



### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN (SDP) FOR NIGERIA: THE THEORETIC

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#### Abstract

*The study evaluated the imperative of Planning National Development. It posited that Nigeria's scorecard in the just ended Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) years, indicated great deficit and low development indicators on Nigerians. In the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) era this has to change. It has become essential to design (Plan) the necessary steps required to meet the targets. This is because proper planning prevent poor performance (5ps). The exploratory study design, which constructed stages of growth without antecedent was applied. It averred that the 'Asian Tigers' went ahead of Nigeria in the development measurement principally because of planning, leadership and selection of investment projects which had the characteristics of 'musa paradisiaca' (plantain) among others. The challenge that would be faced by Sustainable Development Plan (SDP) as canvassed include; the current of global ideology of liberalism which places emphasis on the private sector as the driver of development. Sustainable Development Plan (SDP) on the other hand laid great emphasis on the presence of the state in the economy. This is the greatest challenge of Sustainable Development Plan in the era of small government. It recommended a Sustainable Development Bureau- whose major function would be selecting projects with the character of 'musa paradisiaca', processes of value-addition, restoring the environment and socialising education required to drive the processes.*

**Keywords:** Sustainable Development Plan, 'Musa Paradisiaca' Continuous growth, Environment

#### Introduction

Nigeria got her independence in 1960, with a level of national development considered at par with countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea and Ghana to mention just a few. The estimate of Nigeria's natural resources in global scale is very high. Nigeria's stock of potential wealth include huge population of about 170 million, sixth largest crude oil producer with enormous natural gas and hydrocarbon deposits. It has

extensive aquatic resources with the country divided into three halves by river Niger, Benue and the Delta tributaries and the associated aquatic wealth thereof. These provide enormous expediencies for all year round irrigation. Agricultural production sustained it initially to about 80% of the GDP, however, crude oil wealth came in 1973 and took over, making up the largest per cent of the GDP while agriculture constituted a low contribution to the gross wealth of the state. The leaders at independence, promised to harness the abundant human and natural resources to provide development for the people to have long life expectancy, and many other associates of development, fifty years down the line, this has remained a mirage.

Today, all the countries that were almost at the same developmental level with her in the 60s are well ahead of Nigeria in Human Development Indices in all the categories of development assessment. What could be responsible for this? Rene Dumont (1988) said it is because of the 'False Start in Africa' and by implication, Nigeria.

The incapacity of Nigeria and many third world states to drive development at a faster rate, led to the creation of the global development agenda, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) initiative. It was meant to guide them through the modus operandi to end extreme poverty, hunger and preventable diseases. 2016 marked yet a cradle of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), consisting of 17 goals and 169 targets. The unattainable goals of the MDGs have been extended into the SDGs. Nigeria was unable to attain half of the MDGs goals and may not be able to get close to achieving half of the SDGs because of lack of planning. It is against this backdrop that this study intended to lay out the 'planning steps' necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development of any kind and not specifically SDGs in Nigeria. If dismal performance experienced in the MDGs era is to be avoided, planning must be taken seriously, this is because proper planning prevent poor performance (5ps). The Sustainable Development (SD) steps canvassed herein is anticipated to lead to inclusive planning and Sustainable Development, which encompasses the silent poor and often excluded majority in the lower rung of the society.

The imperative for this study, rests on the fact that, in this era of global Sustainable Development, the need for its plan cannot be overemphasized, so that Nigeria's report card, would not end up with considerable deficit as it was with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The other

essentials are; that the great potentials of Nigeria have not been turn into Development which the study intend to plan; whatever had been practiced and achieved as Development, have not been sustainable; the achievement of National Development Plan (NDP) until 1986, have not continued over the years (sustainability) and most importantly, since after the last National Development Plan (NDP), resources have been expended, without a plan, sustainable development has remained elusive in Nigeria, in the last thirty years. These account for the increasing poverty, unemployment, inequality and less self-reliance, an indication, that no development had taken place.

Sustainable Development Plan (SDP) in this context also mean a balanced development initiative between the urban centres and the rural areas in other to prevent the activation of 'urban pull-theory' that would overstress the urban infrastructure. The dynamics of this process is to select the projects, which are tangential for sustainable development, identify their locations both in the urban, semi-urban and rural areas. This would ignite the 'Spinoff theory of rural development' (Frank, 2015), whereby social and economic activities would begin at these various locations. Balanced development is envisaged while environment would be preserved from over exploitation. These cascade the analysis to the problem of the discourse.

