

THE ASSESSMENT OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD) TO THE SOCIO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA C. 2001-2014

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ABSTRACT

This paper investigates the assessment of the contribution of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to the socio-economic development of Nigeria 2001-2014. The aim of this paper is to examine: The Evolution of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Perspectives on the Creation of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Aims and Objectives of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Contributions of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and Good Governance, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Economic and Corporate Governance, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Peace and Security for Sustainable Development, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) impact on Agriculture and Infrastructure in Nigeria, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Pan-African Cassava Initiative and Challenges confronting the Implementation of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in Nigeria. The study made use of both primary and secondary sources of data. The primary source was obtained through oral interview, archival materials and Manuscripts. While the secondary sources include information from media, news papers and magazines, text books, journals, published, unpublished and internet materials etc The findings revealed that NEPAD is directly responsible, from the start, for some of the most important development strategies implemented in key areas such as agriculture, with CAADP (Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme), or infrastructure PIDA (Programme for infrastructural Development in Africa, areas that are also deemed to be utmost priority). The findings also revealed that, the original approach is about evaluating political or economic governance in countries that are willing to be assessed. Again, NEPAD, adopted as the African Union programme for development, is very different from its predecessors. It focuses on political leadership and will, where by African leaders undertake to lead differently and be accountable to their people and to each other.

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The study will contribute to Nigeria and African nations on how to harness the resources that will improve their living conditions and to improve on agricultural sector as well as other sectors of the economy. It will also help the Nigeria and other African leaders on policy making.

KEYWORDS: Africa, Development, New partnership, Economic, Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

Since the late 1970s, African leaders have been in search of a policy framework to guide a continent-wide fundamental socio-economic transformation that would enable them to place the continent on a path to sustainable development. The common thread in all the plans is the ambition to achieve self-reliance, sub regional and continental economic integration, economic growth and sustainable development. These policy frameworks include: the Lagos Plan of Action for the Economic Development of Africa, (1980-2000); the African Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (1986-1990); the UN Programme of Action for Africa's Economic Recovery and Development ((UN-PAAERD) 1986-1990) and later the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment for Socio-economic Transformation ((AAF-SAP) 1986); the African Charter for Popular Participation for Development (1990); and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa (UN-NADAF) in the 1990s (1991).

Unfortunately, these policy frameworks were never fully implemented for a number of reasons. Firstly, African countries and the then Organization of African Unity (OAU) lacked the will to implement the programmes. Secondly, the majority of African countries were either under military rule or dictatorship, a situation which undermined accountability and reduced the focus on socio-economic development. Instead, resources were diverted to military expenditure and other non-developmental projects. Thirdly, there was no support from the international community, especially the

multilateral development finance institutions. Fourthly, African countries themselves tended to be opportunistic in implementing reforms and allowed the nature and sequencing to be dictated by donors.

The major development at the continental level was the transformation of the Organization of Africa Unity into the African Union. The principles and values that characterize the new world order are enshrined in the Constitutive Act establishing the African Union. During negotiations on the Constitutive Act of the African Union, some African leaders realized the urgent need to launch a new and radical initiative to effectively address poverty and the increasing marginalization of Africa from the globalization process. The adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the United Nations in the year 2000 gave further urgency to addressing Africa's challenges to attain the MDGs. African leaders accepted that it was time for Africans to take ownership and responsibility of their own development. This led to the initiation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) by president Olushegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, Tabo Mbeki of South Africa, Bouteflika of Algeria, Wade of Senegal, and Mubarak of Egypt.

NEPAD, adopted as the African Union programmed for development, is very different from its predecessors. It focuses on political leadership and will, whereby African leaders undertake to lead differently and be accountable to their people and to each other. Through instrument like the African Peer

Review Mechanism (APRM), an assessment system voluntarily adopted by the member states of the African Union for mutual assessment of their governance practices and development policies.

