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Politics and Institutions as Springboards for Addressing Nigeria's Development Crisis

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Abstract

The issues surrounding Nigeria's development deficit in critical sectors including infrastructure, economy, education, health and security to mention a few has necessitated the need to interrogate the nexus between politics and institutions. Even with previously implemented intervention programmes, the country still lags behind when it comes to development indicators. This nature of this study is qualitative with interviews conducted on respondents from selected research institutes and think tanks in Lagos and Oyo State. Findings from the field was complemented by secondary data. It revealed that Nigeria's development crisis persists due to non-alignment of development gaps with national priorities, the politicization of development and weak institutions and structural deficiencies among other factors. The study therefore concludes that in addressing the nations' development needs, there is the need to re-align national development gaps with government priorities, prioritize development across all levels of government and strengthen government institutions and structures. To this end, the study recommends the re-ordering of national development priorities in order to align with existing development gaps, de-politicize development gaps as well as strengthen state institutions and structures for optimum delivery. In line with other findings, it also recommends the repairing the trust deficit between government and the people; and between the different sections and divides that make up the country. It also recommends the use of consultants in picking intervention programmes of government for sustainability.

Keywords: *Development, Development deficit, Politics, Institutions, Economic growth*

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Background to the Study

The value and importance of critical sectors namely infrastructure, economy, security, education, affordable healthcare delivery, and social security to mention a few cannot be over emphasized because they are the ingredients for nation building and development. Today, the progress made by the country in critical sectors when put side by side with the size reveal that the country is lagging behind when compared with its counterparts in sub-saharan Africa. As a notable figure in Africa, the decline or seeming lackluster performance of the country in terms of performance of its key sectors is eroding its leadership position in sub-saharan Africa and Africa as a whole. This is not to say that Nigeria has no place in international reckoning, but that its poor rating in critical areas including infrastructure, economy, security, education, affordable healthcare delivery and social security is central to its development challenges.

As the country grapples with these development deficits, the question of how can the country overcome these challenges continues to beg the question. The question of what has successive governments done to reverse this development deficit is also relevant. Historically, Nigeria's development deficit has thrown up the development question and what successive governments have done since independence (Osabuohien, Efobi & Salami, 2012). Apart from the four national development plans, the country has also adopted or aligned with other global plans such as Vision 2000, Vision 2010, and Vision 20:2020 among others all aimed at addressing the critical areas of challenges (Ziprebo & Obi, 2025). While this study is not oblivious of the concerted efforts by governments to improve these critical sectors, it is however notable that the different interventions are yet to yield the much-anticipated results. With countries within and outside Africa making copious and meaningful progress with their critical sectors, same cannot said of Nigeria. Now that it has come to the fore that Nigeria's development deficit constitutes a clog in the wheel of progress, as well as eroding its leadership position in sub-saharan Africa, this study presents a good opportunity to interrogate the often-neglected issues accounting for persisting nature of Nigeria's development deficit with a view to proffering lasting solutions. The objective of this study is to interrogate the complex issues of Nigeria's development challenges and proffer lasting solutions to the nagging issues which continue to draw the nation back.

Objectives of the Study

i. To examine why Nigeria's development crisis still persist.
ii. To examine why previous intervention programmes failed.
iii. To investigate if Nigeria's size and stature is responsible for its development crisis.
iv. To identify implications on continuous development deficit and way forward.

Research Questions

i. Why is Nigeria's development crisis still persisting?
ii. Why did previous intervention programmes fail?
iii. Is Nigeria's size and stature responsible for its development deficit?
iv. What are the implications of continuous development deficit and the way forward?

