

ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES ADOPTED BY THE BABANGIDA'S MILITARY REGIME (1985-1993) AND OBASANJO'S DEMOCRATIC REGIME (1999-2007) ON THE NIGERIAN ECONOMY

¹Abdulrahman Adamu, ²Sule Shaka, ³Zuwaira Haruna Rasheed

¹Department of Political Science, Federal University Gusau, Zamafara State, Nigeria

²Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria, Kaduna, Kaduna State, Nigeria

³Umaru Waziri Federal Polytechnic Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

After many decades of independence and political existence, the issue of development in Nigeria has remained just like a dream. Different regimes at various times in Nigerian history have come up with initiatives, plans and programmes to tackle underdevelopment and achieve the goals of development both in human development and economic growth, however, all efforts have yielded little success. It is against this background that this paper assessed the impact of development strategies adopted by the Babangida's military regime and Obasanjo's democratic regime with particular reference to public sector reforms on the socio-economic development of the country. The study reveals among others that, the more policies are formulated and implemented in Nigeria, the deeper she seems to fall into the pitch of underdevelopment. Methodologically, qualitative method of data collection was applied while the Marxian Political Economy Approach was adopted a theoretical framework..

Keywords: Impact, Development, Strategies, Socio-Economic

INTRODUCTION

Globally countries are categorized into developed, developing and underdeveloped. Improvement or desirable changes in the political, economic, social, cultural, industrial and technological aspects of human life are referred to as developed countries, while those faced with backwardness in some or all the aspects are referred to as underdeveloped or developing countries. Nigeria, like most of other African countries is basically seen as developing country. For this reason, different governments at different points in time put in place different policies to tackle the menace of underdevelopment in the country. Most of these policies are micro-economic policies aimed at addressing issues that concerns all segments of the economy. Policies such as Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in 1986, Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), 1978, Green Revolution (GR) 1980, National Directorate of Employment (NDE) 1988 and many others were formulated and implemented by different regimes in Nigeria. Unfortunately, the more policies are formulated and implemented in Nigeria, the deeper she seems to fall into the pitch of underdevelopment. Nigeria therefore, still faced with basic development challenges.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

For the purpose of this assessment, this paper employed the Marxian political economy theory. As a framework, Marxian political economy probes into the debt of issues, the interconnections of phenomena, policies, programmes and initiatives with a view to knowing their class origin, character, composition, logic of their existence and their future. It does not therefore, examine issues superficially, (Anifowose, 1999:53). Marxian political economy scientifically studies the society in its totality, class conflict or antagonism and the organic relationship between sub-structure (economy) and super-structure (politics). The Marxian political economy was used to explain the origin of Nigeria's economic problem, its manifestation and

measures in place to address its development strategies adopted by two administrations (regimes) under study.

ORIGIN OF NIGERIA'S ECONOMIC PROBLEM

Like many countries in Africa, the origin of Nigeria's development problem cannot be divorced from its colonial experience which through its mechanism of unequal exchange and instrument such as trade liberalization, deregulation, exploitation, domination and subordination placed the country at a disadvantaged position. Worthy to note is also the fact that, the colonialists succeeded in the incorporation of the Nigeria economy into the international capitalist economic system which promotes international division of labour in which manufacturing technology and finance capital are prerogative of the industrialized capitalist (ICCS) of the West, while the third world countries Nigeria inclusive were forcefully made to specialize in the production and supply of primary products whose prices are determined by the ICCS (Abubakar and Taiwo, 1999:31).

Gunder Frank 1979, in his book "Dependency, Accumulation and Underdevelopment" argued that the incorporation of the third world countries within the process of capitalist development is the cause of underdevelopment. This further suggests that the world capitalist expansion is the cause of the third world countries underdevelopment. At independence, Nigeria's economic conditions continued to deteriorate as intense class and ethnic antagonism, corruption, unemployment, bad governance, weak socio-political structure, despotic and debilitating military rule, economic instability came into full play (APRM, Country Review Report, 2008).

At the realm of affairs were the military and a clique of opportunistic and corrupt political elites who privatized the state and the instrument of coercion and ruled by harassing the people, suffocating civil society, squandering scarce material resources and unleashing unprecedented violence on their people. To make matters worse, Nigeria inextricably continued to depend on the capitalist west for virtually everything ranging from technology, aid, technical assistance, loan, culture and even ideas which according to Onimode (1988) in Anifowose (1979) come with bitter pills that must be swallowed by the receiving country.