### **The Problem**

The problem of this study was conceptualized to be that Nigeria's Development in recent time is not 'planned' hence cannot generate development on a continuing basis. Planning Sustainable Development has a pattern, the programmes and project selected for investment should augment or generate continuous growth overtime (sustainability) which in turn create development through time and continually addresses the problems of poverty, unemployment and inequality among the citizenry while drifting the state towards increasing self-reliance. However, what had taken place in Nigeria since the stoppage of the practice of National Development Plan is anything but Sustainable Development.

Nigeria Planning experiences indicated that (i) there was the 'Ten Year Plan of Development and Welfare, in 1946, under the colonial Development and Welfare fund. The main emphasis of the plan was on building the transport and communications systems to enhance the objective of colonialism with little provision for industrial development; (ii)

The First National Development Plan 1962-68 covered six years period. The second National Development Plan 1970-74. The third National Development Plan 1975-80, Fourth National Development Plan 1981-85, Fifth National Development Plan 1986 and a 3 Year Rolling Plan 1989-1990-1991 and the 20 year Perspective Plan 1989-2008 (Ayo, 1988:1). One thing, which was common to the plans, was that there were no structural linkages of projects between them, and the projects were not selected based on sustainable development framework, hence many of it have not augmented itself or reproduced their kind on a continuous basis.

Consequently, the problems, which they were meant to address, have grown in proportion. Today, poverty, unemployment and inequality traverse the land while the nation is fast loosing the ability of self-reliance, with food import bills in 2015 averaging #1.3 trillion according to the present Minister of Agriculture.

Another dimension of the absence of Sustainable Development planning is apparent through the budgetary process of both the Central, State and Local Government respectively. Annually funds are appropriated and spent. At the end of the financial year, no one would be able to point at any tangible sustainable project executed by Government at the various levels. The impact of the fiscal expenditure on the citizen's depreciates daily. Quite disturbing is the fact that while the population grows exponentially at a geometric rate, food production is on Arithmetic rate while the environment gets devastated at alarming rate. Planning for Sustainable Development would address these problems, by factoring them into the planning processes.

The principal issues involve include the emergence of a leader, who would be as free as possible from the social trends which arise from the environment and would be able to pursue rational decisions to generate 'pareto optimality' for everyone. The leadership would engender 'resource mapping' of the environment in order to establish the estimate of resource availability and their location. Thereafter establish a clear identification baseline from where it would measure progress, deviations etc and get on tract. Then the questions to ask by the leader would include;

i) What resources are available to us? (ii) Where do we want to be in nth year? iii) How do we get there? In addition, how do we remain and surpass that level? Resolving these questions and sticking to the plan with little deviation would generate sustainable development.

## **Framework of Analysis: Plantain Theory of Sustainable Development**

According to this theory, 'Development' is human focus. Human society is a continuous one... men in society expect continuous provision of development on a sustainable basis to the society...the bulk of goods and services provided by the State are derived from the environment, its care must be factored into Sustainable Development Plan. All the resources are fast depleting from excessive exploitation. Sustainable Development focuses on man's ability to harness non-renewable resources rationally without devastating the ecosystem beyond rehabilitation, and to leave some resources for succeeding generation (Frank, 2015). Achieving the essence of sustainable development therefore calls for planning, the steps and programmes whose outcomes would be of multiple usages of the resources without returning to the environment to exploit more to meet the need of the present generation. The theory rest on vlue-chains of whatever is extracted from the environment to creat greater wealth and utility, to meet the need of the greatest number without making many people worse off. It entails project selection, education, innovation and strong social institutions to drive sustainable development.

### **The Approach of the study**

The approach of the study was 'exploratory, based on conceptual analysis and theory building intended merely to design the stepladder necessary to achieve a lasting development paradigm which would use less resources with extensive economic benefits to the society. This approach was not intended to offer final and conclusive solution to the strategy of planning sustainable development, it sought to generate further studies in this direction. It was intended to assess the nature of the problem and not to provide conclusive steps on the structure of the plan of sustainable development. As exploratory study, the problem addressed was novel in which no previous study existed, thus it formed the basis of more studies. It has not established any rigorous methodology; however, the design was considered adequate to attain sustainable development, planning steps, which would lead to continuous development of man in the society.

