

A Comparative Study of Nigeria and South Africa Foreign Policies Achievements in Africa

¹Kia, Bariledum & ²Theodora, T. Obianime

¹Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria

²Department of History and International Diplomacy, Rivers State University

Article DOI: 10.48028/iiprds/ijcsird.v8.i1.03

Abstract

This study examines Nigeria and South Africa's foreign policy contribution to African Development. The study used historical and descriptive research methods and adopted power theory as its framework of analysis. Nigeria's relations with South Africa oscillated between tension and cordiality. The relations have been confrontational with regional leadership hostility underlying their foreign policy actions and inactions. From the analysis of the study, both countries are strategic to Africa's development given leadership resources at their disposal. However, the extent of South Africa's foreign policy contribution to African development is comparatively less than that of Nigeria's. As indicated in this study, current African problems can no longer be addressed without the support and cooperation of South Africa. It is based on these findings that the study concluded that both countries should strengthen their relationship and agree on a broad political, economic, and cultural agenda that would create wealth and opportunity to address challenges facing the continent. Again, Nigeria should indeed accept that South Africa by her configuration of power can play special roles to promote the development of the region to reduce the leadership burden on her.

Keywords: *Nigeria, South Africa, Foreign policy development, Africa.*

Corresponding Author: Kia, Bariledum

Background to the Study

Foreign policy is a major tool used by nation states to realize well defined national interests through influencing the behavior of other states and/or manipulating the global environment. In doing this, certain key national resources are deployed as instruments to achieving the set policy objectives in the international system globing community that naturally consists of sovereign states as well as non-sovereign states whose role is pivotal to world's socio-economic development. Nigeria and South Africa are state actors in the world system.

Nigeria and South Africa are for sure, two important nations in the continents of Africa whose foreign policy actions and inactions are crucial to desire development of the continent, particularly for the black Africa: In the context of this work, foreign policy is a function of the strength, cohesion and resilience of its economy, society and polity. It embraces the goals that both nations seek to attain on the continent, the values that give rise to those policy actions and the means or instruments used to pursue them. However, while the necessity for cooperation, partnership and collaboration by both countries cannot be overemphasized, both countries are at the same time friends and competitors, which observers believe affect development on the continent. As South Africa manifestly comes of age and rapidly seeks to assert forcefully its power and influence in Africa. Its relationship with Nigeria gradually assumed the problem competition dimension.

During the apartheid era, Nigeria-South Africa relations was very cordial, however the vast majority of what one can call disruptions in relations occurred in the post-apartheid South Africa in 1994 amid Nigeria-South Africa which has prompted crumbling of diplomatic relations in various fronts, provoking the official visit of the previous President Goodluck Jonathan to South Africa where he addressed the latter's joint parliament. The Presidential visit was prompted by the yellow fever certificate narrative that involved the two countries. The South African administration had on March 2, 2012, deported 125 Nigerians (75 on board South African Airways) and (50 on board Arik Airways) for having affected yellow cards fever immunization (The Guardian Editorials, March 5, 2012). The Nigerian administration speedily fought back what was usually seen as uncalled for ill-treatment of Nigerians, without doubt violence against diplomatic standards, by deporting a total of 128 South Africans in the space of two days, stating the absenteeism of legitimate documentation" as reasons behind closing them out (The News Editorials, March 19, 2012).

In a related development, the arms bargain that was between the two countries which came on the heels of the breakdown of a structure at the Synagogue of All Nations Church, Lagos, a Nigeria-based religious center, killing about 84 South African citizens turned into the most dishearten in the ranks of diplomatic schism that has bedeviled the Nigeria-South relations. It should be expressed here that the xenophobia attacks by South Africa on Nigerian inhabitants has impelled breakdown of relations between Nigeria-South Africa. This situation has certainly achieved annihilation in human and material resources which can scarcely be measured. This horrific development inescapably pitched South Africa against Nigeria. In diplomatic circles, as soon as there is an austere disorder between states the next choice is recalling emissaries and at whatever point there exist any collapse of relationship between

countries, it is more frequently than not set aside effort for such to be reestablished and taking into recognition the position of Nigeria and South Africa in the African continent, it will be also to the disadvantage of the development of other African countries.

In the 21st century, the continent needs cooperation to get out of the woods. This is obvious, given the enormous human and natural resources capable of making it the most developed continent in the world. Interestingly:

Africa is endowed with substantial reserves of some of the world's most important minerals, including bauxite, oil diamond, chromium, cobalt, copper, gold, manganese, phosphate, rock, platinum, titanium and uranium (Ware, 2010). In the same vein Africa alone holds 90 percent of platinum, 90 percent of cobalt, 50 percent of gold and 98 percent of chromium in the world. In addition, it houses one-third of the world's available uranium and 40 percent of the world's potential hydroelectric power. In 2008, it was estimated that Africa had oil reserves worth 117,481 billion barrels at the end of 2007 or 9.49 percent of the world's reserves. The continent contributes more than 10 million barrels per day to the world's supply of over 90 million barrels per day and about 185.02 billion cubic meters (BCM) of natural gas which is about 7 percent of global production (Charles, 2008; Onuoha, 2010).

