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THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD) INITIATIVE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA: ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

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Abstract

The timeline for NEPAD's programme of development in Africa is expected to consummate by 2015. Less than two years to the end-time for NEPAD's implementation, it is expected that most of her objectives would almost be accomplished by now. Contrastingly however, this study discovered that inspite of some of the achievements of the development agency in Africa, a lot of her programmes are still lingering unaccomplished. These areas of lackluster performance are caused by several constraints besieging her operations. Some of these challenges have circumscribed the developmental agenda of this august body.

Keywords: Africa, NEPAD, initiative, development, achievement, challenges

Introduction

The history of modern African states is awash with the phenomenon of seeking of political independence for the purpose of achieving all socio-economic development of the continent. In this dispensation African statesmen as Kwame Nkwumah of Ghana among others had emphasized in their times on this essential signification of political independence for socio-economic development. These significances were according to Fieldhouse (1986) related in clichés as “seek ye the political freedom and all other things will be added to you and the Nkummah version of “if we get self-government, we will transform the Gold Coast (Ghana) into paradises in ten years”. (P. 89)

Paradoxically, since the early 1950s (Libya) to the late 2009 (South Sudan) several African countries had made it to political independence, without the corresponding socio-economic development. Expectedly, this inability to transform political independence into the required socio-economic development has raised questions about the factors that is orchestrating this obvious underdevelopment. A school of thought (the dependency theorists) have posited that the post-independence underdevelopment of Africa is traceable to the exploitative asymmetrical relationship between the former colonizing superpowers, their capitalist oriented allies and the else while colonies. In allying their views to this school of thought are scholars as claude Ake, Samir Amin, Bukar Bukarambe, Andre Gunder Frank, Ali Marzuri, Bode Onimode etc. Bukar (2004) in acknowledging this phenomenon describes it as a purposely arranged viable structure for exploitation. In his words Bukar (2004) accentuates that:

By the independence era, imperial conquests and settlement might have become out of date; but the quest for economic dominance and industrial primacy remained intact. Thus Europe needed to control the process of decolonization so that the old imperial order

would be replaced by yet a viable structure capable of preserving the essence of the privileged relationship.(P.17)

The colonization and integration of the continent into the world capitalist system that started from the slave trade era of the 16th century has been marked as a watershed in the African underdevelopment process. In this line of thought, Mazrui (2004) as quoted in Okafor (2008) opines that:

Africa is the first home of mankind, yet, the last place to be made truly habitable in contemporary world. Africans are not the most brutalized people but are probably the most humiliated in modern history through slavery, colonialism, neocolonialism and racism. African societies are not the closest to the west culturally, but have been experiencing the most rapid pace of westernization in this century. Africans are caught up between rebellion against the west and limitation of the west... (P. 10)

In 2007, aggregate population of the African continent was 934, 283,426 comprising about one – eight of the world populations. In terms of individual countries population estimate, Nigeria is the most populous with an estimate of between 135 – 140 million people while Seychelles with a population of 81, 895 people is the least populated country in the continent.

Africa is bequeathed with rich off shore and onshore mineral deposits with abundant flora and fauna. The continent is also blessed with abundant water resources that sustain aquatic and hydro energy resources. River Congo alone with an estimated length of 2 900 miles is the longest river in Africa (excepting the Nile of Egypt) and has the potentials of supplying all the power needs of Africa, if its hydro energy resources are harnessed.

Africa is considered one of the richest continents in terms of her natural and mineral resources. According to Ikejiani (2008) Africa's known mineral resources comprises of coal, petroleum, natural gas, Uranium, Iron Ore, Cobalt, Chromium, copper, lead, Zinc, tin, bauxite, titanium, zirconium, germanium, gold, platinum, lithium, phosphate, diamonds, etc including non-metallic deposits as clays kaolin, bentonite, etc are all predominate in Africa.

