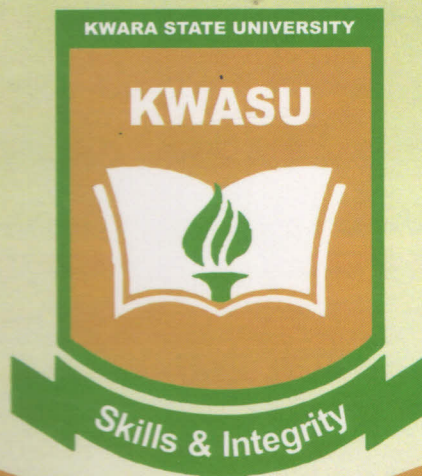




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CONTENTS

Application of Islamic Law of Inheritance: A General Survey of Kwara State
Shari'ah Court of Appeal- **Dr. Muhammad Jum'at Dasuki**

Dialysis of Human Personality and the Effect of Poverty on Character
Dr. Adesina Abiodun Olubitan

Natural Resources Management and Sustainable Development in Nigeria With
Reference to Genesis 1:26-30- **Dr. (Mrs) Adeyeye Agnes Omotaye, Adewale**
David Ajewole and Veronica V. Ajibulu (Mrs)

The Abuse of Muslim Names among the Yoruba People of South-Western
Nigeria
Dr. Mubin Olatoye

Fundamental Code of Natural Laws in *Ifá* Divination as Agents of Morality for
Good Governance in Nigeria- **Dr. Samuel Kayode Olaleye**

An Interrogation of Perspectives on Pre-Mosaic Tithe-Related Narratives
Dr. Bamidele Olusegun Fawenu

Nursing-Care Delivery: An Islamic Appraisal of the Attitudinal Dispositions of
Contemporary Muslim Nurses In Nigeria - **Dr. Abubakar Yalwa Muhammad**

Inter-Religious Harmony: A Panacea for Good Governance in Nigeria
Yisa Segun Zubairu and Tenin Victoria Audu

The Resurgence of African Religious Beliefs and Its Impact on Christianity in
South Western Nigeria- **Dr. Julius Olu Adesina**

A Historical Survey of the Israeli Oppressions in Palestine: An Islamic Panacea
Ismail Hashim Abubakar

An Interpretation of 2 Kings 5:1-19 and Its Lessons for the Church in Nigeria
Dr. C.O. Ogunkunle

Christian Ethical Values and their Relations to Sustainable Development in
Nigeria
Dr. Osaji Olasupo Jacob

Modern Religious Movements as Panacea/Painkiller for African Women
Dr. Johnson-Bashua Adepeju Olufemi

Museums and the Promotion of African Indigenous Religion in Yorubaland,
Nigeria- **Dr. Ogunbiyi Olatunde Oyewole**

The Impacts of Islamic Awakening (*Sahwah*) on Muslims in Yorubaland:
Salafiyyah Groups as Case Study- **Ahmed Nafiu Arikewuyo**

Religion: A Vehicle for Crisis, Peaceful Co-Existence and Stability in Nigeria
Dr. Clifford Meesua Sibani

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA WITH REFERENCE TO GENESIS 1:26-30

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Abstract

The African continent has abundant natural resources, minerals and also rich oil reserves. A good example is Nigeria, which has seen increased GDP growth rates due to oil discovery. Nevertheless, an oil rich nation like Nigeria is still very poor despite her wealth in this highly sought after resource. In fact, Nigeria, as nation tends to represent less economic development than nations with smaller quantities of natural resources. More importantly, good governance is grounded on the theological truth that "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and its entire people belong to Him" (Ps.24:1, Ps. 89: 11). So, nations, its people, and all the natural resources they have entrusted to politicians and leaders as stewards. The paper is aimed at examines natural resources management and sustainable development with reference to Genesis 1:26-30, and its implications for leaders in Nigeria. The paper uses both historical and analytical research methods. The data were collected through secondary sources, where Encyclopedia, Bible commentaries, books, published Journals and Articles are consulted. Therefore, it is discovered that, bad management, corruption and administration of resources have plundered many African nations, most especially, Nigeria into a moral dungeon. The tragedy of most post-colonial African states such as Nigeria is that, they lack visionary political leadership that transcends personal and primordial interest to transform and manage natural resources of the nation state into a viable vehicle that could address the basic needs of the people in the struggle for sustainable development. The paper hereby concludes and recommends that, visionary leaders, though not the exclusive makers of historical processes, are essential ingredients in the task of nation building and managing of natural resources for sustainable development.

