

ATTAINMENT OF VISION 20:2020 REDESIGN OF NIGERIA'S FUTURE: A CRITICAL APPRAISAL

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Abstract

Development planning has been the main strategy used by many countries of the world to set their visions, missions, goals and effective means of realizing development. In Nigeria, the application of development planning has been a consistent phenomenon since 1946 and resources have been mobilized to ensure a sustainable economic growth and development using the instrumentality of national development plan framework. The study aims at appraising the extent of attainment of the Nigeria's Vision 20:2020 as a developmental framework to redesign the country's future against the backdrop of historical antecedents of policy reversals, summersaults and failures in development drives. The past National development plans covering 1960 to 2019 were analyzed. Further, the paper discussed the challenges that will likely mar the successful attainment of Nigeria's vision 20:2020. Historical approaches were not only used but the relevant data were generated and analyzed from government official documents, publications, author's practical experiences and personal interviews. It was recommended that human capital development must be adequately developed, existing science and technologies to be properly funded, policy framework to be consistent, issue of corruption check-matted, economy diversified into agriculture and non-oil-driven economies while only leaders with credibility, integrity and commitment to serve should be elected to public offices in the interest of good governance.

Keywords: Attainment, Vision, 20:2020, Redesign, Nigeria's Future, Development Planning.

Introduction (Background of Study)

In recalling the Federal Governments' posture on vision 20:2020 Redesign of Nigeria's Future, Udoudu and Ubi-Abai (2016) noted that every economy of the world has hopes and aspirations to be attained. They set their visions, missions, and goals in

their quest for social and economic progress. These goals are translated into medium as well as long-term plans designed to effect some permanent structural changes in the economy. According to UNDP (2008), this involves government setting out objectives about the way it wants the economy to develop in the future and then intervenes to try to achieve those objectives. The main objectives and goals of planning by government is that it makes a deliberate effort and conscious choice regarding the rate and direction of economic growth and development within a defined time-frame.

Nigeria once sub-Saharan Africa's, if not Africa's most promising and oil-rich country, has over the past decades found its economy floundering in the face of political instability and bad governance. The country has often been characterized as the epitome of wasted potential and squandered opportunity in Africa. With immense oil wealth, Nigeria was poised to become Africa's answer to Asia's newly industrializing countries. But, Africa's great hope transformed itself into Africa's great disappointment. Its real income per capita today has declined to about \$250 and its nearly the same as it was during independence. In 1960, for example, Nigeria's per capita income was about 1.5 times that of Malaysia. But in a twist of irony of fate and glaring bad leadership, Nigeria's current per capita income has not only declined from its 1960 level to the point where Malaysia's current per capita income is now 15 times that of Nigeria. Above all, our economy is in Shambles, and capital flight and political trepidation continue to throttle any hope of early economic recovery (UNICEF, 2005 cited in Osioma, 2008).

With a population of over 160 million people, according to the 2006 census figures, the country is endowed with enormous human and materials resources, with substantial deposits of such minerals like coal, natural gas, limestone, iron among others. In addition, Nigeria is the largest oil producer in Africa and the 6th largest in the world; she has abundant arable land with one of the best climates in the world. Unfortunately, a host of complex problems, both internal and external continue to beleaguer Nigeria's drive for economic development (Osioma, 2008). With barely less than a year of completion of this vision, the notable challenges since 2014 to 2019 would be assessed to determine the extent of attainment of visions envisaged in the blue print by the Government.

Statement of Problem

The need for economic planning in Nigeria and other developing countries is informed by the need to address their characteristic development challenges: poverty,

urbanization, rapid population growth, agricultural development, dualistic economy, underdeveloped natural resources, technological backwardness, economic backwardness, unemployment and disguised employment, insufficient capital equipment and foreign trade (Jhingan, 2007). Nigeria, since independence in 1960 has pursued development through the adoption of various development strategies and planning. It started with the historic ‘Ten Year Plan of Development and welfare (1946-1960) initiated and implemented by the colonial masters. On attainment of independence in 1960, the First National Development Plan (1962-1969) was launched and this was followed by the Second National Development Plan (1970-1974); the Third National Development Plan (1975-1980) and the Fourth National Development Plan (1980-1985). Thereafter, the Structural Adjustment Programme Reforms (1986-1989); the Perspective and Rolling Plans (1990-1998); the NEEDS (2003-2009); and the Vision 2010 were launched. These plans were formulated to move Nigeria on the part of growth and development.