Despite the huge endorsement captured above, the continent is exposed to a high level of vulnerabilities, the continent experience different and numerous human security challenges. The continent is exposed to high level of poverty, child mortality, maternal mortality, HIV/AIDs, corruption, unemployment, environmental degradation. Given all indicators of development, the continent is the most underdeveloped in the world. It has an average life expectancy of 47 years and is home to eighteen of the nineteen countries with the lowest human development index in the world (UNDP, 2009).

As if the above problems are not enough, continent, is in recent time is exposed to porous borders, bandits, Boko Haram insurgency, ethno-communal crisis, farmers – herders' conflicts, intra-state conflicts, piracy, small arms and light weapons proliferation, weak judicial and law enforcement institutions, and poorly managed economics. Many of Africa's youths are losing their lives in the bid to escape to other lands and those who are left behind are largely unemployed. Most of the countries have become increasingly too weak to help themselves. As a result, the continent has been left to the world to either be re-colonized or exploited continuously (Istifamus).

Given the above pathetic situations, some countries have been recognized to play key role to get the continent out of the woods. In this regard, Nigeria and South Africa are increasing being mentioned to lead, and as well give some sense of direction for Africa. It is possible to suggest that identifying both countries as regional leaders created are impression according to which South Africa become a competitor to Nigeria regional leadership status the recognition of South Africa as leader in the continent stern from perceived contribution to the region. The question therefore is could it be true that post-apartheid South Africa had done more to African progress than Nigeria, deserving to be recognize as regional leader against Nigeria? Given the multitude of problems in Africa, can Nigeria do it alone.

Having asked these questions, the article proceeds as follows: The First Section is the introduction above. This is followed by objectives and method of the study. After this, we proceed with the evaluation their foreign policy contributions to the development of African continent. The succeeding section discuss the position of the study from comparative perspective and conclude in view of their relations, considerations and what both countries would do to leverage their potentials for African development.

The Study Objectives

The main objective of the study is to critically analyze the foreign policy achievements of these countries in Africa. This is, against the background of leader's squabble between both countries on who control the affairs of the continent. In doing this the paper take a cursory look at their economic strength.

Method of Study

The Study made use of qualitative research method. This method as used in the study involves describing evidences which are for and against both countries diplomatic experiences and developments. This helped to gain clearer perspective of the present problem. The basic reason for its adoption, was to understand what informed both countries foreign policy behavior in Africa and how such policy defined their relationship.

Theoretical Framework

In this study, we used Power theory as the framework of analysis. This theory was popularized by Hans Morgenthau. Its main sign post is the concept of National Interest defined in terms of power which, comprises of anything that establishes and maintain control over the other including social, physical and psychological relationship. It is used in this study to demonstrates the fact that Nigeria and South Africa power configuration, if properly structure can serve the interest of Africa. Again the theory also expose the behavior of both countries toward each other. Above all both countries used their tangible and intangible power resources to influence foreign policy achievements in African is the hallmark of the power theory in this work.

Features of both Countries

Before the paper proceed to analysis of foreign policies of both countries, it is considered germane to provide some of the feature of these countries that make them not only regional power house but also potential power for the continent.

Nigeria

Nigeria as we know it today was a British creation. The name Nigeria was crafted in 1898 by Flora Shaw, later Lady Lugard, in attempt to describe area of British influence in the Oil Rivers (Odeh, 2015:14). Nigeria is located in the Gulf of Guinea on the West Coast of Africa, and covers an area of 923, 768 kilometers, making her the 10th largest country in Africa in terms of land mass. It will not be out of place to state that, the landmass may be less than 923, 768 at the moment given that part of her geographical space; Bakassi Peninsula has been ceded to the Republic of Cameroon in 2008; nevertheless, its territorial landmass is still far more bigger than the size of South Africa (Godwin, 2019:413).

Nigeria is bounded in the North by Republic of Chad and Niger, in the South by the Gulf of Guinea, an arm of the Atlantic Ocean and in the East by the Republic of Benin (Odeh, 2015). Nigeria has an estimated population of over 200 million, she has about 250 ethnic groups and 500 languages, making her one of the most ethnically and linguistically diverse societies in Africa and the world (). Nigeria is also religiously diverse. Her population is almost evenly divided between Christians and Muslim. The major ethnic groups in Nigeria include the Hausa/Fulani dominant in the Northern part of the country, the Igbo in the East and the Yoruba in the West.

Before the attainment of independence in 1960, the country (Nigeria) came under British Imperial Master through the 1903 conquest, and assumed the status of modern cosmopolitan in 1914 through the Lugardian amalgamation project. It got her political independence in 1960 and three years later, she became a republic, precisely, in 1963. With an estimated GDP of 369.8 billion, Nigeria is one of the largest economics in Africa and the region's largest market. As at 2004, it was estimated that Nigeria had proven oil reserves of 32 billion barrels, with natural gas estimated at 174 billion cubic feet. Nigeria's oil reserve is predicted to last for 37 years, gas to last 110 years.