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES ADOPTED BY THE BABANGIDA'S REGIME (1985-1993)

Babangida is known to be one of Heads of state that introduced welfare of poverty eradication programmes; these include **The Peoples Bank**, which sought to provide loans to prospective entrepreneurs on soft terms and without stringent requirements of collaterals. It also regulated to an extent the activities of **Community Banks** that also sprouted as adjuncts to the Peoples Bank and as sources of cheap funds for communities and their members, (www.nigerianeconomy.com).

The Directorate of Food, Road and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) which sought to open up rural areas via construction of feeder roads and provision of basic amenities that would form them into production centers for the most comprehensive programme on the nation's war against poverty. Considering the truism that rural population in Nigeria are more powerful than their urban counterparts, this programme targeted this core group, its premise was not just to open the rural areas but hinterland, which ordinarily would not have been accessible. It also aimed at promoting rural employment on the assumption that if rural infrastructure such as electricity was available in the villages, many welders for example would operate from there instead of scrambling for spaces in the congested urban centers.

There was also a programme that tried to head-off the scourge of underdevelopment by targeting the agricultural sector, **The Nigerian Agricultural Land Development (NALDA)**. The authority was intended to reduce the prevalence of subsistence agriculture in the country and in its place infuse large scale commercial farming by assisting farmers with inputs and developing land for them to the point of planting at subsidized rates. While all these programmes collapsed at one point or the other, another programme enunciated by the Babangida's regime is the **National Directorate of Employment (NDE)**. By its mandate, NDE was to design and implement programmes to combat unemployment and articulate policies aimed at developing work programme with labour intensive potentials, (**FRN, 2004**).

From its programmes and its staying power, this was a scheme that could be adjudged as the most successful Babangida's development and poverty reduction policies. Babangida saw unemployment as one of the key issues challenging the agenda of government since it poses a potential danger to the socio-economic and political system of the nation. The need for the creation of NDE is as also traced to the drastic reduction in oil prices and the resultant economic policies at the time.

It is on record that hundreds of thousands of youths have benefitted from the NDE scheme through its four-pronged approach that include Vocational Acquisition Training, Entrepreneur (Business) Training, Training for Rural Employment and Training for Labour Based Works Programme.

However, the drawback on the NDE schemes for now is that there is no follow-up programme for beneficiaries. Many of them who did not utilize the skills they acquired and others who did not properly invest the loans they received have found themselves in a worst situation. (FRN, 2004).

STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMME

The essence of development is structural adjustment, from country to town, Agriculture to Industry, from production to house hold consumption to production for markets, from largely domestic trade to a higher ratio of foreign trade. In the pursuit of development objectives-growth, equity, poverty eradication, self reliance, environmental protection, cultural values, Nigeria was faced with major disruption to which it had to adjust. Adjustment is the adoption to sudden or large often unexpected changes. This changes may be favorable or unfavorable or the set of objectives pursued by a government.

Among the objectives of structural adjustment are usually:

- i. The reduction or elimination of a balance of payment deficit.
- ii. The resumption of higher rates of economic growth.
- iii. The achievement of structural changes that would prevent future payments and stabilization problems (SAP, 1988).

According to Strecton (1987:12), one of the most important purposes of structural adjustment is to make the economy less vulnerable to future shocks. This he said can be done by increasing flexibility and adaptability. Other more fundamental objectives of SAP include the elimination of hunger and malnutrition, alleviation of poverty, cultural autonomy, self reliance, greater national strength and military power.

Between 1981 and 1986, the Nigerian Economy staggered from crises to deeper crises, in the wake of the collapse in oil prices, a nation that had been one of the world most reliable borrowers suddenly found itself unable to service, let alone repays its debts. During the period, successive governments with all their good intentions failed to bite hard on the economy problems.

The beginning of the turnaround came in 1985 with the government of General Babangida. Military Administrations, the world over not renowned for their grasp of economics, but the Babangida Administration combined armed forces discipline with advice from the country's best economic brains (SAP, 1988).

