



PROSPECTS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is the new global targets for improving people's lives around the world. At the United Nations Summit on 25th September, 2015, world leaders adopted the Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice and tackle climate change by 2030. The SDGs are built on the Millennium Development Goals MDGs. Enormous progress has been made in some countries on the MDGs. Despite this success, the result in Nigeria is not very encouraging. Against this backdrop, the paper seeks to assess the lessons learnt from the shortcomings of MDGs in Nigeria with a view to proffer way forward in order to achieve the targets of SDGs because SDGs will only succeed if they can succeed in Nigeria- whose rapidly growing population most needs the change that the agenda describes. The paper employs secondary sources of data because the necessary information required for the work is more easily available in documented form. The source of data includes journals, reports and findings of other scholars. The paper is anchored on goal setting theory and the indices of measuring development of a society advanced by Dudley Seers. The paper concludes that Nigeria was slow in meeting the MDGs. Based on this the paper recommends among other things that concerted effort needs to be put in place by the government in addressing the challenges faced by the MDGs in order to achieve the SDGs; more importantly, the government should be more committed to fighting corruption and to declare an economic state of emergency and return to the development planning era.

Key words: Millennium Development Goals MDGs, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Nigeria, Poverty

Introduction

Over the years, the international community has embraced several goals and campaigns aimed to reach several development goals, variously defined. For example, the United Nations (UN) campaigns 'Education for all (1978)', 'Health for all (1990)' aimed to achieve primary education and access to health care by 2000. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on the other hand were supposed to function as partnership between developed and developing countries through broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future based upon common humanity in all its diversity. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are new, universal set of goals, targets and indicators the UN member states will be expected to use to frame their agenda and political policies over 15 years (2015-2030). The SDGs are a follow up of the MDGs. The SDGs become necessary because the deadline for MDGs has passed and poverty is still very high with over one billion people living on less than \$1.25 a day – the World Bank on poverty.

The target of MDGs was to reduce the population living in poverty by half, available statistics provided by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) shows that the population living in poverty in Nigeria rose from 68.7 million in 2004 to 112.5 million in 2010 (Kale, 2012 cited in Ibada, 2014); indicating an increase in the population living in poverty, rather than reduction.

Against this backdrop, the paper seeks to evaluate the performance of MDGs in Nigeria with a view to highlighting the prospects of SDGs. The paper examines why Nigeria, like many sub-Saharan African countries did not meet the targets of MDGs. This is indeed critical, as it is fundamental to the success or failure of the recently launched Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). If the factors that made MDGs fail are not critically and thoroughly examined, they will likewise cause failure of SDGs, despite huge investments in human, material and financial resources. Specifically, the paper is aimed at taking stock of major gains and inhibiting factors against MDGs i.e., what has really been done and what went wrong? This is necessary given the limited success of the MDGs in Nigeria and the technical factors that has affected its comprehensive success so that the MDGs will not be mere wishful thinking. Therefore, the success of SDGs will depend on addressing the challenges faced by MDGs.

To achieve the objective of the paper, the paper is divided into seven sections. Section one is the introductory section where a synopsis of the paper is given, section two focuses on the theoretical framework, section three is devoted to an evaluation of the performance of MDGs in Nigeria, section four dwells on the shortcomings of the MDGs in Nigeria. Section five is the spine of the paper, where attempt was made at highlighting the prospects of SDGs in Nigeria taking into account where we are and what we need to do in order to achieve the SDGs in Nigeria, section six is where conclusion of the paper is presented and finally section seven draw some recommendations.

Theoretical framework

The paper is anchored on goal setting theory and Seers' fundamental questions about the development of a society. The goal setting theory stipulates that specific and difficult goals lead to high level of performance rather than on the generalized goal, which is based on the belief that harder goals tend to make people to think deeply on how to achieve them, thereby resulting in greater efficiency, which at the end will increase performance. The idea was propounded by Edwin Lock in the sixties. Considering the articulations of the theory, it is certain that the SDGs are goal oriented and capable of reinforcing the desired motivational inspiration on the part of the government for its implementation. It is a programme that is set forth to achieve certain goals, which demonstrate the basic characteristics of goal setting theory. These characteristics are goal-specificity, goal-acceptance and goal-difficulty. There is no doubt that both MDGs and SDGs are difficult, challenging and achievable. Hence, they are clear, measurable and quantitative in nature.

