poor power supply as the basis for poor and inefficient service delivery. The first electricity generating plant in Nigeria was installed in Lagos in 1896 with a capacity of 60KW. In a bid to make the situation better, several subsequent plants were installed at isolated units government actions such as legal and institutional reforms, and policies such as privatization and commercialization have been directed towards departments as in Warri and Port-Harcourt. The reforming the power sector in the past with huge isolated units were merged together when Nigerian expenditure incurred in the implementation process. Colonial Government passed the ordinance No.15 of 1950 which sets up the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria (Uwaifo, 1994). In 1956, the Ijora 'B' power plant was commissioned being the first of its kind. In expected returns when compared with the policy and a similar vein, a grid power transmission system that institutional reforms. The inability of the evolved connecting large power stations in Kainji, government to supply power efficiently has not only discouraged foreign and local investors but it has also curtailed the extent of our industrial capacity, limited first half of the 1960s. The first major reform in the power sector in Nigeria importantly derailed the nation from the path of development. It is against this backdrop that this Authority (NEPA) in 1972 to develop, maintain, paper seeks to account for the challenges faced by the coordinate and improve on the situation of power government in the bid to achieving optimum energy generation. It was also established to develop an production and distribution, address the current economic system of electricity supply through a policy and institutional gap; and to suggest best ways systematic commercialization across the country to achieve efficiency in the sector to curb the current (Lawal et al., 2011). NEPA had a total installed capacity of about 4500 MW and a daily generating capacity of only 2700 MW, having about 1800 MW short of expected production. This shortage can be attributed to ageing power plants, poor maintenance ability to convert materials into useful products, culture and shortage of skilled manpower. Only the providing varieties of useful services (Sorenson, 1983). Energy serves as the engine that drives (though not in regular supply) leaving the rural areas industrialization which aims at expanding with no electricity. After several years of establishing industrialization, aiding and improving NEPA, no much improvements were made in the communication, advancing innovations in science electricity generation and distribution and another and technology, provision of quality healthcare major reform was needed. The failure of NEPA to delivery and education as well as improving the perform satisfactorily was principally blamed on the general wellbeing of the citizens (Emovon, Kareem and Adeyeri, 2010). Akin (2008) added that provider and distributor of public electricity for the substantial investment in the infrastructure such as country (Okoro & Chikuni, 2007). electricity is fundamental to rapid and sustained economic growth and poverty reduction.

Literature Review

Energy is a force multiplier that enhances man's ability to convert materials into useful products, culture and shortage of skilled manpower. Only the providing varieties of useful services (Sorenson, 1983). Energy serves as the engine that drives (though not in regular supply) leaving the rural areas industrialization which aims at expanding with no electricity. After several years of establishing industrialization, aiding and improving NEPA, no much improvements were made in the communication, advancing innovations in science electricity generation and distribution and another and technology, provision of quality healthcare major reform was needed. The failure of NEPA to delivery and education as well as improving the perform satisfactorily was principally blamed on the general wellbeing of the citizens (Emovon, Kareem and Adeyeri, 2010). Akin (2008) added that provider and distributor of public electricity for the substantial investment in the infrastructure such as country (Okoro & Chikuni, 2007). electricity is fundamental to rapid and sustained economic growth and poverty reduction. Soon after the return to civilian rule in 1999, the President constituted an Electric Power Sector Reform Implementation Committee under the National Council on Privatization to recommend to be dangerous to both human and the environment reforms, promote policies goals of liberalization, due to its harmful emissions and as well highly competition and a private sector led growth (Banwo & Ighodalo, 2006). The following objectives informed the reform agenda.

- a) To reduce the business operation cost in order to attract new investment through

provision of quality and dependable Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) with power supply to the economy for the aim of promoting efficiency in the generation and industrial, commercial, and socio domestic distribution of electricity by restructuring the activities in Nigeria.

- b) To meet the growing demand for stable and private sector in the process and encouraging reliable power required in small and medium competition. This reform further unbundled PHCN business sectors.
- c) To meet the desires and needs to be up to generating companies, and 11 distributing global standard in power generation and companies (Table 1) (Emeka, 2010). This effort was power consumption(Yusuf, 2014).

In March 2005, as part of the reform measures, NEPA purchase the assets and liabilities of the PHCN and was incorporated a holding company known as the eventual takeover of the power sector in Nigeria.

Table 1: List of Transmission, Generation and Distribution Companies

S/N	Transmission Company	Generating Companies	Distribution Companies
1.	Transco	Kainji Power Plc	Ikeja Electricity Distribution Co. Plc
2.		Shiroro Power Plc	Ibadan Electricity Distribution Co. Plc
3.		Afam Power Plc	Benin Electricity Distribution Co. Plc
4.		Ugheli Power Plc	Abuja Electricity Distribution Co. Plc
5.		Sapele Power Plc	Port Harcourt Electricity Distribution Co. Plc
6.		Geregu Power Plc	Enugu Electricity Distribution Co. Plc
7.			Kaduna Electricity Distribution Co. Plc
8.			Kano Electricity Distribution Co. Plc
9.			Jos Electricity Distribution Co. Plc
10.			Yola Electricity Distribution Co. Plc
11.			Eko Electricity Distribution Co. Plc

Comparison of Electricity Generation in Nigeria and Selected Countries 52,000MW which is almost eleven times that of Nigeria with over 160 million population. The United States has a power generation capacity of over 813,000 MW for a population of about 250 million. Nigeria is ranked 178th with 0.03 KWh per much electricity is produced per head. Countries like head which is way behind countries like Gabon (900 South Africa with a population of around 50 million KWh); Ghana (283.65 KWh) and Kenya has an electricity production capacity of about (124.68KWh).

Table 2: Power generation and consumption in selected countries

Country	Population	Megawatt	Per capita Consumption
USA	250 million	813,000	3.2 kilowatt
Cuba	0.54 million	4,000	0.38 kilowatt
United Kingdom	7.5 million	76,000	1.33 kilowatt
Iraq	3.6 million	10,000	0.42 kilowatt
Iran	79 million	42,000	1.03 kilowatt
South Korea	7 million	52,000	1.09 kilowatt
Malaysia	5.5 million	130,000	2.8 kilowatt
Egypt	7.9 million	18,000	0.3 kilowatt
South Africa	4.3 million	45,000	1.02 kilowatt
Nigeria	170 million	4,000	0.03 kilowatt

Source: Cheri & Ibrahim (2013)

Fig. 1: Power generation and consumption in selected countries

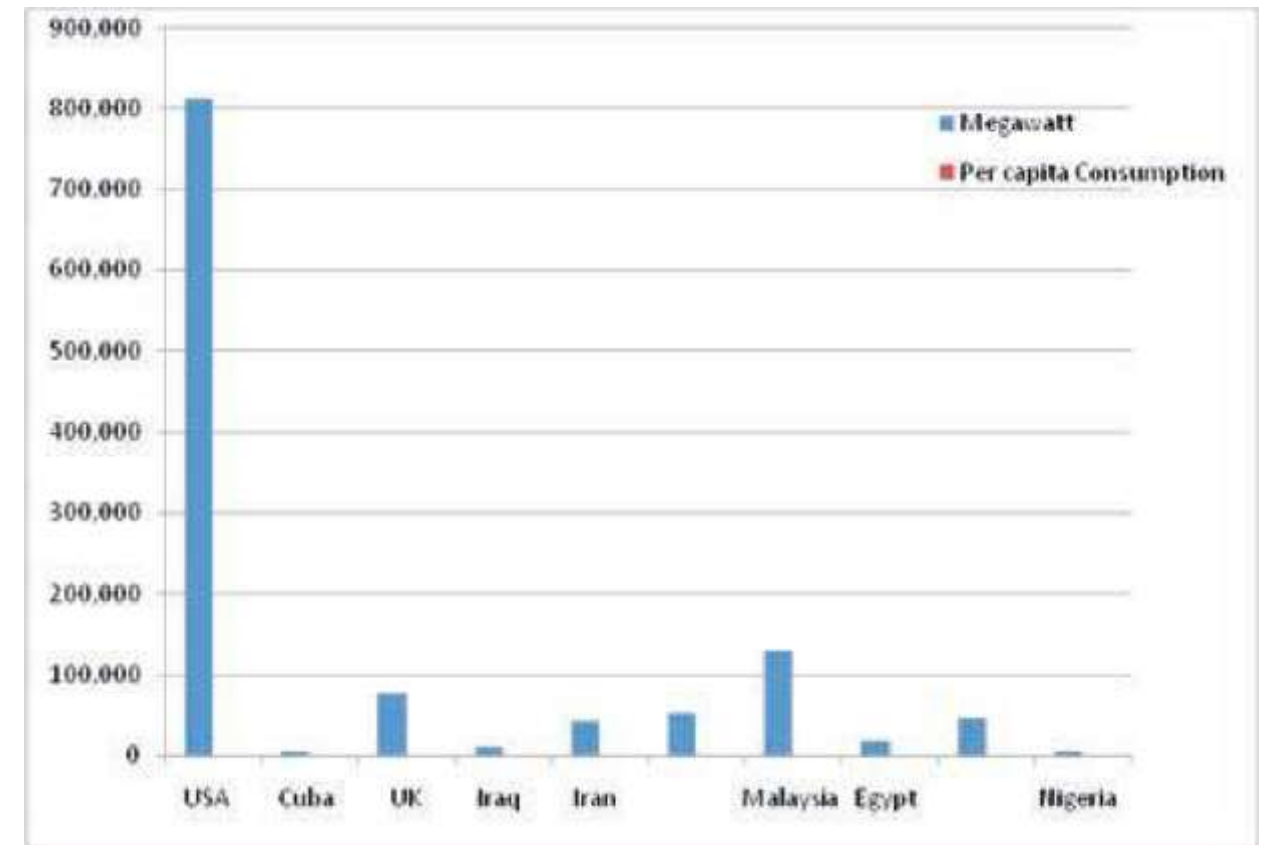


Table 2 shows that by Cuban standard, the entire megawatts generated in Nigeria can only serve Lagos or Kano state while by South African standard, every one million population is supposed to enjoy 1000 megawatts of electricity, but in Nigeria every one million is having an inadequate 25 megawatts of electricity. “As a result, Nigeria today is one of the most expensive places in the world to live, work and do business. In fact, the situation has driven some talented and innovative entrepreneurs, business people, and scholars away” (Ndege, 2012). This is coming when Nigeria is boasting of possessing abundant energy sources that it exports to the outside world. Idriss et al. (2013) assert that “the resource endowment of crude oil and natural gas currently estimated at 35 billion barrels and 185 trillion cubic feet respectively, the substantial coal reserve of 2.75 billion metric tons, the large amount of renewal and non-renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and hydro are more than adequate to fuel much of Sub-Saharan Africa energy demand” (Cheri & Ibrahim, 2013). The electricity consumption in Nigeria is unacceptable for the growth of world economy. The table below shows the relationship between the generated electricity and *per capita* energy consumption of Nigeria with reference to that of United States of America.