Babangida proved himself as astute politician in that he involved ordinary Nigerians in the political process by way of a long consultative exercise. Life said Babangida was already tough and it was going to get tougher. Nigeria could no longer afford to drift without a clear economic plan. The question was however should the country take the harsh economic remedies prescribed for it by the international monetary fund as a condition for assistance? When Babangida threw out the question, the public response was extra ordinary. Throughout the last quarter of 1985, essays-academic and not so academic, counter proposals, objections and perhaps surprisingly, a great many statements of support flooded into the government from every part of the country. The government appointed a committee of experts to distil this great outpouring and in the wake of its efforts, in July 1986, Babangida unveiled a two year recovery programme. The structural adjustment programme SAP, which removed the old emphasis on demand management and turned its attention instead to restructuring the economy (SAP, 1988).

It can be argued that the economic realities accepted in SAP were not really up for debate, but the extensive consultation had the effect of making most Nigerians feel that because their opinion had been sought, the belt tightening, the loss of jobs, the reduction in seal incomes and the price rises, were slightly

more acceptable. It can also be argued that the effects of SAP have been even harsher than those suggested by the IMF (SAP, 1988).

The problem now is what programmes are to replace SAP when it runs out in the summer of this year. The then Central Bank Governor, Ahmed (1988) explained "I think it will require more than one SAP to sort out the problems that have built up in this country over the years. He continued" you have to remember that the policies of SAP were introduced at a most difficult time in this country, when oil prices were at the lowest. It was also a time when credits to Nigeria had dried up completely from official agencies and the international banking system, as well as a time when reserve had dwindled completely while the country was still dependent for its survival upon the import of food.

SAP was launched in the belief that there will be a flow of credit from the external sector to support it", Nigeria SAP (1988) P. 6. Unfortunately since the introduction of SAP, not a single credit has flowed into Nigeria of the magnitude expected. Nothing came from official sources, nothing from commercial banks and hardly anything unilaterally. But a degree of reflection was possible as Nigeria reached agreement on a bilateral basis with the Paris club of creditor countries. There is also a rescheduling agreement with the London club creditor banks which become effective on December 7, 1987 and that US \$ 320 million of how money will be made available to Nigeria from those sources in 1988. This is also a broad term of borrowing programme with the World Bank for US \$ 1.6 billion dollars in 1988 (FRN, 2004).

THE 1988 CIVIL SERVICE REFORMS

The federal government of Nigeria under the Babangida's regime instituted a panel to enquire critically into the problems of the civil service. The eight man panel headed by Professor Dotun Philips had the following objectives:

- a. Structural re-organization
- b. Enhanced professionalism
- c. Alignment with the presidential system of government (enhanced checks and balances)
- d. Combination of authority with responsibility and
- e. Enhanced public accountability.

As of the time of the Reform the following defects were associated with the civil service

1. Undue importance accord the generalist at the expense of the professionals
2. Profligacy among public officers
3. Non-challant attitude among civil servants in their duties and
4. Corruption (CSR Country Review Report, 1988).

Measures taken by the reform are:

- a. The adoption of a uniform structure to the civil service nation wide
- b. The harmonization of authority- ministerial control and administrative responsibility was fully vested in the minister/commissioner. The ministers/commissioners become the chief executive officer and accounting officer of the ministry with full control over men, money and material resources.
- c. The post of the permanent secretary was re-designed Director General and politicized of the appointments and tenure of DG is at the pleasure of the President/Governor and vacate the office with the government that appointed him, unless re-appointed by the incoming administration.
- d. The office of the Head of Service was abolished- the secretary to the government is to combine the roles of the office of the Head of Service and secretary to the government
- e. No ministry or extra-ministerial department shall have more than eight departments in all, except ministry of foreign affairs which can have more than eight departments in order to function according to world-wide protocols.
- f. A ministry shall be structured into departments, divisions, branches and sections.
5. The pool system was abolished- the pool system was an agreement which the general executives, secretariat and administrative cadres are transferred from one ministry to another to get wider knowledge of Nigerian public administration was abolished etc. (CSR Country Review Report, 1988)

It should be remembered that the Babangida's regime reformed the local government system in Nigeria which is seen as the best local government reform in the history of reforms in Nigeria.