The capacity of these goals to transform the condition of the people, via poverty, unemployment, diseases and by extension enhancing the overall development of society, informed the level of acceptability accorded the project by different government of the world.

In assessing the performance of MDGs in Nigeria, Dudley Seers' indices for measuring development is thus appropriate. Seers argued that there are three fundamental questions to be asked about the development of a society viz; what has been happening to poverty; what has been happening to unemployment; what has been happening to inequality? If one or two of these central problems have been growing worse, it would be strange to call the result development even if per capita income doubled. Assessing the MDGs in Nigeria as would be seen in the next

section, it is obvious that all the indices had gone worse, therefore the result could not be called development; hence, the relevance of Seers' argument.

Performance of MDGs in Nigeria

The United Nations inspired Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was declared in the year 2000 and seeks to mobilize and inspire nations of the world to promote global development. Eight in number, the MDGs had a target date of 2015.

Table 1: The MDGs and their targets

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the population whose income is less than US \$1 per day b. Halve, between 1990-2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education	Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike will be able to complete full course of primary school
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women	Eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2015, and at all levels of education not later than 2015
Goal 4: Reduce child mortality	Reduce child mortality by two-thirds by 2015
Goal 5: Improve maternal health	Reduce the maternal mortality ratio by three-quarters between 1990 and 2015
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	Halve halted by 2015 and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDs
Goal 7: ensure environmental sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Integrate the principle of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of governmental resources b. Halve by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation c. By 2020, achieve a significant improvement in the levels of at least 100 million slum dwellers
Goal 8: Promote global partnerships for development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term b. Address the special needs of the least developed countries, including through more generous ODA (official development aid) for countries committed to poverty reduction c. In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially for information and communication

Source: Adapted from UNDP, 2006

There are thus conflicting reports with regards to the performance of MDGs in Nigeria. On the one hand, most of the international agencies reported that Nigeria has not done well in the MDGs, while on the other hand the Nigerian government claimed to have achieved tremendous success in the MDGs.

At the global level according to the World Bank, around 14.5% of the World's population remained in extreme poverty (World Bank, 2014). In the 1990s East Asia had the greatest poverty rate; nowadays sub-Saharan countries and South Asia face the highest poverty rates.

Nowadays the World's extreme poor concentrated in five countries, mainly in China, India, Bangladesh, Nigeria and Democratic Republic of Congo (The Global Monitoring Report, 2014). In the same vein, the Millennium Development Goals Report, 2014 indicates that despite improved progress that has been made in the last couple of years, more than 700 million adults and 125 million youth worldwide do not have basic reading, writing and numeracy skills.

On gender equality and women empowerment, it is confirmed that larger gender disparities are met in secondary education than in primary (The Millennium Development report, 2014). Despite the fact that the gender gap in education has been reduced, disparities in labor market are still persistent. The World Bank data 2010-2012 showed that the time related unemployment rate between men and women stays higher in sub-Saharan countries (12.6 to 15.8%).

According to UN Inter-Agency for child mortality estimations between 1990 and 2012, the child mortality rate has reduced to an average of 48 deaths per 1000 live births. In addition to this, the rate of under-five deaths decreased from 12.6 million in 1990 to 8.6 million in 2012. South Asia and sub-Saharan countries face major problem of infant and under – five children mortality (The MDGs Report, 2014, United Nations, 2014).

According to UN Inter – Agency Group, the global maternal mortality ratio has reduced by 45%. However, this does not meet the MDGs target to reduce maternal mortality by 75% (The Global Monitoring Report, 2014). More than 60% of maternal deaths have occurred in sub-Saharan countries due to poor health infrastructure and lack of antenatal services under-nourishment etc. Despite important improvements made in healthcare access for young mothers, the gap between rural and urban areas is still persistent (The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2014, United Nations, 2014).

