

A Critical Appraisal of Nigeria's Second National Development Plan as a Tool of Socio-Economic and Political Transformation

¹Adamu Buba & ²Hussaini Adamu Hussaini

^{1&2}Department of General Studies,
Federal Polytechnic, Bauchi

Abstract

The social and economic development of any country is predominantly connected to a set of plans designed and set out by the leadership of such countries. This is not new to both third world and advanced countries of the world. Nigeria as a country is not exclusive on this and it has throughout the years designed different national development plans that are geared toward ensuring that the country is placed on the part of development alongside other countries of the world. These plans were conceptualized and designed to encourage and expedite a holistic approach to development thereby improving the general living standard of the populace. Regardless of the respectability of these plans, they have not in way recorded the desired results as most of the indices still remain as they were. Hence, the critique of such plans. However, this research fundamentally seeks to analyze the second national development plan between 1970-1974, the indices of the plan and why it failed, and make recommendations on how to forestall future occurrences in our subsequent national plans. Only secondary data was used in the course of this analysis.

Keywords: Nigeria, Second, National Development Plan, Panacea, Transformation

Corresponding Author: Adamu Buba

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Background to the Study

The Second Nigeria's National Development Plan, 1970-1974 was the second in the series of National Plans strategically drawn up for Nigeria since Independence on 1st October, 1960. It was adjudged to be one of the biggest and most determined which Nigeria had launched. According to (Onah, 2006) Nigeria have had in excess of 5 National Development Plans and Rolling Plans with accompanying projects and activities since independence with a view for optimizing general infrastructure and enduring development, yet, poverty is still at its peak and the yardstick of development are unfathomably low. This circumstance isn't caused by the scarcity of these national development frameworks but instead on lack of common sense, deficient financing, debasement, political and economic instabilities etc. Not long ago, the President Goodluck Jonathan's Administration like some of his predecessors that has left the shores of power has set up a national development framework referred to as 'Vision 2020. The late President Umar Musa Yar'Adua was the initiator of the programme. A closer look at this approach demonstrates that it's a reasonable plan that is expertly designed and all around planned, and if comprehensively actualized, the socio-economic and political qualms currently experienced in the country might be reduced to the barest minimum. Nevertheless, in the event that such plan is abandoned to test the comparative destiny that hampered the past plans, then it would additionally worsen the social and economic troubles been tested now and this would for the most part degenerate the living conditions of the masses.

Ikeanyi (2009) depicts development planning as an essential device utilized by numerous administrations and institutions to project their dreams, missions, objectives, and reliable methods for achieving development through viable coordination and control. Arizona-Ogwu (2008) feels that Nigeria has confronted various difficulties in accomplishing reasonable development since independence in 1960 regardless of its bounteous human and material endowments. From the time Nigeria became independent to date; intermittent endeavors have been made to characterize a reasonable system for socio-political and economic transformation. However, at the very least, five national development plans have been introduced. The following are basically the aim and objectives of these plans: Developing a steady, people centred democratic government; provision of employment opportunities and meeting the fundamental needs of the general population; Achieving food sufficiency by greatly putting resources into agribusiness; Education; Developing basic segments of the Nigerian economy; Establishing a viable macroeconomic structure that draws in foreign investment; guiding the formal and informal segments of the economy; Promoting stable economic and maintaining non-inflationary development and social equity; Nurturing free and mindful media, worker's unions, NGOs and different organizations of civic society; Developing a compelling and productive public service and administration, law implementation framework; God cognizance, shared regard, trust, resilience, gender equality and mutual respect; Ensuring earnest and responsible authority and an enlightened citizenry; and reinforcing and supporting Nigerian's position of authority in Africa. All the above goals were splendidly defined yet experienced inadequacy of extent or scope, implementation problems, budget and budgetary crises and the father and mother of all, corruption and mismanagement of public funds.

In general, development plans in Nigeria has, throughout the years, been obliged by the disappointment of those in power to appropriately imagine genuine development and place same on the plan. Other issues like vague priority setting, absence of independence in plan execution, inefficiency and ineffectiveness of the conceptualized plans, technology transfers, etc have made a certified plan to some certain degree very deceptive. The implementation of a practical plan based on reliable information that will likely sustain the country requires a vision and mission that is explicit, reliable, and are highly committed to the development framework.