ANALYSIS OF DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES ADOPTED BY THE OBASANJO'S DEMOCRATIC (1999-2007)

Before the inception of the fourth republic in 1999, the socio-economic and political situation in Nigeria was terribly bad. The economy was almost in decay, the state of infrastructure was bad, an estimate of about 70% Nigerians lived below poverty line. There was a general insecurity which was the effect of military dictatorship and Nigeria was virtually excommunicated from the international community as a pariah. This situation has great implication for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Worst still the country together under an external debt of over 30 billion dollars which had become heavy burden on Nigeria to survive. Thus, Nigeria wallowed under the bottom of UNDP Human Development Index (**Nwankann & Tardaferlua, 2005**).

Taking cognizance of this, the Obasanjo administration had at inception in May, 1999 set out poverty as one of its areas of focus, approved the blue prints for the establishment of some programmes that could extricate the country from its present quagmires. Pertinent amongst those programmes are NAPEP, NEEDS, etc. The National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), NAPEP- a central co-ordination point for all anti-poverty efforts from the local government level to the national level by which schemes would be expected with sole purpose of eradicating absolute poverty. Such schemes include Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES), Rural Infrastructure Development Scheme (RIDS), Social Welfare Service Scheme, (SOWESS) and National Resource Development and Conservation Scheme, (NRCDS). With a take-off of 6 billion naira approved for it in 2001, NAPEP established structures at all levels nationwide. Under its Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP), it trained 100,000 unemployed youths just as 51,000 others who received training as tailors and fashion designers were resettled. A total of 50,000 unemployed graduates have also benefitted from NAPEP's Mandatory Attachment Programme also an aspect of CAP. The programme also established a databank of all unemployed youths in all the 36 states of the federation and the FCT. About 1.1 million youths were registered (**NBS, 2004**). Such data could be used in targeting groups in any future poverty eradication effort.

The difference between NAPEP and past poverty eradication or reduction agencies is that it is not a sector implementation agency but a co-ordination facility that ensured that the core poverty eradication ministries were effective. It only intervened when necessary under its secondary mandate which gave it the right to provide complementary assistance to the implementing ministries and parastatals nationwide.

NATIONAL ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (NEEDS)

NEEDS is Nigeria home grown poverty reduction strategy. It is a medium term strategy (2003 — 2007) which derives from the country long term goals of poverty reduction, wealth creation, employment generation and value re-orientation. NEEDS is a nationally coordinated framework of action in close collaboration with the states and local governments and other Stakeholders to consolidate in the achievements of the last four years and build a solid foundation for the attainment of Nigeria's long term vision of becoming the largest and strongest African Economy and key player in the world economy (**NEEDS, 2004**).

Although NEEDS is essentially a Federal Government Programme. It is claimed to be owned by Nigeria. NEEDS rest on four keys strategies: Reforming the way government works and its institutions, growing the private sector, implementing a social charter for the people and re-orientation of the people with an enduring African value system.

REFORMING GOVERNMENT AND INSTITUTIONS

The goal is to restructure, right-size, re-professionalized and strengthen government and public institutions to deliver effective services to the people. It also aims to eliminate waste and inefficiency, and free up resources for investment in infrastructure and social services by Government. A key aspect of the institutional reforms

is to fight corruption, ensure greater transparency, promotes rule of law and stricter enforcement of contracts. An explicit Service Delivery Programme to re-orientate government agencies towards effective delivery of services to the people is being introduced in government for the first time. In summary, the goal is to make government and public institutions serve the people: to make government play a developmental role rather than a haven for corruption and rent-seeking. Part of the reforms at this level is to ensure a predictable sustainable macroeconomic framework, especially through a sustainable fiscal policy framework (**NEEDS, 2004**).

GROWING THE PRIVATE SECTOR

NEEDS is a development strategy anchored on the private sector as the engine of growth... for wealth creation, employment generation and poverty reduction. The government is the enabler, the facilitator, and the regulator. The private sector is the executor, the direct investor and manager of businesses. The key elements of this strategy include the renewed privatization, de-regulation and liberalization Programme (to shrink the domain of the public sector and buy up the private sector); infrastructure development especially electricity and transport; explicit sectoral strategies for agriculture, industry/SMEs; services (especially tourism, art and culture, and information/ communication technology), oil and gas, and solid minerals. Other elements of this agenda include the mobilization of long-term capital for investment, appropriate regulatory framework; a coherent and consistent trade policy and regional/global integration regime; and specific interventions to encourage the development of some sectors. For instance, in order to enhance rapid industrial growth and efficient exploitation of resources. Government shall encourage strong linkage between Science and Technology Parks (STPs), industry and R & D Institutions. In addition, there shall be deliberate efforts made to promote technology acquisition from within as well as across national boundaries (**NEEDS, 2004**).