In 2009, Government renewed its aspirations to launch the economy into a development path to become one of the top twenty economies by 2020. The celebrated Nigeria’s Vision 20:2020 Economic Transformation blueprint (2009) was launched. The blueprint stated: “by 2020, Nigeria will have a large, strong, diversified, sustainable, and competitive economy that effectively harnesses the talents and energies of its people and responsibly exploits its natural endowment to guarantee a high standard of living and quality of lives to its citizens”. In other words, the blueprint is an expression of Nigeria’s intent to improve the living standards of her citizens and place the country among the top 20 nations in the world with a minimum Gross Domestic Product of \$900billion dollars and a per capita income of not less than \$4000 dollars per annum.

These plans, in one way or the other, had some challenges and in order to overcome these challenges in appraising the Nigeria’s Vision 20:2020, it is imperative that we take a critical look at the performance of past and present national development plans.

Research Questions

In discussing this topic, it becomes imperative to answer the following questions:

- (i) What were the outcomes of Nigeria’s past development plans?
- (ii) What were the challenges for their successes vis-à-vis the Nigeria’s Vision 20:2020?

- (iii) How can these challenges be overcome in the implementation of the Nigeria's Vision20:2020?
- (iv) How far has the present challenges been overcome by 2019?

Objectives

The main objective of the study is to determine the extent of Nigeria's attainment of vision 20:2020. Specifically, the objectives seek to:

- (i) Expose Nigerians to conceptual issues and challenges of implementation
- (ii) Identify the development plan institutions/organs and their activities in government
- (iii) Ascertain the effectiveness and/or present challenges of policy implementation
- (iv) Enlighten key actors and Nigerians on achievability of vision 20:2020.

Review of Relevant Literature

There seems to be a consensus among economic thinkers that development involves "a rapid and sustained rise in real output per head and attendant shift in technological, economic and demographic characteristics of society. The question to ask about a country's development are three: What has been happening to poverty? What has been happening to employment? What has been happening to inequality? If all three of these have declined from high levels, then beyond doubt this has been a period of development for the country concerned (Dudley, 1969 cited in Udoudu and Ubi-Abai, 2016).

UNDP (1990) defines development in terms of human development index. HDI is a guide to components of development which include the entire process of enhancing people's choices – health, knowledge and wealth. If these essential choices are not available, many other opportunities remain inaccessible. Also, Todaro and Smith (2011) states that development means achieving sustained rates of growth of income per capita to enable a nation to expand its output at a rate faster than the growth of its population. Development, therefore, can be seen as a result of the synergy among millions of innovative initiatives people take every day in their local society; generating new and more effective ways of producing, trading and managing their resources and their institutions.

On the other hand, development planning is defined as a deliberate effort of government to coordinate economic decision making over the long-run and to

influence, direct, and in some cases, even control the level and growth of a nation's economic variables –Income, consumption, investment, savings, exports, imports, employment, among others– to achieve a predetermined set of development objectives (Todaro and Smith 2011). The main objective of planning by government, according to Ayinla (1998), is a deliberate effort and conscious choice regarding the rate and direction of economic growth and development within a defined time-frame. Therefore, a comprehensive national development plan is necessary to be able to make rational decisions to achieve deliberate, consistent and well-balanced action towards socio-economic development and good governance. Thus, the successful implementation of many projects in Nigeria before and after independence and up to the point covered in this study was due substantially to the strategy of pursuing economic and social development through periodic national development plans and economic transformation policies.