With these available resources, Nigeria is traditionally and incontrovertibly recognized as the leader of Africa. These resources profoundly influenced the political economy of Nigeria in a way that she is empowered to play a credible and dynamic leadership role in Africa. Since her political independence, it has continued to claim and maintain leadership position among African states. The country's acclaimed leadership position has continued to sharpen her foreign policy trust over the years.

South Africa

Let us note that Nigeria and South Africa are concerned of as part of the Southern Heartland (Bukarambe, 2004). As explained by Bukarambe, 2004, the Southern Heartland de-emphasizes state boundaries in favor of all-embracing geographical space. South Africa lies at the strategic southern lip of the continent of Africa. It covers an area of 1,219,090 kilometers, making it the 6th largest country in Africa in terms of landmass.

In geographical sense, South Africa may be simply described as the south ward prolongation of an immense plateau which stretches northward to the Sahara. The rumbling away of the edges of the plateau by erosion for thousands of years with constant changes in sea-level in geological times and spaces gave rise to a coastal strip of variable width that runs round the edge of the interior table land (Omer Cooper, 1966:338). South Africa, like Nigeria, is ethnically diverse. Chikendu (2004:97) observed that, in contemporary times, South Africa harbors difference races or nationalities, namely Africans (68percent), European (19percent) Colored (9percent) and Asian mainly Indians (3percent). From the above, it is obvious that majority of the South Africa population is of black African ancestry, divided among a variety of ethnic groups speaking different Bantu languages, nine of which have official status. With an estimated population of well over 50 million, South Africa accounts for about 4% of African's population.

In terms of political economy, South Africa is currently Africa's wealthiest economy both in GDP per capita and in total GDP (Istifanus, 392). The South Africa economy is highly diversified and advanced technologically driven. Compared to other countries in Africa, South Africa can boast of more modern industrial infrastructure.

Manufacturing is the single most important economic activity and accounts for 25% of the GDP of South Africa. She produces more gold, diamond, and chromate than any other country in the world (). The country exerts major influence on total output, trade and investment flows to the African continent (Simeon, 2008). She accounts for 40% of all industrial output, nearly 50% of mineral production, 20% of farm products in Africa and over half of all generated electricity (2004) South Africa provides more reliable air transport and has fifteen times the African average of paved roads per 1,000km² of land, and ten times the African average or rail tracks per 1000km² of land, and nearly 60 percent of telephone use in the continent (Onuoha, 2008: 272).

The country is equally being recognized as a major auto manufacturer (News Africa, November 30, 2004). Adebayo (2006:6) observed that, South Africa accounts for about a third of African's economic strength with GDP of about \$193 billion. Comparatively, Nigeria's GDP is less with \$53 billion. The understanding from the data presented in the preceding pages of this work, it is possible include that, while South Africa has advantage over Nigeria in areas of technology and infrastructure, Nigeria has the advantages of large market potential for investment and large pool of human resources.

Nigeria exports to South Africa

Fig. 1

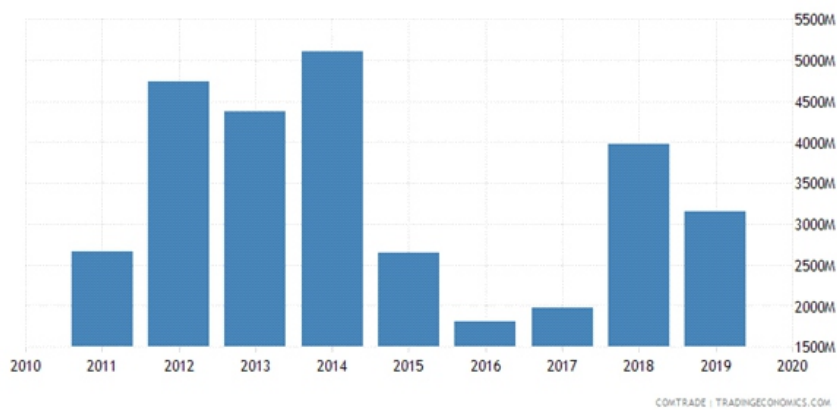


Table 1.

Nigeria Exports to South Africa	Value	Year
Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products	\$3.14B	2019
Fertilizers	\$5.85M	2019
Rubbers	\$3.18M	2019
Coffee, tea, mate and spices	\$457.61K	2019
Aluminum	\$385.64K	2019
Bird skin, feathers, artificial flowers, human hair	\$335.72K	2019
Vegetable, fruit, nut food preparations	\$147.48K	2019
Oil seed, oleagic fruits, grain, seed, fruits	\$98.71K	2019
Beverages, spirits and vinegar	\$96.32K	2019
Edible fruits, nuts, peel of citrus fruit, melons	\$44.44K	2019

Table 2.

