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ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS 1 AND 8 THROUGH THE INFORMAL SECTOR IN THE DELTA COMMUNITY OF NIGERIA*

ABSTRACT

To achieve the MDGs African nations must achieve MDGs, and also transform its economy to create wealth and encourage the informal sector as well as support entrepreneurial development. The Nigerian government has sought to accomplish this by establishing a youth initiative in 2003 known as Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) to solely provide support for small and medium scale enterprises. The existing law mandates the agency to foster arrangements and workable models for enterprise development. The agency has a foremost responsibility for developing the development and modernization of small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs) operations thereby promote rural industrialization, ensure poverty reduction and job creation. In this regard, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) spear – headed a three-year programme for empowering women bankers in the financial system and also women economic empowerment scheme which makes it possible for female entrepreneurs obtain credit from banks at single – digit rates of interest. This paper suggested that supporting the informal sector and entrepreneurial development is a veritable approach to meeting the MDG projections, particularly goals 1 and 8. In other words, if the informal sector secures the required support, the number of cottage industries will surely grow and youth restiveness due to high unemployment is likely to be reduced by the year 2020.

Keywords: Millennium Declaration, Informal Economy, Entrepreneurship, Poverty Reduction/Eradication, Rural Communities, Capacity Building Development.

INTRODUCTION

At independence from Britain in 1960, Nigeria had only the Eastern, Southern and Northern regions. With the Nigerian Civil War of 1967 premised largely on agitation of ethnic tribes and allegations of lack of development Nigeria became divided into twelve States and presently is comprised of 36 States. Blessed with natural resources, the country has some states with crude oil reserves and is known as the Niger Delta Region. The region is comprised of ten states.[2] The presence of crude oil and the attendant oil exploration though expected to have provided the region with development have left the indigenes vulnerable and impoverished. Oil spillage and gas flaring among other environmental challenges ensure that no meaningful agricultural activity thrives. In addition, the indigenes denied access to education and other development objectives have been left to resort to violence as a means of survival. The climax of this challenges resulted in the high level of militancy that affected the economy of the region and the country in general. To curb this menace the government of Nigeria initiated the amnesty program. The amnesty program involved cooperation of other countries in the world. Indigenes have recently been trained in different acquisition of skills that have given rise to the growth of the informal economy of the region.

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While the paper does not claim that the training has eradicated poverty completely in the Niger Delta it advocates for an enhanced engagement in cooperation among African States towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs were a set of aspiration set out to drive the world towards the realization of certain goals classified into eight broad categories. The first being the eradication of poverty and the eighth, the realization of the aspiration through enhanced cooperation. It is noted that the aspiration less than a year away from 2015 are far from realized raising the question of the way forward. This paper therefore relies on the premise that if greater cooperation is realized among African countries, in addition to concerted global multilateral efforts, poverty will be eliminated on the continent. Secondly, it proceeds further on the premise that enhanced cooperation among African countries, together with concerted global multilateral efforts, will also aid the realization of the other MDG principles like education and eradication of maternal mortality. The paper however, focuses on the nexus between MDG 1 and MDG 8 exploring the relationship with the informal economy sector of the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria.

CONCEPTS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE MDG

No effort will be spared to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing condition of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected. We are committed to making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want.[3]

Faced with reality of abject poverty to a greater percentage of the world's population especially from sub Saharan Africa, the Millennium Declaration was made.[4] The declaration became a commitment to fight against the abject poverty and the inequalities that consistently bedevil so many of the world's peoples. The declaration mirror some of the fundamental values which governments agree are the basic principles essential for controlling global challenges and sustainable development. These principles are freedom, equality, solidarity and tolerance where human beings respect one another in all their diversity of belief, culture and language as well as respect for nature, and shared responsibility.

The millennium declaration set eight goals that focused on poverty reduction, improving the quality of peoples' lives, ensuring environmental sustainability and building partnerships that will ensure that globalization becomes a veritable vehicle for global economic enterprise.[5] The realization of the MDGs is certainly only attainable with enabling environments conducive to drive the realization. Core needed agents for this realization includes but not limited to good governance, respect for rule of law, promotion and protection of human rights, conflict management, and eradication of corruption and presence of political will by States to respect treaty obligations.