A Critical Appraisal of Past Development Plans in Nigeria

- **The Era of Fixed Medium Term Plan (1962-1985)**

A critical analysis of the objectives and policy thrust of development plans during the era of fixed medium term plan in Nigeria (1962-1985) shows that the underlying philosophy was a precondition for the achievement of:

- (i) Rapid growth and equal distribution of income of the population in general;
- (ii) Satisfaction of basic social and economic needs and increase in standard of living of the masses;
- (iii) Poverty alleviation and manpower development;
- (iv) Creation of employment opportunities;
- (v) Diversification of the economy;
- (vi) Sustainment of a democratic and freely participatory society; and
- (vii) Development of infrastructures.

- **Main Achievements:** This Era achieved some mild successes in plan implementation. Apart from policy formulation and restructuring of some sectors of the economy, major projects executed during the period were the setting up of the Nigeria Security minting and printing company in Lagos; Kainji Dam; Jebba Paper Mills; the Niger Bridge; Port Harcourt, Warri and Kaduna Refineries; Superphosphate plants in PH and Kaduna establishment of many Colleges of Technology and Trade Centers in the country; growth in manufacturing averaging 18.1% and construction and government services, 13.8% per annum (OKigbo, 1989 and Onah, 2010). The period also witnessed a remarkable GDP growth rate of

12.8% in the third plan although this declined to less than 3.0% at the end of the fourth plan.

- **Prevailing Challenges:** The main challenge to the full implementation of the 1st plan of this Era (1960-1968) was two major political events - the military intervention in 1966 and the 1967-70 civil war. The plan also failed because 50% of resources needed to finance the plan was to come from external sources, and only 4% of the external finance was received (Ogunmike, 1995). Obadan and Ogiogio (1993) also observed that the plan failed because it was drawn virtually without well-organised data and lacked internal consistency as they were coordinated from the regions whose socio-political foundations were originally very weak and their proposed projects had strong regional competitiveness. They also opined that although a National Planning Commission was set up and foreign experts invited to assist in plan formulation, but the actual plan implementation was entrusted in the hands of Nigeria's technocrats who lacked the expertise to do a thorough work since they played only a minor role in the plan formulation. Thus, the chance of a successful plan implementation was very limited.

The 2nd plan of the Era (1970-1974) also suffered some pitfalls in implementation. Although the planning machinery was strengthened and public participation as well as inputs from various levels and agencies of government were encouraged, their inclusion did not actually influence plan implementation. The guiding principles were distorted. Ejumudo (2013) remarked that this plan implementation was comparatively better than the first plan in terms of plan distortions. Also, Obadan and Ogiogio (1993) observed that the major weaknesses of the plan centered on immeasurable objectives and weak executive capacity. The objectives were such that could not be evaluated in terms of the specific goals and targets set. Apart from their vagueness, Obadan & Ogiogio (1993), Ogunmike (1995), Nnadozie (2004) and Onah (2010), opined that there was no political will to execute the plan, lack of funds due to the fall in international price of oil, corruption, lack of technical skills, mono-product economy, among others.

The 3rd and 4th plans of the Era (1975-1980 and 1981-1985) suffered the same set back especially the impact of a mono-product economy. According to Ayo (1988), despite their laudable objectives, the implementation was adversely affected by the change of government in July, 1975; fluctuation in international oil markets; high trade deficits and high level of corruption. Obadan and Ogiogio (1993) also noted that there was too much dependence on the external sector such that the policy

base of the plan before the stringent economic stabilization measures were those geared towards externalization rather than indigenized growth. Thus, the plans collapsed because the economy did not have its own driving force. Okojie (2002) also remarked that “at the end of the fourth plan period, the foundation for sustainable growth and development was yet to be laid; the productive base of the economy and sources of government revenue were yet to be diversified and the economy did not have its own driving force and was therefore highly susceptible to external shocks.”

