



DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT: EXPLORING THE MISSING LINKS

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ABSTRACT

Democracy and development are two concepts that precipitate one another. Representative governments where there is freedom of speech, periodic elections, freedom of association, accountability, rule of law and the likes beget development. Meaningful development can only take place where the rule of law is observed. A country bedeviled by arbitrariness and great insensitivity cannot be said to be representative of the people because such polity is faced with tension, strife, political violence, marginalization, exclusion, deprivation and all forms of insecurity. The political leadership in Nigeria over the years has failed to deliver on the basic dividends of democracy thus, reducing the nation to a 'Hobbesian State of Nature' where survival and stomach infrastructure becomes a necessary consequence. Consequently, the political culture is largely at the participant and parochial levels of participation. Today we are faced with the challenge of vote buying as an average Nigerian is concerned more with what gets into his/her pockets for survival rather than what benefits the larger populace. Hence, playing the game according to the rule is farfetched. Therefore, the paper using documentary methods of data generation interrogates democracy and development in relation to exploring the lacuna. The study used the Marxian theory of Political Economy as the tool for analysis. The study also proffered solutions to identified problems.

KEY WORD: *Democracy, Development, Political Economy, rule of law, accountability.*

INTRODUCTION

With the advent of democracy in 1999, Nigerians felt relieved from draconian laws of the military which truncated the first, second and third republics. Thus, the populace was again in high hopes when democracy returned. We looked forward to seeing greater opportunities for infrastructural development and rule of law in governance than what we had experienced during the military regime. There was also the dream of inclusion and leadership accountability from the political leadership (; Okpa, Ugwuoke, Ajah, Eshioke, Igbe, Ajor, Ofem, Eteng & Nnamani, 2022). The expectations were high and jubiliations exceptional.

As years progressed, the expectations and high hopes were taking a nose dive for obvious reasons of lack of accountability and failure to deliver on the campaign promises by those elected into political positions. With each passing term, it became obvious that the expectations are not met not for lack of resources but for insincerity, corruption and bad governance. Gradually, it became clear that most of the leadership of the nation is more concerned with their personal development and enrichment even to the detriment of the country. To ensure their

continuous stay in leadership positions, they make several promises and weep up sentiments during the electioneering. Some of these promises are never fulfilled while others are started halfway and abandoned only to be used as a campaign promise or party manifesto in the next elections (Ezeanya, Ajah, Okpa, Chinweze, Onyejebu, Enweonwu & Obiwulu, 2023).

From the above, one would be wondering what truly is the motivation of our leaders who have on several occasions displayed gross ineptitude with respect to delivering on the campaign promises. Most if not all of their campaign promises are developmental in nature. For instance, the 'second Niger Bridge' has been used as a party manifesto for about three periods of campaign. Today, there are indications that the work would be done but I am sure that it would again be repeated during the campaign for the next general elections. This explains why at a time like this, certain very basic things like good road, pipe borne water, power, food, and shelter are still used as party manifestos. From the above, one would be asking why our democracy is development-shy. I say so because certain parts of the country are yet to have any form of government presence yet



democracy is 19 years and 7 months old as at the time of writing this. The paper therefore, examines democracy and development in respect to exploring the missing link.

DEMOCRACY

The term democracy has become a house-hold name in many countries of the world, including Nigeria. This is premised on the fact that it has become one of the most widely practised forms of governance in the modern world. Democracy as a form of government is fashionable because it among other things gives the people the opportunity to be part of the governance of the state. This flows from the traditional definition of democracy by Abraham Lincoln as “the government of the people, by the people and for the people.” Following its people oriented nature, it is expected that any democratic government should be people oriented both in theory and practice (Egbegi, Ajah & Ogbonnaya, 2018; Okpa, Ajah, Nzeakor, Eshioke & Abang, 2022).