However, in spite of all these rich resources endowed Africa and its people, Africa is a continent wallowing in poverty and extreme socio – economic and political deprivations. Africa's poverty predicament and the related social tension have been described variously by social commentators. For Ikejiani-Clark (2008)

Africa is always portrayed as a pathologically ill continent, bent under all kinds of disasters, calamities, pain, despair, and unable to feed itself.....Majority of Africans wallow in poverty and all types of deprivations, security and peace are non-existent, ... civil wars, strife and its human costs, notwithstanding, armed conflicts are common features Corruption, rigged elections ... are added dimensions.
(P.3)

It is in within the purview of the above underdevelopment quagmire of the present African situation that major stakeholders in the African development process like social commentators, statesmen and leaders of Africa have been making frantic efforts to solve this lingering inadequate development of the continent. These efforts have transcended from national efforts in the form of national development plans and programmes to regional efforts like the ECOWASS, SADC and others of similar inklings, and also at the entire continental levels. At the international levels, certain efforts by the United Nation system, the IMF and others organization at that level have also been noticed to have contributed efforts to African development. Some of these earlier efforts are adumbrated upon in the next section of this discourse.

The Previous Development Programmes of Africa

The historical trajectory of Pan African programmes for African states' development is as tenuous, as the socio-economic realities of the continent itself. As early as 1963, the leaders of the new independent state of African engaged in the formation of a continental framework that condensed all the differing ideological platforms that even involved the African Arab constellations. This framework in the name of Organization of African Unity (OAU) had three major objectives, among which, is the OAU charter on socio-economic development of Africa, which specifically recommended establishment of African regional associations targeted at development.

In furtherance of the efforts at achieving socio-economic advancement for the continent, the independent states of Africa in 1964 embarked on the establishment of the African Development Bank (ADB) which became operational in 1966. The cardinal objective of this bank is the provisioning of development funds for only African states, interested in any area of their national development.

For purposes of succinct overview of previous development programmes of Africa at the continental level before the establishment of NEPAD, the following ten more programmes can be mentioned. These are

- The Lagos Plan of Action for Economic Development of Africa 1980-2000.
- The Revised Framework of Principles for Implementation of the New International Economic Order in Africa 1976-1981-1986.
- The African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programme for Socio-Economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP) of 1989

- The United Nations Programme of Action for Africa's Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD), 1986.
- The Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) 1986-1990
- The African Three-Year Priority Programme for Survival, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of the African Economies 1986-1989.
- The Monrovia Strategy on Africa's Development 1979
- The African Charter for Popular Participation for Development 1990.
- The United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa (UN-NADAF) of the 1990's, and
- The Compact for African Recovery of year 2000. (Osuntokun, 2004).

In spite of this litany of programmes targeted at expediting African development, realities on grounds still demonstrate burgeoning scenarios of Africa's underdevelopment and poverty, compared with other continents of the world. The continent of Africa and her people are undoubtedly the poorest region among other regions in the world. This is succinctly demonstrated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2003:37) recent Development Index records that measure quality of life around the world. The index which is measured on a scale from 0 (low) to 1 (high) sees Africa in 2003 assessment scoring 0.468 in contrast to the developed world's score of 0.937 averages. African continent's poverty is so glaring that the World Bank (2006:54) development indicators also grouped Africa as having the poorest ten countries in the world, based on GNP per capita. These countries are:-

- 1) Burundi \$ 90
- 2) Ethiopia \$ 110

- 3) DR Congo \$110
- 4) Liberia \$ 110
- 5) Malawi \$ 160
- 6) Guinea Bissau \$ 160
- 7) Eritrea \$ 190
- 8) Niger \$ 210
- 9) Sierra Leone \$ 210
- 10) Rwanda \$ 210

In terms of GNP assessment consequent on country's purchasing power parity (PPP) rates, the same World Bank (2006:56) development indicators assessment of countries, placed the nine poorest countries in the world as being in Africa. These countries are as stated below:-