- **The Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) Era (1986-1990):** When it became obvious that the country could no longer rely on the fixed term plans because of the huge shortfalls in expected earnings from oil which adversely affected the performance of the fourth plan, government decided to adopt a policy plan - the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP). The SAP was introduced in 1986 to cover the period 1986-1988, and later extended to provide a policy basis for the successive 3-year rolling plans which commenced in 1990. SAP was basically a ‘reform therapy’ and ‘economic emergency’ programme from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMP) and underscored a shift from project- based to policy-based planning system, and emphasized a private-sector-led economy rather than the prevailing public-sector-led philosophy that had inspired previous plans (Obadan & Ogiogio, 1993). According to Ukah (2006), it was also designed to arrest the problems of huge shortfalls in oil sector receipts, including persistent fiscal deficits, huge deficits in balance of payment account, huge backlog of on-going uncompleted projects and a high incidence of external debt servicing.
- **Main Achievements:** The key policy reforms of the SAP Era were the dismantling of most of the administrative control measures introduced in 1982 and putting in place a framework that relied more on market forces and broadening the supply base of the economy; establishment of the Second Tier Foreign Exchange Market (SFEM strengthening the observed public sector inefficiencies through improved public expenditure control programmes; rationalization of parastatals; the relief of debt burden so as to attract foreign capital while relying on fresh foreign loans; exchange rate control policy; review of trade and commercial policies; fiscal and debt management policy. To achieve these, a number of integrated development initiatives which Okolie and Onah (2002) and Onah (2006) refer to as rural development strategies were put in place. Such programmes includes Agricultural Development Schemes, National Accelerated Food Production Programme, DFRRI, NDE, MAMSER, Civil Service Reforms, SAP Relief Package, of 1989

and 1992, the People's Bank and the Community Banks participation in economic development. Also, average growth rate of Real GDP increases to 6 in 1991 against pre-SAP rate of 3.95%. (NPC, 1993, cited in Udodo and Ubi-Abai, 2016).

- **Prevailing Challenges:** The policy measures of SAP translated into loss of jobs as both the public and private sectors restructured their operations to cope with the SAP policies. It also resulted in the suspension of welfare packages and subsidy to workers. Many businesses had to close their shops as the new exchange rate regime made it impossible for them to remain in business. The excruciating and traumatic experience of the SAP era reversed the gains of the past development plans. Thus Annah (2014) opines that despite the existence of development plans and the abundance of crude oil revenue, Nigeria could not be said to have evolved an egalitarian society because the dichotomy between the rural and urban areas has persisted and the gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen while social services deteriorate and infrastructural facilities decay.

- **The Perspective and Rolling Plan Era (1990-1998)**

There came the perspective plan - the institutionalization of the perspective plan was believed would help in-

Examining the long-term development options open to Nigeria;

1. Identifying possible bottlenecks to their attainment (between 15-20 years)
2. Offering possible solution in terms of policies and programmes;
3. Determining the pattern of future investment in the key sectors of the economy; and
4. Addressing policy measures require achieving the set policy targets.

As Ejumudo (2013) opines, the implementation of the perspective plan was not different from previous plans. It was divided into a 3-year medium term rolling plans which were implemented through the annual budget and which drew inspirations from the broad objectives and goals of the perspective plans. This was later remodeled as Vision 2010, which was intended to make Nigeria one of the developed nations in the world in terms of economic prosperity, political stability and social harmony. The broad policy objectives of the rolling plans were to achieve real economic growth and macro economic stability among other objectives in order to alleviate the problems of unemployment and poverty in the society.

A comparative analysis between planned implementation and actual development in Nigeria by Kayode and Akume (2012) shows a marked deviation from targets. With Nigeria's investment rate falling and below 20-25% of the GDP compared to that attained by the economies of the East Asian tigers, which aided them to achieve 7-8% GDP growth rate, the 5.8% investment share of the GDP was too small to generate meaningful economic growth. According to them, the challenge has continued to be one of heavy reliance on crude oil as the only source of funding, weak monetary policy to strengthen the monetary system, and the scourging effects of inflation on project implementation and overall balance of payment deficits. Hence, much of the articulated programmes of deregulating the economy, reducing bureaucratic red-tapism in governance, creating jobs, alleviating poverty and providing welfare programmes and infrastructural development were not achieved. Thus, Nigeria went further down the lanes of impoverished nations despite her position as the 6th among the oil producing countries of the world.