Conceptual Clarification

Development

The term development connotes the process of transforming of the entire social and economic system to create an improvement in the quality of life for the people's standard of living and life's chances (Babawale, 2025). This sometimes include the provision of job opportunities, equal opportunities for all citizens as well as equal distribution of income across all strata of society (Akinbande, 2004). As a concept, development implies increment of all indicators that translate to enhanced welfare of citizens. That explains why development is measured by the strength of state institutions, the gap between bourgeoisie and the proletariat, as well as how the poor and vulnerable groups are catered for. Development is a natural drive towards self-sustainability hence, it is not unusual to see nations set targets aimed at improving the outlook of key sectors including infrastructure, economy, education, health, and security to mention a few. Development drive feature prominently in countries around the world where there are targeted efforts to improve the economy and the quality of life of citizens. Considering the level of infrastructural and structural deficits in Less Developed Countries "LDCs", a number of them have made developmental targets part of their national planning strategy to address their varying developmental needs. This has been further affirmed by successive administrations which have made agenda setting part of their respective administration's agenda for growth. From the onset of the fourth republic, development targets have been made quite visible with successive administrations of former Presidents Olusegun Obasanjo, Umar Musa Yar'adua, Goodluck Jonathan, Muhammadu Buhari and the incumbent administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu all having one programme targeted at development or the other. The point is that development plans are key strategies to fast tracking development. Needless to say, that even global goals and targets such as Millenium development goals and now sustainable development goals are part of development plans which nations the world over have signed up to address their respective development gaps and deficits.

The term development is multi-dimensional in nature. Its dimensions include economic development, social development, personal development, technological development, environmental development, cultural development, political development and even religious development (Fukuyama & Marwah, 2000). At the level of personal development, this could involve acquisition of skills, educational qualification, development of capabilities and potential to enhance quality of life and facilitate the realization of dreams and aspirations (Aubrey, 2010). Economic development on the other hand could be measured through economic indicators such as increased standard of living, gross domestic product, and export/import ratio amongst others (Olugbuyi & Ibrahim, 2006). Social development on the other hand involves the provision of social amenities by governments, such as access to functional health facilities, universal access to social services such as safe drinking water, qualitative education, healthcare and equal opportunity for all members of the public in order to give a new lease of life (Olanrewaju, 2015). Whatever the dimension, it is important to note that the varied dimensions of development are integrated and it is the fusion that can bring about enhanced welfare of citizens and advancement of society as a whole.

In all, development is a universal concept not restricted to any society or a people; it is a multidimensional process that involves changes in social structures, attitudes and national institutions with a view to stimulating economic growth, reduction of inequality and eradication of poverty (Todaro & Smith, 2015). As was said, it is a process and the end result of the process will determine if a state develops or not. Where some of these indicators including nature of state institutions and economic indicators are absent or lacking, it is safe to conclude that there exists a development paradox.

Development Paradox

A paradox is a seemingly contradictory state but nonetheless possibly true state. A paradox shows some level of absurdity or seeming contradiction in a system. Development paradox is the difference between development and underdevelopment (Okereke & Ekpo, 2010). Considering the abundance of human and natural resources, it begs the question, what could be responsible for Nigeria's development paradox? This is also against the backdrop of the timing of the first national development plan which kick started in 1962, and subsequent implementation of three additional development plans (1970-1974; 1975-1980; 1980-1985) (Fadeiye, 2005); alongside several other intervention programmes to address Nigeria's developmental needs, the nation still grapples with development deficit and a national development crisis (World Bank, 2025). While this study is not oblivious of policies and programmes of successive governments aimed at bridging the development gap, it however obvious that a gap still exists.

Nigeria's developmental needs are further accentuated by the growing poverty and misery and the level of deprivation of citizens in the country (NMP, 2022). How do we rationalize that a nation so endowed with abundant resources carries the tag of been the 'poverty capital of the world', (NBS, 2022, 2023)? How does a country so endowed with human and natural resources have the highest number of people in the world and is unable to provide basic amenities such as (Electricity, Infrastructure, and social services etc. to the people? These highlighted instances spotlight why development deficit persist and why plans and programmes of successive governments continue to record limited impact. The inability to address these needs in spite of the resources (human and material) at the disposal of these country points to the obvious that there exists not just a development crisis, but a development paradox.

Institutions

While it is difficult to agree on a unanimous definition of the term institution(s), the role of institutions cannot be over emphasized in social life as well as in human interaction and activity. Conceptually, institutions can be described as systems of established and prevalent social rules that structure social interactions (Knight, 1992). Institutions are structures, norms and practices that govern and guide social interactions and structure relationships within a society (Sociology Institute, 2022). They are deliberately put in place to guide against excesses and ensure everyone conforms to societal ethics and values (Idumange, 2011). They are the set of machinery necessary to ensure good governance in any society (Idumange, 2011). Institutions are the machinery upon which the operations of the state are conducted. The

instrumentality of institutions provides coordination for the smooth running of the state. In other words, institutions encompass the fundamental rules upon which the society operates (Arkadie, 1989). They provide for rules of the society or organizations that facilitate coordination among people by helping them form expectations which each person can hold in dealing with each other (Ruttan & Hayami, 1984). It is for the above reasons that political science as a discipline have called for strengthening of state institutions because they have pivotal roles to play in development, especially because they cannot be detached from organizations or states.