This paper is therefore, aimed at an assessment of the contributions of NEPAD to the socio-economic development of Nigeria from 2001-2014. How its programmes has promoted sustainable growth and development, eradicate poverty, integrate Nigeria in world economy, accelerate the empowerment of women and above all enthrone good governance, democracy, human rights and conflict resolution.

THE EVOLUTION OF NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD)

A proper understanding of what NEPAD is (and probably what it is not) could be helped by coming to grasp with the antecedent that led to its emergence. Several African intellectuals, policy makers and thinkers concerned about Africa have had to ask and attempt to answer what NEPAD is all about. It has severally been described as; "KNEEPAD"(to enable Africa to *crawl* faster), "a new partnership between rider and horse" "a process of enslavement", "second slavery", "Africa's "New Deal", "old wine in new African bottles" and rather humorously without mirth by our own former president, *Olusegun Obasanjo* as Africa's "newest wife" and thus deserving attention!

History is living antecedents, with its main aim of uniting the past with the present for the purpose of charting the future. One area where propaganda and subjectivism prevail over science is the historical origins of African underdevelopment. Contrary to the view advanced by racist and bourgeois apologists of imperialism, pre-colonial societies in Sub-Saharan Africa were anything but a static system. For example, one of these racist and

bourgeois apologists, Alfred Marshall, characterized Pre-colonial African people as savages

under the dominion of custom and impulse, scarcely every striking out new lines for themselves; never forecasting the distant future; fulfill in spite of their servitude to custom; governed by the fancy of the moment; ready at all times for the most arduous exertions, but incapable of keeping themselves long to steady work.

We disagree with Mashall in view of the fact that, pre-colonial African societies were dynamic and became more complex through sometimes evolutionary and other times revolutionary occurrences over the centuries. Changes in their techniques of production, level of production, migrations, and patterns of contact with other societies gave rise to societal transformation. This development applied to both centralized and non-centralized societies in pre-colonial Africa.

PERSPECTIVES ON THE CREATION OF NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD)

In 2001 the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was launched in Abuja. The goals of this nascent organization were far-reaching and extensive. They included: the eradication of poverty, the production of sustainable growth, the reversing of African marginalization and the empowerment of women and minorities. The closing lines of the organization's policy framework encompass these aims stating that 'in fulfilling its promise, this agenda must give hope to the emaciated African child that the 21st century is indeed Africa's century.' NEPAD enshrined the principles of continued integration of African states, partnership within Africa and with those outside of the continent and the fulfilling of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In

2010 it became a technical arm of the new African Union (AU) and has launched the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), which is an inspection of good governance and democracy in volunteer states by other African nations. At present it has 29 members (over 70% of all African states) including Nigeria, Rwanda, Algeria, Congo and Egypt.

NEPAD and its associated programs have been widely accepted among African states, regional and international organizations and academics. Indeed, K. R. Hope argues that NEPAD 'constitutes the most important advance in African development policy during the last four decades. Undoubtedly it is an ambitious programme and represents perhaps one last hope for Africa to reverse its slide into irrelevance.' However, critiques of NEPAD, its programs and philosophy have been leveled from many different sides. Critics argue that NEPAD is nothing radically new and is in fact, as Henning Melber argues, simply 'old wine in new bottles,' a new face on old policies and ideas. It is seen as overly westernized and pursuing a western agenda and that it often fails to understand the realities of the political systems it encounters. Others argue that NEPAD was set up by political elites whose pasts do not mirror the aims of democracy and good governance that they espouse (e.g. Hosni Mubarak and Thabo Mbeki), and that it was created with little consultation and partnership. Political economists argue that the growth required for the development targets set by NEPAD is over-ambitious in the current climate.