- 1) Sierra Leone \$ 550
- 2) Malawi \$ 630
- 3) Burundi \$ 660
- 4) Tanzania \$ 670
- 5) DR. Congo \$ 680
- 6) Guinea Bissau \$ 690
- 7) Republic of Congo \$ 740
- 8) Ethiopia \$ 750
- 9) Niger \$ 780

The Human Development indicator of both the United Nations and the World Bank does not consider the poverty of countries from the GNP party perspectives only. It also uses the analytical periscope of actual quality of life and life expectancy issues. In this framework, Africa lags behind other continents in related social indicators as longevity, infant mortality, HIV infections, incidence of malaria and tuberculosis, nourishment, school enrollment, general infrastructural service delivery, inadequate environmental sustainability and management, gender inequality, extreme hunger and food shortages, economic growth and income per-capita, and the poorest enjoyment of political freedoms and human rights etc.

The above poverty scenarios of Africa can as well be assessed from another perspective when a brief incursion is made into the social indicators of two richest countries in Africa – Nigeria and South Africa. Even with their relative riches, their economic growth and development pictures are still very gloomy.

For Nigeria, the World Bank (2003:30) development indicators shows that Nigeria's unadjusted GNP of \$300 per capita a year leaves the country in the one hundred and sixty – four poorest countries in the world, while the GNP (PPP) of \$ 820 even places her in a worst position of one hundred and Ninety nine poorest countries out of the two hundred and nine countries covered by the World Bank development report. The World Bank Comparative Politics Report (2003:162) in its own description of the poverty level in Nigeria demonstrates that:

- (a) About 7 percent of children die before the age of one;
- (b) Out of the surviving ones, about 18 percent die before their fifth birth day;
- (c) Maximum life expectancy is 53 years;
- (d) Only 38 percent of the population has access to safe drinking water;
- (e) There are about 6,440 Nigerians for every Doctor;

- (f) Only about 50 percent of the population are literate; and
- (g) There is excessive malnutrition etc.

In summary of Nigeria's lackluster development rate at her 48th independence anniversary, the Nation (News Paper) Editorial of October 1st, 2008 lamented about Nigeria as follow:

“By most measures of national development, Nigeria's is a spectacular disappointment. Over the past 48 years it has failed to resolve even the most basic challenges of development such as the provision of social infrastructure... The country's politics has been characterized by outrageously rigged elections, the shameless looting of the treasuries of local, state and federal levels and the recycling of mediocre and incompetent politicians” .(P.1)

For South Africa, the real social conditions of the citizens have been aptly described by Mangosuthu (2004) as follows:-

But South Africa is far from perfect. It is also deeply troubled by unemployment. By crime, By poverty, By disease, By corruption. By a breakdown in the social fabric. By lack of discipline. By lack of respect for others, by indolence. In key respects, South Africa is not being governed properly and is becoming, and has at times already become ungovernable. (P. 3)

All these underdevelopment challenges of Africa, inspite of the other previous programmes targeted at ameliorating it caused African leaders to embark on a paradigm shift in the course of finding solutions to the lingering social malaise of underdevelopment. To this paradigm shift is the establishment of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

An Overview of NEPAD Initiatives

The emergence of NEPAD as a strategy for Africa's development is traceable to two new-economic development proposals as presented by four African leaders in the persons of President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, President Bouteflika of Algeria, President Obasanjo of Nigeria and President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal. While the trio of Mbeki, Obasanjo and Bouteflika proposed the Millennium Partnership for African Recovery Programme, the Omega Plan for Africa was forwarded by Abdoulaye Wade.