- **The National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy Era (2003-2007)**

The basic thrust of NEEDS was focused on empowerment, wealth creation, employment generation, poverty reduction and value reorientation. The policy was implemented across the three levels of government. Marcellus (2009) and Iheanacho (2014) evaluated the performance of the programme in Nigeria. It was further noted that NEEDS suffered the same pitfall as other development plans in the country. According to them, most of the professed objectives were not achieved both at the national, state and local government levels. Although Nigeria's annual budget had crossed the threshold of billions into trillions of naira, but the real per capita income of Nigerians falls into the one dollar per head level of the poorest countries.

Education which was expected to empower the citizens witnessed increase in the number of educational institutions from primary to tertiary institutions with greater private sector participation. Iheanacho (2014) noted that despite these increase in the number of educational institutions, the cost of education was exorbitantly high especially in the private institutions; and hence most citizens could not afford this high cost and this led to the reduction in the number of citizens that can have access to higher education, and thus, hampered their empowerment.

NEEDS had planned to create about seven million jobs by 2007, but the reality was that most policies adopted by the government to realize these objectives were inimical to employment generation. Thus, as Marcellus (2009) put it, “in an effort to reform government institutions, many employees, instead, lost their jobs.” For instance, more than 800 employees lost their jobs at the Central Bank in 2005 either through mandatory retirement or redundancy (CBN, 2005).

NEEDS also failed to achieve the expected objectives in the area of infrastructural development. For example, electricity supply, which incidentally was a major policy choice area of the government fell down tremendously to a dangerous proportion by 2007. Adegboyega (2006) observed that “we have to look beyond Obasanjo’s reform package if we must get out of the power quagmire”. As a medium term plan, most of the objectives of NEEDS should have been achieved before the expiration of Obasanjo’s administration in May, 2007, but like previous development plans in Nigeria, it failed to achieve the objectives.

NEEDS strategy of wealth creation and by implication, employment generation and poverty reduction, was through the empowerment of the people and promotion of private enterprise. The empowerment policy failed to achieve much impact in such cited areas as tackling social exclusion, housing, health care, education, skill acquisition, protecting the vulnerable and promotion of peace and security.

- **The Nigeria’s Vision 2010**

The Nigeria’s Vision 2010 was yet another economic development blueprint of immediate, short-term, medium-term and long-term measures and action plans which, when implemented, would translate the vision of where we would like to be at 50, into reality; stimulating economic growth, transforming Nigeria into a developed country and ensuring the realization of the aspirations of Nigeria in the year 2010. Ayodele, Obafemi and Ebong (2013) stated that there were two (2) phases of economic strategy between 1999 and 2007. The first four years (1999-2003) were characterized by unstructured reforms while the second term (2004-2007) witnessed the initiation of a programme of economic revival embodied in the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) in 2004.

The policy thrust of this Era also failed to achieve the articulated objectives as in other plans before it. These pitfalls persuaded the Umaru Musa Yaradua and Goodluck Ebele Jonathan administrations to return to the era of multi-year development planning by harmonizing the development agenda of National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy and 7 Point Agenda to form an integral part of Nigeria's Vision 20:2020. Attaining the goal of being one of the biggest economies in the world means Nigeria must be able to do what these countries can do and as Ayodele, et al (2013) put it, "Nigeria's Vision 20:2020 will not be realizable merely because we have a national development plan but the vision need to be translated into concrete and consistent policy actions."