Perhaps one of the most important aspects of the New Partnership for Africa's Development is that it is an African organization, founded and run by African leaders. Therefore, it demonstrates a newfound need and ability for Africans to help themselves rather than rely on outside nations and organizations such as the UN. Indeed, the framework document of NEPAD states 'This New Partnership for Africa's

Development is a pledge by African leaders, based on a common vision and a firm and shared conviction ... the Programme is anchored on the determination of Africans to extricate themselves and the continent from the malaise of underdevelopment and exclusion in a globalizing world.' Even its critics among civil society groups agree that the ideas of 'self-reliance' and a 'focus on "African ownership and management"' are huge positives brought by NEPAD. Indeed, Gottschalk and Schmidt go even further arguing that 'both NEPAD and the AU can be regarded as unprecedented developments in Africa, whether Sub-Saharan or North. They are continent-wide, indigenous initiatives providing the continent with a vision for Africa in the twenty-first century.' These ideas push the flourishing idea of an 'African Renaissance' in which (as in 15th Century Europe) Africa will experience a cultural rebirth, with a spread of democracy and emancipation led by a renewed focus on African values, culture and glorious past and with a focus on greater economic and scientific success. From this point of view, NEPAD represents one of the first real steps in the African journey from irrelevance, conflict, neo-patrimonialism, aid dependency and poverty to a new, African-led future of integration, democracy and economic control.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD)

As is traditional with programmes of this nature, statements articulating aims and objectives, both long-term and short-term, are always in abundant supply. Whether these aims and objectives are later realized however depends on availability of resources and the kind of determination of the promoters of such programmes. The aims and objectives drawn up by African leaders who are the main promoters of the programmes are all embracing, covering

almost all areas of problems, needs and general aspirations of the African continent. The objectives essentially include: firstly, to eradicate poverty, to place African countries both individually and collectively on a path of sustainable growth and development, to halt the marginalization of Africa in the globalization process and enhance its full and beneficial integration into the global economy and to accelerate the empowerment of women.

In an attempt to actualize the purpose of NEPAD in Africa and in order to translate the vision goal from ideal to reality, the following objectives have been drawn up:

- a. To strengthened the mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution and ensure that they are used to restore and maintain peace
- b. Promote and protect democracy and human rights by developing clear standards of accountability, transparency and participative governance.
- c. Restore and maintain macroeconomic stability by developing standards and targets for fiscal and monetary policies and appropriate institutional frameworks.
- d. Institute transparent legal and regulatory frameworks for financial markets and auditing of private companies and the public sector.
- e. Revitalize and extend the provision of education, technical training and health services (with priority on HIV/aids, malaria and other communicable diseases).
- f. Promote the role of women in social and economic development in africa.
- g. Build the capacity of the states in africa to set and enforce the legal framework and maintain law and order.
- h. Promote the development of infrastructure, agriculture and its diversification.

In general, all these objectives are anchored on ensuring peace and security; democracy and good political, economic and corporate governance; regional co-operation and integration and capacity building.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD)

In analyzing progress made since the emergence of NEPAD in 2001, it should be borne in mind that transforming a country and a continent is a process that cannot be achieved in a short-span of time. NEPAD is essentially a reform and transformation agenda to change the way African countries, regional African groupings, and Africa's international partners have conducted their affairs in the past. In conceptualizing NEPAD, African leaders understood that the transformation processes they had embarked on would take decades or even generations to accomplish. In this respect, NEPAD, having defined its strategic framework and key sectoral priority programmes, is presently in the implementation phase. It is important to emphasize that NEPAD itself is not an implementation agency. Implementation has to happen primarily at different levels of member states, regional economic communities and continental and regional institutions. With this in mind, national governments are expected to implement NEPAD programmes of good governance policies, standards and practices that conform to the declaration on: Democracy and Political Governance, Economic Governance and Management, Corporate Governance and Socio-Economic Development along the following lines: first and foremost, there was deepening ownership, promoting self-reliant development and strengthening leadership at national levels through the internalization of NEPAD values and principles; secondly, there was also the establishment of NEPAD focal