Certain factors or indicators are essential in any democratic government: freedom of speech, rule of law, representative government, development, separation of power, active participation of the citizenry before, during and after elections. These factors are geared towards providing a better living condition for the people. For instance, the theory of rule of law holds that the constitution is supreme and should be the guiding principle for all the citizens including political office holders. This implies that the constitution, which by its very nature should be for the good of the people, must necessarily be followed by all to avoid the tendency of any form of arbitrary rule or authoritarian system of governance where the leader does whatever he/she wills, as he/she wills, because he/she wills (Iloma, Nnam, Effiong, Eteng, Okechukwu & Ajah, 2022).

Again, democracy is representative in nature. The representative aspect of democracy is to ensure that the demands and needs of the people are at least heard and attended to. The representatives are therefore in government to speak for the people bringing to the table their aspirations and demands in line with the constitutions of the nation. For instance, cases of bad road, total or partial eclipse with respect to power generation and lack of portable water for the people are brought to the central government where allocations and provisions are made to see that the needs of the people are met (Ajah, Chinweze, Ajah, Onyejebu, Obiwulu, Onwuama & Okpa, 2022). This is so important because the primary responsibility of any responsible government is to protect the lives and property of the people, and provide their basic and other forms of needs like power, water, shelter, road, employment, etc. of the people. Democracy therefore is a system of government that is people oriented.

In addition, periodic elections give every qualified citizen of the nation an opportunity to seek to be elected into any political office of his/her choice. Usually, most if not all those who seek to be elected into political offices give the impression that they

are going there to better the lives of the people (Ajah, Ajah, Ajah, Onwe, Ozumba, Iyoke & Nwankwo, 2022). In Nigeria for instance, we have had several slogans during campaigns like ‘Fresh Air’ ‘Change’ ‘Make Nigeria Work Again’ etc. The Nigerian situation is that in most cases, these candidates end up transforming the lives of the people as they promised they would. This is not to say that the past governments in Nigeria have not done anything remarkable for the people. Far from that. The reality however is that they live very little impact on lives of the common man on the street.

DEVELOPMENT

The term development, all things being equal, should be a form of accompaniment of any democratic government. It has been described as the process of economic and social transformation that is based on complied cultural and environmental factors and their interactions. Development is multi-dimensional because it covers and occurs in every aspect of human existence. We have human development, cultural development, environmental development, educational development, health development, social development, and economic development (Ezeanya, Ajah, Ibenwa, Onuorah & Eze, 2022).

Human development is the process of enlarging people's freedoms and opportunities and improving their well-being. **Human development** is about the real freedom ordinary people have to decide who to be, what to do, and how to live as developed by economist Mahbub ul Haq (Ugwuoke, Ajah & Onyejebu, 2020). From the above, it becomes clear that freedom is a necessary condition for human development: freedom from both internal and external aggression, freedom to choose their life's dreams and aspirations. This freedom is meant to guide the people, the common man, in deciding who to be, what to be and how to pursue such dreams.

Human development is propelled by factors like education, equal opportunity, power, good roads, affordable housing scheme, functional and affordable health facilities, potable water, employment opportunity, security, and other recreational facilities. These factors ensure that individuals are given the platform to make their choices and excel in them. For instance, if the education sector **were effective and functional**, the citizenry would have the platform to be properly equipped both in theory and practice for the challenges of life (Okpa, Ugwuoke, Ajah, Eshioke, Igbe, Ajor, Ofem, Eteng & Nnamani, 2022). A good Engineering Department would most likely, all things being equal, give students the enabling environment to excel in the field of engineering. But in situations, like the one prevalent in Nigeria, where the education sector is paid lip-service, laboratories are nothing but empty halls with little or no equipment and marching technocrats, lecture halls are overcrowded and without public address systems, students lack the environment and resources to excel.



