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# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND VISIONS 20:2020, CHALLENGES AND IMPLICATIONS IN NIGERIA

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## **Abstract**

*The needs for economic development and vision 2020 in the era of globe cannot be overemphasized. This work focused on the various reforms agenda, policies, development plans and programmes, seven point Agenda and a host of others. Nigerian leaders have articulated the vision 20:2020f which targets to catapult Nigeria with the league of the global 20 economies by the year 2020. This study used the critical research method to analyze and compare recent development indicators for Nigeria with those of advanced countries. In contrast to the situation in high-income OECD nations, the vast majority of Nigerians are ill-fed, ill-clothed, ill-housed and ill-educated. They live in the rural areas characterized by massive underdevelopment. Poverty is the basic malady of Nigeria which is involved in misery-go-round, as part of the slum of the world economy. Nigeria's 20:2020 is therefore, too ambitious, and, against the backdrop of the antecedents of policy reversals, summersaults and failure in Nigeria. Recommendations include commitment of the leadership to sufficient discipline and political will to enforce development policies and programmes.*

## **Introduction**

Life itself is dynamic, the world is changing from year to year, and Nigeria society had undergone changes since independence. These changes are in all areas of development.

The trend of the vision 20:2020 is a dream statement that Nigeria will become one of the first 20 economies in the world by the year 2020. Abdulhamid (2008) traced the story of the dream to a research conducted by economists at an American Investment Bank, a fall-out of which was a prediction that Nigeria would be in the

league of 20 top economies by year 2025. This was based on assessment of its abundant human and material resources and on the assumption that the country's resources would be properly managed and channeled to set economic goals. The then President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, next muted the dream as Vision 2020 (Onyekakeyah, 2008).

According to Nigeria Vision 2020 (2008), the National Council on Vision 2020 (NCV2020) is the apex body of the operational and institutional arrangements for Nigeria's Vision 2020, The President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is the Chairman. It is to provide leadership and direction to galvanise the nation. The process involves a bottom-up strategic planning to ensure ownership by all stakeholders. Other terms of reference for the NCV2020 have been clearly spelt out to include approving the core national priorities to guide the process; ensuring the quality of plan document, appropriateness of targets and practicality of strategies; review of progress and giving further direction; enduring the active involvement of all stakeholders in the visioning process; approving the framework for resource mobilization from private and other stakeholders; approving a comprehensive planning framework for annual budgets and medium-term plans and issuing of any other directives considered desirable by the Council.

The National Steering Committee on Vision 2020 (NSC2020) has been put 7 I: .5 the engine for the visioning process. It is headed by the Honourable Minister/Deputy Chairman of the National Planning Commission as the Chairman. Its terms of reference have been marshaled out as developing methodology and guideline for all MDAs (Ministries, Departments and Agencies), private sector and other stakeholders to facilitate the Vision; proposing a comprehensive plan; proposing appropriate goals, targets and strategies identifying and recommending overall national goals and priorities. Guiding and assisting all States and MDAs; arranging nationwide dissemination of programme for wider buy-in by stakeholders; developing a template for the preparation of a result-oriented communication strategy and monitoring of annual progress at national, MDAs and State levels; undertaking comparative studies of best practices; examining the linkages among perspective plan, medium-term plan and annual budget; recommending an inclusive monitoring and evaluation (M and E) mechanism; commissioning in-depth research; undertaking any other assignments from NO/2020 and making any other recommendations (Nigeria Vision 2020, 2008).