points (persons and institutions) to deepen ownership and mainstreaming of national NEPAD programmes based on the generic key sectoral programmes developed by NEPAD; again there was the acceleration for the adoption of NEPAD programmes as frameworks and guidelines for national development plans, such as PRSPs; as well as ensuring that each country is in a position to take full advantage of international support mobilized by NEPAD; other lines were, complying with major AU and REC resolutions linked to the implementation of NEPAD; and deepening engagement with the private sector and civil society in the development and implementation of NEPAD programmes; and finally, committing adequate resources to the implementation of NEPAD priority programmes. Judging from the foregoing, it can be said that NEPAD policies and priorities have now become the internationally approved framework for Africa's development. The African Peer Review Mechanism, which is a NEPAD innovation and one of its flagship programmes, has received international acclaim and the first set of review has been completed. These are things that were not in the priority of development partners. Through NEPAD, Africa has challenged successfully and changed the development paradigm. Agriculture, infrastructure, and regional integration which were not recognized as priorities are now internationally accepted.

NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD) AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

In the governance of any polity as a defined structure, the role of the constitution as the legal framework within which policies and laws are fashioned is enormous. It is the document that is often said to be the reference point especially in the presidential democracy as it is being practiced in Nigeria. The principle of the rule of law is like other attributes of liberal

democracies such as accountability, transparency, human rights promotion and protection which are essential elements of democracy. Without these principles, the process and success of a democratic system is likely to be endangered or as some would say, such a democracy is bereft of its inherent value and sanctity. Put differently, without the rule of law democracy is impracticable as arbitrariness is likely to hold sway and torpedo the process of realizing good governance. The term 'rule of law' encompasses all it takes to uphold, promote and safeguard the supremacy of law over any proclivities of institutions, groups or individuals. It is a term which is essentially instrumental to the nurturing of a virile democratic culture and democratic consolidation. Essentially, where democracy has engendered a positive outcome, it is because the enabling environment for the flourishing of the rule of law is provided, nurtured and respected by the institutions of horizontal accountability, to wit, the executive, legislature, the judiciary, the civil society, organizations, police and other relevant institutions and agencies.

NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD) ECONOMIC AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

According to NEPAD document, the pre-condition for the African Renaissance is predicated on the maintenance of "macro-economic stability, especially by developing appropriate standards and targets for fiscal and monetary policies and introducing appropriate institutional frameworks to achieve these standards". This is geared towards capacity building particularly for state functionaries to enable them fulfill their assignments in the area of development. And, this is particularly important since it is realized that in promoting economic growth and development and in the implementation of Poverty Reduction

Programmes, the object of this initiative is to promote through the participating countries a set of concrete and time-bound programmes aimed at enhancing the quality of economic and public financial management as well as corporate governance. In paragraph ninety-six, NEPAD highlighted those sectorial priorities which it initiators believe when in place could help Africa rise to the level of a developed economy. Such infrastructures development as spelt out in the paragraph includes: roads, highways, airports, seaports, railways, waterways and telecommunications failures. Nevertheless, NEPAD's focus is on continental or sub-regional infrastructures development only. In addition, the economic package recognizes that "state capacity-building is a critical aspect of creating conditions for development". Thus, NEPAD emphasizes a "major role" for each country in the promotion of "economic growth and development" and in 'implementing Poverty Reduction Programmes". Having acknowledged the shortcomings of many African governments and lack of capacity for this responsibility, NEPAD also says that "many countries lack the necessary policy and regulatory frameworks for private sector-led growth. They also lack the capacity to implement programmes even when funding is available". It is no wonder then that much priority is accorded to capacity-building and make a priori for each and every participating country.

To show case the importance of good governance to economic development, NEPAD has been in the forefront of the growing international consensus, that Good Governance and Sustainable Human Development are indivisible, and that the development of the capacity for good governance is the primary way to eliminate poverty. If good governance through good leadership is so important for sustained economic development and prosperity, then Nigerians and indeed Africans

have no choice but to make good governance the cornerstone of development. The key features of good governance have been identified to include Responsiveness to the need of the people, Efficiency in public administration and Development oriented budgeting. Good governance places great emphasis on pragmatic strategies for achieving positive and cost effective results in public administration. Good governance also ensures the rules of law, promotes due process, improves efficiency, facilitates accountability, tackles corruption, salute excellence, insist on productivity, and delivers high quality services to the people.

NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD) PEACE AND SECURITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The human security perspective to NEPAD is based on the premise that the upsurge in intra-state conflicts in Africa has not been unconnected with the rapid collapse of human security in African countries. In this light, NEPAD stated that "peace, security...human rights and sound economic management are the conditions for sustainable development". NEPAD's peace and security initiative are subsumed in three elements:

- a. Promoting long-term condition for development and security
- b. Building the capacity for African institutions for early warning as well as enhancing their capacity to prevent, managing and resolve conflicts.
- c. Institutionalizing commitment to the core value of the new partnership for Africa's Development through the leadership.

Nevertheless, what is important about this aspect of NEPAD initiative (going by the above highlight) is that the conception of security of Africans in Africa is still within the framework of

National Security. In Nigeria for instance, since the inception of democratic governance in 1999, the federal government of Nigeria has done little to improve on human rights and protection of its citizen's life and property as one of their cardinal responsibilities. Instead, they turn to be a threat to the wellbeing and corporate existence of their citizens as part of their mandate and statutory responsibility as contained in the constitution. Bloody sectarian clashes for instance, claimed hundreds of lives in late 2008 and 2009, while the government failed to investigate, much less hold accountable, members of the security forces implicated in numerous incidents of extra judicial killings, torture and extortion. The government's amnesty for militants in the Niger Delta failed to address the root causes of the violence. The government demonstrated a lack of political will to reform the police, who were again implicated in numerous extra judicial killings of persons in custody, torture of criminal suspects, and wide spread corruption. On July 30, 2009, the police in the northern city of Maiduguri brazenly executed the Boko Haram leader Mohammed Yusuf in police custody, the following day his father-in-law Baba Mohammed and a former commissioner suspected of funding Boko Haram, BujiFoi, were also reportedly killed in police custody. The government promised to promptly investigate these killings, but to no avail. In November 2008 the police and military were credibly implicated in more than 130 unlawful killings while responding to the election related violence in Jos. The government has still not held members of the security forces accountable for past crimes, including the massacre of more than 200 people by the military in Benue state in 2001. Inter communal, political, and sectarian violence have claimed the lives of more than 13,500 people during the past decade in Nigeria. Nigerian politicians continued to manipulate ethnic and religious tensions by sponsoring

violence for personal political gain, and wide spread poverty and poor governance have created an environment where militant groups can thrive. Violent clashes in July between government security forces and a militant islamist group in northern Nigerian known as Boko Haram left at least 800 dead. In November 2008 more than 700 people were killed during two days Christian Muslim sectarian clashes following a disputed local government election in the central city of Jos. The government has still not held accountable those responsible for the 2007 election violence that left at least 300 dead while a closely fought gubernatorial rerun election in EKITI state in April 2009 was again marred by violence, vote rigging and fraud. Nevertheless, Nigeria's judiciary continuous to exercise a degree of independence in electoral matters, since 2007 the courts have overturned one third of the PDP gubernatorial election victories on the ground of electoral malpractice or other irregularities.

NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD) IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN NIGERIA

The National Programme for Food Security (NPFS) was selected as one of the three priority projects following the preparation of the National Medium Term Investment Programme (NMTIP) for Nigeria as part of NEPAD's Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP). The project directly relates to all priority areas of the National Medium Term Investment Programme (NMTIP)

- a. Sustainable development and Management of Land and Water resources,
- b. Improvement of rural infrastructure and market access,

- c. Improvement of household food security and income,
- d. Fisheries and Acqua culture development and
- e. Livestock development.) And also support all CAADP Pillars.