At the Libyan summit of 2001, these two proposals were debated upon by African leaders with the result that, the two proposals were first merged into a new proposal called the New African Initiative (NAI) and which later metamorphosed into the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). At this period of its emergence, NEPAD was acknowledged with obvious enthusiasm and approval by both African social analysts, stakeholder sand other external bodies as the G.8 and the United Nation and the IMF etc. In appealing to the west and the international community to partner with Africa in her quest for development in terms of inputs of investment, aids, international resources, etc for the achievement of NEPAD targets, NEPAD document (2001) solicits as follows:

- 1) Africa recognizes the centuries-old historical injustice and the need to correct it;
- 2) The global technological revolution needs an expanding base of resources, a widening sphere of markets, new frontiers of scientific endeavour, the collective capacity of human wisdom, and a well managed ecological system;
- 3) Africa offers a vast and growing market for producers across the world;

- 4) Africa provides a great opportunity for investment, prospects for creative partnership between public and private sector in agro-industries, tourism, human resource development, etc;
- 5) Africa's biodiversity is an important global resource in combating the environmental degradation posed by the depletion of the ozone layer and climate change, pollution of air and water by industrial emissions and toxic effluents; and
- 6) The expansion of educational and other opportunities in Africa would enhance the continent's contribution to world science, technology and culture, to the benefits of humankind, etc. (Section IV 174-185).

NEPAD as set up in 2001 is imbued with four major principles and three major objectives targeted at facilitating African development. The principles are as contained in NEPAD document (2001) as follows:

- 1) That good governance is a basic requirement for peace, security and sustainable political and socio-economic development in Africa.
- 2) That African ownership and leadership, as well as broad and deep participation by all sectors of the society in Africa is a sine qua non for African development.
- 3) That African development should be anchored on its resources and resourcefulness of its people.
- 4) That partnership between and amongst African people in the form of acceleration of regional and continental integration is necessary for African development; and

- 5) That African leaders and statesmen should engage in building up the competitiveness of African countries and forge a new international partnership, that will change the unequal relationship between Africa and the developed world. (Section IV 174-185).

The three objectives of the NEPAD programme as contained in NEPAD document (2001) are:

- To promote accelerated growth and sustainable development in Africa;
- To eradicate widespread and severe poverty in the African region; and
- To halt the marginalization of Africa in the globalization process. (Section IV 174-185).

To achieve these goals and principles, the mandate that NEPAD is expected to pursue as contained in NEPAD document (2001) among others are as follows:

- To reduce the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by half between 1990 and 2015;
- To make progress towards gender equality and empowering women by eliminating gender disparities in the enrolment in primary and secondary education by 2005;
- To enroll all children of school age in primary schools by 2015;
- To reduce infant and child mortality ratios by two thirds between 1990 and 2015;
- To reduce maternal mortality ratios by three quarters between 1990 and 2015;
- To provide access for all who need reproduction health services by 2015; and
- To implement national strategies for sustainable development by 2005, so as to reverse the lost environmental resources by 2015. (Section IV 174-185).

To achieve the above principles, objectives and mandates, the African leaders within the context of the NEPAD programme, set up the following strategies for its realization according to Jimi (2004).

1. Strengthening the mechanisms of conflict prevention, management and resolution at the sub-regional and continental levels, and to ensure that these mechanism are used to restore and maintain peace;
2. Promoting and protecting democracy and human rights in their respective countries and regions, and by developing clear standards of accountability, transparency and participatory governance at the national and sub-regional levels;
3. Restoring and maintaining macroeconomic stability, especially by developing appropriate standards and targets for fiscal and monetary policies, and introducing appropriate institutional framework for achieving these standards;
4. Instituting legal and regulatory frameworks for financing markets and auditing of private companies and the public sector;
5. Revitalizing and extend the provision of education, technical training and health services, with high priority given to tackling HIV/AIDS, malaria and other communicable diseases;
6. Promoting the role of women in social and economic development by reinforcing their capacity in the domains of education and training; by the development of revenue-generating activities through facilitating access to credit; and by assuring their participation in the political and economic life of African countries.
7. Building the capacity of states in Africa to set and enforce the legal framework, as well as maintaining law and order; promoting the development of infrastructure, agriculture and its diversification into agro-industries and manufacturing to serve both domestic and export markets. (pp. 119-120).