In 2012, access to ART (the antiretroviral therapy) has saved 1.6 million people and 9.5 million malaria and other diseases. It is estimated that ART has averted almost 6.6 million HIV/AIDS related deaths between 1995 and 2012. However sub-Saharan countries are the most affected by HIV/AIDS and it remains the region where almost 70% (1.6 million cases) of the estimated number of new infected cases has occurred in 2012. Malaria is another sub-target of MDG6 and according to the estimations provided by World Health Organization WHO, has killed 600,000 people in 2013. The majority of these deaths occurred among under-five children

living in sub-Saharan countries (The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2014 United Nations, 2014).

Despite progress made in improving sanitation facilities and adequate water access, better access to improve water sources is still a major problem in some areas such as the sub-Saharan countries where the share population with access to water sources raised from 48% in 1990 to only 64% in 2012 (the Global Monitoring Report, 2014).

All the above MDGs (1 to 7) cannot be made without consistent aid for development coming in terms of partnership between developed and developing countries.

It is evident from the above that enormous progress has been made in some countries, despite this the result in Nigeria is not very encouraging. The mid-point Assessment Report (2007) shows that among every ten Nigerians in that year, five were still living in poverty. In the same report, it shows that unemployment rate in the country rose from about 12 of 100 working age people in 1999 to 18 in 2005. Infant mortality rate rose from 81 per 1000 live births in year 2000 to 110 per 1000 live births in 2005/2006, which is farther away from the global target of 30 per 1000 live births in 2015. The maternal mortality in 2007 shows that in the rural areas, it was, 828 deaths per 100,000 live births, and 53, deaths per 100,000 live births in urban areas. The report further revealed that approximately two-thirds of all Nigerian women and three-quarters of the rural women deliver outside health facilities and without medically skilled attendants present.

On HIV/AIDS, the report shows that remarkable progress has been made since 2003. For instance, the prevalence rate dropped from about 5 in every 100 Nigerians in 2003 to about 4 in 2008. The number of reported cases of malaria and tuberculosis has also reduced in the period. For instance, the prevalence rate of malaria declined from 2,024 per 100,000 in 2000 to 1, 158 in 2004. The Roll Back malaria initiative contributed to the success. This notwithstanding, malaria accounted for 60% of out-patients and an annual average of 300,000 deaths (UNDP, 2007). Despite the remarkable success recorded in the area of malaria prevalence, the situation is not encouraging in the area of tuberculosis, which remains a public health problem in the country. Although it also declined from 16 per 100,000 in 2000 to 7 per 100,000 in 2004; as at 2006, Nigeria remained among the 22 high burden countries in the world and first in Africa (UNDP, 2007).

In terms of environmental sustainability, the mid-point Assessment Report of MDGs in Nigeria (2007) indicated that the proportion area covered by forest fell from 14.6% in 2000 to 12.6% in 2007 against the target of 20% by 2015. With regards to potable water, the report indicated that the proportion of people with access to safe drinking water gradually rose from 54.0% in 2000 to 60.0% in 2005/2006. In the same vein, the report shows that the proportion of population with access to basic sanitation dropped from 42.9% in 2000 to 38% in 2007.

The area which Nigeria did well according to the report is the last goal, which to develop a global partnership for development. The country is actively participating in a number of regional initiatives such as the African Union (AU) and the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). The country also belongs to a number of bilateral and multilateral trade pacts such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Economic community of West African Countries (ECOWAS) and the African Caribbean pacific –European economic partnership Agreement (ACP-EU-EPA). Since global partnership hinges significantly on information flows, key indicators relating to ICT were also assessed. The UNDP (2007) report shows that Tele-density in the country has expanded from 0.73% in 2001 to 15.72% in 2005 and 27.41% in 2007, which is above the international telecommunications Union (ITU) minimum standard of 1:100. In terms of the use of internet, the 2007 UNDP report shows that the population of Nigerians using the internet rose from 0.68 in every 1000 persons in 2000 to 38.1 in 2005. Even at that, internet access is still very low in the country relative to other similar countries (UNDP, 2007).