- **The Nigeria's Vision 20:2020 And Critical Perspectives of Mr. President 7-Point Agenda**

The Nigeria's Vision 20:2020 is a long term strategic plan which seeks to create an enabling and catalytic environment to foster broad-based private-sector-led economic growth and development in Nigeria by 2020. It draws heavily from the experience of countries like China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brazil, which have based their economic development on systematic strategic planning models with great successes. The Vision 20:2020 is predicated on two mutually reinforcing and specifically defined targets of being among the top 20 economies in the world with a GDP of US \$900 billion and per capita income of US \$4000 per annum. These targets for the year 2020 are based on a dynamic comparative analysis of the country's potential growth rate and economic structure vis-à-vis those of other top 20 economies of the world using GDP and HDI (NBS, 2013).

Practically, Nigeria's Vision 20:2020 was divided into three (3) medium term plans: the 1st National Implementation Plan (2010-2013), 2nd NIP (2014-2017) and the 3rd NIP (2017- 2020). These were 'anchored on three (3) key pillars which include: guaranteeing the productivity and well-being of the people; optimizing the key sources of economic growth; and fostering sustainable social and economic development These were further anchored on five (5) strategic thrusts with eighteen (18) expected outcomes. The expected outcomes of strategic thrust 1 and 2 are poverty eradication and wealth creation, health care, housing, education, and environment conducive for business, work condition and macroeconomic stability The expected outcomes of strategic thrust 3 to 5 are quality infrastructures, legal framework and good judicial system, security and good governance. It is imperative to briefly examine the I "National Implementation Plan of the Nigeria's Vision 20:2020.

- **An Appraisal of the First NIP, Economic Transformation and FG Change Agenda Development Plans (2010 – 2019)**

The implementation of the 1st medium term Plan of the Vision 20:2020 (NIP-I) spans 2010 and 2013 with well-defined goals, targets, strategies and priorities, and inclusive of monitoring and evaluation mechanism. Table 3A in the appendix shows the aggregate investment 7 projection for the 1st NIP As shown, a gross investment projection of N4,675.6 billion was provided in 2010; N6,253.4 billion in 2011; N8,471.0 billion in 2012 and N12,978.5 billion in 2013 (NPC, 2010). The share of Government to private sector contribution was 60:40. Total investment projection for the 1st NIP, 2010-2013 was N32,378.6 billion, thus giving an average of N8,094.65 per year (NPC, 2010).

The economy, in the first National Implementation Plan (NIP), was expected to grow at an average of 11.0% and improve its world economic rating ranging from 34th (2010) to 31st (2012); oil and gas at 14%; non-oil at 86%, agriculture at 40%, services at 30%, manufacturing at 15% and others at 1% (NBS, 2013; NPC, 2013). Table 3B in the appendix shows major sector performances at that of 2012 while table 3C shows the actual GDP growth rate per sector and the share of Real GDP per sector as at end of 1st NIP, 2012. The actual overall GDP growth rate dropped during the period to 6.58% against 7.4% in 2011 while that of oil and gas and non-oil sectors were almost marginally low at -0.91% and 7.88% against the target of 0.03% and 8.92% respectively. The growth rate of Agriculture and manufacturing also fell short, not only of the target in 2012 but also against 2011. Agriculture growth rate stood at 3.97% in 2012 against 5.7% in 2011 and manufacturing at 7.55% in 2012 against 7.6% in 2011 (NBS, 2013; NPC, 2013) cited in Udoudu and Ubi-Abai (2016). Also the policy thrust of government between 2014 to 2019 was critically analyzed in the light of unresolved challenges of implementation plan recorded in 2013 (ASBS survey, 2017).

Research Methodology

The study adopts a historical approach in its investigation. The information required are mainly historical and are drawn to gain a clearer perspective of the present day by linking the past to the future. The data are generated from the official gazettes and publications of the Federal Government, National Bureau of Statistics, National Planning Commission, Central Bank of Nigeria, and United Nations Development Planning among others. The study covers the period of 1960 to 2019.

Findings and Discussions

According to Franklin and Nelson (2015), the implementation of the 1st National Implementation Plan of Vision 20:2020 indicated some committed attempt on the part of government to actualize the vision and make Nigeria to be among the 20 top economies in the world come 2020. The growth rates, as outlined, are in consonance with the actual quality of life; and other strategic goals and outcomes of the vision plan. This further indicates that there are more challenges militating against effective implementation of the vision 20:2020.