Table 3: Comparison between Nigerian Power and that of USA

Country	Population (Million)	No. of States	Generation (MW)	Per Capita consumption (KW)	Status
USA	250	51	813,000	3.2	Developed
Nigeria	Over 160	37(+ FCT)	Below 4,000	0.03	Underdeveloped

Extracted from Table 2

Challenges Facing the Power Sector in Nigeria

a) Political Challenge

Political insecurity has been a great threat to the realization of efficient electricity in Nigeria. Different regimes have offered different policy reform efforts to salvage the industry without a clear consideration for continuity by the succeeding administrations. The way politics is being handled in Nigeria where in-coming administration discards programmes and policies put in place by the outgoing administration without considering the relevance, benefits and rationale behind the programme/policy is worrisome. Private investors in the industry find the environment not politically stable and conducive enough to invest in due to the frequent changes in policies.

b) Inadequate and Inconsistent Gas Supply

Power supply in Nigeria is mainly powered by gas. This in itself has curtailed the abundant availability of gas for household utility and for private enterprise. Nevertheless, the gas generated while refining crude oil are usually flared instead of channeling such for further processing and subsequent conversion for home use. The availability and distribution of gas has also been a major challenge over the years due to ageing infrastructure for production, processing and transportation. Again, the problem of gas pipeline vandalism in the South-South region of the country pose a major setback to the realization of efficient power supply in the country.

c) Consumers- Electricity Providers' Staff Collaboration and Conflict

Huge suspicion exists between some consumers and electricity providers' staff. They carry out illegal and illegitimate activities such as illegal connections to the national grid or the existing residential/industrial outfits, abating connection fees and electricity charges, theft of equipment and facilities, etc. In some instances, the electricity providing company embarks on disconnection of residential houses from the national grid by going to such places with the police. Conflicts occur in areas of overbilling due to lack of effective metering system (Subair & Oke, 2008). This situation does not guarantee a sustainable source of revenue for the company.

d) Inadequate Sophisticated Infrastructure

Nigeria's power sector is still using its old machines to generate and distribute electricity. As such, the frequency of occurrence of breakdown and faults is more and always on the increase. Additionally, energy loss in transmission occurs frequently which affect machine's efficiency. These situations

therefore lead to low generation of electricity.

e) Policy on Engineering Infrastructure

Due to lack of local factory, it has become seriously difficult for the nation to support the industry without locally manufactured spare parts. The establishment of National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI) and operation of Ajaokuta Steel Rolling Mill would have been able to assist in manufacturing some of these electrical equipment. But this is not possible especially because there is no policy that supports the manufacturing of the machines and their peripheries. Also, the government has not entered into any agreement with the manufacturers of these pieces of equipment (Odiah, 2011).

f) Low Morale Among The Workers and Embargo on Employment

The Nigerian engineers are among the best in the world, but due to politics of appointing a political figure as the head of the parastatal, they generally lose interest in the system. This is because the competent engineers have seen it as a way of relegating them and their contributions to the industry to the background. This has dampened their enthusiasm at developing ingenious maintenance approach for effective and efficient running of the power industry. Most of these non-professionals do not appreciate the essence of engaging in routine maintenance and scheduled maintenance. To further aggravate the situation, there has been embargo on employment of fresh graduates into the industry. This portends a very dangerous signal in the sense that there is imminent crisis of generation gap being created by this kind of policy. That means when the older generation of engineers is retiring, there won't be enough tested hands to take over from them (Ebewele, 2011).

g) Corruption and Mismanagement

The high rate of corruption in the sector is what led to the reform of the sector. Yet, the situation persists. About \$16 billion were spent during Obasanjo's administration (1999-2007) without substantial power generation. The current House of Representatives Committee that is probing power projects even recommended that Obasanjo should be called to answer for his recklessness in the sector. The committee further revealed offences including willful disregard of the principles enshrined in the Electric Power Sector Reform Act 2005, gross abuse of financial rules in the award of contracts and payment, awarding contracts to unregistered companies, incompetence and inefficiency among

others. The committee also charged and recommended sixteen companies for investigation and prosecution by EFCC and ICPC with the hope of recovering huge amounts of money paid to them under the cover of fraudulent contracts in the power sector (Cheri & Ibrahim, 2013).

Discussion

Amidst the energy crisis Nigeria is facing today, the blame is not that of the government alone. Rather, there is a moral challenge with the consumption of energy by Nigerians as well. The act of saving the available meagre energy is partly due to low level of awareness of how many unsustainable appliances can be on the one hand and lack of legislative control to manage energy efficiency on the other hand. This sums that it is more of a behavioural and policy challenge. The importance of saving energy cannot be overemphasized as it is a driver for sustainable development in many parts of the world. It does not only save the cost of energy on household and at the government level, it also helps the environment in the area of climate change.

One of the common ways of losing energy in Nigeria is the dominant use of the incandescent bulbs popularly known as yellow bulbs. Only about 5% of the total energy used by an incandescent bulb is converted light energy, the remaining 95% is converted to heat energy (Lebort, 2009). The incandescent bulbs come in different watts ranging from 40W to 200W. Due to its price which ranges between N60 to N200, Nigerians prefer it to the energy saving bulbs with price in the range of N300 to N1000 (Uyigüe et al., 2009).

Prospects of an Improved Power Sectors

i) Reduction in Crime

Unemployment leads to idleness while idleness breeds crime. Creation of employment opportunities to absorb teeming Nigerians who are able and willing job-seekers, will significantly reduce crime in the country. Youths are engaged in inter-ethnic, religious and political violence simply because they are mostly unemployed or underemployed. According to Oladele (2013), the socio-economic problem facing Nigeria is "compounded by the fact that several thousands of jobless youths have been forced into crime because of idleness... while there are no justifiable reasons for anyone to take to crime because of unemployment, the negative effects of unemployment in the country in the country today call for urgent efforts to remedy the situation". A reformed power sector will create many jobs that will

engage the minds and efforts of our youths and disengage them from ethnic and sectarian battle fields (Cheri & Ibrahim, 2013).

ii) Reduced Interest Rate

One of the reasons for low GDP and high unemployment in Nigeria is the high level of interest charged by banks. Most banks are charging up to 21% on loans which makes it nearly impossible to borrow-invest-repay-and-profit from a business endeavour. A stable electricity supply as envisaged by the power sector reform will give banks good reason to reduce interest rate because banks' running cost will be significantly reduced if they stop running on diesel-fuelled generators. A reduction to single digit interest rate as advocated by the current CBN governor will encourage Nigerians to borrow and invest in the economy (Ndidi, 2013).

iii) Reduction in the Over Dependence on Government

Full privatization of the power sector as envisaged by the reform will shift the burden from government and allow it to utilize the fund for the provision of basic infrastructure (Cheri & Ibrahim, 2013).

iv) Severe Punishment on Corrupt Practices

Whenever punishment is severe, law breakers and corrupt persons get discouraged as the risk involved in their actions is too dangerous. This way, policies will be implemented easily and consistently. The exemplified mismanagement during the regime of Obasanjo is a clear example. Had it been those personalities were properly dealt with, other public officers would have learnt from them.

CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, it is obvious that Nigerian Power Sector is among the sectors with persistent dreadful problems for a very long time. This has been considered by many scholars as one of the reasons for the foot-dragging of Nigeria's economy. Insufficient power supply impedes many developmental projects in this country. Government has invested a lot but to no avail. It can thus be concluded that full scale privatization of the sector will be a better option for Nigerian government, if not the best. However, all reforms, implementations and supervisions must be done with serious care to avoid further pitfalls. Transparency, accountability and due process must be imbibed as against corruption and gross mismanagement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The study recommended the following:

- The existing equipment should be replaced with modern ones so as to meet up with the demands of the sector, customers and the general public.
- The management of the entire sector should be highly disciplined so as to implement the policies as they are documented and embark on frequent monitoring and evaluation of the processes.
- The government and the personnel of the sector should give zero tolerance to corruption.
- To ensure proper and efficient implementation of the reform agenda, there should be a time frame for all major activities and the government must ensure that they are achieved within the time specified for such activity.
- Enough funds should be pumped into the sector since the stability of power will surely boost the economy and will encourage private investors. This way, the sector will be effective within a short period of time.
- Transparency, accountability and due process must be imbibed and enshrined in all major activities of the reform process and all post reform business undertakings of the companies to avoid regression back to the old culture of impunity.

Public enlightenment about the current reform agenda and its content as well as encouragement on the maintenance of the sector's facilities and plants across the country is quite imperative.

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A CONTENT ANALYSIS: DEMOCRACY AND THE CHALLENGES OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHERN STATES OF NIGERIA

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Abstract

Democracy as a system of governance is becoming widely practised in the modern world and it seems to be the only means of governance that appeals to all and sundry in both the advanced countries and the underdeveloped ones. Nigeria, though suffered from series of military interventions in its politics right from independence, now remains a democratic state as heralded by the year 1999. The country's successful transition from military rule to an elected civilian government in 1999 has placed democracy on its agenda as an agreed target by all and this was accompanied by hopes, aspirations and expectations. Unfortunately, development in the Nigerian state remains inadequate, most especially at the rural level, particularly the Northern region (comprising North-west, North-central and North-east) which is regarded as the most rural and undeveloped. This paper therefore attempts to assess the challenges of development in rural areas in Nigeria with reference to Northern states under democratic governance from 1999 to 2015. The Content analysis method was adopted.

Keywords: Democracy, Development Challenges, Rural Areas.

Introduction

That is, a democratic government is supposed to be Democracy is a system of government that is that government that is responsive to the yearnings becoming widely practiced across the world and aspirations of the citizenry. Otive (2011) irrespective of the economic or political ideology. maintained that, to the average Nigerian, democracy Perhaps, this is as a result of its perceived principle is only meaningful if it delivers what has become which is said to be the government that represents known as democracy dividends i.e. socio-economic peoples' interest; that is, "the government of the development. Again, it is a well-known fact that one people, by the people and for the people." As a of the major problems of Nigeria and Northern states system of government in the modern world, it is said in particular, is development, most especially to be bogus and seems to be the only means of development at the grassroot i.e. rural development. governance that appeals to all and sundry. Nigeria is This is, as indicated by the Nigerian human one of the countries that practice democracy and this settlement reports which revealed that rural was successfully enthroned in 1999. The country's settlement accounted for about 64%, while urban successful transition from military rule to an elected 36% (UNDP, 2004), coupled with attendant socio-civilian government in 1999 has placed democracy economic problems. Corroborating the reports, on its agenda as an agreed target by all, and this was Otaki (2005) asserts that it is estimated that about accompanied by hopes, aspirations and expectations. 70% of Nigeria's population and that of other Unfortunately, as observed, development in Nigeria underdeveloped countries live in rural areas.

remains inadequate most especially at the rural level, From the above therefore, suffice to say that every particularly in the Northern region which comprises responsible government most especially the three (3) geo-political zones i.e. (North-east, North- democratically enthroned one, should be responsive central and North-west) and is regarded as the most to meeting the yearnings and aspirations of its rural and undeveloped. This poses a serious citizenry. In an attempt to fulfil such mandates, the challenge to Nigeria's democratic system and rural Nigerian government, like all other governments, development in the Northern states in particular. established institutions at Federal, State and Local

Admittedly, a truly democratic government is at all levels to carry out the public functions of the state. times a mirror image of the desire of the electorate. Regrettably, despite the importance attached to the

rural areas, they are not attractive to live in. There is as "democracy." Bello (2011) argues that many of the absence of infrastructure, absence of potable water, elements of modern democracy are usually taken to electricity and good feeder roads. The rural people have originated in ancient Greece particularly the have low purchasing power and standard of living. city-state of Athens. Drawing inspiration from that More so, studies have shown that in spite of the implies that democracy means literally the "rule by above, the rural areas in Nigeria had suffered many the people."

years of neglect. The little that has been put in place Heater (1964) sees democracy as a form of by successive governments in terms of government, a way of life or an attitude of mind infrastructural facilities was mostly in favour of the which is essentially a method of organizing a society urban centres while the rural areas are overlooked. It politically. According to him, there are five basic elements without which no state can regard itself as is in this line that Olatunbosun (1975:13) observes that: truly democratic. These are namely: equality, sovereignty of the people, respect for human life, the rule of law and liberty of the individual. He further explains that democratic equality implies "one man one vote." That is, irrespective of differences in wealth, religion, intelligence, etc., there must be equal rights and opportunity for all citizens to hold political office. In practice, popular sovereignty is expressed through representation and majority rule. That is, it is through representatives that the people express their will. These representatives decide what, in their opinion, the people want; and if their judgment in this is faulty, the people can express their

The rural areas were particularly denied social services that were essential for rural development. Modern sanitation, electricity, pipe borne water supply, good roads and medical services were foreign at the end of colonial rule as they were at the beginning... as far as rural areas in Nigeria were concerned.