In a nut shell, it is obvious from the UNDP (2007) report and glancing through the successes or otherwise achieved in Nigeria, the country was slow in some goals particularly goals I and 6, the situation is worse in goals 4,5 and 7. However, there was remarkable improvement in goal 8.

The Nigerian government on its part has a contrary report. According to the Director of programme in the office the Special Assistant to the President on MGDs, Nigeria recorded major progress in the MDGs. With reference to Goal 1, he said the United Nations food and Agriculture Organization honored Nigeria for reducing by half the population of those who suffer hunger (The Guardian, 2016). As regards Goal 2, he said primary six completion rate improved to 88% in 2012 from the base line of 82% in 2004 but declined to 74% in 2014 (The Guardian , October, 2016).

On gender parity he argued that Nigeria has achieved gender parity targets at primary and Secondary education levels with National Average Gender parity Index (GPI) being 1. Equally, he said there was significant improvement in goal 4 with a reduction from the 2008 National Demographic and Health Survey figure of 157 under-five deaths per 1,000 live births to 89 1000 deaths in 2014. He went further to say that the trend is similar for infant mortality rate of 61 per 1000 live births declined in 2014 to 58.

The Director further said Nigeria has reduced malaria mortality Ratio (MMR). In 1990 MMR was estimated as 1000 per 100,000 live births. He concluded by saying that Goal 6 also recorded remarkable improvement of the fall of HIV prevalence from a baseline figure of 5.8 to 3.4 in 2014. Despite these claims at by the Nigerian government, Nigeria was slow in meeting the MDGs, which calls for explanation.

Shortcomings of MDGs in Nigeria

Although the Nigerian Government claims it did well in meeting the MDGs targets, it also acknowledges that the progress was slow (Ibada, 2014). However, scholars have attributed the slow pace of achievement of MDGs to a number of factors, which revolves round factors such as corruption, neglect of pro-poor budgeting, weak institutions, poor policy implementation, insecurity etc. In 2014, Ajiye identified lack of human capacity for implementation, inadequate and unreliable data system, inadequate funding, and indiscipline with endemic corruption as challenges that were facing MDGs in Nigeria. In the same vein, he asserts that:

The upscale of social discord, killings and bombings in northern part of Nigeria, and kidnapping in southern Nigeria reversed the gains of so many years of investments in health care in Nigeria, especially in affected communities.

Today, there are several hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons who are current victims of communicable diseases, malnutrition and several other social problems. This figure was estimated to be 1,538, 982 as of April 2015 (IDMC, 2015).

Writing on corruption and the MDGs in Nigeria, Ogbeidi (2013) notes that;

Corruption is the most critical impediment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)...Nigeria remains desperately poor due to bad management of its wealth by successive corrupt governments. Today, Nigeria is one of the poorest countries in the world. Its unadjusted GNP per capita of \$ 300 leaves it in 164th position among other countries in 1999. The per capita GNP PPP (purchasing power parity) figure of \$ 820 looks better at first glance but it ranks

199th out of the 209 countries covered in the World Bank's 2000 World Development Report...In 2010, Nigeria's GDP per capita (PPP) of \$ 2.365 ranked as 138th in the world out of the 180 countries, while the GNI per capita (PPP) of \$2.160 left the country in the 172nd position out of the 215 countries listed in the World Development Indicators Database.

A critical point to note from the above is that corruption is what is undermining Nigeria's drive for development. Similarly, the impact of violence on development and the MDGs also achieves similar effects on groups or communities. Political violence such as the post election violence in 2011, the Niger Delta insurgency, the terrorism of Boko Haram, inter-ethnic conflicts, and intra/inter community conflicts have driven out investments, destroyed infrastructure and human lives, and created instability that has not only worsened poverty and inequality, but also put national development at risk (Ibada, 2014).

Significantly, because corruption and ethnic politics ignores equity and common/public interests tends to concentrate resources in particular areas and this long with the easy access to opportunity structures by members of group whose elites control political power has promoted an unequal development. Related to this is a discriminatory revenue allocation criterion that has at different times in the history of the country put more financial resources in the hands/coffers of a particular ethnic group, state or geo-political zone. Table 2 provides figure of selected periods to demonstrate the trend and patterns of revenue allocation.