Statement of Research Problem

The second National Development Plan design began in 1970 rather than 1969 as a result of the civil war which led to the delay of the first Development plan to 1970 (FRN 1970). The goals of the plan which shows the glaring signs of Nigeria's first effort to focus on real development, included attempts to build a united and self-reliant nation, solid and confident country; an awesome and dynamic economy; an equitable nation; abundant opportunities for the citizenry and an enduring democracy. Despite the aggravating multiplication of national development plans in Nigeria, there still to a great extent exist gaps of development that have achieved levels that can be suitably categorized as dangerous and posed a serious problem to development. However, quite a long while of development planning in the nation has neglected to deliver the assumed much searched development that sustains the country. Ostensibly, the problem of development plans in Nigeria is intensified by the way that practical development itself isn't a priority of successive governments and the whereabouts of a genuine development plan has not put the nation on the privilege practical development rail. This clarifies why Nigeria might be depicted as being in the lead of the world's poorest individuals that are lingering behind as far as development indexes are concerned. It is informational to take note of that while there had been series of exercises framed and cosmetically named development plans, genuine development has not been on the leadership of the country's main focus. Actually, absence of glaring foresight is one of the reasons for the incoherent mission with inadequately unmistakable outcomes in all the internationally accepted and recognized development indices that have tested the pills of development planning in the country. The miscellaneous variables like priorities misplacement, poor planning, absence of independence, absence of self-reliance, inefficiency in the public sector and in addition poor public and private sector partnership that have made a veritable development rail fairly deceptive are obviously at a minimum compared to the macro and major problems confronting development planning in Nigeria.

Of all the studies conducted on the subject under study, its glaring that focus was only made on parameters that is either macro or micro framework, individual leaders, sectoral problems, inefficiencies and ineffectiveness, quality of political leadership etc. However, the gap so far that hasn't been filled is conceptualizing a development plan using the marketing concept. Most at times government conceptualize and initiate development plans without recourse to the stake holders whose interest the plans is set to address, this to some certain extent leads to misplaced priorities in the implementations of such plans. If marketing concept is used in future development plans, I am optimistic that a number of hurdles will be minimized to the barest minimum.

Conceptual Framework

According to United Nation Development (UNDP), 2008, Development planning as a long and futuristic program intended to impact some lasting auxiliary changes in the economy is associated with the contribution of government in the economy whereby it sets out targets about the way it needs the economy to develop later on and after that mediates to attempt to accomplish those aims. To Datta (2008), Development Planning is very important on the grounds that since development is not by accident and doesn't happen normally and rapidly voluntarily, it is practical to design it intentionally. Development planning includes strategies which guarantee that national plans and methodologies are acknowledged and development issues by any means, at all levels are completely coordinated into the general national development drives. They set out the macroeconomic development focuses and additionally the size as well as the distribution of the public sector development. What's more, they furnish the bearing as for advanced areas, accordingly offering direction to the private segment of the society in deciding their own business strategies. Development planning ordinarily takes after an arrangement of particular stages like situation analysis that is both within and outside the area and the powers which shapes the region. This may include a scope of (SWOT) confronting a segment of the society; setting out priorities, issues or results; formulating goals; developing plans to address the targets, including systems, exercises and undertakings; building up a spatial photo of the circumstance and plans; proposing spending estimates in quantitative and monetary terms to accomplish the plans. These are all required at all levels of planning.

Literature Review

Development is a regularly changing advance towards accomplishing some objective and the ideal acknowledgment of the prosperity of individuals in their groups. It isn't a total but a relative term since it is hard to quantify, particularly as a specific action might be considered development as a stage forward in a certain society, yet it may not be so considered in another one. Development is especially related with goals and desires of the individuals. It is connection of the general population with the normal resources accessible to them. Regularly, development is seen as some powerful difference in the public arena starting with one phase then onto the next without accepting that it is the last stage. Marsh (1996) considered the term as gigantic changes in the lives of individuals and social orders and a movement from one condition to another; that is, from underdevelopment to Develop state. In characterizing development in this way, one can't maintain a strategic distance from paying attention to social and political issues, while concentrating on objectives, standards and financial issues. A few researchers have, notwithstanding, accentuated the requirement for human-focused development; that is, the focal point of development needs not abstracts or organizations, but rather individuals. In a similar vein, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) kept up that the general population must be at the focal point of all Development (UNDP 2008).

In another development, The World Bank (2008) likewise attested that putting resources into individuals, if done properly, would give the finest establishment for enduring development. It additionally noticed that all individuals have a similar fundamental needs

like portable and clean drinking water, natural air, shelter, and so on, which must be provided if development is to happen. Development is moreover seen as a part of attractive and planned change affected by government activity. Along these lines development is based on value addition.