It therefore appears that all efforts made by the disapproval at the next election or even institute Nigerian Government and indeed the Northern States impeachment.

to improve the living conditions of the rural people A democratic government should be based on the coupled with the enormous funds that have been rule of law and respect certain basic freedoms for its reflected in virtually all annual budgets to be citizens such as: freedom of speech, freedom of the expended on rural electrification, rural feeder roads press, freedom of conscience, freedom of assembly and community development projects, etc. have and freedom from arbitrary arrest (Heater, 1964). In yielded little or no results. This question then arises- addition, Diamond (1988) conceptualized why is it that little or nothing has been achieved? This democracy as meaningful and extensive competition paper seeks to answer this crucial question as it among individuals and organized groups (especially examines democracy and how it responds to the issue political parties) either directly or indirectly for the of development at the grassroots. major positions of government power in addition to

The paper adopts documentary and secondary popular participation in the electoral process and sources which are purely qualitative in obtaining respect for the civil and political rights of the people. data. The study is divided into the following sections: But it should be noted that the existence of numerous conceptual and theoretical issues, challenges of political parties and the conduct of elections development at rural areas of northern states, periodically may not result in popular choice of recommendations on overcoming the challenges and leadership. finally, concluding remarks.

Conceptual and Theoretical Issues: Democracy, Development and Rural Development

Democracy is a concept that suffers from conceptual selection of representatives who alone can make psychosis because many scholars and researchers political decisions. The cluster include: elected have attempted defining it differently on different government, free and fair elections in which every perspectives. Ojo (1999) laments that there is no citizen's vote has an equal weight, a suffrage which concept which is so flagrantly used (and misused) as embraces all citizens irrespective of distinctions of well as paraded under all sorts of interests and guises race, religion, class, sex and so on, freedom of

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conscience, information and expression on all public matters broadly defined, the right of all adults to oppose their government and stand for office and the right to form independent associations including social movements, interest groups and political parties.

From the above definitions, it could be deduced that democracy denotes a set of ideals, institutions and processes of governance that allows the broad mass of the people to choose their leaders and guarantees them a broad range of civil rights. Unfortunately, this conception of democracy is narrow for it focused only on formal political rights and process to the exclusion of economic factor. This is because in practical democracies like in Africa, poverty and deprivations of necessities of lives often prevent the mass of the people from actualizing and enjoying their political and civic rights while the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few gives economically-privileged minority uninterrupted political influence.

The recognition of the above postulation led to a call for the broadening of the notion of democracy to incorporate social and economic upliftment of the masses (Ake, 1993). In a similar vein, Ternande (2003) viewed democracy as the political and economic empowerment of the majority of the ordinary people for effective participation in the decisions that affect their lives, their individual and collective rights and the way in which their society is governed.

Development

We will start discussing the concept of development by accepting the assertion made by So (1990) when he said that like most other social science concepts, the problematic nature of the term development is evidently manifest in literature. This is exemplified by the current pluralism in the development literature as being dominated by different schools of thought. Upholding this opinion, Lane and Ersson, (1997) maintained that, the fact that development is a multi-dimensional as well as a value loaded concept has been a complicating factor.

In general terms, however, development has been viewed from political, economic and social dimensions. These various aspects of development are well reflected in the extant literature on the subject. Todaro (1969), for example, conceptualizes development as "a multi-dimensional process involving major changes in social structures, popular attitudes, and national institutions, as well as the

acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality and the eradication of absolute poverty." In another work, Todaro (1991) identified three core values of development. These include: the ability to provide as many people as possible with their basic needs or the ability to acquire adequate food, shelter, health care and protection. This shows the importance of human development. Looking at the concept development from that perspective, Ogwu (2002) maintained that development also entails the perception of individuals or group of people with self-worth and esteem as respected members of the society, and freedom in the sense that individuals and society at large have an expanded range of choice, not only with respect to the material necessities for self reproduction but also in their ability to have a say in, if not to determine, the method and process by which values are allocated in the society.

Goulet (1971) on the other hand posited that development means obtaining the good life, and identified three (3) elements of good life, termed "core values" for a clear understanding of development-life sustenance; self esteem; and freedom. These represent common goals sought by all individuals and societies. Life sustenance is concerned with the ability to provide basic needs such as housing, clothing, food, health care and minimum education. A major objective of development, therefore, must be to raise individuals and the society as a whole, out of primary poverty and to provide basic needs. Absence of basic needs is equated to underdevelopment; and therefore, a society is developed if they (basic needs) are adequately in supply. Self esteem dwells on the feeling of self respect and independence. Goulet sees freedom, as one of the core values, as freedom from servitude, emancipation from the evils of *want, ignorance and squalor* so that people are more able to determine their own destiny. No person is free if he has no choice, imprisoned by living on the margin of subsistence with neither education nor skills. The advantage of material development is that it expands the range of human choice open to individuals and societies at large. Furthermore, Seer (1973) sees the central issues of development as poverty, employment and inequality arguing that it is only where there is a downward trend or absence of these central phenomena that development can be said to have occurred. According to him, the questions to ask in measuring a country's development are: What has been happening to poverty? What has been happening to unemployment? And what has been happening to inequality? If all three (3) of these core issues have become severe, then beyond doubt this has been a

period of development for the country concerned. If one (1) or two (2) of these central problems have been growing worse, especially if all three (3) have, it would be strange to call the result "development", areas. even if per capita income has soared.

Whatever is the agreed definition of development, this study is concerned with a transformation of a residing in rural areas and making the process of their society from its present state of absence of basic necessities of life to the more desirable state.

Rural Development

Chino (2000) maintains that today's concept of rural development is fundamentally different from that being used about three or four decades ago. The concept now goes well beyond improvements in growth, income, and output, to include an assessment of changes in the quality of life, broadly defined to include improvement in health and nutrition, education, environmentally safe living conditions, and reduction in gender and income inequalities.

Today, there seems to be a universal consensus that the ultimate objective of rural development is to improve the quality of life of rural people. This makes it essential to go beyond the income-related factors such as: prices, production, and productivity to a range of non-income factors that influence quality of life and hence, inclusiveness of rural development. Inclusive rural development is a more specific concept than the concept of rural development. In broad terms, inclusive rural development is about improving the quality of life of all members of rural society. More specifically, inclusive rural development covers three different but interrelated dimensions. First, the economic dimension that encompasses time, providing both capacity and opportunities for the poor and low-income rural households in particular, to benefit from the economic growth process in such a way that their average incomes grow at a higher rate whether or not there is a causal link between the than the growth of average incomes in the sector as a two." Ojatorotu and Allen (2009: 10) also argued whole. The economic dimension also includes that "some scholars have attempted to demonstrate measures to reduce intra- and inter-sectoral income that such relationship does exist, in the sense that inequalities to reasonable levels.

Second, the social dimension of supporting social development which in turn impact on the welfare of development of poor and low-income households and disadvantaged groups, eliminating inequalities in social indicators, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, and providing social safety nets for vulnerable groups. Third, the political dimension of improving opportunities for the poor and low-income people in rural areas, including type of state and women and ethnic minorities, to effectively and crucial to economic development. He concludes

Lele (1975) defines rural development as improving the living standard of the low income population this study is concerned with a transformation of a residing in rural areas and making the process of their society from its present state of absence of basic necessities of life to the more desirable state.

- development has three (3) unique features namely:
- i. Improving the living standard of the subsistence allocation of resources in order to reach a desirable target over time between the welfare and productive services available to the subsistent rural sector;
 - ii. Mass participation which requires that resources be allocated to the low income region and classes such that the productive and social service could actually reach them; and
 - iii. Making the development process self-sustaining: this requires that the development of appropriate skills and implementing capacities and the presence of instructions at the local, regional and national levels to ensure the effective use of existing resources.

Democracy and Rural Development in Nigeria: Any Link?

Establishing a linkage and relationship between democracy and development is subjected to series of debate among developmental analysts, academics and social scientists. In this light, Menocal (2007: 6) maintained that "for a very long time, development experts and policy makers alike have been preoccupied with untangling the complex relationship between development and democracy and determining a way that their average incomes grow at a higher rate whether or not there is a causal link between the than the growth of average incomes in the sector as a two." Ojatorotu and Allen (2009: 10) also argued whole. The economic dimension also includes that "some scholars have attempted to demonstrate measures to reduce intra- and inter-sectoral income that such relationship does exist, in the sense that political democracy facilitates economic development of poor and low-income households citizens positively."

that, for development to occur in a country, such Central, 6 states (Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, must be a developmental state. However, the Niger and Plateau) and North-west, 7 states (Kaduna, history of Nigeria, particularly since its return to Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Jigawa, Sokoto and Zamfara). democracy in 1999, portrays a negative correlation These 19 states made up the defunct Northern region between democracy and development.

In this regard, Ake (1996: 45) maintained that “in challenges on issues of development as compared Nigeria, history of democracy, economic with their counterparts in the South. They have been development and welfare of the people had been regarded as the most rural and underdeveloped, that of disappointment”. This is evident in the sense which placed them very low in terms of all that the return to democracy in 1999 has placed the developmental index and measurement. Thus, the country on an agenda with high expectations on states are most vulnerable and require serious economic sustainability and development but the attention most especially under the current democratic performance in Nigeria remains democratic arrangement.

abysmal. Buttressing this fact, Ojabor and Allen (2009: 20) assert that “in Nigeria, although democratic institutions emerged in 1999 to date, yet they remained ineffective, in response to the economic, social and political needs of people.”

In view of the above therefore, the following pose a serious developmental challenges in the zone.

High Rate of Poverty: Poverty in Nigeria, though not peculiar to Northern states alone, is regarded as a

Nigeria has experienced unprecedented economic national phenomenon. However, the Northern zones growth and huge revenue generations accrued from have the most significant challenge in this respect. excess crude oil since its return to democracy; yet, This is evident in the recent statistical survey that has not translated in the meaningful conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics development of the nation. More importantly, the (2012) which showed that poverty rate in the NC, NE case is worse when it comes to rural areas. “In an and NW was 59.5%, 69% and 70% respectively. effort to engender rural development since the Majority of the people in these zones were absolutely return of Nigeria's democratic dispensation in 1999 poor, with a large number drawn from the rural to date, a four year development plan was initially communities with attendant socio-economic articulated from 1999-2003 with the objective of problems. This statistics is quite alarming as pursuing a strong, virile and broad-based economy compared, for instance to their counterparts in the that is highly competitive, responsive to private southern zones that recorded as follows: SE 58%, SS sector-led, diversified, market-oriented and open, 55.9% and SW 49%. Generally, the incidence of but based on the momentum of its growth” (Akpan, poverty in the country in terms of human settlement 2012: 12), little or no results were achieved.

has been put at 52% for urban areas and 66.1% for rural areas.

The fundamental questions begging for answers **Inadequate Rural Roads:** The northern zones have over time are how responsible was the development enormous economic potentials, most especially in plan? Did it neglect rural areas? And of what agriculture and other mineral resources; importance is it to the welfare, survival and socio- nevertheless, these abundant resources have not been economic well-being of the rural people? These and explored and fully harnessed due to inadequate and many more questions remain and continue to serve absence of rural roads. Although the region occupied as the dilemma of democratic practice in Nigeria two-third of the Nigerian landmass, most of the and rural development (Madu, et al., 2015). communities are left unconnected, in limbo, agony and deplorable conditions. This poses a serious

The Challenges of Development at the Rural level in Northern States of Nigeria

challenge to democracy in Nigeria.

High Rate of Illiteracy: Illiteracy is one of the major

Nigeria is a federation structured into 36 states and problems of the northern states. This is due to the fact the Federal Capital Territory; 774 Local Government that the zones are lagging seriously in education, with Areas and 6 Geo-political zones. Out of these six very low school enrolment. Based on the National geo-political zones, three are northern, namely; literacy survey of National Bureau of Statistics North-east which comprises 6 states (Adamawa, (2010), the literacy rate of the youths (who are Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe), North- regarded as bedrock of any society) goes as follows:

with respect to English language and any other language, at least six states were sampled in the North, while one state was sampled in each of the Southern zones. The following percentages clearly show the disparity: NE, Bauchi 39.5; Gombe 45.6 and 69.8; NW, Katsina 55.1 and 63.6; Kebbi 52.3 and 71.1, NC, Nasarawa 62.9 and 66, Niger 58.3 and 63.9; while in the southern part, we have: SW, Lagos; 95.1 and 96.5, Ogun; 90.4 and 93.8, SE, Imo; 95.5 and 96.1, Ebonyi; 91.9 and 92, SS, Edo; 89.7 and 89.9, Bayelsa; 93.8 and 93.8. The above result shows how the zones lag behind in terms of literacy as compared to its southern counterparts. This therefore calls for urgent attention and concern.