The National Planning Commission (NPC) under the auspices of the . National Council on Development and Planning (NCDP) held on 25-26th June, 2008 a joint meeting at the Concorde Hotel, Owerri, Imo State capital with the theme, vision 2020, 2008: Harnessing Nigeria's Potential for Wealth Creation and Poverty Reduction (Abdulhamid, 2008). The Israeli Ambassador to Nigeria, Moshe Ram, has made suggestions on how to actualize Nigeria's vision 20:2020. According to the Israeli envoy, Nigeria's dream of becoming one of the 20 leading economies by the year 2020

is not a pie in the sky. For this dream to become a reality, the country must go back to the basics agriculture (Adepetun, 2008),

Similarly, the Mayor of London, Mr. Alderman David Lewis, offered his opinion on how to achieve the vision. The Mayor assumed that for the country to achieve its vision 2020 objectives, due attention must be given to human capital development issues. He added that Nigeria's Vision 2020 would be a mirage if there was absence of sound and qualitative-education, training and re-training. He stressed that Nigeria was a financial hub of healthy, skilled and creative experts who, if well articulated and motivated and with the right atmosphere, would be able to turn things around for the country (vision 2020, 2007).

Debates have been raging as to whether Nigeria's Vision 20:2020 will be actualized. Other people that contributed their opinions on the issues 20:2020 will be Ibur (former Chief Executive Officer, CEO, of Bank International Plc) , Peter Upton (Director, British Council, Nigeria) and Mark Bickerton (Director, Metropolitan University) Adepetun, 2008). There is the need to contribute to these debated based on development indicators. This study is, therefore, a feasibility comparative analytical critique of Nigeria's vision 20:2020 based on some recent development indicators from literature on Nigeria and the high-come Organization of Economics Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, which Nigeria aspires to join. The work is justified on the curious ground of the non-performance of the numerous policies, perspective and medium-term development plans as well as reforms in Nigeria. These include the civil service reforms, education reforms, judicial reforms, local government reforms, integrated rural development programme, four National Development Plans covering the 1962-1985 period, poverty alleviation programmes spanning 70s to date, industrial policies from the 1960s to date, vision 2010, Seven-Point Agenda and a host of others.

### Literature Review

In the World Bank's classification system, 206 economies (each with at least 30,000 population) are ranked by their levels of Gross National Income (GNI) per capita. By the 2003 classification, 59 nations or 28.6% (including Nigeria) are low-come countries (LICs) with GNI of \$765 or less; 57 nations (27.7%) are low middle-income countries (LMCs) with GNI of between \$766 and \$3,035; thirty-five nations (17.0%) are upper middle-income countries (UMCs) with GNI of between \$3,036 and \$9,385; thirty-five nations (17.0) and other high-income countries with GNI of \$9,386 or more and 24 nations (11.7%) constitute the High-income OECD countries. Accordingly, nations are broadly divided into 2 groups: the developing countries formed by LICs, LMCs, LMCs and UMCs and the other high-income countries and the developed countries (High-income OECD countries) (Todaro and Smith, 2002; and African' Development Bank, 2007).

The other high-income countries are developing countries with one or two highly developed export sectors that enable them earn GNI \$9,386 or more (like the developed countries), but in which significant parts of the population remain relatively uneducated or in poor health for the country's income level. Examples include the petroleum oil exporters, such as Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. The upper middle-income economies also include some tourism-dependent Island with lingering development problems. Some upper middle-income countries are designated newly industrializing countries for having achieved relatively advanced manufacturing sectors. Furthermore, a few of the high-income OECD member countries, notably Portugal and Greece, are viewed as developing countries at least until recently. Another way to classify the nations of the developing world is through their degree of international indebtedness. Thus, the World Bank classifies countries as severely indebted, moderately indebted and less indebted. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) classifies countries according to their level of human development, including health and education attainments. By 2007/8 UNDP human development rating, Nigeria was the 158th out of 175 United Nations member countries (Todaro and Smith, 2002; UNDP, 2007).

The developing World is made up of sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa and the Middle East, Asia (except Japan), Latin America Caribbean and the transition countries of the Eastern Europe and central Asia (including the former Soviet Union). In contrast, the developed world constitutes the core of the high-income OECD nations and is comprised of western Europe, North America, Japan, Australia and new Zealand (Todaro and Smith, 2002).