- **Low Level of Human Capital Development:** A low level of human capital development continues to pervade the effective utilization of our numerous natural potentials eg capacity building, among others in developing the economy. How well a nation develops and employs her human resources is indispensable to the conversion of other resources into productive services. For instance, some Asian Tigers like Japan, Russia, China, Malaysia were able to transform their economies due to the high level of human resources despite the absence abundant mineral resources like Nigeria. Educational institutions in Nigeria have been on the increase and yet, the nation is still lacking in terms of effective manpower to develop the economic sectors.
- **Inadequate Development of Existing Technologies:** Despite the fast development of technology across the globe, the country's present posture on digitalization remains at its lowest ebb amidst the abundant financial and numerous mineral resources capabilities. These resources need to be effectively harnessed for the nation's technological development. For example, an attempts at technological transfer and adaptation in Nigeria failed because of the absence of productive industries. Most of the existing industries are mere packaging ones while the relevant ones had been relocated to neighbouring West African Countries due to high cost of operation.
- **Absence of Policy Consistency and Continuity:** As observed by Kayode and Akume (2012) cited in Udoudu and Ubi-Abail (2016), every regime that comes to power normally abandon all policies relating to on-going projects and programmes without recourse to their prospects, priorities and cost implications. Past laudable development visions and plans have suffered this set-back and this raises serious doubt on the faithfulness and/or the possible realization of Nigeria's Vision 20:2020.
- **High Level of Corruption:** Corruption in the Country has become endemic. This has widely spread to all the government ministries, departments, agencies which

include educational institutions, military, anti-corruption campaign groups, and the judiciary among others. Also, the lack of political will and commitment by our leaders especially those in the state and national assemblies worsen the sincere pursuit and attainment of the goals of the vision.

- **Continuous Dependence on Oil Economy:** The Country has continued to depend on oil sector as its major source of revenue for financing the development plan. This over-dependence has been the main reason for the set-back in the implementation of development plans since independence. Again, the past and present Governments have continued to pay up lip service to the issue of economic diversification. The demand for and price of crude oil have been the subject of international politics. Once a fluctuation in international oil market is experienced, the Nigeria's dream in realizing its vision of 20:2020 turns into a colossal failure.
- **Increasing Incidence of Poverty and Unemployment:** The incidence of the above factors continues to threaten the existence of Nigeria. For example, the issues of hunger, diseases, poverty, and high rate of unemployment among the employable youths and women abound in the country. These lead to youth involvement in various social vices like kidnapping, internet fraud, highway robbery, killings, human abuses and corruption. The progressive report of the International Community on Nigeria's Poverty and unemployment rating has remained very high in recent times. The UNDP Human Development Index put the Poverty Index in Nigeria at about 70% of its population and a little below this rating by National Bureau of Statistics (UNDP, 2013; NBS, 2014). All the anti-poverty programmes of government and NGOs have failed to reduce poverty and average condition of living of Nigerians. The poor conditions of average Nigerian continues to deteriorate because of lack of basic necessities of life such as food, clothing, shelter, basic education, security, health care among others. This is exacerbated by the degree of unstable political system of administration, which gives rise to inadequate security of lives and property of the citizens, closure of companies due to high cost of production, mass movement of unemployed youths to another country in search of better livelihood. These factors will mar the effective attainment of the vision.
- **Absence of Good Governance:** Purposeful, discipline and committed leadership can promote good governance by showing transparency, probity and accountability in the management of organizations. Bad leaders are not committed to public goods. These types of leaders are responsible for the past and present economic development woes which the nation and her citizens are suffering today.

Until these dilapidating issues are addressed, and the path to true democratic governance restored, the Nigeria's Vision 20:2020 will fail.