Its aim was to gain familiarity with the phenomenon and open up the insight into the formulation of other processes of attaining sustainable development in the state. It is devoid of hypotheses development and testing but established filial correlates. The expediencies of the approach include its ability to indicate 'why', when and how to select projects which

conduce to sustainable development plan (Frank, 2016). Its main thrust is in projects selection which would bring into existence continuous positive development.

### Planning Sustainable Development

The term 'planning' refers to a conscious forethought and deliberate effort to influence, direct, and control the path of progress based on some activities. It involves direct and active interference (Ndiyo, 2008:265), in order to determine the desired outcome or predetermined objectives. Put differently planning consists of conceiving, initiating, regulating and controlling of some activities in a given system, to produce determined outcome, different from forecasting which one has no control over

**The Essence of Planning:** If Sustainable Development, which ought to change the fortune of men in the society for the better continuously, must come to be, then it must determine, what is to be produce, for whom to produce and how it is to provide for the maintenance and growth of the system? Growth in this context refers to the increase in the average real per capita income and changes in the structure of the economy overtime (Ndiyo, 2008:265). The Plan of Sustainable Development would naturally fall into long, short and medium term, where projects are carefully selected to lead from short into medium and then to long term with interconnected benefit to man and society. However, it must pay attention to specific project selection, which is sustainable. In this context, the term sustainable refers to project, which can augment itself, on a continuing basis and generate benefit continuously to man in the society. It is instructive to further note that sustainable development plan, is intended to provide projects which will produce the social goods on a continuing basis.

### Steps in Sustainable Development Planning

- i) Leadership - any state that would plan and achieve Sustainable Development must have a leader because everything rises and falls with it. It requires a leader whose duty is give the people hope, and not demoralize them. The leader's biggest headache must be the economy- how to make a living for the people. We needed to find answer to unemployment...to create a new kind of economy, try new methods and scheme never tried before anywhere else in the world...we had to make extraordinary efforts to become a tightly

- knit, rugged and adaptable people who could do things better and cheaper than our neighbour... we had to be different(Yew, 2000:7). This is the type of leadership, which drives sustainable development. Selfless, rational, committed and mobilizational.
- ii) In order to achieve Sustainable Development Plan the leadership would have to embark on 'Situation Analysis' where he would get into mapping the resources and move the state into sustainable development radar? Furthermore, how do we preserve the environment? Where would the resources available take us to? Where do we want to be? The leader must answer these questions.
  - iii) Planned Project Selection-one of the critical components of sustainable development studies is selecting projects for investment, which would have positive spill over effects. Project in this context refers to economic planning and investment meant to generate a living for the people on a continuing basis. It is a proposal for a capital investment to develop facilities, to provide goods and services, which will increase the aggregate consumption benefits of the people. Projects constitute the building blocks of development plan. They should be linked to the development programme of the sector or sub-sector in which they fall as well as to the overall development plan. Since resources are scarce, they must be put into most effective use (Ayo, 1988:26). The idea is to add value to the resources extracted from the earth in other not to jeopardise the chances of generation yet unborn. These projects must be able to reproduce its kind and provide the services and utility required by man continually.

In accordance with the principles of Plantain Theory of Sustainable Development (Frank, 2015), every project planned for sustainable development, should have the nature of '*musa paradisiaca*' (plantain). The project or investment should reproduce itself as *parthenocarpic* (without cross-pollination because it has many chromosomes to aid its propagation by suckers). The project planned and invested on should have the capacity to regenerate and withstand adverse conditions, such as education of the people. In good and bad times, education provide solutions to human problems. In this context, every project selected and invested should serve as the plantain 'bulb or rhizome', which sprout into several other positive indices, which reduces the rate of extraction from the earth but increase the value of what had been extracted. This provides greater value for the current population and preserves the remaining for the incoming generation.