Most developing nations share a set of well-defined goals. These include a reduction in poverty and unemployment; the provision of minimum levels of education, health/ housing and food to every citizen; the broadening of social and economic opportunities and the forging of a cohesive nation state. Related to these economic/ social and the common development challenges shared in varying degrees by most developing countries: widespread and chronic absolute poverty/ high levels of unemployment and underemployment, wide and growing disparities in the distribution of income, low levels of agricultural productivity, sizeable and growing imbalances between Urban and rural levels of living and economic opportunities, serious and worsening environmental decay, antiquated and inappropriate educational and health systems, severe balance of payments and international debt problems and substantial and increasing dependence on foreign technologies, institutions and value systems (Todaro and Smith, 2002).

Most developed countries are expanding education facilities rapidly. Still, such efforts fall short of the manpower requirements of these economies. In many LICs, about 70% of the primary school age children go to school. At the secondary level/

### ***Economic Development ...***

enrolment rates are lower than 20% in these counties/ while enrolment in higher education hardly comes up to 3%. Moreover/ the type of education being imparted to the majority of the school and college children is ill-suited to the development needs of such countries (Jhingan, 2009).

About 1 billion people in developing countries/ excluding China/ are in absolute poverty. Half of them live in South Asia, mainly, in India and Bangladesh; a sixth in sub-Saharan Africa and the rest in Latin America, North Africa and the Middle East. Poverty is, therefore, the basic malady of an underdeveloped country which is involved in misery-go-round. Hence/ the underdeveloped countries are the slums of the world economy.

### **Theoretical and Conceptual Framework**

Economic planning is a deliberate control and direction of the economy by a central authority for the purpose of achieving definite targets and objectives within a specified period of time. The needs for economic planning in Nigeria and other developing countries is informed by the need to address their characteristic development challenges: poverty, urbanization, rapid population growth, agricultural development, dualistic economy, underdeveloped natural resources, technological backwardness, economic backwardness, unemployment and disguised unemployment, insufficient capital equipment and foreign trade (Jhingan, 2007).

Economic plan is described as strategic if it is holistic/ far-sighted/ and critical to the organization's survival and phased vis-a-vis the means of realizing the goals. It is described as specific project plan if it pertains to a specific project by government or Non-governmental organization (NGO) and reflects the project life Cycle (PLC): conceptualization, implementation/ monitoring, evaluation and others within a specific period (e.g., building a road to specification within a year) (Jhingan/ 2007).

Types of economic; development plan are Perspective Plan/ Medium-term Plan/ Short-Term Plan/ Annual Plan, Regional Plan and Sectional Plan. A perspective plan is a long-term plan in which long-range targets are set in advance for a period of 10, 15, 20 or 25 years. It is a blueprint of development to be undertaken over a long period. The broader objectives and targets of the perspective plan are achieved on time by dividing the plan into several medium-term plans of 9 years and short-term plans of 4 to 6 years, which make for greater precision that is hardly vitiated by unpredictable changes. The short-term plan is broken into annual plans, further divided into regional plans (pertaining to regions, districts and localities), to be further split into sectional plans (for agriculture, industry, foreign trade, transportation, etc.) and to be further subdivided into sub-plans (for branches, such as food grains, iron and steel, exports, etc.)- Since, planning is a continuous process for movement towards desired goals, one plan must be a projection and continuation of the previous one (Jhingan, 2007).

Nigeria has been operating with Annual Plan (annual budget) mixed with Short-term plans from 1962 to 1985. The Short-term plans were termed Development Plans and were four in number (First, 1962-1968; Second, 1970-74; Third, 1975-1980 and Fourth, 1981-1985). The Babangida Administration jettisoned the Fifth-one for the structural adjustment programme (SAP), which came into effect in 1986. Vision 2010 of the Abacha era and the currently touted vision 20:2020 are perspective plans predicated on the need to confront the daunting development challenges in Nigeria. Vision 2010 was short-lived by the sudden exit of the vision bearer, late Sani Abacha in middle of 1998. As a characteristic Nigerian leaders, Abacha's successors dropped the plan for theirs.