According to (Todaro & Smith 2009) Development is similarly a multi-dimensional process including the redesign and reorientation of the whole economic and social frameworks. It rises above change in wage and results to the radical change in institutional, social and administrative structures. In spite of the fact that development is usually found in a national setting, its comprehensive acknowledgment may require central change of the global economic and social framework. Development is in this manner a diverse process. At the level of the individual, it likewise means expanded aptitude and limit, freedom, imagination, self-control, duty and material prosperity (Rodney 1972). Despite the fact that the standard perspective of development expects that increase in wage or income will make a natural changes in the welfare of the natives of any given nation (Iyoha et al. 2003), because of the experience of numerous third world nations in the 1960s, which uncovered the concurrent presence of rapid development and the general crumbling in the state of human life; efforts have been made to see development with a human face. In the reasoning of Seers (Todaro, 2009), for example, assessment of development stages must be worried about what has been occurring to poverty, joblessness and disparity. Additionally, development is a constant procedure of creating and more proficiently apportioning assets for accomplishing greater socially fulfilling needs (Aboyade, 1973). Development is, by suggestion, made up of two essential and principal interrelated parts: expanding the accessibility of resources and enhancing the use of accessible resources. (Aboyade, 1999).

The asset that is basically important to the development procedure is the natural resources. This is on account of the natural enrichment constitutes the reason for man's essential economic exercises. All the same, from the viewpoint of resource accessibility for economic improvement, the huge factor isn't just the span of the surface territory; or maybe, it is the productive capability represented by nature of the physical condition. Along these lines natural habitats turns to resources when they are found and harnessed (Fajingbesi, 2009). In this heading, development infers change and this is one sense in which the expression "development" is utilized to portray the procedure of economic and social change inside nations (Thirtwall, 2008). Development however, incorporates a procedure of enhancing the nature of human life which includes raising the life standard of individuals; making social, political and economic frameworks and organizations which advance the dignity of human and respect and expanding opportunity of selection of products and services. Development is similarly an imaginative procedure prompting the basic change of the social framework through the beneficial exploitation of ecological assets. This procedure frequently takes after an all-around requested grouping and displays basic qualities crosswise over nations. Goulet, (2008), is also of the view that the idea of development, actually, grasps the major economic and social target and esteem that social orders make progress toward and the three essential and recognizing parts extensively importance of development are life-sustenance, confidence self-esteem and freedom.

Planning is said to be as old as humankind and it has been embraced in all aspects of human undertaking, including wars, politics, governance and the social circles (Ejumudo, 2008). It is one of the territories of the scientific management scholars. In spite of the fact that planning is an old capacity in human culture, solid enthusiasm for planning is basically a current marvel. planning is choosing what to do, how to do it and who is to do it (Koontz et al. 2006) It is choosing what moves to be made later on to achieve authoritative objectives. It includes thinking ahead starting and taking a pre-decided strategy and choosing ahead of time what ought to be done, how, when and by whom. Without planning, the exercises of institutions, organizations, social orders and countries may well turn into a progression of irregular activities with goals that have no meaning (Datta, 2010). Dalton (1996) sees Planning as the procedure by which administrators inspect their environment both within and outer conditions make major inquiries about their institutions and set up a vision and a target. It incorporates every one of the exercises that prompt the meaning of goals and to the assurance of fitting approaches to accomplish those goals, (Ivancevich et al. 1994)

Critical Appraisal of the Plan (1970-1974)

The critical appraisal of the country's second national development plan should be tied down from the Economic, Social political and Infrastructural development point of view of the nation.

Infrastructure Development

As indicated by Ajalenkoko (2008) the expression "Infrastructural development" has taken a focal significance in our quest to accomplish social and economic security. The World Bank appraises that each percentage spent on infrastructure prompts a proportional increase in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which constantly implies that there is a relationship between any important contributions to infrastructural development which shows on economic development indices. However, right now the Nigerian public utility and infrastructural administrations are astoundingly frail for a nation which is the world's 6th biggest oil exporter. King (2003) additionally focuses that Nigeria's public electrical creating and distributing limit is not as much as that of Bosnia. More than 70% of rural families in Nigeria do not have electricity, and one-half don't have running water. Power blackouts are an ordinary event all through the nation, and thus all critical organizations must buy reinforcement generators. Transportation sector is amazingly poor. The rail framework, once great, now scarcely works with the goal that all business cargo must be moved by road transport. However, efforts are now intensified by the Buhari's administration to link the major towns in the country. My prayer is that it works and also sustained to the last by subsequent administration. Nigeria is notable for using substantial amount of funds on infrastructure ventures, but always neglects to assign resources for their support and maintenance. Accordingly, road quality is poor and extreme support costs are moved to the private sectors, as repair costs for roads vandalized vehicles. The same goes for inland waterways, a key transportation mode in the Niger delta etc.