Keynotes: Natural Resources Management, Nigerian society, Minerals Resources, and Sustainable Development.

Introduction

According to Samuel, J. and Gary, the biblical view of man is that of a highly intelligent and responsible being. Clearly distinct from and superior to animals when God created him, Adam was given the privilege of naming the animals, ruling over them, and tilling the Garden of Eden. Basically, he was capable of fellowship with God.¹ Here, we touch another of the major social and political concerns of our period. Bruce Mailne noted that as at no point in previous history, humans today are conscious of their natural environment and committed to its protection, proper management, and preservation for the wellbeing of the people respectively.² The reason is not hard to find; our continued life as species is in question. Unless we are able to reverse the trends of environmental destruction and mismanagement of natural resources which held sway during previous centuries, this planet will simply cease to be a viable home for humanity because of resources depletion. As a matter of fact, Nigeria is one of those countries in Africa that is fairly rich with natural resources. For example crude oil, coal, iron, forest, farming, fishing and so on. It is believed that natural resources development is one of the factors that help the country in some many areas like employment opportunities, economy and so on. The concept of resource is human centered concept. In order for something to be considered as resources, it must be perceived to have value by man.

Poor resource management is a problem in many resource-rich countries in Africa. The argument that the more resources a country has will lead to increased economic growth and prosperity does not hold true when one examines these countries. Nigeria as the world's eleventh largest oil exporter with immense wealth coming from annual oil production and trade continues to suffer from poor resource management. This is manifest specifically in the Niger-Delta region of Nigeria. The Niger Delta is the largest oil producing region in the country but the poorest because federal government only did little development to this region. In the view of Ayantayo, the Federal government, through its agencies, state and local governments owe Niger Deltans obligations to formulate and execute policies that would enhance humane exploration and production of natural resources and solve the problem of environmental management. The leadership question in Nigeria has therefore become a reoccurring issue in the discourse on Nigeria's natural resources management and sustainable development aspirations. The political economy of development in Nigeria has been anchored or characterized by rising poverty, huge external debt overhang, net capital flight, disinvestments, collapse of social infrastructures pervasive ethnic tensions and communal conflicts, over devalued national currency, high unemployment, corruption and collapse of social values, and more fundamentally the failure of leadership. In the view of Anyo, the leadership question, poor natural resources management and sustainable development arise and are hinged on the desire and yearning and/ or demanded by Nigerians for a purposeful, focused, accountable, ideological based transparent leadership that can prosecute the goals of sustainable development in Nigeria.³ While buttress the point, Adedeji adds that, it is informed by the demands of Nigeria people of leadership that can promote better living conditions for them(eliminating poverty, inequalities, unemployment, hunger and starvation and other forms of severe deprivations that have dehumanized,

pauperized and devalued their lives) thereby restoring their hopes, dignity and pride as a people⁴.

Conceptual Clarifications

Natural Resources

In view of Gordon, natural resources are the resources that are available in man's natural environment. Examples are air, land, water, plants and minerals. These resources can be tapped by man to meet his needs for goods and services. It is, therefore important for us to identify the various natural resources and state their uses to man. They can be grouped as follows: atmosphere resources, water resources, vegetable resources and mineral resources.⁵

Natural Resources Management

Natural resource management refers to the management of natural resources such as land, water, soil, plants and animals, with a particular focus on how management affects the quality of life for both present and future generations (stewardship). Natural resource management deals with managing the way in which people and natural landscapes interact. It brings together land use planning, water management, biodiversity conservation, and the future sustainability of industries like agriculture, mining, tourism, fisheries and forestry. It recognizes that people and their livelihoods rely on the health and productivity of our landscapes, and their actions as stewards of the land play a critical role in maintaining this health and productivity.⁶ Natural resource management is an interdisciplinary field of study that considers the physical, biological, economic and social aspects of handling natural resources.