Nigeria	Last	Previous	Highest	Lowest	Unit	
Balance of Trade	-679470.20	-605290.40	2177553.08	-1507542.69	NGN Millions	[+]
Current Account	-1750.60	-5264.53	10383.67	-6676.40	USD Million	[+]
Current Account to GDP	-4.20	-3.30	32.80	-18.70	percent of GDP	[+]
Imports	2482178.50	2221385.10	2518686.57	167.88	NGN Millions	[+]
Exports	1802708.30	1616094.70	2648881.76	322.93	NGN Millions	[+]
Terms of Trade	100.04	100.17	160.25	49.48	Points	[+]
Foreign Direct Investment	2138.38	438.70	3084.90	63.50	USD Million	[+]
Capital Flows	7886.98	-3371.72	20302.97	-15439.95	USD Million	[+]
Gold Reserves	21.46	21.46	21.46	21.37	Tonnes	[+]
Crude Oil Production	1323.00	1313.00	2475.00	675.00	BBL/D/1K	[+]
Remittances	4278.12	4071.91	6270.24	3373.09	USD Million	[+]
Non-Oil Exports	405369.81	294400.99	1450442.90	29675.90	NGN Million	[+]
Oil Exports	664897.32	654722.09	2033861.20	46192.00	NGN Million	[+]
Terrorism Index	8.31	8.60	9.31	3.86		[+]
External Debt	32859.99	33348.08	37267.68	3287.73	USD Million	[+]

From the time of the commencement of democratic rule in Nigeria, South Africa and Nigeria had reassuring bilateral economic relations. From that point onward, South Africa has risen amongst the top investors in many areas of the Nigerian economy. South African firms' presence is evident in the Nigerian economy, mostly in areas, for instance, media transmission, engineering, banking, retail, property advancement, hospitality construction and travel industry, etc.

In the area of infrastructure and technology, South Africa has an advantage over Nigeria whereas Nigeria has a favored position of colossal market opportunities for investments over South Africa. This is the reason there are countless deal of South African firms with enormous investments in Nigeria. In 1999, South African and Nigerian governments agreed to bilateral pacts on investment and trade. These pacts as well as other things, intended to form the quantity of trade and investment between South Africa and Nigeria.

The agreeing to these pacts witnessed inter-alia (a) enhanced trade relations between South Africa and Nigeria and (b) South African enterprises as big actors in the Nigerian economy. On enhanced trade relations concerning the two nations, we observed that the capacity of trade between South Africa and Nigeria expanded from 1999. Before 1999, trade amid the two countries was inconsequential. In 1994, South Africa exported US\$8.1 million worth of items to Nigeria, whereas it imported US\$3.1 million worth of products from that nation (Omojola, 2006). With the authorization of the South Africa–Nigeria bilateral trade pact, the status quo improved. By 2005 South Africa was exporting products to the estimation of R3.4 billion to Nigeria and bringing in R4.2 billion worth of items from Nigeria (Tenikin, 2007). South Africa's exports to Nigeria comprises machinery, electrical gear, machines, wood, paper, prepared food stuffs, drinks, plastics, elastic, synthetic compounds and so on. Nonetheless, oil makes up 97% of Nigeria's exports to South Africa (Pahad, 2002). The circumstance suggests that South Africa is exporting a wide range of produce to Nigeria, a great number of which are worth comprised made products. Successively, South Africa's exports can perhaps improve meaningfully.

Consecutively, Nigeria's export items to South Africa include of a solitary crude material as oil. Its oil export to South Africa is undoubtedly not going to upsurge extremely all through the ensuing years and its export items are similarly unlikely to diversify. This translates into an unpredictable trade situation between South Africa and Nigeria; in which South Africa is inevitably the dominant collaborator as far as trade relations is concerned. What features the varying relationship that exists amongst Nigeria and South Africa, nevertheless, is the way that South African companies have come to dominate various segments of the Nigerian economy.

Bilateral Political Relations between Nigeria-South Africa from Apartheid to Post Apartheid Era Bilateral political relations between South Africa and Nigeria are sturdy with Nigeria considered as one of South Africa's weighty partners on the African continent in propelling the vision of Africa's political and economic restoration. The frontrunners of the two states have navigated the globe disseminating the awareness of African resurgence focusing to a larger extent on democracy, advancement and security and seeking for foreign investment to

reinstate Africa's suffocating economies. They have called for more noticeable global burden-sharing in peacekeeping missions, campaigns for the annulment of Africa's external debt, reinforced better access for African products inflowing western markets and called for Africa's amalgamation into the global economy in more attractive terms.

However, since the end of an apartheid in South Africa in 1994, South Africa and Nigeria have never had an easy relationship over the years as different presidents have come and gone, the two countries have often been loggerheads for different reasons with competition over regional leadership in recent times at the center of their frosty relationship. During the military era in Nigeria, Nelson Mandela's stance on human rights didn't augur well for relations with Nigeria. The relationship hit a new low in November 1995 when Nelson Mandela criticized the planned and actual hanging of Ken-Saro Wiwa by the military regime led by the late General Sani Abacha. Relations improved after Nigeria's return to democracy in 1999. But underlying tensions have always remained.