Table 2: Trends and changes in revenue allocation by Geo-political zones only

Geo-political zones	Component states (Dominant ethnic groups/ number of minority groups)	% share of revenue (August 1997)	% share of revenue (March 2000)	% share of revenue (July, 2011)
South-East	Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo (Igbo/1)	11.1	9.7	9.4
South- South	Awa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo and Rivers (Mixed/59)	17.3	32.2	34.3
South-West	Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun and Oyo (Yoruba/4)	13.6	12.5	14.6
North-Central	Benue, Kogi/Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger, Plateau, FCT (Mixed 123)19.8	19.8	15.3	12.1
North- East	Adamawa, Bauch, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe (Kanuri, Hausa, Fulani/205)	15.7	10.6	12.1
North- West	Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara	23.4	16.3	17.4

Source: Adapted from Idaba, 2014

By ranking the North-West has the highest population, followed by South-West, South-South, North-East, North-Central, and South East. But in terms of revenue allocation, the ranking based on 2011 July revenue figures shows that the South-South is number one, followed by North-West, South-West, North-East, North-Central, and South-East. In terms of poverty ranking based on the 2010 poverty figures, the North-west comes first, and is followed by North-East, North-Central, South-East, South-South, and South-West (Idaba, 2014). Idaba (2014) opined that this pattern of revenue allocation and public expenditure are reflections of the poor quality of governance in the country, in combination with corruption resulted in uneven socio-economic development among the different geo-political zones. The poverty rate and level of education attainment are selected as examples.

Table 3: Poverty rate in the six Geo-political zones (2004 and 2010)

Geo-political zones	Component states (Dominant ethnic groups/ minority groups)	Population / (% share of Geo-political zones)	Poverty rate 2004	Poverty rate 2010
South-East	Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo (Igbo/1)	16,381,729 (11.1%)	34.2	59.2
South-South	Awa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo and Rivers (Mixed/59)	21,014,655 (15.01%)	48.9	56.1
South-West	Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun and Oyo (Yoruba/4)	27,582,092 (19.7%)	57.01	50.1
North-Central	Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger, Plateau, FCT (Mixed 123)	18,861,056 (13.46%)	63.3	59.7
North-East	Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe (Kanuri, Hausa, Fulani/205)	18,971,984 (13.53%)	67.3	69.1
North-West	Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara	35,790,043 (25.56%)	63.9	70.4

Source: Adapted from Idaba, 2014

It is obvious from the above table that the Northern States are worst in poverty.

Highlights of the prospects of SDGs in Nigeria

In trying to highlight the prospects of SDGs in Nigeria, it is pertinent to have a glance at what the SDGs stands for. The UN Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted last year at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. The SDGs is the successor global development programme that replaced the MDGs. In September 2015, heads of State adopted the Agenda for sustainable development. This Agenda charts out universal holistic framework to help set the world on path towards sustainable development, by addressing economic development, social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and good governance. This vision, which was endorsed by 189 Nations in New York, is expected to guide nations, International organizations, the private sector, civil society and governments in all countries and at all levels in the shared pursuit of a healthier world and a better tomorrow. The table below depicts what the goals are.

Table 4: The Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 1: Poverty	End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Goal 2: Food	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3: Health	Ensure healthy lives and promote well being for all at all levels
Goal 4: Education	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Goal 5: Women	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 6: Water	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Goal 7: Energy	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
Goal 8: Economy	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work
Goal 9: Infrastructure	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Goal 10 Inequality	Reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11 Habitation	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12: Consumption	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Goal 13: Climate	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact
Goal 14: Marine	Ecosystem conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Goal 15: Ecosystem	Protect, restore and sustainably use of terrestrial ecosystem, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and half and reverse land degradation
Goal 16: Institutions	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal 17: Sustainability	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

It glaringly clear from the above that the SDGs are all encompassing goals that touches on all spheres of human life, which if met would no doubt go a long way in bettering human life and enhance development in all its ramifications. However, the realization of these goals in the developing societies may prove relatively difficult because basic infrastructure like railways, roads, information technologies, sanitation, electric power and water remains scarce in many

developing countries, Nigeria inclusive. About 2.6 billion people in the developing world are facing difficulties in accessing electricity full time (Ezedinma, 2016).