- **Institutional Mechanisms are Weak:** Nigeria is blessed with abundant natural and human resource but the institutional mechanisms like political, economic, educational, religious organizations, lack the necessary skills and moral commitment to advance the course of the independent nation remain problematic. The institutions are rather trapped in tribal politics, policy inconsistency, and 'get-rich quick' Syndrome such that the right persons are not elected or appointed to the right positions where they can perform the duties. Appointments are based on political patronages, and misguided national character principle. These institutions weaken the policy implementation and even the public service as the only organ of government is weak and corrupt.

Conclusion

The Nigeria Vision 20:2020 as a fulcrum for redesigning Nigeria's future is a well-articulated and laudable developmental programme capable of turning the fortunes of Nigeria and Nigerians and making it one of the top 20 developed economies in the world. But the developmental challenges be addressed at almost the near end of this vision are real. We do not pretend that the level of attainment of vision 20:2020 today is the final answer in the implementation of the development plan. The challenge is to draw attention to the fine blueprint, and raise matters that policy makers may forget in the haste to showcase some macro-economic gains. The path to a slot among 20 leading economies in the world is long and is likely to be far more painful.

Nigeria is a nation in a hurry to develop a sound and enduring socio-economic structure. We must work as a people to realize our full potentials, and provide the much needed leadership on the African Continent. Our sincere desire is that this small paper with a written word will drive one step to further Nigeria's dream of "a united, industrious, caring, disciplined, committed leaders and God-fearing democratic society, committed to making the basic needs to life affordable for everyone and creating Africa's leading economy" (Osisioma, 2008).

Recommendations

In the light of the above findings and discussions, the following recommendations are made with a view to ensuring effective attainment of Nigeria's Vision 20:2020.

- **There is need to improve the level of human capital development:** The nation's human and natural resources should be explored and utilized effectively

for development of our economy. The numerous human resources must be further equipped through their capacity building, regular training and development to enable them acquire the necessary skills and experience for the nation's economic development.

- **Adequate development of Existing technologies:** The issue of digitalization is now a global issue. The business world has become highly competitive in all dimensions of market development which cannot be successfully carried out without the aid of modern computer technologies. Therefore, adequate funding of Science and Technology by the government is imperative. The modern technological equipments and devices will certainly fasten the development of the nation's administration and various sectors of the economy.
- **Efforts must be made by Government to ensure consistent policies and continuity of Government:** The absence of consistency and continuity of government activities and programs by past regimes are largely responsible for abandoned projects and programmes. For example, some of these projects involve huge sums of money and are often funded by government borrowing through financial institutions with attendant cost implications. Henceforth, all approved and adopted policies must be consistent and it may be regularly reviewed when such policies seem obsolete in any given circumstance.
- **The issue of corruption must be Stopped:** This problem has continued to defy our leaders, all the institutions of government and our society at large. The leaders need to take a bold step and strong resolve to reduce the incidence of corruption by strengthening its anti-corruption agencies and punishing perpetrators severely.
- **There is the need to Diversify the Nation's Economy and reduce Over-dependence on the Oil Economy as the Main-stay of the Nigeria's Economy:** A serious effort must be made to harness the natural potentials like agriculture, mineral deposits, industry among others through Science and technology.
- **Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation should be made the Priority of the Government:** Also, the private sectors must be fully involved in the employment of people through a policy of Government-Private Sector Partnership. When adequate funds are invested in industry and trade, a lot of the unemployed will not only be gainfully employed to earn income for their welfare, but the future generation will have hope of sustenance and secured society.
- **Good Governance as Opposed to bad Governance must be advocated for:** This can be done by ensuring that only people who have integrity and credible records of service and experience should be elected into public offices. When this

is done holistically, true leaders will emerge who can now hopefully address development plans of Nigeria's Vision 20:2020 unrelentlessly.

- **All the Institutions of Government need to be Strengthened to make them more responsive to the Services of the Nigerians:** Further, any institutions that is found wanting must be sanctioned and the leadership replaced without fear or favour. All the due process mechanisms in place must be adhered to and deviants tried accordingly through law courts.

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