THE MDGS (AN OVERVIEW)

This subsection shall mention and discuss these goals with further emphasis for goals 1 and 8.

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2 Millennium Declaration 2000.

3 The Declaration was made in 2000, in New York with the support of about 189 world leaders.

4 *Ibid*

Eradiate Extreme Poverty and Hunger: The goal aims at ensuring that every individual is able to live a meaningful live. And be able to meet the basic needs of shelter, feeding and other attendants of a good life.

Achieve Universal Primary Education: The MDGs target is that by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls alike will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. It is pertinent to state that a well educated and skilled populace is one of the most veritable factors in ensuring national and economic competitiveness in an information – based global economy.

Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women: The goal seeks to eliminate disparity in primary and secondary education, as well as all levels of education before the year 2015. While the realization of gender equality is on the increase, it is noted that the girl child and women still face daunting challenges not just in Africa but the world over.

Reduce Child Mortality: This goal seeks to reduce by two- thirds the mortality rate among children under five by 2015. This paper humbly suggests that there are two elements that can make a significant impact on reducing child mortality. These are the pharmaceutical and food production industries. These groups of enterprises engage in the manufacture of basic medical and nutritional products that are essential to reducing child mortality. Governments on their part, can strengthen public health services, or make efforts to increase access to clean water and sanitation.

Improve Maternal Health: This aims to reduce by 3\4 the maternal mortality rate, and improve access to reproductive health by 2015. There is need to explore whether this can be accomplished through the provision of low-cost health care products and services in developing countries. There is a possibility that this might require the big companies working closely with government and civil society organizations.

Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases: This goal seeks to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015. There is also the goal to achieve universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for those who need it, and also work towards reversing the incidence of malaria and other disease. There is a prevalent impression that improving health care, fighting disease and increasing life expectancy are all essential for enhancing economic growth and a peaceful polity.

Ensure Environmental Sustainability: This goal seeks to integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs so as to reverse the loss of environmental resources. Environment sustainability obviously leads to access to safe drinking water as well as significant improvements in the lives of majority of rural dwellers.

Develop A Global Partnership For Development: This speaks to the need to bolster economic partnership in ensuring that trade and economics are encouraged between states towards driving a robust livelihood for all.

In the following section of the paper, the two main MDGs (1 and 8) will now be discussed in more details.

ERADICATING EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER (MDG 1)

In eradicating extreme poverty the goal is to reduce the proportion of people living in extreme poverty before 2015. It was also the goal to enhance and promote full productive employment and decent work for all as well as halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger before 2015. It is basically government responsibility to ensure that this goal is close to realization by putting in place appropriate policies that can catalyze growth opportunities, mostly in the informal economy sectors. Hence, the failure of government and its agencies to create enabling environments to support the informal economy sector continues to necessitate inequality, conflicts, and disenchantment which as seen in the Niger Delta undermine corporate existence of businesses and the region, disrupting peace and stability in the polity.

The eradication of poverty entails some cogent and dedicated approaches. Access to affordable products and services must be improved.[6] Power and energy, education, portable water and healthcare remain a mirage in most Niger Delta communities. With the availability of the service, the informal sector is bound to grow. The attendant effect of the growth of the informal sector includes increased economic opportunity for women, youth and minority groups through basic training, business linkages, technology transfer, initiation of development programs, as well as income generating opportunities such as providing access to microfinance.[7]

The impact of MDG 8 on MDG 1 is visible in the effect that the need to collaborate towards improving opportunities and initiatives to build linkages with local, small, medium and micro-enterprises to develop the skills of local people will enhance livelihood. Further collaboration can benefit the informal sector with support from big corporate businesses been urged to play a key role in areas such as: building supplier relationship and other business linkages with Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs); provide credit, equity, risk insurance, and other financing products, especially in the case of financial institutions; supporting the transfer of appropriate product and process technologies, and providing training, mentoring, capacity building and information sharing programs.