Sustainable development

This is a mode of consumption with the vision that seeks to provide for the needs of humanity while safeguarding the environment so that it will still be capable of providing for the needs of future generations of humanity. Sustainable development deals with more than environmental issues alone. Sustainable development is a process that comprises all aspects of human society that can affect human sustenance.⁷

Study of some keywords from Genesis 1:26-30

Passage in English

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, ^band over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Nigerian States and their Natural Resources

In the view of Adeniyi, Nigeria is among countries in Africa with a wide variety of different natural resources. The country is richly endowed with natural resources ranging from industrial metals to various precious stones such as Barites, Gypsum, Kaolin and Marble. Most of these minerals are yet to be exploited. Statistically, the level of exploitation of these minerals is very low in relation to the extent of deposit found in the country. One of the objectives of the new National Policy on solid minerals is to ensure the orderly development of the mineral resources of the country.¹⁴

Profile of Solid Mineral Deposits in Nigeria

S/N	STATES	NATURAL RESOURCES
1	Abia	Gold, Lead/Zinc, Limestone, Oil/Gas & Salt
2	Abuja	Cassiterite, Clay, Dolomite, Gold, Lead/Zinc, Marble & Tantalite
3	Adamawa	Bentonite, Gypsum, Kaolin & Magnesite
4	Akwa Ibom	Clay, Lead/Zinc, Lignite, Limestone, Oil/Gas, Salt & Uranium
5	Anambra	Clay, Glass-Sand, Gypsum, Iron-ore, Lead/Zinc, Lignite, Limestone, Phosphate & Salt
6	Bauchi	Gold, Cassiterite (tine ore), Columbite, Gypsum, Wolfram, Coal, Limestone Lignite, Iron-ore & Clay
7	Bayelsa	Glau, Gypsum, Lead/Zinc, Lignite, Limestone, Maganese, Oil/Gas & Uranium
8	Benue	Barite, Clay, Coal, Gemstone, Gypsum, Iron-Ore, Lead/Zinc, Limestone, Marble & Salt
9	Borno	Bentonite, Clay, Diatomite, Gypsum, Hydro-carbon, Kaolin & Limestone
10	Delta	Clay, Glass-sand, Gypsum, Iron-ore, Kaolin, Lignite, Marble & Oil/Gas
11	Ebonyi	Gold, Lead/Zinc & Salt
12	Edo	Bitumen, Clay Dolomite, Phosphate, Glass-sand, Gold, Gypsum, Iron-ore, Lignite, Limestone, Marble & Oil/Gas
13	Ekiti	Feldspar, Granite, Kaolin, Syenite & Tatum
14	Enugu	Coal, Lead/Zinc & Limestone
15	Gombe	Gemstone & Gypsum
16	Imo	Gypsum, Lead/Zinc, Lignite, Limestone, Marcasite, Oil/Gas, Phosphate & Salt
17	Cross River	Barite, Lead/Zinc, Lignite, Limestone, Manganese, Oil/Gas, Salt & Uranium Clay, Glass-Sand, Lignite, Marble & Oil/Gas
18	Jigawa	Butyles Amethyst, Aqua Marine, Asbestos, Clay, Flosper, Gemstone,
19	Kaduna	Gold, Graphite, Kaolin, Hyamite, Mica, Rock Crystal, Ruby, Sapphire, Sihnite, Superntinite, Tentalime, Topaz & Tourmaline
20	Kano	Gassiterite, Copper, Gemstone, Glass-sand, Lead/Zinc, Pyrochinre & Tantalite