Social and Economic Development

Bayo (2000) and Evbuomwan (1996) watched that in the 60s, Nigeria relied upon agribusiness for her income, which thus, was utilized to give life sustaining products to the

native. The sighting of oil by Nigeria denoted the defining moment of Nigeria and by the turn of 1970, agriculture has been pushed to a far off location. Onwioduokit and Ashinze (1996) watched that it was in the 70s when Nigeria saw oil blast that realized real move from farming to oil. The heft of the income of Nigeria now originates from oil. From that point forward, Nigeria has depended vigorously on unrefined petroleum and this causes shakiness in the economy because of price fluctuation in the cost of raw petroleum in the international market.

Social and Economic ratings are with the end goal that poverty and joblessness is inescapable. Social infrastructure for the most part is poor, especially power generation which is shaky and influencing; production level, employment creation, and so on. Nowadays importation is for the most part high as all products are imported in by Nigerians with little exportation from the country. Gross domestic product and per capita proportions are low and the way of life more awful than can ever be envisioned.

Political Development Good Governance

The Nigerian commonwealth is one that has been tormented by conflicting and awful administration. The political structure in Nigeria had been a tussle for control among civilians and the military. The military held influence for more than 25 years before control was at long last handed over to the administration of Olusegun Obasanjo in 1999. A fantasy Nigerians had clamored for every one of their lives. The democratic procedures in Nigeria has been very regrettable as the administration and its associates in the helm of affairs have being unconcerned towards the predicament of the majority, underestimating social provisioning. Yet, they have been extraordinarily worried about trucking without end tax payers' monies in bags and boxes, fueling political instabilities and enjoying a wide range of unpatriotic endeavors. Winning a political office in Nigeria today depends on money and little or no consideration is shown to the electorates who are reliably denied the privilege to vote by recruited political thugs who mask themselves as politicians. Elections are not free and not fair, absence of rule of law, no clear separation of powers between the arms of government, lack of fair hearing etc are the bane of Nigeria as a country today. In other words, failure of the plan

Methods of Data Collection

This appraisal of the second Nigerian National Development Plan (1970-1974) was a product of secondary data. A number of books, published and online, journal and conference papers presented at both national and international conferences, lecture notes on corporate strategic management etc.

Discussion of Findings

From the forgoing critical appraisal of the second National development plan, it is obvious that the country has not benefited much from the plan. All the indices the plan is set to achieve is both poorly planned and executed or the funds meant for such are diverted into private pockets. Of all the three indices used in critically assessing the performance of the development plan in the course of this write up, none has actually met the expectation of the

stake holders. As far as this research is concerned, the plan has failed to address the development issues it was set to solve and hence, succeeded in deepening the already existing challenges. It is important to emphasize here that Nigerian government should adopt the marketing concept not only in governance, but also in initiating development plans. That will go a long way in solving the issues of development in the country. Since the citizens are taken along in the plan initiation and implementation, there is a positive hope that the plan will outlive most or all the subsequent governments.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Development planning which includes stages that guarantees that national approaches and systems are acknowledged and development issues at all levels are completely incorporated into the general national development which aims are the requirement for the interpretation of activities and projects into unmistakable outcomes that will meet internationally approved and worthy benchmarks of genuine development. The viability of such plans will accordingly require, as an issue of exigency, getting the fundamentals right that incorporates initiating sound development strategies, guaranteeing great economic management, advancing and promoting private venture, encouraging and promoting synergy between public and private ventures as well as sound institutional framework.

The achievement of the above won't be the consequence of any single plan, however it is as the result of multi-sectoral strategies with those in position of authority playing the main role in basic change, especially in encouraging savings, investment and policies on finances where private activities are supported. Toward this path, the viable part of development initiators and planners is integral to the procedure that will suit the enthusiasm of all partners in order to make a feeling of proprietorship by all those who are included. In summary, there ought to be a genuine development design; a sensible measure of self-control among originators or facilitators when it comes to plan execution for such plans to come to stay. There must be the effort to consolidate Nigeria's position in Africa and additionally expand her impact internationally. Plan and planning as a marketing concept should be embarked upon if truly the government has the problems of the citizens at heart. That will go a long way in reducing wastages in public spending and will also address the issues of priority misplacement. Life expectancy indices in Nigeria must ascent from 46 to more than 70 years, enhanced baby mortality and additionally enhanced maternal mortality in the health sector. The leadership should work towards improving the electricity generation to the capacity to convey 13,500MW of energy, finish up and execute the gas plan at the earliest. In the side of transport, Government must ensure that it finishes a 100% roads construction and rehabilitation at all levels, develop the East-West Rail Line and open up the Inland Waterways. What's more, that security of lives, strengthening of organizations of democratic rules and ease of access and speed to justice and equity should all be viewed as best need. Above all these can be accomplished if reliable weight is put on strict monitoring of projects and programmes

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