Similarly, in the face of insecurity as has become the norm in Nigeria, human development at best remains a theory. This is premised on the fact that other factors like power, education, pipe borne water, industries/factories etc cannot thrive in the face of insecurity. Investors, technocrats, experts and even voluntary workers in most cases find it difficult to operate in insecure environments and where all these opportunities are lacking, human development would be greatly and negatively influenced and dwarfed (Ezeanya, Ajah, Okpa, Chinweze, Onyejebu, Enweonwu & Obiwulu, 2023). In the North East for instance, investors would be unwilling to invest in the region because of the unfortunate incidents of Boko Haram menace. Consequently, those living in the region are denied the opportunities that come with such investments like employment and other social benefits. Human development is propelled by science and technology fuelled by power, security, good road and so on. However, these factors are lacking in Nigeria or at best very inadequate.

Capital Development/Infrastructural Development are another form of development that is based on the capital, physical and structural aspect of the community or country. Factors like good road, good house, power, pipe-borne water, hospitals, and other social amenities account for the infrastructural development of any nation. Capital development is based on the economic activities of the nation. Just like human development, infrastructural development is enhanced by factors like equal opportunity and security.

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE

We shall hinge our study on the Marxist theory of neo-colonial states. This tool of analysis comparatively analyses the post colonial political economy of African States that predicates the state security and violence within these states. Even though Karl Marx is the major protagonist of this theory, he never called it Marxist theory of neo-colonial states but advanced its qualities to include:

- ❖ The post-colonial state is purely an instrument of class domination.
- ❖ The primitive accumulation with the state power is done by domestic power and certain external forces.
- ❖ The post colonial states are rentier states parceled out in Patron-Client chains to those who use the state power for selfish ends.

Some Marxist theorists like Miliband, Ake, Lenin and Ekeke have in their various studies included to the advancement of the post-colonial theory of the state. Miliband (1977:109) for instance, posits that the post-colonial states are dependent on the foreign forces that colonized them and thus the state is both the source of economic power and an instrument of accumulation of economic power as the state is the major means of production. Ake, on his part, observed that it is the economic factor which is the most decisive of all the other elements (social structure, political structure and belief system) of the society and which

largely determines the character of the others. Albeit not to say that, the economic structure is autonomous and strictly determines the others. All the social structures are interdependent and relate in complex ways. However, it is the economic factor, which provides the axis around which all the movement takes place, and imparts certain orderliness to the interaction (Ake, 1981:3-4). Consequently, the economic contact between the western capitalists and the African leaders led to the subsequent interaction of other aspects of social life that followed. Thus, by following the dynamics of the economic system, we see how it leads to the transformation of existing social structures and how it leads to the emergence of new social structures, particularly in African petit-bourgeoisie whose interest soon put it in opposition to the colonial system and overthrow of the colonial political system. The economic system which generated the changes is itself not overthrown. So, we have indigenous leaders who are in political office but with little economic base. By implication, the new rulers try to use the only tool they have, political power to create an economic base in order to strengthen their economic power. Thus, the political is influencing and even transforming economic structures and social structures despite the fact that the state is seen as the product of class struggle in the society. Meaning that the state emerged to mediate between antagonistic classes in order to maintain law and order in such a way that none of the groups will be consumed in fruitless struggle over the ownership of the means of production (Lenin, 1984:10-11). The neo-colonial states are parts and parcels of the class struggle it was supposed to moderate. Thus, the post-colonial states rather than maintain or moderate economic relations, became an instrument of domination, exploitation and intimidation of the subjects (Ekeke, 1986:12 in Ezeibe, 2011).