Economic Growth

Economic Growth just as the concept implies is the increase in the quantity and quality of the economic goods and services that a society produces (International Labour Organization, 1996). It can be measured by the increase in inflation-adjusted output of any economy in a given year or over a period of time. Economic growth cannot be achieved by happenstance, it is determined by the annual increase of material production expressed in value, the rate of growth of GDP or national income (Ivic, 2015). Economic growth in turn stands as a pedestal for overall growth and transformation. This is because, the economy plays a major role in overall development. Economic growth is a function of the gross domestic product determined by consumption, investment, government spending as well as volume of exports and imports (Agbo, Gina & Biwei, 2022).

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on Dependency theory of Development. The Thesis of the theory is derived from economic imperialism which placed African countries at a disadvantage when compared to their counterparts in Europe and North America. The theory advanced from the works of Andre Gunder Frank (1966, 1979), Walter Rodney (1972) and Samir Amin (1970) explains the reasons for the development deficit in Africa. According to them, Latin America and African countries are grossly underdeveloped because of the operations of the capitalist system (Ogundiwin, 2015), which has established an asymmetrical relationship between the core states and periphery states thereby making African states dependent on core states for hands out (Momoh & Hundeyin, 2008).

According to the theory, development has been a challenge for nations of the global South and it continues to be challenge due to multi-varied factors. The factors are further reinforced by the three forms of dependency including colonial dependency, financial-industrial dependency and new dependency (Dos, Santos, 1970). The foundations of dependency were laid right from the 16th century where European imperial powers colonized Africa and established a monopoly over land, mines and labour and to the recent form of dependency occasioned by the emergence of transnational corporations, which has ensured that Africa has been under one form of dependency or another (Emeh, 2013).

The basic thrust of the theory is that even after colonialism which laid the foundation for dependency of African states, majority of capitalist nations' have not really given up on their powers rather, they have exercised these powers through other channels and platforms

including the emergence of transnational corporations. This accounts for the subjugation of less developed countries under the whims and caprices of developed countries who dominate international trade (Ogundiwin, 2015).

The application of this theory lies in the fact that global politics exhibits competition. As it stands, the development deficit being experienced in Africa today is largely caused by economic pressure and the superior market position which symbolizes unfair advantage in international trade (Ogundiwin, 2015). The uneven trade, pressure mounted by Multinational Corporations as well as other domestic issues have forced less developed countries into "unbalanced development" (Fukuyama, 1992). In addition to the external factors accounting for Africa's development challenges, the theory goes ahead to explain that there are also internally-induced factors accounting for the developmental woes affecting Nigeria and Africa by extension.

Even though the theory has been criticized in explaining the nature of exploitation vis-à-vis control of mode of production, it does not in any way nullify the argument that the exploitation of market advantage by the dominant players is responsible for the challenges bedeviling African countries. But beyond the externally-induced factors, there are also domestic factors which have reduced the chances and prospects of African states overcoming their development challenges.

The utility of this theory is seen in the inability to achieve self-sufficiency in the areas of provision of essential services such as universal healthcare delivery, education, and food security; as well as other issues of insecurity, corruption, hunger, poverty and inequality, decades after independence. In addition to the domestic factors are external factors such as control of world economy, insufficiency in military might and weaponry all which are outside the ambits of control of periphery states. As it stands, the race to development appears stiff, uncertain, but not unattainable.

Methodology

The study adopts a mixed methods approach, combining qualitative data with secondary data. The nature of the qualitative study is to ensure that the researcher engages with the key informants in order to elicit the right responses from them. The methodology assisted the researcher to do a proper prognosis of the issues responsible for Nigeria's development challenges and seek the way forward. The population was drawn from members of staff of the Nigeria Institute for Socio-Economic Research (NISER), Ibadan; Initiative for Public Policy Analysis (IPPA) Lagos; and the Nigerian Institute for International Affairs (NIIA), Lagos state.