22	Kebbi	Gold
23	Kogi	Cole, Dolomite, Feldspar, Gypsum, Iron-ore, Kaolin, Marble, Talc & Tantalite
24	Kwara	Cassiterite, Columbite, Feldspar, Gold, Iron-ore, Marble, Mica & Tantalite
25	Lagos	Bitumen, Clay & Glass-sand
26	Nasarawa	Amethyst (Topaz Garnet), Barytex, Barite, Cassirite, Chalcopyrite, Clay Columbite, Coking Coal, Dolomite/Marble, Feldspar, Galena, Iron-ore, Limestone, Mica, Salt, Sapphire, Talc, Tantalite, Tourmaline Quartz & Zircon
27	Niger	Gold, Lead/Zinc & Talc
28	Ogun	Bitumen, Clay, Feldspar, Gemstone, Kaolin, Limestone & Phosphate
29	Ondo	Bitumen, Clay, Coal, Dimension Stones, Feldspar, Gemstone, Glass-Sand, Granite, Gypsum, Kaolin, Limestone & Oil/Gas
30	Osun	Columbite, Gold, Granite, Talc, Tantalite & Tourmaline
31	Oyo	Aqua Marine, Cassiterite, Clay, Dolomite, Gemstone, Gold, Kaolin, Marble, Silimonite, Talc & Tantalite
32	Plateau	Barite, Bauxite, Betonite, Bismuth, Cassiterite, Clay, Coal, Emerald, Fluoride, Gemstone, Granite, Iron-ore, Kaolin, Lead/Zinc, Marble, Molybdenite, Phrochlore, Salt, Tantalite/Columbite, Tin & Wolfram
33	Rivers	Clay, Glass-Sand, Lignite, Marble & Oil/Gas
34	Sokoto	Clay, Flakes, Gold, Granite, Gypsum, Kaolin, Laterite, Limestone, Phosphate, Potash, Silica Sand & Salt
35	Taraba	Lead/Zinc
36	Yobe	Soda Ash & Tintomite
37	Zamfara	Coal, Cotton & Gold

<http://nigerianembassy.nu/natural-resources/retrieved> in February, 2018

According to Gyang and Nanle, there are tremendous opportunities for investments in the solid mineral sector of the Nigerian economy. Prospecting licenses are granted by the Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals Development to investors (local and foreign), to enable them participate in the exploitation of the vast mineral resources in Nigeria. From the foregoing analysis, it is evident that the natural resource base of Nigeria is enormous.¹⁵ However, the extent to which the exploitation of these resources helps to develop the economy and improve the wellbeing of the citizenry has been described as grossly low. They identified the following challenges to natural resource development in Nigeria:

- i. Policy inconsistency and lack of adequate legislation,
- ii. High risk and health hazards,
- iii. Weak regulation,
- iv. Lack of well-equipped laboratories,
- v. Unwholesome practices of stakeholders and inadequate trained personnel
- vi. Lack of access to capital

- vii. Lack of appropriate technology and machinery, and
- viii. Environmental degradation and pollution.

Adesopo and Asaju rightly say that Nigeria is among the wealthiest countries in Africa in terms of natural resources potential. The country is blessed with diverse natural resources, ranging from crude oil, gas, iron ore, cocoa, timber, tin, columbite, tantalite, wolfram, gold, lead-zinc, limestone, kaolin, clay, shale, marble, radio-active minerals, barytes, cassiterite, coal, lignite, petroleum, natural gas and hydro-electric power. These natural resources exist in multitude in different locations across Nigeria. If properly exploited, they can reasonably facilitate the growth and development of the economy. More so, it is estimated that over 3 billion metric tonnes of iron ore deposits exist in Enugu, Kogi, Niger, Lagos, as well as the Federal Capital Territory. Iron ore is being mined at Itakpe in Kogi State.¹⁶ While explain further, Bradshaw adds, there is rock salt domiciled in Benue State and salt springs at Abakaliki, Awe (Plateau State), and Uburu (Ebonyi State). In the same light, over 40 million tonnes deposits of talc is located in Osun, Niger, Ogun, Kaduna and Kogi States. The 3,000 tonnes per annum catalytic talc plant located in Niger State is the only talc plant in the country. More so, over 7.5 million tonnes of baryte is located in Taraba and Bauchi States. A large amount of bentonite reserves of about 700 million tonnes are domiciled in several states of the federation which are yet to be exploited.¹⁷