Invariably therefore, the leaders rather than allow market forces to determine economic activities intervene in almost every productive process. Their interest become high and above the states interest as they struggle to fill-in their pockets first before thinking about national development. This also comes into play when there is need for the development of a particular area and that is incompatible with the will of the leader(s) as the interest of leader(s) is considered primarily. We do not need to talk of times when contracts are awarded and contractors are made to pay some percentages to the awardees making it highly impossible to deliver good quality job because the contractors after paying huge amount as awardees' cut is left little or near insufficient amount to execute the contract. In this scenario, we have sub-standard projects and/or better still unfinished or abandoned projects leading to underdevelopment. We also have a country that is one of the highest oil producers but is incapable of refining crude oil into petrol, kerosene, gas and other finished products for domestic consumption. Rather than export finished products, exports crude oil and imports finished products. What a paradox? This demonstrates that the nature of any state plays an important role in the economic development as any economic



development can only take place if the state is a developmental state and this is bound by the vision and dreams of the leaders.

The lacuna between Democracy and Development:

Every country is naturally endowed with human and natural resources for its development and survival. Though, the level of development and survival depend on the ability of the leaders to direct and redirect these resources for the greatest good of the populace. Then, the begging question is: has the human and natural resources available to the Nigerian state translated the fledgling democracy into an all inclusive system of governance that promotes socio-economic development, eradicate poverty and enhance science and technology that will metamorphose into development? What is the quality of the leaders? Do they have visions and dreams that can elicit development? How are the representatives chosen? Is it through free and fair election? Do they really have the mandate of the people? A visionless and/or dreamless leader(s) may not be able to translate human and natural resources to meaningful development. Such leaders may be overwhelmed by very little achievement in such a way that improvement and advancement may not be taken seriously. Again, such leader(s) may not take advantage of the resources that give them an edge over and above others. Let us use the twelve categories of competitiveness as enunciated by the World Economic Forum in its Global Competitiveness Report of 2017 to 2018 to examine the missing link of Nigeria's democracy and development:

Institutions: the interplay between public and private stakeholders determines the institutional field of the polity. How does the economy utilise the natural endowment? The policies and programmes of the country greatly affect the quality of the institutions of a country which in turn influence the competitiveness and growth. It affects investment decisions and the structure of production and indeed influences the pattern of benefit distribution and cost development strategies and policies. The pattern of public expenditure shows the level or extent of government's supportiveness to the private sector. How does public investment in infrastructure like transport, power, water, telecommunication etc look like? Does it directly support and promote the productivity of the private sector investments? How much task are the private stakeholders charged? Are they charged over or is it the highest marginal rate of corporate taxation used as a proxy for government disposition towards the private sector? Sound and sustainable development of an economy depends on if the private institutions are good. It is therefore expedient to ensure accountability and reporting standards that are transparent so as to forestall fraud and mismanagement that can promote good governance that can encourage investor-consumer confidence.

Infrastructure: An effective functioning of any country's economy is dependent on efficient and extensive infrastructure. When there is a high-quality and good road network, goods and services will be facilitated to the market as well as workers

moved to their place of work. Many scholars have observed road transport infrastructure as a significant economic promoter as well as the backbone of economic development activities for many industrialized countries (Pradhan and Bagchi, 2013; Lakshmanan 2011; Smith, 1880; Weber, 1928). A good number of researchers also favour the connection between transport infrastructure investments (infrastructure investment can be referred to as efforts committed (monetary and non-monetary) for the construction of new road networks and improvement of existing road networks) and a society's political, social and economic development (Achetzhanoy and Lustoy 2013; Rashidi and Samimi, 2012; Rowstow, 1962). Definitely road infrastructure investment encompass major political, economic and social processes enhance the riches and power of a country, expand market and minimize trade barriers leading to increase in productivity outputs and enhances mobility and quality of life for the populace (Kustepeli et al, 2012; Njoh, 2012). Road transportation infrastructure investment has since been seen as a subset or a part of the capita representing the primary foundation that bolsters all production works.

As a matter of fact, for those of us who live in Nigeria, it is no longer a story that a journey of one hour can take like four hours due to bad road network such as pot holes in the roads, you see vehicles that breakdown on the road causing traffic jam leading to go slow. We can just say that the roads incredibly lack maintenance that hampers movement from one location to the other.