To this end, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture has introduced several major innovations as part of the on-going fundamental restructuring of the agricultural landscape in Nigeria. First, to assure increased agricultural productivity, the first ever database of farmers in the country was launched as a basis for the efficient and effective distribution of subsidized seeds and fertilizers through mobile phones in 2012 as part of the Growth Enhancement Scheme. This stimulated wider markets for agricultural inputs. As a result of this initiative agricultural productivity and food production increased by 17 million MT by June 2014. Second, the agricultural revolution is being complemented with a financial revolution. Government is aggressively deploying innovative financing mechanisms, such as the Nigeria Incentive-based Risk Sharing for Agricultural Lending, which is providing credit guarantees to Commercial Banks for increased lending as well as the Fund for Agriculture Financing in Nigeria, a private fund, jointly set up by the Governments of Nigeria and Germany to raise private capital for funding in agriculture. These mechanisms are expected to scale up the needed financing for the sector. Thirdly, to reduce some of the risks borne by farmers, the focus is currently on developing the mechanisms for establishing weather index-based insurance schemes for farmers. Current programmes to improve the density of operational weather stations in the country, thereby, improving weather forecast models, are complementing this effort. Fourthly, social safety net policies are being used to reduce vulnerability, especially for women and children. These include conditional cash

transfers, school feeding programmes and nutritional interventions. The "Saving one million lives" initiative targets the use of community management of acute malnutrition and integrated child feeding to reduce under-nutrition. Regional food reserves are also being supported. In 2012 for example, Nigeria contributed 32,000 MT of grains to support Niger Republic and address food shortages. Nigeria has also build up its silo storage capacity network to 1.3 MT, making it the largest in West Africa.

NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD) PAN-AFRICAN CASSAVA INITIATIVE

NEPAD Pan-African Cassava Initiative (PACI) is one of the NEPAD Agricultural initiatives geared towards tapping the enormous potential of cassava to provide for food security and income generation. The concept evolved from series of consultative meetings and workshops held in late 2003 and early 2004 where it was strongly recommended that cassava should be promoted as a poverty fighter across Africa. The objectives of the NEPAD Pan-African Cassava Initiative (PACI) are: to promote awareness (social Marketing) of cassava as both food security and raw material; to facilitate the organization of cassava grower association (to engender deliverance of technology input extension and inputs and also facilitates collective marketing flow of problems of farmers to research and policy makers) others are to expand and sustain cassava production and utilization to enhance household food security and to increase cassava physical production and value addition among cassava growers for improved competitiveness for households income (technology development and transfers) yet others are to identify and create market opportunities and link those markets with growers to facilitate the brokering of contract agreement between them as well as

to establish and or strengthen commodity chain institutions to facilitate development of cassava sector (capacity building) and in addition to advocate for a conducive policy and institutional reforms for cassava development in the continent. And finally to motivate multifunctional investment opportunity for the private sector (innovation funds); and to establish the institutional governance and management to drive the programme.

The strategy focuses on small holder Cassava Growers. It is an integrated approach that provides technology to growers, and links farmers to markets with sustained support from the governments and the private sector. Under the short to medium term, the strategy shall be to utilize technologies already on the shelf, multiply and distribute improved planting materials, increase knowledge on how to produce cassava and processing, technologies and linking growers to identified market. The long term strategy will be on research into cassava of the future through capacity building and market development.

Towards the implementation of this initiative in Nigeria, NEPAD Nigeria has held consultative meetings with relevant stakeholders in the cassava industry. These include members of Presidential committee on Cassava, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Farmers and Processing Associations, etc. on the bases of the consultations, a team of experts drawn from among the key stakeholders in the cassava industry are being put together to prepare a NEPAD PACI Country Strategy for Nigeria. The NEPAD Cassava Country Strategy will be unique to Nigeria and the focus will be on the smallholder cassava producer in line with the continental objective. All the existing cassava development initiatives in Nigeria are to integrate into the strategy.