The resource curse or the paradox of plenty refers to the paradox that countries and regions abounding in natural resources, specifically point-sources, non-renewable resources, like minerals and fuels, tend to have less economic growth and worse development outcomes than countries with fewer natural resources. This is hypothesized to happen for many different reasons, including a decline in the competitiveness of other economic sectors (caused by appreciation of the real exchange rate as resource revenues enter an economy), volatility of revenues from the natural resource sector due to exposure to global commodity market swings, government mismanagement of resources, or weak, ineffectual, unstable or corrupt institutions (possibly due to the easily diverted actual or anticipated revenue stream from extractive activities).

### **Methodology**

The study used the critical research method of analyzing available secondary information and data. It compared recent development indicators for Nigeria (mostly published by the organs of the Federal Government of Nigeria) with those advanced (OECD) countries, the first 20 of which Nigeria is aspiring by its vision 20:2020 to join in 10 years' time. Unavoidably, the analysis also drew comparisons in some cases between the development statistics for different periods to show how too slowly Nigeria's development grows to aspire to be one of the first 20 economies in 2020. Sometimes, retrogress was even the case.

### **Results and Discussion**

Some selected recent development indicators for Nigeria are displayed on Table 1, as documented mostly by some organs of the Federal government of Nigeria. Literature also reveals some recent development indicators for advanced (OECD) countries, the first 20 of which Nigeria aspires to join by 2020.

## **Rural Development**

Urban population in Nigeria was 48.2% in 2005, as compared with 75.6% in advanced countries (Table 1.). Agreeing with this finding, federal Government of Nigeria, (2004), reports that Nigeria's experience shows an appalling development disparity between the rural and the urban areas. The greater population of the country dwelling in the usually isolated and neglected rural areas is trapped in absolute poverty and misery: a condition characterized by malnutrition, illiteracy, disease, and squalid surroundings, high infant mortality and low life expectancy clearly beneath any reasonable definition of human decency. Although, rural development has featured prominently in Nigeria's development strategies since her independence in 1960, very limited benefits have resulted there-from. Rather, there is upward trend of poverty in the rural areas, where both the majority of the poor and the poorest of the poor reside. There is dearth of infrastructural facilities, such as feeder roads, water and sanitation, energy and communications to activate and promote rural industrialization. Literacy rate is discouragingly low and health, income size and nutritional status are far from being encouraging. The vulnerable groups, especially women and children, continue to suffer extreme deprivations, which severely limit their chances of growth and fulfillment as well as optimal contribution to national development.

**Table I**

Index	Statistics	Year	Source
Population			
Urban population	75.6%	2005	NIMDP
Economy			
GDP per capita	. 29,860	2005	UNDP
GDP per capita annual growth rate	2(1.8 in	1990.200	UNDP
Education			
Net primary enrolment	96%	2005	UNDP
Health			
Life expectancy at birth (year)	77.8	2005	UNDP
Births attended by skilled personnel	95	2005	UNDP
Physicians (per 100,00people)	1:410	2007	Jhingan (2007)
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live	9(41 in 1970)	2005	UNDP
Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000	11 54 in 1970()	2005	UNDP
Food security and nutrition			
Food energy intake (adult equivalent)	3,300 calories	2007	Jhingan (2007)
Home spent on food (%)	20	2007	Jhingan (2007)
Children under height for age (%)	18	2003	UNDP
Technology diffusion and creation			
Telephone mainlines (per 1,000	441(390 in 1990)	2005	UNDP
Cellular subscribers (per 1,000	785 (10 in 1990)	2005	UNDP
Internet users (per 1,000 people}	445 (3 in 1990)	2005	UNDP

Organization for European cooperation and Development (Jhingan 2007, UNDP, 2007)

In order to address the compelling need for a better direction to and more effective coordination of rural development action at all levels/ the National Policy on Integrated Rural Development (NPIRD) was formulated by all relevant national and international development partners operating in the rural sector in Nigeria. It was expected to promote accelerated transformation of the rural areas and to be complemented by its implementation blueprint/ the Rural Development strategy for Nigeria (RDSN), which was jointly formulated by stakeholders.

