
REFLECTIONS OF NIGERIAN FOREIGN POLICY POSTURE UNDER MUSA YAR'ADUA AND GOODLUCK JONATHAN ON NATIONAL PROGRESS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Ukwuije, Chima B.
*Department of Theatre Arts,
Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education,
P.M.B. 1033, Owerri-Imo State, Nigeria*

Abstract

Foreign policy as an offshoot of public policy is set to achieve some aspects of the domestic policy which cannot be actualized in full without interaction with other countries of the world. This is hinged on the popular maxim that “No nation can survive in isolation”. The interaction may be in the form of military supplies, ICT, economic assistance, manpower mobility, foreign direct investment (FDI) etc. But because of the complex global socio-cultural, economic, and political interdependencies, highly industrialized nation are using their advanced economy and technological innovations as an international political weapon which gives them an edge over the developing nations in their dealings. Popularly, it is ideal to be considerate when dealing with other nations of the world bearing in mind the incessant rise of global integration. Consequently, this paper therefore argues that the President Goodluck Jonathan's adoption of foreign policy posture of “Reciprocity” - The Way You Treat My Citizens Is The Way I Will Treat Your Citizens; is a rational policy posture as it will heighten respect both for Nigeria in the international arena and her citizens in Diaspora. But care must be taken in its implementation so as to avoid getting the reverse of the expectations because of the level of poverty, unemployment, insecurity and political underdevelopment prevalent in the country.

Keywords: Foreign Policy, Goodluck Jonathan, International Relations, Musa Yar'Adua, National Progress,

Background to the Study

Foreign policy is a set of strategies designed and adopted by Nation-States in their interactions with the rest of the world. It is very important because no nation can survive in isolation; that is to say, no nation can achieve in totality, all her domestic policies and programs without interacting with other countries. Most of the goals, be it political, social, economic and technological, which Nation-States pursue in the international political arena is a sufficient proof that the fact that interdependency among men as a key attribute of life is equally true of the Nation-States. This is why Nation-States hire the services of experienced, skilled and competent diplomats for the formulation and

implementation of foreign policy objectives. After Nigeria got her independence in 1960, the first Nigerian appointed in the capacity of a minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations was Jaja Wachuku. The ministry was later changed to External Affairs. Since this time, Nigeria's foreign policy has been characterized by a focus on Africa as a Regional power and by attachment to several fundamental principles. African Unity and Independence; capability to exercise hegemonic influence in the region; peaceful settlement of disputes; non-alignment and non-interference in the internal affairs of the nations; and regional economic cooperation and development. In an effort to foster these principles, Nigeria participates very actively in the following organization:

1. Organization of African Unity (OAU) now known as African Union (AU)
2. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
3. The Non-Alignment Movement
4. The Commonwealth and
5. The United Nations (UN)

Literature Review

A thousand and one definitions of foreign policy exist but there are a few things they share in common which maybe covertly or overtly expressed in all the definitions. However, to buttress this point further, there is need to cite some of the authoritative definitions of foreign policy.

According to Frankel (1969:96), foreign policy is a dynamic process of interaction between the changing domestic demand and supports, and the changing external circumstances. Nnoli (1986), on his own defined foreign policy as a set of formulations designed to guide the behavior of its agents in the world community. It consists of principles and doctrines which underlines state actions and justifies them as well as goal, strategies and tactics which are concrete expressions of these time and situations. (Pp. 198).

More so, Holsti (1977), says that foreign policy are actions and ideas by policy makers to solve or promote changes in the international environment. A critical look at the definition above shows that foreign policy also seeks to manipulate the international system in order to minimize adverse actions and maximize the favorable actions so as to make a Nation-State stand on a strong footing in the international politics. Therefore, foreign policy is the extension of actions and decisions to the international political arena as a way of manipulating the international political system in order to enhance her relations with other countries establish influence and recognition as well as achieve those aspects of her domestic policies that cannot be achieved in full within the confines of a given state.

Abridged Historical Background of Nigerian Foreign Policy

Before the political independence of Nigeria in 1960, foreign policy of Nigeria was formulated by the British. It was both covertly and overtly projecting the interest of the British who was very keen to protect their business interest by projecting foreign policy posture that are very favorable to their administration and economic activities.