The 169 targets accompanying the 17 SDGs, whilst global in nature and universal in application, also take into account different national realities, capacities, levels of development and respect for national policies and priorities. The SDGs are no doubt in consistence with Nigeria's current national aspirations of achieving inclusive growth (Udoma, 2016). However, it is fact that Nigerian economy today is currently undergoing trying times and any attempt at achieving the SDGs must focus on, and address these challenges. Technically the economy is in recession with negative GDP growth, rising inflation, dwindling external resources, falling government revenue, infrastructure deficit and security challenges.

The Nigerian economy is not equally sufficiently diversified. The growth witnessed in the country in the past decade is to say the least not inclusive-paradox of growth with increasing poverty, inequality and high unemployment. Despite these challenges all hope is not lost, the present administration in its 2016 "Budget of change" includes macro-economic policies that are designed to reflate the economy by, among other things investing in key infrastructure and social development (Udoma, 2016). More specifically, the government is in the process of restructuring and recapitalizing the Bank of Agriculture so that it can lend single digit interest rates to farmers; addressing the infrastructure deficit by working to complete the Abuja-Kaduna and Itakpe-Ajaokuta-Warri rail lines etc (Udoma, 2016). In the same vein, the government claimed to have set itself the target of optimizing the 7,000MW installed electricity capacity by working to complete ongoing power generation and transmission and gas supply projects. However, the government itself acknowledged the fact that progress in improving power supply has been severely constrained by the disruptions of gas supply in the Niger Delta (Udoma, 2016).

The Minister of Budget and National planning said that the government is trying to boost the economy for rapid socio-economic development. In terms of agricultural development the government has launched the Agriculture Road Map that articulates the agriculture sector strategy through identification of some important commodities for value chain development and promotion. In the area of mining, the ministry of solid minerals has established no less than 44 minerals that are available in commercial exploitable quantities in over 450 locations across the entire country. More importantly, the area, which the present administration is making a strong in road, is anti corruption crusade. This is a good effort in the right direction because

corruption is one of such features that have hindered development efforts over the years as development funds have been diverted to private pockets for self aggrandizement at the expense of the teeming poor Nigerian populace (Amzat, 2009).

Conclusion

It is obvious that World leaders adopted the UN Millennium Declaration in 2000, which committed nations of the world to a new global partnership, aimed at reducing extreme poverty and other time-bound targets, with a stated deadline of 2015. Fifteen years later, although significant progress has been made worldwide, Nigeria is lagging behind for a variety of reasons outlined earlier. In sum achieving the SDGs and avoiding pitfalls of MDGs requires concerted efforts in the country and building stronger framework for its implementation.

Recommendations

Achieving SDGs will be difficult unless deliberate actions are taken to ensure inclusive growth and diversification of the economy. The way out is for the country to return to the development planning era with appropriate implementation strategies-short; medium and long term strategies. There is need for harmonization of all the existing sectoral plans/programmes into a single implementable plan. Since 1999, the country had several initiatives such as NEEDS (SEEDS, LEEDS)-2003-2007, Seven point Agenda-2007-2011, Vision 20: 2020, Transformation Agenda-2011-2015; Agricultural Promotion Policy (The Green initiative) and the power Sector Road Map for change-2015-date. Given that the economy is presently in a sorry state, the immediate action should be to declare an economic state of emergency.

On corruption, the Nigerian government should be more committed to fighting it because it has been a major setback to the attainment of MDGs in Nigeria making it difficult for her to confront the challenges posed by poverty, illiteracy, environmental problems, HIV/AIDS and other diseases. Equally, more effort should be geared towards ensuring security in the country because as stated earlier, the Boko Haram insurgency, kidnappings and vandalization of critical infrastructure in the country is driving investors from the country.

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