In collaboration with the States, a key strategy is to promote the emergence and flourishing of industrial clusters. In a global economy characterized by increasing agglomeration of industries, promotion of clusters to ensure economies of scale is an important element of the strategy. The small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are critical for employment generation, and therefore receive special attention under NEEDS. In addition, NEEDS seeks to promote the emergence of medium and large commercial farms, plantation and industrial conglomerates that would harness the economies of scale and effectively compare in today's global market.

IMPLEMENTING A SOCIAL CHARACTER

NEEDS is about people: it is about their welfare, their health, education, employment, poverty-reduction, empowerment, security and participation. This is the overarching ultimate goal of NEEDS. With about 50 percent of the population as children, education is seen under NEEDS as the most important bridge to the future and a powerful instrument of empowerment. The HIV/AIDS epidemic is not just a social problem; it is a major threat to productivity and the economy. Effective health care delivery system, especially aspects directed at combating the scourge of HIV/AIDS and other preventable diseases (malaria and tuberculosis) is a key strategy for preserving a healthy workforce. Explicit programmes are directed at youth re-orientation and employment. The existing pension scheme which is in crisis is being replaced by a contributory pension scheme to give the senior citizens a better retirement life. Under N1FDDS, reforms are ongoing to promote the emergence of a vibrant mortgage and housing development system that is led by the private sector. The priority to agriculture (especially to improve the productivity of peasant farmers) is a key element of the poverty reduction strategy since over 50 percent of the poor are in agriculture. The continuing investment in water resources not only provides a key social service, water to the people, it also provides irrigation for increased agricultural productivity. Industry, especially the SMEs, is expected to provide a boost to employment, particularly to the urban labor force. In collaboration with the States (under SEEDS) and local governments, an integrated rural development programme is a major strategy to stem the rural urban migration. Another key strategy of the social charter is (**NEEDS, 2004**):

INCLUSIVENESS AND EMPLOYMENT

This is not just on the economic front, but deliberate programmes to give voice to the weak and the vulnerable groups through increased participation in decision making and implementation, and laws and programmes to empower women, children, the handicapped, and the elderly. For example, NEEDS aims for a minimum of 30 percent representation for women in all aspects of national life wherever feasible.

VALUE RE-ORIENTATION

The key message of the NEEDS is that 'it is not business as usual'. The privatization programme is designed to shrink the domain of the State and hence the pie of distributable rents which have been the haven of public sector corruption and inefficiency. The act of privatization will release a few thousands of appointed Board members of parastatals to go into productive engagements. Public sector reforms would also aim at emphasizes professionalism, selfless service and efficiency (value-for-money). The anti-corruption measures, fight against advance fee fraudsters, and strive towards greater transparency in public and private sector financial Transactions will help to ensure accountability, and send the message that those who make money through illegal and illegitimate means have no hiding place. Part of the reform agenda is to ensure that hard work is rewarded and that corruption and rent-seeking are punished. The people will be mobilized to re-emphasize the virtues of honesty, hard work, selfless service, moral rectitude, and patriotism. The National Orientation Agency (NOA) and their State counterparts will be strengthened leading to campaign. Government will also encourage the civil society organizations, Community-based organizations, NOGs, private sector organizations, religious and socio-cultural-traditional organizations, etc to provide leadership in the campaign for a new value system. Agencies and organizations will be encouraged to take specific steps to reward excellence as the demonstration effect could help to motivate imitation of exemplary behaviour by others (Usman, 2004).

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEEDS

Over the years ineffective implementation of plans has been a major issue. NEEDS is poised to be different: it is a plan on the ground. Already, a number of the programmes of the current administration are consistent with the major policy thrusts of NEEDS. The coordination of the implementation is headed by the President and there is a systematic process of monitoring and evaluation. At the federal level, commitment to the implementation of NEEDS is total. There will be periodic (quarterly) review of performance assessment of achievements, constraints and prospects. In addition, there is an Independent Monitoring Committee made up of men and women of sterling qualities most of whom are directly involved in the reform process and will report directly to the President based on targets and objectives set for the various reforms. The National Assembly will also play their constructive and complementary oversight roles.