It was after independence that Nigerians began to contribute very significantly in the formulation and implementation of foreign policy. The administration that followed the Nigerian civil war projected foreign policy posture that gave rise to series of argument and controversies. The arguments and controversies were in respect to their political ideology, perceptual understanding of national interest, foreign policy options, implementation strategies, and understanding of the world politics, economic, political and technological benefits to the nation including the suitability of the diplomats so appointed. This led to the emergence of two schools of thought, though they existed side by side without any having formal recognition or gaining popular acceptance. According to Igwe (2006).

The first school of thought comprises of writers who visualized the post-civil war foreign policy of Nigeria as essentially non-conservative, radical, dynamic and perhaps

independent. The second school of thought comprised of writers who have contrary view, i.e. that the pro-western and conservative foreign policy which characterized the regime of the first republic, if anything was equally a feature of the military regimes, and of course, without exception (p86).

Factually, Nigerians foreign policy calculations since after independence have always captured the five principles as enunciated by Alhaji Abubaka Tafawa Belewa. They are:

1. The sovereign equality of all African states;
2. Respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of every African states;
3. Non-interference in the internal affairs of other African states;
4. Commitment to functional coexistence as means of promoting African unity;
5. The total eradication of racism and colonialism from Africa.

Indeed, foreign policy position of all the administration of this era, pursued very vigorously, this principles including the Shagari Administration who through the Foreign Affairs Minister in March 1980, explained that Nigeria would therefore use its potentials to the best of its ability to bring social, economic, justice and political emancipation to the continent of Africa because Nigeria could meaningfully consider herself truly free, secure, prosperous and stable only if Africa as a whole enjoys similar conditions (Nigeria Bulletin 1980:24). However, in this paper, the concentration is be on foreign policy under Yar Adua and Jonathan.

Nigerians Foreign Policy Under President Umaru Musa Yar'adua (2007-2010)

His Excellency, Umaru Musa Yar'Adua was officially sworn in as the president of Nigeria on 27th day of May, 2007. Though he was believed in some quarters to be honest and transparent during his governorship era, but it was not the rationale behind his emergence as the president of the country as some people believed that there were better candidates. Rather, he won as a result of the political manipulations and calculations of the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP). Yar'Adua was made popular by his 7 Point Agenda which according to Nwahiri (2010:220), were intended to be domestic imperatives that would determine the ability of attaining the foreign policy objectives of the administration.

Recalling the observation by Nwakama (2007), Chief Ojo Maduekwe, the then Minister for Foreign Affairs articulated what he called the new framework of Nigeria's foreign policy under Yar'Adua administration known as "Citizen Diplomacy". This was in response to feelings and reactions of the citizens that the past endeavors have not been felt by the ordinary Nigerian citizens. Ojiakor (2007) supported that the re-definition may also have been motivated by the need to respond to new challenges of globalization and the protection of Nigerian interest in global politics.

In a statement by the President, Umaru Musa Yar'Adua as published in This Day Newspaper of June 8th, 2008 page 19, he said that "the trust of my foreign policy will first of all be Nigerians interest because our policy must be well defined under our national interest and then the interest of our Sub-Region and then Africa and then the interest of world peace. That is the progression of my foreign policy thrust and that would inform my interaction in foreign affairs".

Umaru Musa Yar'Adua is one president who did not travelled overseas too much. In a statement, he clearly indicated that the protection of Nigerians interest in the various concentric circles through its foreign policy may not necessarily involve too many foreign engagement and trip and this explains in part why Nigerians foreign policy in the first year of his administration to many observers lacked patina. He further added that too many oversea trips would be unnecessary given the achievements of his predecessor, in restoring Nigerians battered image. He said his predecessor came to office at a time

Nigeria's image was so battered because of the many years of Sani Abacha's dictatorship. Nigeria was a pariah state and had been written off by the international community. So Chief Obasanjo needed to work hard to re-establish confidence, relationship and revive the image of the country but now the situation has changed and Nigeria has been re-integrated into the comity of Nations. While before 1999, most companies were divesting from Nigeria, the institution has changed and confidence has been restored and debt relief obtained. (Akinterinwa, in This Day Newspaper, June 8th, P. 19.).