Infrastructure investment can directly affect development in such a way that it can enhance connection of city to city, community to community, movement of goods and services facilitate infrastructural development such as schools, trading clusters and hospitals. It can also indirectly create jobs, stimulate individual and community creativity as well as stimulate investment activities, transform socio-cultural norms and create social and dynamics.

Uninterrupted power supply promotes business and enhances productivity. Even though Nigeria has abundant supply of natural resources like coal, hydro, natural gas, crude oil etc, the country yet is bedeviled by electricity problem which adversely affects the cost of goods and services. The cost of goods and services are high because industries have to generate their power themselves. For instance, a fabric which ordinarily would have been sown with ₦2,000 only now sows for ₦15,000 to ₦20,000 because of epileptic or near lack of power supply making the fashion designers to resort to the use of generating set. Almost all business sectors or even private homes resort to the use of generating set leading to high cost of gas and petrol. A report of the survey of twenty business centres in Enugu metropolis shows that the cost of power generation affects the cost of production of goods and services because these business centres have to run generating sets from morning to night everyday to ensure that they deliver effectively to their customers. Nigeria only uses four sources (crude oil, coal, natural gas and hydro) in



processed forms while two others (wood fuel and solar) used in their crude forms for heating, cooking and lighting. The demand for electricity in Nigeria outweighs the supply.

Nigeria has an installed generation capacity of 8,644 mega watts of which 6,905 mega watts is government owned. According to Yinka (2018), the World Bank says countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have annual outages from 50 hours to 4,600 hours. There

are 8,760 hours in a year, so that's more than half for some like Nigeria. We can then appreciate the heavy cost outages add on a per dollar basis for electricity. Imagine countries like Nigeria where back-up diesel generators are used to supplement or completely support daily life, the cost of electricity can be as much as three times higher than it would be if the grid were reliable. The table below shows electricity access and average outage in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Electricity Access/Average outage/Grid capacity and Backup Generator in SS Africa

Country	Electricity access %	Average outage hours per year	Grid capacity (GW)	Backup generator %
Angola	32	760	1.7	8
Cameroun	56.8	790	1.6	1
Cote D'Ivoire	61.9	230	1.8	6
DR Congo	13.5	830	2.6	46
Ethiopia	27.2	570	2.4	1
Ghana	78.3	790	2.8	12
Kenya	36	420	2.2	7
Mozambique	21.9	80	2.6	1
Niger	15	1,400	0.18	20
Nigeria	56.4	4,600	10.5	22
Senegal	61	130	0.96	1
South Africa	86	50	46	2.5
Tanzania	18.9	670	1.2	12
Zambia	27.9	180	2.3	3
Zimbabwe	32.3	280	2.1	5

Source: Quarz Africa 2018

According to Quarz Africa, the authors of the above estimated that Nigeria, with its high frequency of blackouts, has a "mean net cost of electricity" from diesel generators of around \$1.6 billion per year. While Senegal, a smaller country with more stable electricity has a mean net cost of above \$4 million per year. Moreover, countries' grid capacity is significantly supplemented by backup generators. Three-quarters of SSA firms experience power outages reportedly losing an average of 8.3 percent of the annual sales as a result. That notwithstanding, the health hazards associated with the use of generators can never be over-emphasized. There is increase of air emission pollutants including Co2, carbon monoxide, sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides and fine particulate matter which significantly affect climate change and human health.

Household electrification rate in Sub-Saharan Africa is the lowest in the world, around 42% in 2016. Total installed capacity of electricity in the region was 96 giga watts in 2015, compared with 325 GW in India and 1,519 GW in China, according to the US Energy Information Administration in Yinka (2018). South Africa accounts for nearly half of the region's generation capacity Nigeria, which has a population four times the size of South Africa's, has only about a quarter of

the installed generation capacity of South Africa. There is also a big gap between electricity access in urban households (71%) and rural households amounting to 22%.