Analysis of Foreign Policy Achievements in Africa Nigeria's Achievements:

1. Commitment to End Colonial Rule in Africa

The role played by the government of Nigeria in this respect is traditionally and incontrovertibly recognized. During the colonial era, many Africa countries looked up to Nigeria and Nigeria was able to lead the change for emancipation of the African continent from colonialists. Shortly after Nigeria gained her independence in 1960, she made a firm and solemn commitment to end colonial rule in every nook and cranny of the African continent. In the case of South Africa, the government of Nigeria financed liberation activities. She (Nigeria) provided financial and material resources to freedom fighters and activities who fought apartheid regime in South Africa and led the quest for economic sanction against the apartheid South African government (Egedo, 1987). In her commitment, she did not only condemn vehemently Sharpeville massacre of sixty-nine school children that protested the passage of racist law but also formulated an anti-apartheid policy maintained by subsequent regimes until apartheid was completely dismantled in South Africa. Financially, Nigeria government contributed thirty-seven million dollars besides Olusegun Obasanjo's personal donation of \$30,000 and \$1,500 respectively to the cabinet members (Ibrahim, 2019). Nigerian workers in like manner donated their two monthly salaries to South Africa Relief Fund (Abegunrin 2009). Still in the spirit of African solidarity, members of South African Youth Revolutionary Council (SARYCO) were given free education in Nigeria. On the floor of UN General Assembly, the government of Nigeria opposed apartheid regime. Nigeria also hosted UNGA world conference for action against apartheid and international conference for the legal status of apartheid in Lagos in 1977 and 1984 respectively, reiterating her stance against the apartheid regime. Nigeria also abstained from any diplomatic contact with apartheid regime, and sought to expel her from several international organizations. She in the same vein declined and boycotted the 1972 and 1976 Olympic Games and 1978 common wealth games (Ibrahim, 2019).

Apart from South Africa, Nigeria expended huge quantity of resources while pursuing her continental decolonization agenda in the 1980s and 1990s. Countries like Zimbabwe,

Namibia, Mozambique, Angola, and a host of others were seriously assisted by the government of Nigeria during their anti-colonial and anti-apartheid struggles. According to Thomas (2012), Nigeria's commitment in this regard, was due to the reason that Nigeria's independence would have no meaning if her brothers in Africa were enduring the pangs of heavy colonial yoke. In this sense, it could have amount to failure of leadership on the part of Nigeria to watch her fellow African brothers and sisters still in the throes of colonial rule.

2. Peacekeeping

There is hardly any shared of doubt about Nigeria's historical commitment to peace and security in Africa. Nigeria has done creditably well in Africa. Nigeria has done creditably well in the critical sphere of peacekeeping and this is not limited to the African continent alone.

United Nations Figures (2010) ranked Nigeria as the 5th largest contributor of uniformed personnel to UN operations with 877 police, 76 Military Experts on Mission (MEM), and 4888 troops, making a total of 5,841, representing 5.8 percent of UN total) as at December 2010.

Nigeria has been in over 40 operations under various mandates. Sani (2010), structured Nigeria's peacekeeping in these ways:

- (i) Bilateral Deployments: this happened in 1964 in Tanzania with focus on quelling mutiny. This was followed in Chad in 1979. Under operation harmony 1, Nigeria government deployed one Battalion of her army to Chad. Others include Gambian and Sierra Leone deployment in 1993 and 1994 respectively.
- (ii) Deployment under OAU/AU: under the auspices of the above body, Nigeria deployed peacekeepers to Chad in 1981, Rwanda in 1994, Sudan in 2004.
- (iii) The ECOWAS/ECOMOG Deployments: under the auspices of ECOWAS, Nigeria enforced peacekeeping in Liberia 1992, Sierra Leone in 1997, Cote d'Ivoire in 2000 and many others. Nigeria's leadership in Africa is mostly appreciated in the CONTEXT of peacekeeping and this is understandably so because of the strategic importance of peace and security to the enterprise of development in the continent. As remarked by Thomas (2010), the continent conflict management mechanism would not have been possible if Nigeria had chosen not to participate. The bulk of the resources needed to restore peace and security to war inclined countries in Africa, was borne by Nigeria: little wonder in the first appearance at the 54th session of the UN General Assembly, then president Obasanjo did not mince his words:

For too long, the burden of preserving international peace and security in West African has been left about entirely to some states in our sub-region... Nigeria's continual burden in Sierra Leone is unacceptably draining Nigeria financially. For our economy to take off, this bleeding has to stop. The United Nations needs to do more in providing logistics and financial support to assist regional peacekeeping and peace building efforts as well as enhancing the welfare of refugees worldwide without discrimination (Chibuzor, 2009).

From the United Nations intervention in Congo in 1960, Nigeria has participated in more than 50 percent of the total UN peacekeeping missions around the world in addition to other

bilateral, sub-regional and continental peacekeeping operations in Africa. There is therefore a sense in which scholars can contend that commitment to the promotion of peace and security in Africa is Nigeria's heaviest leadership role in Africa.

3. Trust Fund

It is on record that Nigeria is the only country that has set up a trust fund in the African Development Bank for Poorer African Countries to borrow from with minimal interest rate.

This has in no small measure assisted numerous small African countries with very weak economics (Thomas, 2010). This outstanding contribution reaffirmed, Calderisi (2006), opinion that Nigeria's contribution underscored her leadership attribute some small African countries, just as United States of America was to Britain immediately after World War I.