If the projects are planned and selected based on identified

- sustainable targets, the rate of resources use in the development processes would be reduce, and if the criteria for project selection is poor, the rate of development would be slow and more resources would be use-up. Thus, each sector should have milestones set and only projects, which would utilize existing resources more efficiently with maximum catalytic sustainable development effect, should be selected for investment (Ayo, 1988:27).
- iv) Revive National Development Plan- since Nigeria abandoned National Development Plans of known duration and content in 1986 in favour of globalization, privatization, conditionalities of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and market forces...the nation has been beset with myriads of problems. If Nigeria must achieve sustainable development, then there is need to return to NDPs of known duration and content and adopting self-reliance as National Ideology (Oseni, 2015:60). As stated earlier, it is only a plan with carefully selected projects determined by sustainability principles which can decide what is produced, how to produce, for whom to produce and how to sustain the system on a continuing basis.
  - v) Sustainable Development Monitoring and Evaluation Unit; one of the critical problems of plan execution in Nigeria, had been the divorce of plan from implementation hence there would be Sustainable Development, Monitoring and Evaluation bureau, which would be charged with examining all investment projects against '*musa paradisiaca*' yardstick on the basis of how many target is the project intended to meet. It would then ensure that the programme activities have been implemented as planned. It would also be charged with measuring milestones reached at the appropriate yearly intervals, to establish the size of investments before evaluating the impact at the end of the plan periods to ascertain the target achieved. In this case, instead of having an office for promoting foreign investments because there is nowhere in history where foreigners have gone ahead to develop other lands in the interest of the indigenes, rather there is often capital flight, the bareau would guide all investments along this line.

#### **Core Values Required for Sustainable Development**

The driver of this project must observe certain core values tangential to the realization of sustainable development. These include;

- i) The primary preoccupation of the leader in the drive towards sustainable development would be to give every citizen a stake in the country and its future and mobilize them towards it. This is the stuff which leadership is made up of. The Nigerian leader should then assuage the IPOB agitation and other irredentist cleavages in the State.

- ii) The realization that life *can only be sustained with income* (Collier, 2010:171), hence there should be programme of employment generation at all stages, to rewrite unemployment, reduce poverty and lessen the inequality gap, while moving towards self-reliance is necessary.
- iii) Merit in the selection of the cabinet and the public servants. After several years in government, ...realized that the more talented people ... had as ministers, administrators, and professional, the more effective my policies were, and the better the results, (Yew, 2000:136). This is the sine-qua-non for public service delivery through the public administrative system of the any state. Nigeria leader must take a que from here and avoid oligarchic selection of public servants.
- iv) Social justice- although divided into several races (nations), a fair and even-handed policy would get them to live peacefully together, especially if such hardships as unemployment were shared equally and not carried mainly by the minority groups (Yew, 2000:8). Thus, social justice would be sharing the pains and the gains among the ethnic groups in Nigeria, equally.
- v) Develop the human resource required by the economy through qualitative education. The primary, secondary and University system must be revived and brought alive. These are some of the values required to drive the State towards sustainable development.
- vi) Every project selected in any Sustainable Development Plan (SDP), must have the characteristics of '*musa paradisiaca*' (plantain), which withstand all weather conditions and regenerates itself without planting new stems to feed the present and future generations respectively. By its nature, new resources are not extracted each time but rather it is preserved.

#### **The challenges**

For Nigeria, the greatest challenge is the emergence of good leaders, who would not be bucked down by the social forces of where he/she comes from but treat the entire country as his constituency. A person who would build the Nigerian nation out the Nigerian State. A person in which political patronage would not betray meritocracy. A person who will build strong social institutions which would regard all equally.

**The challenges of Infrastructural Development:** Nigeria is not known with maintenance culture of public infrastructure, and this should be cultivated. Sustainable Development requires massive state intervention with several infrastructures. However, the prevailing

ideology of development of liberalism enjoins states to step aside from the economy for the private sector to take the centre stage. This is a huge challenge to Sustainable Development Plan (SDP). The private sector is driven by private motive as against the public interest. Private interests never equal public interest, hence they would not invest for public interest.

The third challenge would be the development of social indicators of sustainable development as a yardstick for measuring the success of the plan. This is a tool to measure progress or give a picture of where things stand at a particular moment in time. The control situation may be difficult to establish, but the MDGs would serve that purpose for the new SDGs targets.

