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National Urban Development Policy and Economic Growth in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects, 2019-2023

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Abstract: The study examined National Urban Development Policy (NUDP) and Economic Growth in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects. The broad objective of this study is to examine the effects of NUDP and economic growth in Nigeria using the challenges and prospects. The researcher adopted secondary sources of data while, poverty-focused intervention approach served as theoretical framework of analysis. Findings from the study indicated that the NUDP has not achieved the purpose for its establishment, due to corruption, bad governance and poor implementation of the policy. Findings also discovered that despite the revised NUDP by the Jonathan's administration in 2012 that, the policy still acknowledged multiple problems caused by unplanned urbanization such as; unemployment, congestion of the urban areas, insecurity and inadequate public services. The recommendations from this study includes: Government should ensure efficient, effective and transparent public sector and public administration, they should stay committed to sound economic policies and management; the study further recommends that there should be critical review and redesigning of National Urban Development Policy, National Housing Policy Environmental Protection of Laws and other Urban development programmes in Nigeria.

Keywords: Urban Development, Development Policy, Development and Economic Growth.

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Introduction

In Nigeria, approximately half of the population lives in urban areas and economic growth has been relatively strong since the discovery of oil, yet poverty remains high and the proportion of the urban population with access to water and sanitation is very low by international standards (Idike, 1992). According to Adelekan, (2010; p.433) urban areas in Nigeria are facing an unprecedented increase of population which is, accompanied by unplanned and uncontrolled growth that has, brought a number of problems and

challenges to the government and urban dwellers. Cities, are important engine room for the growth of a country's economy, therefore there is a need to plan them well. However, in most cities in Nigeria, residents are faced with the conditions of poor infrastructure, and increase growth rate of slums, shanty towns and ghettos. One may ask that with all the abundant material and human resources in Nigeria, must we go through this dark stage in a period of global civilization? The past government came up with some policies SE interventions, responses and laws to guide urban and regional development but unfortunately these policies and interventions has met with stiff difficulties both in implementation, application, and maintenance (Ibetian & Ekhosuehi, 2013).

However, Indrawati (2014) argues that, it is a fundamental phenomenon that characterizes the accelerated urban development process globally due to the failure of government in attending to the needs of the urban poor. Nonetheless, urban development is not a curse but a positive phenomenon if they are productive, innovative and sustainably managed.

Consequent upon the above, the National Urban Development Policy was first introduced in 1992 by the Babangida's led administration. The policy aimed at modernizing the old system and making it more relevant to, the country's needs arising from rapid urban growth and, the pressure on land and infrastructure. This was accompanied by the establishment of an Urban Development Bank to finance urban infrastructure and public facilities. The broad aim was to improve the planning and management of urbanization so that urban settlements would foster sustainable economic growth and improve living standards to define the responsibilities of each level of government so as to ensure effective plan implementation and accountability, to promote efficient urban development and management; to revise and implement district programmes in housing, environment, employment and other fields to make them more country's urban problems (Elekwa, 1999).

A revised NUDP was, introduced in 2012 by the Goodluck Jonathan's administration. This policy acknowledged the multiple problems caused by unplanned urbanization including, slum housing, unemployment, insecurity, crime, environmental degradation, congestion, and inadequate public services. Though, Okoye, (1992). views the urgency and importance of all, encompassing efforts of urban development in Nigeria. There is still need for economic growth and welfarism. To this end, urban-suburbs requires economic independence that is not limited to food security and provision of raw materials for industries but as well as development structure, content and volume of the urban section. This will not only support the achievement of a development will equality question but, as well the organization of human and material resources for the designing and execution of development programmes.

Therefore, the force of fast urbanization and the persistent adamant of Federal and States capital administration, to make provisions of necessary infrastructures and public utilities for all its inhabitants will, earnestly constitute social, economic and security challenges for the affluent that are core urban dwellers. This study canvasses an argument for the application of contemporary development dynamics in Nigeria's economic growth to deal with challenges and prospects.