The estimated population for the study is 600. Accordingly, the stratified sampling technique was applied using 10 percent of the estimated population to serve as the sample size. Consequently, the sample size of 60 was used in the study. The instruments of data collection are the interview guide, which was validated by experts in the field of development studies and development administration for construct and content validation, while the reliability was

done through a pilot study outside the selected establishments to determine its reliability. Given that the study area is the Nigerian territory, Oyo and Lagos States were chosen because of the location of the think tanks and research institutes.

For the purpose of getting the right insights, in-depth interviews were conducted on key informants within the study area. This gave the study more direction and ensured that the set objectives were achieved. For the purpose of gathering data, two groups of respondents were contacted. The first included experts in the field of development studies in the underlisted establishments, while the second set of respondents involved research fellows in the designated institutions.

The data obtained from the field was analyzed by identifying patterns and relationships of the variables of the subject matter. Specifically, qualitative data was analyzed thematically to identify similar themes and sub-themes in order to draw findings and arrive at conclusions. In addition to the interviews, secondary data from articles, newspapers, textbooks, and government official documents and bulletin were used to complement the study. It was from this analysis that conclusions were drawn and recommendations made.

Analysis of Oral Interview

The study focused on politics and institutions as Springboards for addressing Nigeria's development deficit. Several high-profile individuals and respondents were interviewed during the process. This included members of staff from NISER, NIIA and IPPA. Four major research objectives form the focus of the study including;

Why Nigeria development deficit still persists

The respondents collectively agreed that Nigeria development crisis still persisted largely due to the disconnect between political leadership and national development priorities. This was captured in the opinion of Male, 58, staff of NISER who stated that:

> the existing infrastructure gaps, absence of social security schemes, insecurity, poor model of governance and weak institutions to mention a few ensure that Nigeria's development crisis subsist. The contradiction between the massive resource base and human development index outcomes also allude to the fact there are no alignments between the political leadership and national development priorities hence, the 'paradox of poverty amidst plenty' that has come to characterize the nature of the country.

Similarly, a member of staff of NIIA, Female, 51 in agreement with the above position noted that:

> Nigeria's development crisis subsists largely due to the complex governance systems and structural dysfunctional systems which has resulted in economic stagnation, high poverty rates, institutional weakness, infrastructure gaps, human capital deficits and uneven growth, widespread unemployment, insecurity, poor infrastructure

> and weak social services such as healthcare and access to education. She concludes that there was no way the country could overcome its development challenges with these negative indicators.

Given the above submissions, it is clear that Nigeria development crisis persists because of the structure of government and political culture which has not only downplayed development but also politicized it. This by implication portray that, why politics and institutions act as springboards for economic development, they have been undermined by political leadership and weak institutions (Usoro, 2013). Therefore, for Nigeria to develop, these factors which undermine Nigeria's development must be taken seriously by government at all levels.

Why previous intervention programmes failed

The respondents collectively agreed that the previous intervention programmes failed due to the common issues of inadequate finding, corruption, poor governance, lack of sustainability which often limited the effectiveness of the programmes amongst others. This was captured in the opinion of Female, 50, staff of NIIA who opined that:

> The failure of previously introduced intervention programmes bothered on inconsistency in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of programmes, as well as corruption, misapplication and mismanagement of funds, policy summersault and lack of political will to follow through with these programmes. The lack of continuity of programmes, weak institutional capacity and lack of patriotism culminated in the failure of previously introduced intervention programmes.

This position was corroborated by Iheanacho (2014) and Olanrewaju (2015) who alluded that:

> The major reasons for the failure of intervention programmes were more systemic than external issues. In addition to this, the non-use of experts and consultants in picking and citing projects, over centralization of programmes in some parts of the country, poor coordination among agencies of government, absence of accountability, lack of buy-in and support from key stakeholders among others have resulted in failure of the programmes to make the much-needed impact.

Given the above submission, it can be seen that the failure of intervention programmes to reduce the development gap was largely systemic in nature. The systemic nature ensured these programmes continue to fall short of expectations because of the lack of institutional capacity to deal with systemic issues. This by implication portray that Nigeria as a country not truly committed to addressing its development gaps; rather what has played out has been the politicization of intervention programmes and paying leap service which has characterised the operations of government on the whole.

Is Nigeria's Size and Stature hindering its development drive?