A key element of the implementation relates to a system of collaboration and coordination between the Federal and State Governments, donor agencies (through more effective donor coordination), the private sector, civil society, NOOs and other stakeholders. Given the Federal structure of Nigeria and the fact that the States and local government will increasingly control more resources than the Federal Government, only a coordinated approach can produce the intended results. All the statutory institutions for inter-governmental coordination of development programmes such as the National Council of State; National Economic Council; National Council on Development Planning; and the Joint Planning Board will be actively deployed for the coordination function. All the sectoral councils such as the National Council on Education, Health, Agriculture, etc will be more proactive than before in coordinating sectoral strategies. (Usman, 2004).

FINANCING

NEEDS required a heavy investment programme to jump start the economy in a manner that is pro-poor and poverty- reduction. Aside from the projected investment by the Federal and State governments as well as private sector, there was a residual financing gap which requires special efforts to mobilize the required

finance. The then President set up a standing committee on Funds Mobilization to assist in mobilizing some of the funds that are required in that regards.

ASSESSMENT OF THE NEEDS

In the first place, instead of creating 7 million jobs between 2004 and 2007, NEDDS created more unemployment through rationalization, downsizing, right-sizing of Nigerian bureaucracy in attempt to regulate and roll back the state in conformity with Washington consensus. Secondly, the implementation of NEEDS was not delivered effectively. The only aspect that has been implemented with passionate commitment and seriousness is privatization of government properties acquired with public patrimony. The privatization process has been rigged in favour of rich elites who transformed these public properties into their private properties. Thirdly, NEEDS was formulated by few technocrats made up of management team and the attempt to consult the Nigerian public after the programme was officially launched. Also NEEDS was not completely indigenous as it claimed, because of the fact that the World Bank and IMF not only monitored it, they provided huge financial assistance into its implementation. Finally, in my own opinion, NEEDS is a neo-liberal and pro-market reform agenda that has come to consolidate the SAP of 1980s.

THE 2005 CIVIL SERVICE REFORM

The 2005 civil service reform was undertaken by the civilian administration of Olusegun Obasanjo. The reform was headed by Chief Ernest Shonekan as the chairman. The following recommendations were made by the reform which the government accepted in the white paper:

1. **Phase-out of grade levels 01-03:** the government accepted the committee to phase-out the manipulative class and their duties which have been contracted out. These include drivers, messengers, security, cleaners, cooks and gardeners
2. **Monetization policy:** monetization is the quantification in money in terms of those fringe benefits which government to use to provide for its workers as part of their condition of service. These include residential accommodation, furniture, official cars and utility services.
3. **Service compact (servicom):** this is a scheme for measuring the quality services delivered by government through its various MDAs.
4. **Due process mechanism:** this is a system of ensuring compliance with openness, competition and cost accuracy guiding the award of contract in federal ministries and parastatals.
5. **New pension scheme:** under this scheme an employee make monthly of a minimum of 7.5% of the total of his/her monthly emoluments to his/her retirement savings account.
6. **National Health Insurance Scheme:** under this scheme this civil servants contribute 10% of their basic salary and are required to register with a health care provider for free medical treatment (APRM, 2008).

It should be noted that Obasanjo's administration adopted several development strategies apart from those explained above. There are also anti-corruption crusade/agencies established by the Obasanjo's administration to tackle the problem of corruption and money laundering such as Economic and Financial Crimes Control (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC). All these have tried in their operations but yielded little success because of the influence of government in their operations.

CONCLUSION

This paper is far from being exhaustive, but attempt has been made to look at the origin of Nigeria's economic problem and its effects in understanding the strands of thought returning to the politics involved in the adoption and implementation of development strategies adopted by the Babangida's military regime and Obasanjo's democratic regime. It is noteworthy that several efforts initiated and implemented by the two administrations yielded result in some areas and failed in many areas. This paper has also been able to look at the various strategies and their implementations. It is imperative that for successful implementation of socio-

economic programme in Nigeria, there is need for sufficient political will to tackle corruption and governmental interference. Government should also ensure that effective monitoring and evaluation of the any of its programme is taken seriously to check inherent fraud that is the bane of most programmes assessed under the two regimes (Babangida and Obasanjo).

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