Security Challenges: Insecurity is one of the challenges faced by the country especially the Northern states. It is no doubt that without adequate security, any effort meant for development will prove abortive. Democracy is supposed to be accompanied with development, and any democracy that is not all the stable will not make the desirable impact no matter how laudable its initiatives are geared toward development. Currently, the whole of the Northern

particular. It demonstrated that rural poverty, insecurity, illiteracy and ethnicity are stumbling blocks and major challenges for democracy to bring the desired transformation in the society, and these factors are complex and endemic. It therefore concluded that a pragmatic approach is required for sustainable poverty alleviation programme, and that whatever programme is initiated to transform rural life must be vigorously, honestly and patriotically pursued to ensure the success of such programme. Also, there can be no viable and workable political system that can address the problem of rural dwellers other than democratic governance. Democracy is not only the best system but also a system that guides against exclusion and marginalization of the poor, particularly the rural poor. On this note, we concur with the argument of Ake (1996) that democracy is not merely desirable, it is necessary. It will not solve all the problems of Africa but none of the major problems can be solved without it.

Recommendations

In the light of the above challenges, the following are recommended as measures to ensure sustained development in the north-east zone and Nigeria in Plateau, Adamawa and Nasarawa. In fact, only few general: Northern states at the moment enjoy stable peace.

The government of the Northern states should ensure that adequate institutional framework are put in place to implement the National Poverty Eradication Programme alongside their State Poverty Policies and programme consistently to reduce the high rate of poverty bedeviling the region. The said policies should showcase its richness in terms of the needed of poverty bedeviling the region. The said policies values meant for development and influence its sound laudable but only that its implementation process is marred with problems of corruption, lack of political will, patriotism, commitment, etc. These of the region should have been an advantage in problems, if curbed, will enable development in the showcasing its rich cultural heritage meant for states.

The challenge of illiteracy should be addressed by investing heavily on subsidies on education across the zone and also complementing the efforts of the Federal government on UBE programme. Compulsory education should be imposed at both primary, and post primary levels. This can be achieved when the host states embark on free education projects as many may not be able to afford enrolling their wards as a result of high rate of poverty in the region. Furthermore, the nomadic education system needs to be strengthened by designing it to adequately accommodate seasonal nature of the target group (herdsmen and fishermen) for proper education. This is because a significant

development; but rather, it has retarded development due to the over-growing influence of ethnic hostilities and tribalism on governmental processes at an alarming rate. This situation has affected these states negatively in terms of meaningful development and resulted in bad governance. Again, this ethnic divides is tantamount to producing incompetent and selfish leaders that cannot bring desired changes and development to the region.

Conclusion

Thus far, the paper has attempted a discourse on democracy and the challenges of development at rural level in Nigeria and Northern states in

number of northerners engage in these occupations which they consider too important to be abandoned.

More so, the Almajiri system of education should be effectively designed to making it a bit formal by training and retraining not only those teachers that teach western education but the traditional Quranic teachers as well so as to enable the parents of those Almajiris accord more value to the system and become motivated to allowing their wards partake in the exercise.

Notably, when the two above points are adequately addressed, the security situation will be significantly improved. This is because many believe that poverty and illiteracy are major factors worsening the security situation of the northern states which was regarded peaceful before. More so, the religious leaders have to continue to teach and preach good virtues of their respective faiths to their followers, as no religion preaches violence.

Finally, the problems of ethnicity in government business should be checked through initiating processes of inclusive government that would carry everybody along. Furthermore, the heterogeneous nature of the zones should be used as an opportunity to promoting its rich cultural heritage to influencing tourism which will in turn improve its economy and augment its revenue base, aside the statutory allocations for bringing the desired transformation processes.

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THE CIVIL SERVICE AND CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Civil service is the government workforce that covers all the ministries and the departments of the state and people who work in them in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes. It is against this background that the paper examines the contemporary challenges of civil service in Nigeria. It is relevant to stress that the Nigerian Civil Service has become so tolerant that a considerable number of civil servants get themselves involved in politics which in turn is making the Service lose its actual essence. The paper therefore concludes that challenges facing the Nigerian Civil Service are poor attitude to work by civil servants, poor remuneration, indiscipline, undue politicization/political interference, corruption, ineffective service delivery among others. Hence, it is recommended that government, as a matter of concern, should deploy ways in which civil servants can be properly remunerated and serious matters relating to bribery and corruption should be treated with high sense of responsibility and accountability.

Keywords: Civil Service, Civil Servants, Corruption.

INTRODUCTION

partisan politics and could as such not discharge their Civil Service is the body of employees saddled with official duties faithfully to all people or government the responsibilities of formulating and implementing they are serving. This in fact is contrary to the development policies and programmes in established Public service rules. government ministries and departments. The myths of neutral instruments of policy implementation have To put it differently, it is instructive to stress that one become the most accepted norms of the Nigerian of the challenges bedeviling the present civil service successors to the colonial administration apparatus is the outright disregard civil servants have for the (Ogochukwu, 2014). In spite of its role in shaping the ethics of the service. This specifically is the frequent Nigerian policies, it still remains in its shell of involvement in politics which is at variance with the anonymity, sharp malpractices and above all, high Public Service Rules (PSR) that clearly stipulates level of indiscipline. Fika (2009) puts it that the that a serving civil servant should be politically Nigerian Civil Service was trapped in inefficiency neutral. It is distressing to express that civil servants and virtual breakdown of discipline, disregard for of today have got themselves entrenched in financial accountability and probity, uniform politics. This, no doubt, has great effect on the manner structure of ministries which contributed to bloating in which government business is being conducted. of the civil service, low morale and frustration of This however brings unfair treatment of events in the civil servants as a result of the appallingly low service in favour of the politicians whose primary remuneration, insecurity, absence of basic working aim is to use the civil servants as their tool for tools, prevalence and virtual institutionalization of achieving their goals. It is in this respect that such corruption at all levels of service. The civil servants unethical tendency and moral weakness that are supposed to be politically neutral involve in breed corruption, impropriety and vices that are

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capable of destroying the building block of the civil of government headed by political appointees called ministers or commissioners.

The present scenario drawing inferences from its According to Encarta World English Dictionary operational activities in ministries and departments (1999), Civil service constitutes all government calls for proper rethinking and radical changes. departments of a state and the people who work in Frequent wrangling and conflicts come up with hasty them. Adu (1967) stresses that the term civil service decisions. This has not helped in achieving progress covers all staff of ministries and departments, from and development. It is believed that civil service the permanent secretary to the daily rated employee operates with an impoverished concept of but does not include armed forces personnel, management which overemphasizes routine control magistrates or judges. Iyayi (2004) also asserts that and neglects other dimensions such as managing the civil service does not however represent the change and managing relationship within the whole of the Executive arm of the government. That organization (Orire, 2007). To this end, the civil arm of the government also includes the public service of today has been criticized and is facing a lot service comprising the extra-ministerial departments of problems that hinder its effectiveness in the of governments or government parastatals, e.g. the discharge of its statutory responsibilities. It is against universities, polytechnics, colleges of education, the this background that the paper examines the concept airways, ports authorities, immigration, customs, etc. and contemporary challenges of Civil Service in He stressed further that people refer to public Nigeria. This paper is divided into seven sections; servants as civil servants because they perform introduction, methodology, concept of civil service, similar functions within the same extant government main functions of civil service, challenges of civil regulations. Public servants also formulate and service in Nigeria, conclusion and implement policies for their establishments. There recommendations. are, however, differences mainly in structure and job

schedule.

Methodology

The data for the study were generated mainly from The role of the civil service from comparative secondary sources which include text books, analysis is similar globally, differences in structure journals, dictionary, magazines, pamphlets, internet, and sizes notwithstanding. Generally, the civil etc. The data were extracted through readings. All service formulates and implements policies for these data were collected and analysed to the point of governments. It identifies programmes, sets goals drawing all conclusions therein. Therefore, an and targets, plans and designs strategies for analytical method is central to the approach utilized achieving set goals. Adamolekun (2002) states that in treating all facts and opinions obtained from the the civil service is commonly used as the synonym of said sources and the same method has been used of the machinery of the government. This is same in employed in the thrust of this paper. Britain and most Commonwealth countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. In the British conception, the civil

Concept of Civil Service

The civil service designates the entire body or a officials appointed to assist the decision makers. The specialised part of the executive arm of government civil service according to the 1999 constitution, whose primary responsibility is the implementation section 318 (1) is: "The service of the Federation of the policies and programmes of the government (state) in a civil capacity, staff of the Office of the (Oyediran, Nwosu, Takaya, Anifowoshe, Badejo, President, (Governor), the Vice President, (Deputy Ogboghodo & Agbaje, 2005). The employees of the Governor), a ministry or department of the federation government who carry out these functions; that is the (state), assigned with the responsibility for any administrative and executive duties are called civil business of the government of the federation (state)" servants. A British scholar defines them as 'those (FRN, 1999). servants of the crown, other than holders of political or judicial offices, who are employed in civil Ipinlaiye (2001) asserts that the term civil service is capacity and whose remuneration is paid wholly and normally used when referring to the body of men and directly out of monies voted by parliament'. This women employed in a civil capacity and non-means that civil servants are 'servant of the political career basis by the Federal and state government.' They are found in the various ministries Governments primarily to render and faithfully give

effect to their decisions and implementation. Such precisely the same good will, whether he/she agrees career officers normally derive their appointment with it or not.” The civil servant is expected to from the Civil Service commission which also perform his/her functions without fear or favour with exercises power of delegating duties and rules and regulations in accordance with approved responsibilities to department in accordance with procedure. For civil servant to be able to do this, the laid down rules. He further stresses that the civil civil servant must be assured that his political boss service has come to be regarded as modern institution would not get at him for taking the correct actions bequeathed to mankind in the process of that might not be politically correct or palatable to the revolutionizing an efficient way of organising any powers that be. In fact, the Civil Service Handbook large human organization. It is in this respect that the (1997) is more emphatic; it describes civil service as civil service is defined as a bureaucracy. The civil a body or organ which enjoys continuity of existence. service can also be seen as a complex organization Its members are not limited to a short term of office. with a body of seemingly permanent officials When a civil servant relinquishes his office for appointed in a capacity to assist the political whatever reason, his place is taken by another person executives in the formulation, execution and who similarly enjoys security of employment. Civil implementation of the government policies in servants according to the Handbook command a pool Ministries and Extra-Ministerial Departments within of experience and know-how for implementing which the specific government works are carried government policies. It recognizes that while the out. Shaiye (1998) views civil service as the term used civil service is the instrument of the government of to describe the departments of the state which are the day, the service and its members are not permitted saddled with the responsibilities and functions of under the law to be partisan of any political party. The implementing the policies and programmes of the civil servant is also required to assist in formulating government. It is an extension of the executive arm of and implementing the policies approved by the government, whose personnel perform purely government irrespective of its personal or private administrative and executive duties. The personnel opinions or attitudes towards such policies. Another called civil servants are responsible to the chief feature of civil service is that it is indispensable executive of the state through the various irrespective of the type of government in power departmental heads. (whether military or democratic regime).

In a similar vein, Johnson (1994) opines that the civil In agreement, Ibiyemi, Michael and Bodun (2004) service is a body or a department in the executive arm maintain that the civil service (being a part of the of the government responsible for the execution of public service) is a body of employees responsible the policies and programmes of the government. The for planning, giving advice, and implementing civil service and its workers known as civil servants policies in government ministries and departments. perform purely administrative and executive These employees are called civil servants. functions which entail formulation and Government ministries are headed by ministers or implementation of government policies. According commissioners and assisted by directors general to him, the civil service is divided into departments (permanent secretaries), as well as other and each department carries out specific functions. departmental heads. A committed civil servant is the The departments called ministries are headed by best vehicle for carrying out and explaining to the ministers or commissioners who serve as both the people, the policies and intentions of the political and executive head. The Armed forces, the government. There is no better and ready instrument police, local government officials, public available to a government to influence the moral tone corporations and government owned enterprises are of the state than a well-motivated civil servant not included in the civil service but are collectively (Public Service Rule, 2009). The civil service of any called public services and their workers including the country is mainly concerned with the efficient civil servants are called public servants. provision of social amenities, protection of life and property of the citizens. It is the crux of any

Furthermore, Ahmed (2007) sees the civil service as government. The civil service therefore includes all “determination of policy and functions of ministries, institutions that are primarily geared towards the and once a policy is determined, it is the provision of the basic needs of man in society unquestioned and unquestionable business of the including the protection of life and property civil servant to strive to carry out that policy with (Owasa, 2004).