Statement of Problem

In Nigeria, the consequences of the population pressure, urbanization and development has social and economic problems connected with land uses. Due to urbanization, many

people are moving from rural to where they believe modern facilities are available. Population pressure in cities has made residential accommodation a peculiar problem. The congested urban places are in need of expansion but, the lands where this expansion is to be made is scarce. Land has become of great marketable value and no longer the ordinary land known to African tradition as a gift of nature to mankind (Nnuhu, 2006, p, 194).

Akinwotu (2017; p, 6) has noted that in practice, the implementation of the NUDP in Nigeria has been generally poor, so the benefits of urban planning, coordinated investment in infrastructure and economic growth have not been realized. Owing to fact, Paul & Samuel, (2013; p, 643) that, past government administrations in Nigeria have shown, little concern for acknowledged that, solving urban problems. Rather, they have directed more effort towards, promoting agriculture and rural development. Despite the fact that, Nigeria adopted a robust NUDP and enacted a comprehensive urban and Regional Planning Act, both in 1992, there have been generally little achievement to show in terms of their implementation. Today, the general apathy towards urban planning still persists in the country. (Ayeniyo, 2012).

According to Daramola and Ibem, (2010; p, 7), one of the problems facing implementation of NUDP in Nigeria is the Federal system, which limits the power and influence of the National Government and its policies. To gain traction, there need to be arrangements to influence policy- making and development practice at the state level. This has not happened to any great extent till date. In addition, there is an acknowledged shortage of technical capacity, resources and information/evidence to undertake effective urban planning (Paul & Chukwurah 2014, p, 14). The approach to land-use planning also remains somewhat outmoded in that it is reactive and control-oriented. There is little tradition of positive planning to make things happen, and the institutional and legal frameworks for promoting urban development are inadequate.

Nevertheless, during the preceding decades in Nigeria, it was increasingly acknowledged that growth in itself may not, produce a significant reduction in poverty in the absence of direct programmes of assistance, especially in an unequal allocation of land and other assets to the urban p0or who mostly dwells in the slums and far-reaching centres. The design and implementation of NUDP in Nigeria were the prerogative of elite groups who resides in developed part of the urban core. Consequently, the failure to effectively implement the 1992 NUDP had to do with the fact that, majority of the actors responsible for the implementation were found to either, not to be fully aware of their roles and responsibilities, or did not have the requisite knowledge and capacity. These have prevented the effective participation of the stakeholders in the implementation.

Research Questions

The following questions were raised to guide the study:

i) What is the relationship between NUDP and economic growth in Nigeria?

ii) What are the challenges facing NUDP and economic growth in Nigeria?

ii) What viable prospects can be implemented by the NUDP to ensure sustainable economic growth in Nigeria?

Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of this study is to examine the challenges and prospects of NUDP and economic growth in Nigeria while the specific objectives includes:

i) To ascertain the relationship between NUDP and economic growth in Nigeria.

ii) To identify the challenges facing NUDP and economic growth in Nigeria

ii) To recommend viable prospects needed by NUDP for effective implementation and sustainable economic growth in Nigeria.

Significance of the Study

The significance of any study is centred on the theoretical and practical significance which was derived from the study. Theoretically, this study is significant as it will contribute to the body of knowledge in the field of public Administration, Political Science, and International Relations. Politics and Government.

The study reviewed concepts such as; National urban development policy, urban development and economic growth. This will provide source reference to further studies on NUDP and economic growth in Nigeria. Practically, the study will help policy makers in the various government institutions on how to tackle the already existing challenges facing, NUDP and economic growth in Nigeria and the overwhelming need for them to proffer appropriate solutions to prevent the reoccurrence of future challenges and ensure a sustainable economic growth in Nigeria.

Review of Related Literature

National Urban Development Policy

Zimmerman (1998) defines NUDP as a coherent set of decisions derived through a deliberate government-led process of coordinating and rallying various actors, For a common vision and goal that will promote more transformative, productive and resilient urban, and Lahiri, (2013) observes that, NUDP is a government decision that is essentially set up to, facilitate efficient urban development, management, and good governance and also strengthens the capacity of the urban centres to manage economic growth, social development and the alleviation of poverty.