In the same light, Ogen reviews that, bitumen deposits are estimated at about 42 billion tonnes located in Nigeria. There is no gainsaying that Nigeria is a resource-rich country. Therefore, from this table, shows that crude petroleum and natural gas are largely deposited in Delta, Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Rivers, Edo, Imo and Abia States. Moreover, there is a huge deposit of iron ore in Ajaokuta (Kogi State), Aladja (Delta State), Agbaje (Kogi State), Anambra, Benue, and Kwara States. Similarly, large deposits of marbles are located in Igbesi (Oyo State), Abuja, and Benue State, while lead/zinc is domiciled in Ogoja (Cross River), Benue, Ebonyi, and Kano States. There are huge deposits of coal in Enugu and Ondo States, while salt is largely found in Cross River, Ebonyi, Akwa-Ibom and Abia States. Also, there are huge concentrations of limestone in Ewekoro (Ogun State), Sokoto, Bayelsa, Benue and Borno States, and gold in Oyo, Ebonyi, Kaduna, Edo, Sokoto and Zamfara States. Lignite is largely concentrated in Cross River, Delta and Bayelsa States, while tin is domiciled in Abuja and Plateau, Gombe, Kano, Nasarawa and Bauchi States, and bitumen in Edo, Ogun, Ondo, and Lagos States.¹⁸

Furthermore, Lawal, argues that with regards to agriculture/agro-allied resources, cocoa is largely concentrated in Anambra, Oyo, Edo, Imo, Osun, Kwara, Ondo and Ogun States while oil palm is largely domiciled in Abia, Akwa- Ibom, Anambra, Imo and Oyo States. Groundnut is largely available in Ebonyi, Kano, Katsina, Niger and Sokoto States, while cotton is found in Kano, Katsina, Kwara, Niger and Sokoto States. Rubber grows well in Edo, Ogun, Delta, and Cross River States, while coffee is largely grown in Bauchi, Kwara and Osun States. Timber is hugely found in Delta, Edo and Ogun States, while

kolanut is highly concentrated in Kwara, Ogun, Osun and Oyo States. Tobacco is highly concentrated in Kwara, Osun, Oyo and Sokoto States, while Carrot is highly available in Borno. Sugarcane is highly available in Gombe, Bauchi, Adamawa, Sokoto States with plantain in Oyo, Ogun and Osun States. Fish is highly concentrated in Lagos, Bayelsa and Rivers States, while cassava is highly concentrated in Taraba, Oyo, Rivers, Kwara, Kogi, Jigawa, Imo, Enugu, Edo, Ebonyi, Delta, Cross River, Bayelsa, Anambra, Adamawa, Abuja and Abia States.¹⁹

Nigeria and the Oil Boom

According to Jimoh, quatin—Zimmmermann, natural resources in its functional interpretation are dynamic becoming available to man through a combination of knowledge and expanding sustainable development as well as changing individual and societal objectives. The implication of this is that natural resources or environmental resources are defined by human perception, attitudes, wants, technological, skill, legal, financial and institutional arrangement as well as by political customs, by this, concept natural resources, includes; atmosphere resources, water resources, vegetation resources, human resources, mineral resources and land resources.²⁰

According to Adeogun, Nigeria is endowed with both human and natural resources. This covers all parts of the country, but the notable one of these natural resources is the crude oil, which is the mainstay of the economy. Crude oil is found both offshore and onshore with the 65% of output currently coming from the onshore production. Oil was first discovered in commercial quantity in Nigeria in 1956, while actual production started in 1958 with about 5,100 barrels per day. Since the commencement of production of crude oil, the daily output has continued to increase except for the set back during the civil war, but as soon as the war ended the production bounced back and it reached millions of barrels per day. In the 1970s, oil became dominant in the nation's economy and Nigeria became one of the major producers and exporters of crude oil has advantage over other crude oil in the world market, because of the low sulphur content. The abundance of crude oil has brought a lot of gain to the economy to the extent that at times the income would be more than the estimated income.²¹