Admittedly, the above submission is right but does not cover all the basic ingredients of civil service such as their involvement in policy formulation. Therefore our working definition conceives the civil service as the government workforce covering all the ministries and departments of the state and the people who work in them. It could be described as natural body which constitutes civil servants as its adherents, to aid in formulating and executing government policies for the benefit of the public.

The Main Functions of the Civil Service

- Civil service ensures the smooth execution of the policies and programmes of government.
- The civil servants assist the government in drafting of bills for legislation.
- Civil servants act as advisers to the ministers/commissioners in charge of their ministry, and they can do well because of their training and experience.
- The civil servants helps to formulate the policies and programmes of the government, and these are presented to the ministers/ commissioners for consideration and final decisions.
- The civil service drafts and prepares the annual budget and estimates of government ministries, departments and corporations.
- The civil servants gather and provide useful information on which government policies and programmes are based, and keep such information or records for day-to-day or future use.
- The civil service makes bye-law, regulations and orders under powers granted it by the parliament (i.e. delegated legislation).

Challenges of Civil Service in Nigeria

The Nigerian Civil Service today has been on a mixed grill and on a precipice of crises and confusion arising from the way it is being conducted. The challenges of the present civil service is very enormous as there is the urgent need towards building a caring, united and economically strong nation of our dream (Orire, 2007). This objective cannot be realized except the entire civil servants remain focused and articulate in the discharge of their statutory responsibilities. The challenges are as follows:

- i. Bad attitude to work: The aspiration of all is that the attitude of staff to work must change. The ugly behavior of civil servants has clearly manifested in many forms such as absenteeism, delinquency, lack of commitment, negligence, indiscipline, lack of courtesy, low productivity, divided loyalty, etc. With a rededicated effort and strong commitment to work, government will reciprocate the gesture with appropriate remuneration together with intensive training of staff to enhance their productivity. Government would in addition improve welfare scheme, introduce policies practices which also include appropriate deployment of staff and equitable treatment of all, among others.
- ii. Lack of probity or integrity: The nation is desirous of having a bunch of civil servants with high sense of integrity and responsibility, unquestionable and high moral character especially civil servants who are honest, upright and morally sound. An officer with high integrity is not likely to misappropriate or embezzle public funds, cheat, steal, report to work drunk, or indulge in immoral acts. Whenever these acts are prevalent, the authorities would normally visit such shortcomings with severe sanctions. Civil servants should by all means be loyal, cooperative and support all their superior officers, but they should never compromise civil service rules and regulations and participate in any unlawful activity.
- iii. Corruption: It is a common knowledge that our society has suffered serious harm because of deep-seated corruption. Corruption is a malaise that has affected our national ethos and the way foreigners see us. Internally, corruption brings about economic stagnation as officials fail or are reluctant to provide service expected of them without some form of gratification. Chief Ernest Shonekan, the Head of the 1993 Interim National Government that succeeded General Ibrahim Babangida also made a serious statement on the level of corruption in Nigeria:
We can no longer ignore the issue of corruption which is now believed to be quite endemic in our country ...

People abroad now believe that it is virtually impossible to undertake any form of transaction successfully in Nigeria today without bribery ... Government is specially concerned with increasing cases of white collar corruption including advance fee fraud codenamed '419', bank thefts, insider dealing, product counterfeiting, etc. (The Guardian February 28, 1993 cited in Olowu, 1996).

The challenge of the present civil service is to ensure civil servants are rid of all forms of corruption and in this direction; the government of the day enacted the Anti-corruption law. All agencies of the government are expected to establish anti-corruption units to secure the commitment of public servants in the war against corruption. However, the seemingly reluctant attitude of civil servants is practically responsible for the unsuccessful implementation of the laudable scheme.

Civil servants should also start looking at the possibility of introducing some innovations especially that which has to do with feasibility of paying junior workers every two (2) weeks, rather than monthly as this could make it easier for staff to manage their earnings prudently and perhaps this would reduce the temptation to dip their hands into the public coffers.

iv. Poor service delivery: It is important for all civil servants to realize that every organization is created for a purpose. For instance, the National Power Holding Company was established to generate and distribute electricity. Similarly, the Security Printing and Minting Company was set-up to print and sell currency and security papers. The Ministries of Health and Finance were created to perform some specific functions. National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) was also established as an organization charged with the responsibility of eradicating poverty in our land. In service delivery, civil servants must be conscious and

be ready to offer total quality management (TQM) as a major strategy in performance enhancement practice. In doing this, four (4) factors must seriously be avoided:

- a) Failure to meet deadline;
 - b) Wastefulness;
 - c) Lack of requisite skill; and
 - d) Poor and outdated equipment.
- v. Unavailability of jobs and high level of poverty: Nigeria is in the league of the poorest countries of the world and therefore, it is obvious that poverty is one of the most pressing challenges of the civil service. For a country where it is estimated that 54.4% of the population cannot meet their basic needs for food, shelter, clothing, medical and basic education, the situation is indeed deplorable. The low disposable income of the average consumer and high resale market prices depressed the demand for goods and services resulting in mounting stocks of unsold goods. For this singular reason, it is essential that civil service should assist the government to identify policies and programmes that could efficiently improve the lot of the masses, focusing on the short and long term needs of the people. Employment creation and provision of basic necessities: food, shelter and water in addition to health and education should be the primary targets.
- vi. Indiscipline: Indiscipline has become pervasive in most ministries, parastatals and agencies of government. Indiscipline is evident in many forms such as disrespect and utter disregard for laws, rules and regulations, lack of self control, courtesy and good manners. Coming to the office very late and closing before the actual time are put together as irresponsible behaviours.
- vii. Lack of accountability and transparency: Civil servants falsify documents, fake receipts, licenses and cheques all in the mad rush to make money. These anti-social and to a large extent criminal behaviours have persisted without formal steps taken to tackle them. To ensure respect for rules and regulations, persons in authority should not lack the will to punish wrong doing. A World Bank (1995) report stated that, "Nigeria's public sector lacks transparency and accountability." This is further confirmed by a publication of Transparency International

which rated Nigeria as the second most corrupt in the world (*Nigerian Tribune*, October 3, 2002). Civil servants on a very sad note see themselves as owners rather than custodians of the resources they administer. For instance, contrary to regulations, financial transactions are often treated in loose minutes or temporary files that may result in fraud. Financial returns are not rendered in good time.

viii. Poor monitoring, evaluation and supervision: For effective conduct of government business and also as a serious challenge, there must be close monitoring, evaluation and supervision of projects. For instance, the time it takes to complete a given task, the quality of the service, or the output, the cost effectiveness, the value added, among others. The challenge is to set up a realistic target or objectives to be met and sustained by the work force. Such targets where possible, are quantifiable. Monitoring will help to identify equipment that would be needed to be repaired or replaced as well as staff to be trained to deliver quality service. Although parastatals are allowed a measure of autonomy, they are all subject to ministerial control and supervision. Regrettably, this important responsibility that translates to close supervision is often neglected. This has adverse consequences for performance, prudent management of resources, transparency and accountability.

ix. Due Process Certification: The word due process featured most prominently in financial transactions, but it is a mechanism that must apply to all activities of government in order to attain some level of efficiency and effectiveness in the conduct of government business. Timely procedures must be upheld and contracts in certain respect should be awarded involving the relevant tender boards to comply with required guidelines and regulations (Orire, 2009).

More so, in the view of Tolu and Abe (2011), the Nigerian Civil Service has over the years been facing myriads of challenges (problems) that have also made it difficult for the system to function effectively as agent of development. Some of these challenges are analyzed below.

■ Poor remuneration: Despite the increment

in salary, the civil service salary in Nigeria is still very low. Because of low salary, most civil servants are engaging in sharp practices, most of them keep business letter-head papers, invoices and receipts of various companies owned by them and because suppliers and contractors even to their own offices. This affects their contribution to development.

■ Corruption: This has become more or less a permanent problem in the Nigerian civil service. Bureaucratic corruption in Nigeria continues to grow in leaps and bounds. So many civil servants have defrauded and embezzled government money earmarked for developmental purposes. Most of them would demand for money before performing their routine duties to the members of the public. This has made development difficult via the civil service (Omotoso, 2001). Most of the civil servants are living above their income.

■ Over bloated civil service: The Nigerian Civil Service is over bloated as many are employed without doing anything. Apart from this, incessant state creation exercise is also contributing to the problem. When new state is created, civil service is also expanded, therefore, the urge to fill the necessary positions in the civil service by the new state always leads to urgent and compulsory promotion, and so, in the process, many civil servants are promoted above their level of efficiency and productivity.

■ Political instability: The political instability that characterized the Nigerian nation has caused a fatal blow to the development and growth of the civil service.

■ Inadequate training and retraining: This affects the productivity of the civil service and consequently development of the nation. Training is not adequate in the civil service, even when it is carried out, it is politicized.

■ Lack of planning and vision: Most civil servants do not have genuine interest for development. They are not committed to the course of development. They are mostly interested in what will benefit them and their immediate family. They are less concerned about the overall development of the country.

■ The use of old and obsolete equipment: Today, most government ministries and parastatals at federal, state and local

government levels are still working with training, poor remuneration, disloyalty, lack of typewriting machine in this age of computer. probity or integrity, etc. could be resolved when there are proper reforms in the civil service which could translate to implementation, thus leading to modern efficiency of the system. With this however, the machines. As a matter of fact, this will affect challenges (problems) would be at minimal level and their efficiency and productivity. a virile civil service is guaranteed.

The Nigerian Public Service appears to have lost its glory and seem to have fallen into decay. Conclusion

This decay is captured vividly by Obasanjo (2003: 5-6) in his observation that: It has been carefully examined that the Nigeria Civil Service has so far not been managed properly by its employees otherwise known as civil servants. And

(I) Public Offices are the shopping floors of this in return must have contributed to its respective government business. Regrettably, Nigerians have inefficiency when viewed from the whole aspect. for too long been feeling short-changed by the This however calls for general overhaul of the quality of public service delivery by which decisions system. As evident in the perceptions of different are not made without undue outside influence, and authorities of public service, it is clear that the files do not move without being pushed with challenges facing the Nigerian Civil Service are inducements. Our public offices have for too long enormous which undoubtedly call for urgent and been show cases for the combined evils of well thought out plans as regards ways on how the inefficiency and corruption, whilst being situations can be brought to its expected state of impediments to effective implementation of operation; issues relating to attitude of civil servants government policies, Nigerians deserve better. And to work which does not exclude negligence, we will ensure they get what is better.” (ii) “.....Let corruption, improbity, ineffectiveness of service me state right from the outset that I strongly believe delivery, problems of transparency and that without an efficient, effective, dedicated, well - accountability, poor remuneration, indiscipline, lack informed and technology - powered civil service, the of politeness, political interference among others are goals of stability, growth and development could be major challenges militating against the Nigerian easily compromised. Any dedicated and forward- Civil Service. It has to be noted that until the looking public service must, at all times, identify challenges are properly tackled once and for all, the with service delivery, innovation, motivation, civil service will continue to face these problems transparency, accountability and development.” (iii) which of course negatively affect the state of our “Service is what we offer ourselves for. And service general affairs internally and externally. In is what the people are entitled to expect from us. In

this simple equation lies our great concern when the people feel short-changed in their expectations of the standard of service provided by government institutions. This situation has damaging effects on the amount of trust the people have in our ability to govern as their elected government. In the circumstances, we as responsible and sensitive government, are obliged to take steps to thoroughly examine what the real trouble is with service delivery and determine how best we can remedy it.....we were like most Nigerians, well aware of the unpleasant manifestations of the appalling standard of service delivery in the country.