By implication, the level of actual electricity consumption in Africa and Nigeria in particular is low. Between 2010 and 2014, average annual consumption per capita in sub-saharan Africa was equivalent to just 4% of consumption per capita in the United States (Yinka, 2018). <https://qz.com/africa/1271252/world-bank-recommendations-on-electricity-in-sub-saharan-africa/>

In terms of access to clean drinking water, 68.5% have improved means of access while 31.5% still struggle to get clean water. Similarly, when examining the access of sanitation facilities, only 29% of the entire population of Nigeria has improved sanitation access as compared to the 71% that are still struggling.

<https://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/Nigeria-population/>

Information can also flow effectively to allow easy communication for better growth of the business. In a situation where there is lack of service or a community or place is not



connected to the communication network, it will definitely affect productivity. Imagine the era when there was no phone and people have to travel miles to deliver information or that there is no network service in ones phone, it means that that person will be in total black-out. Business will be slow and sales decrease. Relatively, information flow has enhanced communication and business today that one can stay in one location and with a simple press or touch of a button, business transaction will take place.

Macroeconomic Environment: Any country with high interest and inflation rate may not boast of stable economy that can promote competitiveness because of the burden of interest rate burden that may lead to economic deficit. The question is: what form of growth can be achieved with an interest rate of 14 percent and inflation rate of 11.40 percent? Your guess is as good as mine because it will be difficult for the economy to be stable.

Health and Primary Education: Any country that invests in health and education has prepared for an effective and efficient economy that is sustained by productivity healthy for competition. People give in their best when they are physically and mentally stable. A sick person cannot function effectively as such worker will always be absenting himself/herself from work. According to World Population Review (2019), the life expectancy in Nigeria is, unfortunately, the lowest in all of West Arica. The average life expectancy is around 54.5 years of age according to WHO data, with men living an average of 53.7 years and women living an average of 55.4 years. This very low number can be attributed to the fact that the country has a lot of health issues. The AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) epidemic is a key player in low life expectancy. Nigeria has also fallen victim to a high child and maternal rate and the widespread growth of the polio virus. In fact, one out of every five children that are born in Nigeria will die before they reach the age of five due to the many health risks in Nigeria.

While pregnancy is obviously not a disease, a lot of expectant mothers in Nigeria die from pregnancy complications every year. The woman's chances of death during pregnancy or child birth are 1 in 13. To worsen the situation, many people in Nigeria do not seek professional medical attention as they feel that "healers" will help them live longer; not knowing that professional doctors will give them a much longer life.

Moreover, a country without technical know-how, correct, appropriate and adequate education cannot compete effectively in the global market. Good health and basic education is germane for an efficient and effective economic growth. A scenario where doctors are incessantly on strike because of government's inability to keep to their own side of the bargain scuttles the progress of effectiveness and efficiency. This in effect affect the health sector as doctors and nurses lack the fundamental knowledge to work which explains why our leaders

run to overseas to get treated leaving the poor masses to the mercy of the half baked graduates called doctors and nurses. Invariably any country without adequate health and education system lacks the strength to compete in the global market because as the saying goes "a healthy nation is a wealthy nation". What about on-the-job training to improve workers efficiency? Refresher training is key to economic development and growth since the average number of years spent in school in Nigeria is approximately nine (9) years with a national literacy rate of 59.6%.

High Education and Training: The Nigerian tertiary institutions are poor funded leading to lack of educational infrastructure. UNESCO recommended 26 percent of nation's total budget, yet this has not crossed 10 percent since 1991. Lecturers are always on strike due to government's insincerity and lack of goodwill draws back the economic growth of the country because graduates pass out of school without adequate knowledge of the discipline they studied due to truncation in the programme precipitated by strike leading to graduates with theory that does not match with practice. For any country to experience a high level of technology, theory must match with practice.