CHALLENGES CONFRONTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD) IN NIGERIA

While the protagonists of NEPAD are hailing the brains behind the project, its critics are increasing daily. NEPAD has been roundly criticized by academics, diplomats and public policy commentators, the opinion of a group of experts on African Development expressed in the July edition of Africa Today. NEPAD is simply "long on promises but short on specifics". In other words, it is implied that the NEPAD project has promised to do so many things without specifically articulating in realistic and objective sense how such things will be done in sequential order.

NEPAD is not only a vision and an approach to development. It is an institution-based development organization with a large portfolio of programmes and projects. However, it is still a young entity and there are still some unclear and undefined responsibilities among various levels of NEPAD that hampered forward progress. The very combination of vision, development organization and projects on the ground makes implementation unwieldy. For example, a vision sets broad outlines while projects implementation requires detailed, area-specific involvement on the ground. It may be impossible for an organization to do both effectively and within a short-time frame.

Without an implementation organ, NEPAD relies on member states to implement its programmes. However, its relationship with member states and RECs, the responsibilities of each, and communication channels among them, are not well defined. For example, it is not clear whether the authority and responsibility for setting programmes and projects with the HSGIC, the Steering Committee, the Secretariat, RECs, or member

states. This lack of clarity of roles sometimes leads to confusion and duplication of efforts. It may be more effective for NEPAD to confine itself to the vision and setting broad continental goals and assist RECs and member states to carry out the specific projects to achieve those goals.

THE WAY FORWARD

It is important to emphasize that that for meaningful development to take firm root, a number of measures have to be put in place in order to harness the human, material and financial resources that are critical to bring about our desired level of economic growth. First, the task of eradication of poverty cannot be left to government alone; be it national, state or local government. It is a task of all stakeholders and it must of necessity, include communities, the private sector, including Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs). All these constituencies must work together as a team in order to realize the NEPAD vision of a better society.

The process has to effectively take-off at the national level and then to the states and local governments. Appropriate legislative backing is necessary to put in place an effective and functional institutional arrangement for the operationalization of NEPAD programmes in Nigeria. The approval of the Organizational Structure and Self-Accounting Status of NEPAD Nigeria by His Excellency, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, the former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, is worthy of note and highly commendable.

CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), has a set of ambitious forward-thinking goals and ideals and is an excellent example of what Africans can do

when they come together to help the continent out of the quagmire of its history and dependence. The idea of NEPAD represents one of the most outstanding initiatives ever thought of by African leaders. It is anchored on the grounds that, African states share similar history of socio-economic underdevelopment by forces of colonialism. It is recognized by most as a hugely important advance in the struggle for pan-African co-operation and inspires all that is best about the new African Renaissance. Its practical applications, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism, are well received and accepted and show even more that Africa can take control of its own development and governance.

Against this background, this study suggest that although, NEPAD has achieved some successes, a lot remains to be done if the goals of poverty eradication, placing Africa on a sustained development path, integrating Africa into the world and halting its marginalization, and accelerating the empowerment of women, are to be achieved. It has been observed that NEPAD is one of the necessities that saw the transformation of OAU into AU. In essence, it may be considered that being marginalized in the colonial and contemporary international capitalist system; Nigeria and indeed African states have been unable to effectively implement the NEPAD initiative. They are mostly dependent on the international capitalist system for basic survival. For this reason, their economies are under the firm monopoly of multinational corporations. They are not only economies, but their political processes are series of conflicts that in some cases inhibit the successful economic integration or even more socio-economic benefits.

Although, Nigeria or even Africa's own effort will be critically important, there is no doubt that substantially international support will be needed to help Africa achieve, or come as close

as possible to achieving the MDGs. Thus, consistent with commitments already made in various forums, the leading industrial countries need to open up their markets to African products, provide adequate debt relief, and increase as well as improve the delivery of official development assistance. More international support will also be essential for capacity building and strengthening institutions in Africa. In all of these areas, the IMF, the World Bank, the WTO, and the UN system as a whole will also have an important role to play. But it needs to be emphasized that such support will not be forth coming, or will be much smaller than needed, if African countries do not deliver on the major promises and commitments embodied in the visionary NEPAD framework.

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