Tanko, (2017) argues that though NUDP provides financial mechanisms within the three 9 tiers of government, Community Based Organizations (CBOS) and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) implementing should also play a role in developmental programmes that concern upgrading of the slums, urban restoration, strategic policies execution and management of economic growth. It has been realized that such efforts are urban biased and elite-driven. In this study, NUDP is seen as any programme or guiding principle that was set up by the government towards the realization of urbanization aims and objectives.

Urban Development

Opoko & Oluwatayo (2014) defined urban development as an application of policies Concerned with the present and anticipated future of an urban area. Obi (2009; P, 12) opined that, urban development is the science of, ordering the use of land and sitting of buildings and communication routes so as to, secure the maximum practicable degree of economy, convenience and beauty. While Ezeani, (2001; p, 56) is of the view that urban development refers to development with, a spatial or geographical components, in which the general objective is to provide for a spatial structure of activities or of land uses which in some ways is better than the pattern existing without planning. To this study, urban development generally aims at fulfilling social and economic objectives that goes beyond the physical form and arrangement of buildings, streets, parks, utilities and other parts of

the urban environment. Urban development takes effect largely through the operation of government and requires the application of specialized technologies of survey, analysis forecasting and design.

Economic Growth

Economic growth according to Eberinwa. (2005; p. 22) is an increase in, aggregate production in economy. Often but not necessarily, aggregate gains correlate with increased average marginal productivity. That leads to an increase in incomes, inspiring consumers to open up their wallets and buy more, which means a higher material quality of life or standard of living. Three definitions of economic growth include:

i) Economic growth could be seen as increase in the amount of physical capital goods in the economy. Adding capital to the economy tends to increase productivity of labour. Newer, better, and more tools mean that workers can produce more output per time period.

ii) Secondly, economic growth could be referred to as production in technological improvement. An example of this is the invention of gasoline fuel: prior to the discovery of the energy generating power of gasoline, the economic value of petroleum was relatively low. The use of gasoline became a better and more productive method of transporting goods in process and distributing final goods more efficiently.

ii) Thirdly, economic growth helps in the increase of human capital; this means that labourers will become more skilled at their crafts, raising their productivity through skills training, trial and error, or simply more practice. Savings, investments and specialization are the most consistent and easily controlled methods. Finally, this study perceives economic growth as the. Increase in the production of economic goods and services, compared from one period of time to another and measured in terms of., the increase in aggregate market value of additional g00ds and services produced. Using estimates such as, Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Theoretical Framework

An approach was adopted for this study. The poverty-focused intervention approach by Uphoff 1991 was used in discussing NUDP and economic growth in Nigeria. Poverty-focused intervention approach emerged, in order to integrate and redesign development programmes for the facilitation of greater community involvement, adequate institutional mechanisms, and further participation. This approach, imposes a dynamic asset approach to poverty alleviation which will serve as, a framework for intervention that recognizes the complex strategies adopted by poor individuals, to provide extra stimulation to engage with diverse partners and stimulate poverty reduction. This approach stated that, the failure of NUDP programmes to comprehensively address the needs of urban development gave rise to inflation, unemployment, inadequate infrastructures, inadequate power supply, inadequate health facilities, ineffective leadership and corruption. This have in one way or the other brought about stagnation in Niagara's economic growth.

Sattelberger and Neumann (2017) argued that, the poverty-focused intervention approach has notably transformed the rural and urban economies of many Asian and Latin American countries during the 1960s - 1990s. These include programmes designed to improve assets position and productivity through, credit provision and the improved supply of productive inputs and trainings of the poor. In the process, greater attention

was given to participation, rural and urban development and institution-building as means of improving programme implementation and sustainability.

The adoption of this approach is relevant to the study because, the poor performance of the NUDP's that, would have integrated development in the urban areas was credited to the absence of community participation in planning and designing different district factors, the shanty towns, slums and ghettos that are all part of the urban areas were neglected, there was no thought of drawing up an effective organizational and institutional con figuration to collate, synthesize and coordinate development ideas, policies and projects, in order to foster a network among the several agencies to achieve unity and comprehensive operational or target driven efficiency. Emphasize a top-down approach only, forgetting the bottom-up

Hence, NUDP tended to emphasize approach which the policy content was determined by government officials and external expert relegating the consultation of concerned people to the background on their urban development needs. Contrary to a situation that puts development as universal because, the conditions leading to economic growth were universal (Nelson, 2013).