NEPAD posses an institutional structure and resources with a Secretariat located in Pretoria, South Africa. As stated by Jimi (2004), the NEPAD's African strategy conditions and

sources of resources mobilization for achieving sustainable development in the 21st century are as follows:

NEPAD's Targeted Conditions for Sustainable Development in Africa are:

- ✓ Peace, Security, Democracy and Political Governance
- ✓ Economic and Corporate Governance
- ✓ Sub-regional and Regional Approaches to Development (p. 120)

Sectoral Priorities Targeted in NEPAD's Programme are:

- ✓ Infrastructure
- ✓ Human Resource Development
- ✓ Agriculture
- ✓ Environment
- ✓ Culture
- ✓ Science and Technology platforms (p. 120)

NEPAD's Targeted Sources of Mobilizing Resources in Africa are:

- ✓ Capital Flows
- ✓ Market Access (p. 120).

In commenting on these NEPAD's principles, objectives, mandates and strategies of accomplishment, Eze (2004) in attesting to their relevance for Africa's development have noted that:

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is a holistic, integrated sustainable development initiative for the economic and social revival of Africa involving a constructive partnership between Africa and the developed world. It is a pledge by African leaders,

based on a common vision and a firm and shared conviction that they have a pressing duty to eradicate poverty and to place their countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development, at the same time, to participate actively in the world economy and body politic. The initiative is anchored on the determination of Africans to extricate themselves and the continent from the malaise of underdevelopment and exclusion in a globalizing world. It is a call for a new relationship of partnership between Africa and the international community to overcome the development chasm. The partnership is to be founded on a realization of common interest, obligations, commitments benefit and equality. (p. 142)

To ensure effective implementation of the stated programmes of action, section (vii:202-203) of the NEPAD document established “a head of states implementation committee” composed of five heads of states, promoters of the NEPAD and ten others picked in the manner of two people from each region of Africa. The functions of the implementation committee are stated succinctly as follows:

- Identifying strategic issues that need to be researched planned and managed at the continental levels;
- Setting up mechanism for reviewing progress in the achievement of mutually agreed targets and compliance with mutually agreed standards; and
- Reviewing progress in the implementation of past decisions and taking appropriate steps to address problems and delays.

Appraisal of NEPAD’s Performance in Africa So Far

The mechanisms of the implementation of NEPAD programmes in Africa are multi-dimensional in nature to warrant comprehensive appraisal in this discourse. To this extent, this

aspect of the study will only isolate a few of the programmes and appraise their current performance in the continent. In doing this, NEPAD will be assessed within the confines of her three major objectives: the eradication of widespread and severe poverty in the African region; the promotion of accelerated growth and sustainable development in Africa and the halting of the marginalization of Africa in the globalization process.

Eradication of Poverty

Under this theme, lots of programmes were lined up among which are increased food production for the purposes of ensuring food security for the region with emphasis on increased agricultural production. On this note specifically, the NEPAD document (2001) states that:

Improvement in agricultural performance is a prerequisite of economic development on the continent. The resulting increase in rural people's purchasing power will also lead to higher effective demand for African industrial goods. The induced dynamics would constitute a significant source of economic growth. (Paragraph 134).

In actualizing this programme, the comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) was developed in 2003 stressing on required investment in African agriculture in the following sub sectors between 2002-2015.

Table: Required Investment in Africa Agriculture 2002-2015.