4. Development AID

Nigeria is also involved in development assistance, especially assisting needy African states through the instrumentality of the Technical Aid Corps (TAC) Since independence, and has been considered by Nigeria leaders as effective mechanism to enhance the continent's development efforts.

In Africa, the main problem is the presence of a large reserve of unskilled and unemployed manpower. This situation is further compounded by rapid population growth rates, poverty and other related factors. To address the shortage manpower in a bit to enhance development in the continent, Nigeria, in 1987 established Technical Aid Corps Scheme. The legal and programme framework had legal backing under decree 27, 1993 (Kamulu, 2010).

As stipulated in the handbook, the objectives of Technical Aid Corps include:

- (i) To share Nigeria's, know-how and expertise with the recipient countries in the African, Caribbean, and Pacific regions.
- (ii) To give assistance on the basis of assessed and perceived needs of the recipient countries.
- (iii) To promote cooperation and understanding between Nigeria and recipient countries
- (iv) To facilitate meaningful contact between Nigerian youths and youths of the recipient countries.
- (v) To compliment other forms of assistance to the ACP countries.
- (vi) To ensure a streamlined programme of assistance to other developing countries.
- (vii) To get as a channel of enhancing south-south cooperation.
- (viii) To establish a presence in countries which for economic reasons.

Under this scheme, Nigeria government had deployed highly experienced Nigerian professionals in the fields of medicine, nursing, education, engineering, agriculture, accountancy, and other related fields to African, Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) countries for a period of two years. As revealed by Kamulu (2012), 32 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries received over two thousand volunteers. In Africa, Angola, Benin Republic, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Comoros Island, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger Republic, Saro

Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles and Sierra Leone, other countries in Africa are Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, the Gambia, Uganda, and Zambia. In the Caribbean region, countries such as Belize, commonwealth of Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis and the Bahamas.

As rightly observed by Okogwu and Akpuru-Aja, 2002, Nigeria's commitment to the scheme encourages free movement of capital and labor across national boundaries and efforts to create a security-friendly atmosphere in the region. Above all, the scheme has contributed greatly in enhancing and strengthening relations between Nigeria and other African countries.

v. Formation of Regional Bodies

Nigeria has been credited with being the chief driver in the processes leading to the formation of several regional organizations. At independence in 1960, Nigeria used her endowed resources with the necessary institutions and capacity to advance the cause of integration of Africa. Evidence from scholars' point of view, revealed that all her developmental indexes indicate that she deployed her resources to championed African integration. The complimentary efforts of Nigeria in continental integration led to the establishment of Africa Union. Studies revealed that the African Union is willing to carry out the task of continental integration.

The objective of the initiative is part of Africans' ambition to build on integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa. Nigeria has consistently opposed any hasty continental integration that could exclude some African countries. She believes that once sufficient preparations are done, integration would be achieved smoothly.

In the same vein, Nigerians played a critical role in the formation of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) by encouraging other African heads of government and state to formulate a continent-wide development strategy. NEPAD provides an institutional platform for fostering the development aspiration of African states through conscious efforts to encourage the cultivation of a culture of good governance characterized by a good sense of accountability, transparency, rule of law, constitutions. The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) was put in place to serve as a barometer for determining the standards set by NEPAD for member states.

South Africa Foreign Achievements

(i) Peace and Security Issues

After she joined Southern African Development Community (SADC) in 1994, South Africa has been involved in a number of regional peace and security issues. According to Olajide (2015), in the late 1990s and early 2000s for instance, South Africa played a leading role in the management of crisis in Lesotho and Zimbabwe respectively and has since been at the fore front of international community efforts to resolve the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

One of the conflicts and security issues that South Africa was able to resolve in the sub-region was the crises over the status and operationalization of the SADC Organ on politics, Defense and Security (OPDS). This was the first leadership test of South Africa beyond its borders. The success of South Africa influence over the crisis led to the reorganization and restructuring of the OPDS, and the eventual remaining of the OPDS as “organ on politics, Defense and Strategy Cooperation (OPDSC), making it an organ of SADC. Accordingly,”.

The signing of the Mutual Defense pact in 2003 by states, including South Africa and Zimbabwe and the formulation of the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO) in 2004, which operationalized the OPDSC, were the heights of the sub-regional security cooperation that followed the reviewed of SADC (Olajide, 2012).

This development brought about significant improvement in South-Africa, Zimbabwe relations against their power tussle that partly contributed to the OPDS crisis. The improvement in both countries' military relations helped in strengthening the Joint Permanent Commission on Defense and Security in 2005. This structure empowered Zimbabwean pilots to train South African pilots (). In related area, South Africa embarked on a series of activities intended to help countries recover from violence conflicts. In this direction, South Africa contributed to social engineering that created durable peace in Lesotho, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Angola, Namibia, and Zimbabwe (). South Africa policies in these areas leverage on its military and economic importance of the region to ensure peace and stability. It is reasonable to contend here at this point that South Africa's military and economic strength makes it imperative for her to pursue stability, particularly, for its national interests, socio-political and economic wellbeing, and good public image.