Methods

In this section, the researcher looked at the methods and procedures or data collection, The researcher therefore, collected information mainly from secondary sources of data which includes; textbooks, academic journals, internets, newspapers, magazines, seminar papers, government publications for qualitative content analysis.

Discussion

The relationship between NUDP and economic growth in Nigeria.

NUDP is an intervention policy that was initiated first in 1992 by the Babangida administration to guide regional and urban development and also characterizes the accelerated urban development process in Nigeria. Due to the failure government in attending to the needs, of the urban poor Indrawati, (2015, p. 20-26). One of the relation NUDP has with economic growth in Nigeria is, the failure to accomplish what it was set up to do, This policy, aimed at modernizing the old system and making it more relevant to, the country's needs arising from, rapid urban growth and the pressure on land and infrastructure but in all, the policy had poor implementation the elites have seen it as a means of embezzlement which really brought about poor economic growth.

Scholars such as, Eberinwa, (2005: p. 22) and Olutual, (2009; p, 60) reputes that, while there is an on-going interest on how to best promote urban economies, urban growth and housing development through the NUDP, local economic development should also be widely considered as an objective towards ensuring economic growth in Nigeria as it will also reduce high rate of urbanization. lgbaje. (20 12) and Ado, (2017) is of the view that, bad governance which has led to corruption, is another relation that NUDP has with economic growth in Nigeria. Bad governance affects development and brings about poor economic growth. in any country, economic growth is significantly impacted when, exposed to indicators of bad governance but, different indicators influence the degree of impact. Lack of regulatory quality, government ineffectiveness and lack of control on corruption, inadequate health facilities, insecurity unemployment, inflation, over reliance on oil and inadequate infrastructures, have all been linked to poor economic growth in Nigeria.

The Challenges facing NUDP and Economic Growth in Nigeria.

The NUDP, just like many other policies in the country has faced a lot of challenges that have affected its proper implementation and economic growth in Nigeria. According to Salisu. (2019: P T09) access to land is an issue that must be considered because every development is done on the land, but the cumbersome nature in the process of acquiring land has made it easy for land speculators to make, indiscriminate profit from selling land to desperate buyers, the situation has led to unplanned urban growth. This is because. the legal and technical institutional frameworks Tor land management are not properly linked for effective coordination.

Daramola and Ibem (2010; p. 7) believes that the, shortfall of infrastructure and imbalanced regional development, unemployment and low productivity are among the major challenges militating against the Nigeria's quest for development they complained that most of the strategies adopted to resolve the problems had largely been uncoordinated, while the three tiers of government had continued to operate independently. They further lamented that the sprawl of our human settlement, due to inadequate physical planning and control is adversely threatening the sustainability of the country's economic growth, which must therefore be built on consensus that will evolve a national framework. Moreso, Elekwa, (1999; p, 54) asserted that, NUDP problems are also, associated with the colonial antecedents of Nigerian cities, urbanization and issues that come with developmental challenges, urban production and consumption patterns and psychological orientation of urban residents as well as, institutional failures. These problems pose serious environmental, economic and social challenges to achieving sustainable development in the country.

Adelekan, (2010; p, 435), believes that, in the face of increasing urban population, there is inadequate supply of housing and infrastructure for the teeming population, as a result, the existing infrastructure and housing are overstressed, while unsanitary living conditions characterized by filthy environment such as, slums, shanty towns, ghettos, unclean ambient air. stinky and garbage filled streets and substandard houses continue to dominate the urban landscape in Nigeria. Furthermore, the concentration of more people in urban areas of the country has, brought more pressure on the land space for the production of food, infrastructure, housing and industrialization 1 his affects the carrying capacity of the environment as each additional person increases the demand on the infrastructure and natural system ad as a e creating ecological imbalance which comes with adverse environmental consequences such hazards and disaster (Ayeniyo & Aribighela. 2012).