To achieve integrated and even "development on a sustainable basis, the strategies to be adopted would empower rural dwellers through the development, enhancing and income, ensuring protection of the- environment, promoting gender responsiveness and ensuring adequate care for vulnerable groups. Policy areas for promotion of rural productive activities would include agriculture, fisheries, animal husbandry, forestry/ mineral resources development/ manufacturing and industry, marketing and distribution and rural financial systems.

For supportive human resources development, special emphasis would be laid on health and population, culture and social development, education/technology/skills development, research and extension services and information and communications. Under enhancement of enabling rural infrastructure, government would cooperate with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Non-profit Organizations (NPOs), private sector enterprises (PSEs), Community-Based Rural Development Organizations (CBRDOs) and other relevant agencies in the choice, design, implementation and maintenance of rural infrastructural projects to ensure their appropriateness and sustainability. Special attention would be paid to transport infrastructure and facilities, communications infrastructure, housing, environment, energy and water and sanitation. Housing, Water and Sanitation: Only 17,6% of the population were able to complete their houses in Nigeria in 2006 (Table 1). Ghettoes and hatched huts are characteristic of increasing number of urban slums, where people live in extremely insanitary conditions. Only 48% and 44% of the population in Nigeria had access to improved water and sanitation, respectively in 2004 (Table 1). More than 1, 200 million people in developing countries do not have safe drinking water and more than 1,400 million have no sanitary waste disposal. Of every 10 children born, 2 die within a year, another 3 die before the age of 5 and only 5 survive to the age of 40 years. The reason is that the vast majority of the people in LICs are ill-fed, ill-clothed, ill-housed and ill-educated (Jhingan, 2007).

Education and Technology Diffusion: The adult literacy rate was 60.4% in 2006 in Nigeria (Table!). The primary school enrolment rate was 68% in Nigeria, as compared with 96% in a developed country (Table 1). The rate was 27% for Secondary Schools in



### *Economic Development ...*

2005 in Nigeria, whereas children reaching grade 5 (% of grade 1 pupils) were only 73% in 2004 (Table 1). Qualitatively, the type of education being imparted to the majority of the school and college children is ill-suited to the development needs of Nigeria, where the appropriate education approach is yet to be given attention. This has gross adverse effect on quantitative human capital development. Nigeria has surplus labour force (unemployment), but lacks human capital-the number of persons who have the skills, education and experience which are critical for the economic and political development of a country (Jhingan, 2007; and Eneh, 2008a).

**Population Growth, Health and Nutrition:** Although, the population growth rate in Nigeria was 3.2% in 2006, the contraceptive prevalence rate was 13% (Table 1). Increasing population and diminishing facilities means that poverty will continue to override in Nigeria's development landscape, even in decades to come. Certainly, this is not the way to leapfrog into the league of the first 20 economies within the next decade. The average daily calorie intake per capita was 2,100 in year 2005 in Nigeria, as against 3,300 for a developed country. In 1999, 30.7% under-five children had under-weight, with the figure decreasing only to 29% in 2003, when 49% had stunting and 14% were born with low birth-weight. Children with stunting were 18% in 2003 in Nigeria. Life expectancy at birth was 46.6 years in 2005, as against 77.8 years in an advanced country, Neo-natal mortality rate was as high as 48 per 1,000 live births in 2003 in Nigeria. Infant mortality rate is 133 per 1,000 live births as compared with 41 per 1,000 live births in 1970 and 9 per 1,000 live births in 2005 in a developed nation. Under-five mortality rate was 257 per 1,000 live births in 2003 in Nigeria, as compared with 54 per 1,000 live births in 1970 and 11 per 1,000 live births in 2005 in a advanced country. In 2005, maternal mortality rate was 110 per 100,000 live births in Nigeria. Reported cases of deaths from preventable diseases increased from 11,854 in 2006 to 15680 in 2007. The reasons are poor nutrition, unsafe water, poor 35% in 2005 in Nigeria, as compared with 95% in a developed country, There is a doctor for 410 persons in advanced countries, but for 2,536 persons in Nigeria.