In her efforts to ensure an enhancing peace in the region, South Africa encourage the establishment of African Renaissance and International Cooperation Fund (ARI) in 2000, increasing deployment of South African forces on peacekeeping missions, as well as efforts to strengthen and promote multilateral diplomacy.

Promotion of Democracy

South Africa also made efforts towards the building of stable democracies in the region through provision of material and financial support for the holding of elections and participation in election observer missions. Between 2000 and 2008, Liberia, Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), Democratic Republic of Congo, Comoros, Burundi, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Guinea, Bissau and so on. In 2008, South Africa expended the sum of R10 million worth US\$634,854, granted under ARF to fund South African participation in SADC election observer mission to Zimbabwe during election in 2006, South Africa also granted R278million worth US\$18,220,315, towards election in Democratic Republic of Congo.

South Africa also stressed the importance of regional and continental cooperation and alluded to the interdependencies of SADC member states and the continent as a whole. This underpinned South Africa efforts to integrate AU and NEPAD programmes. In the area of peace and security, integration of RECs into AU was enhanced through the protocol that established Peace and Security Council (PSC).

Discussion

From the evaluation of both countries foreign policy contributions towards the continent's development, Nigeria has been performing excellently well. Nigeria's perception as the leader of Africa and its almost altruistic commitment to the growth, development, peace and security of the African states confer on her a leadership position in Africa. The extent of South Africa's influence and involvement in African politics is comparatively less than that of Nigeria. The foundation of Nigeria's commitment to the African commitment is found in section 19 subsection b of the 1999 constitution of Nigeria, which stipulates that the promotion of African Integration and Support for African Unity” shall be one of Nigeria's key foreign policy objectives as articulated in chapter two of Nigeria's constitution. This declaration, reinforce Nigeria's commitment to building a socially united, politically stable and economically prosperous and dynamic African continent through a discipline, responsible and responsive leadership. In a sense, Nigeria has imposed on herself the responsibility of shaping the destiny of Africa through conscious determination. A look at the Nigeria's foreign policy objectives, one realized that Nigeria share three obligations... her citizens, African States and the world system

It is the deeply commitment that made Dowden (2008), observation quite right, in pointing at Nigeria as a country that possesses the potential of translating the dream and aspiration of Africa into reality. While we agree with him to a large extent, it is however wrong to believe that “it is only Nigeria that can shoulder the enormous responsibility of responding to the multitude of challenges affecting the continent. The complex nature of African continent, particularly its diversity makes it more challenging for only Nigeria to undertake all it takes to enhancing African development.

It is in this sense, that we agree with Solomon (2005), that indeed, contemporary events as obsessed in the preceding pages of this study patently indicate that Nigeria's but hitherto pre-eminent power and leadership position in Africa can no longer be maintained without the support and cooperation of South African which equally exhibits, enormous power and exemplary leadership quality in the continent. This indeed is important. As noted by Ogwu (1999), the collaboration is opted as:

It is important because each of Nigeria and South Africa bears an immense burden of leadership in its region and in the continent, and the world at large. It is unique because the new geopolitics and our African kinship demands that we cooperate, despite our unequal levels of development in a joint responsibility to promote the development of the economy of Africa.

According to Yemi, the opening years of the new millennium, we should expect a world of turbulence with stresses and strains that would likely rock global equilibriums. It is a common knowledge that in this emerging world order, many African countries will look up to both countries for leadership and direction. On this note, both countries need to strengthen their relationship and agree on a broad economic agenda that would create wealth and opportunity to addressing some of the challenges facing the continent. Nigeria should indeed accept that South Africa have a special role to play in Africa by virtue of her configuration of power and

standing in Africa. Both countries have led most conflict management in Africa in recent years and account for at least 60 percent of the economy of their respective sub-regions in West Africa and Southern Africa.

The success of the political and economic integration in Africa thus rests on the shoulders of these two regional powers. If for anything the current Boko Haram insecurity in Nigeria suggest that she needs assistance to be able to pilot the affairs of Africa. Nigeria and South Africa have had various current and historical relationships. Both countries are former British colonies, and are members of the common wealth of nations and Africa Union.

Going forward, the two countries must desist from perceiving each other as competitors if they want to forge a fruitful and peaceful relationship. They need to work together for the betterment of the continent. Nigeria is a major player in West Africa while South Africa is a major player in the Southern African Development Community region. Sustained tensions would be to the detriment of both countries – and Africa as a whole

Conclusion

The study concluded that the relations between Nigeria and South Africa is considered as one of the countries advancing the vision of Africa's political and economic renewal which at one point or the other has championed better access entering western markets. The study also concluded that the relations between the two countries has made South Africa companies to be present in Nigeria like in the areas of telecommunication engineering, banking, retail, hospitality, property development, construction, and tourism, to mention a few. The study further concluded that despite these good relations there has also been schism between South Africa and Nigeria. It is made clear that Nigeria by virtue of its manifest destiny is the leader of Africa, however the paradox of African problems and peculiar insecurity, she cannot do it alone, hence the need for partnership and collaboration with South Africa. The observed comparative advantages notwithstanding; both countries remain Africa's regional economic and military powerhouses. It is certain that together both countries account for well over 50percents of the total Gross National Product (GNP) of the continent and represent 25% of the population of the continent.