The aggregation of views of respondents is of the opinion that rather than the size of the country hindering development, it is actually an advantage. As opposed to a disadvantage, they submit that the size and stature of Nigeria should be an advantage as it gives her more leverage to explore domestic markets, and strategize and bargain for power on the global stage. However, a respondent (Male, 45) with affiliation to the Institute for Public Policy Analysis (IPPA) submit that:

> Countries often with resources and large domestic market also face challenges in terms of infrastructure development and governance. This is because large countries require more robust administrative systems, greater infrastructure and greater coordination to navigate their way through underdevelopment otherwise, they may likely face complex challenges in managing diverse population and size.

This position was corroborated by Yuki & Cen (2018) and respondent with NISER, Male 58 who posited that:

> While the size of the country can be a source of strength, they can also become a source of strain when the key indicators needed to drive growth are absent. An example of this is the instrumentality of Federal Character principle which is to ensure that all sections of the country is accommodated in the scheme of things. While the Federal character principle was put in place to ensure equity, equality and inclusiveness, today; it is affecting merit and slowing down the pace of development of the country.

Lending credence to the above findings, the debate around whether the size and stature of states is a driver of development or otherwise continues to be topical. While it can both a strength and baggage depending on how it is handled. It is more of a driver than baggage when all instruments of development are in place. The examples of China, Canada and Russia confirm this. On the other hand, it can also be a hindrance in societies where development is politicized and downplayed. By implication, it can be seen that the size and stature of a country is not necessarily a hindrance, but rather, a tool for development where the right environment is obtainable. For Nigeria, it is a source of strength but the ethnic and religious divides which the Federal character principal attempts fix to suggests a draw back for development.

Implications of Continuous development deficit and the way forward

The aggregation of views of respondents opine that Nigeria's development deficit certainly has some implicit implications some of which include widespread poverty, inequality, brain drain occasioned by the Japa syndrome, high unemployment, low foreign investment confidence, poor healthcare and education outcomes. A male respondent; 47 with NIIA submitted that:

> The implications of development deficit include decrepit infrastructure, low quality of life and social instability. This would in

> turn culminate in stalled industrialization and innovation, weakening of state's legitimacy threatening good living conditions and long-term stability.

This was corroborated by female respondent from NISER, 48 who submitted that:

> The continuous development deficit will lead to low life expectancy, income inequality, civil unrest and political instability. In addition, other implications include heightening insecurity, corruption, sharp rise in crime and criminality and the inability of government to deliver on the core mandate of providing for the welfare and security of citizens.

Given the above submissions, it can be seen that there are far reaching implications of development deficit. Apart from it taking a toll on all sectors, it is a hindrance against any meaningful development. Development deficit is the reason for the poor socio-economic indicators and it is instructive for governments in sub-saharan Africa in general to put these issues in proper context. The implications of Nigeria's development deficit is a call for action by government at all levels to work together with stakeholders to arrest the drift and ensure that some meaningful progress is recorded.

Having interrogated and analyzed all the issues surrounding Nigeria's development deficit, the next task will be to suggest immediate measures to address the nations' development deficit. A female respondent 50, with affiliation with IPPA submitted that:

> The first task in addressing Nigeria's development deficit is to instill confidence in the citizenry, to be followed by addressing ethnic tensions and divisions. Where there is cohesion among the different divides that make up the country, it will be a lot easier to foster unity and drive development. Government must address regional biases by having a genuine confab where the recommendations will be implemented to the letter. Closely related is the need for political will to sincerely and genuinely address the nation's dysfunctions and ensure that the spirit of patriotism is instilled in the mind and hearts of all Nigerians.

This was corroborated by another respondent Male, 55 with affiliation with NIIA who opined that the way forward for the country was:

> The nation must re-order its national priorities; put in place bold economic and structural reforms that will be people-centric; and promote the security and welfare of the people. There is also the need to increase the tempo of the ongoing reforms and ensure that they are sustained and institutionalized. It also recommended that development must be bargained for in concert with economic and political elites. It was also suggested that government must engage consultants and experts in the choice and implementation of of policies and programmes.

In all, it can be seen that despite the challenges posed by Nigeria's development deficit, the situation is still redeemable. As rightly observed, the first task will be to fix the structural and systemic issues that have made Nigeria's development deficit to persist. The systemic issues include re-ordering national priorities, engage in sweeping reforms increasing the tempo of programmes and ensure their sustainability. The use of experts and consultants in picking projects and the creation of the right environment will ensure that the foundations for sustainable development and prosperity is laid.