The link between the informal sector and other economic sectors is one that is well grounded and settled. For instance, the exchange of raw material supplies and man power are key aspects of poverty eradication.[8] In the same vein, also agribusiness and biotechnology companies are urged to work with small farmers and their cooperatives along global supply chains to provide credit and improve rural productivity, product quality and food security.[9] Allowing and aiding the

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5 Jerone van det veet, chief Executive, Royal Dutch Shell.

6 Jane Nelson and Dave Presorted, 2008, "Business and Millennium Development Goals: A Framework for Action", an *International Business Leader's Forum Publication*, p.9.

7 *Ibid.*, p.10

8 Peter Bracket-letmathe, chairman nestle in his remarks made at an IBLF roundtable on the private sector, health development and the MDGS, march 2008

informal sector to thrive by initiating growth projects that combat poverty and hunger will be laudable.

DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT (MDG 8)

This goal envisages an open rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system. This shall, in no small measure, address the special needs of the least developed nations. It shall holistically and comprehensively deal with the debt problems of developing countries so as to make debt sustainable through national and international measures. As already discussed above there shall be a compelling need for cooperation with big private sector players for the sake of making available the benefits of new technologies to the informal economy sector which is closer to the grassroots SMEs within the rural communities.

This goal demands a fresh global partnership, especially between governments, Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs) and private sectors, to seek veritable vehicles for ensuring a more effective and equitable means of eradicating poverty. This extends to the need to widen access to micro credit, affordable health care and new technologies. This comes with its attendant challenges which are consensus building between rich and poor nations. The achievement of this goal is tantamount to a successful and equitable cooperation not just among states but also among businesses. If cooperation must be achieved it is important to adhere to regulations. It is pertinent to note that a rules-based trading and financial system in areas such as labour, human rights and development, alongside economic rules will eradicate poverty. Adherence to the ten principles of the UN Global Compact in the corporate organizations (multinational corporations) sphere of operation is a sin qua non demanding strict compliance.[10]

The need to work with the UN Global Compact plan is also captured within the African Union Structure. The emergence of various regional blocks in Africa is capable to drive regional cooperation in the field of development, business and eradication of poverty. In addition, companies and industry players can work with specialized regional agencies in setting international economic norms and standards in order to build a veritable institutional infrastructure for global commerce. This shall lead to promoting good corporate governance, developing common standards for cross-border transactions, transportation, and telecommunications. It also entails global efforts to tackle bribery, corruption and money laundering.

The greater support to achieving this goal should emanate from policy dialogue and advocacy that puts pressure on governments to create the appropriate enabling environment. There ought to be collective action, especially through representative business groups such as chambers of commerce and trade unions operating within and among African countries. Bodies such as the International Chambers of Commerce and the US-based Corporate Council on Africa should be urged to play the needed advocacy role in the area of promoting investment in least developed

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10 (www.unglobalcompact.org)

countries, especially Africa in a sustainable manner. They should enhance capacity building and in strengthening a support for local businesses throughout Africa. These local businesses are the informal sector that has direct positive impact on community sustainable and economic development.

Local businesses in African nations should enjoy increased market access, official development assistance and debt relief. There should be increased fair and equitable international economy. According to John Connolly:

> Public governance is a global issue. No longer can businesses, governments, or non-governmental organizations afford to act independently of each other - the stakes are just too high. Only through a combined effort can we achieve economic growth, sustainability, and create an opportunity for a better life for people everywhere.[11]

In this regard, companies and business groups are urged to advocate for public health reform in certain countries, supporting, and enabling environment for public – private research and development R&D, and negotiate international trade regimes that can improve access to the poorest population without compromising the bases on patents and market mechanisms that provide funds for long term investment.

THE INFORMAL SECTOR OF THE NIGER DELTA- AN OVERVIEW

The informal economy is better viewed as an alternative to formal work or a complement to the formal economy.[12] It was earlier in the 20th century depicted

as a left over from an earlier mode of production and disappearing from view.[13] This sector has hitherto persisted and still growing and expanding. It is noteworthy that earlier in life, labourers toiled in their fields and homes on a subsistence basis, and bartered goods and services are from this perspective exchanged, distributed and consumed through the formal economy as a result of compatibility and complementarily.