Apparently, in spite of excess of income on crude oil the majority of the citizens still live in abject poverty. The magnitude of wealth generation from these non-renewable natural resources is estimated to be about 350b USD. The abundance of wealth derived from oil puts Nigeria at a greater advantage economically among the developed and developing nations of the world. This made August Temu quoted by Adeogun opined that the gift of the crude oil guaranteed the development of the nation. Nigeria has experienced three significant periods of oil windfall.

The first was the Middle East war which started in 1973. This era brought massive increments to revenue that created unprecedented, and unplanned for wealth for Nigeria. It was this excess crude oil proceeds that made a military head of state to remark that the problem facing our country today is lack of transparency, accountability and

mismanagement of resources through self-centered. Such a statement shows the lack of vision by the leadership for the development of the country. At this time the population of the nation and the number of graduates from tertiary institutions was lower when compared with the present. By then the majority of Nigerians had not abandoned farming and the mad rush for wealth has not gripped many Nigerians. The Military leadership failed to use the oil windfall to plan for the future and making the business environment conducive for investment. The leadership invested the newfound wealth mainly in the urban areas, especially in the capital cities.²² Part of the new found wealth was used to celebrate festival of arts and culture tagged "Festac"77 when the world idols were brought to Nigeria for festivities in the name of cultural renaissance.

The relative attractiveness of the urban centres made many able bodied Nigerians to migrate from the rural to the urban areas, abandoning their farmlands in order to partake in the oil driven urban economy. The rural- urban migration increased and created a lot of social problems such as; congestion, pollution, unemployment and crimes. By the way, agriculture, which the economy depended upon before the discovery of oil was abandoned, yet the nation's population was increasing without conscious planning on how to feed them. Most especially, in this year 2016, Nigerians to this moment are still experiencing starvation, no balance of daily bread, no payment of salaries for the workers across the nation, to see how critical situation we are in Nigeria; robbers are now attacking food stores and shops for their daily survival. The neglect of agriculture also posed the problem of raw material for the local industries. At the same time there were no concerted efforts made at diversifying the economy, knowing full well that crude oil is a non-renewable natural resource. There was a noticeable improvement in the living standard, where as structurally, there was little or no achievement in terms of establishing a strong foundation for sustainable economic growth.

The failure of the leadership to manage the wealth of the excess crude oil of the 1970s brought untold hardship on the citizens in the decades that followed. In 1980s, oil production and export declined sharply owing to the depressed state of world oil market. At this time, Nigeria' daily production of over 2 million barrels was reduced to less than 1.5 million barrels per day. Since the leadership was not wide enough to prepare for the rainy day, the nation's economy went from boom to doom. So, the nation started implementing borrowed economic policies, such as Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) and Second Tier Foreign Exchange Market (SFEM). These economic policies, which were introduced on the advice of the World Bank led to the flooding of the nation with fairly used material

Basically, the military rule ended political leaders were elected in 1999. Nigerians thought that these leaders would be better managers of the nation's resources. The civilian era came with the increase in the production and export of the crude oil and soon after came third oil windfall. According to Iwayemi's analysis quoted by Adogun of the windfall, the collapse in the average price of Nigeria crude oil from \$19.80 to \$12.90 in 1998 resulted in a 36.1% decline in export revenues to \$9.7 billion. The subsequent price

recovery of \$28 per barrel and high export volume at \$1.9million barrels per day resulted in export revenues doubling to \$19.6 billion in 2000. In 2003, the average exports revenues of 2.022 million barrels a day yielding export revenues of \$21.419billion. Oil export volume stood in 2004 at 2.075 million barrels per day. However, because of oil boom export revenues jumped to \$28.993 billion in 2004, indicating a 35% increase over the previous years to mention but a few.²³