The inefficiency of Nigeria public service is yet another challenge in the delivery of sustainable development, the application of the recommendations of this study would turn the situation around..

Each of the universities in Nigeria ought to be a repository of data bank of mineral resources (Geological and agricultural) available in the area where they are located. However, they are not. A plan is predicated on relevant information. The Universities must be made responsive to the environmental needs thereof.

Sustainable Development requires robust Government participation in the economy. Overcoming this in the face of the prevailing liberal economic practices is an arduous task. However, it is a task that must be done.

### Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of planned sustainable development processes would lead to industrialization. For instance;

a) **Natural resource:** Crude oil is the current natural resources, which is exhaustible when usage is not in accordance with 'Sustainable Development Plan (SDP). Its extraction and management would have to follow the following steps;

- i) Extract and refine within the country,
- ii) Obtain the '*heavy alkylates*' and *solvents*
- iii) Out of the '*heavy alkylates*' process into transformer oils, grease, thermal fluids, lube oil additives and special transformer fluids for heavy power stations (National Integrated Power Plant - NIPP) being built across the country. Presently, these formulated products are being imported, because crude oil is not refined in the country.

iv) Out of the solvents, which are made up of cyclic hydrocarbons, the following industries would be served, (paints and varnish, insecticides formulation, polish for shoes, floor and furniture polish and metal cleaners and aromatic- for making air fresheners (Faro, 1990:10). The importation of all these products or the components of manufacturing them, means Nigeria loses the very sum paid per barrel of crude sale of the principal product crude oil. Nigeria cannot operate on the platform of "Penny wise, pound foolish" as the current situation depicts.

### b) Agricultural Product-Cassava

Cassava processing would translate the cassava into the following;

- (i) Starch
- (ii) Garri (white or red)
- (iii) Animal feeds (stalk)
- (iv) Cassava flour
- (v) Pharmaceutical materials

The following industries would then spring up to make use of the starch generated by the availability of cassava paste; (i) **Food Industries** which would use starch for the following purposes; custard making companies, thickener for baby foods, pastries and bakery products, confectioneries, Jam marmalade, Glucose, bread production and animal feeds. (ii) **Non-Food Industries;** natural Adhesive ethanol - alcohol, particleboard industries (stalk), dried yeast, glucose syrup, laundry. (iii) **Pharmaceuticals;** coating medicines or drugs.

Several industries would spring up to use the principal and by-products of the same produce as raw materials, leading to forward and backward linkages in the industrialization processes. Development becomes the outcome, because it would change the fortune of man in the society on a sustain basis, thus leading to Sustainable Development.

### Conclusion

A common saying has it that proper planning prevent poor-performance (5ps). The study has outlined the theoretic for planning sustainable development, the core values required to drive it. It posited that a benevolent leadership is required to drive the process, follow by a critical project selection approach, each of the project selected, must have the character of "*musa paradisiaca*" (plantain) in order to ensure sustainability.

The implementation of Sustainable Development Plan creates situational outcomes, where people would be employed to obtain income to live, poverty and inequality would be reduce, while the society gravitates towards self-reliance. This conduces to development as social justice. Given the challenges, a benevolent leadership, educated citizenry and the development of infrastructure are inputs tangential to the creation of Sustainable Development.

National Development Plan of specific duration system, where the global Sustainable Development Goals' targets would set as milestones, should be restored to quicken the pace of development as planned. It should include a plan for reforestation of degraded portion of the earth, and reclamation of mined fields.

### Recommendations

The essence of Sustainable Development Plan (SDP) is to have an all round development continually that would lift the human standard of living. A bureau, which would be responsible for the identification of Sustainable Development Projects would be imperative and they will cost and present it to the Government for implementation. It would also be charged with the reparation of the earth, through reforestation, where there have been extractions of resources for survival of men in the society. The utmost important of these project is that they would always be decided on the basis of 'Livelihood Improvement through Value addition' hence each project would have the character of '*musa paradisiaca*' (plantain). This approach would ensure the balancing of Sustainable Development Equation between extractive activities of men and its usage without degrading the environment. This would cascade to satisfying the needs of the present generation of people and at same time plan for those yet unborn, by limiting the quantity of resources extracted from the earth.

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