Informal work has variously been viewed as all work that is not "formal employment that is duly registered with the state for tax, social security and labour law purpose.[14] This has been the prevalent impression of the informal sector. Subsequent to this section of the paper, a better appreciation of the informal economy will be exerted and portrayed. This paper argues and suggests that strengthening the informal sector through the proper funding of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) is the only key to realizing the MDGs particularly goals 1 and 8. These SMEs is the life-blood of the informal sectors that impacts, directly or indirectly, men, women,

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11 Global chairman Delloitte

12 Collin C. Williams, "Re-theorizing the Informal Economy in Western Nations. Some Lesson from Rural England", *The open Area Studies Journal*, 2010, 3, 1-11

13 *Ibid.*

14 *Ibid*

children, rural communities and Urban/City dwellers. It also argues that the formal and informal sector should synergize and complement one another rather than replace one another.

Trade and investment liberalization policy of the World Bank and IMF have dramatically impacted the informal sector, both positively and negatively.[15] Although some of those who work in the informal economy have been able to find new vocations, or expanded markets for their products, others have lost jobs or markets, as well, due to globalization from trade and investment liberalization policies of governments as initiated by the World Bank and IMF. Moreover, workers in the formal (private) sector have seen their wages decline, their working conditions deteriorate, or their workloads increased all owing to globalisation.

The informal economy has expanded rapidly in all regions of the developing world and various forms of non-standard employment have emerged in most region of the developed world. It is apt to observe that in the wake of the recent global financial crisis, most countries experienced a substantial decline in formal wages employment which necessitated a concomitant rise in stature of the informal sector.[16]

CHALLENGES FACING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MDGS AS CONCEIVED AND CONCEPTUALIZED

Conceptual Challenges: Achieving the eight goals particularly goals 1 and 8 of the Millennium Declaration is very daunting. It is not without its fiscal challenges and mustering the political will, as well as sincerity of purpose. It demands a collective effort from government and big business. According to Philip Alston in 2005, the MDGS are the most prominent initiative on the global development agenda and have a great deal in common with human right commitments.[17] He is appalled that neither the human rights nor the development communities have embraced this linkage enthusiastically and with conviction.[18] He argues that both concerns are heading the same destination and urges the human rights community to engage more effectively with the development agenda, as regards goal 8. In articulating and conceptualizing the 8 MDGs, the aim was a collective international effort to promote human development and dramatically reduce poverty.[19] It set out a strategic vision for the United Nations to pursue and breathe life into efforts to realize a number of fundamental goals that had been endorsed by a series of world conferences over the decades preceding the year 2000 millennium declaration with nothing achieved in concrete terms for the poorest members of the society.[20]

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15 Marilyn Cairr abd Martha Alter Chen (2001) Globalization and the Informal Economy: How Global Trade and Investment Impact on the working Poor; WIEGO Publication.

16 *Ibid.*, p.2

17 Ships passing in the night .The current state of Human Rights and Development Debate seen through the lens of the MDGS, Human Rights quarter, published by the John Hopkins university press, vol. 27, p756

18 *Ibid.*

19 (www.un.org/milleniumgoals).

20 *Ibid.*

An analysis of the proposition my Alston leads to the question of the fundamental nature of MDGs. Majority of African countries still view the MDGs as mere obligations and not fundamental human rights. South Africa remains the most progressive of African nations with its Constitution grounding the core principles

of the MDG as human rights with the courts have full judicial rights to interpret laws and policies in this wise.

Practical Challenges: The purpose of this section of the paper is to examine how well the MDGs have fared in its concepts and are reflected in national MDG-based development strategies and policies. There is a compelling commitment to identify critical gaps and challenges so as to note practical lessons to be learned from implementation of these goals. This calls for a collective effort of development and human rights practitioners, policy makers, relevant institutions, civil society organizations, and the UN funds, to initiate programs towards integrating human rights concerns into national and global efforts to achieve the MDGs. It is pertinent therefore to argue that there is a glaring synergy and complementarities between human rights and the 8 MDGs goals. In other words it seeks the rationale for a human rights-based approach to the development and national poverty reduction strategies.