ACTIVITY	US\$ (BILLION)
Land and water investment	37
Operations and Maintenance	32
Rural Infrastructures investment	89
Operation & maintenance	37
Trade-related capacities	3
National food security	6
Regional food security	1
Research and technology	5
Humanitarian safety nets	42
Total	251

Source: Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (2002)

The details of the above investment in agriculture are to be borne by both individual African countries, other interested non-African governments, African continental governmental organizations and international financial and agricultural related international partners. In this dispensation, Nkuhlu (2008) asserts that a modicum of achievement has been realized in these areas as follows:

- 1) Over US \$ 35.2 million which has been pledged (government of Nigeria, IFAD, Gates and the Rockefeller Foundations) for the support of an African fertilizer development financing mechanism.
- 2) 35 million pounds which has been mobilized through the UK department for International Development (DFID) to support agricultural research in five countries (Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Tanzania).
- 3) The West Africa Productivity Programme (WAPP) which is receiving US \$45 million for agricultural expansion in Ghana, Senegal, Mali;
- 4) The Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) which is in the process of developing a US\$4.2 million strategic response to HIV/AIDS in the fisheries sector through a piloted programme in Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, DRC, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria, Niger, Ghana, Benin, Togo and Cameroon.
- 5) NEPAD home grown school feeding programme in Ghana, supported by Netherlands government through a Euro 40 million programme.
- 6) The Chinese government is financing a NEPAD Egypt-WFC aquaculture technical assistant programme through which Egypt is expected to provide technical assistance in fisheries and aquaculture to other African states in a south to south cooperation arrangement;
- 7) A Euro 3 million programme through which the EU and the African development bank are supporting fisheries and aquaculture programmes in COMESA member states (NEPAD in liaison with World fish and COMESA).

- 8) IFAD has mobilized US \$ 1.3 million from the Italian government for a 3-year support programme to maximize the impacts of IFAD's investment of about US\$ 106 million in the cassava sub-sector in Africa.
- 9) Through the Abuja fertilizer summit resolution No. 7 (establishing national financing facilities to support importers and distributors of fertilizers and other agricultural inputs), resources are being mobilized for a credit guarantee fund to be piloted in Uganda through the Uganda National Agro-Dealers' Association (UNADA), AGRA and Standard Chartered Bank are exploring support to the initiative;
- 10) The World Bank, through an IDA grant, are supporting the Agriculture Expenditure Tracking System programme.
- 11) The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through a Technical Assistance Programme (TCP) are strengthening NEPAD Secretariat capacities in the agricultural sector; and
- 12) The International Fertilizer Development centre, under a project support grant from the Rockefeller foundation, is also strengthening NEPAD secretariat capacities in the sector. (p.,788).

In furtherance of achieving the same food security in the continent, (Harsh, 2004) has maintained that a new and improved cross-breed variety of rice was introduced by scientists of West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA). This specie of rice as developed by this intergovernmental rice research center called Nerica is already cultivated by rice farmers in some many west and central Africa countries, assisting in feeding families and bountiful production for sales in the market (Harsch, 2004).

All these agricultural activities related programmes are directed at minimizing the incidence of poverty in the continent as food consumption is one sure way of de-scaling poverty in any society.

Promotion of Accelerated and Sustainable Growth and Development

With regard to the NEPAD's promotion of accelerated growth and sustainable development in Africa, so many programmes are outlined and implemented by NEPAD. Some of these are the advancement of science and technology and the advancement of human capital development through increased capacity building in the various countries of the region. Achievements recorded so far in the promotion of science and technology is the enhanced championing of the implementation of the African science and technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) by the African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMSCOST). According to Nkuhlu's (2008) assessment of the activities of CPA, the following programmes have been accomplished:

- ✓ The establishment of an African network of centres for excellence in water sciences and technology;
- ✓ The establishment of an African Energy Research and Innovation Network;
- ✓ The establishment of African Biosciences Initiative;
- ✓ The establishment of African-science, technology and innovation indicators initiative.
- ✓ The inauguration of African Network for mathematical sciences, and the concluded
- ✓ Building of consensus on modern biotechnology. (p. 9)

An instance of achievement in some of these areas is manifested in the programme related to the African Science, Technology and Innovation indicators initiative. In this programme, the government of Sweden under the auspices of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) has already donated over US\$ 3 million to NEPAD for the development of an African common indicators and innovation out look.