Findings

The findings from this study not only suggest a deep-seated development deficit, but also highlights how political leadership and weak institutions have ensured that Nigeria's development deficit persisted despite several intervention programmes. Corroborating this is Babawale (2006) and Aina (2016) who both alluded to the fact that the crises of governance and development which have characterised the Nigerian polity have ensured that Nigeria's Development deficit persists. This crises of governance and leadership in turn have rendered the state institutions weak have resulted in the battering of the nations' image (Obi, 2013). This finding affirms the position that the Nigeria's developmental issues are deep rooted, and closely related to the faulty leadership recruitment process in the country (Ziprebo & Obi, 2025). The faulty leadership recruitment process in turn have resulted in the politicization of intervention programmes with very little impact recorded. According to Anekwe (2020), the most fundamental measure to confront Nigeria's development challenge was having the right leadership. The right leadership will ensure that wholistic measures are put in place to address common issues and ensure that the divide between development and underdevelopment is significantly bridged (Olanrewaju, 2015).

As a result, the study expressly links Nigeria's development deficit to the structure of government and nature and character of its political leadership (Babawale, 2006). A weak and fragile state cannot expressly produce any meaningful change hence, the need to begin to have a re-think on re-setting state institutions, political leadership and the existing political culture. (Aina, 2016). Others include fixing the trust deficit between the citizens and government and between the different divides that make up the country (Ziprebo & Obi, 2025). When this is improved upon, it ultimately improves service delivery especially with respect with how government policies and programmes are implemented. Overall, the findings from this study underscore the relationship and interrelatedness between politics, institutions and development. It underscores how better governance structures and strong institutions can act as springboards for sustainable development. This study makes a case for a consensus between governments, the private sector and political elites in order to effectively deal with the nations' development deficits holistically.

Conclusion

By highlighting Nigeria's development needs and associated issues, the study has drawn our attention to the way and manner the business of government and governance is conducted in the country. Through the dependency theory, the study identified that Nigeria's development deficit was not only caused by domestic contradictions including insecurity, corruption,

poverty and inequality to mention a few, but also induced by foreign components which include control of world economy, military might and the influence of multinational corporations. Apart from the structural and systemic issues confronting the nation, a combination of internal and external factors accounts for Nigeria's developmental deficit.

The study suggests that while the foreign factors may be beyond the country, certain domestic re-alignments, new approach to governance and wholistic reforms will go a long way to significantly address the nations' development deficits. With concerted efforts and more synergy among critical stakeholders, the developmental needs of the country can be effectively addressed. In addressing the needs, this study advances the argument that development should no longer be politicized, rather it should be a priority of all governments. In doing this, an all-encompassing strategy and approach to deal with all the issues accounting for Nigeria's development deficit be put on the front burner. This invariably will help transform the nations' development deficits to sustainable growth and development.

Recommendations

i. This study recommends the repairing of the trust deficit and cracks between government and the people and between the different sections and divides that make up the country. It calls for the restoration of confidence in the citizenry in government. One the citizens have confidence in government actions and policies, addressing the developmental gaps will not be far-fetched.

ii. This study also recommends the roll out of aggressive economic and structural reforms to fix the numerous development gaps. This must be complemented by setting key performance index and periodic assessment of reforms in order to spot out errors in the course of implementation.

iii. This study also recommends the re-ordering of national priorities in the area of building strong, responsive and accountable institutions. The nations' key institutions must be made to have life of their own and not manipulated by powerful individuals or governments. Other areas to focus include investing in human capital development, dealing with issues of insecurity, embracing true federalism and decentralization of government as well as deal with sundry issues such as income inequality, insecurity, corruption and poverty, brain drain and unemployment.

iv. The study also recommends the need for political will to address the nations' development deficit by de-politicizing development. There is the need to come up with a comprehensive, coordinated strategy to address the nations' development needs as well as enlist the support and commitment of all critical stakeholders crucial to development and development planning.

v. The study also recommends the use of experts and consultants in picking projects geared towards addressing the development needs. The involvement of experts who would come up with implementable framework is very critical to the implementation

and eventual success of the programmes. The use of consultants will also ensure that the programmes are not only adequately funded and but also designed for sustainability.

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