References

- Adebayo, A. (2006). Prophets of Africa's renaissance: Nigeria and South Africa as Regional Hegemons, Occasional Paper Series, No. 3, Lagos, NIIA.
- Agbu, O. (2010). Nigeria and South Africa: The future of a strategic partnership. In O. Eze (Ed.), *Beyond 50 Years of Nigeria's Foreign Policy: Issues, challenges and prospects*, Lagos: Nigerian Institute of International Affairs.
- Akindele, R. A. (2007). Nigeria's National interests and her diplomatic relations with South Africa. In B. Akinterinwa (Ed.), *Nigeria's National Interests in a Globalising World: Further Reflections on Constructive and Beneficial Concentricism*, 3. Ibadan: Bolytag International Publishers.
- Alozieuwa, S. (2009). Beyond South Africa: Mbeki's resignation and consolidation of democracy, *Nigerian Journal of International Affairs*, 35, (1).
- Bukar, B. (2004). The significance of the New South Africa to Africa: The Southern Heartland Thesis Reconstructed (Ibadan: College Press and Publishers Ltd.).
- Charles, D. (2012). *Nigeria's role in power and conflict resolution in Africa*, The imperative of a New Paradigm in Thomas A. I (eds.)
- Daniel, J, et al (2004). South Africa and Nigeria: Two unequal centres in a 'Periphery, *State of the Nations: South Africa, 2004-2005*.
- Dokubo, C (2000). The Liberian crisis and the re-emergence of the Americo-Liberian, *Nigerian Journal of International Affairs*, 38.
- Flames, D. & Wojczewski, T. (2010). *Contested leadership in international relations: Power politics in South America, South Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa*. GIGA Working Paper, No.121, February.
- Games, D, (2004), The oil giant reforms: The experience of South African firms' Doing Business in Nigeria, *Johannesburg, the South African Institute of International Affairs, Business in Africa Report No. 3*.
- Hatting, S. (2007). *South Africa's role in Nigeria and the Nigerian elections*, MRZINE June 26, 2007, <http://mrzine.monthlyreview.org/2007hattingh260607.html> (accessed May 1, 2010).
- Hattingh, S. (2007). *South Africa's Role in Nigeria and the Nigerian elections*, Retrieved from www.mrzine.monthlyreview.org, accessed 4 April 2007.

- Ibeanu, O., Umezurike, C. & Nwosu, B. (2007). Interests, competition and co-operation in Nigeria-South Africa relations: An analysis of the diplomacy of transitional states, *Nigerian Journal of International Affairs*, 33(1).
- Istifamis, S. Z. & Freedom, C. N. (2012). *Nigeria and South Africa: Competition or cooperation in Thomas A. I (eds.) Perspectives on Nigeria's National and External Relations in Thomas A.I and Kamilu S. F (2012). The technical aid corps scheme as an instrument of Nigeria's Foreign Policy: An Assessment in Thomas A. I (eds.)*
- Landerberg, C. (2008). *An African 'concert of Powers'? Nigeria and South Africa's Construction of the AU and NEPAD. In A. Adebajo and A. R Mustapha (eds.), Gulliver's Troubles: Nigeria's Foreign Policy after the Cold War, South Africa: University of Kwazulu-Natal Press.*
- Lawal, L. (2007). *South Africa Goes shopping. Fortune.* http://money.cnn.com/2007/09/26/news/international/south_africa.fortune/index.htm (accessed June 1, 2009).
- Obasanjo, O., (2001). Nigeria-South Africa: Bond across the continent, in Ad'Obe Obe (ed.) *A New Dawn: A collection of Speeches of President Olusegun Obasanjo, 2.* Ibadan: Spectrum Books.
- Ogwu, J. U., (1986). *Nigerian foreign policy: Alternative futures.* Lagos: NIIA and Macmillan Nigeria Publishers Ltd
- Okolo, B., Love (2006). *Hate relationship between Nigeria and South Africa.* Johannesburg: Africa's International Relations University
- Olajide, O. A. (2015). South Africa and regional stability in the Mbeki Era: The Nexus between personality and geo-political and economic concerns in foreign policy making in Nigerian forum, *Journal of Opinion on World Politics*, 36, no1-4, 42-65.
- Onuoha, J. (2008). *Beyond diplomacy: Contemporary issues in international relations,* Nsukka: Great AP Express Publishers.
- Solomon, O. A. (2012). From confrontation to strategic partnership: Nigeria's relations with South Africa, 1960-2000 in Ogwu, J. I (ED.) *New Horizons for Nigeria in World Affairs.* Lagos: NIIA.
- Stratis, I. (2011). *South Africa officially joins BRIC,* <http://stratisincite.wordpress.com/2011/10/14/south-Africa-officially-joins-bric/> (accessed, January 20, 2011).
- Tunji, O. (2000). *Exploring Nigeria-South Africa bilateral relations,* London: African Foreign Service Institute.
- United Nations Development Programme (2009). *Human development report 2009.* New York: UNDP.