Implications of Resources Mismanagement on Sustainable Development in Nigeria

According to Akpan, despite being amongst the largest oil producers in the world, Nigeria remains home to the world's poor after China and India with majority of its population living below standard. This raises a fundamental question: why the high rates of poverty? Could it be because of years of mismanagement of the oil sector or due to its neglect of agricultural sector? In addressing these concerns, this analysis examines the impact of oil on agriculture in Nigeria's economy.²⁴

Daramola, *et.al* posit that Prior to the 1960, agriculture was known to be the dominant sector of the country's economy. It accounted for nearly 70% of the GDP and about 90% of foreign earnings and federal government revenue. However, a notable shift emerged with the discovery of oil at the Niger Delta in 1965 as agriculture was replaced by the oil industry.²⁵ In the view of Sekunmade, oil account's for a large percentage of Nigeria's export earnings. Interestingly though, Nigeria fares much worse in terms of the rates of poverty, with the third highest number of people living in abject poverty after China and India. It is estimated that the population of people living on less than US\$1 per day had increased significantly from 36% in the 1970 to about 70% in 2006. These outcomes coincided with oil discovery in the country. It is in this recognition that this proposal seeks to explore on the effect that oil has had on Agriculture in Nigeria's economy.²⁶ The proposal seeks to confirm the hypothesis that Nigeria's neglect of its agricultural sector and increased dependence on oil was the main reason behind the current crisis in its economy.

Jack, Jackson says in practice, it has proven to be extremely difficult to convert natural resource wealth into broad based improvements in economic performance and human development. In fact, heavy dependence on the export of natural resources has been shown to negatively affect a country's economic, social and political development.²⁷ Speaking on this, Murtala explains the empirical literature on the implications of abundant natural resources points out the following consequences for different spheres of a country's development²⁸:

Economic implications

According to Okeke, the absence of a downstream sector and consequent dependence on oil multinationals and their infrastructure, and the agricultural sector is neglected, leading to an impoverishment of the rural population. Oil revenues tend to displace more stable and sustainable revenue flows. For example, as a result of huge oil revenue flows, countries tend to de-emphasize income taxes as a source of government revenue. Besides,

low tax ratios and high consumption expenditures (typically on imported goods) reinforce inflationary tendencies. With regard to expenditure, no use is made of openings for diversifying the economy, enhancing infrastructure or expanding education systems.²⁹

Adesoji and Sotube view that the problem of the "Dutch disease" effect of mineral resource production: on the one hand, resource booms tend to cause real exchange rates to rise due to the large inflows of foreign exchange generated by the increased resource exports; on the other hand, labour and capital tend to migrate to the booming resource sector from other productive sectors. Together, these two effects result in higher costs and reduced competitiveness for domestically produced goods and services, thereby reducing agricultural and manufacturing exports. Volatility of oil prices makes planning difficult, hampers growth and aggravates investment conditions, income distribution and educational attainment. Foreign debt accumulation: after the oil boom in 1973, borrowing by many oil-exporting countries rose dramatically in order to cover shortfalls from expected oil revenues.³⁰

Social and political implications

It was said by Bradshaw that Oil dependence has been linked with unusually high poverty rates, poor health care, high rates of child mortality, reduced expenditures on social services, poor educational performance. Besides, mineral dependence has strongly been correlated with income inequality. Natural resources tend to considerably increase the chances of civil conflicts in a country and Strong tendency towards corruption; rent-seeking mentality on the part of governing elites.³¹

Environmental Implication

Bridge recasts that, environmental degradation, pollution of land and rivers tend to increase with oil production leading to loss of income-earning opportunities for the population; oil extraction activities can also induce large migrations into oil producing areas, placing strains on community infrastructure and threatening public health. It has been argued that these negative outcomes are not inevitable since they can be avoided or at least minimized when good governance, public accountability and transparent resource management, willingness of countries to transform oil revenues into positive development outcomes are prevalent.³²