Alongside development goals on poverty, water, education and health, there were also commitments made to promote democracy and respect for all human rights, with a particular focus on the rights of minorities, women and migrants, and the right to access to information. It has now become apt to interrogate how much has been so far accomplished, less than a year to the 2015 target. What are the challenges faced by all stakeholders involved in committing time and energy in articulating these MDGs?

The very critical aspect of the MDGs is its implementation. The goals did not emerge in a vacuum. As earlier noted, they represent the culmination of a decade-long global debate and previous attempts to set international development targets. They envisage a clear and simple means of bench marking and assessing the progress of human development that entails policy and institutional reforms and resources allocations towards realizing this time-bound target. In spite of these, government variously claims that the goals have influenced their spending priorities.[21]

In the rural community of the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, mobilization to achieve the goals has far seemed to have modest impact. This suggests that the MDG agenda may have a particular negative impact on slum upgrading to provide decent housing, where the lack of emphasis on the legitimacy of slum clearance policies that violate human rights of the slum dwellers. It is also observed and suggested that the economic growth for income poverty reduction and social sector investments, such as education, health and water, are important priorities in most of the poverty

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21 "Human Rights and the Millennium Development Goals in Practice: A Review of Country Strategies and Reporting", Office of the High Commissioner for the Human Rights, 2010, p.3.

22 Sakiko fukuda-parr, "Are the MDGS priority in Development Strategies and Aid Programmes? Only Few Are", Working Paper, No.48 available from www.undp.povertycentre.org

understand the link between the two. As conceptualized above, the informal economy represents the class of artisans who try to engage with menial and SME venture in a drive to enhance their status. The question that arises therefore is what can be attributed to the continued prominence, growth and expansion of the informal economy? The need to find the answers to this question is germane premised on the fact that it produces answers on how the realization of goals 1 and 8 of the MDGs will be realized.

An important approach to the answer above is the pattern of economic growth of a country, or region. In some countries and regions, or industries, the SMEs and Micro business that operate within the informal economy, tend to be more dynamic and create more jobs than the formal sector. For instance, China,

Indonesia, Bangladash and most ASEAN nations. This is therefore why the informal economy sector as ably represented by the SMEs and micro-business, need to be strengthened in order to provide succor to the very poor and unskilled workforce and thereby enhancing the realization of the MDGs.

In addition, the reason why the informal sector has grown in prominence is due to various economic restructuring and economic crisis that took all by surprise. It is in this regard, apt to suggest that during periods of economic adjustments, whether due to economic reforms or economic crises, the informal economic becomes resilient and expands in growth and stature.

This is because retrenched workers find solace in the informal economy sector when public and private enterprises are either shut down, right – sized, or down – sized. Additionally, household, that depended on the income from the formal enterprises; need to supplement these formal sector incomes with informal earnings as a response to inflation or cutbacks in public services.

This now calls for a collaborative effort on the part of grass roots organisations of those who work in the informal economy with sympathetic representatives of the NGOs, research institutes, governments, organized private sector, and international development agencies to enable the most vulnerable segments of the society to seize these opportunities. To be able to do this, the synergy of cooperation among African States and communities need to be encouraged.

WHY SUPPORT THE INFORMAL ECONOMY?

The informal economy sector was a coinage of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) mission to Africa in the early 1970s. They referred to the street vendors, cart – pusher, shoe shiners, garbage collectors, home-based garment makers/workers and local scale agricultural workers. But since 1990s the informal sector is viewed as accounting for a significant share of employment and output that should never be over looked nor ignored. Additionally, due to its size and diversity, as well as the increasing ties and overlaps with the formal sector, it is obvious that both should work harmoniously for the achievement of the MDGs not just with a particular community but Africa as a whole.

The suggested cooperation is further grounded by the fact that in the informal economy just as the formal sector, there are employers, self – employed, wage workers and skilled/unskilled labour. Thus, the distinction between formal and informal work now seem to diminish and wane. The workers and drivers in this informal sector have transcended their structurally and socially

disadvantaged position within the economy, even before the advent of the MDGs. The informal economy requires fairer distribution of resources, recognition of work they undertake, and a voice in all decision that affect their livelihood. They need attention of the government and the state for an enabling and stable polity to ply their trade and vocation. As the realization of MDG I is an important output of their existence.[26]

Finally, the need and problems of such a diverse work force in the informal economy are as varied as the barriers and constraints they face. Such constraint that is less or even not talked about in any form is the infringement of their intellectual property by the advanced nations and advanced economies especially with the big economies in Africa. This paper therefore advocates a joint effort between the public and the organized private sectors in order to fully and conclusively achieves the MDGs, through an enhanced informal sector supported with easy access to finance and education.