HIV/syphilis sero-prevalence rate was 11.4% in 2005 in Nigeria, whereas it was less than 1% in most developed nations. About 13.3 million children aged 15-in-Sub-Saharan Africa (where Nigeria, belongs) were orphaned by HIV/AIDS at the end of year 2000 (Eneh, 2005). The number of people reported killed or injured in road accidents was 23,868 in 2003 and 27,802 in 2007 in Nigeria (Table 1). This carnage dimension is unimaginable in any developed nation, which aspires to become soon,

**Economy and Unemployment:** About 79.2% of rural and 70.7% of urban dwellers lived below the national poverty line in 2005 in Nigeria. Gross Domestic product (GDP) per capita was US\$752 in 2005, as compared with \$29,860 for advanced countries. Between 1975 and 1990, the GDP per capita retrogressed at the average rate of -0.1%

per annum in Nigeria, as compared with 1.8% average rate of increase in a developed country (Table 1).

At the current growth rate of 0.8% per annum, the GDP per capita will become \$847.3 in year 2020 and \$892 in year 2025 in Nigeria. In this regard, Nigeria will in both 2020 and 2025 fall in the lowest echelon of Low Middle-income Countries (LMCs) with GNI of between \$766 and \$3,035. On the other hand, at the current growth rate of 2% per annum, the GDP for capita will become \$40,188 in year 2020 and \$44,370 in year 2025 in an advanced (OECD) nation. Over 21% of the population aged 15+ were either unemployed or underemployed in 2005 in Nigeria, while the unemployment rate stood at 14.6% in 2006 and 10.9% in 2007 (table 1). This exacerbates poverty of income and access (Eneh, 2007). According to the United Nations Millennium Project Report (UNDP, 2005), the sub-Saharan African countries experienced an increase in the proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day from 45 percent of the population to 46 percent. UNIDO (2004) observed that the low-income African countries will not break free from the shackles of poverty unless and until they diversify their economics, especially through industrialization. The report pointed out that slow progress in poverty reduction can be shortcoming in respect of private sector development and structural reform.

Historical Antecedents of Policy Reversals, Summersaults and Failures in Nigeria: Nigeria is replete with brilliant impeccable and well written policies, visions and reforms agenda. The problem is implementation. The policies, visions and agenda often end up as paper-works rubbished by insincere implementation efforts and corruption. For example, 5 years of the formulation and implementation of the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategies (NEEDS), the NEEDS has not sorted out our needs (Ebigbo, 2008).

Similarly, four decades after the national development planning in Nigeria, the empirical indices of the basic problems confronting the Nigeria state, such as widespread poverty, large - scale unemployment, low-capacity utilization, illiteracy, urban congestion, huge debt burden, inadequate and decayed social and physical infrastructure have not been eradicated or meaningfully mitigated (Onah, 2006). The typical Nigeria government is plagued with institutional/structural inconsistencies and discontinuity. Government officials are not committed to the development policies of their predecessors, hence the national landscape is littered with uncompleted projects (Okigbo, 1989; and Oladapo, 2004).

Discontinuity is a style of misgovernance in Nigeria. Earlier works noted that Nigeria's underdevelopment is more poor implementation than lack of development visions and programmes. Policy and programme reversal, summersault and failure are common in Nigeria (Eneh, 2009). All the four National development plans (1962 -

### *Economic Development ...*

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1985) failed. The 3Rs: Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction - a follow-up programme to the No victor, no vanquished declaration to end the Nigeria civil war -- also failed, hence the present marginalization problems and the attendant ethnic militia confronting the nation (Eneh, 2008b).