Generally stating, the respective challenges as enunciated are serious and such need to be taken with sense of seriousness for an improved civil service. Issues such as corruption, indiscipline, inadequate

More importantly, civil servants as employees carrying out government policies should, as matter of fact, portray themselves in a manner that truly bears a representation of what the civil service should stand for, bearing in mind that it is through their collective effort, mostly in practical approach, that the service can gain its expected status. Additionally, the civil servants should perceive themselves as a body that builds the construct of the civil service. This can be justified with proper tackling of the challenges head-on. A civil servant should not wait to be told what is expected of him to do before carrying out such assignment; for instance, he must understand that his performance has a great deal to do with the overall activities of the service.

By way of specification, bribery and corruption, embezzlement, insubordination, among other

misconducts are inimical to the service and thus, destabilize its operational system. The civil servants should therefore refrain themselves from such. It is by doing so that the Nigerian Civil Service can locate its rightful position as one looks up to a virile, refined, effective and efficient system with a body of persons who are determined and conscious of their actions and inactions.

Recommendations

- i. Government as a matter of concern should deploy ways in which civil servants can be properly remunerated. Civil servants should be encouraged to have courage, wisdom and passion to carry out their duties earnestly irrespective of the prevailing circumstances.
- ii. Serious matters relating to bribery and corruption should not be lightly treated; offenders, no matter how highly placed should be made to face the wrath of the law. The issue of “sacred cows” in the service should no longer be tolerated.
- iii. As observed, the state of the operational standard of the Civil Service in Nigeria is low in term of its use of tools. In this sense, there should be provision for training and retraining of the civil servants so as to keep track with modern ways of operation in terms of technology.
- iv. The frequent interference of political office holders in the affairs of the civil service should be outrightly discouraged. Civil servants are expected to see themselves as government officials who are not to be involved in partisan politics as long as they remain in the service. Adequate punishment should therefore be meted out on persons who engage in such act to serve as deterrence.
- v. Civil servants of the present day generation and the future must distance themselves from acts of sycophancy, greed, indolence, graft and immorality that inhibit their capacity to deliver quality service to the people.
- vi. As it is common knowledge that the civil service is reserved for persons of high intelligence with great skills in their respective fields and who are capable of formulating policies and programmes that can contribute meaningfully to the wellbeing of the country, it is recommended that the civil service be made fully professional with emphasis on administrative skills and

modern management techniques for greater effectiveness and responsiveness in the discharge of their statutory responsibility. vii. Finally, the business of the government would be better managed and efficiently conducted if substantial elements of private sector business culture are implanted into public service management. All these radiate round cost consciousness, value for money, and ensuring that adequate and qualified work force engaged to do the work of government.

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A RETROSPECT ON MONETIZATION OF FRINGE BENEFITS IN THE NIGERIAN CIVIL SERVICE

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Abstract

Throughout human history, governments have always embarked on various reform programmes. These programmes to a large extent are introduced for various reasons ranging from economic, political or social; though economic reasons remain one of the major reasons for the introduction of reform programmes. In Nigeria, successive governments have embarked on series of economic reform programmes among which is the monetization policy. Upon the introduction of this reform agenda, the government presented the policy as being highly beneficial to the Nigerian civil servants. However, critics have bemoaned the monetization policy seeing it as a capitalist oriented policy that is set to widen the gap between the poor and the rich. Analyzing in retrospect, this paper examined the diverse and numerous ideas as well as arguments and justifications concerning the introduction of monetization policy in the Nigeria civil service. Based on the observed trends in the implementation of the policy so far, the paper makes some recommendations pertinent to the effective workings of the policy.

Keywords: Civil Service, Public Service; Monetization; Fringe Benefits, Economic Reform

Introduction

Economic policies have always be one of the the meaning of monetization, Joseph (2003) explained that government will hand-off the major activities of every government the world over. These policies were most time initiated for the responsibility of providing certain facilities to public purpose effecting development in the polity servants. Instead, money would be given for the (Olatunji, 2013). In Nigeria, several economic facilities, hence, the term monetization.

According to the Chairman, Chief U. Ekaette (cited in Omobolaji, 2003), the establishment of the Committee became necessary because over the years, the cost of governance has continued to escalate, arising mostly, from the burden of providing basic amenities to public servants by the Government. These amenities include residential accommodation, transport facilities, medical services, and utilities such as electricity, water and telephone (Omobolaji, 2003; Jimoh, 2006). Joseph (2003) outlined the merits of monetization to include efficiency in resource allocation, equity in the Federation was set up by President Obasanjo on provision of amenities and encouragement of public servants to own personal houses. It also enables then Secretary to the Government of the Federation, public servants to plan for a more comfortable post-service life. Furthermore, it minimizes waste, misuse and abuse of public facilities. For these reasons, the chairman pronounced that the concept of

benefits they receive in kind. While trying to explain the meaning of monetization, Joseph (2003) explained that government will hand-off the major activities of every government the world over. These policies were most time initiated for the responsibility of providing certain facilities to public purpose effecting development in the polity servants. Instead, money would be given for the (Olatunji, 2013). In Nigeria, several economic facilities, hence, the term monetization.

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monetization has gained worldwide acceptance. civil service and its workers known as the civil

In contrast, Omobolaji (2003:1) observes servants perform purely administrative and that: "At one level of emotional analysis, executive functions, which entail formulation and monetization of benefits appears good but at another implementation of government policies. Generally, level of deep analysis, it would be discovered that the the civil service is usually referred to as public injury outnumbered its benefits". Thus, it would be administration and it comprises both the civil grossly erroneous to have the parochial conclusion servants and public servants. In this respect, the civil that monetization policy is generally accepted by all service is a shorthand expression of all governmental and sundry, especially among the Nigerian civil departments and parastatals charged with servants. The unacceptability of the policy by some responsibilities of carrying out certain fundamental has made them to criticize the policy fiercely. Yusuf functions for peaceful coexistence of the people and (2003:45) remarks that "... the road to monetization the smooth running of government businesses was tortuous". It was, because monetization of a (Olowu, 1992; Ibraheem, 2006).

public service built on British colonial structure is definitely introducing a policy that is alien to the system, and one, which on the longrun could lead to various problems for the public servants and the entire Nigerian populace. On this observation, Yusuf (2003) concludes that if most workers or legislators have their way, the pet project would remain stillborn.

In response to this, President Obasanjo said there is no going back on the policy. His words: efficiency and vibrancy of its civil service. From the "Monetization is a law, the Revenue Mobilization and Fiscal Allocation Commission sets out what goes into it. It was not done by me" (*The Guardian*, June 15, 2004). According to Ezekwesili (2003), the monetization policy became necessary because the Federal Government was acting the father for too long while 82% of the nation's resources being used that:

to run government and pay personal emoluments of public servants that constitute just 2% of the entire population. From the foregoing, it could be deduced that the monetization of fringe benefits in the Nigeria civil service is not a 'one-way thing', rather, it is a government service, and several policy that has generated a lot of controversies and arguments, it is a policy that was not supported by all, though its protagonists have their justifications for introducing it. In this respect, this paper work explores the arguments and justifications behind the introduction of monetization policy in the Nigeria civil service. However, before presenting the

arguments and justifications of the policy, there is the need to look briefly into some facts regarding the Nigeria civil service.

A Brief History of the Nigeria's Civil Service

According to Johnson (1995), the civil service is a body or a department in the executive arm of government responsible for the execution of policies and programmes of the government. In well as functions has always been affected by other words, it is a sin-qua-non for the effective government types, governmental policies and programmes (Olowu & Rasheed, 1995). For instance, Ayida (1997) observes that, since

Independence in 1960, Nigeria has enjoyed democracy for only 10 years (1960-66 and 1979-83). Therefore, the long tradition of military rule has given the civil service a prominent role to shape and direct public policy over the years.

Moreso, the Nigerian civil service is a relic of colonialism. While tracing the history of benefit abuse in the civil service, Omobolaji (2003:1-2) made this remark:

...the subjection of the civil service to political control is necessary to prevent the institution from becoming a 'master' rather than the 'servant' of the society as well as ensuring discharging of its functions. Furthermore, the modus operandi of the civil service is such that would insulate it from blame when government policies misfire while allowing it a share of credit for successful policies. From a conventional wisdom, the societies expect and conceived the civil service as machinery for development (p133).

When the colonialists were with us, they provided their expatriate staff - i.e. to the "White" Civil Service Administrators who were ruling the Natives - with free housing, free transportation, free slaves, etc. The staff did not have to pay for these benefits from their salaries, which invariably were paid to them abroad anyway. In fact, it was a Hazard Allowance that they were being provided for while abroad, since they were in hostile territory. They were generally very few in number. When these colonialists left, the indigenous civil "servants" took over and also took over those benefits.

But then came the abuse of the benefits: instead of one car, our indigenous civil service "oga" has 10 government cars at his beck and call; has three government houses (in Abuja, Lagos and Kaduna) because, yes, each can have more than one wife, rides in first class plane, including weekend trip to London; has free medical treatment for the entire family, all while getting a fat basic salary in addition to other allowances (p1-2)

The Adebo Commission (1970) and the Udoji (1972) reviewed the structure and orientations of the civil service to make it more efficient. Although these Commissions recommended ways of rationalizing the civil service, the greatest problems of the service remained inefficiency and red tape.

He observes further:

However, the painful aspect of this situation

is that despite all these, the civil servants are not efficient enough in carrying out their statutory responsibilities. Generally, the basic features of the Nigerian civil service are corruption, inefficiency and redtapism. In this perspective, various reforms and restructuring programmes have been initiated by various successive governments in Nigeria to address the lukewarm behaviour of the civil servants. According to Ismaeel (2006:26),

Ezekwesili (2003) explained that one of the reasons for the introduction of monetization policy is that the Federal Government wanted to re-professionalize the civil service because it harbours lots of lazy and un-enterprising individuals. On this note, one would realize that the public service is not so efficient in carrying out their day to day activities and because of the indispensable nature of the service, a responsible governments has to look for an effective means of improving its civil service efficiency, this according to some is one of the chief reasons for the introduction of the monetization policy.

Monetization of Fringe Benefits in the Nigeria Civil Service: Why and How?

From the brief analyses of the history of the Nigeria civil service, one would observe that the civil service is an important institution of any modern government and that the efficiency of any government is to a large extent determined by the effectiveness of its civil service. However, the Nigeria experience of civil service is one which is characterized by corruption and gross inefficiency, in this respect, successive governments over the years have always struggle to restructure the civil service in order to meet its statutory purpose. The Obasanjo-led government of Nigeria's Fourth Republic was not an exception of this fact. As such, his economic reform policies were more focused on the reformation and restructuring of the public service to be more accountable and responsible for effective discharge of governmental policies. According to Jimoh (2006), the major thrust of Obasanjo's Commission economic reform programme is to transfer a rentier state to a modern capitalist state. Apart from his apt love for privatization, he is also very interested in reducing government expenditure in financing the Nigeria civil service, hence, the introduction of the monetization policy.

According to Ekaette (2002) (Cited in Omobolaji, 2003), the establishment of the Committee became necessary because over the years, the cost of governance has continued to

but it was learnt that the monetization would be reflected in federal workers salary for August 2004, which is still being waited. This might be because the bill is too high for the government to bear; it might thus need to do some shedding of the workforce in the civil service. In other words, there is palpable fear that between 10,000 and 20,000 workers may lose their jobs to monetization. The number could be more with Nigeria Labour Congress'

According to a labour unionist, Comrade Suleiman Danbaba of the Association of Senior Civil Servants of Nigeria (cited in Yusuf 2003:49) "the huge capital effect of monetization may lead to job freeze for the next one to two years because more employment means increase in vote for monetization'. But, the consequence of pumping more money into the economy is yet a financial headache, which the government would confront. There will be increase in the nation's inflation rate because shylock traders, foodstuff sellers and others would want to take a share of their own monetization" largesse. Sabo (2003:49) observes:

If the government auctions most of its cars and houses, it means that some groups of workers like drivers, cleaners and guards may loose their jobs and we will end up to the daunting unemployment scenario in the country. More so, how are we sure that those cars and quarters would be bought at the real value price? And, what is the guarantee that civil servants could afford to buy these items. We should avoid a situation where a gain in the name of monetization results into many losses.

precedent for industrial crisis in the 36 states. It was revealed that the Federal Government is not carrying most state governments along such that some governors operate as if nothing substantial were at stake. For an example, presently (then), most states implement varied versions of minimum wage and about 90% of them cannot take a plunge into monetization except if they can operate with empty treasury. Yet, state civil servants would want to take a bite of the juicy part of the monetization. Dandaba said: "it will not be out of place seeing labour in some states going on strike over monetization policy". The bitter history of lack of continuity in policy coordination from a government to another in the last forty years also poses a threat to the continuity of the monetization project.