Achievements of Nigeria's Foreign Policy Under President Yar'adua

As quoted by Nwahir (2010:223), the Foreign Affairs Minister, chief Ojo Maduekwe, in his first public pronouncement of foreign policy at the NIIA on Monday, June 30th, 2007, noted that time has come to fight poverty at home and promote prosperity. He said that Nigeria has made so much contribution in terms of giving aids to African countries and in peace keeping in different parts of the world and consequently deserve something commensurate from these countries for the country's effort. The achievements can be deduced thus:

1. On Monday April 14th, 2008, President Yar'Adua made bold attempt to reshape and reposition Nigeria's foreign policy by organizing a conference of Foreign Affairs Ministers which he called "Foreign Ministers Forum". It was in the conference that Chief Ojo Maduekwe explained that Nigeria was not changing its foreign policy but rebranding it. He also said that Nigeria would equally deploy its foreign policy as a strong marketing tool to boost Nigeria's image and expose her potentials while at the same time use it as a vehicle of national unity at home.
2. Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) organized a program to make Yar'Adua's one year in office. In that programme, he declared that Africa still remained the center piece of Nigeria foreign policy and that he was working to provide leadership to bring Africa together.
3. In This Day Newspaper, vol. 13 No 4787, P 47, Yar'Adua restated Nigeria's longstanding foreign policy principle and belief in functional and economic interventions by saying that effort were being made to integrate the continent economically before political integration. He also restated his support and belief in African brotherhood as the principle that shaped his reaction to the attacks on Nigerians and other Africans in South Africa. President Yar'Adua rejected the South African government's response to the crises. (NTA News; Thursday May 29, 2009).
4. Peaceful resolution of the Zimbabwean election crises was supported by President Yar'Adua. He said the crises should be resolved according to the provisions of the law and we, as Africans cannot react to the Zimbabwean election crises like the western nations because any violent fallout from the crises will affect the Africans more adversely.
5. On the 2nd of March, 2009, the president of Guinea Bissau Lansana Kote and the Chief of Defense Staff were assassinated in a bloody coup headed by Capt. Mousa Daddis Camera. Nigeria under President Yar'Adua rejected and condemned the coup and demanded that the country should return to democratic government. The coup attracted condemnation from international community even though majority of Guineans accepted it on the grounds that they have suffered under the dictatorship of Conte for over 20years. Still in that 2009, precisely on October 17, Yar'Adua convened an extra ordinary meeting of ECOWAS Heads of States in Abuja to deliberate on the killing of innocent civilians in those countries.
6. Nigeria has continued to steer the leadership of Africa and ECOWAS since independence. In that meeting, Nigeria re-emphasized that it will not compromise the democracy, good governance and the rule of law in the region. Musa Yar'Adua rejected the coup and mobilized ECOWAS as its Chairman and suspended Guinea from its fold. African Union also suspended Guinea. ECOWAS under President Yar'Adua constituted a mediation committee headed by President Blaise Campore of Burkina Faso to organize an election to return the country to

- civilian rule within 6 months.
7. In Niger republic, President Mamoed Tandia who had out-served his two terms in office arbitrarily dissolved parliament, sacked the Chief Justice and unilaterally conducted a kangaroo referendum as part of his strategies to extend his tenure. President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua in his usual style condemned the action and supported the suspension of the country.
 8. On the 15th of October, 2009, Nigeria was elected a non permanent member of the UN Security council. South Africa and Egypt were the two African countries that contested the seat with Nigeria but Nigeria won with an overwhelming and significant number of votes. Factually, so many factors played supportive role to the actualization of this feat prominent among them, according to the then Nigerian ambassador to UN, Keshi was that some African countries stepped down for Nigeria because of her importance and status as a key player in the international politics. Again, many other members of the international community voted for Nigeria for the respect and regard they had for the country particularly now that the pariah-state status Nigeria was having in the international political arena before 1999 has been redeemed by President Musa Yar'Adua.
 9. Nigeria's economic image grew very rapidly and significantly in global arena that resultantly, Nigeria was among the developing countries invited to the G. 8 (Group of eight) industrial nation's summit held in Germany. The G. 8 provided Yar'Adua with an ample opportunity to travel out of the country, for the first time since after his inauguration as the 4th democratically elected president of Nigeria. He seized that opportunity to request for Germans assistance in overhauling the energy sector in Nigeria in so far as the federal government could not fund it alone.