CONCLUSION

The World Bank estimate shows that 25% of GDP in developing nations is from the informal sectors.[27] This is no small feat, from the sector alone. In Nigeria, for instance, informal sector account for about 65% to 70% of the economy.[28] It was noted that the informal sector cuts across agricultural product production, mining and quarrying, SMEs, amongst sundry others. There is also traditional craft in clothing and furniture, handicrafts, services in rural and urban services such as education, health, counseling, labour, utility services, vehicle and mechanical repair, midwifery and product vending.

If the MDGs must be realized, and fully achieved by 2015, attention must be rendered to reposition and encourage the informal sector by supporting entrepreneurial ventures. Nigeria took a cue by establishing a special initiative in 2003 known as small and medium enterprise development agency (SMEDAN) to solely support Nigeria's SMEs. The agency was mandated to develop proficient models for enterprise development. It has the prime responsibility for accelerating the development and modernisation of SMEs operations and also promotes rural industrialisation, ensure poverty reduction and job creation. The central bank of Nigeria (CBN) was involved to ensure easy access to finance. This is yet to bear fruits, but it is a step in the right direction.

Global commitment to support the informal sector and entrepreneurship development is a veritable approach, and workable antidote, to meeting the MDGs. Regional support in Africa, for the informal sector, should be a priority if most people will be lifted out of poverty. This can be

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26 Naila Kabeer *et al*, 2013, "Organising Women Workers in the Informal Economy", Gender and Development, Rowtlege, 2013 ,21:2, 249-263

27 Naila Kabeer *et al*, 2013, "Organising Women Workers in the Informal Economy", Gender and Development, Rowtlege, 2013 ,21:2, 249-263

28 Informal Economy and Entrepreneurial Development Migratory trends West African Insight, Center for Democracy and Development, Vol.4, No.5 April 2013.

accomplished if efforts are geared towards deepening and broadening financial service availability to the informal sector, ensure sustainable markets for its products and services and eliminate infrastructural challenges and trade barriers that often cripple informal sectors growth.[29] In other words, support for informal sector must go beyond rhetoric's, or policy directives, but a systematic approach and effective strategy to mobilise and uplift small businesses. It is obvious that if governments across the African region do not give adequate support to the informal economy, youth unemployment and restiveness will escalate. On the other hand, if the informal economy sector enjoys the required support, the number of cottage industries will surely grow and youth restiveness is likely to be reduced and rural poverty will be eradicated by half, on or after 2015.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The informal economy in the Niger Delta requires fair distribution of resources, recognition of the value of work they undertake, and promotion of their intellectual property. They need a voice in all the decisions which affect them as citizens of states due to the fact that the prosperity of any state depends on the strength of informal sectors.

Rural development is a strategy to be designed to improve the economic and social life of the rural communities. It is not only by increasing the income *per capita* in the rural sector but also the standard of living of the entire rural and urban population. This entails improving the living standards, such as food and nutrition level, health, education, housing, recreation, security and stability. There ought to be improved quality in the basic needs of life. There ought to be abundance of food, shelter, job opportunities, health care services, education, and improved altitudes like political and social behavior.

A synergy between the other MDGs especially education and achieving gender equality must be pursued to ensure substantive equality in the society and ensure the reduction of poverty in Africa as a whole. This calls for a higher degree of the regional blocks in Africa and the State parties to the African Union showing greater resolve in implementation of political, development and economic policies in their respective nations.

Finally, for the Niger Delta that has received great attention from the African Commission, majority of which are yet to be implemented by the Nigeria government. Nigeria government is indeed encouraged to pursue the realization of the aspirations of the treaties that it has signed on to in a bid to realize MDG 1 and 8.

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29 *Ibid.*

30 *Ibid.*