According to Yusuf (2003), findings showed that most of the bureaucrats are not pleased with the policy but they have been playing along to save their jobs till 2007 when a new government might reverse it. Raising this fear, Danbaba observes: "There is no

policy coordination or linkage from one government to another in the past and it is likely that by 2007, the song will take a different tune" The policy has barely taken off when some Nigerians, including the National Assembly members are demanding that it should have human face. In fact, many have criticized the policy as being innocently adopted because it is a western capitalist model, which does not consider the environment in which it operates. It is all a guessing game. The question remains: is monetization a relief or a burden (Yusuf, 2003).

General Assessment of Monetization Policy

From the journey so far on monetization, it could be realized that the policy has not fare well in achieving most of the reasons for which it was established. This is because despite the implementation of the policy, civil service delivery in Nigeria is still very poor, unproductive and grossly corrupts. Corruption has been seen as one of the major reasons why the monetization policy like many policies of its like has not been able fulfill the purpose for which it was established. The Nigerian civil service is accused of prevalent redtapism, mass misappropriation of funds and generally unproductive (Jonathan 2013). More so, if one observe the general performance of the policy since the period of its initiation, it would be observed that rather than making the civil service more productive, it has make them more dysfunctional as senior civil servants have only use the policy to satisfy their own personal gains at the expense of the general public (Igbinalador, 2013).

A general assessment of public reactions on the policy will reveal that most of the predictions of the antagonists of the programme are really coming to pass. For instance, it has been observed that discontinuity in government policies for decades in Nigeria could affect the future of the policy. Danbaba (cited in Yusuf, 2003) observes that: "there is no policy coordination or linkage from one government to another in the past and it is likely that by 2007, the song will take a different tune". Truthful to this prediction, successive government after Obasnjio did not show seriousness for the implementation of the policy, instead, they have concentrated on formulating other policies which they felt would favour their own administration. In a nutshell, what could be said of the monetization policy is that the policy has so far been a colossal failure because it has failed to bring about much significant effect on the civil servant performance, civil service delivery and meaningful socio-economic development in the

country.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It could be deduced from the foregoing that the initial introduction and implementation of the monetization policy is faced with mixed reactions from Nigerians. Going by the arguments of its protagonists and the criticisms of its antagonists, one would come to realize that from the onset, the policy did not get the support of all and sundry especially the civil servants that are directly affected by the policy. In this respect, the policy needs to be re-examined. re-examining the policy, certain facts need to be put in mind, the policy should be more humane and the implementation of the policy has to be one that will benefit more people. One other factor that could have constituted a bottleneck to the successful implementation of the policy is the indiscriminate mode of implementing it. The Nigeria government has to be questioned regarding his attempt to hand off governmental support from the public institutions that provide basic services and amenities to the populace all in the name of cutting down governmental expenditure, while the government revenue is not cut, even as the gains of monetization is meant to provide basic social services and public amenities. The irony is that the outfits that are supposed to provide these basic amenities are either privatized or commercialized. For an example, the educational sector, which provides one of the basic needs of the society, is increasingly getting commercialized.

Basically, one of the obvious consequences of the policy is the incidence of unemployment. It has been observed that the level at which un-employment rate is soaring in this country is worrisome (*The Guardian*, 25th June 2012; Olatunji, 2013). In other words, a policy option, which on the longrun leads to increase unemployment rate, is not a good policy option. In the last, corruption which has eaten so deep into the social fabric of the Nigerian private and public lives is the most dangerous factor which needs to be fight root and branch in order to revitalize the system generally. In other words, neither the policy nor the civil service can become effective in achieving the purpose for which they are established except corruption is eradicated out of the system.

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A STUDY OF FARMERS' ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN ESAN WEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF EDO STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The impact of climate change impact depends on a range of parameters, yet climate change is threatening not only the sustainable development of socio-economic activities of a nation but also the totality of human existence. Presently, Nigerians have started to feel the effect of climate change as frequency and intensity of extreme events like floods, rainfall and drought have increased. The study investigated farmers' adaptation to climate change in Esan West Local Government Area of Edo State. This study utilized primary source of data through the administration of questionnaires, direct interviews and direct field observations where 250 structured questionnaires were administered using simple random techniques. Tables and charts were used to present the data while regression and correlation and ANOVAs were inferential statistics used showing that there is a strong relationship between weather event and farming activities. This also shows that agricultural production depends highly on climate change. Therefore effort should be geared towards providing farmers proper awareness and training in order to enhance their intellectual ability on adaptation and mitigation in the face of climate change. This study also suggests the need for government's provision of proper and reliable information on adaption options for the farmers to harness in the face of climate variation.

Keywords: Climate change, Adaptation, Farming.

Introduction

There is a growing consensus in the scientific literature that in the coming decades, the world will witness higher temperature and changing precipitation level (People's Bank, 2008). The effect of this will lead to low or poor agricultural production. Evidence has shown that climate change is already affecting crop yield in many countries.

This is particularly true in low income countries, where climate is the primary determinant of agricultural productivity and adaptive capacities are low. Many African countries, which have their economies largely based on weather-sensitive agricultural production systems like Nigeria, are agreed upon that where rainfall is optimum, crop yield is high and if low, crop yield will be low and if too high, crop yield will be very poor. Plants need varying amounts of rainfall to survive. For example, certain cacti require small amounts of water while tropical plants may need up to hundreds of inches of rain per year to survive. In areas with wet and dry seasons, soil nutrients diminish and erosion increases during the wet season. The previous dry season and world climate leads to food shortages into the wet season, as the crops have yet to mature (Frisancho, 1993).

One of the key challenges facing humanity today is the impact of climate change on agriculture. The IPCC (2007) indicates that the energy balance within the earth's climate system has been altered and this season. Animals have adaptation and survival resulted in significant changes in national, regional strategies for the wet season. The previous dry season and world climate leads to food shortages into the wet season, as the crops have yet to mature (Frisancho, 1993).

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Climate change refers to the change in the mean the human response to them are complex and values of climate measuring by element such as uncertain. It is noted that Nigeria especially the rainfall, temperature, etc., over long period of time developing rural populations such as Esan-West usually 50 years. Climate change is the significant Local Government area of Edo State ought to be change in the state of the climate of a place that can be concerned by climate change because of the country identified by change in the mean and/or in the high vulnerability due to high coast line that is prone variability of its properties that persist for an to sea level rise and the risk of fierce storm. Climate extended period typically decades or longer (IPCC, change is evident in the late arrival of rain, drying up 2007). Climate change is a natural phenomenon that of streams and small rivers that usually flow all year has been accepted globally as a fact of life. This round, and the gradual disappearance of flood means that as a matter of fact, it would always be recession cropping in the creek areas. Climate subjected to natural dynamism or changes.

Nigeria like many other countries of sub-Sahara Africa is highly vulnerable to the impact of climate they perceive climate as having a strong spiritual, change. Though climate change is a threat to emotional and physical dimension. It is therefore agricultural and non agricultural socio-economic assumed their communities have an inborn-adaptive development, agricultural production activities are knowledge from which to draw and survive in high-generally more vulnerable to climate change than stress ecological and socio-economic other sections. This is because agricultural conditions.

production in most sub-Sahara African (Nigeria inclusive) is dependent on weather and climate. In view of the fact that stability and sustain ability of Nigeria is an agrarian economy with over 65% small sufficient food production in the agricultural sector is holder farmers accounting for the nation's the main sure way of eradicating poverty and bearing agricultural outputs. Agriculture takes place in the in mind the great threat posed by climate change environment hence vulnerable to environment issues to the realization of this goal, it becomes very factors which includes weather, climate and soil important for agricultural system in the country to properties. Agricultural practice in the country is give climate change issues serious consideration if grossly independent on natural conditions such as the objective of increased food production will ever rain-fed farming, soil fertility, temperature, sunshine be achieved.

and humidity. All these affect agricultural production. Climate and agricultural resources are very closely related and as such any crisis situation in the agricultural sector notably a food crisis stands a great risk of becoming escalated by vagaries and extreme weather events like heat wave, drought and flood.

Adaptation is widely recognized as a vital component of any policy response to the climate change. According to Easterling (1998), without adaptation, climate change is generally detrimental to the agricultural sector, but with adaptation vulnerability can largely be reduced. This implies that the extent to which our agricultural system is affected by climate change depends on its adaptive capacity. IPCC (2001) opined that adaptive capacity is the ability of a system to adjust to climate change (including climate vulnerability and extremes) to moderate potential damages, to take advantages of opportunities or to cope with the consequences.

The wet season lasts seven months March to October, and the dry season is from November to February with scanty amount of rainfall. The Northern trade wind and the Southern west monsoon winds are the prevailing wind in the area (Aziegbe, 2005). Esan West is made up of sedimentary rock formation and its analysis of soil sample shows that the soils are dominantly clay- sands. The soils have been classified as fertile and having high proportion kainite and free iron oxide. It also comprises of loamy soil (Aziegbe, 2005).

Esan West is situated at Esan plateaus. The plateau acts as watershed at to small streams. The Oghidekperiver stream which takes it water sources in the Northern extreme and discharges its water in the Owan region. The tropical rainfall forest vegetation is noticeable in the area of study. The predominant vegetation is the moist deciduous forest, which is richer in timber resources its nature is attributed to the favorable humid climate. The canopy is more open than in the rainforest region which lies south in the equatorial rainforest as observed by (Adejuwon, 1979).

The major economic activities include large proportion of the population have no formal manufacturing, crafts, building and construction, education at all. 25.5% are civil servants and have transportation, business and call centres, electrical farming as their secondary occupation while 5.5% engineering, automobile engineering, welding, are into trading but have farming as their primary milling/grinding and other petty businesses. It is occupation but large proportions of the population do worthy to note here that small scale industries farming as their primary occupation. This data show dominate the study area. The study area, like other part of the state is essentially an agricultural area owing to a suitable climate edaphic factor in the area.

The total population stood at 127,718 with an average growth rate of 2.8%. The male population stood at 62,406 while the female stood at 65, 312 (NPC, 2006).

Materials and Methods

Data required for this study include data on the prevailing weather condition, data on the type of farming system adopted by farmers and response of farmers to climate change threat. Data were collected through questionnaire administration, oral interview and observations.

The methods adopted for analyzing the data were purely descriptive and inferential in nature. Such methods include regression and correlation. Descriptive methods include the use of tables and charts while multiple regression and analysis of variance explain the inferential aspect of statistical methods.

Regression and correlation analysis are used to analyze the strength of the relationship between weather events and farming activities with the formula as:

$y = a + bx$
 $y =$ dependent variable
 $b =$ independent variable
 $a =$ intercept on y axis the value of y at the point where $x = 0$

b = slope coefficient

Results and Discussions

As shown in Table 1, majority of the respondents are males (57.5%) which mean that a reasonable number of people living in the study area who engage in farming are males. The distribution indicates that farming has been left in the hands of the aging 40-50 which stood at about 40% of the population and age 50 and above which stood at 36.5% and majority of the population under study are married (60%) and just very few are widowed (4%). Just 2.5% of the farmers have reasonable level of education while 14% have secondary school leaving certificate and a large proportion of the population have no formal education at all. 25.5% are civil servants and have transportation, business and call centres, electrical farming as their secondary occupation while 5.5% engineering, automobile engineering, welding, are into trading but have farming as their primary occupation but large proportions of the population do that most of the respondents depend totally on agriculture for their livelihood. The implication of this is that most of the farmers are vulnerable to climate change induced poverty.