Similarly, all the poverty alleviation programme (PAPs) of successive administrations in Nigeria have failed. Onah (2006) chronicle these programmes from the 1970s to date and opined that they all failed because of poor handing by corrupt and poor/hungry politicians/bureaucrats, leading to growing poverty symptoms, including electoral frauds; untrue and inefficient representative; violence: religion cries, cries in middle belt and Niger Delta regions, hostage taking and cult; food insecurity; low agriculture production; illiteracy (that also weakens democracy); crime; high mortality and morbidity rates; prostitution and poor health and national image; low GDP and high unemployment rate. The Yar'Adua 7-point Agenda has only been white -washed for the past 3 years, but not implemented. Like the preceding policies, NEEDS and the reforms are being dumped. Thus, the likelihood for jettisoning or bastardization of NV2020 is very high, judging from history and antecedents. On this ground, one cannot foresee Vision 20:2020 working.

Social contract: As has been noted, Nigeria is awash with captivating development visions, policies and plans, but corruption-induced failure - of implementation of developing projects on the part of the political leaders is responsible for underdevelopment in the country. Each of the successive governments had one or more development visions to chant, but eventually there was no actualization and no regrets for the failure; no review and no direction. These political visions are smokescreens for enriching cronies, political stooges and sycophants.

Resource Curse: In spite of Nigeria's immense natural and human resource, weak management and corruption have combined to drag it behind some developing countries, like Malaysia, Indonesia and Venezuela that were worse than Nigeria in development in the 1960s. Nigeria also lags behind many sub-Saharan African countries, including Cameroon, Zambia, Senegal, Ghana, Togo and Benin in GNP per Capita. Nigeria's GNP per capita dwindled from \$310 in 1993 to \$280 in 1994 and \$260 in 1995 (Eneh, 2005). At the current GDP per capita of US\$752 (among the least in the world) and its 0.8% growth rate, Nigeria is not on course to join the first 20 economies by vision 20:2020.

### **Conclusion**

Nigeria leaders have added Vision 20:2020 to the numerous, past and policies, development visions, plans and programmes and reforms agenda that should guide development in the country. Vision 20:2020 seeks to catapult Nigeria's into the league of the first 20 developed economies by the year 2020. To actualize **this lofty dream**,

Nigeria's GDP per capita must grow at an incalculable rate (different from the present 0.8%) from US\$752 to \$30,000 at least and the GDP of those countries (over US\$29,000) Nigeria wishes to displace and/or join must stop growing (now they grow at 2%). HIV/AIDS must flee Nigeria. Its rural areas must be transformed from age-long poverty and misery centres to urban status of world standard. Nigeria's education, health, power, agriculture, manufacturing and other sectors must receive such miraculous boosts that in 10 years' time the country will compare with the high-income OECD nations in all development respects. Nigeria must move from its 158th (2007) position in the UNDP human development ranking to the first 20 position in the world. Nigeria's Vision 20:2020, like most other development visions, programmes and plans (perspective, medium - and short-term), policies and agenda in Nigeria, remains a vision until it is actualized-not by mere touting, but by commitment to discipline and political will on the part of the leadership meanwhile, the vast majority of Nigeria are ill-fed, ill-clothed, ill-housed and ill-educated. They live in the rural areas characterized by massive underdevelopment. Poverty is the basic malady of Nigeria which is involved in misery-go-round, as part of the slum of the world economy. Nigeria's vision 20:2020 is, therefore, too ambitious. And, against the backdrop of historical antecedents of policy reversals, summersaults and failures in Nigeria.

### **Recommendations**

Nigeria governments are playing with institution/structural inconsistencies and discontinuity. The officials are not committed to the development policies of their predecessors, hence the national landscape is littered with uncompleted projects lack of discipline and political will in the formulation and implementation of policies constitute the most serious defects in the exercise. A policy is only as effective as the discipline and will that sustain it. Lack of discipline manifests in the infusion of partisan and ethnic politics into the technology of data collection, in the location of government projects and in the application of policies, while poor policy performance is largely attributed to lack of commitment and political will on the part of the leadership. Therefore, it is recommended that the leadership commit to sufficient discipline and political will to enforce policies.

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