Viable prospects that can be implemented by the NUDP to ensure sustainable economic growth.

According to Fghoje & Ukpokawo, (2018) the NUDP goal is to promote a dynamic System of urban settlements. which fosters sustainable economic growth, promotes efficiency and regional planning and development as well as, ensures improved standard of living and well-being of all Nigerians. Adewale, (2015) and Ado, (2017) acknowledged that. the following viable prospects are important and will be useful in the enhancement of economic growth in Nigeria they include:

i) Review and restructure all existing public institutions involved in urban management at the three tiers of government and where necessary create new ones, with a view to ensuring effective responses to the challenges of urbanization in Nigeria

ii) Strengthen the capacity of the urban centers to manage economic growth, social development and the alleviation of poverty.

iii) To establish and appropriate performance evaluation standards. This is to be achieved by, appointing an independent committee on coordination and monitoring. at least to monitor and evaluate the progress and problems encountered, in achieving the goals and objectives of the NUDP.

iv) To convene an annual National Urban Development Forum of Stakeholders to deliberate on the various issues facing the urban development.

v) To periodically publish he state of Nigeria report and good urban governance assessment in Nigeria as two prominent tools for measuring the effectiveness and efficiency of Nigeria citizens.

vi) Prospective planning and regional planning are very important institutional supports of an integrated approach to the sustainability of cities. The balanced development of human settlements in the country should be primarily achieved through, increased states and local governments creation. The increase to 36 states and 774 local government councils structure in 1996 has meant the, establishment of more urban centres in the country. This development has, helped to ensure the even spread of towns and cities across the country. Furthermore, the location of new Federal capital in the central region, and the establishment of, universities and colleges in virtually every state capital have helped in bringing about balanced urban settlement and economic growth.

Conclusion

This study bag revealed the fundamental challenges facing NUDP and economic growth in Nigeria. The urbanization process, is irreversible in Nigeria and must therefore be turned into opportunities for economic growth. To ensure that the magnitude and pace of urbanization does not drag on the country's overall development. Nigeria will continue to implement integrated sustainable development prospects in order to ensure that, our cities become generators of development, not only for themselves but also for the rural dwellers. Furthermore, Nigeria has there engine of economic growth reduced thereby, breaking the fence of economic prosperity for poverty and raising an urgent question of addressing all sectors such as; rural, urban and semi- urban areas. In Nigeria, Slums and ghettos are on the increase due to the countries planning structures and approach of implementation of the NUDP which needed to take proper cognizance of the country's needs, resources and executive capacity. Due to the long list of out dated national urban development plans and policies which lack the most qualitative and quantitative analysis and real resources for implementation. So, there cannot be any meaningful harmonious co- existence, security and positivity in economic growth security, when the chunk population of Nigeria only perceives development without tasting it.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made to guide the study:

i. There should be critical review and redesigning of National Urban Development Policy, National Housing Policy, Environmental Protection of Laws and other urban development programmes in Nigeria and this review should be done also considering how to develop the slums, ghettos and other rural areas to avoid over-crowding of the urban cities and redirect growth to the hinterlands.

ii. The structure plans of all urban areas should be considered also because different elements of a structure plan require different completion period. However, they will indicate the aspects that demand short term action before those that demand long term action.

iii. The government at all levels and development partners the partners should ensure, the provision of functional critical infrastructures and social services in all sectors of urban settlements in consonance with developed settings in the 21st century.

iv. Emphasis should shift from clientele planning to target-driven planning which the Poverty-intervention focused approach canvassed for. This implies the development plans in which the people being planned for make sufficient input into the process.

vi. Government should ensure effective, efficient and transparent public sector and public administration, they should stay committed to sound economic policies and management. Government should realize that good governance is fundamental to sustainable economic growth and that economic growth cannot take place on its own without sustainable peace and democracy. So, it should endeavour to, place strong emphasis on a stable political environment, sustenance of democratic principles and government achievement of improved living conditions of the people. Several anti-corruption measures should be put in place. The Nigerian legislature should also, take bold steps to review various laws, degrees and statues governing and regulating the development and management of human settlements through amending or repealing laws and decrees that inhibit sustainable economic growth.

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