Challenges of Citizen Diplomacy

On May 29th, 2007, Umaru Musa Yar'Adua inherited a number of unresolved problems especially in the oil and gas sector. The increase in the price of fuel by Chief Obasanjo at the eve of his departure ushered in much hostility for the new government. Given the fact that foreign policy is an off school of domestic policy, a stable economic and political economy is like a multivitamin tonic to actualization of foreign policy in international arena.

Nwahiri (2010) posited that foreign policy thrust of the Nigerian government then was a logical continuation of the Obasanjo foreign policy. Whereas foreign policy under Obasanjo was targeted at the rehabilitation of Nigeria and getting her back into the Community of Nations, Yar'Adua targeted to reap the gains of the reintegration through the protection of citizens interest. This was a challenge from being state centered foreign policy to citizens centered foreign policy, more democratic and conscious of avoiding undue influence of the president. ...Indeed, he further stated that the 7-point agenda of president Yar'Adua was a good starting point provided the will to pursue it to its logical conclusion can be mustered. This is because as long as the domestic environment of Nigerian foreign policy is characterized by political chaos, poverty occasioned by under-development, absence of basic infrastructure, hunger, disease, unemployment, absence of social amenities, decaying infrastructure and corruption, our foreign policy objectives cannot be achieved since no self respecting nation would take the country serious. The synergy between the domestic and the external environment are crucial for any successful pursuit of a country's foreign policy.

Nigeria's Foreign Policy under President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan (GEJ)

Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan assumed office as acting president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the 10th of February, 2010. This was in consonance with the motion passed by the Nigerian senate confirming the powers of GEJ to act as President of the Federation because President Yar'Adua went for medical treatment in Saudi Arabia in November 2009. In his maiden address to the nation, he promised to continue implementing the Seven Point Agenda policy framework of President Yar'Adua.

Goodluck Jonathan was sworn in as a democratically elected president of the country on the 29th day of May 2011 and since then, his administration made commendable achievement through the foreign policy posture his administration adopted. In as much as development, peace and stability in the context of international relations through the signing of certain agreements are best achieved by first; negotiating, and stipulating acceptable terms and conditions upon which the relationship will base. It requires the acceptance of the negotiating parties to be on equal footing and willing to give and take. It is on this note that President Jonathan observed that there are new realities facing the world in international relations and for us to be relevant and focused, our foreign policy should stand on two principles, viz: the principle of reciprocity and economic diplomacy.

Akinterinwa (2011) supported by stating that "the President's foreign policy directive for the change in the modus of the country's foreign policy is very much in order. Our foreign policy should be reviewed. It is not that there is anything wrong per se. It is simply because Mr. President will want our foreign policy to take into account situation changes in a global politics"

Achievements of Foreign Policy under Goodluck Ebele Jonathan

The Foreign Affairs Minister, Dr. Olugbenga Ashiru echoed in a ministerial platform held in Abuja that the recent UN world report indicated that Nigeria recorded great improvement in foreign direct investment (FDI) flow into the country in 2012 at \$8.9 billion, compared with \$6.1 billion recorded in 2010. The Minister attributed the improvement to the strengthening of economic diplomacy by the GEJ administration. This inflow affected the transformation agenda of the administration by supporting the actualization of the economic programmes of the government. The list of is his achievements cannot be comprehensively deduced in a work of this nature but suffice it to make a list of his achievement thus:

1. Opening up of Nigerian to the global business community and becoming Africa's number one destination of foreign investors. In the 1st 6 months of 2014, a total of US \$9.70 billion or #1.51 trillion flowed into the national economy as FDI.
2. Under the Goodluck Jonathan's administration, Nigeria rebased its GDP for the first time in over a decade to become the largest economy in Africa, overtaking South Africa and Egypt in the process.
3. Proceeds from Nigeria's non-oil export rose to 2.97 billion by the end of 2013, up from 2.3 billion in 2010.
4. Nigerians are now a step closer to being fully integrated into the International E-Commerce Community when the approval and re-inclusion of Nigeria as one of the Pay-pal complement countries after being banned from using the service at the peak of the advanced fee fraud (419 scams). With pay-pal, Nigerians can now pay for goods and services online from anywhere in the world.
5. Goodluck Jonathan's administration is the one behind the arrival of the dead automotive industry in Nigeria. Global auto giants like Peugeot, Nissan, and Hyundai now either assemble or wholly manufacture small cars, sports utility vehicles, trucks, and buses at various locations in Nigeria. In addition to that, Innoson Vehicle Manufacturing Company (IVM), Nigeria flagship indigenous automaker, began the sale of their first made-in-Nigeria cars SUC's and SUV's in August 2014.
6. Under the Goodluck Jonathan's administration, Nigeria became the 1st country in W/Africa to host the World Economic Forum (WEF) in 2014. It was also the most successful WEF for Africa (WEFA) in history, boasting of a global reach of 2.1 billion people according to estimates.
7. Arresting the outbreak of the deadly and highly contagious Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in record time, though it unfortunately claimed some lives at the onset.
8. Nigeria is the world's largest producer of cassava with an output of over 45 million metric tons in 2014 according to Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO).
9. Due to favorable economic policies, internet penetration in Nigeria has now

- increased from about 45million in 2011 to 63million in 2014, overtaking such countries such like UK and France in the process. What this means is that more people now use the internet in Nigeria than in the UK and France.
10. South African Foreign Policy Initiative quoted a recent UN world report which indicated that Nigeria recorded great improvement in FDI in 2012 at 8.9 billion dollars.
 11. Dr, Ashiru highlighted some of the achievement of the Goodluck Jonathan's administration that enjoyed foreign policy initiatives as its blood builder to include the General Electric Company of U.S. investing over one billion US dollars in the construction of a factory in Calabar, to manufacture gas turbines for the power sector; not just for Nigeria, but for Africa. The factory will employ over 2,500 skilled workers and an equal number of unskilled workers, with wealth creation in the added value chain.
 12. Procter and Gamble has begun the construction of a factory in Agbara, Ogun State, to manufacture health materials, with the potential of creating well over one thousand skilled jobs and huge potential for wealth creation.
 13. China granted a soft loan of 500 million US dollars for the construction of a lightrail system in and around Abuja, also sponsoring the construction of a 50-bed hospital in Abuja.
 14. Mexico granted Nigeria 54 million US dollars FDI to develop plantation for the-cultivation of pineapple and other crops for export to European Union (EU) markets

Challenges of Nigeria Foreign Policy Under Goodluck Jonathan's Administration

One of the challenges of the Goodluck Jonathan's administration is the peace deal we signed which brought about the pronouncement that "we will work with all stakeholders to ensure that whatever peace agreement that is signed is respected and we will also make sure all other parties, including the EU, US, and the UN will move speedily towards elections in Mali". This is because Nigeria is optimistic and in the driver's seat in the process of negotiation and move towards democratization of all the countries in West Africa.

Another challenge facing the Goodluck Jonathan's administration is that over 9,000 Nigerians are serving prison terms abroad. Out of this number, 752 are specifically serving prison terms in British prisons. Automatically, this has great effect on the human capital of the country that we rely on to synergize with us to ensure speedy and steady transformation process through collective participation in government policy implementation.

Again, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan is heading a government of seriously chaotic and troubled country where political crises and electoral violence is the order of the day. Realities of bickering, assassination, kidnapping, and all other forms of uncivilized acts have become a daily appearance in our national dailies. This situation has dangerously heated-up the polity and as a result, it has reduced the concentration of the government on policy formulation and implementation. Security monitoring has taken over the centre stage.

The most disturbing and diverstating of all is the Boko Haram. An insurgence religious extremist who vowed to establish an Islamic entity in the Northern Nigeria. The Boko Haram Jihadists have demonstrated extreme viciousness in the method and scope of their attacks against defenseless civilians, religious bodies and the nation's security forces. The unrelenting attacks in the Northeastern States of Bornu, Yobe, and Adamawa state have virtually grounded economic activities in the region and reduced the expected Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Yet, the government is continuously making uncompromised effort to quench the activities of these Muslim fanatics without overlooking the principles of "political correctness" which implies avoiding language or behavior that will deliberately offend a particular group of people.