Goods Market Efficiency: Market efficiency is driven by healthy market competition and business productivity by making sure that efficient firms produce the goods that are demanded progress. When a country produces what it does not eat and eat what it does not produce, it has settled for subservient and depended position because it cannot satisfy the demands of her customer/consumer whose taste cannot be met. But the reverse is the case when a country is able to produce those goods and services as demanded by the consumers with the high-tech associated with it as high taste leads to innovation because the firms continue to strive to satisfy the consumers as well as try to compete with the global market. By implication, the goods and services offered or supplied in such a country, is customer-oriented that encourages innovation and improvement.

Labour Market Efficiency: Efficient labour market demands that market forces are allowed and as such total flexibility is required to ensure that workers have the freedom of labour mobility as well as gender empowerment. In addition, to the freedom of enjoying proper incentives which will motivate the workers to give in their best at a very minimal cost so as to maximise profit and yet allow creativity innovation and fulfilment. More importantly, meritocracy should not be slaughtered at the altar of mediocrity. Round pegs should be allowed to be in round holes and vice versa. Political or social interference should not disrupt the labour market rather market forces should take the lead.

Financial Market Development: Every country has investors, entrepreneurs and multinational companies who engage in one business or the other. Therefore, resources generated and saved



by these, should be re-invested into the economic system of the polity rather than the situation where resources are appropriated and expropriated leading to under-development of the host financial market. Resources saved should be allowed to circulate within the country in such a way that the banking sector having enough reserves, can grant loan and credit facilities to growing entrepreneurs with a clear, transparent and fair distribution. The banking system should be conducted in such a way that the customers will have trust and confidence on them to the extent that the investors can really feel protected. By implication therefore, there should be clear policies, rules and regulations guiding the financial system to the level that customers are a way of interests attached to credit facilities to avoid over charge and undue advantage over the customer and investor.

Technological Readiness: This refers to the preparedness of a nation to adopt existing technologies to promote the productivity of its industries. Is the technology adaptive? Does the country have an indigenous technology to be able to compete in the global market? If it is foreign direct investment, has the technology been transferred? An adopted technology without subsequent transfer poses problem as the maintenance of such technology becomes difficult retarding development. Every technology needs consequent technical know-how and if it is lacking, the progress will be thwarted.

Market Size: A progressive business is that which can dispose off its goods and produce more. A good turnover opens the windows of development. When goods produced are not sold, the producer may not be able to produce more. Hitherto globalisation, countries restrict import and small countries suffer as they could not sell off their goods easily. But now with trade liberalisation, countries can now export their goods to other countries freely though young domestic industries suffer as their goods have to compete with much more sophisticated goods. Sometimes people abandon these locally made goods which are looked down upon as substandard. However, a country with high-tech can effectively benefit from this trend because they have ready market to supply their goods and services.

Business Sophistication: This can be seen as the quality of a country's overall business networks and the quality of individual firms' operations and strategies. Business networks are crucial for efficiency in the business. Quantity and quality have to be assured as well as network of buyers.

Innovation: The injection of new ideas, skills and methods are germane for efficient and progressive economies. Industries must improve and be open to innovation and progress. An improved method in the process of production will indeed enhanced quality and productivity.

All these pillars of competitiveness are all interrelated and support each other. In fact, any weakness in one affects the others. The categories can also be divided into different stages thus:

- Factor-driven
- Efficiency-driven
- Innovation-driven

Nigeria's economy has not transited from factor-driven stage to efficiency-driven. It is still at the level of transition which explains why it is difficult for the country to effectively compete in the global economy.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

This paper examined democracy and development trying to locate the missing link in Nigeria's situation. Using pillars of competitiveness as yardstick, the paper observed that Nigeria's economy is still at the factor-driven stage which is yet a transitory level, in which case, the country has remained weak in the global economy. As a result of this, Nigeria needs to step up by improving on infrastructural development that can pave way for efficiency and innovation so as to enable the country compete effectively in the global economy. No country develops without giving room for a favourable playing ground for the actors and stakeholders in the polity.

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