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Males	115	57.5
Females	85	42.5
Age		
20-30	15	7.5
31-40	32	46
41-50	80	
50 and above	73	36.5
	200	100
Marital status		
Single	42	21
Married	120	60
Divorced	8	4
Widowed	30	15
	200	100
Educational level		
No formal education	95	47.5
Primary education	72	36
Secondary education	28	14
Tertiary education	5	2.5
	200	100
Occupation		
Farming	132	66
Civil servant	51	35.5
Trading	11	
Others	6	3
Total	200	100

Source: Field survey, 2015

Agricultural System Adopted

As shown in Table 2, agricultural system is mainly dominated by subsistence farming that is majority of the farmers are subsistence farmers (84%) while few of the farmers are into commercial agriculture (16%).

Agricultural system	Frequency	Percentage
Subsistence	168	84
Commercial	32	16
Total	200	100

Source: Field survey, 2015

Farming Experience of the Respondents

Farming experience of the respondents as seen in Table 3 indicates that about 42.5% of the farmers have well over 30years of farming experience, 35.5% have 21-30 years of experience in farming, 12% have 11-20 years of farming experience while just 10% have farming experience that means farming have always been a major means of livelihood over the years.

Table 3: Farming Experience of the Respondents

Farming experience	Frequency	Percentage
1-10	20	10
11-20	24	12
21-30	71	35.5
31 and above	85	42.5
Total	200	100

Source: Field survey, 2015

Farm Size of the Respondents

Indication from Table 4 shows that majority of the farmers have 4-7 hectares of farm land (51.5%), 37.5% have 1-3 hectares of land for farming while small fraction of the population have 7 and above hectares of land which means that they practice commercial system of agriculture but subsistence system of is dominant.

Table 4: Farm Size of the Respondent

Farm size	Frequency	Percentage
1-3hectares	75	37.5
4-7hectares	103	51.5
7 and above	22	11
Total	200	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Prevailing Extreme Weather Events

Figure 1 shows the prevailing weather condition in the study area. Majority of the respondent (55.5%) observed increased incidence of flooding, 30% indicated delay in onset of raining season while 27% of the respondent observed increase in temperature. In general, it can be concluded that the prevalent weather in the study area is increased incidence of flooding.

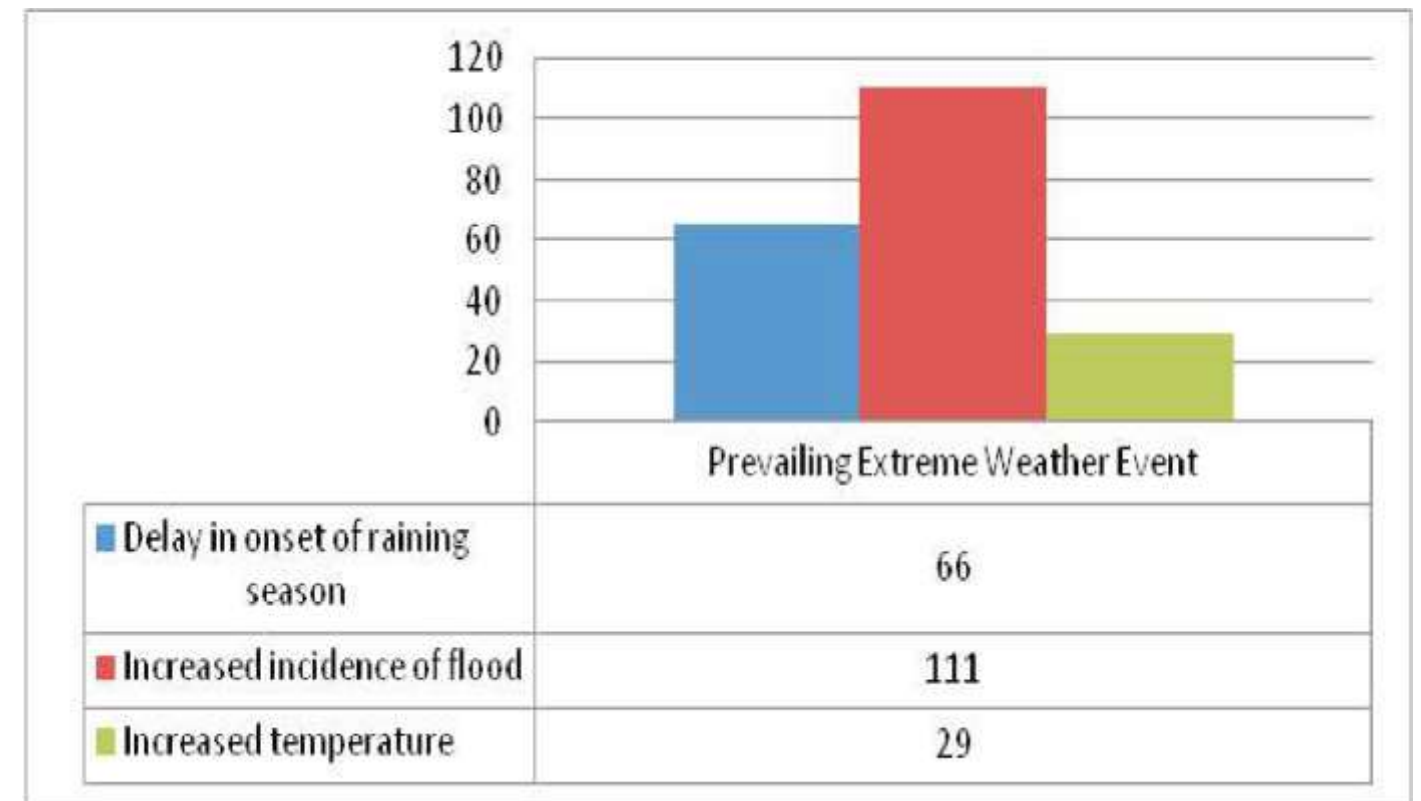


Fig.1: Prevailing Extreme Weather Event

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Farming System Adopted by Farmers

Table 5 shows the characteristics of farming system adopted by farmers to contain climate effect in the face of climate change 61% of respondent plants cover crops to curtain the effect of climate change, 19% of respondents plant better heat and drought resistant crops as adaptation strategy in the face of climate change, 12.5% of respondent adopt improvement of pest management while few respondent (6.1%) indicated the adoption of early planting early maturing crops, changes in harvesting dates and use of weather forecast.

Table 5: Farming System Adopted by Farmers in the Face of Climate Change

Characteristics of farming system	Frequency	Percentage
Planting of cover crop.	122	61.0
Planting better heat and drought Resistant crop.	38	19.0
Improving pest management	25	2.0
Early Planting	12	6.0
Change in harvest day and Use of weather forecast	3	1.5
Total	200	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Perception of Respondents on Climate Change

As shown in Table 6, 50.0% of the respondents indicated increased daily temperature as their perceived change in climate, while 45.0% land 55.0% indicated increased in incidence of flooding and delay in onset of raining season respectively. This shows the complex nature of climate change, as it is manifests differs from place to place and from region to region.

Table 6: Perception of Respondents on Climate Change

Perception of Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Increase in daily temperature	100	50.0
Increase in the incidence of flooding	48	45.0
Resistant crop		
Delay in onset of raining Season	52	55.0
Total	200	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Vulnerability of Farmers to Threats of Climate Change

Figure 2 shows the level of farmers' vulnerability to threat posed by climate change, 39% indicated they are most vulnerable to increased pest and diseases, 29.5% of respondent indicated their vulnerability to erosion problems, 26% indicated that they are most vulnerable to combine threat posed by climate change.

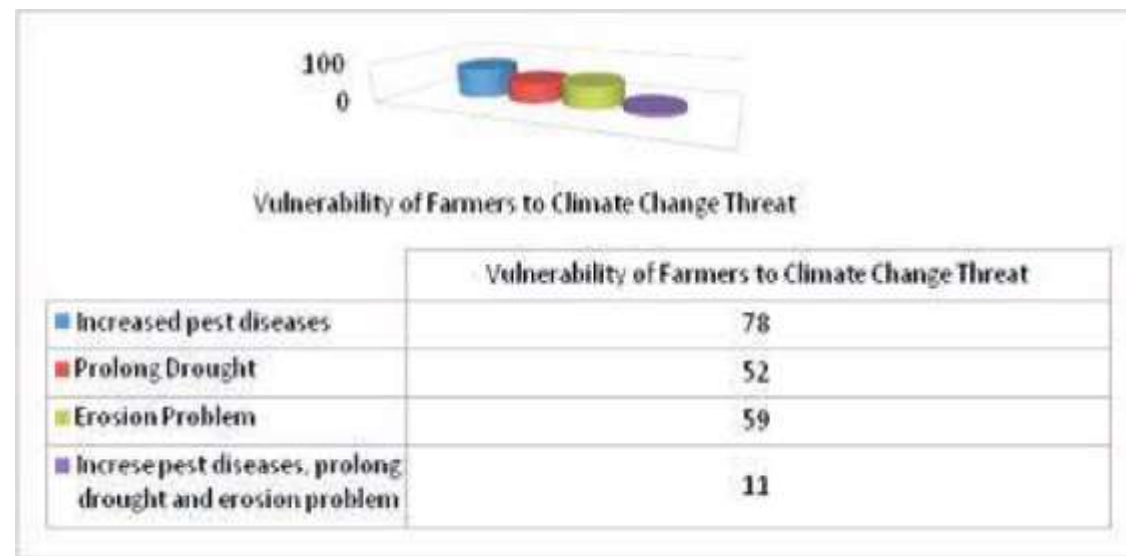


Fig 2: Vulnerability of farmers to threat posed by climate change
Source: Field survey 2015

Weather Events and Farming Activities

Table 7 shows that all selected weather events indicated as y which the dependent variables shows a positive and significant relationship. Thus Pearson correlation analysis in the table above shows that there is positive relationship between weather events and farming activities.

Table 7: Weather Events and Farming Activities

	Climate	Farming
Climate Pearson Correlation	1	-.002-
Sig. (2-tailed)		.981
N	200	200
Farming Pearson Correlation	-.002-	1
Sig. (2-tailed)	.981	
N	200	200

Source: Author's fieldwork, 2015

The value of correlation lies between -1, 1. The correlation value is 0.981 which is close to 1 and this shows that there is a strong correlation between weather events and farming activities in the study area.

Table 8: Impact of Climate on Agricultural Production

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	.000	1	.000	.001	.981 ^a
	Residual	96.080	198	.485		
	Total	96.080	199			

a. Predictors: (Constant): x

b. Dependent Variable: y

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Analysis of variance test (ANOVA) showed that on adaptation and mitigation in the face of climate there is a significant impact of climate change on change.

agricultural production. With reference to the Finally, the study recommends that funds should be made available to farmers by the government and hypothesis setting which states;

H₀ Climate element has no significant impact on other organizations in order for farmers to harvest various options available to them. Climatic data should be made available and be interpreted to local agricultural production.

Decision role: Reject H₀ if F_{cal} is > F_{tab}

Decision: Since F_{cal} (0.001) is < F_{tab} (1.96) we people to understand its impacts on agricultural therefore do not reject H₁ at = 0.05 practices. Proper and reliable information should be provided on adaption option by the government for the farmer to harness.

Conclusion: there is significant impact of climate on agricultural production.

From the hypothesis stated above analysis of variance was carried out to test the hypothesis of climate change on agricultural production in Esan West Local Government area of Edo State. The table above shows the result of our ANOVAs when F_{cal} = 0.001

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study assesses the farmer's adaptation to climate change in Esan West local government area. It is however observed that majority of the rural settlers are experiencing erosion problem and agricultural production in the area have been greatly reduced due to increased incidence of flooding. Majority of farmers are predominantly engage on subsistence agriculture with a few farmers practicing the commercial type of agriculture. The subsistence farmers use crude implements like hoes, cutlass for bush clearing instead of modern technology that can enhance productivity. It was observed that farmers are actually aware of climate change but sensed it, as been spiritual because of their educational background. This study also reveals that the study area practice major national bush following as a farming system and bush burning is still a dominant method of land clearing. In order to enhance productivity in the study area, farmers should be giving proper training by extension workers or farmer's association so as to enhance their awareness

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