The Discuss

Foreign policy is mainly about articulation and projecting of national interest in the international arena. This requires that a country should comport herself with dignity because, how you package yourself, determines how you are treated in the global politics. Just like in other countries, the basic consideration for foreign policy should be to encapsulate what are considered to be of national interest as the basis for relating with other nations, regions, and groups within the international community. It was on this premise that Nigeria's foreign policy under President GEJ which, apart from emphasizing the need for holding national interest paramount in her international relations, also has the principle of reciprocity as a cardinal feature, which came under harsh trial when the South Africa authorities deported about 125 Nigerians who landed at Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport aboard a South African Airways (SAA) flight and an Arik Air flight from Nigeria on the grounds that those Nigerians were carrying fake yellow cards.

In a swift reaction to the perceived unfair treatment meted out on Nigerian citizens, the authorities at Nigerians Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Lagos also deported over 80 South African citizens in batches under the same protest of possessing invalid travel documents as well as vaccination cards as though in line with the new principles of reciprocity now being canvassed by Nigerian foreign policy makers (Ohiri, 2014). Under this policy, Nigeria's Foreign Affairs Minister, Ambassador Olugbenga Ashiru, explained: "the way you treat me is the way I will treat you. If you treat my people with dignity, I will treat your people with dignity. If you treat our people anyhow, we will do the same thing to your people". Again, he said "when you deport two Nigerians from your country on flimsy excuse, there will be appropriate reactions. It will not be retaliation but you will know that we are reciprocating in one way or the other. South African immigration authorities or official do not have a monopoly of deporting travelers".

Ohiri retrospectively noted that analysts are of the view that foreign policy of the immediate post-colonial era has served the need of that time. Nigeria's post-independent foreign policy was considered to be more conciliatory and moralistic than realistic and so needed to be reappraised to bring it to per with the realities of today. Against this backdrop, President Jonathan observed that there are new realities in international relations. He pointed out that in as much as the whole of Africa has been liberated from the vestiges of colonialism, the cold war between the Eastern socialist bloc and the western capitalist bloc no longer exist, there are still new realities facing the world: the challenges poverty, civil war, terrorism, environmental degradation, threat of nuclear war, and so on. According to him, for us to be relevant and focused, our foreign policy should stand on two principles, viz; the principle of reciprocity and economic diplomacy. He supported his view by saying that no nation assists the other without interest.

Based on the reciprocity stand-point of Nigeria's foreign policy under Goodluck Jonathan's administration, some conscious and concerned citizen of Nigeria were looking out to see what the government will do as per the Ebola Virus Disease that came to Nigeria through what I termed "deceitful visit". As quoted in Adeniyi, (2014), Dr. Horowitz, after reviewing more than 2,500 government documents and scientific reports, some gained through the freedom of information Act and never before revealed to the general public said "AIDS and Ebola viruses did not originate from monkeys let alone in the wild, they were bioengineered in American laboratories". Factually, the virus seriously threatened the health sector of the Nigerian economy worst still; it threatened the administrative concentration of the Goodluck Ebele Jonathan's government.

Many Nigerian still do not believe that Ebola virus just surfaced, Personally I see it as an international political foul play; maybe aimed at undermining that administration so that, not only Nigerian but Africans as a whole and by extension the world will disrepute and discredit the government as incapable of fending for her citizens. If Nigerian could press it down on South Africa to apologize unreservedly, demand for disciplinary action on the South African port officials that perpetrated the inhuman act as well as refused to review the yellow card policy for the fact that the WHO had certified Nigerian yellow card, yellow