Another area of emphasis on the NEPAD's initiative of promotion of accelerated growth and sustainable development for the continent is the promotion of regional integration through increased inter-connecting infrastructure among African countries for the facilitation of trade and investment in Africa. In this respect, the African Development Bank (ADB) the World Bank and related international financial institutions have made monies available to various African countries for the purposes of engaging in this essential cross-border infrastructure development. To co-ordinate the various activities in different African countries, NEPAD secretariat has established at the ADB secretariat, an African infrastructure consortium that assiduously consult with African countries in this important aspect of development.

In the same manner, NEPAD in conjunction with the government of South Africa is promoting the formation of Pan African Infrastructure Development Fund (PAIDF). Following from the arrangement of the sources of fund for the PAIDF, it is to be financed from the pension funds of African organizations and countries that subscribe to her membership. According to NEPAD sources, as stated in Nkuhlu (2008) "a number of African pension funds organizations and financial institutions have invested US \$ 625 million in the fund. The money will be used to finance high priority cross border infrastructure projects". (p.11)

In the aspect of promotion of capacity building of African citizens, seminal innovations have been adopted by NEPAD in this respect. On this, Nkuhlu (2008) admits that:

Resources have been mobilized from the African capacity building foundation, the South Africa trust, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank, and the Deutsche Gasseccschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) and other development partners...for enhancement of various aspects of capacity building for Africans. (p. 11)

The necessity for capacity building have been noted in the areas of implementation of national and Regional Economic Community programmes of NEPAD in which the constraints relating to needed capacity and skills have constituted a serious setback. These problems have expanded to situations of institutional ineffectiveness in delivering services to targeted populations in Africa.

For instance, in the areas of advancing capacity building in the field of science and technology, four regional centres of excellence have been established by NEPAD in Africa.

These centres are:

- West Africa based in Dakar, Senegal
- Eastern and Central Africa, based in Nairobi Kenya
- South Africa, based in Pretoria, South Africa; and
- North Africa based in Cairo, Egypt.

To enhance the achievements in these centres, Nkuhlu (2008) emphasizes that:

Four directors have been appointed for each of the centres and good progress is being made in terms of awarding research and capacity building fellowships to Africans to conduct research on cereals, human health, biodiversity conservation and application of indigenous knowledge, livestock, diseases and biopharmaceuticals. The government of Canada has made available CAD \$30 million that has enabled the launch of this initiative. (p. 9).

Halting the Marginalization of Africa in the Globalization Process

In NEPAD'S achievement of halting the marginalization of Africa in the globalization process, there have been many recorded successes. These successes are observable in various forms as follows:

- ✓ NEPAD efforts saw to the G8 and the OECD countries adopting NEPAD programmes as a platform for their development initiatives in Africa. The frameworks for assisting Africa by these groups of countries expanded under NEPAD's auspices to include not only the predominantly usual poverty reduction strategies but other areas as the agriculture, infrastructure, science and technology, higher education as well as regional economic integration.
- ✓ NEPAD's initiatives led to the emergence of increases in the development assistance to Africa and the cancellation of debts of several African countries by both the G8 and the OCED countries. In this exercise of debt cancellation (Ojewale 2007) notes that: "high level interaction of African leaders with the G8 and European leaders has led to the cancellation of \$40 billion for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) \$18 billion for Nigeria over \$30 billion owed"(p.26).
- ✓ NEPAD's updated energizing of international African development stakeholder institutions and agencies such as World Bank group, European Union commission, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) private business, all of whom have accepted African view point of development and participated in the NEPAD programmes in the continent.