Lawal adds that, this paper examines the impacts of the oil wealth in Nigeria on different spheres – economic, social, political and environmental, both in the regions where oil drilling and shipping take place (the southwestern oil producing areas of Rivers, Cross River, and Delta), and in the country as a whole. The analysis of the regional effects is of immense importance, due to the fact that the influences brought by the international oil companies and ensuing extraction activities have strikingly become evident in the oil-producing regions. Furthermore, some comparisons will be made with reference to the size of impacts on oil-producing provinces and on the country as a whole. Besides, the paper will find out why the oil boom in Nigeria did mostly brought negative consequences such as poverty, low level of human development, environmental

degradation, social and political conflicts, and has not turned into a “blessing” so far, and what policy and actions are to be implemented in order to make it otherwise.³²

Recommendations and Ways Forward

Transparency and accountability are fundamental elements of abolishing corruption. Transparent governance is important to local governments and the communities they serve because corruption threatens good governance, leads to the misallocation of resources, hampers public and private sector development, and distorts public policy. In order to stem this tide for the better, the following recommendations and ways forward are hereby offered.

1. Integrity is a key ethical value that motivates good governance and administration in the public interest for maintaining natural resource management and sustainable development. This has to do with the employee being faithful or always carrying out his instructions and assignments faithfully. The formal administrative leadership must at all times be fair, objective and just.
2. In this era of change campaigns, political leaders and officials at federal, state and local levels are supposed to be prudent, honest, patient, respect human dignity and be generally humane to the public they serve.
3. There is the need for Nigeria to revamp the agricultural sector: Agriculture used to be the mainstay of Nigeria economy but the discovery of crude oil succeeded in putting agriculture into state of oblivion. Human resources development is also a *sine qua non* to Nigeria sustainable development.
4. Leaders generally in Nigeria should seek and promote justice, honesty, accountability, transparency, stewardship and the wellbeing of the citizens in Nigeria.
5. The government as a matter of necessity needs to encourage non crude oil exports while removing structural rigidities to enhance business climate reform.
6. There is urgent need for massive investment and expansion of the steel industry to aid local manufacturing capacity and industrialization.
7. Aside crude oil exploration, the government and private sector should invest in boosting domestic refining of crude as this would create value added goods and service provision in petroleum allied industries and in the process creates employment.
8. In a bid to stabilize the dwindling oil production capacity in the country the government needs to proffer lasting solution to the Niger Delta development crises.
9. Natural resource exploitation should be pursued within the context of sustainable development especially with regards to the crude oil industry. Environment friendly practices should be imbibed by Oil Companies while government must strictly enforce environmental protection laws and policies guiding operations of the extractive industry.

Conclusion

The abundance of natural resources in Nigeria shows that the country has great potentials and prospects for economic prosperity. It however becomes paradoxical that in the midst of these abundant natural resources the country remains largely a mono-cultural economy, with infrastructural deficit, mass unemployment and pervasive poverty. This is largely associated with the challenges inherent in natural resource exploitation in the

country; most prominent among others is the dependence on crude oil and gas exploration. This situation has become the bane of Nigeria's development challenges as solid minerals and agricultural resources are jettisoned thereby impeding the growth of the agricultural, mining and manufacturing sectors of the economy. Hence, the abundant solid minerals and agricultural potentials lying fallow in the country if fully harnessed would immensely contribute to the country's foreign exchange and Gross Domestic Product and salvage the country from the crude oil resource curse and economic stagnation. In the light of the following, to ensure sustainable socioeconomic development, the Nigerian government needs to deliberately pursue diversification of the economy away from crude oil by venturing into the exploitation of the abundant reserves of mineral and agricultural resources. As catalyst to socio-economic development, the growth of the mining, agriculture and manufacturing sectors will ensure backward - forward linkages and complementarities in the economy. This in turn would create real socio-economic value in increased local production, promotion of local industrialization, reduction in importation of finished goods, employment creation, infrastructural development and increasing the standard of living of the citizenry.

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