fever-free, I don't think to subject or demand that Liberia and US should tender an unreserved apology to Nigeria will be a difficult task. They should do restitution; else, Nigeria should take them up on Ebola Virus Disease in the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Nevertheless, in September 2012, at a dinner organized in his honor by the Cooperate Council of Africa (CCA), a group of leading American Businessmen and Investors in New York, USA, President Jonathan declared that attracting FDI to accelerate domestic growth and create more jobs for the teeming unemployed Nigerians is now the major focus on Nigeria's foreign policy. He said that his administration was wholly committed to promoting the development of a knowledge-economy that will enhance the security of lives and property, thereby accelerating growth to provide more employment and reduce youth restiveness. He further stated that attracting foreign investment to support the realization of the federal government's national transformation agenda was now the topmost priority of Nigeria's diplomacy abroad. In his words, he said "let me restate here that Nigeria foreign policy is now anchored on the attraction of FDI. Under the new policy thrust, our diplomatic missions abroad have been directed to focus more on attracting investment to support the domestic programs of government with a view to achieving not only our vision 20:2020, but to bequeathing an enduring legacy of economic prosperity" he further assured the international business magnet at the dinner that yes, we have some security challenges now, but adequate safety measures like establishment and strengthening of the infrastructure concession and regulatory commission and Bureau of Public Procurement have been established.

What we underscore here is that irrespective of the health and security challenges we are facing in Nigeria, Jonathan's administration was still looking out to receive foreign investors and not forgetting to reciprocate every gesture we receive from any country of the world in like manners.

A cursory look at the foreign policy thrust of President Yar'Adua and Jonathan reveals that their foreign policy positions are not in wholesome consonance. While Umaru Musa Yar'Adua foreign policy concentrated mainly on the citizens; how to bring about citizens welfare and wellbeing, Goodluck Ebele Jonathan was concentrating on reciprocity, packaging Nigeria image in such a manner that it will attract international respect and dignity. In spite of the security and health challenges the country is facing, Goodluck Jonathan's foreign policy is still geared towards attracting foreign investors as he believes that this will help reduce the rate of unemployment and curb youth restiveness in our country.

Conclusion

President Goodluck Jonathan's foreign policy thrust is taking a different dimension looking back to the days of independence. It is good to treat other countries the way they treat us so that they don't take us for a ride but care must be taken in other not to attract international condemnation. It is also good to converse for foreign investors because FDI certainly improve the economy of a nation but it is more advisable to pay greater attention to the lives and properties of the citizens in their home country as this can grow the economy if well developed and properly managed.

Recommendations

1. There are a lot of things to learn in the international political arena, I am of the opinion that our Diplomats should increase their interest in learning those things so that as we call for FDI in our country, some other countries will be seriously calling us to do same.
2. The Productive and manufacturing sector of the economy should be strengthened so as to reduce dependency on FDI. Innoson Vehicle Manufacturing Company is an empirical proof that; yes, we can!

References

- Adeniyi, T. (2014), "HIV-AIDS & Ebola viruses are manmade". Sunday Sun Vol. 10 No 594 Pg. 44
- Akinterinwa, B. (2011), "Nigerian foreign policy must reflect national interest". The Nation Newspaper
- Bello, M. (2012), "Jonathan: Economy key to Nigeria's foreign policy". This Day Live. Retrieved on 05/09/14 from: www.thisdaylive.com/articles/jonathan-economy-key-to-nigeria-s-foreign-policy/126266
- Igwe, I. S. (2006), "The principles & practice of Nigerian foreign policy": A critical analysis approach.
- Njoku, R. (2005), "Social & economic development". A multi-disciplinary perspective. Aba, Cheedal Global Prints Ltd.
- Nwahiri, A. (2010), "The dynamics of Nigerian foreign policy (2nd ed). Owerri, Nation-wide Printers & Publishers Ltd.
- Ogunna, A. E .C. (1999), Public administration in Nigeria,. Theories & practice. Owerri, Great Versatile Publishers Ltd.
- Ohiri, C. (2014), "Nigeria's new foreign policy thrust under acid test". Retrieved on 04/09/14 from <http://www.nigerianorientnews.com/?P=1057>
- Onyekachi, J. (2014), "Ebola: We're at risk, airport private operators cry out...Want government to provide them with preventive kits". Daily Sun Vol. 10
- Onyeneho, E. (2006), "The web of world politics: Analyzing international relations. Onitsha, Chamber Books Ltd.
- Open Society Foundation for South Africa (2015), "Jonathan scorecard: Deepening economy, diplomacy & national planning. South Africa foreign policy initiative (SAFPI)". Retrieved on 20/03/15 from: <http://www.safpi.org/news/article/2013/jonathan-scorecard-deepening-economy-diplomacy-& national planning> This Day Newspaper, vol. 13 No 4787, P 47,