Challenges to Effective Implementation of NEPAD's Programme in Africa

Taking a cue from the inception of NEPAD, it is instructive to emphasize that the mandate assigned to the organization to achieve will terminate by 2015. In effect, by the next less than one and half year, the programmes of NEPAD are supposed to be completed effectively. According to Nkuhlu (2008), the founding fathers of NEPAD defined the overriding purpose of NEPAD in its opening paragraph to be:

A pledge by African leaders, based on a common vision and a firm and a shared conviction, that they have a pressing duty to eradicate poverty and to place their countries, both individually and collectively, on the part of sustainable growth and development and at the same time to participate fully in the world economy and body politics". (p. 1)

One and half year to the conclusion of NEPAD mandate is a long time enough to assess the success or otherwise story of the organization. From the medium of achievement of the organization so far adumbrated upon in the earlier section of this discourse, one may be tempted to gloss over NEPAD as an accomplished objective. However, evidence on grounds still indicates that NEPAD is besieged by certain constraints which circumscribe its lackluster achievements few months to its timeline. Some of these challenges are succinctly discussed bellows:

- There have been big gaps between the well tested financing mechanisms of national projects compared to the multi-country/regional projects under-taken by NEPAD in Africa. The easiness of persuading international multilateral development institutions and partners in the sponsorship of national projects becomes difficult when it is related to

multi-country or regional projects. This challenge has affected most inter-country, regional or cross-border projects embarked upon by NEPAD in Africa.

- There is also the difficulty of ensuring that cross-border projects are financed by national governments of Africa. This constraint have been observed to be caused by lack of political leadership, will and in some circumstances the wherewithal to champion and implement the necessary cross-border projects for enhanced regional integration.
- There is this observed challenge of integrating the NEPAD activities into the African Union (AU) commission's activities. The NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee's (HSGIC) recommendation to the AU commission on this matter is yet to be finalized, indicating no serious commitment to the integration of NEPAD activities into the AU structure. On this note, it is of doubt whether programmes and commitments made by African governments under NEPAD with international development partners will co-here for a long time after the demise of NEPAD. In this manner most development programmes embarked upon by NEPAD would hardly be accomplished, leading to the phenomenon of increased underdevelopment in Africa.
- Another of NEPAD's challenges is anchored in the unsymmetrical relationship with and faith in the globalizing agents of international capitalism. NEPAD evolving drawbacks in this aspect are demonstrated in the fact that both the African bourgeoisie and their international collaborators are major stakeholders in the underdevelopment process of Africa. For the international bourgeoisies, Okwueze (2009) has characterized them as follows:

The international bourgeoisies are the owners of the world's dominant instruments of production. They are the owners of shares and capitals of the international financial institutions and the multinational

corporations. They hold as supreme their desire to make profit even at the expense of nations and peoples. (p. 27).

As Okwueze, (2008) would have also believe in the description of the above international bourgeoisie, “skeptics of the NEPAD activities in Africa as the Council for Development and Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRA), academics, trade unions, NGOs and social movements etc avers that they cannot bet on the possibility of NEPAD achieving much in Africa except “bamboozlement, banalities and the mere banter from a privileged class who are just being overly opinionated and naively ambitious” (p. 28).

Conclusion

The NEPAD initiatives, as so far implemented in Africa can only be said to have contributed insignificantly to the overall development of Africa. This insignificant contribution can be adduced from the fact that all-most its owned principles, objectives, and mandates are still yet to be accomplished in the continent. Though, in Nigeria, it has managed to accomplish slight results in the areas of debt cancellation, privatization, the fight against corruption and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRMs), its overall development effects in Nigeria and Africa in general in grossly negligible.

Specifically, Africa is still largely entangled in the international capitalist exploitation, good governance, peace and security eludes Africa, African ownership of her development process is yet to be owned by them and general accelerated growth and sustainable development is far from Africa’s attainment. In sum Africa is still wallowing in widespread poverty and underdevelopment.

With the 2015 target achievement period of NEPAD around the corner, it is seriously doubted by this discourse that NEPAD can be a successes story. In this dimension then, African leaders should re-strategize on other development agendas that will uplift the aspiration of development in Africa to a realizable magnitude.

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